

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 11, 2013 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 1 – Spring 2013

Mama, I Won the Dictionary.com Scholarship!

By Andres Davoren, Jr

On Monday, November 19, 2012, I was sitting in Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky's CMS 61 History and Theory of Film class at Bronx Community College. It seemed to be a regular day on campus. Over the years, more than a dozen feature films have used locations on our campus for Hollywood productions and independent films. From the Academy Award-winning best picture, *A Beautiful Mind* directed by Ron Howard to Robert De Niro's *The Good Shepherd*, our campus is a favorite back lot to Hollywood location managers and a dream commercial for other CUNY colleges. During the spring 2012 semester, Professor Wisotsky and Dr. Isabel Mirsky designed an academic advisement plan to get me back on track in the Media Technology Program. This was my third month into the semester. I was ready, willing, and more than able to learn, and conquer my courses. The semester had begun back in August, and I had been coasting along pretty smoothly, but I had no idea how that day in particular would be the beginning of something very intriguing, surprising, and everlasting.

We were screening Woody Allen's classic romantic comedy *Manhattan* and performing an analysis of the elements of cinema, which included: cinematography, screenplay and editing. I had watched *Manhattan* on television years ago but in class I began to realize as a serious student of film the genius of Woody Allen. Toward the end of the session, Professor Wisotsky distributed materials about a free Center for Communication seminar in New York City and gave each student a handout from BCC's Scholarship Director, Yvonne Erazo. *The Scholarship of the Week* was about Dictionary.com's first ever "laugh out loud" scholarship of \$5,000. Professor Wisotsky pulled down the classroom movie screen and booted up the Dictionary.com web site. The class viewed sample videos displaying what Dictionary.com wanted from students entering the contest. I could not wait to arrive home, because I thought the sample video concepts were weak and I would be more worthy of this scholarship. I believed I had a better idea.

When I arrived home after my second class, I went to work. I sat in my room brainstorming so much that I heard raindrops that night on my windowpanes. Going over several concepts in my mind, the story I finally selected seemed to come naturally to me. Using all I had at the time, which included my laptop, some incandescent

bulb lamps and a couple of props lying around, I composed a couple of shots directly on my computer webcam. I pieced them together on my MacBook laptop with Apple iMovie software and an iPhone video clip I had of an extremely talented drummer I had seen on 34th Street the previous month. And there it was; my video entry for Dictionary.com's contest was completed. I proceeded to post it on YouTube and enter it into Dictionary.com's portal.

The contest rules were as follows: "Create a two minute laugh out loud video explaining to us at Dictionary.com, why you need this scholarship." I did just that, fusing some of my favorite impressions, using some film theory knowledge obtained in my CMS 61 class, as well as information from a previous CMT 12 Television Studio Production class to complete my entry, and, of course, the many conversations and tutoring session knowledge that I learned with my Media Technology Perkins Tutors. The entries would be judged by their humorous content as well as the support of the social media world such as likes and views on YouTube. If there was any doubt in my mind, it vanished once I pushed that enter button on my laptop. I truly entered the contest because of my rededication to my BCC academic studies. I always felt my sense of humor was supreme, and I figured, "Let's see how much I have learned from being in Bronx Community College." It was a true test of skills, faith, and creativity.

After a couple weeks of light promotion to family members and a viewing to everyone I encountered, I received an email on December 10, 2012. I had been selected to be a finalist in the contest, and Dictionary.com wanted to know a little bit more about me. Two days later, I received another email: the title read *Winner of the Dictionary.com Scholarship Contest*. I was in utter disbelief. After reading the message a hundred more times, it finally sank in that I was the winner. Karla Fornall, Director of Marketing at Dictionary.com, sent me an email stating: "We had nearly 1,000 entries from around the world competing for the scholarship, 60 of which made it onto our branded YouTube channel. From there, we created a shortlist of 10, and a then a list of the top 3 finalists. We chose Andres's winning video for a multitude of reasons. He demonstrates that he is enthusiastic and well versed which is evident through the humorous dialogue exhibited in his two-minute video, not to mention the careful overall production value. His drive and ambition to work hard



Media Technology Major, Andres Davoren, Jr. receives the first Dictionary.com \$5,000 scholarship. Nearly 1,000 entries from around the world competed for the scholarship. Andres beat out the competition for his humorous "laugh-out-loud" YouTube video. The video can be viewed on the BCC Media Technology and Film Society club ePortfolio page: <https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/FilmClub/Andres>.

and focus on his education really aligned with what our goals are here at Dictionary.com, what we try to provide to students every day & what we envisioned for the winner to convey in the video. The production had a unique creative angle, and clear and decisive theme, embodied the essence of a hard working student, while also maintaining the humor that we were looking for throughout. His sense of humor stood out to our team, he told a complete story from beginning to end and this was great from a communication perspective. As we briefly interviewed our finalists, we were also excited to discover that his studies (new media technology), his personality, and his volunteer work really tied together nicely for a complete package; all of which came through in his polished production."

The following week I received a letter in the mail from President Carole Berotte Joseph: "Congratulations! I was delighted to learn that you received Dictionary.com's "laugh-out-loud" YouTube video scholarship for \$5,000.00. Your sense of humor, media skills, and ability to beat out the national competition made this a well-deserved honor. You exemplify all that we desire for our BCC students, and I wish you continued success this academic year."

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BCC Student Stabbed by Stalker

By C. Lionel Spencer

How you ever lived in a close-knit neighborhood? The sort of neighborhood where parents converse about their weekend events while walking their children to school. It's a community, a community where on sunny days you see the teenage boys playing stick ball and the young girls jumping rope. I've had the privilege to enjoy such a community once before, and I view Bronx Community College no differently. We are in many a close-knit community who discuss our weekend agenda as we head to our last Thursday or Friday classes. We eat in the lunchroom together and sit the computer labs helping one another with course work. We are a community. Well, Bronx Community College, we have unfortunately lost one of our own.

On Tuesday January 1, 2013 at 10:22pm the *New York Daily News* released an article about the stabbing of 19-year-old Edith Rojas. The article details how Rojas, "a straight arrow, who didn't drink, do drugs or go clubbing..." was fatally stabbed by ex-boyfriend Jonathan Pena Castillo. Rojas had ended the relationship several months ago to focus on her schooling, but he wouldn't accept it. Instead, he "continued calling her, sending texts, [and] showing up at the house." Ronny Peralta, Edith's brother, said that Castillo had been stalking her for most of last year.

Things took a turn for the worse on December 31st, New Year's Eve, when Castillo ambushed Rojas with a large kitchen knife in Inwood, Manhattan. As she returned to her family's apartment from the laundromat around 4pm with her younger brother, Castillo stabbed Rojas seven times in the torso in front of her building. Ronny Peralta said his brother tried to defend but couldn't do anything and that Castillo tried to stab his brother as well. He stated



that he heard some disturbance outside and after running downstairs to check it out found his sister lying in a pool of blood while the suspect hovered over her. "Everybody started chasing him. People with dogs let the dogs on him. He bolted to the nearby Inwood Park and disappeared." When the police found Castillo he had already stabbed himself in the stomach and neck. Castillo was arraigned and due back in court on the 30th. He has three charges pending which include murder and menacing.

BCC President Carole Berotte Joseph had this to say about the tragedy in her article "*Domestic violence is a higher ed matter*" published January 11th on the *Community College Times* webpage, "The circumstances surrounding her tragic death are all too familiar to college administrators. Intimate-partner or domestic violence is a virus that makes its way into our student populations—at colleges and universities large and small, private, public,

urban and rural—often undetected until it is too late. Young women bear the brunt of the crime."

It seems that our community needs to focus more on educating our students with regard to domestic violence. Edith Rojas was an aspiring medical assistant, who would've been starting her third semester here at Bronx Community College, who unfortunately will be mourned instead of enjoyed. Our prayers and well wishes go out to the Rojas family at start this New Year facing such a challenging lost. (See related article on page 4.)

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Latinos in Washington

The Communicator
Editorial Policy and
Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper. We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Spring 2013 Article Insertion Dates

March
February 15

April
March 15

May
April 17

Join
The Communicator
Team!

Cover campus news events.
Explore local, state, national and global stories.
Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community.

The Communicator is looking for writers
photographers
advertising representatives
Become part of our team, and join
The Communicator today!
College work study may be available.
Contact us at 718.289.5314
to schedule an appointment.

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

CYBER-BULLYING PRIVACY IN PERIL DIGITAL PIRACY GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE



NYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRAND PRIZE - \$1,500
CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - \$1,000
SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - \$1,000

The competition is open to all CUNY and SUNY Community College students registered for the Fall Semester of 2012 or the Spring Semester of 2013. We encourage students from all academic departments and majors to enter the competition.
Essays may be submitted anytime before the deadline, April 5, 2013.

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

www.nycourts.gov/history



SUMMER 2013
STUDY/TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CUNY
STUDENTS (STOCS) STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
SUMMER 2013 STOCS-ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS LIST

Important Information

The STOCS application is an application for the scholarship only. A separate program application must be completed for admission into the study abroad program by contacting the program director listed below.

“Cost” is based on in-state resident undergraduate tuition, program fees, airfare, housing, three meals per day, and study abroad insurance, unless otherwise specified. Actual costs will depend partly upon airfare, number of credits, choice of accommodation (e.g., shared apartments vs. home stays, where applicable), lifestyle, and the currency exchange rate. Non-New York State Resident students should contact program directors to verify any differences in program costs. Dates and prices are subject to change. Applicants may need to budget for the cost of visa, passport, and other incidental and personal expenses and should verify all costs with the program director.

All STOCS applicants must file a 2013-14 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 11, 2013 to be eligible for STOCS. Please see <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or contact your home college financial aid office.

The deadline to submit a STOCS application is March 18, 2013.

For more information, including the Student Application and the List of Programs, please visit: <http://www.cuny.edu/studyabroad>.

If you have any further questions or need to discuss specific programs or the application procedure, please contact
Professor Andrew Rowan: andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

Campus News



Dear Editor:

Welcome back to campus! We would like to take a moment to update you on events and activities happening at NYPIRG. For those who may be unfamiliar with us, NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is the state's largest student-directed consumer, environmental protection, and government reform organization. With the support of Bronx Community College students, we continue to fight every semester for affordable and accessible higher education, prevention of hunger and homelessness, and mobilization of student voices with the help of our interns and student leaders.

Last semester at BCC we registered over 1,000 voters, ran a collection drive for the underprivileged, volunteered numerous times at the local Part of the

Solution food pantry, helped close the corrupt SUNY Buffalo Shale Resources and Society Institute, and with the help of Student Life and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team, held BCC's first Presidential mock debate.

This semester, NYPIRG will continue our fight to protect investments to affordable and accessible higher education. Nationally, student debt is well over \$1 trillion. Since 2008, higher education has been cut more than \$1.7 billion. Here in CUNY, we have been hit with annual tuition hikes of \$300 for the next five years. Now more than ever it's imperative that the voices of CUNY students are heard loud and clear.

That's why NYPIRG is collaborating with Professional Staff Congress, University Student Senate, and United University Professors to bring students to Albany and make their voices heard on Higher Education Action Day. On Tuesday, March 12th, hundreds of students and faculty from all over the state will meet with lawmakers in a day of action to urge them to invest in higher education.

If you are interested in learning more about our Higher Education Action Day or any of other campaigns, be sure to stop by our office in Meister 214 or contact us at (718) 289-5409 or bronx@nypirg.org.

Have a great semester!

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

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 a 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 the 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 to your future.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, it is reported that, on average, high school diploma recipients make \$626 weekly. Associate degree recipients make \$761 while those with their bachelor's make \$1,025 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. 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 elite professionals and see students progressing and taking initiative towards their dreams. In addition, they get to see honorable candidates receiving recognition, as well as scholarships.

By receiving a post-secondary education, not only do the students find an extra passageway to a whole new world of opportunity, they also receive the chance to hear recitations 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. The people you meet and interact with during your time as a student can have an influential effect on your future. 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."

**The American author in the area of the new thought movement who was one of the earliest producers of the modern genre of personal-success literature. He is widely considered to be one of the great writers on success*

Mama, I Won the Dictionary.com Scholarship!

Continued from Page 1

And then in early January, Professor Wisotsky invited members of the Media Technology and Film Society club to a special screening at the Tribeca Film Center of *Sparkle*, Whitney Houston's last film. At the pre-screening breakfast sponsored by the International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, I took a picture with Tas Michos, the cinematographer, and was also introduced to Zeljko Cvijanovic, B&H Photo Account Manager. When Mr. Cvijanovic asked me what I was going to do when I received my Dictionary.com check, I said: "I'm going to B&H!" Now, because of my bright saying, B&H Photo is giving me some additional equipment to add to my scholarship prize.

Everything I have ever done had paid off. My menial jobs, my community service, working with children part time at the Regent School, which I also attended, all of it worked out for the better. I was truly humbled but amazed at how I was the chosen one. I arrived home and was embraced by my family. My parents and girlfriend gave me my foundation, my daughter Anilya is my humbling motivation, and my neighborhood is my inspiration. The scholarship will help me purchase a new digital camera and equipment. It will also propel me to my future that includes obtaining a Bachelor's in Fine Arts at CCNY or SUNY Purchase. With any luck I can inspire people to strive to never give up their education. I have been back and forth constantly between semesters so I know it can be a challenge. Also, optimistically, this opportunity can put me on the threshold of being an independent filmmaker, becoming a member of the Directors Guild, or Screen Actors Guild, or even on a larger scale having my own film and video production company. I consider this scholarship to be the first step toward reaching my goals in life. I am intrigued by how far I can go on this borrowed time, so I will continue to not only follow my dreams but to chase



Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, BCC Media Technology Program; Dejan Georgevich, ASC, Co-Chair, Eastern Region Education Committee, International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, IATSE; BCC Media Technology Major, Andres Davoren, Jr.; and Sol Negrin, ASC, Co-Chair, Eastern Region Education Committee attend the screening and breakfast of director Salim Akil's feature film Sparkle at the Tribeca Film Center.

them with substantial fervor.

This moment will be remembered profoundly. Yes, the reward is a great accomplishment, but to actually create an idea, execute it, and to see it manifest into something that wins an award, a \$5,000 scholarship prize, only intensifies the drive and the determination in me. I understand that this is only the first step into a much deeper water of wisdom, growth, and learning. I am indebted to anyone who has ever had confidence in me and I would like to remind him or her that this is only the first step of a lifelong journey. Thank you.



BCC Shuttle Bus Service for Spring 2013

During the spring semester, the shuttle runs Monday through Thursday, from 5:30-10:30pm, when classes are in session.

The shuttle provides service to and from campus approximately every 20 minutes. Shuttle service is provided to #4 Subway Stations: 183rd St., Fordham Rd., & Burnside Ave.

This service is funded by student activity fees.

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Life at 718.289.5194.

Campus News

New Year, New In By C. Lionel Spencer

Have you made any New Year resolutions for 2013? If you're any thing like me, you haven't. You cringe even at the thought. Maybe this is because you don't like following the masses. Or maybe, like me, you make resolutions every single day and forego the need to follow tradition. Or maybe you don't like being reminded of your failures, so you avoid this feeling by not setting goals altogether. Whether you have made resolutions or not, there exist an innate human desire for growth and change. Resolutions like losing weight, tobacco cessation and saving money serve as external smoke screens for what we really want to change: ourselves. What people like most about the New Year is the belief that they have the opportunity to start over.

Most people want to be the best version of him or herself, and there are many reasons why. If they are honest, most can't disagree that one of the reasons is the allure of something new. Who doesn't enjoy a new watch, pair of shoes or cardigan that will upgrade their image? Who doesn't flirt with someone they believe promises something new and refreshing in the love department? Who doesn't dream of a life set anew in an uncovered time and space? We all do!

But as much as we may like fancy shoes and brilliant mates, the real modification we seek isn't our attire or partner – but ourselves. Everything, and I mean everything, we do, buy, wear and surround ourselves with is just an extension of who we are. So when it's time to change your friends, or an outfit, what we really want to change is some part of ourselves. The New Year, much like our birthdays, brings with it one thing that many dislike: introspection.

For our Internet, microwave, quick-fix generation, something that takes careful consideration like introspection isn't natural or welcomed. Instead of changing our diets to lose weigh, we go for surgery or some weight loss pill. I have an overweight friend who has this saying: "work smarter not harder." But it sounds so cliché coming from someone with high blood pressure and refuses to give up soda, don't you think? But, unfortunately, this is how many of us function.

In order to be the best version of ourselves we must stop chopping at the branches of our characters and address the roots. None of us is perfect, so we all have issues with self control, laziness, esteem, and such. But the only way to grow in character is by addressing the roots from which our issues stem.

For example, I've come to realize over the past year of attending Bronx Community College that I am lazy. I see how hard most of you work, the high demands you place on yourselves, and I shrink back, living on the myth that a man from my dysfunctional childhood should only be grateful to attend college and not be expected to excel in it. The root of my laziness was an honest belief that I wasn't smart enough to perform at a high level academically. In two semesters I have proven myself wrong; I posses the ability to do better and be better. But how far do you think I would have gotten if I merely attacked my habit of laziness and not the cause of it? I believe it would have only been a matter of time before I succumbed to my academic insecurities once again.

So this year, don't focus on the external things; focus on the inside. Deal with the childhood issues, the poor esteem and such. Don't just plan to lose weight; plan to be disciplined. Don't seek to change your wardrobe; change your character, and have a Happy New Year as a result.

Following the News of Edith Rojas's Death By Untwain Fyffe

Just a day after ringing in the New Year with close friends and family, I was in disbelief to hear that a fellow BCC student, Edith Rojas, was killed in front her apartment building. The name didn't immediately ring a bell, so my first concern was if I'd ever met Edith. Based on the photo printed in the *Daily News* article covering her death, unfortunately I did not.

Despite not knowing her on a personal level, I thought to myself that surely we've crossed path at some point on campus since her fall 2011 admission to Bronx Community College. After reviewing the announcement e-mail from President Carole M. Berotte Joseph, and subsequent e-mails from *The Communicator* staff, I felt heartbroken by the horrific details of her murder. I wanted to pay my respects to Edith and the Rojas family I decided to attend her wake.

This was my first time attending a wake in all my adult years. The wake for Edith was held on Friday, January 4th, 3 pm. to 9 pm. The Manhattan Ortiz Funeral Home was crowded, and as I walked past folks crying, men and women comforting one another, I made my way to Chapel A. The large room was also crowded. Edith's casket was surrounded with grieving friends and family. Considering all the people in attendance, I did not suspect that I was the only BCC student present at the time.

And there she peacefully lay, dressed in white, with her fingers interlocked and hands resting gently below her chest. Almost in tears, I took a quick glimpse at her face – partly covered in a white, see-through veil – and it was clear to me she was an exceptionally beautiful young woman. The large wooden crucifix, the dimly lit red candles, the bouquet of flowers that surrounded and atop her casket were overwhelming to say the least.

Before leaving the funeral home, I decided to ask for an obituary in remembrance of my time there. To my immediate shock who else would it be but Edith's father. I proceeded to introduce myself and expressed my condolences. I gladly shook his hand as Mr. Rojas thanked me for coming.



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Writer of the Month

Más Que la Cara

By Julio Marquez

I am a man of many masks: each worn and discarded time and time again. These masks are unique and individual in their own right but all share one commonality, the face underneath. They are my identities, the pieces that make up the person I am, my ghost in the machine. I wear them each to fit the situation I find myself in, the dutiful son, the aspiring writer, the inquisitive student, and the New York-born Puerto Rican. My identities shape my opinion, color my words and tint my sight. Just as they dictate what I put out into the world, so do they also affect everything I receive? Through these masks I learn and grow, reshaping their face each time they are worn. They allow me to filter life through them, experiencing people and moments in time uniquely through their eyes. In this way I grow and better myself, allowing each mask, each identity, to develop and mature in its own right and in turn deepening myself, the face underneath. This ideology is not one that I developed easily.

For many years I struggled to solidify my identity within myself, as many individuals do. In some ways I failed at that. I lost the battle within myself to devote who I am to one main identity. I could not focus my being into a single purpose, a sole identity that would map my route in life. In this way I struggled through most of my teenage years, my battle born of naiveté. It was only as I grew that I began to understand that my struggle was pointless. I could never be just one thing, adopt one way of thinking. Change and variety were what allowed me to grow; they allowed me to absorb thoughts, ideas, and experiences and make them a part of myself, deepening my understanding and expanding my point of view. So I abandoned my fight and became an amalgamation of all the identities I sought to repress. Over time I began using the ideology of each identity as a mask, something I could wear to fit the situation I found myself in. I realized that even though each of my identities is different from the rest, they still remained fundamentally me, like different shades of the same color.

One of those identities is the dutiful son. When I think of the few more prominent masks I wear, the role of son is one of the first to assert itself. I have always maintained a strong bond to my mother. She is one of the driving forces in my life and, out of love, respect and consideration; I always place her high on my list of priorities. In many ways, she rarely asserts her identity as an authority figure anymore; because of our ties of trust, and openness her role in my life is more that of a confidante, she is someone I can speak openly with and call on in times of insecurity or doubt. She is my bulwark and my counsel and for that I remain always willing to help her in any way possible. It is my opinion that a son should be more than just the child a mother bears. A son should be there to help whenever he can; he should care not only for completing tasks given to him but also for the mental, emotional, and physical health of his mother. This is the identity I carry as a son; knowing that not all individuals possess the same kind of relationship with their mothers as I do, I am grateful.

Another of my identities is that of the aspiring writer. This is a mask I only recently have begun wearing. The ability to write has always been a quality I possessed. It is something that, though may come naturally to me, I

still continue to improve upon as the years go by. It was only upon my entry into college that my interest in writing came to the forefront of my nature. It had always been an outlet for my expression, allowing me to weave into words and stories the thoughts, emotions, and opinions I had. Each character had within them a seedling of myself, a thought or idea that I expressed that would then in turn shape their whole personality. It was only by giving my ideas and emotions a life of their own that I was able to free myself of them, clearing my mind and allowing me to be more centered and focused. When I entered college this ability grew and I began identifying myself as a writer, forming a new mask. Through this mask I began to interact with the world differently. I began to notice a difference when reading the writing of others. I noticed a difference in simply reading versus reading as a writer. With each piece of writing I read, I would analyze and absorb not only the information presented but now also the style of the writing, its pace and wording. All these things became more apparent to me once I began to wear this mask, to take on and mature my identity as a writer.

One more of the identities I possess is that of the inquisitive student, a mask I find myself wearing very often. Education and knowledge are qualities I hold in very high regard. Since a young age I have always had an inquisitive mind. I refused to agree with the simple notion of “Do as you are told.” I would always present questions to myself, chiefly the question of “Why?” This notion of always questioning carried on into my later years and is still with me today. It drives my desire to learn and also affects how I interact with others. My identity as a student is not one I sequester simply to the area of academic knowledge. I consider all of life an opportunity to gain knowledge, not only within the realm of academia but also from other people and experiences. Each person I meet is a wealth of knowledge. They carry with them stories of their culture, their life, places they have visited and sights they have seen. This is all knowledge that, though you may be able to acquire from a book, is a valuable resource that comes with its own unique flavor depending on the person you are learning it from. I enjoy listening to recollected memories of homes in far flung lands and old traditions passed down from parent to child. This identity is my most prominent; it shades many things I do and how I interact with others. It is also one I find myself using in tandem with several of my others. It allows me to always push for the deeper understanding, one that can benefit the totality of who I am as a person.

Not all of my identities are self-developed; there are those few which come with heritage. The mask I wear of a New York-born Puerto Rican is one such identity. I am a third-generation immigrant, my grandparents being the last of my family to be born in Puerto Rico. I carry my heritage with pride, celebrating every facet of what it is to be Hispanic and more precisely what it is to be a Puertorriqueño. I enjoy all of our culture, traditions, folk tales and food and gladly share it with anyone, but one thing will never change. I was born in America. This simple fact creates a vast divide between myself and other Puerto Ricans born on the island. To them, I am not simply a Puerto Rican, a Boricua just the same as they are. To them, and many other Spanish immigrants coming from

their countries, I am more Americano then anything else. Several years ago on a trip to Puerto Rico with my mother, a man approached us while on the beach. He told us he knew just by looking at us that we weren’t born on the island and that we were from New York. He used the word Nuyoricano in reference to us. Though the conversation was friendly, there was no sense of camaraderie; we were tourists in their home, our own country. It was clear, we were different, not better or worse but simply different. This was one of the experiences that solidified the chasm between myself and other native born Puerto Ricans and Hispanics.

In the essay “Is Spanish the Measure of ‘Hispanic’?” when talking about the differences between foreign-born Hispanics and those born in the United States, Mireya Navarro says that, “Language and nativity are the two most stark lines of demarcation” (Navarro). This is a statement I find to be especially true. Most of my family is bilingual. When my grandmother emigrated from Puerto Rico she eventually began to take night classes in English to be able to begin taking nursing classes. She wanted to better herself and learn the language of the country she was now living in. Since then, all the members of our family have spoken both Spanish and English. Though the main language used at home is Spanish, I don’t speak in it. I understand most Spanish perfectly but never began speaking it myself. This is something that only deepens the divide between myself and other Hispanics living here in America. To them, I am just another American, a Puerto Rican only in name. This is one of the identities I would much rather be without. To be ostracized by my fellow Hispanics as not being “a real Puerto Rican” hits home in a way that makes me sometimes question the validity of their argument. In her essay “Back, but Not Home” Maria L. Muniz talks about her relationship to both Cuba, her home country, and America. She says, “Outside American, inside Cuban” (Muniz). This is a phrase I frequently apply to myself, outside American, inside Puerto Rican. I know that, though the divide between myself and native Puerto Ricans and Hispanics may very well never close, I will always love my heritage and celebrate my culture every day of my life.

Identity is something that shapes the very fabric of who you are as a person. It alters your interaction with everything around you for the better, and sometimes, for the worse. While some identities can carry with you from the very beginning, others you develop and discard as you grow and change, each leaving a mark on your personality, changing you in even the slightest of ways. While some can devote themselves to one main identity among their others, I never could. I am a man of many masks, each playing an important role in my path through life. Oscar Wilde stated simply “A mask tells us more than a face.” Those who come to know the masks I wear know more of me than the face under could ever tell.

Works Cited

Navarro. Mireya. “Is Spanish the Measure of ‘Hispanic’?” *New York Times*. 08 2003: Print.

Muniz. Maria L. “Back, but Not Home.” 1979: Print.

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Outside the Quad

Computer Engineering Will Change the World

By Alex Luma

Sir Frederick Henry Royce, founder of the Rolls-Royce Company, once said, “Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it.” That is exactly how I feel when it comes to life in general and the world of engineering. Computer engineering is an incredible field of enormous opportunity and creativity among other things, where next-generation leaders, programmers, software engineers, hardware engineers, electrical engineers and more are educated to gain skills and knowledge. Therefore, it continues enhancing the potential to transform ideas into masterpieces that solve national or world problems.

Computer engineering has an impact on the way we lead our lives. This is exemplified in the automobiles we drive which can contain computer simulations to enhance vehicular safety or optimal control systems which also contain hundreds of microprocessors. Computer engineering can also be used for processes of communication and presentation, operating multiplicatively at the same time. It empowers and presents you with the opportunity to receive methods of creating life-changing systems and integrating hardware designs and software designs. These help to create things like embedded gaming systems, PDA’s, gene analytical super computers and much more. The real challenge of an engineer is to use their education and experience to its to design the prospective system from epic proportions with most maximize impact using principles of the scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical nature. These are among other varieties included but not limited to combinatorial physics, which unites discrete mathematics with theoretical physics, and solid state physics which is a foundation of computer engineering and quantum mechanics. Of course, I couldn’t forget about matrices which are included in branches of classical mechanics but in the aspect of computer engineering and design, they are used to project three dimensional images onto a two dimensional screen.

During the course of the 2012 year, I had the honor and the pleasure of traveling to two significant and incredible events. One of the events was called the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference where students received tools and resources for a successful career in the STEM Industry. Like the other incredible STEM event I attended, the Women of Color Conference, the BEYA conference had the main goal of recruiting and retaining students in the STEM fields as well as honoring the professionals and students taking initiative to make a difference in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and in the corridors of the world and education in general. I had the honor of receiving a *Student Leadership Award in STEM* at the STEM Women of Color Event in Dallas, Texas. It was a blessed experience for which I am fully grateful.

The main purpose of this conference is to promote the positive and fantastic achievements of women in science and engineering. It was a pleasure and a privilege to meet all these powerful figures and students like myself. It was also an honor to be one of the few men selected to receive national recognition and to celebrate in the appreciation of the achievements of the female engineers while becoming the first community college student to receive the award ever.

As President of Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine, I took on the goal of recruiting and retaining more students in the S.T.E.M. fields and increasing STEM visibility in the community. There are many ideas that I have developed over the past years, one which has initiated the process called patenting. My mind has so much mind-boggling creations swimming around just waiting to create change and scientific magic, ranging from computer engineering to unlimited proportions.

When it comes to your dreams or something you have a strong passion for, giving up is not an option. You must strive and persevere until you’ve given your best and the results meet your demand. Robert C. Gallagher, author of *The Express*, once said, “Change is inevitable except from a vending machine.” The world should definitely expect change, especially on my part. The kind of change I want to deliver will continue to create a domino effect of positive and successful proportions.

To Be Continued...

Poet's Corner

First we walk, then we run

By William Murray

In dedication to graduates everywhere-

A tassel upon mortarboard is clearly worth the hassle
We’ve adjusted our sails, surely as our ancestors and other ministering spirits,
Ordained the winds

No it is never too late to learn
First we walk, then we run
And what we find out the hard way are our greatest lessons
We’ve got to take two steps forward for every backward one

Furthermore, we’ve done ourselves proud
Directing our attention to a goal
Not falling short, but becoming part of those, for whom bells toll
Through reverberant halls of knowledge, with realized potential

Part of those for whom heads are held up high to our higher education
At college graduation, when we the thinkers, have prepared the way
For tomorrow outside the box, and with any luck, not wholly stranger to yesterday

Humanitarian Interventions

By Stefanos Ugbit

What does the concept of humanitarian intervention actually mean and what are the consequences and its real intentions? There is no fixed meaning of the phrase humanitarian intervention. Throughout history, humanitarian interventions have been used in pretext of war, in culminating and appeasing the domestic population of the invading country to justify its actions to its own citizenry. Most wars throughout history were justified by humanitarianism, though most wars are fought for over resources, expansion, and protecting its borders.

As in recent years like the intervention within Libya President Obama said, “Broadening our military mission to include regime change would be a mistake. We are not there to militarily remove Gadhafi, we are there purely for humanitarian goals to brush aside America’s responsibility as a leader and more profoundly responsibilities to our fellow human beings would be a betrayal to who we are. Maybe some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries but not the United States of America. The United States is different; the United States can’t simply stand idly by.” This is a very contradictory statement because the United States supports many dictatorial and tyrannical governments that oppress its people. The United States supports countries like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Uzbekistan and many others which oppress its peoples for its own national security interests.

The unintended consequences of military interventions, as seen in North Africa with the current ongoing hostage crisis in Algeria, can be linked to the intervention in Mali. The military intervention in Libya and with the overthrow of Gadhafi caused many conflicts to be intensified in Northern Africa with many weapons that were flowing from the west and within Libya that many rebels used. The group who took the hostages in the Amenas gas fields in Algeria was an offshoot of (AQIM) the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. “The fighters said they seized the hostages in retaliation for Algeria letting France use its airspace to launch operations against rebels in northern Mali, but security experts said the raid appeared to have been planned well in advance.” What are the real grievances of the Taureg rebels in Mali, these conflicts are old and go back to the 1950s. The main actors in the Mali conflict are the (MNLA) National Movement for the Liberation of Azwad and Ansar Dine. There are many conflicts that are going on in Mali from separatist national groups to Islamic groups which all have an array of different concerns and agendas ranging from the role of political Islam, allocation and redistribution of natural resources to local populace and an inclusive role in the national political dialogue.

The usual suspects are former colonial masters intervening in their former colonies. This must be looked at from various angles as France’s national interests are at stake in Mali and the region if the conflict continues. Mali has resources that are at stake; rich in gold and uranium, despite being one of the poorest countries in the world. The ongoing crisis occurring in Mali and the rush to intervene causes further chaos throughout the region and causes instability in the region, thus creating a security vacuum. Neo-imperialism and colonialism rears its ugly head once again as the former masters under the pretext of humanitarian intervention and security once again intervene in their former colonies for their own interests. In order to legalize the action of intervention within Mali the use of international organizations such as the United Nations passes resolutions with outstanding efficiency and resounding urgency. The U.N. Security Council resolution 2085 authorized the deployment of African led troops to support of the mission in Mali many members of (ECOWAS) The Economic Community of West African States agreed to. It was a unanimous decision made, but France unilaterally intervened in direct violation of U.N.S.C. resolution 2085.

In an ever-changing world population, the need for energy for development and industry puts huge constraints on the political discourse in global affairs as each nation tries to secure resources vital for its development and to dominate industry globally. The former colonial powers and superpower of the world has come to reinstate its dominance on the world stage feeling threatened from emerging countries that need the same vital resources for development as well. The battle is raging on once again in the most resourceful continent in the world, Africa. European nations and the U.S. are trying to secure the resources needed and Africans are losing most of their own natural resources because the wealth is exported. Local communities do not benefit from the resource wealth, which further fuels conflicts and instabilities in these countries. Weak governments collide with multi-national corporations and this devastates the economies of their own countries in order to enrich themselves. In order for this to be stopped, there needs to be a progressive group of African leaders working together. This will allow the continent to further develop, thrive, and survive in the 21st century and beyond.

Reference: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news>

JOIN A CLUB

Outside the Quad

“We, the People” The Spirit of the Inauguration Speech

By C. Lionel Spencer



On January 21, 2013, our returning 44th President, Barack Hussein Obama, gave an impassioned inauguration speech on Martin Luther King Day. All in attendance were jubilant and jovial; seemingly not disturbed by the 30-degree temperature. When introduced by Senator Charles Schumer, President Obama took the podium roughly at 11:30am to the chants of “OBAMA! OBAMA!”, and delivered an inspiring address. His speech was focused on three words: We the People.

For those who imagined that Obama’s election in 2008 was to be the saving of all of Washington’s political issues were once again reminded that “We” are the true agents of change. He affirmed that our nation is on a “never-ending journey” toward progress that we must walk together. He recalled how, “together,” we modernized our economy with railroads, highways, commerce and an education system that met the need of the times. How, “together”, we’ve realized that only through fairness and proper guidelines can our free market system thrive. Lastly, “together” we have concluded that as a nation we must better meet the needs of our weak and protect our citizens as a whole.

He reminded us that together we are bringing a decade of war to an end, recovering from the brink of economic collapse and the only way we will move forward as a nation is if we do it together.

He focused our attention on what we have faced and overcome together as a nation. From slavery and marches on Washington to providing universal healthcare and capturing Osama Bin Laden, he continued his recap our successes which should be celebrated. But he also exerted the need for equality for same-sex couples, women and immigrants in his speech in a brilliant reference that include Seneca Falls, Selma and Stonewall. He stressed that, “Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation, and one people.”

His speech, lasting just under 20 minutes, held several main points. But just as a song’s main message is in the repeated chorus, so was the main message of his speech. The message made clear through his repetition of “We the people.”

“We, the people, understand that our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it.”

“We, the people, still believe that every citizen deserves a basic measure of security and dignity.”

“We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity.”

“We, the people, still believe that enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war”.

“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.”

These five quotes were taken from lengthy sections of President Obama’s inauguration speech, and it is hard not to see what his focus is: “We the people”. With his final term underway, I hope that “We the people” are patient and persistent with helping our president meet his goals for our great nation.

Latinos in Washington

By Roy Nunez



From left to right: Mr. Kelvin Urena, Ms. Audrey Rose-Glenn, Mr. Roy Nunez, and Mr. Manny Lopez

On October 20th, fellow classmate Kelvin Urena and I participated as Student Ambassadors in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference in Washington, D.C., representing Hispanic scholars from Bronx Community College. We were accompanied by Mr. Manny Lopez, Assistant Director of Student Life, Ms. Audrey Rose-Glenn, Assistant Director of New Student Leadership Programs, and Ms. Carmen Vasquez, Executive Assistant to the President of Bronx Community College. During the conference I learned from the president and CEO of HACU, Dr. Antonio R. Flores, that 66.6% of new laborers to the labor force are Hispanics, and it is projected that in the next 10 years, 75% new laborers to the workforce will be Hispanic. This may sound like encouraging news, considering high unemployment rates and a unpredictable United States economy. But while Hispanics comprise a huge percent of the labor force, we lag behind in many of the professions that require higher degrees. According to a statistical graph from the Pew Research Center, cited by Dr. Flores, Hispanics experience a huge gap when it comes to higher educational attainment, and are the lowest performing out of all minorities. African-Americans are not too far behind. In light of this data, it appears that Hispanics and African-Americans have plenty of work cut out for us, as we strive to narrow the disparities in higher education amongst Americans.

Being exposed to a high-energy, dynamic environment at this conference was a monumental life changer. Before my experience at the HACU conference, I have never given much thought to opportunities that lay outside of New York and the Tri-State region. At the conference, I learned of intern opportunities with the United States Department of Agriculture. The possibility of working with an organization that is a national leader in the food and agriculture industry and advocates for science and public policy issues would be a dream come true for this biology major. Several other organizations that serve our nation such as the Central Intelligence Agency, The National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and many more, were seeking qualified student interns at the conference. I am currently working with others to bring forth these opportunities that are available to BCC students, so that we have the opportunity to explore beyond our horizon.

The fact that Bronx Community College is a member of HACU gives special preference to our when it comes to paid internships as opposed to other students who apply from institutions that are not HACU members. To be a HACU member, an institution has to be a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and pay a fee. Bronx Community College is a predominately Hispanic institution, and our college pays a fee to maintain a membership that is not being utilized. Since the conference, I have co-hosted a HACU webinar with Mr. Lopez to inform students of the opportunities available for them. There are plenty of bright and ambitious candidates here at BCC who are not aware of the organizations that seek them, and vice-versa.

The HACU conference has opened my eyes to a new world of possibilities. At the conference I was able to interact with a network of successful Hispanics who have triumphed over some of the adversities I am currently battling. To hear and see their success stories is truly invigorating, as I see many who have achieved what I dream about. As minorities in underprivileged communities like the Bronx, many of us deal with healthcare and socioeconomic challenges that are very difficult to surpass. At the conference, I met Hispanics who, despite being around gangs, struggling as single parents, and living off the welfare system, have pursued higher education, achieved doctorate degrees and now have attained a greater meaning to their lives. I am grateful for the time these individuals have shared, and their willingness to be so open with me. Experiencing these individuals who have come such a long way, reinforces the idea that hard work, determination and resilience will help strong willed individuals charge past the challenges that deter countless others.

Prior to this conference, I was not aware of how many successful Hispanics can be found in the nation’s capital. In light of all the excitement and the colorful individuals I have come across at the conference, my Hispanic pride has grown exponentially. I have previously worked to make changes in my community and help lift others whose struggles I have shared. But today, I feel a greater honor to be a Latino, and my experience at the conference has further motivated me to facilitate changes for our Hispanic community and culture, and fight harder against the stigmas that are often associated with us. To know that there are so many other successful Hispanics and African-Americans out there who are eager to help motivated community leaders, inspires confidence and helps lift some of the mental restrictions I believe many of us impose on ourselves. Coming face-to-face with these amazing stories has made success a lot more tangible for me, and my vision has expanded exponentially.

I believe these overachieving Hispanics understand the social responsibilities to their communities that come with their prosperity, and are looking to empower individuals who will help our community’s progress. It is up to all of us, the leaders of tomorrow, students of BCC, to pick up the torch and keep the it’s intensity alive, passing it down for generations to come. One of the strongest words relayed to me at the conference still echoes in my mind: “Today I am standing on someone else’s shoulders, so that one day I will be able to carry another on mine.”

I would like to thank, Mr. Lopez. To me he is one who selflessly allows others to stand on his shoulders. I see him as a strong Latino leader and role model for many. I also thank Ms. Rose-Glenn for working towards empowering student leaders in our college community. My special thanks go to Ms. Carmen Vasquez who shared some very inspiring and insightful experiences and for reaching out to students like me. Her support has meant a lot to me.

Former United States Surgeon General, Richard H. Carmona, is a product of Bronx Community College, and a prime example of what a strong willed Hispanic can make out of his or her education at BCC. CUNY institutions have bred an enormous amount of talent since it’s inception. Members of Congress, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and many other individuals who have made considerable impacts in their communities, and have earned there formidable education within the CUNY system. Our very own Bronx Community College President, Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, is a proud former CUNY student.

As minorities, many of us will face great challenges ahead. But we all have a moral responsibility to push for changes in our communities for our children and the generations that follow. If all the powerful minorities that have preceded us in previous generations have not blazed the trails we are able to thread today, where would we be? The power to make changes throughout our nation and our communities is within all of us. We must first be aware that we can. In the words of the Ms. Ruby Dee, “Have the courage and the daring to think you make a difference. That’s what being young is all about.” Ms. Dee is an American actor, screenwriter and journalist, amongst other titles, and a Hunter College alumnus, part of the City University of New York, class of 1944.

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The C.O.P.E. Program is the result of collaboration between CUNY & HRA. The program helps students meet CUNY college standards and HRA work obligations, in order to enhance their chances of graduating and achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency through gainful employment.

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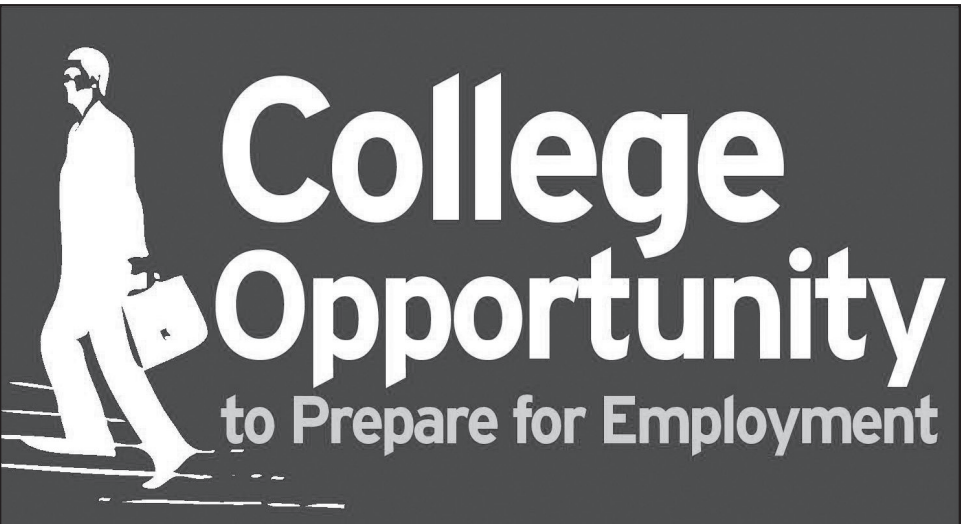
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- C.O.P.E. as a Resource**
 Make sure we have a copy of your resume so that when employers contact us for suitable candidates, the referral process can run smoothly. Also, you can find out from our office information about career fairs and job prep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

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Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and the CUNY Institute for Software Design and Development (CISDD) and supported by the Office of the Chancellor, the CUNY Math Challenge seeks to identify and reward CUNY's best math talent. Students are invited to compete for cash prizes ranging from \$500 up to a grand prize of \$2,500.

How it Works

The first step is to register now to prepare for the first of three online rounds, containing five problems each. A new round opens every three weeks beginning Monday, February 11, 2013. Participants have three weeks to submit their answers in each round, accumulating points along the way. Questions in each round are of varying levels of difficulty.

Students with the highest total points after the first three rounds will be invited to the final round, an in-person exam to be administered on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Approximately 30 qualifying students will compete in the final round for the cash prizes mentioned above. Winners will be publicly recognized at an event with Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

Register here: <http://math.cisdd.org>

CUNY

The City University of New York

Deadline for registration: February 20th

A CUNY Special Initiative

INSTITUTE

for Virtual Enterprise

Kick-off Event February 1st

SMARTPITCH

CHALLENGE

2013

PITCH YOUR BUSINESS IDEA

\$8,500 IN PRIZES

Awards:

\$5000 1st Place Prize

\$2500 2nd Place Prize

\$1000 3rd Place Prize

Rules:

- All business ideas welcome

- All NYC students from the current academic year are eligible to participate

TO REGISTER VISIT

DEADLINES:

2/1 SmartPitch Kick-off Event

3/25 Milestone 1 due: 30 Sec Video Pitch

4/23 Milestone 2 due: Executive Summary

5/20 Milestone 3 due: Post a 10-Slide Deck

6/6 SmartPitch Challenge Final Event

www.smartpitch.org

A CUNY Special Initiative

INSTITUTE

for Virtual Enterprise

BaruchCOLLEGE

IBM

ROCKETHUB
the world's crowdfunding machine

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

CITY UNIVERSITY NEW YORK

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

CITY UNIVERSITY NEW YORK

Bronx Community College
Department Of Public Safety
"Service, Integrity and Pride"
718-289-5390 / 718-289-5911

BCC Crime Prevention Event

February 7, 2013 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM Colston Hall Lobby

February 13, 2013 12:00 PM -2:00 PM & 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM Meister Lobby

February 21, 2013 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM & 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM North Instructional Building

February 28, 2013 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM & 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM Roscoe Student Center

- Personal Safety Tips
- Safe Haven Program
- PcPhone Home Software
- Apps to protect your electronic devices
- Operation Car Watch

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CUNY

File Your Taxes for Free!

Come see us if you are:

- a student at BCC
- a parent claiming a BCC student as a dependent

Why see our tax professional?

- The American Opportunity Tax Credit is worth up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition and related expenses, including books. Even if you don't make enough money to file a return, file anyway because you may get up to \$1,000 in your refund.
- It's easy and FREE!
- You need to file a tax return in order to file your FAFSA form and apply for financial aid.

What do you need to bring?

- Photo ID and social security cards for everyone on tax return
- W-2 forms for each job
- If claiming child care tax credit, documentation & provider tax ID
- Any other tax-related documentation you have received (i.e. 1099)
- If married and filing jointly, spouse must be present

When:

Monday & Thursday
10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Where:

Loew Hall Room 316
(third floor computer lab)
2155 University Ave
Bronx, NY 10453

Dates:

January 24 – April 15, 2013

Eligibility:

Students & their parents earning

- Less than \$18,000 annually with no children; OR
- Less than \$50,000 annually with children

CALL OR COME BY TODAY

Single Stop Room 123

718-289-5179

Single Stop USA

ARIVA

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT LeaderShopSeries 2013

Whether you are a “New” or “Continuing” student the Leadershops Certificate Series (LCS) is for you! LCS offers certificates to BCC students who are interested in enhancing their leadership skills and abilities. It is comprised of a series of workshops aimed at expanding and developing a student’s knowledge of the essential practices and skills needed for effective leadership.

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to earn a leadership certificate, you **MUST** complete one of the following tracks:

TRACK 1: Platinum Certificate:
Complete **ALL** workshops

TRACK 2: Gold Certificate:
Complete **FIVE** workshops

Certificates will be awarded at the annual Student Life “Leadership in Action Awards” (May 2, 2013)

Workshop Topics

Leading Yourself

Leadership Insights from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1.0 hour) (Celebrating Black History Month)

In his speech, “**I have a Dream**” Martin Luther King, Jr. offered various insights as to how to be a “**Great Leader.**”

Wednesday, February 20, 2013/ 2pm-3pm/ RBSC 310

Know Yourself: Lead Yourself (1.0 hour)

Learning to lead yourself well is one of the most important things you will ever do as a leader.

Tuesday, February 26, 2013/2pm-3pm/ RBSC 310

Ethical Decision Making (1.0 hour)

As a leader, you will often be in a position to choose between “what’s right” and “what’s easy”. Find out the difference between the two, and how ethics plays a role in taking initiative and making decisions that are “right” for you. It will also help you gain the tools to use when faced with ethical dilemmas.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013/4pm-5pm/RBSC 310

Leading Others

Women LEAD! (Celebrating Women’s History Month) (1.0 Hour)

This workshop will challenge women to lead with passion and conviction...becoming a catalyst for positive change in their lives.

Tuesday, March 19, 2012/2pm-3pm/RBSC 310

Professional Communication for leaders (1.0 hour)

It is often said, “it is not what you say...but how you say it.” In this workshop we will examine the different communication styles and how to communicate more effectively.

Thursday, April 4, 2013/3pm-4pm/RBSC 310

Conflict Resolution (1.0 hour)

Conflict is part of everyday life; in this workshop we will explore conflict, our attitude towards it, and ways to manage it. Strategies for resolving both interpersonal and group conflicts will also be discussed.

Wednesday, April 17, 2013/4pm-5pm/RBSC 310

Leading in your Community

Working with Diverse Groups of People (1.0 hour)

Successful leaders understand and educate themselves on the changing demographics within their community and world. This workshop will explore the impact that a diverse community may have in your personal interactions with others and ways to embrace it. Techniques for building community will also be addressed.

Tuesday, April 23, 2013/2pm-3pm/RBSC 310

Forum on Civic Responsibility (2.0 hour)

This forum will explore the role of individual civic responsibility – defined as the moral, legal or mental accountability of each of us to leave our communities in a better condition than we found them. To achieve that, civic responsibility demands civic participation on the parts of individuals as well as government, communities, and institutions.

(This Forum is co-sponsored by “Global Perspectives” and Professor Catherine Mbewe, Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences)

Thursday, April 25, 2013/12pm-2pm/RBSC 310

Office of Student Life
Leadership Education and Development/LEAD
RBSC 301/718-289-5194
audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu
www.facebook.com/bcc.studentlife


**OCD CREDIT
AVAILABLE!!**



Registration Information:

Right click on link to register: <https://www.research.net/s/2013LEADERSHOPS>

OSL-LCS 1/17/13

A black and white photograph of a young man and woman laughing together on a pier. The woman is in the foreground, laughing with her hand to her face. The man is behind her, also laughing. In the background, there is a body of water and a bridge.

April is CUNY Disability Awareness Month!
Join us for a great film & discussion

YO, ¡TAMBIÉN!

Set in contemporary Spain, this exciting and emotional film by directors Antonio Naharro and Álvaro Pastor explores the joys and sorrows of a young man entering the workplace and finding his first real romance.

This coming-of-age story shatters conventional ideas about parental love, dis/ability, and sexual independence.
(103 minutes)

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 12-2pm
Roscoe C. Brown Student Center,
Room 211

 [facebook.com/bronxcc](https://www.facebook.com/bronxcc)

A Global Perspectives program coordinated by Dr. Julia Rodas, Department of English;
Ms. Patricia Fleming, Office of DisAbility Services; and the Office of Student Life.