

The Economic Effects of Piracy on the Maritime Industry

By Stefanos Ugbit

Over one billion people live on less than one dollar a day. In this age of vast wealth and technological advancements, we live in an inequitable world where 5% of the world consumes 30% of the world's resources. We must ask these pertinent questions, on how it pertains to fueling instability and conflicts throughout the world.

Today I'm here with you to discuss the economic effects of piracy on the maritime industry. What is piracy? Piracy is defined as the practice of criminal violence or robbery at sea. Piracy has existed for as long as the seas were plied for commerce. Throughout history there have been many pirates, from the Vikings to the pirates of the Barbary Coast which operated from the shores of Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers primarily raided the Mediterranean Sea. The Barbary pirates seized American vessels on the shores of North Africa. After American independence from Great Britain they were no longer protected under the alliance treaty. The United States had to pay tributes and ransom costs which accounted for about 20% of annual government expenditures. This led to the creation of the U.S. Navy in 1794. The U.S. declared war on the Barbary States in order to protect U.S. shipping interests and to not pay tributes or ransoms which was campaigned by President Thomas Jefferson. The U.S. won the Barbary wars which ended up in favorable terms for U.S. shipping because they no longer had to pay

Piracy has persisted to the present day. In order to understand piracy within Somalia we must analyze the history of Somalia, which led it to become a failed state. In the scramble for Africa Somalia, like most of the rest of the continent, was colonized. The vast wealth of resources that was transferred out of Africa was essential to the rapid development of Europe. Somalia was colonized by and divided amongst the British, the French, and the Italians. British Somaliland was northern Somalia bordered by French Somaliland. French Somaliland is present day Djibouti. The southern part of Somalia was Italian Somaliland and was the most productive part and where the important ports of Kismayo were. The eastern part of Somalia—the Ogden region—was awarded to Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Somalia gained independence in 1960. During the Cold War Somalia was supported by the U.S.S.R. and later the United States for its geostrategic importance in the region. Somalia is the midway point between Europe and Asia; the Suez Canal links the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. This made the 3000km Somali coastal line one of the most important in the world.

There are many factors that led to the rise of Somali piracy such as lack of effective central government, toxic dumping, illegal fishing, famine, and civil war. The foreign fishing trawlers from the EU, China, Russia, Egypt, U.K., Yemen, Kenya, Thailand, and Indonesia have all been illegally overfishing in Somali waters, and there has been no stoppage due to the lack of government in Somalia. The U.N. estimates that 700 foreign vessels are illegally fishing in Somalia's waters at any time. The other piracy in Somalia is the illegal foreign fishing piracy

in the Somali seas, which is ignored. The international community misunderstands the underlying issues involved and of the impractical proposed actions in finding effective long term solutions to the piracy threat. The coastal waters of Somalia are one of the five biggest fishing regions in the world. Many fake fishing licenses were made with deals with Somali warlords in order for countries to conceal the illegality of their operations.

Another major problem is the toxic dumping that has detrimental effects and robs the Somali people of their livelihood and the health of the marine ecosystem destroying generations of life. The toxic dumping of hazardous and nuclear wastes has been prevalent in Somali coastal waters since 1991. Christine Wilson of Sonoma State University writes that "the United Nations Environmental Program reported that the 2004 tsunami had washed up rusting containers of toxic wastes on the shores of Puntland." The cost of European companies to dispose of hazardous waste in Somalia amounts to 2.50 a tone while disposing of waste in Europe is upwards of \$1000 a tone. In 1994 Italian journalist Illarin Alpi and cameraman Miran Hrovatin were murdered while investigating the use of Italian aid agencies as fronts for arms smuggling and dumping of toxic waste. Due to this toxic waste many Somali people have died in the coastal communities. There is a network of firms setup in developing countries to dispose of nuclear and toxic waste. This is systematically polluting the ocean robbing the Somali fishermen of their livelihoods and destroying the marine ecosystem further fueling the instability and giving rise to piracy. These are the consequences of Somali piracy. The piracy in the Gulf of Aden has had huge costs to the maritime industry. This form of economic terrorism has had huge consequences to the Somali fishermen and fuels piracy. There needs to be a long-term solution to the problem. The complaints of the Somali fishermen to the international community have gone unnoticed. In order for the international community to have a long term and effective plan in dealing with piracy resolutions a law should be passed to condemn the illegal fishing and toxic dumping.

The shortfall of the international community on putting emphasis on this issue gives impetus to piracy. The United Nations should include the enforcement of the ban on illegal overfishing in Somali coastal waters in the U.N. resolution 1816. There needs to be a coalition of the willing on the part of the international community in order to come up with realistic and viable solutions to



curb piracy. The detrimental effect of overfishing and toxic dumping by foreign shipping vessels has had helped fuel the increase in and support of the Somali pirates. The continual foreign involvement stifles measures to establish a transparent and democratic government that is representative of the will of the Somali people. The long-term solution to end piracy needs to be shifting incentives. The inherent problem within Somalia and the market failures led piracy to fill that void. There needs to be an effort to help stabilize Somalia in order to create an effective and efficient government that can provide security and stability. The benefits of the changes that will transpire if these measures would be changed would have an overall positive effect on Somalia and in the Horn of Africa. The change would promote peace and stability in the region that has been unstable for many years. There would be reduction of economic and human costs. It will also help alleviate poverty in Somalia. The significant costs of naval fleets and security in order to secure their vessels would be greatly reduced as piracy would decrease and Somalia would become more stable and secure.

The human costs of piracy are the casualties on both sides the Somali pirates and the merchant ship crews who are held hostage. The benefits will help alleviate the burden of economic costs on security and reduce the naval deployment from the international community. This in turn will help cease piracy by creating economic and government stability. The overfishing and toxic dumping by foreign vessels from the international community has gone widely unnoticed and underreported. The connection between these two issues are critical and of utmost importance in understanding the underlying issue of the piracy issue. The stability of the region is dependent upon Somali state this will reverberate around the horn of Africa, reducing terrorism and piracy. Therefore, the intrinsic values between these two can't be separated because the duality of these two forces are inherently connected and this significance shouldn't be overlooked because of external geopolitical interests of regional and external players, but we must have a moral imperative to resolve the actions of a country that has been ravaged and devastated by war as a consequence of foreign intervention due to its geostrategic location.

As St. Augustine of Hippo observed, Alexander the Great captured a pirate and asked, "How dare [he] molest the sea? The pirate replied, "How dare you molest the seas of the world, but because I do it with a petty ship I'm called a thief; you do it with a great navy you are called an emperor."

Note: This article is an adaptation of a speech given by Mr. Ugbit at SUNY Maritime College as part of their Groundhog Day program. The presentation was streamed as live video between SUNY Maritime College and an audience at BCC.

BCC Students' First Stop to Films

It is every budding filmmaker's dream to build something beautiful and unique; to see a project that you have slaved and lost sleep over come to fruition by playing on a giant movie screen. Come June, with the arrival of BCC's 19th Annual Film Festival, dreams may come true for twelve very lucky Media Tech & Film students. Before this could happen, though, the students had to pitch their student film ideas to three special guest speakers representing different aspects of the film industry.

Our first guest was Mr. Stew Smiley. Among many accomplishments, Mr. Smiley is founder of the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival and executive producer of *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Flight of the Conchords*. The students listened attentively as Mr. Smiley spoke about his "break" into the business. He also gave them strong advice regarding the changing entertainment market and how most people are looking towards the internet, not their television sets, for shows and movies. As the students came up one by one to pitch their film ideas, Mr. Smiley was kind enough to share his concerns and questions. Also, like our other special guests, he was also open to share his film comparisons so that the students could research their ideas fully. It was a great sit-down with an award winning

producer who was behind one of the most popular shows of our past decade.

Marco Greco is a Bronx born actor who came to speak to the class the following week. Not only did Mr. Greco impart some very candid and moving stories from his life, he also left a very lasting impression on some of our students. He spoke about taking care of ourselves as artists because as actors, directors, creatives: "you are your own product." He recommended readings such as the "Four Agreements" by the shamanic teacher Don Miguel Ruiz and he highlighted the creative temperament we should show when dealing with others. Mr. Greco's raw emotion and drive was definitely an empowering stop on the student's tough schedule ahead. Pedro Suarez was especially grateful when he thanked Mr. Greco for volunteering his time and his honesty.

Our final two guests were Dan Fried and Melanie Jones. Mr. Fried was the director of the movie *O* which "won the Golden Needle for Best Director at the 2001 Seattle Film Festival and became Lion's Gate's then second largest grossing theatrical release and then largest home video title." Ms. Jones manages the sale of Kodak Motion

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The Communicator

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May Issue:
April 18

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

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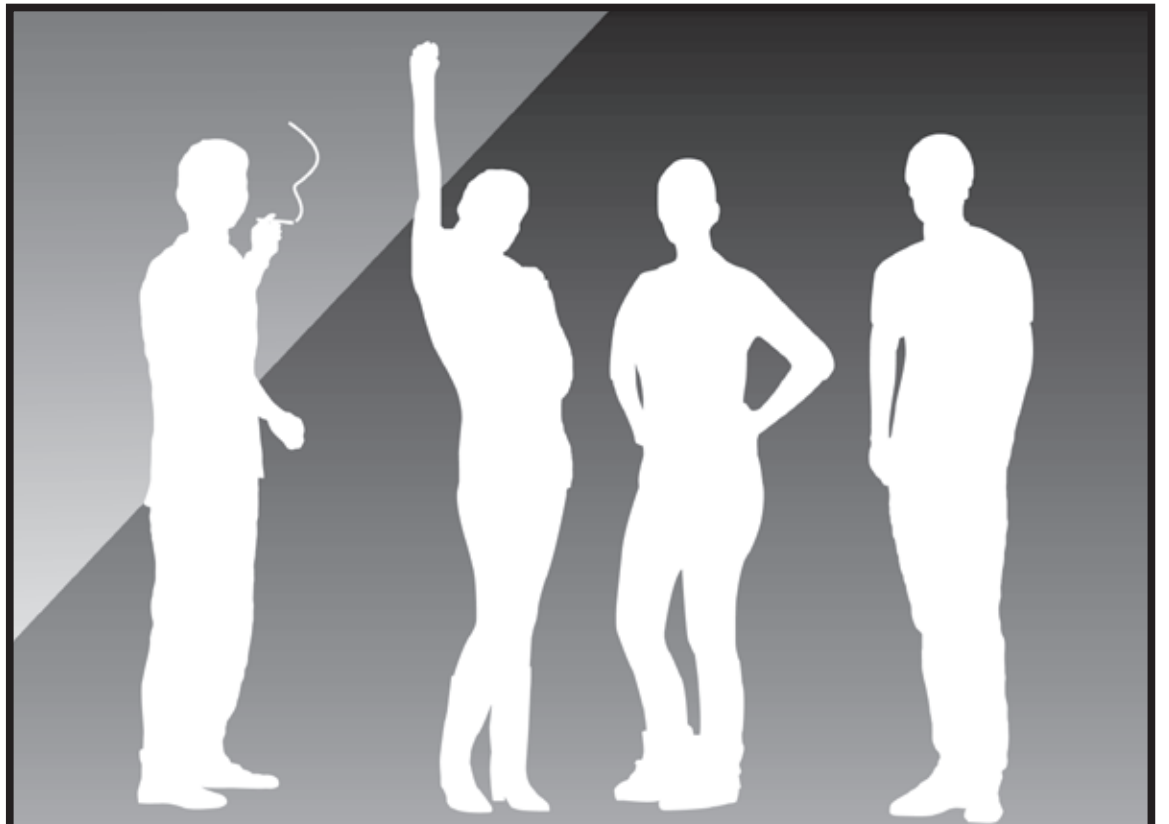
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Campus News

BCC Students' First Stop to Films

Continued from page 1

Picture Film to Television, Commercial, Documentary and Narrative Feature Film productions. Both gave incredibly valuable feedback and important critiques to every student that they listened to. Mr. Fried personally stood out to me because we spoke about the importance of images within the narrative of a film. Ms. Jones took a liking to Natalie, last year's film festival winner, and her newest film idea.


With this trial finally complete and the motivational talks of this past month serving as templates for the long journeys ahead, the students are now on their way to that dream. And in June, in a theater packed with loved ones and film aficionados, the dreams of twelve BCC students will be realized as the lights go down for the first time.



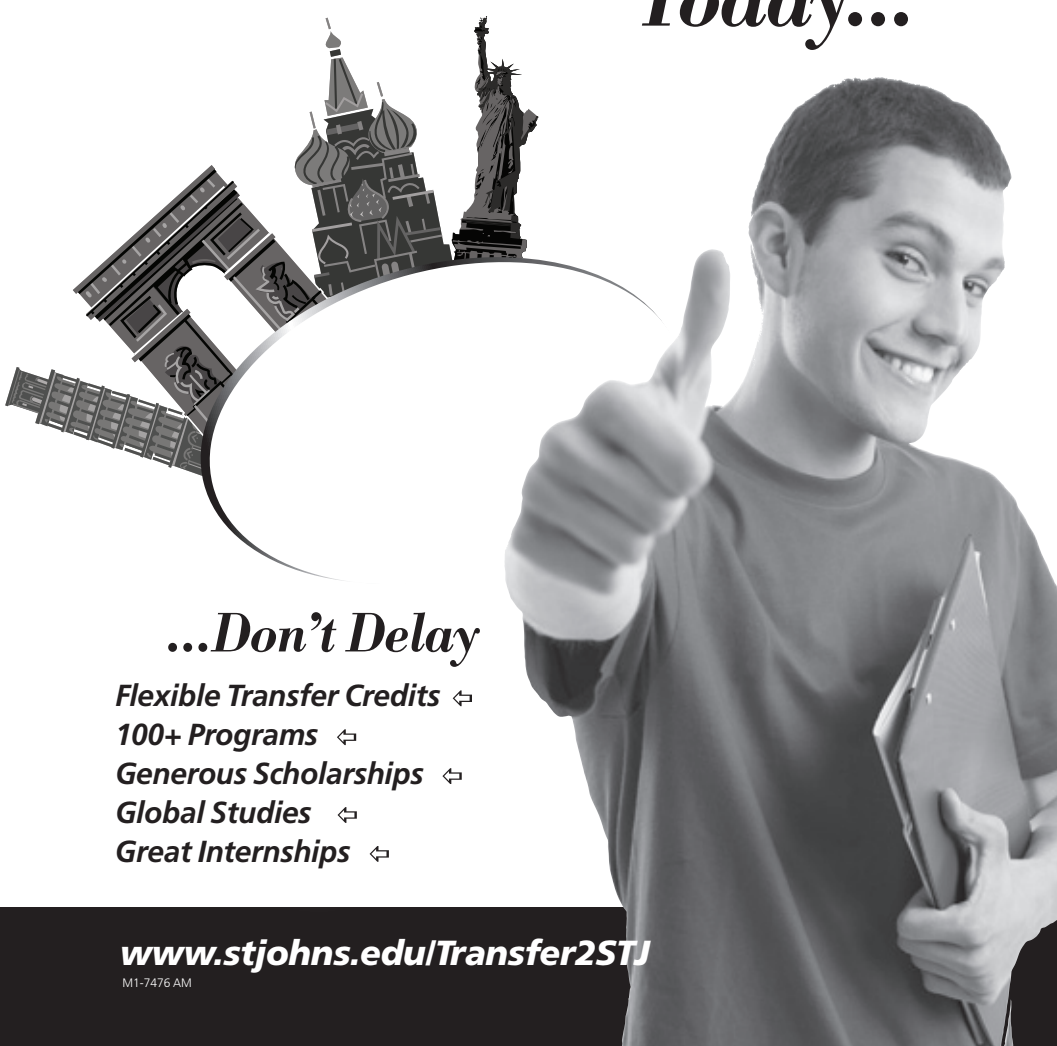
Daniel Fried and Melanie Jones standing with students and Professor Jeffery Wisotsky of the Media Tech & Film Society. Mr. Daniel Fried became a film producer in 1997 and set up projects American Knight at Universal Pictures, Rumble in the Jungle at Showtime, and then in 1998 he produced the film O. Melanie Jones has managed Kodak's sponsorship of numerous film festivals and she has been an active member of many industry organizations. She has served on the Board of New York Women in Film and Television and CINE. She also serves on the Board of the Association of Independent Commercial Producers as well as the Advisory Board of D.C. Women in Film and Video.



Joshua Bisono gaining some advice from Marco Greco. Marco Greco is an artist born in the Bronx. He was the co-founder and executive director of the Belmont Italian American Playhouse from 1991-1996, where he participated in over 30 productions as an actor, director, writer and co-producer. He was the co-founder and executive director of the Belmont Italian American Playhouse from 1991-1996, where he participated in over 30 productions as an actor, director, writer and co-producer.



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Films by Carl Zumatto and Juan Rodriguez



For two Bronx Community College Media Technology students the Academy Awards or the Cannes Film Festival are always a dream.

Media Technology Students students, Carl Zumatto and Juan Rodriguez, were selected as finalists in this year's 24th Annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival. The thirteen finalist works were selected from over 123 entries submitted by film and videomakers from around the world. The two five-minute short films were produced in Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky's CMS 62, Beginning Film & Video Production, class, and they were premiered at the 18th Annual BCC Film and Video Festival held at Clearview Cinema in June 2011. The 24th annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival was held on February 17-19, 2012 at Voorhees Hall on the College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Festival included a different program each evening.

Campus News

20 Questions with Dr. H. Elizabeth Smith

By Alcy Leyva

1. What is your favorite building on campus?

The first one that came to mind is Gould (Memorial Library). Even though that's probably everyone's favorite. But, maybe, my new favorite building will be the library because I've watched that grow from a parking lot. I think it's such a beautiful building and such an integrated part of the campus structure. And can I tell you what my least favorite building on campus is?

Sure.

Meister. I can't stand that place. I think it's very ugly.

I think there are a lot of people who agree.

2. How long have you been teaching?

In my life? Twenty years.

3. What is in your perfect sandwich?

(*Without a pause*) Whole wheat bread with mustard on one and mayonnaise on another, cheddar, tomato, lettuce, avocado.

Wow. I love asking that question because it tells so much about a person's personality. And there are so many people who stammer at the question. But I also love it when people just say "Listen, this is how it is..." (*Laughs*) It's a really good sandwich.

4. What was the last song you danced to?

I don't know if I can answer that question because I dance a lot to my daughter's music even though I don't know it. The popular music. So I'll just say "Flo Rida." Whenever that comes on the radio, I mean that's a big hit.

5. Got it. Next question. Zombie invasion: crossbow or shotgun?

Shotgun, for sure.

6. Steven Spielberg is shooting a movie on your life. Which actress, alive or dead, would you like to see play you?

Marilyn Monroe. That would be funny.

7. Your best cooked dish?

Lately, roasted brussel sprouts.

Really? And how does that happen?

It's very easy. You put a bunch of brussel sprouts in the

oven, a little olive oil, a little salt and pepper, roasted. My mother just taught me that recipe.

8. Great. A train leaves Chicago going south at 20 mph. A similar train leaves Istanbul with rare elephants as cargo on its way west. What is your favorite contemporary TV show?

I don't watch TV. You can write that down. Ever, if I can help it.

9. Your favorite non-English word?

Insha'Allah which is Arabic for 'god-willing.' I'm always saying that.

10. What book do you believe everyone should have read before they die?

Barbara Kingsolver wrote a book ... Can I call my mother?

You want to phone a friend during this interview?

(*After phone call*) It's called The Poisonwood Bible. It's so good.

11. Someone is writing a book on your BCC teaching career. The title is...?

Too Nice? In Defense of a Compassionate Pedagogy: The Teaching Life of H. Elizabeth Smith.

Wow.

That's good, right?

That is rich. I would pick that up ... to peruse. I would probably put it back down, but I would definitely look through it once.

(*Laughs*) (Note: For anyone who has ever heard Dr. Smith's laugh, you can already imagine how infectious it is. And if you haven't heard it yet, you're missing out.)

12. Least favorite sport?

Least favorite? Fencing – not that I've ever done it. Oh! Golf. Can you put golf instead?

Yes. I'll even put both because I like how it dawned on you, "Oh. There's something worse than (fencing)."

Yes.

13. Team Jacob or Team Edward?

(*Confused*) No clue.

Thank you. That's actually the right answer.

14. What wild animal would you take in as a pet?

A baboon.

15. Your least favorite subject in grade school?

(*No pause*) Math.

16. And since your mother was already introduced to us, what song do you associate with your mother?

The song I was thinking of regarding my mother is "I Will Survive" – more for the rhythm and that wonderful mental image of her dancing and cooking to this in the kitchen with my 13 year old daughter than the lyrics, but whatever. I also wanted to tell you that when you asked about the song I associated with my mother I thought first of the music I associate with my father (may he rest in peace)--Bach's Brandenburg Concertos on Sunday mornings--I would be so happy if you could include this too. It's a fun contrast!

17. Motto you live by?

That's a really nice question. I would probably have to say the 'Golden Rule' which is "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." I would have to say that this was engrained in me at a very early age.

18. In Kafka's Metamorphoses, the main character, Gregor, turns into a...?

Cockroach?

I really love this question because it's almost relative. I went to Denver and spoke to some people there and they immediately said "hard-shelled beetle." It's almost like people project there sense of a "disgusting" insect. For us, we go with cockroach. For people from Denver, beetles are pretty gross and repulsive. That's interesting.

19. Two more questions to go. Three feet of snow or 110 degree weather?

110 weather. I hate the snow. Give me a 110.

20. Last question. How did you find these questions?

Fun. Except for the fact that I realize that I'm losing my memory.

The Rainbow Alliance Club on BCC's Campus

By Keyunna Singleton

The Rainbow Alliance Club would like to formally greet the students, faculty and staff of BCC. The club has been on campus for a little under two years and since most of the students that founded and joined the club when it first emerged at BCC are graduating, we'd like to send a message that the club is not going anywhere. The Rainbow Alliance Club is Bronx Community College's very own chapter of LGBTQ representation throughout the CUNY system. Almost every school in CUNY has a LGBTQ club to support, protect, encourage, and educate the masses about their LGBTQ community. Some schools even have two or more.

This is the goal of the Rainbow Alliance Club here at BCC. Overall, the club wants to stand as a safe haven for all members and supporters of the LGBTQ community. The club encourages all students that are or know members of the community to join our club or visit us during club meeting hours to sit in on discussions or ask questions they feel need to be answered. The Rainbow Alliance protects all students and staff on campus that are open about their relational attraction to the same sex. The club also supports the members of the LGBTQ that have decided that they are not ready to come out. The club understands that everyone affiliated the LGBTQ community comes from a different background and has a different outcome to "coming out."

The biggest goal of the Rainbow Alliance Club is to educate the people that aren't a part of the LGBTQ community. The purpose of education is to prevent or eliminate prejudice on and off campus. The club also looks to educate the members of the community on topics such as how to properly handle verbal and physical discrimination and much more. The club meets every Thursday from 12 pm – 2 pm in Colston Hall, room 723. Our members are very supportive individuals who make time to assist the needs of other members of the LGBTQ community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the advisor Edwin Roman, who has been an advocate for the equality of the LGBTQ for many years, and also to Sharon Chin, who is one of the founders of the club and a major supporter and advocate for the LGBTQ community. An additional thank you must go to the SGA and the Office of Student Life for supporting the needs of the club and to the officers that are holding positions, have held positions and will hold positions in the future. Lastly, thank you to the members of the club and the LGBTQ community. These are the people that give the Rainbow Alliance Club reason and purpose. The club is looking forward to seeing many new faces over the years and is inviting everyone regardless of sexual preference to join or visit the club.

Oxfam is Looking for CHANGE-makers!



Oxfam America is accepting applications for the CHANGE Initiative, Oxfam's national student leadership and organizing program. They are seeking your support to spread awareness among student leaders at BCC about this opportunity. CHANGE offers college students, at US based campuses, entering their sophomore or junior year the opportunity to become effective agents for social change.

CHANGE Leaders:

- Have access to expert skills based training, resources, materials and year-round support from Oxfam staff;
- Establish connections and share knowledge with college students from the US and beyond;
- Develop confidence and lifelong skills to create positive, lasting social change, and
- Are part of an active and growing, global network of peers and alumni working on justice issues.

Applications are due on April 2, 2012. Selected students participate in a week-long training in Boston, July 21-27, 2012, which is organized and paid for by Oxfam. Students must agree to join or form an Oxfam Club and implement an Oxfam campaign on campus during the 2012-13 academic year, as well as communicate regularly with Oxfam staff about their work.

Watch Oxfam's CHANGE video at: <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/change>. If you have any questions please call 1-800-77-OXFAM ext. 9415 or email CHANGE@oxfamamerica.org or CHANGE@oxfamamerica.org.

Campus News

Artists of the Month

By Aisha Sidibe

GABRIEL FREIRE / VISUAL ARTIST

“I chose the arts because it’s the most fulfilling”

The man on campus that everyone loves to look at. I first met Gabriel Freire in my first semester here at BCC. We were both in an English class and we both liked to speak passionately about the array of topics touched in that class. Those were funny times, actually. I was happy to find that he was actually as intelligent as he looked. Soon I got to his artwork. Watching him paint and draw was so intense that I ended up writing some of my best works with him serving as my muse.

Though Gabriel seems laidback his mind is a paradox of things only he can understand. He is highly productive and kind. So his artistic coming out story is a bit more... abstract. “I had a dream after watching *The Terminator*, I was really young, and I also had this thing with wolves. So in the dream it was this picture of a half Terminator and a half wolf, you know, with the red eyes”

He decided to draw it but he did not have the anticipated end result. “I was so mad my style wasn’t up to par. So I decided that one day I will be capable enough to draw out my dreams.”

I asked him about what inspires him and he responded with something I am sure most artists of any genre can relate to: “I’m crazy, I have a world in my head ... I work with that”

“The better the mind, the better the art”

Gabriel plans on getting into the conceptual art industry for anime and video games. He has applied to Pratt Institute amongst other schools renowned for their art programs. I’m still waiting for some of his artwork that



Gabriel Freire, visual artist

I can turn out for a fortune in a few years. For sure he will create a niche for himself in the artistic movement of our time.

JAMAL FELIX-SPANN ‘TENTH’ / SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

“We have to be the Historical Voice”

I did not know what to expect when entering last semester’s Poetry Lounge. I sat down and hear some amazing poetry but then Jamal Felix-Spann ‘Tenth’ came up and reminded me about the importance of the spoken word. Each of his words resonated with tradition, with heavenly call and with wrath---the succulent wrath of the Poet. This was just in the pitch of his voice. With his words came monstrous heat. Hearing truths make people hot. I found myself taking off layers of clothes so I could allow his truths to penetrate and so that I would no longer be afraid. In short – Jamal ‘Tenth’ – Hell Yea! He is an amazing spoken word artist.

When interviewing him I expected a great story about his artistic breakthrough and he did not disappoint. It began with the music his grandmother played in the living room. He found himself getting lost in it. So, at the age of eight he began to write. He wanted to somehow express the emotions the music evoked in him. His grandmother hosted Black Panther parties in which he was asked to perform at such a young age. Jamal’s biggest inspiration is Doom.

“We have to tell people what is going on”

With his daughter and biggest critic in mind, he reflects, listens to speeches and music from this he reigns in truths and writes. He is also deeply helped by his martial

art practices.

Jamal is working on becoming an environmental lawyer and has been volunteering in the community to help with the education of those who couldn’t otherwise get good education like those in the prison systems.

AARON WARING / DIGITAL FILM DIRECTOR-WRITER

“I’m a bundle.”

The BCC film master with a killer smile. I met him in one of the Creative Writing Club’s (CWC) writer’s circles. He was and still is always cool, collected and kind. I understood he was a writer and a good one. He did not mention in his immediate introduction was that he was also a cinematographer, a photographer, and a director and he was pretty good at it. Then I watched his Pepsi commercial and now I am convinced of his talent.

Aaron started out as a writer and realized that he wanted to see the images floating in his head, so he transitioned into film. When I asked him about his inspirations he had a lot to say and ended with: “I am so diverse. I want to shoot a collage [of] different artistry.”

“I want to be timeless.”

Aaron is working on building a media house-corporation. He is also has a reality web series called “The Barber’s Hustle.” He is currently majoring in media tech and will be applying to NYU, Brooklyn College, and City College.



Aaron Waring, filmmaker, 2nd from the left



Jamal Felix-Spann, spoken word artist


BCC Oxfam Hunger Banquet

Sponsored by Student Government Association

Date: 04/05/2012

Time: 12-2p

Place: RBSC Rm 211




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The purpose of this event is to educate and inspire critical thought and dialogue regarding international poverty, hunger and injustice.

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Campus News



Hunger Banquet to be Held on BCC Campus on March 22, 2012 NYPIRG's Ongoing Hunger and Homelessness Campaign to Combat and Raise Awareness of Hunger and Homelessness throughout Spring 2012 Semester Volunteers needed for event, campaign, and other NYPIRG campaigns.

The Bronx Community College chapter of the New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG) is engaged in an ongoing campaign to combat and raise awareness of Hunger and Homelessness that exists both here in the Bronx and on a global scale. "Poverty is a serious issue that students can have a direct impact on," Brett Vetterlein, Project Coordinator for BCC NYPIRG said, "Students here at BCC can join NYPIRG and see the impact of their work immediately."

On March 22, 2012, NYPIRG will be hosting a "Hunger Banquet" on the BCC campus, exact location TBA. A Hunger Banquet is an educational/awareness event where participants are randomly assigned a level of poverty or wealth as they enter. That assignment dictates the participant's seat assignments, access to food and more throughout the event. Some participants have full plates of food, while their neighbors have little more than a cup of

rice. The event highlights the widespread nature of hunger and the fact that access to basic goods can easily depend on chance. Volunteers to prep/facilitate event needed.

The Hunger Banquet will be the second event of the Spring 2012 Hunger and Homelessness campaign. The first event is the "Homeless Care-Package Supply Drive" taking place on campus between 2/14 and 2/24. This drive entails NYPIRG members and interns collecting toiletries, food, and clothing articles which will be donated through direct outreach to the homeless of the Bronx. Items to be collected include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap/hand sanitizer, toilet paper, socks, underwear, snacks, wet wipes, etc. Direct outreach distribution of items collected will occur late March-early April. Volunteers for distribution needed.

NYPIRG's current campaigns include Hunger and Homelessness, Higher Education Affordability, Straphanger's (Public Transportation Advocacy), Consumer Rights, Environmental Protection, Sustainable Energy, and Voter Rights/Registration. Students who are

interested in getting involved with NYPIRG campaigns by volunteering and/or becoming a member/intern, are welcome at NYPIRG's weekly meetings during club hours in Meister Room 226 or can get more information at the NYPIRG office Meister 214 Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM. Membership/internship/volunteering with NYPIRG provides students with invaluable skills and experiences for advocacy and community service. These skills and experiences contribute to a complete collegiate experience and thus a well-rounded student regardless of his/her major or career path.

NYPIRG Intern Josue Lopez points out, "All too often we submit to the existence of inequality with convenient stance of 'that's just how the world is.' We must realize that we do not live in the reality that has been created; rather we create the reality in which we live. NYPIRG offers students the tools with which to tackle the issues they care about."



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Outside the Quad

Why the Giants' Super Bowl Win Was Important

By Alcy Leyva

New Yorkers have short-term memories. No matter how good a particular week is shaping up to be, it only takes one painful minute for us to throw up our hands and declare the end of the world on the horizon. This can be especially said of our fanatical obsession with sports. In a way, New York sports are the glue that holds this whole society together and keeps civil strife away from our street corners and all two hundred Starbucks locations. The Giants' Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots alone proves that this city runs on the adrenaline of its sports teams.

But the Big Blue victory carries with it even more significance than just bragging rights. Sports bars and restaurants were sold-out on reservations for the big game. Brother Jimmy's on 14th Street alone was already booked almost an hour after the division championship game. The boost in our city's economy aside, this was a time for New York to do what it does best: declare itself infinitely better than everyone else on the planet. And what better way to do it than standing beside that person who hovered too close to you on the N train on the way over?

New York is the city most people, especially sports fanatics, love to hate. There is a reason why the Yankees are known around baseball as the Evil Empire. Sports culture loves its villains. It is almost a necessary requirement. The Knicks of yesteryear – Sprewell, Ewing, Starks, Davis, Oakley – were considered the bullies of the NBA. The more physical they played, the more the non-Knick fans rolled their eyes and ground their teeth. Not only were they staples of every Eastern Playoff run, but they sported some of the most memorable NBA moments

of that era. I still have nightmares of then-coach Jeff Van Gundy holding onto a man's leg as he was dragged around the court like a ragdoll during a bench-clearing brawl. I still hear the rousing chorus as Reggie Miller lit up the Knicks with one three-pointer after another or when Jordan dropped fifty-five points in Madison Square Garden like he paid to keep the lights on. These were teams people needed. These were teams sports needed.

The Yankees of the last ten years are no strangers to poison-drenched looks of almost everyone in the other forty-nine states. Heck, we have some right here on our own turf. Step one foot into Queens and start talking about Derek Jeter's legacy and a Mets fan will probably do nothing short of burn the man in effigy. If you have not seen the video of Pedro Martinez drop Don Zimmer to the ground during a volatile Red Sox/Yankee game, pull it up on the Internet and read the comments. Martinez was one of the most disliked pitchers in the game at the time. He threw at batters, he threw at umpires, he threw at fans most of the time. And when he could not sink any lower, he tossed a seventy-two year old man to the ground in front of millions and the world ... laughs? It was disgusting, sure, but all of a sudden, Martinez became a hero for standing up to the Empire.

The Giants' Super Bowl win has a chance to change all of that. Before, the New York City sports team was one that people hated just because we were easy to hate. With all of their "bullying," the Knicks have not won a championship since 1973. And even though the last Yankee parade was in 2009, they are still hated and reviled by anyone not in pinstripes. The Giants have a chance to

make a team hated, not for their physical play or money flaunting, but because – very plainly – they are the team to beat.

The Giants did not roll into the Super Bowl as arrogant kings riding blazing steeds of burning awesome. They actually entered the game against the Patriots as 3-point underdogs with the over-under set at 53 1/2 points. Eli Manning was interviewed before the game and he spoke about the hard-nosed, pure-guts play style that got them to the big dance. He also revered Head Coach Tom Coughlin's strict and rigorous work and practice ethic as playing a vital role for their Super Bowl berth. And it was with this never-say-die attitude that Manning led the Giants to their second win over the Pats, a team that went 13-3 in the regular season led by the future hall-of-fame quarterback, Tom Brady. This does not exactly sound like a bunch of guys you hate because of their character. The Giants outplayed every team they met in the playoffs, right into the fourth quarter when Manning and the defense took over.

The world needs New York City. We house the financial backbone of the country and more overpriced hotdog vendors than most states have in their entire history. But the world also needs our sports teams to step up, just like the Giants have. It is far easier to be hated when you have the rings to back it up. So, I say, support Linsanity while it's still here and hope that our offseason trades will net another Yankee championship. It's time we let our team accomplishments speak for themselves.

Single Stop

Single Stop provides Bronx Community College students and their immediate families with access to benefits and services that help students stay in school and graduate. Whether it is afterschool programs, health insurance, legal advice, debt solutions, childcare, or government benefits, we can help to identify the services that are available to you. Single Stop offers the following:

Free Benefits Screening
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If you have questions about divorce, child support, employment, housing, debt collection, public assistance, or another topic, come to the Single Stop office for a free and completely confidential consultation. Our attorney is on campus every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer any legal questions you have. Contact us to make an appointment.



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Going Global



Discovering Japan

By Rafael Coste

Traveling around the world has been something that I have dreamed of since I was a kid. The first time that I heard about the idea to study abroad for a month the first thing that came to mind was that I would be doing that as soon as possible, so I ended enrolling in a program. Last winter I went to Japan with a group of students of different CUNY colleges. I had the opportunity to take a class in international business at Rikkyo University; one of the best business schools in Japan located in Tokyo, learning about the different process of how to introduce a business to another country, focusing in the Japanese market – a really hard place to do business because all the regulations imposed by the local government. Also I took a class in Japanese culture, which helped me understand more about this amazing culture and some important facts that people should know before they enter to a market with a lot of competition.



I applied for STOCS and received a grant for \$1,300. Receiving this grant helped me to cover some of the expenses of the trip. Usually most of the students might think that the process to go and study abroad is really hard, but the reality is that it is not. Getting in contact with another culture really different from ours is something priceless. It helps you in many different aspects of your life as well as it gives you the chance of getting better job opportunities after college as well as supporting your transferability to a four-year college. In my case, I just got accepted to Baruch College and they already started talking to me if I would be interested working in their study abroad office as well as enroll in some international programs for the coming fall semester.

Having had the opportunity to go to Japan has been for me a very important change in my life. Being able to appreciate a culture that has been able to progress year after year despite its moments of crisis has been interesting for me. It is also incredible to see how Japanese culture has been climbing year after year despite the crisis that today affects the entire world allocating them in the list of the countries with one of the strongest economies around the world. Being able to see how people are really respectful to each other have help me to understand how important education is and how by being educated we can change many things around us.

Having been in Japan has not only made me make new friends, but has also given me the opportunity to go to many interesting places. The power of being in contact with another culture has made me grow in an impressive manner. This experience has definitely helped enhance my personal growth and development, which I think are some of the key reasons why we are in college.

This great experience has given me the opportunity to show how culturally rich our planet is and what a variety of things it offers us. So far, it has definitely been the most rewarding experience that I have had in my life. Japan has marked a before and after in my life and it is greatly recommend to all students to have the opportunity to study abroad. There are many destinations to which you can go and make your live more interesting and what a better way to learn of a new culture by living, learning and getting accustomed to a new place with different traditions, religions, languages, and food. Do it and see how great it is. Japan, Russia, Australia, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, England, Egypt, South Africa, and many more are waiting for you! What are you waiting for?

Bronx Community College Students Confront the Holocaust

Fifteen Bronx Community College students participated in an overnight trip to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. They were part of a larger group of eighty-eight from across CUNY and SUNY. The experience was overwhelming. “I knew it was horrible,” one said, “but you really have to see it to realize how completely awful it all was.” Another, Brantuo Akuoko, said the images had even changed some of his perspective on history, and life. Although Jews were always Hitler’s chief victims, a third noted that many Roma (gypsies), gay people and other “asocial” types were also targeted.



The museum presents a comprehensive overview of the development of anti-Semitic hatred, from Hitler’s coming to power in January 1933, through the genocide of the European Jewish population that only ended in 1945. What was especially striking in the early period of Hitler’s rule was his indoctrination of the young. This was most terrible in the universities, which even before the establishment of the Nazi state had been allowed by school authorities to become hotbeds of anti-Jewish hatred.

The museum then traced the creation of Jewish ghettos, many of them in Poland. Film clips of conditions there were horrifying. The suffering of children was particularly appalling. As one visitor later said, “We use the word ghetto a lot in modern music. We even glorify it. I didn’t realize ghettos were anything like this.” The most moving, and terrible, part of the museum was its graphic depiction of mass murder. It was sometimes very difficult to look at. The inclusion of a railroad freight car, similar to the ones used to transport millions to their deaths, as well of thousands of shoes taken from those killed at Auschwitz, made the experience more immediate. It was therefore with some relief that students toured the final exhibits about liberation, and those brave individuals who risked their lives to help others. They found additional relief in a stop at the Martin Luther King memorial. For many, it was also their first glimpse of some of the city’s sights.

The Hillel organization of the University of Maryland, which had provided several meals during the March 3-4 trip, was also the site of an excellent debriefing by a member of the museum staff. As she reminded the CUNY participants, the museum has a powerful message for us today. It is that racial and ethnic hatreds must never be ignored in the hope that they will just go away. Although difficult, it is necessary to fight prejudice among one’s own family and friends. Bigoted statements must never go unanswered.

History Department Professor David Gordon, who teaches courses about genocide both at the College and the CUNY Graduate Center, also believes the museum trip has a broader effect, since students who participate then educate others about the horrors of ethnic and racial hatred. This cannot be overestimated. We therefore also owe the David Taub family, whose generous contributions made all this possible, a considerable debt of gratitude. Queens College Hillel, the overall organizer of the trip, is also to be commended.

Students are encouraged to participate in next year’s trip, which takes place in early March, and should register with History Department faculty in February.

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Poetry Corner



Memorializing Whitney

By William Murray

(I wrote this poem Tuesday, September 15, 2009 after Whitney Houston was on *The Oprah Show*.)

I knew Cissy would not lose Whitney to Satan
I was memorializing Whitney, and praying she'd
get her life straightened
To hear that superhuman voice again, so sanctified
and sacred

I knew God was going to ease her soul, depose
disease
And for sure He's going to restore her whole by
divine degrees
And I knew Cissy would not lose Whitney to
Satan

Our spirits are God's for the taking and with them
God does remake and refinish
And she specially made in His graven image
Made me trust God would see her sins remitted

Maven Whitney whose songs are our haven; who
sings like a raven
We prayed, memorializing what was created
So it wouldn't be lost all because Satan

I knew God was going to ease her soul though,
and depose disease
And for sure, He's going to restore her whole by
divine degrees
To hear that superhuman voice again, so sanctified
and sacred, lifted
up to his praise

Whitney Houston Remembered

By William Murray

"I didn't want to dream so all alone --
When Whitney Houston cried "How will I know?"
Her voice so squeaky-resonant my own
falsetto (unabashedly, I sang

along) could hardly even touch its depths...
I didn't care. I knew the melody
would never really set me free, I was
so utterly bereft. Yet not alone--

I knew a woman's voice was saving me"
-- Rafael Campo

It was November 1992 and I had just turned ten years old, merely two years before my father died. I remember going to his apartment building – 2929 Bainbridge Avenue, in the Bronx – to have sleepovers with my relatives Liz and Lisa. My father had major obsessive-compulsive disorder, so we would have to tiptoe into his spotless kitchen during the wee hours if we wanted to listen to the radio past bedtime. For me, it was a real life Hasbro's game of "Don't Wake Daddy." If he awakened, it was rather like waking a sleeping giant. But we were given to the adventure, especially since *The Bodyguard's* hit single "I Will Always Love You" was widely played on almost every station. And so, I kept one ear out for my father's footsteps, and the other prepared to hear her voluptuous voice: the voice of Whitney Houston, like nothing else in this world.

I was a wannabe Walt Disney princess from a very young age. Singing was the first way I knew how to express myself without fear. And while all the other singers were jumping lightly, as you might say, Houston was raising the crossbar for the high jumps. Had I ever believed that my dad led a less-fixed lifestyle (fewer episodes of ritual cleaning and such), I would have even tried to convince him to admit Johnny Mathis' defeat. Then again, comparing Mathis and Houston is like trying to compare apples and oranges, vanilla and chocolate.

Well, after my father died, I cried. I cried a lot – perhaps as a reaction to the emotional tension or the unfulfilled bond. Still, very often I would listen to *The Bodyguard* soundtrack (and just one year later, the *Waiting to Exhale* soundtrack) and purge. I found I could eliminate destructive guilt through the appreciation of a song. It was hearing Whitney Houston that became my most healing experience. Then in 1996, *The Preacher's Wife* came out in theatres when I was fourteen. That was the same year I began coming out of the closet to my relatives and friends. I begged my first boyfriend James to take me to see the movie and he refused. Always the melodramatist, I had half a mind to break up with him right then. Unsurprisingly, James and I later turned out to be another case of apples to oranges.

Once when I was much, much younger, I somehow found out that Judy Garland died of an accidental overdose. My little heart, in trying to cope with the idea of the world losing people that were worth looking up to, lamented. That night I cried myself to sleep and involuntarily wet the bed. Tonight, all I can do is deplore this knotted stomach and lump brought to my throat. I felt like Houston was finally in competent care of herself and in the safe hands of people like Pastor Kim Burrell. I thought a rare ordinance was coming her way, and I prayed that God would please let there be a double portion of His spirit on her. I prayed and prayed that Houston would have a second anointing.

What I am left with are several fond memories. I remember once being told by a family friend who worked at St. Vincent's Hospital that she had the chance to serve as paramedic on the set of *The Preacher's Wife*. She was able to witness Houston singing at church for hours of uninterrupted rehearsal. She was in full form on that soundtrack, and I felt as if I'd savored a bit of Houston, secondhand. On Christmas in December of 2008 my friend Adam reserved two tickets for me and (my relative) Lisa to see Joshua Nelson and Cissy Houston at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Exactly one year later we returned to see Nelson perform again. When I talked to him after the show I mentioned Burrell and he told me that she was one of Houston's favorite singers.

One month later in early January 2010, the BET Honors were held and Burrell shocked Houston, an honoree, with a tribute performance of "I Believe in You and Me," from *The Preacher's Wife* soundtrack. Last but not least, two days after my most recent birthday, on November 11, 2011, Burrell and I discussed she and Houston performing a duet. I now feel that a return to popularity and/or success was not a means to her benefit. That's why I pray that Houston's passing is what finally outweighs her burdens.

I will always love you

Bill

In the Corner with God

By Alejandra M. Martinez

God's army is all you need, all one of Him.

Have you ever been in a situation where you have an army of many against you? These are men and women who seem to be godly people, who walk like Christians and talk like Christians, but they go against their teachings and vilify you. In other words, they look down at you as if you were the biggest sinner in the world, unworthy of being called a god-fearing individual. In the short time I have been a believer of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, I have had many encounters such as this one. Where, I was not only looked down upon, but spoken about. Humiliated. Aren't I lucky? God chose the lowest things of this world to shame the wise.

Let's look a little deeper.

Who was Moses in the Bible? He was a god-fearing man, but had many flaws. The one flaw which seemed to stand out the most was that he couldn't speak. Let's not forget that he focused on the fact that he believed himself unable to go out on his own. He needed Aaron wherever he went. In the Book of Numbers, we see in chapters sixteen and seventeen how 250 people went against Moses calling themselves the Godly ones of God, and the chosen ones. Does this story seem familiar to you? We should all be aware of the fact that sometimes in our Christian walk many come to stand against us. Sometimes even an entire church may go against you. But if we look closer, all of the people that were so called "Godly men" died under the wrath of the Lord. In a battle, all we need is all "I" of God. God's army is all we need, the only Holy one of Israel God, the mighty righteous God, the one and only God, whom died on the cross for me and you. Roman 8:31 says "If He is for us, then who against us?" When we see a whole army of easily withered men then we must say to them as Moses said to his enemy's "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy". This passage still seems to astonish me.

God's faithfulness is shown through every word that His scripture states. To me, "In the morning" means that brothers and sisters, a day will come when the Lord's light will shine among all those who persecute you and pursue you for no reason and that day is sooner than you may know. The fact is that God's faithful ones will remain and those whom call themselves holy with religiosity will be put to shame.

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- a student at BCC
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10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Where: Loew Hall Room 316
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Dates: January 23 – April 17, 2012

Eligibility: Students & their parents earning

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

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Campus News



Bronx Community College Community Service Award

NYC Service

Description/Purpose:

The Bronx Community College Community Service Award is one of the many ways the Student Government Association (SGA) would like to recognize students making a difference in their communities. We hope this award will raise school pride, increase BCC's presence within the community and encourage more students to take a leadership role in their neighborhoods.

Qualifications/Restrictions:

- Students must be registered for the spring 2012 semester at BCC.
- All hours must be logged in and verified by NYC Service:
 - Students must register with NYC Service at <http://www.nycservice.org/>.
- Students must supply proof of service from the organization where service is being provided by submitting a letter on official organization letter head.
- In addition to providing community service, students must submit a one page essay after completing 100 community service hours. The essay must address the following questions:



1. Why did you select this organization?
2. Describe the service you provided at this organization.
3. In what ways do you believe your service has impacted the community?
4. In what ways do you believe your service has impacted you personally?

- Students are restricted to one award per academic year and may not win consecutive semesters.
- Time spent working at a paid internship or job will not be counted toward community service hours.
- Only community service hours performed between September 2011 and May 2012 will be considered for this award.

Selection Process:

Students are will be evaluated in terms of hours completed and quality of the essay. Hours will be verified by NYC Service and proof of service from the service providing organization. A committee of SGA members, faculty and staff will score essays based on the following criteria: quality of writing, quality of experience, extent of contribution to the community.

Awards/Recognitions:

- Students must accumulate at least one hundred community service hours between September 2011 and May 2012.
- After serving a minimum of 100 hours, students will be provided with a BCC SGA sweatshirt. Photographs and essays of all student winners will be submitted to *The Communicator*.
- The top eight students will receive an award of \$200.
- The top ten students will receive certificates of service.
- The candidate with the most accumulated community service hours and best essay proving their impact on the community will receive a plaque, in addition to the \$200 award.
- Awards will be presented at the 2012 Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Submit Essays and verified hours to:

The Bronx Community College Student Government Association, c/o, Yvonne Erazo, Scholarship Coordinator, Bronx Center for Scholarship Information, Colston Hall, Room 528. **Deadline for submitting verified hours and essay: May 01, 2012.** Incomplete packages will not be considered.



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

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

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Finding Jobs Online

Search and apply for positions online by visiting our employment website, www.networknewyork.net, where you can create an account. The website is updated weekly with positions in banking, nursing, retail, office assistance, education, technology, and more.

C.O.P.E. as a Resource

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

C.O.P.E. Program

Loew Hall, Room 117
718.289.5603
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (By Appointment Only)



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- **APPLICATION FILING PERIOD** *March 1 – March 16, 2012*
The Student Government Association application filing period begins on *Thursday, March 1, 2012*. The final deadline for filing the *Declaration of Candidacy Form* with the Office of Student Life (ME 202) shall be *Friday, March 16, 2012 at Midnight*.
- **SERC APPLICATION REVIEW** *Tuesday, March 20, 2012*
The Student Election Review Committee will meet to review candidate's applications. Candidates must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the *Election Rules and Procedures*. *Tuesday, March 20, 2012*.
- **CANDIDATES MEET WITH SERC** *March 21, 22, 23, 2012*
Members of the Student Election Review Committee will meet with the approved candidates to discuss expectations, roles, responsibilities, and to answer questions about the election and SGA. *March 21, 22, 23, 2012* (by appointment).
- **CAMPAIGN PERIOD** *March 24 – April 28, 2012*
Approved candidates will have the opportunity to campaign and earn support for their candidacy. All candidates must adhere to the *Election Rules and Procedures* found in the application packet. *Sunday, March 24 – Saturday, April 28, 2012*
- **MEET THE CANDIDATES** *April 16 - 20, 2012*
The campus community will have the opportunity to meet with the approved candidates in an open forum to answer questions, share ideas and philosophies, and gain support for their candidacy. Additionally, feel free to schedule a one-on-one meeting with current senators. *Week of April 16, 2012. Meister Hall, Lobby (various times throughout day & evening)*
- **VOTING DATES** *April 23 – April 28, 2012*
All matriculated students will be allowed to participate in an official electronic election and vote for their preferred candidates. Students will vote on-line for up to 15 candidates. *Monday, April 23, 2012 – Saturday, April 28, 2012. (Voting will take place online)*
- **DEADLINE FOR APPEALS** *Monday, May 7, 2012*
Any candidate adversely affected by a determination of SERC shall, within seven (7) school days after the election, send a written appeal to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Loew 200) stating any alleged procedural impropriety. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management shall thereafter consider the appeal and present his/her findings as soon as possible.
- **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**
The Leadership Training will be attended by all the fifteen (15) senators elected to the Student Government Association. The on-campus training is typically five full days and one conference. The training is an opportunity to develop leadership skills and team building. This is also an opportunity to meet key campus administrators, faculty and staff. *June 13, and 14, 2012 & July 24, 25, 26, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Leadership Conference will be on June 15, 2012 at Lehman College.*
- **EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION** *Week of May 7, 2012, prior to May 16th*
Senators will vote amongst themselves to determine the executive positions of President, Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Legal Legislator. The Vice-President is chosen by the Inter-Organizational Council.
- **VICE PRESIDENT ELECTION** *Thursday, May 10, 2012*
The Vice-President of the Bronx Community College Student Government Association is chosen by members of the Inter-Organizational Council.
- **NEW LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE CONFERENCE** *Friday, June 15, 2012*
Meet with members of Student Governments from The City University of New York at a day-long conference hosted by Lehman College.



ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES

- Applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements for candidacy of Student Government Senator at Bronx Community College.
- All senators shall be matriculated students, registered for at least one (1) three credit course, and possessing a 2.0 cumulative index (2.5 for executive senators) at the time of filing for candidacy, which must be maintained.
 - Candidates for office shall not have more than 56 degree credits, in any particular curriculum.
 - A senator shall serve for a one (1) year term and shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
 - No senator of the SGA may be an officer of a club, component or organization on campus.
 - A student who has received an Associate's Degree from BCC cannot be an officer of SGA, the College Association Board, Auxiliary Enterprises Board, or serve on any committee of the College Senate.
 - Once elected, SGA Senators must have completed and earned passing grades in at least 50% of the credits for which they registered the prior semester. These requirements remain in effect during a Senator's one year term of office.
- Candidates may NOT go into classrooms and campaign, and instructors may NOT permit campaigning in classrooms.
 - Campaigning or literature distribution is NOT allowed within 100 feet of any voting booth site or any person who the candidate knows or should know to be voting.
 - Posters and flyers must be approved by the Office of Student Life prior to posting.
 - Candidates will have an opportunity to participate in a candidate forum or other campaign activities sponsored by the Office of Student Life.
 - Candidates must attend all mandatory meetings listed on the **Important Dates to Know** page found in the application packet.
 - The Offices of Student Life and Inter-Organizational Council will work together to assist candidates with duplication and advisory needs.
- Appeals:**
Any candidate adversely affected by a determination of SERC shall, within seven (7) school days after the election, send a written appeal to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Loew 200) stating any alleged procedural impropriety. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management shall thereafter consider the appeal and present his/her findings as soon as possible.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DATES:

- June 13, & 14, 2012
- June 15, 2012 Leadership Conference at Lehman College
- July 24, 25, & 26, 2012

Leadership training sessions will take place during above listed dates from 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.

WHO IS BEING ELECTED?

Fifteen (15) students from Bronx Community College to be Senators of the Student Government Association (SGA).

2. WHAT ARE THE DATES FOR THE APPLICATION FILING PERIOD AND ELECTION?

- The Student Government Association application filing period begins on *Thursday, March 1, 2012*. The final deadline for filing the *Declaration of Candidacy Form* with the Office of Student Life (ME 202) shall be *Friday, March 16, 2012 at Midnight*
- Students will vote on-line for up to 15 candidates. *Monday, April 23, 2012 – Saturday, April 28, 2012. (Voting will take place online)*

3. WHAT DOES THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DO?

A Student Government Association (SGA) is a body of students who are elected by their peers to represent and serve the student body. Once elected, Senators advise the campus administrators on matters affecting students.

The Student Government Association at Bronx Community College is comprised of 15 Senators. Every member of the SGA is also a senator with one vote in the BCC senate. The BCC senate has fifty-eight members including fifteen students. The BCC Senate has various subcommittees with important functions on campus related to curriculum, academic standing and student activities. Senators play a critical role in both the BCC Senate and its subcommittees.

Senators also participate in the Bronx Community College, Association Inc. (BCC, Inc.), a nonprofit arm of the College. One of the major functions of SGA is to participate in the budget allocation process to ensure benefits to the campus community as specified in the Board of Trustees By-Laws.

The SGA has various other important functions at BCC. It places members on all of the governing bodies of the College, collaborates with the Office of Student Life and Inter-Organizational Council to ensure relevancy of programs to the academic mission of BCC, and plays a key role in implementing programs that benefit the student body.

In addition to the various valuable opportunities for Senators to develop leadership skills, the five (5) executive officers of the SGA (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Legal Legislator) earn a stipend each semester.

4. WHAT IS THE STUDENT ELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (SERC)?

The Student Election Review Committee (SERC) in consultation with the Committee on Governance and Elections is responsible for approving the election procedures for SGA senators. The committee is made up of impartial students, faculty and administrators. Members of the SERC committee are approved by the current SGA and President of BCC.

5. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN FOR THE SGA?

The student must be matriculated, registered for at least one (1) three-credit course, have a cumulative index of at least 2.0 (2.5 for executive senators) and have no more than 56 degree credits in a particular curriculum. A new student (a student who started this spring) may not become a candidate; only a student who started in the fall 2010 semester or earlier may be a candidate if all other requirements are met. [Note: Cumulative index, until a student reaches 24 degree credits, is defined as the index for both remedial courses and degree courses; after 24 degree credits, cumulative index is defined as the index for degree credits only.]

6. CAN I RUN FOR A SPECIFIC OFFICE OF THE SGA?

Not initially. During general elections, students can only run to become one of the fifteen Senators of the SGA. The elected fifteen Senators in turn elect four executive officers (President, Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Legal Legislator). The Vice President is elected by the Inter-Organizational Council (IOC), the body that is composed of one representative from each club and college-wide organization. The Vice President of the SGA will also serve as chairperson to the IOC.

7. HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CANDIDACY?

Please complete the online application located at: <https://www.research.net/s/1213SGAApplication>
If you need the application in an alternate format, please contact the Office of Student Life at 718.289.5194 or visit us in Meister Hall 202.



Global Perspectives

Co-Curricular Activities 2012

<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/NationalCenterForEducationalAlliances/>

MARCH

Thursday, 3/1
GLOBAL FILM SERIES: *DANGEROUS LIVING: COMING OUT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD* (2003) • TU (OCD)

Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.
A FILM BY JOHN SCAGLIOTTI (60 MINUTES)
Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World is the first documentary to deeply explore the lives of gay and lesbian people in non-western cultures. Traveling to five different continents, heart-breaking and triumphant stories of gays and lesbians from Egypt, Honduras, Kenya, Thailand and elsewhere are told. These personal stories of coming out in developing nations shed light on an emerging global movement striving to end discrimination and violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people.
Moderated by Dr. Robert Maryks and guest faculty. The series is coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryks, Department of History.

Friday, 3/2
GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE BCC CLASSROOM • GH

Center for Teaching Excellence, Philosophy Hall, Lower Level/12-1 p.m.
Join HPEW faculty members Sue Moss and Mary Lou McNichol for a brown bag luncheon forum as they discuss how their own recent study abroad experiences have been integrated into their classroom work with students. The emphasis will be on the World Health Organization's global strategy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that aim to reduce maternal and infant death rates, as well as combat AIDS, malaria, and other neglected tropical diseases.
Coordinated by Dr. Sue Moss and Professor Mary Lou McNichol, Department of Health, Physical Education & Wellness.

Tuesday, 3/6
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: VOICES OF WOMEN • GW (OCD)

Colston Hall, Lower Level/12-2 p.m.
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.
The College's observance of Women's History Month begins with a celebration of the creative voices of women as well as the unveiling of the nominees for the 2012 Women's Virtual Hall of Fame. *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*, a documentary in honor of the 2007 WVHF inductee will be shown. There will also be a tribute to the women awarded jointly of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize – Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Inducted into the WVHF in 2009), Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work." The nine nominees for election to the 2011 WVHF in the following categories – Women from the Past, American Women from the Present, and International Women from the Present – will be introduced and voting will begin.
Coordinated by Professor Sarah Brady, Department of Communications; Dr. Kate Calkin, Department of History; Professor Janet Robertson, Department of English and the Writing Center; Professor Gloria Rodriguez, Department of Social Sciences; Dr. Yamar Roshenberg, Department of History; Dr. Mara Lasda, Department of History; Ms. Theresa Hammonds, Office of Career & Transfer; Ms. Chantelle Wright, Department of Student Development; Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Pelley, National Center for Educational Alliances; Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English; and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life.

Wednesday, 3/7 - 3/29
EXPLORING COMMON GROUND: ANCIENT TRADITIONS, MODERN INTERPRETATIONS (EXHIBIT) • GW, IC

Hall of Fame Gallery, Bliss Hall
Monday-Friday, 10am-12pm, or by appointment
This unique exhibit features women ceramic artists interpreting the past through their own modern-day experiences. Judith Leiric shows the traditional Japanese aesthetic of Wabi Sabi, Mara Gross highlights the primitive representations of human experiences, and Lisa Feldman's focus is religious symbology.
Coordinated by Professor Mary Jo Ben-Nun, Department of Art & Music; Hall of Fame Gallery, Bliss Hall Exhibit times: Monday-Friday, 10am-12pm, or by appointment

Wednesday, 3/14
OPENING RECEPTION • GW, IC
HALL OF FAME GALLERY, BLISS HALL/12-2 p.m.
EXPLORING COMMON GROUND: ANCIENT TRADITIONS, MODERN INTERPRETATIONS

Monday, 3/12
CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM • GA (OCD)

The Children's Center/10-11 a.m.
BCC's Early Childhood Center and the Office of Student Life provide a forum for children in the Center to learn about world culture and for many of them to receive books to read at home with their BCC student parents. Titles with global themes in children's literature will be chosen each month for this unique program.
Coordinated by Ms. Jitinder Walia, Child Care Center, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life.

Tuesday, 3/13
FILM: *MISS REPRESENTATION* • GW (OCD)

Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse, 12-2 p.m.
A FILM BY DANIEL G. KARSLAKE (101 MINUTES)
The documentary *Miss Representation* premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and aired on OWN: the Oprah Winfrey Network in October. It explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence.
Coordinated by Ms. Nirvana Burns, BCC Alumna, and Dr. Kate Calkin, Department of History; Professor Gloria Rodriguez, Department of Social Sciences and the Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 3/15
SGA "GO GREEN" WORKSHOP • SE (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Student Center, Room 310/2-4 p.m.
BCC's Student Government Association educates the student body about how to practice sustainability on campus and in everyday life.
Coordinated by Mr. William Murray, Mr. Alejandro Prieto, and Ms. Krizia Meynard, Student Government Association. Sponsored by the Student Government Association and Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 3/19
UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES • GA, GP (RESERVATION ONLY)

Location and Time/TBD
This semester's Fairleigh Dickinson University United Nations Pathways Video Conference will feature UN Ambassador Club President Ahmad Kamal and Mr. Maher Nasser, director of the

Outreach Division, Department of Public Information in New York (DPI) as they discuss "UN Department of Public Information Partnerships with NGOs: Rationale and Global Impact."
Coordinated by Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Pelley, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English.

Tuesday, 3/20
MAKING A CAREER IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY • GE, GT (OCD)

Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Geospatial Technology is an emerging field of study, a national priority in the United States and many other countries, and a rapidly growing sector in an industry that faces an acute shortage of skilled labor. In this session Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran will describe key components of this technology, emphasize the need to introduce students at BCC to this technology and discuss various career options for BCC students. Geospatial technology includes the tools and techniques used in land surveying, remote sensing, cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), global navigation satellite systems (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, Compass), photogrammetry, geophysics, and related forms of earth mapping. This 45-minute presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. The discussion will be relevant to all BCC students and staff who wish to explore this exciting technology and apply it to their disciplines.
Coordinated by Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, Department of Physics & Technology.

Thursday, 3/22
SGA'S 2ND ANNUAL DINNER FOR DIGNITY • TU (OCD)

Colston Hall, Lower Level/5-8 p.m.
The Student Government Association, the Inter-Organizational Council, and the Office of Student Life host this second annual dinner to honor campus and community champions of the LGBT community. This event will feature a surprise keynote speaker, leadership awards, and music.
Coordinated by Mr. Eric Sutton, Student Government Association, the Inter-Organizational Council, and the Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 3/29
A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN • GW (OCD)

Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.
BCC marks the end of Women's History Month with the induction of the 2012 members into the Women's Virtual Hall of Fame. Members of the Speech, Drama and Debate team will also be featured as they bring to life dramatic and enduring speeches by a dynamic group of women whose achievements have had long-lasting and widespread impact across the globe.
Coordinated by Professor Sarah Brady, Department of Communications; Dr. Kate Calkin, Department of History; Professor Janet Robertson, Department of English and the Writing Center; Professor Gloria Rodriguez, Department of Social Sciences; Dr. Yamar Roshenberg, Department of History; Dr. Mara Lasda, Department of History; Ms. Theresa Hammonds, Office of Career & Transfer; Ms. Chantelle Wright, Department of Student Development; Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Pelley, National Center for Educational Alliances; Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English; and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 3/29
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR • IS

Loew Hall, Room 200/12-2 p.m.
Please join us the last Thursday of each month to make friends, get involved, and start the weekend. The coffee is free!
Coordinated by Ms. Martha Charles-Glenn, Advisor, International Student Services.

BROWN-BAG DIALOGUES: TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING AT BCC • TU (OCD)

Location and Time/TBD
The Center for Tolerance and Understanding invites the College community to join us for informal brown-bag discussions that address issues of bias on the BCC campus.
Coordinated by the Center for Tolerance and Understanding Advisory Panel.

APRIL

Wednesday, 4/4-4/30
INFINITY II: THE DREAMTIME (EXHIBIT) • IC, GW

Hall of Fame Gallery, Bliss Hall
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., or by appointment
This month-long exhibit features New Jersey-based Korean artist So Yoon Lynn, who has spent parts of her life also in Kenya, Uganda and France. Her series of realistic acrylic on paper paintings of hair and braid patterns will be exhibited. Her interest in urban youth and identity have led her to paint this series of works focused on hair braids as worn by her multi-ethnic students in Paterson, New Jersey.
Coordinated by Professor Mary Jo Ben-Nun, Department of Art & Music.

Wednesday, 4/18
OPENING RECEPTION • GW, IC

Hall of Fame Gallery, Bliss Hall/12-2 p.m.
INFINITY II: THE DREAMTIME (EXHIBIT)

Thursday, 4/5
GLOBAL FILM SERIES: *A JIHAD FOR LOVE* (2008) • TU (OCD)

Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.
A FILM BY PARVEZ SHARMA (81 MINUTES)
Fourteen centuries after the revelation of the holy Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad, Islam today is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. Muslim filmmaker Parvez Sharma travels the many worlds of this dynamic faith, discovering the stories of its most unlikely storytellers: lesbian and gay Muslims. Winner of the GLAAD Media Award in 2009, *A Jihad for Love* was filmed in 12 countries and 9 languages and comes from the heart of Islam. Looking beyond a hostile and war-torn present, it reclaims the Islamic concept of a greater Jihad, whose true meaning is akin to 'an inner struggle' or 'to strive in the path of God.'
Moderated by Dr. Robert Maryks and guest faculty. The series is coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryks, Department of History.

Thursday, 4/5
SGA "GO GREEN" WORKSHOP • SE (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Student Center, Room 310/2-4 p.m.
BCC's Student Government Association educates the student body about how to practice sustainability on campus and in everyday life.
Coordinated by Mr. William Murray, Mr. Alejandro Prieto, and Ms. Krizia Meynard, Student Government Association. Sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 4/12
WORKSHOP: OPT & CPT WORK AUTHORIZATION • IS

Loew Hall, Room 200/12-2 p.m.
This workshop is geared towards International Students on F-1 Status who are interested in applying for work authorization from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This workshop provides information about requirements and eligibility to the students and help to prepare them for the application process.
Coordinated by Ms. Martha Charles-Glenn, Advisor, International Student Services.

Thursday, 4/15
OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET • GA, GH (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Student Center, Room 211/12-2 p.m.
The Student Government Association hosts the inaugural Oxfam Hunger Banquet to raise awareness about the inequalities of food distribution in our world. Students will learn how they can take a leadership role in addressing poverty and inequality locally and globally.
Coordinated by Ms. Faezina Ghoshalla, Student Government Association, and the Office of Student Life.

Thursday, 4/19
CUNY DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH FILM: *THE RIVER WARD* • TU (OCD)

Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.
A FILM BY BRIAN WICKMAN
Join the Office of Disability Services, the Office of Student Life, and student leaders for *The River Ward*, an engaging film that chronicles four individuals as they attend First Descents, a free week-long kayaking camp for young adults with cancer (ages 18-39).
Coordinated by Ms. Patricia Fleming, Office of Disability Services, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life, and student club leaders.

Monday, 4/23
CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM • GA (OCD)

The Children's Center/10 a.m.-11 a.m.
BCC's Early Childhood Center and the Office of Student Life provide a forum for children in the Center to learn about world culture and for many of them to receive books to read at home with their BCC student parents. Titles with global themes in children's literature will be chosen each month for this unique program.
Coordinated by Ms. Jitinder Walia, Child Care Center, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life.

Tuesday, 4/24
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION • SE, GA (OCD)

Meisler Hall Lobby/All day
Find out how to take a leadership role in campus and community sustainability efforts. Explore internship and job opportunities available now and in the future in the Green Economy. This event will feature New York City-based organizations and environmental and sustainability leaders.
Coordinated by Ms. Jameelah Muhammad, Center for Sustainable Energy; Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life; Professor Charmaine Along, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness; and Dr. Claudio Maccanetta, Department of Biology and Medical Lab Technology, and the Garden Club.

Thursday, 4/26
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL • SE, GA (OCD)

Various locations and times throughout the day
Guest speakers offer views about local and global environmental issues. Demonstrations and training will be offered on how to incorporate practical, energy-saving practices into everyday life.
Coordinated by Ms. Jameelah Muhammad, Center for Sustainable Energy; Dr. Farnush Saeidi, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology; Professor Charmaine Along, Department of Health, Physical Education & Wellness; Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life; Dr. Luis Montenegro, Department of Physics & Technology; and Dr. Claudio Maccanetta, Department of Biology & Medical Lab Technology, and the Garden Club.

Thursday, 4/26
CLIMATE CHANGE: ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1992 RIO EARTH SUMMIT • SE (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Student Center, Room 211/10 a.m.-12 p.m.
This program will give a brief history of climate change and then explore the impact of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) worldwide from Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to the last conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2011.
Coordinated by Dr. Claudio Maccanetta, Department of Biology & Medical Laboratory Technology.

Thursday, 4/26
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR • IS (OCD)

Loew Hall, Room 200/12-2 p.m.
Please join us the last Thursday of each month to make friends, get involved, and start the weekend. The coffee is free!
Coordinated by Ms. Martha Charles-Glenn, Advisor, International Student Services.

TBD
BROWN-BAG DIALOGUES: TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING AT BCC • TU (OCD)

Location and Time/TBD
The Center for Tolerance and Understanding invites the College community to join us for informal brown-bag discussions that address issues of bias on the BCC campus.
Coordinated by the Center for Tolerance and Understanding Advisory Panel.

MAY

Tuesday, 5/1
PANEL DISCUSSION: GENDER, FAITH & IDENTITY • GA, TU (OCD)

Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.
MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK EVENT
A panel of New York City experts, BCC faculty, and students will explore the intersection between gender, faith, and identity. Our multiple identities, often considered to be separate entities, are constantly shaping who we are as individuals. Participants will have the opportunity to explore their own identities and consider how their multiple identities shape their lives, especially as they relate to gender and faith.
Coordinated by the Office of Student Life.

Tuesday, 5/1
CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM • GA (OCD)

The Children's Center/10-11 a.m.
Join the Office of Disability Services, the Office of Student Life, and student leaders for *The River Ward*, an engaging film that chronicles four individuals as they attend First Descents, a free week-long kayaking camp for young adults with cancer (ages 18-39).
Coordinated by Ms. Jitinder Walia, Child Care Center, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life.

Tuesday, 5/1
UNITED NATIONAL PATHWAYS AMBASSADOR FORUM • GA (OCD)

Location and Time/TBD
BCC students will attend a special forum on the Teaneck Metro campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. UN Ambassador Club President Ahmad Kamal hosts the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations in a discussion on matters of global importance.
Coordinated by Barbara Schaefer-Pelley, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English.

Wednesday, 5/2
DISCUSSION: A DIALOGUE TO FOSTER CAMPUS TOLERANCE & UNDERSTANDING • TU (OCD)

Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/10 a.m.-2 p.m.
MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK EVENT
BCC students lead a discussion about intercultural competence. The program will focus on what students and other members of the campus community can do to foster tolerance and understanding on campus. This event will feature guest speakers from campus and the community.
Coordinated by the Office of Student Life, the Student Government Association, and the Inter-Organizational Council.

Thursday, 5/3
BCC DANCE WORKSHOP CONCERTS • IC (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Playhouse & Colston Hall, Lower Level Dance Workshop Performance, 12-1 p.m.
• African Students' Association Campus Parade, 1-2 p.m.
• Student Life & Student Government – BBQ & Global Music Concert 2-4 p.m.
• Dance Workshop Performance, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

BCC Dance Workshop, the African Students' Association, and the Office of Student Life team up for an exciting Multicultural Week program that features dances from around the world, an African parade, BBQ, and a global music fest. We will finish with a campus-wide parade. The performance will be repeated in the evening, followed by a concert in collaboration with the Office of Student Life.
Coordinated by Dr. Sue Moss, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness; Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life; and Mr. Eugene Adams, Collaborative Programs.

Thursday, 5/3
GLOBAL FILM SERIES: *GUN HILL ROAD* (2011) • TU (OCD)

Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.
A FILM BY BRIAN WICKMAN
An ex-con returns home to the Bronx after three year in prison to discover his wife estranged and his teenage son exploring a sexual transformation that will put the fragile bonds of their family to the test. Told with sensitivity, gentle humor, and a deep understanding of the environment that shapes its people, it is the story of a young man exploring his sexuality in an intolerant and judgmental world and his exploration's impact on his relationship with his parents and himself. This first feature film by writer/director Rashad Ernesto Green was a finalist for the esteemed Jury Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. A reception will follow the screening and discussion.
Moderated by Dr. Robert Maryks and director Rashad Ernesto Green. The series is coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryks, Department of History.

TBD
BROWN-BAG DIALOGUES: TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING AT BCC • TU (OCD)

Location and Time/TBD
A FILM BY BRIAN WICKMAN
The Center for Tolerance and Understanding invites the College community to join us for informal brown-bag discussions that address issues of bias on the BCC campus.
Coordinated by the Center for Tolerance and Understanding Advisory Panel.

Themes

- GA Global Awareness
- GP Global Politics
- GW Global Women
- GE Globalization and the Economy
- GH Global Health
- GT Global Technology
- IC International Culture
- IS International Students
- SE Sustainability and the Environment
- TU Tolerance and Understanding