

THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 9, 2016 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 1 – FALL 2016

SGA President's Message to His Fellow Students

By Nicholas Asamoah



Dear Students,

It has been my greatest pleasure to serve the students of Bronx Community College as the Student Government Association President. My name is Nicholas Asamoah, a chemistry student expecting to graduate in spring 2017. Throughout my time as the SGA president at BCC, my

deepest pleasure is derived from knowing that I serve students like myself. The journey so far has been tedious but mostly worthwhile. This year has been a year of many successes for all the students at Bronx Community College, and among the successes were the great turnout of about 420 participants at our October 28th Halloween party and about 50 at our Linkden Headshot event on November 3rd. We participated in the Bronx Community College Quadrangle Ribbon Cutting which welcomed most of our important stakeholders.

We also pushed and supported the Bronx Community College Food Pantry by Single Stop. The SGA is hosting information sessions for students on December 2nd and December 6. Our administration has



recently secured \$35,000 in aid for the students' lounge in the Roscoe Brown Student Center. The SGA is working with the college to build charging stations across campus, also making the Roscoe Brown Student Center more welcoming to all students by putting country flags throughout the building.

The Bronx Community College Student Government serves students of diverse backgrounds, preparations, and aspirations by providing them with leadership education and mentorship that is both broad in scope and rigorous in standards. Our mission is to give

our students the foundation and tools for success, whether they choose to continue their education and/or enter a profession immediately upon graduation and to instill in them the value of informed and engaged citizenship and service to their communities through leadership. This SGA 2016/17 has on its highest agenda to empower students and increase student participation, and to awaken campus spirit here at BCC.

This college has fulfilled its mission in my life as a West African, Ghanaian. I was elated and humbled to have been elected by this student body. As your Student Government Association President, I want to assure you that the journey does not end here. With the assistance of all Broncos and listening to your concerns. I will continue to be the voice of the students by addressing major concerns that impact our learning environment and capabilities.

All of this would not have been successful without you, and it would be remiss not to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my team, my executive board, and senators. Thank you. Let's all continue to build a greater Bronco team.

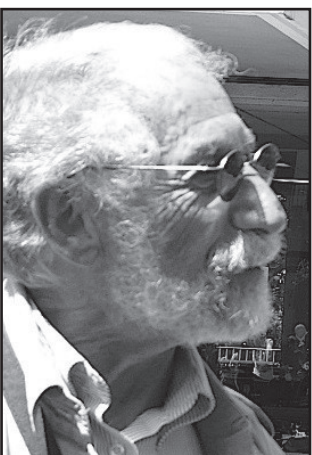
Best wishes,

Nicholas Asamoah

President, Student Government Association

Dr. Peter Rose Spurs Intense Reactions to Post-election Life in America

The Communicator Editorial Staff



Dr. Peter Rose returned to the College on Thursday, November 11th for a lecture/discussion entitled *The New Populism: The Politics of Anger in the Age of Trump*, a follow up to his well-received lecture on March 31st BCC – *The Politics of Fear: Intolerance, Nativism, and "The Wars Within."* In the spring lecture Dr. Rose provided an overview of how issues of race,

ethnicity, and immigration were being played out in a new political landscape that we had been experiencing during the presidential primaries, especially the Republican primaries. This March presentation was held under the auspices of the Eastern Sociological Society.

This was not, however, the first series of interactions that Dr. Rose, and his wife, Dr. Hedwig Rose, both professors emeriti at Smith College, have had with BCC students. They are members of the faculty at the Salzburg Global Alliance and have worked with the CUNY cohort there numerous times since 2005. Dr. Peter Rose also gave the Annual Ehrenpreis Memorial Lecture at the College in 2006.

One of the leading experts on issues of race, ethnicity, and diversity, Dr. Rose's many esteemed publications have included Americans from Africa, first published in 1970. His other books include *They and We*, *The Subject is Race*, *Strangers in Their Midst*, *The Ghetto and Beyond*, *Nation of Nations*, *Through Different Eyes: Black and White Perspectives on American Race Relations*, *Working with Refugees*, *Tempest-Tost*, *The Dispossessed: An Anatomy of Exile*, and a memoir, *Postmonitions of a Peripatetic Professor*. In 2017 Transaction will publish *Mainstream and Margins Revisited: Sixty Years of Commentaries on American Pluralism*.

In addition to his Smith professorship, his teaching credentials have included universities in the U.S., including Clark, Wesleyan, Colorado, UCLA, Yale, and Harvard. He has served as a Fulbright professor in the U.K, Australia, Japan, Austria, and The Netherlands; and he has been a faculty member of the Global Citizenship Alliance in Salzburg since its inception 12 years ago.

As the contentious presidential campaign moved from the primaries to the general election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, the Department of History

issued an invitation to Dr. Rose to return to BCC to discuss the election, no matter the outcome, and to unpack what the results might mean to both the nation and the rest of the world. "Building Democracy: Reflecting on the Elections and Moving Forward," the third event in the 2016-2017 BCC President's Conversation Series on Democracy and Freedom, was coordinated by Dr. Jordi Getman-Eraso (History), Dr. Mara Lazda (History), and Professor Andrew Rowan (English).

Dr. Rose highlighted similarities between the current political context in the U.S. and the socioeconomic, political, and culture divisions in interwar Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. He also reminded audience members that divisive rhetoric has a long history in the United States and targeted groups have included African-Americans, Japanese, and the Irish, among others. Through these and other examples, Dr. Rose asked attendees to consider the constructed nature of racial and other stereotypes.

Echoing others across the political spectrum, Dr. Rose asserted that we as Americans need to listen to one another. He reminded the audience that those "angry" voters should also have a voice in our political and cultural discourse. What he did assail, however, were the racist, nativist, anti-Semitic, and white supremacist underpinnings of the President-elect's campaign. This view was echoed by several faculty and students, one of whom noted that some strategists were spinning that many of Donald Trump's most divisive pronouncements had been taken out of context, but videos and transcript of speeches and his numerous tweets have shown this attempt to mainstream and normalize many of Trump's view to be a false effort.

Near the end of his wide-ranging discussion, Dr. Rose stated, "In recent days many Republican leaders who had said Trump was a buffoon, too much of a loose cannon, and far too narcissistic to be elected president are turning into fawning sycophants. And even some Democrats are saying, 'Well, give him a chance.' It sounds to me like an old familiar ploy where people go along to get along, usually at the expense of others, often with disastrous results." He noted, however, that it would be folly to ignore those whose economic well-being and sense of identity have been upended by globalizaiion and the technology revolution.

Near the end of the session, one audience member urged that we not overlook another factor that had not been addressed, and that was misogyny – and the reluctance of a great many American men and women to trust and believe that a woman could be an effective leader and commander-in-chief.

Dr. Rose, however, stated that he remained hopeful that Americans share a common "hub" that can serve as a foundation of unity. He encouraged the BCC community to continue to use dialogue as a resource for countering divisions.

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Join The Communicator Staff

The Communicator is seeking interested and committed editorial staff members. We need news (campus events, including sports, club, and cultural events), editorial columnists, creative writers (poems, short stories, and memoirs), photographers, and proofreaders as well as an office manager (someone who is eligible for work study would be perfect). Senior colleges, as well as scholarship sources, love to see campus involvement such as working for the college newspaper on your applications.

Please contact Professor Andrew Rowan (we will get started in August as a team) if you are interested:
andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

Editorial Staff
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Robert Josman
Yubelka Nunez
Dion Quamina

Beyond the Quad

Bronx Community College Accounting Majors Attend Career Development Program in Washington, D.C.

By Yissel Lantigua, Class of 2017

Bronx Community College accounting majors (from left to right) Maria Conception, Mohammed Ibrahim, Yissel Lantigua, Mariam Gouem, and Tawfic Siiba were selected to represent the college at the 2016 Accounting Scholars Development Program (ASDP) held from July 24 through July 29 at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

The Howard University Accounting Scholars Development Program (ASDP) is an all-expense paid, one-week residency program designed to encourage minority community college accounting students to transfer to a four-year institution, pursue careers in accounting, and the Certified Public Accountant license.

Seventeen students from nine community colleges across the U.S. had the opportunity to attend ASDP 2016. The program started Sunday afternoon when every participant introduced him/herself to other participants and the organizers of the event.

During the week, “Big 4” accounting firms KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) visited the Accounting Scholars Development Program and presented points of interest in the accounting profession.

KPMG is a professional service company that provides audit, taxation, and advisory accounting services. Employees from the accounting firm presented an exposition about “Forensic Accounting” which is the use of accounting skills to investigate fraud or embezzlement and to analyze financial information for use in legal proceedings. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is a multinational professional services network headquartered in London, United Kingdom. It is the largest professional services firm in the world. At the Howard University program, PwC’s presentation included a discussion about the gap between female and male participation in top management roles.



We all had the opportunity to visit places like the Office of the Controller of the Currency (OCC), which is a government agency whose mission is to ensure that national banks and federal saving associations operate in a safe and sound manner, provide fair access to financial services, treat customers fairly, and comply with applicable laws and regulations. We also visited Deloitte Consulting LLP, another “Big 4” accounting and professional services firm that provides industry-leading audit, consulting, tax, and advisory services to many of the world’s most admired brands.

A tour of Washington D.C.’s historical monuments was also made. Among the monuments we visited were the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, and the National World War II Memorial.

It was a wonderful week where I met people from different backgrounds. I thank Professors Clarence Perkins and Paul Jaijairam for encouraging me to apply to the Accounting Scholars Development Program.

How a College Education Can Change the Rest of Your Life

By Alex Luma

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education.” At times, students find themselves questioning the importance of college. A college education supplies wider opportunities for graduates as opposed to those without a higher education. There is a higher demand for students in possession of their aspired degree. As you learn in business and economics classes, supply and demand is the backbone model of the market economy for determining price within a market. According to the law of demand, based on the equality of all factors, the higher the price, the less demand. According to the law of supply, the quantity supplied increases as the price increases. When the functions of supply and demand intersect and the two balance each other out, the economy is said to be at equilibrium, a state of stability. Since in this case, the supply is outweighed by the demand, college graduates obtain comparatively higher wages. Even though higher education can be one of the largest hands ever to reach into your pockets, having that college education speaks in favor towards your life earning potential within today’s day and age, which is worth every penny. It is the most significant investment you will make in your future.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it is reported that, on average, high school diploma recipients make \$678 weekly. Associate degree recipients make \$798 while those with their bachelors make \$1,137 and so on and so forth. In addition to the priority of earning money, there is also the effort of earning credibility. There are many opportunities for students to display everything they have learned in front of professionals in their craft and to network with leaders, which leads to insight, growth, career potential and at times, scholarship opportunities.

One prime example would be the College Media Convention for writers, publishers, and journalists, among others. Insight offered includes, *How to Be a Multimedia Journalist with Whatever Is in Your Pocket*. Another prime example would be the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference. This prestigious experience presents science, technology, engineering, and math students with the opportunity to meet top employers and amplify the spark within their academic career. They also get to hear from expert elite professionals and see students progressing and taking initiative towards their dreams and receiving recognition, as well as scholarships.

By receiving post-secondary education, not only do the students find an extra passageway to a whole new world of opportunity, but they also receive the chance to hear knowledge and learn from experts in their fields. In addition, it motivates them to use their brain, ask questions, and explore new opportunities for overall growth and development. People you meet and interact with during your time as a student can have an influential effect on your future aspects. Not only can they recommend your work, but they can also mention your name to others at any point. You never know what full potential or capabilities a person possesses. Pay close attention to the benefits and resources you may receive during your educational journey. As Napoleon Hill once said, “Action is the real measure of intelligence.”

Transfer Planning: B.A. or B.S. Degree?
By Edwin Roman

Students researching senior college degree programs may find that some majors offer both B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) and B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degrees. If you were to research accounting, chemistry, or psychology majors at CUNY senior colleges, you will find offerings in both degrees and sometimes at the same college. Both the B.A. and B.S. degrees have a balance of the following components:

- A major providing preparation in an academic or professional field.
- General education providing fundamental university-level education in communication, science, mathematics, social sciences, and the arts and humanities.
- Electives and/or a minor chosen to fit the student’s preferences or needs.

There are differences.

A Bachelor of Arts degree is a humanities based degree designed to provide a balanced liberal arts education and general knowledge in a recognized discipline or interdisciplinary field. A Bachelor of Science degree is science based and also provides a balanced liberal arts education as well as a scientific, technical, or professional entry-level competence.

The best way to choose between a B.A. and B.S. is to look forward: explore professional and/or graduate school requirements for what is required or preferred. One example is Lehman College, which offers a B.A. and B.S. in Accounting. According to the Lehman College catalog, students who complete the B.A. in Accounting qualify for positions in private and public accounting, but the degree does not satisfy the educational requirements for a New York Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) To become a C.P.A. in New York State, a student would have to pursue the B.S. in Accounting. Please note that BCC has an articulation agreement with this Lehman program (details may be found on the Transfer Planning website).

Other Baccalaureate Degrees

Detailed below are other baccalaureate degrees you may come across in your transfer planning research. The advice offered above also applies for the following degrees. Connect with your respective academic department if you still have questions.

- B. Arch. (Bachelor of Architecture): The National Architectural Accrediting Board, which allows students to qualify for the Architect Registration Examination, accredits B. Arch. Degrees. City College offers a B. Arch. Degree.
- B.B.A. (Bachelor of Business Administration): B.B.A. Degree programs provide students a core curriculum designed to expose them to general business topics, while taking advanced courses in a specific academic area such as finance, international business or marketing. Baruch College offers various B.B.A. Degrees such as Marketing Management.
- B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts): The B.F.A. includes a component of liberal arts courses, but the majority of the major coursework consists of studio work and education in visual and performing arts. Many of these degree programs require a portfolio or audition for admission. Lehman College offers a B.F.A. in Art.
- B. Tech (Bachelor of Technology): The B. Tech is skill oriented and a degree is awarded following the completion of a curriculum that emphasizes practice, as opposed to theory. SUNY Morrisville offers a B. Tech in Automotive Technology.

Edwin Roman is the Academic and Transfer Resources Coordinator. This article was originally published in the Fall 2015 issue of the Transfer Talk newsletter.

The Writer's Corner

The Absence of Meaning
By Elizabeth Lopez

Santa was dead; to begin with
There's no doubt about that.... Dead as the melted snow.
Fantasy and reality were business partners once.
Until Santa, the tooth fairy and the rest of their organization died.
Reality became the world, the center column of society.
No room for imagination or flights of fancy.
Reality was soulless leaving men for dead, widowed wives, broken children, and broken ties.

Somewhere in the midst of chasing the dream and the purpose for our very existence, we lost the meaning.
We've lost meaning in just about everything.
And that is why reality wins.
There are those hidden gems in which meaning still lingers to even the smallest things.
Some people even cling to that feeling; to that meaning.
We treasure it in people, in innocence, and in our beliefs.
When you stop and think, you realize that we've lost meaning in things that once we're beautiful because it had meaning.

Music has lost some meaning.
Lyrics that once held significance and emotion as well as truth and a hidden story have become about frivolous and dangerous commotion, with the added violence over supposed territories.
Only a few writers of siren songs keep a semblance of meaning in their words.

Love has lost some meaning.
Sonnets, letters, serenades believe it or not used to be a thing.
People wanted to marry for love, but now it's "so much more."
It's about financial matters, back to the ages of a dowry and standings in wealth.
It's about looks, because beauty is measured In breast size.
It's about conquests, and quantity.
No longer about quality, or personality.

Family has lost some meaning.
They were our confidants, our pillars of trust and stability.
Now they're just people living in the same house, sharing the same blood.
They're just people who we used to worship, people we used to honor above all else.

We are forever haunted by our 3 prominent ghosts.
Our daunting future ahead of us.
Looming in our faces.
Making lion's into kittens, men into mice.
Unknown and mysterious.
We never see it coming.
Our regretful past which we push to the back of our minds.
Showing our mistakes, our missed opportunities, and things we've lost.
Humbling us, make us human, shaping us as Freud would say.
Making us who we are.
Our unappreciated present that make us all seem blind.
We take it for granted, not knowing what day will be our last.
We don't stop to smell the flowers.
We leave it on the backburner as we look to higher horizons and chase the future we can't possibly know.
Gone in seconds.
Elusive.

I'm the voice of the people who sit and observe from the back of the room.
I'm the voice of the misunderstood and mistreated.
I'm the voice of those who are afraid to have a voice.
The voice of those who see the change, the decline of true value, and true meaning.
But I can't be the voice forever.
Sometimes we have to take it upon ourselves and hold on to the responsibility of a changed world.

I hope this reaches the person who's lost faith; in God, in trust, in love, and mostly in hope.
I hope this reaches those who teach and those who learn.
I hope this reaches them and they listen to the meaning inbetween the lines.
I hope the world reads this someday and just for a second think of change.
Even if the world doesn't change by these words alone that they at least think about it if only for a second.
I mean real change.
Not a change in job opportunities, or prices, nor presidency.
Change in meaning.
Change in values.
I hope we as a community, as a family, as human beings find the lost meaning we seem to have forgotten.

I hope we find the lost definition of value and we cling onto that instead of false hope, dollar signs, and labels.
Don't you want to make a change?
Don't you want to die, having lived?
No regretful past.
No intimidating future.
No invisible present.
For the upcoming year change the status quo.

I dare you to change my conviction of how I see the world as of now.
I dare you to put meaning into something and see the difference.
If you already put meaning into things, I dare you to help someone else turn a shallow pool into a deep ocean.

Change your resolution, and after change it again because goals are good.
Chase your dreams, but not to the point where ur the hare instead of the tortoise.
You will get there if you want it bad enough.
Only you define your limits.
Spend Christmas with people who are important to you, not with people who are in a television set.
Revive Santa and other cliches in the hearts of the innocent and keep them In warm kindle of childhood.

Do things you love in life, not things that will get you ahead.
If you can find both by all means.
Don't let reality win.
Fight for the dreams reality defies.

Unlike reality, fantasy is where everything is possible, everyone is happy, things are relatively Zen.
Wouldn't a world filled with fantasy be better off than one controlled by harsh reality?
And who really made it a fact that reality had to be harsh?

Change the norms, delete the word normal altogether.
Santa was dead; to begin with,
Never said he couldn't be restored.

JOIN A CLUB

\$40 BONUS PACKAGE VALUE!
\$15 Meal/Retail Coupon, One \$10 Bet Coupon & One \$15 Free Bet

Why Drive?
For information, service,
and pickup locations
visit us.megabus.com

Megabus service:
Service to Mohegan Sun
Fridays and Sundays.

Bonus packages are issued to individuals 21 years of age or older. Ticket must state Mohegan Sun as their final destination in order to receive package. Guests connecting to other buses are not eligible. To receive a casino bonus package, passengers must have a Momentum card or be able to sign up for a Momentum card on day of travel. Proper identification required. Please visit the Bus Marketing Window for official rules. Offer subject to change without notice. mohegansun.com

Why not extend your stay?
Visit mymohegansun.com to
view your hotel rates.

The Writer’s Corner

Love Axis
By Kaemanje Thomas ©

Life tectonic plates shift planes and coordinates
Vibrating and creating volcanic eruptions of love
unconditional
From the Tropic of Cancer to Capricorn, love axes
resounds.
We wait for an external love, ignoring the one, which
dines quietly within
Barely, we breathe as life patterns concedes mirrors of
doubt
Conversations on politics and prose, jostling the wind
while it kisses our nose,
Internal vs. external validation eludes us.

We expect without giving,
Living demands reciprocity.
We conjure imitations of love
Using our solar plexus

Ignoring an innate fear, feverishly circles our globes
Then sadness hits, as our emotions splits; grasping as
they float on clouds of the past.
In our reverie, cycles of love bounce from our hands
to worlds unknown.
Into safe orbits, we hope, it elopes into Orion’s belt,
disappearing into darkness

Love and truth, passion and pain, all ebbed and flow
into streams of unconsciousness
A sweet surrender walks in gallant splendor, knowing
egos should walk unhitched
Hum drumming to find meaning in a battle,
Love in its purest form, eludes all thought and action.
Connected as stars, projecting dreams in our cosmos
constellation

We are apart of a grand design greater,
Healing abounds, in syncopation to the melody of
love all around,
Our existence, though fleeting, gives life new meaning,
knowing you never alone
Love is eternal; it keeps our world from spinning out
of equilibrium.

Addicted to Notifications
By Yubelka Nuñez

immobility taunts me
as i lay
stiff as a board
heavy as piles of brick
on this egg shelled bed
feet like rocks pressed effortlessly against the headboard
crackling

every second is suspense culminating to nothingness
time lost with my impatience
gone with every wish and desire to touch your words
tick-tocking in circles
what i want festers
my heart bursts
as I slip into oblivion
as the screen remains locked

time (my only companion)

until

you finally
write me

Hide me in your Canvas
By Yubelka Nuñez

lose me in the center of your canvas
splatter my essence and smudge my rough edges
hide me underneath your brush strokes and
rediscovered colors
paint me as the secret to your passion
as the reason to your naked to your eyes alone

leave every spectator to wonder
where i begin
and where your perception of me ends

Only to be understood by you

3 Short Poems
By Shoola Oyindamola

PREACHER

Don’t give me hope with your left hand
That says patience
while your right hand
Has what I need.

SINNERMAN

Sometimes, it’s not the devil
I rebuke and tell to be gone,
It’s me.

NOT, NUTS, KNOTS

It is not to think that I am not nuts
It is knots to think that I am nuts
It is not to think that knots is not nuts.
I am knots but not like nuts.
It is nuts to think this too is not knots
It is knots because this is nuts.



Join a Club or
Organization

Campus News

The Twenty-third Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival Premiered 13 BCC Student Films at Bow Tie Chelsea Cinema

By Kerron Henry, President, BCC Media and Digital Film Club

Students in the BCC Media and Digital Film Club along with The Media and Digital Film Production Program of the Communications Arts and Science Department worked late hours to complete their films for the Twenty-Third Annual BCC Film and Video Festival, which took place on Thursday, June 9th at the Bow Tie Chelsea Cinemas. A reception, catered by Arthur Avenue Caterers, followed the awards ceremony in the mezzanine of the cinema.

During the festival, students showed off their original short films that they had been working on throughout the semester. Production executives from the Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development, Eastman Kodak Company, B&H Photo, Avid Technology, DuArt Media Services, Panasonic, HBO, The Independent Film Channel, International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, IATSE, Panavision, Barbizon Lighting Company and many other companies were on hand to screen the films and present awards. During the festival, special thanks were extended to Dr. Debra Gonsler, Chair of the Communications Arts & Sciences Department, for her continued support for the festival.

"The films that were presented at this year's film festival are as varied as the students that created them," said Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky of the Bronx Community College CAS Media and Digital Film Production Program. "Audience feedback is invaluable in developing a clear sense of what one wants to do as a film and video artist. There is something very special to be in a screening room and celebrate that. This was a very special evening for all of our BCC filmmakers and I was glad to be in the audience for the 23rd year and applaud them for their efforts."

The 2016 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards were presented by Anne Hubble, Eastman Kodak Company, Regional Account Manager, Studio & Independent Feature Film and Film Schools. First prize went to Christopher Pabon for his film *Ms. Brown*. Emmanuel Adu Poku won second prize for *Alexa*. Third and fourth prizes were given out to Obediah Poteat (*Slam Lock*) and Jaden Glasford (*Time's Chances*), respectively.

Christopher Pabon who won first prize for *Ms. Brown* said: "I'm thankful that BCC's MEDP Program gave me an opportunity to make a thesis film and participate in the annual BCC Film Festival. You can see how Prof. Wisotsky and the entire MEDP faculty care. Prof. Wisotsky always does something to help students improve as filmmakers, and I've never interacted with a film instructor who's actually been behind the camera professionally. Prof. Wisotsky is a DGA director! I've never had that experience because no one else has given me that opportunity. So...words cannot even begin to express the range of emotions I am experiencing at this moment. Tonight was one of the most amazing nights I will always remember."

Romel Rodriguez, a Media and Digital Film Production major, received the Sixth Annual Steve Garfinkel Memorial Award for Excellence in Media and Digital Film Production, which is given in honor of the late cinematographer who passed away in 2009. Mr. Garfinkel was a member of IATSE Local 600, the Cinematographers Guild, and the award was presented by fellow cinematographer Dejan Georgevich. "Steve's record of helping students with their films is legendary," said Mr. Georgevich. Also assisting in presenting this award was

John F. Davis, Storyboard Artist on Baz Luhrman's *The Great Gatsby* and Terri Seeney, Director, Community Relations and Outreach Programs, Panasonic Corporation of North America.

Emmanuel Adu Poku also received the Seventh Annual BCC Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize, established in 2007 by BCC alumna, Vikki L. Pryor, Founder, Change Create Transform Foundation. The \$2,500 prize was created in memory of Ms. Pryor's grandmother, Marie Nesbitt.

The Avid Technology Award was presented to Christopher Pabon for excellence in Television Non-Linear Editing by Kevin Johnston, Avid Technology and Bill Straus, Executive Producer, Universal Pictures, *Straight Outta Compton*. The 2016 Chairperson's Award for The Start of Something Big Award was also presented to Christopher Pabon. The Chairperson's Award for a film that excels in exploring contemporary issues was presented to James Baldwin for his documentary film, *Broken Hope*.

The Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Awards were established by the Media and Digital Film Production Program to recognize students who have demonstrated the capability to make a positive difference at Bronx Community College and their community. The awards were presented by Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, President, Bronx Community College, and Dr. Claudia Schrader, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Success. The 2016 Peter J. Rondinone Screenwriting Memorial Award recipients were: Emmanuel Adu Poku, Jaden Glasford, Danny Ferreres, Adonnys Pichardo, Christopher Pabon and Obediah Poteat.

The Nancy Littlefield Memorial Award was established by the Bronx Community College Foundation for achievement by a woman student director in the BCC Media and Digital Film Production Program. Ms. Littlefield was the first woman assistant director admitted to the East Coast Directors Guild of America and Commissioner of the Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting. She has been an inspiration to all who followed in her footsteps. The award was presented by Vince Misiano, National Vice President, Directors Guild of America (DGA), Stephen Glanzrock, DGA Unit Production Manager, Eddy Bayardelle, BCC VP of Strategic Initiatives and Linda Young, President and CEO, DuArt Media Services and Western Broadcasting Corp. The recipient of the second Nancy Littlefield Memorial Award was Ms. KeyAnna Hooker.

The Media and Digital Film Production A.S. degree program provides students with a broad foundation in digital production to prepare for a career in television, film, video, which makes up only a fraction of the possibilities for trained media specialists. Major



Bronx Community College student filmmakers pose with faculty, sponsors and staff in front of the Bow Tie Chelsea Cinemas in New York City for the 23rd Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Donley



From left to right: Dr. Claudia Schrader, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Success; Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, President, Bronx Community College; Vikki L. Pryor, Founder, Change Create Transform Foundation; Emmanuel Adu Poku, 2016 Promise Prize Scholar; Christopher H. Byfield and Stephanie Fox, former BCC Promise Prize scholars; and Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, CAS Media and Digital Film Production Program.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Donley

corporations, government agencies, businesses, hospitals, and educational institutions use media to train, educate, and communicate information. Students in the Media and Digital Film Production A.S. degree program acquire a diverse skill set through various media courses and hands-on experiences in studio and sound production, field production, camera operation, lighting, audio recording, digital graphics and animation, editing as well as the narrative.

All degree candidates complete a final, short digital media project. In the last semester of study, students have the opportunity to do further work in the industry through a supervised internship program. The A.S. degree offers students the option to enter the industry upon graduation or to transfer to a four-year program. For further information contact Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky at 718-289-5572 (jeffrey.wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu)

CUNY Athletic Conference Award to Bronx Freshman Guard

November 30, 2016. Keeshell Garrett from Bronx Community College has been named CUNYAC Community College Female Rookie of the Week. New to college basketball, Garrett is making progress in each game, and her and coaches feel that she will improve as the season schedule continues. The freshman is adapting well to playing team basketball and in improving all aspects of the game, specifically her defensive skills. Garrett is also taking advantage of her academic experiences at Bronx Community College.



Campus News

Preserving History through Digitized Oral Histories

By Yubelka Nunez



The author at the Salzburg Global Citizenship Alliance, Salzburg, Austria, April 2016.

The General Counseling Departments in collaboration with the Archives at Bronx Community College are developing the project “Raising Ourselves Up: Oral Histories from First-Generation College Students at BCC.” The experiential learning project will focus on the personal stories, struggles, and experiences of first-generation BCC students.

First-generation college students can often be underrepresented in higher education. This project will not only shed light on the unique challenges correlated with certain socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnic, racial or immigrant backgrounds, but also on the vitality and resilience that particularly propel BCC students to push forward, overcome, and succeed at obtaining their desired college education.

What is especially unique about the way in which these stories are collected is that BCC students will be interviewed by fellow students. Students from all walks of life may relate to each other as peers who strive towards fulfilling their college education and academic goals. This exchange between peers who may or may not have similar college experiences can generate transparent conversations that can touch on a variety of challenges and solutions that demand to be exposed, explored, and analyzed.

As a first-generation college student myself, and as the first of my siblings to attend college, I can attest to the especially difficult process of learning about the college educational system, adapting to a college course schedule, developing time-management skills, and creating academic goals beginning at BCC and extending beyond the baccalaureate level. I can also share that I’ve been more than pleased by the incredible amount of supportive resources offered at BCC. Essentially, we need to begin engaging in dialogue regarding access to public education at BCC, CUNY, and elsewhere.

What is the criteria for participating in “Raising Ourselves Up?” One must be a matriculated student, have excellent communication skills, have an interest in learning about media/video technologies, enjoy storytelling, and have a desire to share their story at BCC. There is no requirement for previous experience, video and interview training will be provided for free through a series of workshops during the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters. Lastly, for those interested in becoming student interviewers, a commitment for up to three hours per week during the aforementioned semesters is necessary.

Who can you contact if you’re interested in being a candidate for the Raising Ourselves Up Fellowship or in telling your story? You can email Professor Cynthia Tobar (oral historian and archivist) at Cynthia.tobar@bcc.cuny.edu, and Dr. Nelson Reynoso, Associate Professor (Student Support Services/General Counseling Department) at Nelson.Reynoso@bcc.cuny.edu to set up an appointment for further instructions and information.

Graduation Project and Reverse Transfer Outreach Initiative



Campus News

Graduation Project and Reverse Transfer Outreach Initiatives Reconnecting – “A Shared Vision for Student Success”

Located: Colston Hall, Room 527
Phone: (718) 289-5718
Email: GradProj.RevTrans@bcc.cuny.edu

Overview:
The Graduation Project and Reverse Transfer Outreach Initiatives reconnect Bronx Community College’s (BCC) former students who have not earned a degree with the tools necessary to graduate. The Graduation Project and Reverse Transfer Outreach Initiatives were established at Bronx Community College in Spring 2014. It was officially accepted and centralized by CUNY Central Office in the Spring 2016 semester.

The Graduation Project and Reverse Transfer Outreach Initiatives consist of former BCC students who need any combination of the following components to graduate: one to two classes primarily, the CATW exam, a 2.0 GPA, and/or a possible course substitution or writing intensive. Here are some statistical data:

- Beginning Fall 2008 to Fall 2011, there are 2,976 former BCC students who have not earned a degree. Out of the 2,976, there are 978 students who have earned 60 credits and above with no degree. Thirty-two students are lacking the CATW exam and 578 students need just three (3) credits or below to graduate.
- From Spring 2012 to Summer 2016, there are 2,483 former BCC students who have not earned a degree. Out of the 2,483, there are roughly 1,129 students who have 60 credits and above with no degree, as well as 387 students who only need one (1) course to graduate.

This initiative has had two successful Degree Completion Mixer Events which were held on March 31, 2016 and October 20, 2016, where a total of 22 former BCC students were identified as eligible for graduation and awarded degrees.

FAQs:
What is our mission?
To increase the graduation rate at Bronx Community College.

- What services does this project/initiative provide?
- Student Outreach and Communications
 - Student Electronic Tracking of Progress to Graduation
 - Educational Resources (Advisement/Tutoring/Mentoring)
 - Financial Resources
 - Student Assessment Services



Editorials and Opinions

Michelle, Melania, and Their Different Backgrounds

By Catherine Jimenez

While some people are making assumptions about how the new first lady is going to be, many others are already saying how much they will miss the outgoing First Lady of the United States (FLOTUS), Michelle Obama. Michelle Obama is one of the best-educated first ladies the United States has had. She also has done an amazing job as first lady. However, when many people start to think about Melania Trump as first lady, she does not have the same impact Mrs. Obama has had. While some people might be skeptical about the new FLOTUS, there are three points that might influence the perceptions of people about Mrs. Trump in her new job: family background, education and career. In my opinion, it is going to be challenging for her since most of the people in the country feel that they have been well represented by Mrs. Obama as FLOTUS; at the same time, I feel we have to give her the opportunity to work and demonstrate what she can do to improve our nation.

Michelle Obama's family background is relatively common. She is from Chicago. She grew up in a loving and low income family; her father was a city-pump operator and her mother was a housewife. Her mother worked for some time; later she decided to stay at home to raise their kids. Michelle Obama has one older brother. Despite the financial struggles her family experienced, her parents were able to save money to send her and her brother to college. Even though her parents couldn't go to college, they made sure their kids were able to.

Mrs. Obama is a product of public schools and hard effort. When she was in elementary school, she took classes in her school's gifted programs where she learned French and took accelerated courses in biology. She has two Ivy League college degrees; she went to Princeton and Harvard Law School. She graduated cum laude from Princeton with a B.A. in sociology, while at Harvard she was awarded a Juris Doctor degree.

After she graduated from Harvard, she worked as an associate lawyer in Sidley Austin's Chicago branch where she met Barack Obama; she was his mentor. In 1991 she decided to leave this job and pursue a career in public service. She started to work as an assistant of Mayor Richard Daley and then as the assistant of the commissioner of planning and development for the City of Chicago. She was the executive director of a non-profit leadership training program called the Chicago Office of Public Allies. She also worked for the University of Chicago as associate dean of student services and then as executive director of community relations and external affairs for the University of Chicago Hospitals. She worked at the University of Chicago Medical Center as vice president for community and external affairs. As FLOTUS, Mrs. Obama has promoted programs to advocate for healthy families, service members and their families, higher education, and international girls' education.

When we look to compare Melania Trump's



background to Michelle Obama's, it might seem to be unfair because she does not have experience in this job or any other governmental job, but she is indeed our next FLOTUS, so we need to start knowing a little bit more about her since she did not participate very much in this election.

Melania Trump is from Slovenia; she grew up in communist-run Yugoslavia in a small city called Sevnica. Just like Michelle Obama, she grew up in a modest family. Her father worked in a car manufacturing company and her mother worked as a designer in a textile factory; she has one sister and one half-brother. She became a U.S. citizen in 2005.

When she was sixteen years old she moved with her family to Ljubljana. According to a report from *The Daily Mail*, her parents rented a flat in Ljubljana for both children to attend a technical school. She studied industrial design there. A childhood friend describes her as "an excellent student, very organized, disciplined, with very decent manners." Her friend also said that Mrs. Trump always had been passionate about an international fashion career since she was a child.

According to fashion photographer Stane Jerko, who was the first who photographed her, she was always very interested in "perfecting her pose for the camera and focused on what kind of lighting worked best." Jerko also mentioned that "she works on herself a lot and hardly ever went to a party." He said, "She was always either studying or swimming."

In a sharp contrast to Mrs. Obama's education, Mrs. Trump does not have a college degree. She entered Ljubljana University to pursue a degree in architecture and design, but she did just one year. Then she dropped out to pursue her modeling career that was "beginning to flourish" at the same time she was studying (*The Daily Mail*). Despite her dropping out of college, she is a fluent speaker in five languages: Slovenian, English, French, Serbian and German.

In contrast to Mrs. Obama, Mrs. Trump began her career when she was sixteen years old. She was very talented as a model and she had a lot of opportunities that allowed her to develop and to grow in her career. According to some reports, "Mrs. Trump first modeling job was for Vezenine Bled—one of the most prominent textile factories in Yugoslavia. She left Slovenia when the

owner of a model agency invited her to Milan and as a result, she got a job there. After her time working in Milan she met Paolo Zampolli who offered her a job in New York. She came for some time to promote her modeling portfolio to gain recognition in the media. Then, she got her license to work in the U.S., so she decided to move to New York in 1996.

While some people think that a modeling career is just to look beautiful and nice in photographs, it seems to be harder than that. According to LinkedIn, "the modeling industry is one of the hardest careers to achieve and maintain." You have to know the market and get to know people. After her success in the 90's with her career, now she is an entrepreneur. In 2010, she introduced her first line of jewelry on home shopping network QVC; the jewelry called Melania sold out in 45 minutes. Two years later she launched a line of anti-aging creams called "Luxe Moisture with Caviar Complexe C6™." Now, Mrs. Trump is focusing her time to this business and to raise her child, Barron.

Now that Mrs. Trump is soon to have a new job and many of us are skeptical of her performance based on her background, I feel we need to be open and give her a chance to demonstrate how she can help us to get through the next four years, despite the things her husband, President-elect Donald J. Trump has said. Until we give to her the opportunity to work and demonstrate what she can do; we won't know how exactly she is going to be, or if she is going to do an exceptional job as Michelle Obama has done.

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Why Black on Black Crime Is Ignored in Society

By Chelsea Davis

A young black woman in a Chicago neighborhood is coming home from her first day of class. She is studying to be an engineer. A loud shot rings out in the near distance; she gazes around and notices people are staring at her. When she looks down, she realizes she has unconsciously put her hand on her stomach. There is blood on it when she raises it off of her body, and she drops to the ground shortly after. Her family later finds out the person responsible for her death was a Black man who intended to shoot a man running in her direction. There is no media coverage about her killing, or what happened to the man responsible. People in her neighborhood dismiss it as just another senseless inner community killing and eventually forget about it. Crimes like these have become all too common in black communities across the United States. Despite its frequency, the media rarely reports black on black crime. There are many reasons why black on black crime is largely ignored in society.

There is a term used in media literacy called agenda-setting function, which basically means that the media determines what is and is not important to society, and allows the stories they deem important or will get the most attention to be pushed through to the masses. This is one reason why black on black crime is largely ignored. The current state of events revolves around police brutality against black men, women, and children, and has proven to spark heated debates between those on opposing sides about how these situations are being handled. Police brutality seems to be a "hot topic" among the media outlets

and is more than likely driving their television ratings, social media hits, and online article clicks. The reality is that black people murdering other black people is simply not valued in mainstream media as a newsworthy topic to be reported. Since media outlets are, after all, businesses that have employees and bills to pay, they choose not to break the stories that they believe hold little to no interest to their content seekers. Though this isn't the case for all of society, it is probably true for a large portion. Why report on black on black crime if it isn't in popular demand?

Glamorized violence in entertainment has become so commonplace in society that people don't view black on black crime as a problem; hence, it is ignored. Turn on any television show, blockbuster film, hip-hop song on the radio and the chances of people *not* hearing about drugs, killings, guns and other various forms of violence are slim to none. This type of exposure to violence among people on an almost daily basis desensitizes them, making violence seem like a normal thing in everyday life. What should be viewed as a tragedy within the black community then becomes another form of normality for the community. Hearing about this kind of violence over and over again conditions people to expect it to happen; therefore, it is no longer viewed as newsworthy or worth mourning. The value of human life diminishes to "just another day in the hood" when a black person is murdered at the hands of another black individual or group.

The reasoning behind black on black crime being ignored can also be attributed to a well-known

fact of human nature. It is easier to ignore a problem than to actually solve it. Human beings tend to disregard responsibilities that are deemed more difficult and time-consuming. People have no idea how to solve the issue of black on black crime because it stems from a long history of institutionalized racism and systematic oppression in the United States. These problems are so deep rooted, and are to blame by so many people, who would want to take the responsibility for it or the first step in addressing it? In order to begin to solve the problem, basically, all of society including people's conceptions, the country's political structure, capitalism, and a slew of other issues would first need to transform. Since people do not know where to start, it is much easier to pretend it isn't happening, thus ignoring it altogether.

Just as there are many reasons society and the black community largely ignores black on black crime, there are also many solutions. The reasons that lead to black on black crime in so many neighborhoods and the actual statistics need to be addressed and discussed in depth. This way people can be honest about why they ignore such a tragic issue in the first place. Eventually, someone will have to own up to the wrongdoings that take place every day. People will also have to stride forward and head in the direction of actual, impactful change within the community. If these actions are taken, the situation can vastly improve for society as a whole.

I AM BCC

Meet the Faculty: Wendell Haynes

By Alex Luma



Wendell Haynes is an advisor at the new COPE Program. He is an individual full of energy, who has great communication skills. He is dedicated to student success and has great vision for the future of education.

What brought you to Bronx Community College?

My wonderful director, Barbara Martin, wanted me to come here from Queensborough Community College because she needed an extra and dedicated case manager. I accepted and I was grateful to have another job within the system of CUNY and for her reaching out her hand to bring me out here. So... what brought me out here? Mrs. Martin did.

What do you want most out of life?

What I want most out of life right now is to be a success and to keep on growing and evolving. As a black man, I haven't stopped learning and I haven't stopped giving out hope of achieving some of the goals I set for myself when I was younger, which is to own different businesses and also different properties in my country. I just want to make sure my parents and my family are taken care of. They always look at me as if I can achieve any goal that I set my mind to. I know I can. I just have to keep on going and not stop.

If you had to teach something, what would you teach?

If I had to teach something, what would I teach? Great question, Alex... I love to speak. Would it be communication skills...? No. I'm not too much of a history buff but I love culture and I love traveling and going to different places. One subject that I would teach would be anthropology, because that's the study of everything, basically. Culture-wise, getting to visit different kinds of people and showing others how great and how similar we, as human beings are, as far as culture is and to be able to teach that in a classroom... I would say that.

What impact do you want to leave on the world?

That is another great question. To see your kids grow up and to see theirs grow up... the type of foundation I want to leave behind for them is more of a... I don't know... That's a good one. It's so crazy because it's more like... you want to have your family taken care of for the rest of their lives and at the same time, you want people to know your legacy of being great. You look at all these different activists of the past like Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Mahatma Gandhi... all these different people... They have taught us so many different things on so many different levels from race to peace and in between. The legacy I would love to leave is that of constant knowledge and constant sharing of knowledge. I want people to see my name and think, "He would always share whatever he learns." I want to build a community and foundation of knowledge and sharing of that knowledge and sharing of each other's cultures. That is the legacy I would love to leave.

What do you love most about yourself?

Easy going... great smile... very approachable. I am such a balanced person. Everyone always tells me that my laughter makes them feel better.

What do you love most about your job?

Getting to meet a whole bunch of new students every year... It's a year-long program. You get all these different individuals with different personalities and mindsets, different ways that they learned before they came to this program... I love getting to talk to them and getting to make them realize how great they are and have them shape themselves up before they go off to a four year college. It's like a transition. Being able to see that, to experience that and to help them grow further are some of the few things I love about this job.

What is your favorite type of music?

I love all music. I have every genre. Nowadays, I listen to old school reggae. It soothes me and brings me to back to when I was in Trinidad. My father used to play different types of music... calypso, reggae, R&B, soul, country, and gospel. I have heard a lot of different things. It brings me to a great piece of mind. I love Neo-Soul also. I'll also play some new school and old school R&B music.

What song brings back the most memories?

There are a lot of songs that I could say bring back a lot of memories. I could listen to a lot of Bob Marley tracks and that would bring me back to being a child. There are so many artists that trigger memories from my childhood... Anita Baker, Sade, Michael Jackson... I could play a tune from him from each of the eras that he came out with music, from growing up in the Jackson Five, and that would have me flashback to back in the day. His *Off the Wall* Album sends me back a lot to the early 80's and late 70's. That brings me back, so I would say Michael Jackson.

What would be your last meal if you were given a choice?

Wow. That's an interesting question. I never really thought of a last meal. I guess that would be a mixture of culture, of my culture and this American culture. I would ask for not only baked macaroni and cheese and collard greens, but I would also ask to incorporate some roti and preferably some curry channa and goat. To top it all off with some dessert and drink, it would be a carrot cake with cheese cake topping and a great big glass of water with that. That meal would be a sufficient last request.

What is your favorite basketball team?

I am a New York Knicks fan for life. When I came here to this country, I always loved the Knicks... seeing Patrick Ewing, Mason, God bless his soul, John Starks, Grand-mama, Charles Oakley, and a couple of other players. I'm a New York Knicks fan for life... for life!

What is your favorite baseball team?

I grew up in Queens and I was a Mets fan. I used to go to a couple of Mets games through high school and to me that team was cool. I gradually grew to like the Yankees. I still play close attention to the Mets but I am a Yankees fan.

What is your favorite football team?

That has always been divided also. I've always looked at the Jets and respected them throughout the years and looked at that team. However, I've always been a Giants fan.

How do you define success?

If I get to that pinnacle of me looking at myself like that and seeing... like someone writing about me or interviewing me like you are interviewing me right now... or talking about it and reflecting on how much I have done to make that achievement or make my goals a reality... I can't see it just yet. I don't see myself as being successful as of yet. It's kind of hard for me to even think about that. When I do get there, everyone around me will reap those benefits and, at the same time, I will be able to share all my knowledge and everything I have done to reach that pinnacle. I want everyone else

to achieve that success. Being able to spend money and do this and that...that's nice. That's monetary success. Success means so many different things. You can achieve your goal of buying a house or getting different degrees like your master's, doctorate... starting a family, having your wife and kids... That's a success. Living and being true to yourself, as well as being true to others and building great relationships, could be a great success also.

How are you pursuing your dreams right now?

By not stopping what I'm doing... change is inevitable. Every year, we get a little older. They say we get wiser but sometimes we get stagnant in our growth. We all have dreams and set goals for ourselves. Sometimes, we lose focus and sight of that. You can say that you are able to do this and that, and then the next day or year, you think that you never really thought of that. With me, it's a daily thing of saying that I'm going to accomplish this. I came here for a reason and I'm blessed to be here. All these different things that have happened since I got here... the growth from being a case manager to being a counselor at GSI... and then hopefully, in the next couple of years, becoming a professor, a teacher, and then... who knows... in between all that, owning businesses. I just cannot stop that. I cannot lose sight of my goals. It's easy to lose sight and to lose faith. Real life happens. You have to pay bills. You've got to do this and that. Sometimes, you lose sight of the bigger picture. It's a constant daily routine of you saying, "Okay. This is why I came here. This is what I want to do. This is what I want to accomplish." It's a self-affirmation kind of thing. You're at the front of your mirror looking at yourself saying, "I'm going to achieve this. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do this." Well, do this. No matter what someone tells me, no matter what I'm going through, no matter where I'm at, I'm going to accomplish this. It's a constant reminder of what you need to achieve.

What is your favorite pizza topping?

I do love cheddar cheese. I love cheeses. Growing up in Trinidad and visiting there when I graduated from high school,... one of my friends took me to a pizza store and I had ordered a whole pie and one of the toppings they put on that bad boy was not only pineapple... it was topped with cheddar cheese and also onions and seasoned ground beef. It was a great mixture of taste. So, the topping that I would always love on top of a pizza, I guess, would be the ground beef.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

I have received a lot of great advice and I still do, from family, friends, my mom, my brothers and even complete strangers. Sometimes they see me, I'm on the train tired and going home... I think the best advice someone told me was to never give up. Just keep on reaching for that top. Keep on striving. Don't give up.

What was your favorite sitcom growing up?

Hands down...*In Living Color*... the funniest thing I have... well hands down, yes, *In Living Color*... but also *The Muppets*. I grew up watching *The Muppets*. That was, to me, the funniest thing alive. To see muppets interact with humans was great. They brought back *The Muppets*, and I hope they revive *In Living Color* with probably a new cast. If they could bring back some of the old cast members; that would be one of the greatest shows ever.

What gets you excited about life?

Learning new things, meeting different people, getting to travel a lot, culture... We are blessed every day when waking up and getting a chance to experience new things on a daily basis. Nothing is ever given. Nothing is guaranteed. Some people don't like change or accept change. Once we embrace that and just have fun on a daily basis and be truthful with yourself or others... I take it on a daily basis and enjoy that.

I AM BCC

Meet the Student: Devon Yorke

By Alex Luma



During the interview, I talked with Devon Yorke about the different perspectives and educational values that are important to him. In addition, he recapped his current academic/career pursuits and how he plans to give back to the community, in addition to giving advice for current STEM enthusiasts.

Where do you find inspiration?

Wow. That’s a good question. It’s tough. It’s hard because living in here, you don’t get much nowadays. I guess it’s through my mother and little sister. They inspire me to wake up every day. Also, it’s mostly God. I give my thanks to God every day. He inspires me to keep going and keep moving forward.

What advice do you have for students currently pursuing degrees in the STEM fields?

Be persistent. It’s a tough field. It’s going to get harder as time goes on. Make sure that you stay persistent, that you don’t stop, that you stay calm and that you stay relaxed. Before you know it, it will all pay off in the long run. It’s a tough field. STEM is a great field to be in and it opens the door for a lot of opportunities.

What’s the one thing you would most like others to remember about you at the end of your life?

Really, I would like to be remembered as someone who has helped the community. I love to help people as much as I can. If I’m able to donate money or donate blood or just to be able to go out and help somebody...bring somebody who has been struggling in life up to some type of success. That’s what I want to be remembered as (someone who helps out as much as possible)

What are some of your most memorable experiences along your journey in your major/career?

One of my most memorable experiences is definitely going to the BEYA STEM Conference. I really

enjoyed that to the fullest; just to be able to see the most successful engineers all across the country and just to be able to talk to them and get an idea of what STEM is like and just to be able to get into that field... it’s just amazing. I’ve had a lot of amazing parts in my life but I think that, to me, sets the bar for me.

What’s your favorite pleasure food that you can’t resist?

I love my grilled chicken Caesar salads all the time. I guess, if I really had to choose a type... I think I’d stick with the salad. I enjoy eating my salads a lot and try to stay as healthy as possible.

What kind of music do you listen to?

I listen to hip hop music and a little rock music. I am trying to incorporate gospel music into my mix. I’m not a big fan of country music. Sometimes, I listen to a little techno every now and then.

What song brings back the most memories and why?

If I had to really choose, it’s “Home” by Chris Daughtry. It just gives me a sense of salvation. It makes me think about that everything that’s going on in my life. It makes me revert back to my childhood a little bit.

If your life was a novel, what would be the title and how would the story end?

Well, I look at my life like this. Every time something new pops up in my life, it’s a new chapter. I looked at it like this. I finished high school. That’s the end of a chapter. I started college. That opens up a new chapter. I left one school and came to this school. That’s another chapter. To be quite honest with you, I don’t know how it’s going to end. Nobody knows how it’s going to end. It’s how you make the ending. You would never know how it’s going to end. If I had to name a title, it would just be called “My Journey through Life”. It’s just going to show you all the ups and downs as not only just a student but also a young black African American man here in New York City.

What are your current academic and career pursuits?

My current academic pursuit is electrical engineering. I love engineering. I love hands-on stuff. My career pursuit is more-so working in the engineering field, completely. When I was a kid, I always wanted to drive a train. I used to take model train sets and build a

train... when I’d get them for Christmas. I’d build them up into a model set. I do love to build things and construct things. I’m hoping that sooner or later I can get into the construction business and maybe hopefully own my own business, if necessary. It probably wouldn’t here in New York. It would probably be down south in Florida or somewhere.

What is your current role in the Young Achievers Program?

My current role is just being a mentor. I’ve been a part of the program now since 2009. That’s seven years. The program is near and dear to my heart. I take that program very seriously. That program transformed me from a student who is doing well in school and just didn’t have an idea of where he wanted to go... that program took me from that person to someone who knows what he wants out of life. The program has turned me into more of a man than I have ever been before. I just love to be able to go out there and mentor and try to guide these young African American boys and Latino boys and try to show them that education is key. Education is important. We’re going to show you how you do well in education and we’re also going to give you some other skills as well, such as knowing etiquette and things like that... This is going to help you in your life journey when you want to interview for a job, when you meet a girl or something like that... These are tips that are going to help you become a man.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

The best advice I have ever received is just to stay in school. In this day and age, everything is much tougher and everything is much harder that your education is key. Without a good education, it’s going to be very hard to survive. I realized that because I had a friend who told me... He actually was in a car accident one night before. We picked him up and his car was totaled. We ended up picking him up and driving home. That night he told me to stay in school and do well and make sure you just prosper and do what you need to do. That’s ironic he said that because the following day he suffered a heart attack and passed away a couple days later. It just goes to show you how short life can be without warning. That just gives me motivation every day. It makes me think about certain things. I think that’s the best advice I could give anybody. Just stay in school and continue to work hard. Don’t stop. Don’t give up.



Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism: Ask Me about My Feminist Agenda!

By Shoola Oyindamola

This is an excerpt from a speech I gave at an event organized by the Get PSyCh'D program, November 3rd.

My agenda for feminism is that it becomes human-friendly. I want it to be a movement that creates humor out of our shortcomings to fix gender problems. I write this as an invitation to men out there to let them know that this word that they are afraid of is composed of imperfect beings like them who strive for the best with the little actions they display. We are feminists but we are still women and human beings who like lip gloss, gowns and the color pink. We love to be loved, to be treated like princesses, to have the doors opened for us and to be human. We also like to be in charge, to own our bodies and to be in positions standing beside not behind men.

I crave for a movement that will not tolerate any injustices against females but will benefit males in the

long run. I want a movement that educates and inspires men about what women want. A movement that motivates women to want something for themselves. A movement enticing for men to participate in. A reason for women and men to change their mentalities and actions towards gender issues. A society that encourages men as much as it exalts women for defending female rights. I want a legacy whereby the children unborn will be liberated and not have to fight these battles that should not have existed in the first place. I want a movement of feminists who are role models for men to imitate. I dearly wish for a confident space where it is okay to “run like a girl” because whosoever thinks that is a bad thing should keep up.

Editor’s Note: See “Inter-Session Reading List, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichiem, *We Should All Be Feminists*” (page 12).



Editorials and Opinions

The Election of 2016

By Churchill

Editor’s Note: The author of this article is writing under a pseudonym.

The recently concluded election has sent shock waves through the country. Not only in a political sense but in an emotional sense as well. Many people in and out of politics were being told that there was no chance, or a very small chance, that Trump could win. It was a sure thing, most of the polls said. But then came the only poll that actually matters: the one on Election Day.

When it was all said and done, Trump had won 306 electoral votes to Clinton’s 232. The popular vote was a bit different, as if 8.22pm on November 18th the popular vote tallies stood at Clinton 62,391,335 – Trump 61,125,956 votes. Believe it or not, states are still counting absentee and affidavit ballots, this process will go on for a bit longer, as it does every election, but there are not enough of these ballots to change the final outcome. Individual state numbers may change slightly until they are finalized. People not that familiar with our Electoral College system may say “but didn’t she win by 126,349 votes?” The Electoral College was set up so that all states had a say in who was elected President. Each state is allocated a number of Electors, 1 for each senator (always 2, as each state has 2 senators) and 1 for each of its Congressional representatives. This number may change each decade as the size of a state’s population is determined by the census. For example, New York State had 29 electoral votes on the last election, but that reflects a drop from 41 as recently as the 1980 election, due to the states’ declining population. If the election was just based on a popular vote, campaigns could just go to a few states like New York, California and Texas to win the presidency. The rest of the country would be shortchanged by not being able to be represented in the election of who was going to be the entire country’s president.

Both parties picked flawed candidates. That’s not just my opinion: Trump said things on the campaign trail that would have caused another Republican to drop out of the race, even before he secured the Republican nomination, while Clinton was seen as untrustworthy by 67 percent, according to published *New York Times/CBS News* polling. Her favorable/unfavorable numbers were 28/54, very similar to Trumps 30/54 split, in this and *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* reports. These numbers remained almost constant through most of the campaign, although there were some spikes and dips along the way.

This campaign clearly showed how unfortunately far we have gone down the road to being politically correct. Don’t get me wrong, I firmly believe that there are things you should not do and say, be it in public or private. No one’s race, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, etc. should be debased in any form. That said we need to start looking in the mirror. We have become too thin-skinned and make associations to freely about those we disagree with. People who didn’t support President Obama tried to peddle the notion that he was a Muslim: people that supported him tried to shame people that opposed his political policies as racist.

Not everyone who voted for either Trump or Clinton supported all of their policy positions. They voted on what they felt was best for their families and their country. Trump ran a campaign promising law and order, as well an economically populist message. In doing so, he was able to turn reliably Democratic states to his side, like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. These three states

and others had not voted Republican in over thirty years, so there was obviously something to tap into. It was also believed that his comments on immigration would crush his chances of getting any Hispanic support. Nationwide he got just over thirty percent of that vote and that was across the board, and not just limited to the historical, usually more conservative Cuban voters. Trump actually did better than Romney with Hispanics by several points. For some reason the media did not realize that Hispanic voters are not monolithic and a one issue voting group.

Trump’s victory came as shock to many people across the nation. It was hardest felt on the two coasts, which have been long Democratic bastions of support. Many in the 18-29 age bracket took it personally. Many of them had only know President Obama’s historic elections in 2008 and 2012. They felt pride in his history-making presidency, along with the rest of the nation and their part in bringing that about. They looked forward to again making history with the first woman president. There were many scenes of disbelief projected across the media spectrum on election night.

Starting on election night, there have been protests about the election’s outcome. While I agree that everyone has not only a right but also a duty as citizens of this country to speak up, we do not have a right to riot. You should not damage and/or destroy anyone else’s property. Unfortunately that happened in a lot of cities. Here in New York, for example, chain stores had their windows broken in Union Square, Columbus Circle and Times Square. How does committing organized violent acts change the fact that Trump will be our next President? I say organized because the 501(3) advocacy groups pushing these protests have Facebook pages, Craig’s List ads etc. dedicated to each major protest. They are using them as fundraising tools. It’s not a coincidence that most of the protesters on last Sunday had the same preprinted signs. While the numbers of protesters committing the actual violence are small, they should not be tolerated: all they are doing is reinforcing the opinions of Trump’s supporters by their actions.

During the campaign Trump ran on a slogan of “Make America Great Again.” This was labeled as being racist by members of the media and by Clinton supporters. *The New York Times* gave it large coverage over several days. Then a video of Bill Clinton using the phrase in both his elections surfaced, as well a video of Hillary Clinton using it in 2008. Shortly after that it dropped off the radar as a topic in the election coverage.

Since the election, Trump has been moving to put together his team to run the country. One of these is Senator Jeff Sessions who has been chosen to be the Attorney General of the United States. As a US Attorney in Alabama he successfully brought several KKK leaders up on murder charges, for which they received the death penalty due to their commission of hate crimes. He then sued the KKK on behalf of the victims’ families and won a 7 million dollar verdict for their families. He also went to court, and won several cases to desegregate schools. He went on to become a United States Senator and voted to confirm Eric Holder the first African American Attorney General. In responses to his nomination, the media has come out against him. One of the regular celebrity hosts of the very popular talk show *The View* stated that

Sessions wanted to “bring back slavery.” After numerous complaints, *The View* edited out the comment from their YouTube channel but not before other media outlets captured it. Other media in print and on television have brought up the fact that at his hearing to become a federal judge over thirty years ago, he was accused by one of his staff of having made racially insensitive remarks. While these were accusations that should be taken seriously, they were not corroborated at the time, or today.

Immigration was used an issue by both sides, by Trump to push his law and order agenda and Clinton to motivate voters to be fearful of it. Both before and after the elections there were rumors in the media that Trump was going to force all migrants, especially Muslims, to register with the federal government. This has been talked about in political circles and is being used as a fundraising tool as I type. It has also been talked about a lot on the college campus. There is no new plan by Trump to do this. There has been a system in place for over a hundred years in many countries that allows for travel between nations. When someone from any country immigrates, and, for that matter, visits the United States their information is provided voluntarily upon entry. This also applies to citizens who travel outside the country. It’s a commonly known agency called United States Customs. Every country in the world has a similar agency.

We are in the process of permanently creating the belief in this country that every idea we disagree with should be shut away. That we should not have to see and/or hear things that we disagree with. I have seen members of our College community, not just students, remove posters, etc. for approved events. These may or may not be on campus, but the posterage was approved. When I approach them and ask them why they are removing them and tearing them up the answer is always similar- group X or Y should not be on “their” campus and they need to protect us from group X or Y’s point of view. When I respond to them that we should all be able to express our opinions in a civil manner and be willing to listen to those we disagree with, the response is often a variation of “why X or Y wrong.”

We need to challenge ourselves to do more critical thinking. Today, we live in a 24/7 media driven world that shapes our opinions for us. We self-select the news and information we take in to validate our existing ideas, rather than pushing the envelope. A good example to this came just last night when the rapper Kanye West stopped in the middle of his concert and made a nearly 40-minute speech as to why he was for Trump, but his advisors had told him not to say anything. Just because you’re heard something on Twitter, Facebook, or the television news, check into it yourself. If you regularly watch MSNBC, watch FOX as well, if you read the *New York Post*, read *The New York Times* as well. Go to an event put on by a group you don’t agree with and just listen.

When on both sides of the aisle we throw around terms that incite, rather than engage each other in honest debate about the grave issues facing this country, we just debase ourselves and the debate as a whole.

This opinion article does not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.



Motivational Advice for Final Exams

By Demier Hassell

Hello BCC students:

Final exams are upon us, and I know most of you may be worried about passing your exams at all. We all know how important final exams are and how much they affect us as students. I know there can be a great deal of stress when studying for an exam, especially for those that work part time and those who have children or are pregnant. However, there are techniques you can use to study for exams without feeling stressed or tired or feeling like ripping the hair off your head.

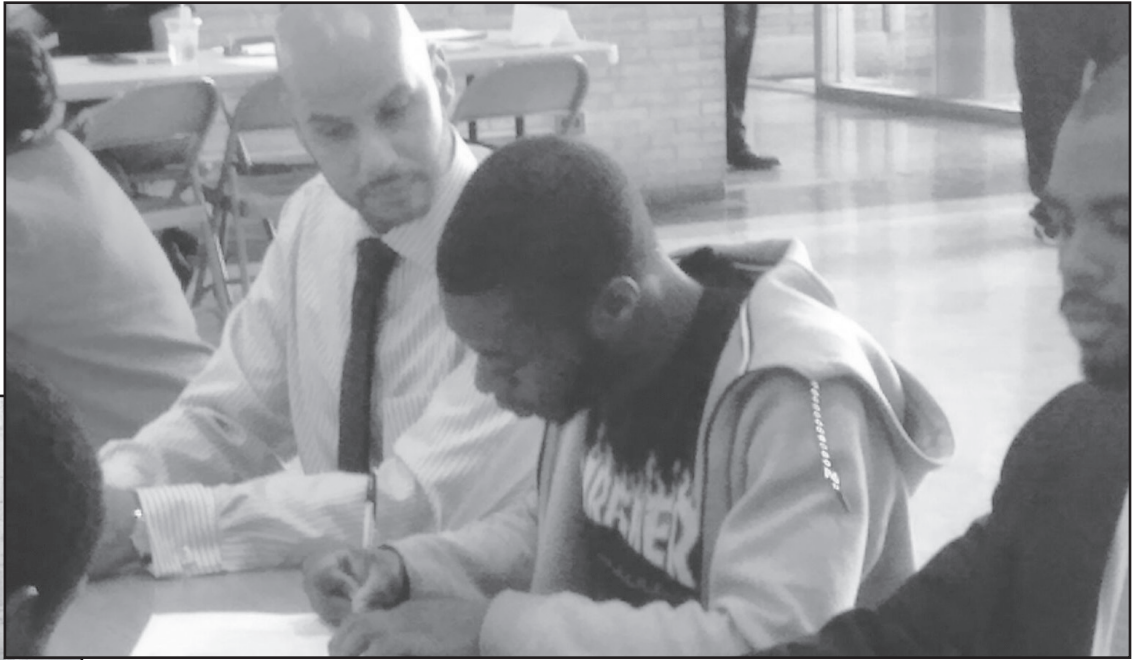
It is important have a schedule of your day so it is easy to incorporate a time to study. It is best to find a period in the day that is consistent throughout the week. It helps prepare your brain for the study, so each time you study, your mind is less likely to wander on to other thoughts other than your notes. One of the most effective strategies is to study for 15 minutes and take a 5 minute break, then study for another 15 minutes and relax for 5 minutes. It’s best to do this for at least an hour so you don’t stress yourself, but it’s ok if you do this for another 20 or 40 minutes. Make sure you really relax from the study so

that way your body can function properly. Stand up, take a little walk around the room, eat a snack, or have a drink. Just make sure you get your blood flowing a little before going back to studying. You can use this technique even if you have a tight schedule. Take a little 15-minute break from work or whatever activity you’re doing to go review your notes.

One thing you must always know when you’re studying is to know your strengths and weaknesses in that class. Focus most of your studying on to your weaknesses while lightly touching up on your strengths. If you’re having a hard time with your weaknesses, look for a study group for that class. Chances are that someone in that class can help you with your weakness, and vice versa. You can help your classmate with their weaknesses while they help you with yours.

You can always talk to your professor about topics you have trouble in. They can explain it differently for you to understand and you get to form a better relationship with your professor.

Campus Scenes



Dean Manny Lopez assists students



Senator Dion Quamina as a zombie



Senator Beverly Emers hosting the costume contest



CUNY's *Got Talent* winner Tre'Von Walker

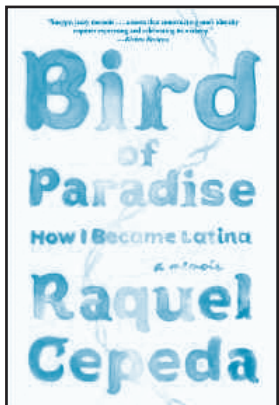


Dance performance

Inter-Session Reading List

Prose & Poetry / Fiction & Nonfiction

Women explore the power of gender, race/ethnicity, identity, and power and privilege.

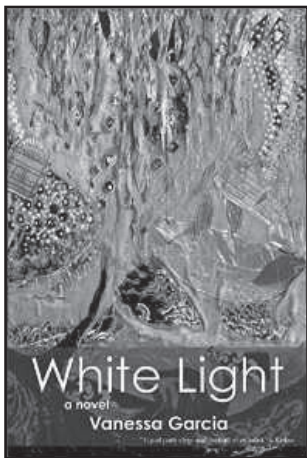


Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We Should All Be Feminists* (2015)

The author argues for a 21st-century, inclusive definition of feminism. She reaches into her on her own experiences to illuminate the often between-the-lines realities of sexual politics. She details of what it means to be a woman now, offering a rallying cry for why we should **all** be feminists.

Raquel Cepeda, *Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina* (2013)

After almost losing her estranged father to heart disease, Cepeda determines to learn more about her heritage. In the mirror, she sees a racial and ethnic mosaic, but she needs further answers about her identity. Using the science of DNA, she begins her exploration that will eventually blossom into a discourse on the concepts of race, identity, and ancestral DNA among Latinos, especially Dominican Americans. Along the way, she also achieves a limited accord with her father.

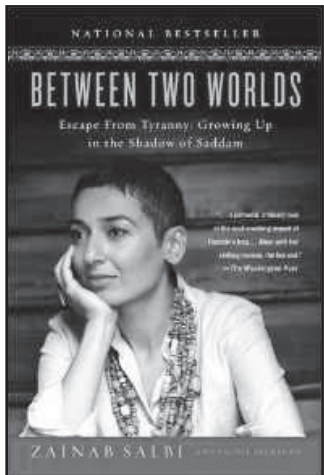
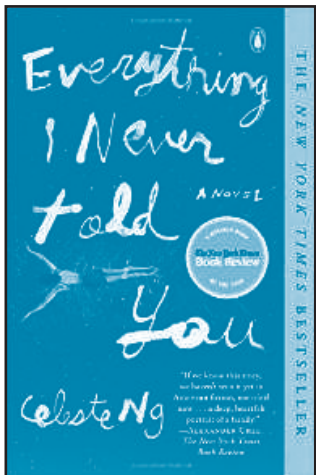


Vanessa Garcia, *White Light* (2015)

In the throes of grief and confusion after the death of her loved but difficult Cuban-American father, the novel's protagonist struggles to deal with her heartache and to pursue her dream of becoming a visual artist. In so doing, she is able to assimilate her views of the past and the present and her past and present heritages. This brilliant first novel was awarded the Kirkus Prize which, in its review, stated that this masterwork was a “lush, vibrant portrayal of the creative process, a daughter’s love, and the unstoppable maelstrom of grief.”

Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed* (2006)

Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and a single mother of three, Wangari Maathai – charismatic, humble, and spiritual – recounts her extraordinary life as a political activist, feminist, and environmentalist in Kenya. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the United States, she became the first woman to earn a PhD in East and Central Africa and to head a university department in Kenya. In *Unbowed*, she explains the political and personal reasons that compelled her to establish the Green Belt Movement in 1977, which spread across Africa to help restore indigenous forests with the assistance of rural women who were paid to plant trees in their villages. As assistant minister for the environment and as a member of Parliament, her courage and determination helped transform Kenya’s government into a democracy.

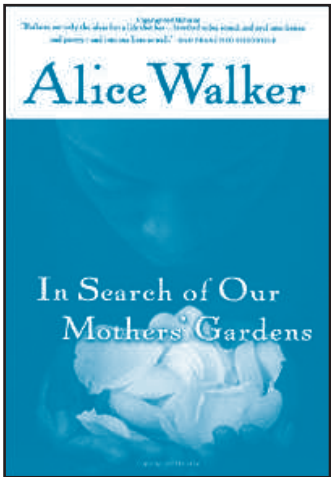
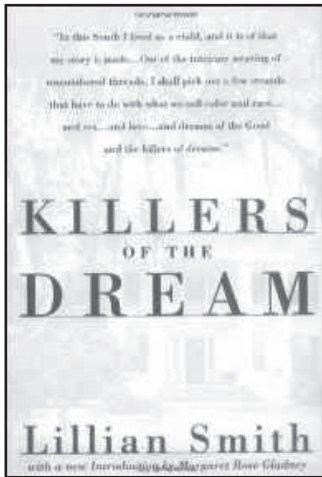


Celeste Ng, *Everything I Never Told You* (2014)

At the outset of her award-winning debut novel, Ng establishes that the oldest daughter of the Chinese-American Lee family has died. What follows is an exploration of alienation, achievement, race, gender, family, and identity--as the police investigate Lydia’s death. The Lee family uncovers information about the sister and daughter they thought they knew. Ng’s novel was a *New York Times* bestseller, a winner of the *Alex Award*, and winner of the *APALA Award for Fiction*.

Zainab Salbi, *Between Two Worlds: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (2006)

When she was 11 years old, Zainab Salbi’s father was chosen to be Saddam Hussein’s personal pilot, and her family’s life became entwined with his. Her mother began to teach her the skills she needed to survive: how to present the plastic smile, and how to say “yes,” even when you want to say “no.” Salbi recounts how she saw Hussein’s tyranny first hand. As a privileged child, a typically cynical teenager, an abused wife, and ultimately a public figure, her one protection has been her silence. In this memoir, she presents a quest for truth by giving voice to themes of power, fear, and sexual subjugation.

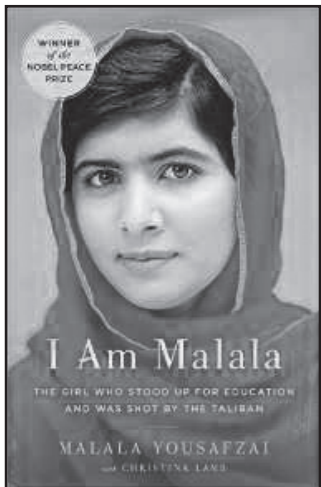
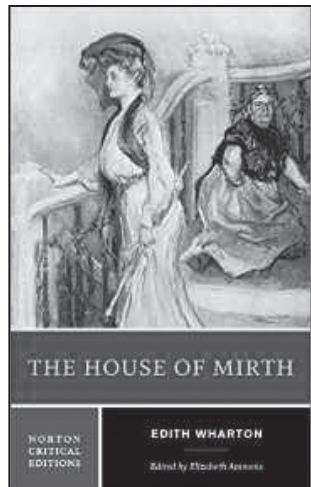


Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream* (1949)

“I began to see racism and its rituals of segregation as a symptom of a grave illness,” Smith writes in this courageous, insightful, and eloquent critique of the pre-1960s South. Published to wide controversy, it has influenced much contemporary thinking about race relations, and it was for many Americans across the color line a catalyst for the civil rights movement. *The Kirkus Reviews* has noted that this is a book “for all who are concerned with the future, rather than the past.” This review adds that it is “always courageous, even on that difficult ground of hurting those one loves, exploring “causes behind the walls of custom, of good taste, of evasions. She has dared to look into the poverty making pattern of southern life and beliefs and boasts,” finding “close links between the South’s attitudes towards sin, sex, and segregation.”

Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens: Womanist Prose* (2004)

In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens is a collection of the non-fiction writings of poet and novelist Alice Walker from 1965 to 1983. The writings gathered here, which include book reviews, speeches, articles, and personal statements, cease to be simply responses by the writer to singular events. The artist has gathered the remnants of her own personal history and pieced them together as a living gift, anticipating the needs of the daughters” (Opal Moore, University of Iowa).



Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)

In 1905 *The House of Mirth* shocked the New York upper-crust society it so deftly exposed, portraying the moral, social, and economic limitations on a woman – any woman – who dared to claim the privileges of marriage without assuming the responsibilities and restraints. As Lily Bart nears thirty, her prospects have become scarce. A poor girl with expensive tastes, she needs a husband to preserve her social standing and to maintain her in the luxury she demands. Battling her own independent spirit, however, prevents her from achieving her goal.

Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala*:

***The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (2013)**

Daud Khayyak (*Newark Star Ledger*) states that this “A story for each and every girl who chooses to break societal taboos, challenge the clergy, declare war against illiteracy and believe in the power of the pen.” Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education when the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan in October 2012. A *New York Times* editorial (October 10, 2012) stated that “If Pakistan has a future, it is embodied in Malala Yousafzai. Yet the Taliban so feared this 14-year-old girl that they tried to assassinate her. Her supposed offense? Her want of an education and her public advocacy for it.” In 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.