

THE COMMUNICATOR

December 11, 2012 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 4 – Fall 2012

In Honor of Aziza Ingram

By C. Lionel Spencer

After a semester or two here at Bronx Community College, I began to suspect that each semester I would meet someone unusual who would leave a lasting impression on me. Last semester it was Jamal, also known as tenth, a dynamic poet I met at a poetry slam contest. During and after the competition, which Jamal won, we conversed, exchange numbers, shared music, life stories, and poetic ideas.

I had no idea in what way I would meet the next person who would impact me this semester but I met her I did. I was informed by Professor Andrew Rowan that this woman greatly affected every project she touched, and only later did I figure out why.

I was warned that she was no-joke kind of woman, and how she'd told a professor a thing a two. This woman is Aziza Ingram. She is a 4.0 student, student-teacher and tutor whose ambition and thirst for knowledge can't be fully understood by her GPA. She speaks French fluently, and her understanding of English, law, and world issues humbles me. I have never come across a student so thoroughly educated in so many disciplines, yet so generous with her knowledge. Z challenges both professor and student to be excellent in all they do, or else. When she was voted to be managing editor for *The Communicator*, I knew I would be working alongside someone who could easily do what I would only attempt to do.

On November 20, I was scheduled to give a persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and criticism. As we entered she respectfully asked Professor Holmes if she could sit in on the class. Professor Holmes asked her, "Do you belong to Corey?" She replied in classic Z form, "He belongs to me!" As the speeches were underway, Aziza participated, accurately dissecting each classmate's speech to the surprise of Miss Holmes. She



turned and asked, "Have you taken this course before?" "Yup!" she replied.

After I had given my speech, Aziza surprisingly praised me for a well-organized and researched presentation. But when we returned to *The Communicator* office she let me have it by pointing out the amount of "ums" I used, the right hand that hardly came out of my pocket, and the dragging of my feet that irritated her so. It's hard to come by people who demand nothing but excellence from you, so I'm grateful to call her a friend and inspiration.

But I am not alone in my admiration and

appreciation, below is a few students and a faculty members thoughts on Z:

"I think she's awesome. She's a really nice person. She knows exactly what she wants and how to get it." -Ivana Lazaroska

"She's a hard-working, motivated individual... very intense and demanding... a very straight forward and presumptuous woman." -Stefanos Ugbit

"She's a strong, independent black woman with a horrible, horrible, horrible mouth. She has the capacity and discipline to be a successful woman – which she will be one day." – Kristian Moton

"I think Aziza is not like the typical woman. I respect her. She's definitely left her mark on me. She's very professional." – Untwain Fyffe

"Aziza is hard driven to strive for perfection for herself and for those with whom she is associated. She has no problem letting you know when it has not been achieved. That said, she has a kind heart to complement her keen intellect. Over time, we have discovered that she has family in my hometown – Pine Bluff, Arkansas – and, as a youngster, she spent a great deal of time there." – Professor Andrew Rowan

This semester completes Ms. Ingram's stay at Bronx Community College, and this school will not be the same without her. We at *The Communicator* wish her much success in all her endeavors, satisfaction in her studies, and we hope that she will remain part of the College family.



Student groups call on lawmakers to offer real solutions that address the issue of increasing tuition and decreasing aid – driving them into debt.

When the Affordable College Cost Reduction & Access Act of 2007 was set to expire on July 1, 2012, the

federal government had a five-month debate over how to pay for keeping the student loan interest rate at 3.4%. This pay-for fight focused a much-needed mainstream spotlight on rapidly rising student loan debt levels. Lawmakers were forced to address higher education affordability. However, the spotlight lost sight of steadily declining state-level and federal investment in higher education, which prompted the student loan debt crisis to begin with.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan debt has risen 511% from 1999 to 2011, pointing us to look at rising tuition and fees, which are up 559% from 1985. Students in New York State are feeling the pinch. College revenue generated by tuition recently surpassed that of public dollars, which means students are carrying more and more of the cost of attending college. In 2011, both the SUNY Chancellor and the New York State Governor were successful in passing NY SUNY 2020, which annually raised tuition \$300 for five consecutive years, totaling a \$1,500 tuition increase. Meanwhile, the average student across the country now pays over \$1,000 on textbooks each year, which has grown at twice the rate of inflation. Clearly, we need to have more inclusive conversations that address the increasing costs of higher education coupled with decreasing aid available.

After much debate, Congress voted to keep federal student loan interest rates at 3.4% for another year, but did so at the expense of the Federal Pell Grant Program, which did not receive \$1.2 billion it was allocated in President Obama's budget. Unfortunately, the leftover policy conversation quickly became less about

rising tuition and decreasing aid, and more about "Know Before You Owe" policies.

While "Know Before You Owe" policies are noble in their attempt to educate students about financial aid options, they fail to offer real solutions to the student debt crisis. Specifically, they do not provide public investment in higher education. A number of these policies have popped up in New York State. Governor Cuomo and SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher recently outlined their Smart Track campaign, which claims to help students reduce debt by providing them with tools and services, but does not actually provide aid itself. In the New York State Senate, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee Senator Kenneth Lavelle (R), was successful in passing The 2012 College Affordability Plan. The law's main component provides state government-backed student loans at a lower interest rate. However, the plan does not actually make college more affordable by providing aid to students or lowering tuition.

U.S. House Representative, Janice Hahn (D-CA36), came one step closer when she introduced the Student Loan Grace Period Extension Act. The act, which hasn't yet left committee, seeks to extend student loan grace periods from six to 12 months, helping those repaying student loans save money. Yet, it provides no actual aid to students and only addresses the problem at the tail-end.

To be fair, "Know Before You Owe" policies do help to inform consumers and keep the conversation of college affordability and student loan debt on the table during an election season. Still, they are not adequate policy solutions on their own. These policies put forward the false choice of more debt or less education. The conversation among policy-makers needs to be about lowering tuition and investing in programs like the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP has failed to keep pace with rising tuition for over a decade, and for the first time in its history, does not cover full in-state tuition for eligible students forcing already strained institutions to pick up the bill.

The class of 2011 graduated with an average of \$26,600 in student debt, a 5% increase from the previous year. Offering whitewashed policies that do not decrease

the amount of debt that students take on will only continue to cripple young people and grow the national debt. Rising tuition and decreasing financial aid are obvious root-causes driving student loan debt past \$1 trillion. According to the Project on Student Debt, 60% of students in New York students graduated with an average student loan debt of \$25,851 in 2011. Students can simply not afford more policies that do not actively address rising tuition coupled with decreasing state and federal aid available.

To these ends, we, the undersigned organizations have come together as part of a coalition for a more affordable and accessible higher education, strongly urge you to publish the above editorial that will expose the lack of sound policy

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BCC Media Tech at Work

The Communicator Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper.

We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

The views expressed in by-lined articles and in published letters are solely those of the writer, and they do not necessarily represent the view of *The Communicator*.

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations.

No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number.

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address:
communipaper@gmail.com

Notes:

No Word submissions will be accepted that are saved in Word 2007. Please save and submit in an earlier version.

JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

If you are interested in having an article, editorial, letter or announcement included in *The Communicator*, it must be received by the following dates:

Please note that *The Communicator* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission due to space considerations or if the submission is deemed inappropriate because of profane language, verification problems, and/or slander.

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DAVID A. GARFINKEL ESSAY CONTEST CYBERSPACE AND THE LAW: WHAT ARE OUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

CYBER-BULLYING PRIVACY IN PERIL DIGITAL PIRACY GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE



NYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRAND PRIZE - \$1,500

CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - \$1,000

SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - \$1,000

The competition is open to all CUNY and SUNY Community College students registered for the Fall Semester of 2012 or the Spring Semester of 2013. We encourage students from all academic departments and majors to enter the competition.

Essays may be submitted anytime before the deadline, April 5, 2013.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEST VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN OUR QR CODE

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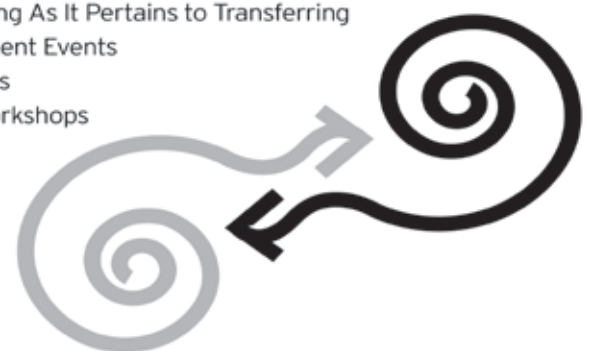
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Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
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Visit us and like us on Facebook—at Career and Transfer Services at BCC—and get the latest updates on workshops and events!

BRONX
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Campus News

BMI Students Go Out West!

By Black Male Initiative

BMI student leader Terrence Coffie and BMI project Coordinator Dwayne Brown were selected to participate in the inaugural Men Of Color Student Leadership Institute, *Man-Up: Educating Minority Males for Leadership and Service*, sponsored by the Presidents' Roundtable. The conference was held at the Phoenix Renaissance Hotel in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, from October 26 – 28, 2012.

The conference was a three-day event addressing the issues, skills and knowledge minority students and future leaders will need to acquire to achieve their academic and professional goals. The speakers at the conference were minority leaders ranging from CEO's and educational administrators to other business leaders sharing their time, experience and hope. The students participating in the conference were a group of young men selected from across the country that exhibited the potential for leadership. The conference gave each of us an opportunity to develop and enhance effective leadership principles that would help us navigate the rigors of higher education and society.

Friday evening's schedule began with Mr. Sidney H. Evans Jr., Founder/CEO of Mackenzie, LLC, leading a discussion on the topic "Champions for Change: Your Purpose, Your Relevance." The discussion helped us identify who we are, where we are going, and that our presence represents an opportunity to assist others. Our next speaker for the evening was the dynamic and charismatic Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, Founder/CEO, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB). He gave an inspiring message entitled "Cultivating Passion for Success: From Vision to Reality" which challenged each of us to do things that need to be done in order to achieve our goals. The evening closed with dinner and an opportunity to network with Lakin/NCBAA participants.

On Saturday morning we attended the session "Preparing for Leadership" given by Ms. Sandra Johnson, Senior Vice President of Operations for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. Sessions included topics ranging from: Bridging "The Divide between Classroom and Career," "Entrepreneurship and Investing," and "It's Time for Mr. Independent." Each session was very encouraging and insightful.

Our afternoon session was opened by the keynote speaker, Mr. Irving Ashford, Sr. V.P., Corporate and Public Affairs Comerica Bank. His message, "Chess, Not

Checkers," opened our eyes and minds to the reality that, as minorities, we will have to become more competitive with our counterparts from around the country and the world. But he assured us that we were definitely on the right track. He also discussed the value and importance of the decisions that we make in our personal and professional lives.

The afternoon session – "Strategic Goal Setting, Preparing for Your Future and Conversations for Student Success" – led to the conference project that grouped teams of participants to create our own summit. The project gave us an opportunity to interact on a professional and personal basis. The teams' theme was "Fired Up and Ready to Go." Later, we had a fabulous dinner and actually found ourselves working until the early morning hours on our project.

Sunday marked the end of the conference and an extraordinary weekend which included: networking, connecting and making commitments not only to our careers and one another. Also we made commitments to continue to strive and achieve to the best of our abilities. Our final speaker was Dr. Rufus Gasper, Chancellor of Maricopa County Community College District. Dr. Gasper reiterated the importance of this weekend and that the torch of leadership will be passed along to those who are prepared to carry it. The conference ended with an awards ceremony announcing the winners of the summit project. I must say this conference was truly one of the most inspiring and encouraging aspects of our collegiate careers. It was also one of the most rejuvenating for the mind and spirit.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Sharon Blackman and Dr. Tyjaun Lee, not only for organizing such a tremendous conference, but also for their support in providing us with resources and encouragement during Hurricane Sandy back home in New York. Also, we would like to thank Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, President of Bronx Community College for her support.

Special thanks to administrators of the Black Male Initiative, Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Mr. Anthony L. Browne, and Ms. Nahdia Hamilton and all the members of B.M.I. Thank you all for an opportunity that was truly enriching.

Students Need an Education, Not Debt

Continued from Page 1
solutions needed to address the growing issue of student loan debt and shift the conversation to students' access to affordable higher education.

- Student Government Association
- Creative Writing Club
- Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society
- Urban Unity
- Paralegal Society
- Peace and Social Justice Club
- Rainbow Alliance
- Political Science Club
- Math & Computer Science Club
- Speech, Drama, and Debate Team
- Anime Club
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- Psychology Club
- Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society
- Future Leaders of STEMM
- Dance Workshop
- International Students Club
- Business Club
- Garden Club
- Muslim Students' Association
- Society for Artists
- Media Technology and Film Society Club
- Future Teachers Club
- Nursing Club
- Handball Club

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen (achapelliquen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.



My First Semester at Bronx Community College

By Maite Andres

I came to Bronx Community College because it was less expensive than my previous school. BCC has been a blessing to me because it has given me another opportunity to stay focused and raise my grades. Being a transfer student, adapting to an entirely new environment, a new group of people, and a new way of being taught was not an easy transition. Going through these obstacles has only strengthened my ability to learn and socialize.

Attending BCC has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. People argue that you can't receive a decent education here but the opposite has proven true. I am learning so much here, not only educationally but socially. I am learning how to interact with professors since classes are a lot smaller than the ones at my old school, and I wouldn't trade that for the world.

My first semester here has been smoother than I thought, mostly because the school is closer than my past schools. I find the Hall New Library, where I gather my thoughts, study and listen to music, as a really great gesture to BCC's students. Not only is the architecture incredible but it's amazing the amount of space and privacy it provides for all the students.

Bronx Community College has given me so many opportunities; one of them is having the privilege to be part of *The Communicator*, the school newspaper. The paper has given me the opportunity to sharpen my writing and find my way of expression. I've had the opportunity to interview people for the paper, which I normally wouldn't do, but has proved to help me with others. Overall, BCC has been great to me so far and I look forward to finishing my two years strong.

I'm grateful to say I attend Bronx Community College.

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 IN FRONT OF MEISTER HALL

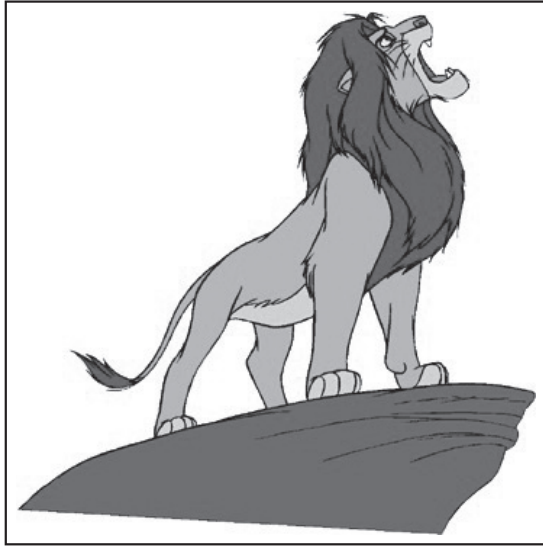
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Campus News



Meet the Student

By Maite Andres

1. Why did you decide to do this interview?

I decided to do it because I had free time (haha).

2. Why did you come to BCC?

I came to BCC because it is close to home, and I like walking.

3. If you could be any candy what would it be?

Jolly Rancher because no one ever gets tired of them.

4. Favorite animal and why? Do you think this animal represents you?

The lion: I believe it represents my strength.

5. Do you believe in love at first sight?

Yes! Absolutely!

6. What's your favorite ice cream and favorite topping?

Vanilla; I'm simple.

7. If you could be a famous person for a week, who would you be?

Dwayne Wade

8. What kind of phone do you have and why?

I have an iPhone 4S. Well, I've had an iPhone for years...I guess it's the applications.

9. If you could be any night what night would it be?

It would be Friday night, the end of the week, beginning of the weekend.

10. How comfortable are you walking around with pink hair?

Not comfortable at all.

11. What is your favorite book and how many times have you read it?

My favorite book is the Bible.

12. How many jobs have you had and what is your dream job?

I've had three jobs, and I don't know what my dream job would be at the moment.

13. Favorite meal and if you could do anything with it what would it be?

Oxtails with rice and beans; eat it!

14. Have you been outside of the United States? Where?

Yes, Saint Kitts.

15. Do you have kids?

No, don't need any at the moment either.

16. Favorite brand of tooth paste and why?

Colgate. Keeps me fresh.

17. If you could watch one show for the rest of your life what would it be and why?

Breaking Bad; it is an addicting show!

18. Favorite movie?

The Avengers

19. Did you eat your buggers when you were a kid?

LOL ... not that I know of.

20. How do you make a butter and jelly sandwich?

First, you place both slices on the plate, jelly on one slice, peanut butter on the other, flip them together, and that's it.

I decided to interview Keif Brazier because I've known him since we were in 7th grade, and these questions have never been asked. I thought it would be hilarious to make him feel a bit awkward. It was really fun interviewing him because he's a very laid-back person, and I believed he had fun as well.

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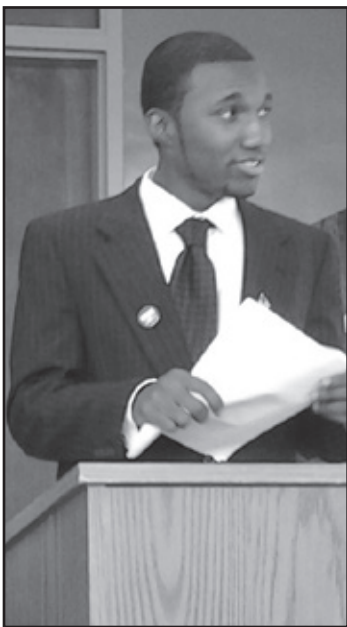
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It's Not Too Late to Apply for Spring 2013.

Campus News

To Spur Election Interest, BCC Students Run Presidential ‘Mock Debate’

By Jorge Quintana



Myrie as Obama

On Monday November 5, 2012 the Speech, Drama and Debate Team, NYPIRG, and the Office of Student Life held a mock debate in the Colston lobby. The event, which would serve as the culminating thrust in NYPIRG’s voter registration and mobilization campaign, was delayed from its proposed date of November 1 during club hours. Instead, the mock debate, a parody of the Obama and Romney debates, was held November 5, on the eve of the presidential elections. Students Cesar Maceira and O’Dane Myrie of the Speech and Debate club used campaign speeches and factual statements from the three presidential debates to prepare for the event.

Students passing through the Colston Lobby and waiting for their classes stopped and listened to what the mock debaters discussed. As part of NYPIRG’s nonpartisan message, the mock debate had a clear message of empowering students and encouraging them to get to the polls the following day.

Throughout the course of the debate, NYPIRG members aided students by showing them their polling locations. As Hurricane Sandy had disrupted major sections of the city, students were able to check or double-check whether or not their polling stations had been relocated or altered. Given the drastic changes of going from a large scale two-hour event down to a tabling event meant to grab the casual passerby, Obama, portrayed by Myrie, and Romney, portrayed by Maceira, sought to cover the most striking political points. In spite of the event being postponed and reduced in scope, everything went according to plan, as NYPIRG, Student Life, and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team accomplished their goal of informing students on the eve of the election.

“It was informative on what they said and entertaining on how they took on the character,” stated by BCC student Alyssa G. It is the hope of these organizations to hold mock debates before future major elections to maintain strong student voter turnout.



Maceira as Romney

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen (achapelliquen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.

Successful Student Secrets

By Aziza Ingram



The semester is nearing the finish line. Just like training to run a race requires conditioning and daily workouts, so does your brain. Very few think of their brain as a muscle, and they should. All the work you have done in the semester has been a workout for your noggin. Reading and writing are like

cardio, and mathematics or science are like heavyweight training. Both are necessary to have a lean and strong physique. Just like training your body, if you don’t keep up your workouts you can become flabby. Why not do the same for your mind? During the winter break you should strive to “maintain your brain.”

Brain drain is the loss of information or skill during a school break and is becoming a more common occurrence in students. Typically, students use break time to relax, catch up on sleep or play unlimited hours of video games. Too much of this relaxing behavior can create a deficit of skill when it comes time to return to the classroom. The average student loses about a month of work for every month away from the classroom. This means when you come back to campus you will spend a month playing catch up in returning to the routine or the process of information. This is where my tips can be useful. When it comes to the brain “you use it or lose it.”

If you are math phobic like I am, you will want to spend at least ten minutes a day doing some math problems.

Read and write. Set up a Google alert for a particular topic and read the full news article that day. You could also work on writing skills by writing a brief summary about what you read.

Read a book. Did someone you know suggest a book to read at a time when you had no free time to read it? Winter break is a good time to catch up on it.

If you already know your class schedule for the next semester, get the textbook for your least favorite class and get a head start on the reading.

Keeping your brain active during the break will prove beneficial for you in the long run. Just like your muscles can experience atrophy when you skip a month of workouts, so can your mind. Maintaining a schedule similar to the one you have during the semester is also a good idea. Get ahead and stay ahead. Getting in shape is always the hard part, staying in shape should be easier.

(See “Winter Inter-session Reading List” on page 8.)

Deadline for the Ehrenpreis Scholar Award Moved to January

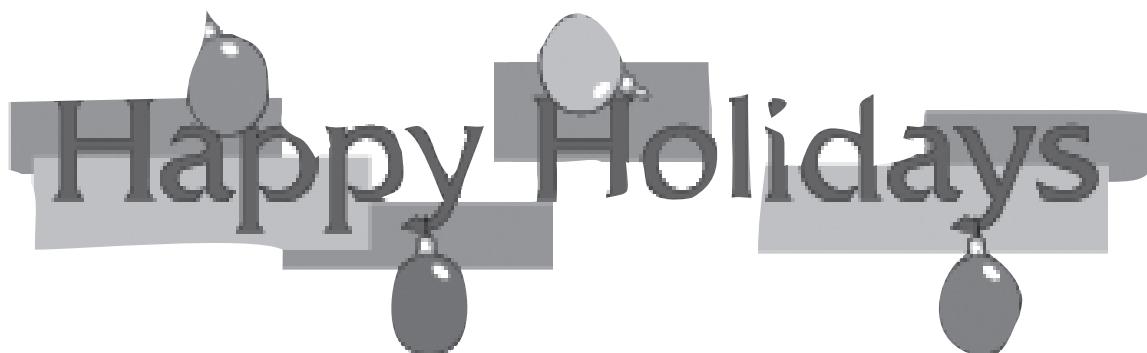
The Ehrenpreis Scholar Award deadline has been extended to Monday, January 14, 2013.

The award was established by the History Department to honor the memory of Samuel D. Ehrenpreis (1921-1996), who joined the Department in 1961 and served as Chairperson from 1973 until his retirement in 1990.

The Bronx Community College History Department awards two annual scholarships of \$200 in the spring and fall towards the purchase of books.

To apply, a student must have completed at least 12 credits, but not more than 24 credits, and have maintained a GPA of 3.3 or better.

Applications are available in the History Department, Colston Hall, Room 301 and online at <https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/eherotodus>.



Going Global



Volunteering Abroad, Part Two

By Ivana Lazaroska

Poverty is big business. The big drain on my emotions in Cambodia was seeing the horrific marks that the Khmer Rouge has left on the country. I doubt Cambodia will ever recover from Pol Pot and his lingering legacy of slaughtering the majority of educated people and burning the country's recorded history. Pol Pot has set this society back by hundreds of years. The survivors are courageous, have incredible personalities, and are always smiling in spite of it all. They work very hard for close to nothing while their government sells their natural resources to international buyers, making kickbacks on their kickbacks and taking the easy way out for themselves. Instead, they should stand tall and invest the money in their country so they can build a more thriving future for everyone.

I hope I never experience what they've gone through in Cambodia. I wish that I could wave a magic wand, improve their standard of living and end the corruption that is halting the country's progression. However, I see no way to help in the bigger picture of repair. Seeing both sides of the culture has been confronting to say the least.

Working in an orphanage is a double-edged sword. I do believe that being able to make a child smile, mainly when they've been through as much as the children there, is a gratifying thing. However, the fact that most of us cannot make a life-long commitment to benefit their futures leads to greater instability for everyone in the orphanage. Whatever influence volunteers have is not building any permanent foundation. It's a bandage after serious surgery when you really need stitches. I also believe that they are used to it; it's the life they've grown up knowing and, while it seems horrid to me, it's just how life is lived. So all I can do is hope that my presence there did more good than harm.

The cultural differences were immense and the poverty had me exhaustively depressed by the end of the first few days. I felt incredibly defeated in the beginning. I had no one to blame but myself for I was completely unprepared for the experience. In time, I got my head around the obscene poverty there and felt less shocked by it. Given that this was my first volunteering trip, it was good to have Projects Abroad as a safety net since I found the culture shock to be brutal when I first arrived. I did appreciate having someone to show me around whilst I got my head back together. I doubt I would've handled going to Cambodia on my own as well as I did with them. The opportunity to meet all the people working with Projects Abroad, especially the staff, made a tremendous difference in my initial understanding of the culture and costumes of the country. When it comes to working in an orphanage, I am on the fence because there is little benefit to the orphans bonding with volunteers that come and go so often. In the orphanage I did see the children thrive just by having someone around for emotional support.

Cambodia was heartbreaking. I know their lives will continue on in the exact way whether I am there or not. They take it all one day at a time and hope tomorrow will bring another kind heart and donations. It was very frustrating to witness the inequality of the distribution of wealth. Again, poverty is a business, and I am more aware of it now. Education is always a safe way out of it. But in a place where people struggle to satisfy their basic needs, education has a different meaning. The orphanages, unless they are affiliated with some religion, are run by people who grew up in orphanages themselves.



They have very little, and what they know best is how to survive today. There are no plans for the future because the government doesn't provide stability to build one. One way to change this is to change the mentality of the people. Before we build schools we need to help them form a better understanding on preserving food and recycling resources. Managing money and prioritizing are other obstacles they have only because no one taught them differently. Donations are always favorable because they benefit the larger picture. (<http://www.aeocambodia.org>)

As I left The Kingdom of Cambodia, I pondered my imprint on the place. I hope it's as wonderful and extraordinary for them as it was for me. One thing I know for sure, there are many ways to measure value and success. This experience is the most valuable and meaningful thing I've done so far in my life. And even though there were times when doubt was present, at the end it gave me a reassurance for my education and future. We all try to live some sort of a successful life that is defined by the society that surrounds us. This trip thought me that I happen to find a great deal of satisfaction in helping others even when things don't turn out the way I planned. It gave me the opportunity to see a different reality from the one I'm in, but nevertheless a reality of the world I live in, reality that needs to be changed for the better.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to The Michael Steuerman Scholarship Fund; recently retired Director of The National Center for Educational Alliances, Ms. Barbara Schaijer-Peleg; Professor Andrew Rowan; Dr. Camilla Dacey; Professor Grace Campagna; and Dr. William deJong-Lambert.

(See page 9 for summer 2013 volunteer abroad information.)

The New Unity & Strength Minority Faculty & Staff Association

Byron Taylor Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Gloria Hobbs Scholarship

Application for Spring 2013

Dear Student,

We are pleased to announce The New Unity & Strength Minority Faculty & Staff Association scholarship opportunities for students. Complete and submit the application packet by January 7, 2013. The recipients of this year's scholarships will be awarded at the Unity & Strength Banquet on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Prof. Ellen R. Hoist, President
Mr. Ted Ingram, Vice President, Chairperson Scholarship Committee

Please complete all sections of the application. (Print Clearly)

SECTION 1 – PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:	Student EMPL ID:
Permanent Address:	Number of Credits Earned:
Cell Phone:	G.P.A.
Email:	

SECTION 2 – CRITERIA & ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

All applicants must:

- be registered full-time students at Bronx Community College or Fall 2012 graduates.
- be U.S. citizens or African descent.
- have successfully completed at least two (2) semesters at Bronx Community College.
- have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (G.P.A.).
- submit a 750–1000 word typed essay describing financial need, academic goals, service to the College (contributions to BCC activities) or the community at large. (Essay must be included with the application)
- submit a student copy of a current transcript with the application.
- submit one letter of reference from a faculty member. (Must be included with the application)

Submit all completed applications to:

Prof. Ellen R. Hoist CPH 408 or 413 and Mr. Ted Ingram LO Hall 419

Deadline for submission is **January 7, 2013 at 4:00pm**

Please note: Only complete application packets will be considered.



The C.O.P.E. Program is a collaboration between CUNY and the Human Resources Administration (HRA). The program helps students meet CUNY college standards and HRA work obligations, in order to enhance students' chances of graduating and achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency through gainful employment. C.O.P.E. also provides supportive services to students receiving public assistance.

1 Free MetroCards

If you are currently working and collecting full public assistance—food stamps, Medicaid, and cash assistance (even if you lost it due to employment)—then you may qualify for free MetroCards.

2 Resume Assistance

If you are looking for a part-time or full-time position, you will need a resume and cover letter. We can assist you with building a resume that displays your skills. We can also review the resume you already have.

3 Finding Jobs Online

Search and apply for positions online, through job fairs and also one-on-one sessions. Our employment database is updated weekly with positions in banking, nursing, retail, office assistance, education, technology, and more.

4 C.O.P.E. as a Resource

Make sure we have a copy of your resume so that when employers contact us for suitable candidates, the referral process can run smoothly. Also, you can find out from our office information about career fairs and job prep workshops that occur each semester.

C.O.P.E. Program
Division of Student Affairs
Loew Hall, Room 117
718.289.5603
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (By Appointment Only)

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Office of Communications & Marketing | 8.23.2012

Outside the Quad

Courtroom Diary

By Kristian Moton



Small claims court is a branch of civil court where claimants sue for damages totaling no more than \$5,000. While criminal court usually ends with jail time or a fine, civil court cases almost ALWAYS has something to do with money. Small claims court presides over different cases, ranging from real estate to breach of contract cases and baby momma drama. Somehow I hit the jackpot and had all of these elements in about 45 minutes. When I first asked the judge how small

claims court works, he told me “It’s a little like Judge Judy, just not as ghetto.” Except for the latter part of that sentence, he was right. It was a bright and warm Thursday afternoon, when I came in as usual and sat next to the judge listening to the cases. The case I’ll be writing about was a non-payment case, where a broker firm was the plaintiff against a man and his start-up pharmacy.

Upon first glance of the parties, I couldn’t have been more proud. The brokers were two clearly independent black women. “We finally made it,” was my first thought, as I saw a tall, bald-headed ebony dream, with hoop earrings and dark skin, accompanied by an older woman who dressed smartly, a woman who you could tell dealt with all the hardships her era gave her by just looking in her eyes. “This was the dream realized,” I thought to myself. The man with the start-up business looked like your typical middle-aged man – the type of man you would see as the suspect in an overseas version of *Cops*. It was clear as day that I was biased. The man appeared to be crooked, and the case looked to be open and shut.

Until my ebony dream opened her mouth. Never in my life had I seen so much neck turning, eye rolling, and arm crossing and sucking of the teeth. “A symphony of wretchedness.”

The particulars of the case involved this woman and the man. The female broker (who will now be referred to as Suzuki) took the man (whom I will call George) to see properties that he could rent to create a pharmacy. He wanted the pharmacy to be very close to the projects. The drugs and medicine that he was planning to order for his store would be accepted by Medicaid, which he deduced was appealing to his target consumer. Suzuki took George to properties that fit his criteria. The only store that seemed up to par was a hole in the wall that was not up to city standards. After cutting his losses George bade Suzuki and her firm adieu. A few months later, George rolled on back to hole in the wall to see if there was any progress, and there was. George happily signed an agreement with the owner of the property. The only issue is that he did not pay the broker’s fee associated with the property.

The question now is does he need to pay the brokers fee if he came back months later and rented directly? Answers like this become even murkier when the agreement is not a written contract.

Suzuki was not there when or if an agreement was made. She assumed it was a written contract; otherwise, she would not have wasted her time. Unfortunately, it was Suzuki’s job to put the agreement in writing, and she didn’t. George did pay for the service to go around and be shown all the places he could rent. There was no need for the contract at that time. If the brokers had a written contract they would win the case – or at least have more ground to stand on. They lost the case.

The judge didn’t get to that decision without hearing Suzuki say the REAL reason they were all there. Apparently, George asked her out, and she said “no” because “she doesn’t mix business with pleasure.” She also knew that he had a wife who he wasn’t happy with. Fortunately, the decision was made days after the hearing so I didn’t hear anymore craziness or see my people set back anymore years.

Fruits of Labor Mixtape Review

By Kristian Moton

Fruits of Labor is a collaboration mixtape recorded by BCC’s own Corey Lionel Spencer as L.S., Lehman College’s Malik Davis as Malcolm Davis, and several Christian students within the CUNY system.

The overall quality of sound and production isn’t what you would immediately expect from any mixtape. The album has interludes that are equally relevant and hilarious, with bytes from Classic Bruce lee movies and Kevin Hart stand ups. These interludes give an appropriate foreshadowing of the mood for the next set of songs.



L.S. and Davis put their best foot forward with “I Want It,” the opening track, which has an off-putting, eerie sound. The duo laments and reflects on their past, who they are, and what they want. They’re comfortable but comfortable is not enough. Spencer says in his verse, “I want the goblets, garages with several cars in it, it’s not sinnin’ I call it a blessin.” The track expresses both the want and the fear of wealth; this mirrors a lot of what’s to come as the rest of the compilation is foreboding yet triumphant.

The subject matter is of our time: the content included sex, drugs, alcohol, rape and community change. When religion is being referred to it’s usually in a way that illustrates how hard is to be good.

“Hell for a Saint” discusses the fickleness of pew-sitting Christianity. Kyle Norville, a friend of the team, and Kingsborough CC student, says, “They think they have a Jesus piece so they got peace with Jesus. Satan rips their Jesus piece, so they say peace to Jesus.”

The sound of *Labor* evolves giving cohesive story telling. You can feel the struggle of both Malcolm and Lionel within the production.

“Powerless,” the middle track is refreshing, being a low key “read your book/ drive slow” song. Spencer and Davis continue the telling of their stories but to a more calm and soothing beat. The overall sound allows you to sit back, relax and enjoy the listen.

More often than not *Fruits of Labor* is cleverly put together. However, tracks like “Exodus” and “Nothing to Lose” venture off with beats and lyrics that just don’t fit the rest of the mixtape. Malcolm’s combining of words come off difficult to hear and almost inaudible. This is only a slight drawback to an otherwise surprisingly great work.

F.L. is not your conventional Christian Rap album filled with preachy one liners that make you cringe in embarrassment; it’s a real, thought-out collaborative piece that rivals and eclipses a lot of secular works. In the end, *Fruits of Labor* is an intelligent piece that is kind of like the “puzzle that finally came together.”

It is apparent that both artists need more seasoning and polishing; but if F.L. is any indicator for Malcolm and Lionel’s future, that future looks bright..

Unheard-of Quotations and Tweets

By Untwain Fyffe

Quote: “The key to life is running and reading.”

This is a quote from world famous actor Will Smith. He said it as the opening to his acceptance speech at the 2005 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards. Since he was speaking to children, I interpreted his words as a mere joke. Then Smith took the time to explain his message to the audience, which is a very convincing one. Soon after running, you feel out of breath, tired, worn out and exhausted over time – enough reasons to stop. If you can learn to ignore those physical and mental emotions telling you to stop, you’ll learn how to never give up when you are faced with challenges in your life. Now, why reading? Think of the millions of people that walked this Earth before you did and the billions now living. You are likely to never experience a new problem (paying for college, procrastination, credit card debt, and so forth) that someone else hasn’t already experienced, figured out how to solve it, and written about it in a book.

Tweet: Time is extrapolated mathematically to the Planck epoch 10^{-43} seconds & it breaks down. #Science cannot fathom creation #CosmicConsciousness

India-born American physician and writer, Deepak Chopra, tweeted this on August 11, 2012. Perhaps if I were a math or physics major, I’d be able to accurately decipher it. Unfortunately, I’m not. But regardless of the fact, I was a bit intrigued by the tweet. I read the first half as being a scientific theory of some sort, or a proven fact. As for the remaining half of the tweet, from my understanding, cosmic consciousness is the idea that the human mind is connected to everything in the universe and that is something scientists (#Science) cannot explain. But I still had no clue as to what “planck epoch 10^{-43} seconds” meant – so on to Google I went. Dr. Chopra was referring to the beginning of our universe (aka the beginning of time, aka the big bang theory). The less than one second (10^{-43} seconds) after the universe was created (the big bang) is referred to in scientific term as “the Planck epoch.”

Quote: “If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe.”

Carl Edward Sagan, an American astronomer/astrophysicist/cosmologist/author, said this during a recording of his explanation of atoms and Googolplex

(one of the biggest number ever to be used in a mathematical equation, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*). This is one of my all-time favorite quotes because it is direct and simple. There is no hidden meaning behind it. Technically, you cannot make anything from scratch without being the creator of that product physical composition – its atomic particles.

Tweet: Beware of dream killers. Keep some visions to yourself!

Angela Simmons tweeted this on September 16, 2012. She’s the daughter of Joseph Simmons (one-third of legendary hip-hop group, RUN-D.M.C.). Tweeted at 9:46 am, it was the first thing I read in the morning. I asked myself if there were any dream killers in my circle of friends, and out of the 1,307 retweets she got, it’s possible others did too. Simmons didn’t explain her tweet, and frankly she didn’t have to. For those of you who are quick to tell a friend or family member about your aspirations – think twice! Does that person really have your best interests in mind?

Outside the Quad

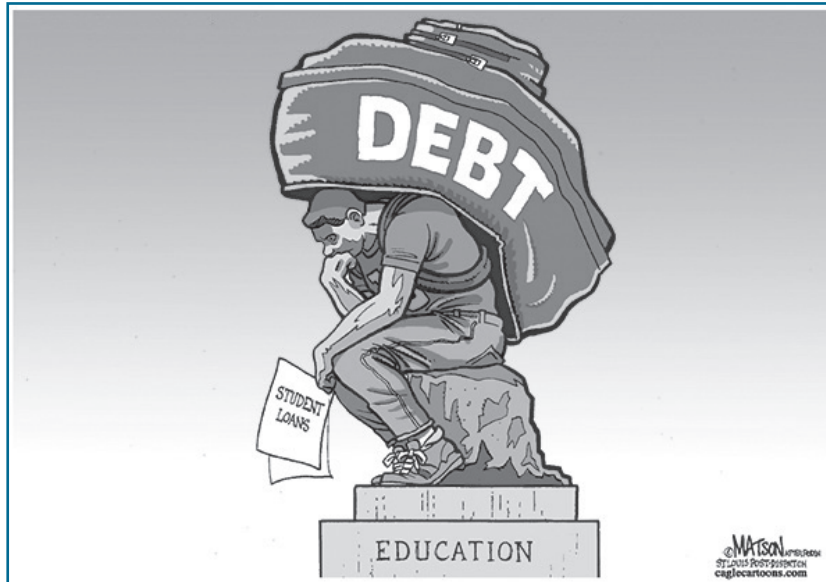
The Rising Tide of Student Debt

By Stefanos Ugbit

The rising cost of college tuition has made dreams of achieving an affordable college education in the U.S. difficult to achieve. According to a recent *New York Times* article, “The average student debt has ballooned to \$26,500, a 5% increase from about \$25,350 the previous year according to a report by the Institute for College Access and Success’s Project on Student Debt. Student debt has exceeded all other forms of debt in the U.S., becoming the highest form of all household debt.” Economists have called this the student debt bubble. The student debt has exceeded \$1 trillion, and it makes up about 6% of GDP. With this expanding problem, the student debt has to be put forth into the national discussion in ways of dealing with this crisis.

This has an adverse effect upon the U.S. economy for two reasons: many students can’t afford to keep up with their payments, and are saddled with debt. Second, students who can’t afford college tuition drop out or don’t attend due to the soaring costs of college tuition. This can have a negative effect on the U.S. economy long term as America would lose its international competitiveness due to the lack of a highly skilled workforce which is essential and crucial to long-term economic growth. There needs to be a bipartisan coalition effort in reducing and/or curbing the high costs of college tuition without causing inflation which in turn causes the colleges to increase college tuition.

Students need to make their voices heard, and demand that the American dream is not lost because of the lack of an affordable college education. There are many



ways to mitigate this problem such as debt forgiveness, loan consolidation, more financial aid, and scholarships. Due to the financial crisis, it has become more difficult to find a job having a college degree. Budget cuts in state governments have made affordability difficult with education being cut, and put on the back burner. Many state grants for college have been cut, making it a heavier burden to attend college. The burden of debt on students of color is higher when compared to their white counterparts. Nearly about 11% of black graduates and 13% of Latinos are unemployed compared to 9% of white graduates that are unemployed. The United Negro College Fund has set up a tour to empower students by increasing financial

literacy and helping to increase scholarships and providing financial aid.

There are many pressures placed on the economy due to young graduates being saddled with a lifetime of debt which takes away from their ability to acquire the American dream. Due to the financial crisis and the housing market showing no significant sign of increase, would-be first-time home buyers are forced to rent over buying. The recent graduates with lower FICO scores and higher debts can’t make these big purchases. The future outlook for America’s economy will be bleak if the problem is not made a priority.

The solution to this endemic problem is that it first needs to be a main priority on Capitol Hill, and there is a need to evaluate the seriousness of the crisis that this has become. Higher education in many European countries is free of cost to students. As we all know, this is not the case of the United States. Here, the dominate view of capitalism that prevails in all aspects of American life and culture is widespread in higher education as well. However, in order for us to have a solution, we need to address the problem and ask what it really means to have an education. Increasing financial aid, scholarships, and grants can be a temporary fix. As the wealthiest nation in the world, we can do better.

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”
Walter Cronkite

Large Win in the Fracking Fight: SUNY Buffalo Closes Controversial Shale Institute

By Armando Chapelliquen

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- In a letter to the campus community, University at Buffalo President Satish K. Tripathi today announced his decision to close the Shale Resources and Society Institute, effective immediately.

The decision follows an internal assessment of the institute by Tripathi, Provost Charles Zukoski and E. Bruce Pitman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The university will continue to pursue research in the area of energy and the environment, leveraging faculty expertise across the university, but it will focus its research more broadly to establish “a comprehensive program of scholarship and education with appropriate breadth and complexity,” Tripathi said.

The full text of Tripathi’s letter is available at the University of Buffalo’s website: <http://www.buffalo.edu/news/13820>.

Tripathi noted that UB’s policies for disclosure of significant financial interests and sources of support are strong and consistent with federal guidelines. To further clarify UB’s policies, the university has established a committee with participation of its Faculty Senate.

This news comes following a concerted effort by New Yorkers Against Fracking, a statewide coalition of diverse organizations that support a fracking ban, who demonstrated in front of the SUNY Global Center this past September when the Shale Resources and Society Institute released a report that was written by authors who had not previously revealed their financial ties to the natural gas industry. Additionally, “the University of Buffalo failed to disclose that it was at the same time soliciting funding

for the Institute from interested industries in exchange for special industry access,” said Martha McCluskey, Professor of Law and William J. Magavern Fellow at the University of Buffalo.

New Yorkers Against Fracking released the following statement from Rebecca Weber, Executive Director of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) in response to the announcement.

“We’re excited that the University of Buffalo – through the oversight of the SUNY Board of Trustees – has decided that the Shale Institute should be shut down. This is a victory for real science over junk science peddled by the gas industry.”

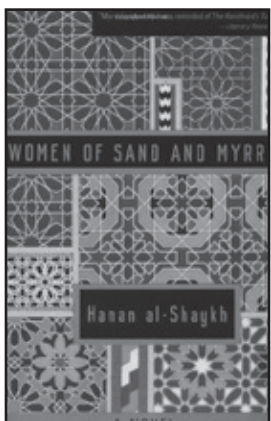
While the events at SUNY Buffalo prove a large victory for hydrofracking opponents, the future of fracking in New York is still uncertain. As news of the Shale Institute’s closure continues to spread, anti-fracking groups have focused their attention on Governor Cuomo’s recently announced support for a public health study to review the potential risks posed by hydrofracking.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen (achapelliquen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.

Winter Inter-session Reading List

Don’t let your skills get rusty over the winter break.

Here are some suggestions for books that might capture your imagination.



Hana al-Shaykh, *Women of Sand and Myrrh* (1989)

These are four intertwined narratives from women in a wealth Arab desert country. All of the women live in luxury and privilege but are denied the very basic freedom of self-expression. This novel has been described as “an eloquent and subtle plea for liberalization, as well as an evocative description of a society torn between tradition and the West.”

Jane Austen, *Emma* (1815)

Emma, arguably Jane Austen’s best and most representative novel, is often praised for its rich domestic realism. Like most of the author’s remarkable novels, it is also a novel of courtship and social manners. At its heart is Emma Woodhouse – “handsome, clever and rich” – who is also spoiled. She greatly overestimates her own matchmaking abilities, ignores, despite sound warnings, the dangers of meddling in other people’s lives, and misconstrues the meanings of others’ actions. Nonetheless, she eventually learns from her mistakes.

Junot Diaz, *Drown* (1997)

Diaz’ first collection of stories – 10 in all – offers vivid details of growing up first in the Dominican Republic and then in New Jersey. The stories are narrated by adolescent males who are outwardly cool but inwardly anguished as they attempt to recreate

themselves in the midst of family problems and their own surging sexuality.

Ha Jin, *Waiting* (1999)

Lin Kong is a Chinese Army doctor trapped in an arranged marriage that embarrasses and repels him. (Shuyu, his wife, has country ways, a withered face, and most humiliating of all, bound feet.) Nevertheless, he’s content with his tidy military life, at least until he falls in love with Manna, a nurse at his hospital. Regulations forbid an army officer to divorce without his wife’s consent—until 18 years have passed, that is, after which he is free to marry again. So, year after year, Lin asks his wife for his freedom, and year after year he returns from the provincial courthouse: still married, still unable to seal his relationship with Manna. The final chapters are moving and deeply ironic when this forbidden love is finally consummated.

***The Ghost Stories of Edith Wharton* (1973)**

Best known for her novels – *The House of Mirth*, *The Age of Innocence*, and *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton also produced a series of excellent supernaturalist stories for publication in a series of popular magazines of her day. Originally published together in 1937, these tales find her overcoming her childhood fear of ghosts to craft this series of spine-tingling tales filled with spirits beyond the grave and other supernatural phenomena. Because these stories are subtly drawn, they linger.

Outside the Quad

Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarships For Volunteer Abroad / 2013 Bronx Community College

In 2006, one of Bronx Community College's most distinguished faculty members, Professor Michael Steuerman, passed away. Professor Steuerman served BCC in a number of ways: as a professor of Health and Physical Education, as wrestling coach, as chair of the college's Curriculum Committee, and as Dean of Students. Beyond BCC, he was honored as CUNY's Director of Athletics and as coach of Israel's national wrestling team. In addition, he founded and led Project Share, a college-based food collaborative for Bronx families. At the same time, Professor Steuerman became actively engaged with the World Hunger Project, an international organization that seeks to eradicate world hunger.

His enterprising, values-rich and generous life touched many, and he is sorely missed. Professor Steuerman addressed large, societal goals and was equally committed to empowering individuals. He believed that successful community college students brought special talents and strengths to society – and as they had been helped by others, so were they obligated to share their learning and skills. Bronx Community College, where he served with such distinction, is working to honor his commitment to community college students and to keep his legacy alive through service-oriented scholarships.

The Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund was established to highlight and sustain his belief in community college students and service learning by supporting BCC students, and BCC graduates continuing their education at City College, Professor Steuerman's alma mater. Each year, the MSLF awards one or two summer scholarships for up to \$2,500 to students who develop or apply for distinctive community service or international projects and propose realistic ways to bring their experiences and findings to share with Bronx Community College students.



Volunteering abroad in Cambodia, summer 2012

The applications are due on Thursday, February 28, 2013, and require you to identify an existing volunteer program or develop your own that builds upon your current interests and contacts. The proposal must indicate that you have a well-thought out plan for both volunteer work and room and board. Former recipients have traveled to Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica on medical missions; to Cuzco, Peru, to tutor orphaned children; to Malawi to build houses for Habitat for Humanity; and to Cambodia to work on community service projects, including working in an orphanage.

Please contact Professor Andrew Rowan at andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu to arrange an appointment to receive a scholarship application and to further discuss volunteering abroad in summer 2013.

(See "Volunteering Abroad, Part Two" on page 6.)

IF YOU ARE

CURRENTLY WORKING

AND

RECEIVING FULL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

(Food Stamps, Medicaid, & Cash Assistance – even if you lost it due to employment)

THEN YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE METROCARDS!

VISIT THE C.O.P.E. PROGRAM AT LOEW HALL ROOM 117 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

(718) 289 – 5603



Outside the Quad



(From left to right) Screenwriter Larry Brenner and Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the Media Technology and Film Society, take a group picture with students after his lecture in BCC's Television Studio.

BCC MEDIA TECH AT WORK

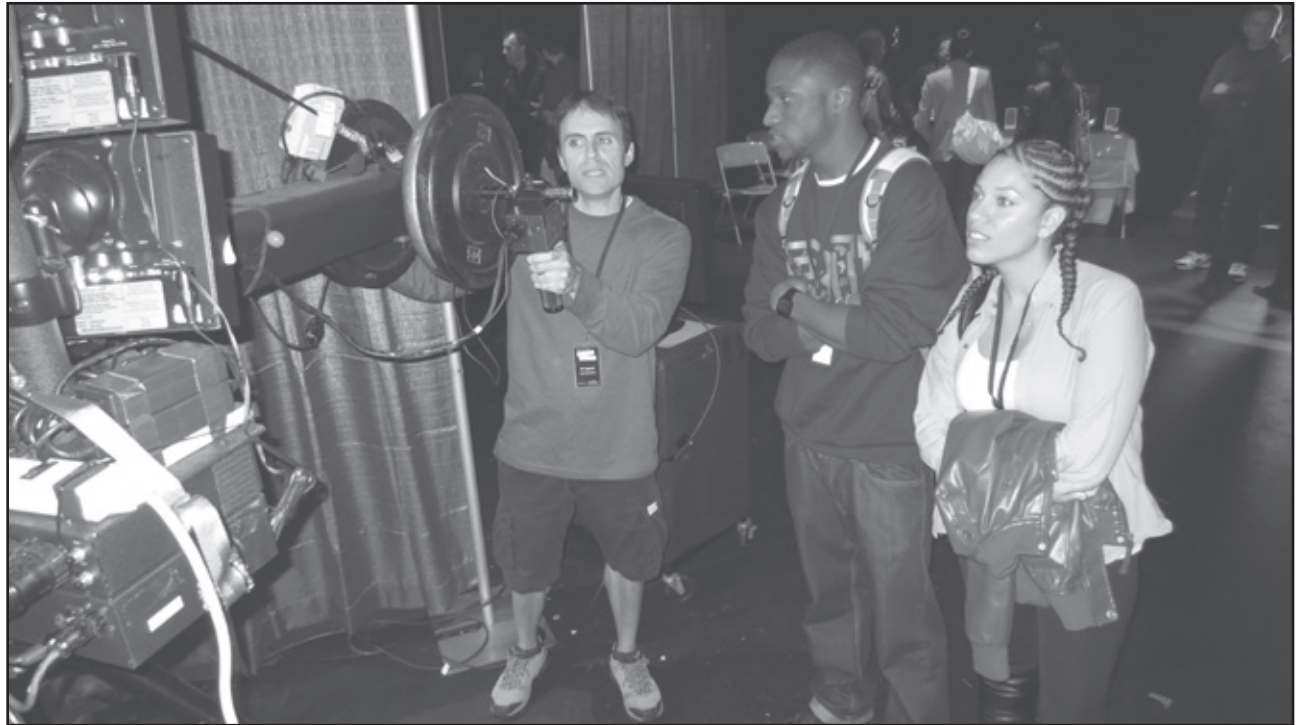


Students from the Media Technology and Film Society Club during CLUB FAIR DAY held in Colston Hall on October 4, 2012.

CMS 61, HISTORY AND THEORY OF FILM student, Sharlene Santos, accepts her OSCAR for film directing during her ePortfolio mock acceptance speech in BCC Television Studio.



Outside the Quad



Al Liguori, Food Network JIB Arm operator, gives a demonstration to Media Technology students, Andrew Roland and Natalia Melendez. Guest speakers and technical demonstrations took place at the Food Networks Studios in NYC for the Scripps Networks Interactive MEDIA EXPO held on Oct. 26th 2012. Special thanks to Bill Calamita, Director of Studio & Field Operations for inviting our club to this event.

Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the Media Technology and Film Society poses with club members at the Food Networks studios during the Scripps Networks Interactive MEDIA EXPO held on Oct. 26, 2012.

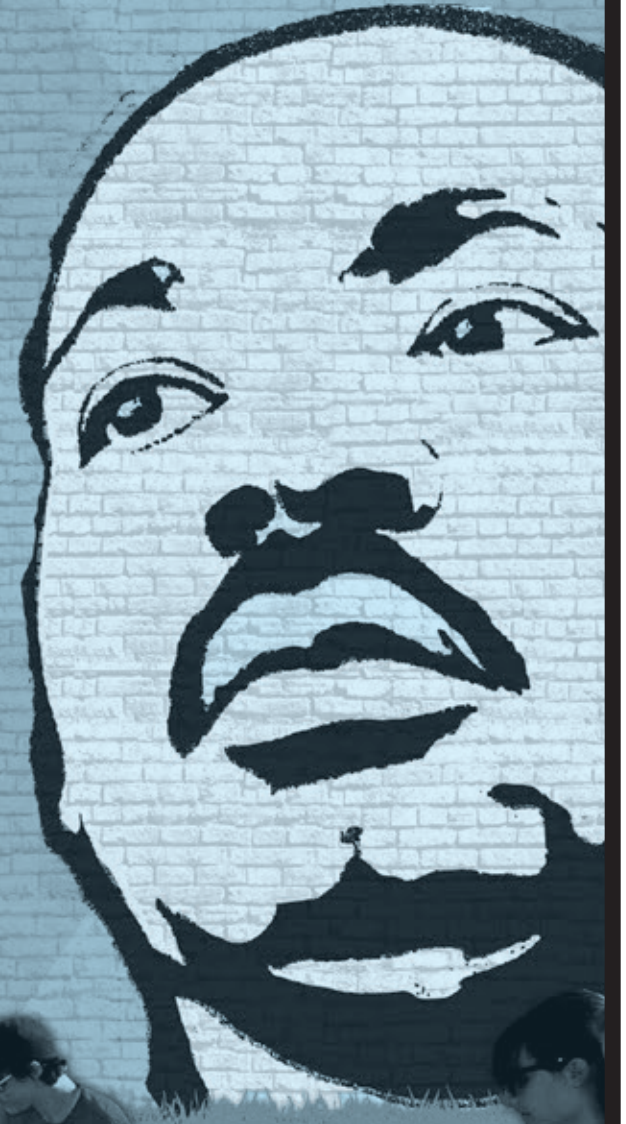


Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor Media Technology and Film Society, BCC Club members Natalia Melendez, Yanilsa Estrella, Sol Negrin, ASC and Dejan Geogevich, ASC. Club plaque was presented to Mr. Negrin for his leadership as Co-Chair of the Guilds Education Committee. Sol was also elected to the BRONX WALK OF FAME during Bronx Week 2012. Sol Negrin is a five-time Emmy Award nominated cinematographer who was recently honored with the coveted Presidents Award from the American Society of Cinematographers. Notably, he was the director of cinematography for the Patty Duke Show and Kojak. In the early days of his career, he even worked with Bronx Walk of Fame Inductee Stanley Kubrick.

"LIFE'S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?"

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR



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MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF.**

MLKDay.gov



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