

# THE COMMUNICATOR

March 11, 2014 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 2 – Spring 2014

## BCC's Salzburg Alumni Continue to Achieve



Two BCC graduates who attended the Salzburg Global Seminar Global Citizenship Program are making great strides in their post-community college academic and professional lives. We would like to salute them.



**Josue Lopez, Salzburg 2011, currently a Columbia University undergraduate**

After completing an associate's degree at Bronx Community College, I transferred to the School of General Studies at Columbia University. I am now studying Sociocultural Anthropology under some of the most diverse and renowned professors in the field. It is a joy to be in the company of many ambitious and imaginative students that Columbia University attracts from across the globe.

This summer, through Columbia's Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability, I will be participating in the Summer Ecosystem Experiences Program for Undergraduates (SEE-U). In the course of six weeks in the Atlantic Forest in Brazil, the SEE-U program will provide hands-on experience conducting

environmental fieldwork in a unique, natural setting.

It was my experience at the Salzburg Global Seminar that gave me an appreciation of the importance of environmental sustainability in the midst of this globalized industrial age. Participating in the seminar also gave me experience in working with a diverse group of peers in an international setting. The experience filled me with immense wonder at the opportunities available through higher education, inspiring me to make the most of my academic development. Most significantly, the Salzburg Global Seminar outlined our responsibilities as educated global citizens, cementing my conviction to direct my career goals towards the betterment of humanity.



Roy Nunez at the USDA, Washington, DC.

**Roy Nunez, Salzburg 2013, currently a Hunter College undergraduate**

I am a biology student at the Hunter College campus of the City University of New York and a current USDA-HACU (US Department of Agriculture/Hispanic Association for Colleges and Universities) intern at the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) office at the United States Department of Agriculture.

The HSI office works to forge and maintain strategic partnerships between the USDA and HSIs that provides equitable access to employment, educational and institutional development opportunities. As an intern I am currently working on promoting student programs, funding and collaborative opportunities that are available at the USDA for HSIs like my previous home college, Bronx Community College.

Working with my office I have the opportunity to bring resources that will make positive impacts in my community and my city as it continues to grow and prosper. The Salzburg Global Seminar reinforced the notion that through the lens and ambition of a global citizen, even the slightest changes in our routine lives can make an impact that can ripple through communities, cities and even nations.

As a Salzburg Global Citizenship Fellow, a USDA-HACU intern, and an aspiring scientist, I aim to continue making contributions to scientific research that will help our globe and humanity as civilization ensues. I am highly optimistic that a better tomorrow awaits and will continue playing my part accordingly as I participate in various other community and national based organizations, such as the New York Needs You Fellowship and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, that have and will continue to support me and many others who strive to make the world a better place.

## The Success of BCC Baseball

By Eon Adams

Winter is almost over and spring is on the horizon. What is associated with spring? Warm weather, April showers, Easter, flowers blooming, pastel colors, and – of course – baseball. March has arrived and BCC's baseball team is ready to continue the success from previous seasons. If you are looking to shake the winter blues, then a healthy dose of baseball will heat things up. The team Coach Adolfo DeJesus has assembled is a squad that isn't settling for anything but to add another championship to BCC athletics.

The road for Coach DeJesus' success started with his passion for sports, including baseball. His story began at George Washington High School in 1975 as a pitcher. He was recruited by then baseball coach Gus Constantine and decided to enroll in BCC. After finishing BCC, he went on to pitch for Lehman College, majoring in psychology and minoring in education. In 1983, he interviewed for the coaching position for the men's baseball team. The following year after Coach Constantine retired, Adolfo DeJesus was hired as the men's baseball coach. He was selected over numerous candidates, including coaches from New York City's high school teams with established backgrounds.

Coach DeJesus demonstrated he was the right candidate by establishing successful seasons with the program. In 1995, Coach DeJesus led his team to the Junior College World Series with 14 players and fought competitively against Richland Community College of Texas. Unfortunately, the men's team lost 6-4, but this was an impressive feat for 14 players to play competitive against a 30-man roster. In a 2012 CUNY poll, Coach DeJesus was named the CUNYAC Men's Baseball Winningest Coach. In 1993-97, Coach DeJesus took his team on a trip to the Dominican Republic during spring break. In 1995, during his team's trip, he met former New York Mets General Manager Omar Minaya, and coached Wilkins Pujols, Albert Pujols's brother, during an exhibition game. Under Coach DeJesus's tenure, three of his former players were drafted by Major League Baseball. In 2002, Theirborh Almanzar was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 14th round, and Henry Guerrero was drafted by the California Angels as a free agent. With a variety of accomplishments, Coach DeJesus's biggest accomplishment, according to him, is continuing coaching BCC's Men's Baseball Team. In 2006, he led the men's team to the CUNYAC Championship and was chosen by the



Photo by Wairac Thompson

CUNY commissioner to represent CUNY in Italy.

As a strict, demanding coach, Coach DeJesus's philosophy, the Triple C's is not only his philosophy for success, but what he looks for when recruiting, and getting the best from his players. A player must have knowledge of the game, a passion for the game, and must have courage when playing the game, not being afraid of diving for balls. Coach DeJesus focuses on fundamentals and discipline. Because of lack of discipline, he believes kids prefer to overlook the basics for success, such as bunting for the team because it's not man enough. The mentality of those players who prefer to hit far and for home runs won't fit in Coach DeJesus's team. Athletic Director Michael Belifore says, "Success is doing things the right way".

Last year, the Men's Baseball Team went to the CUNYAC Championship. Due to an exhausted pitching roster, they came up short of winning the championship. With most of the roster returning this year and with a score to settle, BCC plans to finish the season with another championship. Coach DeJesus expects good things for this year with the tremendous talent demonstrated on his roster. With a roster that includes All-Region Talent Third Baseman Daniel Rojas and All-Region Second Team Second Baseman Claudio Deaza, and Freshman Pitcher Johan Mercedes, BCC Men's Baseball Team is destined to return to the CUNYAC Championship.

Emphatically, Coach DeJesus states, "A CUNY Championship won't be a championship without BCC."

## BCC Welcomes Fulbright Scholar from Nigeria



Dr. Solomon addresses students, faculty and staff at CTLT forum on climate change, February 11, 2014. (See story on page 6.)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

**A Necessary Change in Perspective  
Impediments to Globalization**

Page 3

**Campus Spotlight  
Lenten Observation**

Page 4

**Invest More in CUNY & SUNY**

Page 5

**NYPIRG's Student Action Meeting**

Page 6

**PTK Lambda Nu Celebrates  
Black History Month**

**Welcome to Our Fulbright Scholar in  
Residence**

**The Truth about Truth: The Truth Club**

Page 7

**My Daily Dozen**

**Prayer to Nienna**

**Souls Out**

## The Communicator

### Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The *Communicator* staff urges students to submit articles, short stories, poetry, essays, and editorials for publication in the newspaper.

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

We reserve the right to edit any submission due to space limitations or if the submission is deemed inappropriate because of profane language, verification problems, or issues of libel.

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

Please send all submissions to HYPERLINK "mailto:andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu" andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

### Communicator Staff

Eon Adams  
Miguel Alemar  
O'Brien Auwah  
Glorisel Belliard  
Gilda Coté  
Aziza Ingram  
Robert Josman  
William Murray  
Yaralyn Pichardo  
Carolyn Robinson  
Michael Segarra  
C. Lionel Spencer  
Krystal Tavarez  
Andrew Rowan, Faculty Advisor

### Spring 2014 Article Insertion Dates

**April**  
March 19

**May**  
April 17

Join  
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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  
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College work study may be available.  
Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

### Work Study

Work-study positions are available.  
For more information, please contact Professor Andrew Rowan at 718.289.5314 or andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

# Global Lens

## A Necessary Change in Perspective

By Joel Mota

Global citizenship is a term for the social, political, environmental, or economic actions of globally-minded individuals and communities on a worldwide scale. The term can refer to the belief that, rather than politicians affecting isolated societies, it is the common man that must take up the cause. As global citizens we believe in corporate responsibility, economic fairness, education, environment, social justice, and sustainable development. It is our opinion that everyman, by consenting with others to take up a common cause, puts himself under an obligation to everyone in that society. If we do nothing we support the inequalities that lie therein by inaction; this is not an option. We cannot begin to legislate civic responsibility, locally or global, until our moral compasses are reset.

It is the private person which makes up the general public, and when we each take up a belief, we are united in thought by this commonality. This is very important because change cannot take place without a shared standard. It's only through individuals working together that we can hope to make a difference. Civic awareness is not a mandate; we act of our own accord for the greater good. This is where value must be placed, at some point in our lives it is necessary for us to distinguish between our rights as citizens, and the duties we feel towards others worldwide.

Global citizen awareness is not for the faint of heart; one has to acknowledge that the world we live in is not a picture-perfect place. In order to move the needle forward we must leave behind our ethnic and political views at the local level and begin to think on a global scale. To be clear we are not abandoning our alliance to our own country, instead we are joining a worldwide community of people who share the same principles. Once we're secure in the knowledge of our convictions, and emboldened by the certainty that we are not alone, our moral compasses can be reset, and only then can we begin to think about restructuring the world around us.

As we move forward we are faced with the fact that the gap between the rich and poor is staggering, and growing: the richest 15% of the world's population control 80% of the world's product, while the poorest 17% together control 0.3%. The top fifth of the world's population is 300 times richer than the bottom fifth. (1) One can argue that it is an unviable proposition. It is only natural to think it's a Sisyphean task that in the end results in nothing, and many will reaffirm that it seldom translates into political action.

We can take comfort in the fact that the cause for global civics is not a trend de jour; the groundwork was established years ago. Since World War II, efforts have been undertaken to develop global policies and institutional structures that can support these enduring values. For example the United Nations ratified a Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989. The UNCRC is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children (2). In January 2011 the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women, was also established. The UN Women is an entity that seeks to sharpen the focus and impact of the gender equality globally (3). In late 2013 a series of ads, developed as a creative idea for UN Women, used genuine Google searches to reveal the widespread prevalence of sexism and discrimination against women worldwide. The UN Women strengthen their objectives by collaborating

with advertisers that share the same values. Problems that appear overwhelming at the start soon become manageable when we work together. As global citizens this reaffirms our belief that it is not in numbers but in unity that great strength lies.

Where do we start? We start locally by volunteering in organizations that help protect the Earth's environment and those that contribute to worldwide humanitarian efforts, including the groups that fight for human rights, gender equality, and poverty alleviation, just to name a few. I speak from personal experience when I tout the value of volunteerism. I'm currently offering my free time at the New York Botanical Garden with my father. Every Saturday from March to October we plant and harvest in the Children's Family Garden. Each plot is sustained by volunteers. Visitors to the Family Garden are encouraged to take samples home, many of which grow along the long low walls that surround the site. This local community effort speaks in volumes, and it's a testament to what can be accomplished mutually when we have a shared common goal.

The cause for global civics is, in great measure, the cause for all mankind. People always desire what is good, but they do not always see what is virtuous. Through our combined efforts perhaps we can lift the veil and show others what is possible when we work in unison. With our new moral compass reset and available for immediate use, we can now begin to search for new solutions to these ever-growing global problems, with the certainty that we are not alone, and the conviction that it's for the greater good.

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### Campus Spotlight

Name: Sherri Nicole Dillon

Position: Phi Theta Kappa, Vice President of Leadership

Countdown to Completion: Fall 2014

Major: Liberal Arts and Sciences: Education

Motivation: My family and a desire to achieve my dream of teaching

Contribution to BCC: Mentorship to students on academic suspension and tutoring to BCC's Harlem Children's Zone Scholars.

Quote: "You know what's right; leadership is doing what's right without waiting to be told to."

## Lenten Observation

By William Murray

The season of Lent began today. Not only does that mean our days will begin to lengthen, but most notably, this is a time for Christians to make spiritual preparations for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. As Jesus Christ fasted for forty days and nights in the desert whilst being tempted by the devil, we too can begin making sacrifices for the good of others by controlling our impulses. What will you abstain from?



# Global Lens

## Impediments to Globalization

By Miguel Alemar

Presently, our world is more interconnected and interdependent than at any other time in history. Foreign investments and advancements in technology and communications have been a few of the catalysts driving the rapid advancement of globalization and the world economy. Over the last thirty years companies have taken advantage of reduced regulation and outsourced or offshored different business units and sometimes complete industries to countries where operating costs and raw materials are cheaper. Free markets where capitalism can flourish with little opposition bring the promise of better wages, opportunities for employment, inexpensive goods for a wider variety of people and more efficient manufacturing. All of these factors have created a very complex interdependency among developed and developing nations. As corporations have expanded into less-developed nations with fewer environmental and employment regulations a level of inequality among workers has been created as well. There are also environmental concerns stemming from the rapid growth of developing nations. These issues must be addressed if globalization is to move forward in a sustainable manner and gain the support of the opponents of free trade.

Globalization has been occurring in the world since before the Roman Empire. Countries traded grains, precious metals, livestock, spices and a sundry of other items. "Many economists see globalization as the unprecedented level of worldwide economic and financial integration fueled by technological advances, witnessed in the last 30 years" (Karaim 8). In postwar 1947, 23 nations met in Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed on basic trade rules, including 45,000 tariff concessions, while lowering or purging duties on \$10 billion worth of products which were being traded in that time period. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was created. This was meant to be a temporary solution and the ideas initially were to create an International Trade Organization which would operate as a U.N. agency and balance out the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. This never came to be and the GATT would later become the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995 (10). This organization, while seeking to balance the field for trade, is not what was envisioned when the GATT was originally created.

We can see examples of how corporations came to influence globalization and gained such a strong influence over our economies by looking back to the early 1980's. Government involvement in the private sector was being blamed for economic issues. Conservative economists advised that the best course was less government involvement and more free open markets. The U.S. administration began removing regulations, cutting taxes and reducing social programs during this time in order to spur more corporate investing and to stimulate the economy. They effectively began undoing the previous fifty years progress in regulating corporate and business practices which previously led to the Great Depression (Bluestone, Harrison 196-197). This scenario is very reminiscent of the capitalism and laissez-faire practices which lead to the stock market crashes of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We have taken a step backwards by being too hands off with businesses. These are among some of the factors which drove a rapid rate of globalization over the last three decades. With less regulation, businesses were eventually left with options to invest more freely in foreign markets while still receiving tax breaks and later higher subsidies in industries such as agriculture.

In his book *The Future*, Al Gore makes a very accurate observation of where we are on a global scale, "The global economy is being transformed by changes far greater in speed and scale than any in human history... national policies, regional strategies, and long-accepted economic theories are now irrelevant to the new realities of our new hyper-connected, tightly integrated, highly interactive, and technologically revolutionized economy." Improvements in technology also help corporations and businesses increase productivity with fewer employees through office and infrastructure automation. For example, at my place of employment, the Customer Service team received a technical upgrade to the systems used for issue tracking. This directly increased the number of customer issues solved on a weekly basis after the new software was upgraded to a more modern version. This had a direct influence on reducing the amount of employees being hired to keep up with an increasing call volume and work

load. When the executives saw the productivity increase, they replicated the system abroad first in Singapore and later in Manila, eventually closing the Alpharetta, Georgia, Customer Service facility we worked with for many years.

With this rapid advancement, one may wonder what new markets are getting out of all this trade? The free market claims to facilitate inexpensive imports and the ability of companies to more easily invest abroad. This is looked at as an opportunity for developing countries to improve their economies and for jobs to be created. However, almost 50 percent of the world's workers are characterized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) as holding positions which are vulnerable to low earnings, harsh working environments, dangerous work and no health insurance (Preble 340). They also report that 16.4 percent of the world's workers earn less than \$1 a day and 43.5 percent make less than \$2 a day. Greenpeace has the belief that free trade benefits wealthy nations at the expense of poor countries and their environments (Greenpeace.org). Until the 1990's, trade agreements and rules were mainly related to trade and goods. However, that changed and countries began making rules and agreements having to do with domestic policy. This has made it easier for corporations to exploit things like the WTO's rules on intellectual property which for example offers patents for life saving drugs (Karaim 10).

In addition, recent trade deficits and foreign ownership of domestic assets make it understandable why opponents see open markets mainly benefiting multinational corporations and not the emerging economies the trading aims to serve. The global economy has become so intertwined that it may not be possible to reverse globalization or even slow it down significantly. In their book *The Deindustrialization of America*, Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison note that the interdependent global system created a system which corporations could take advantage of in order to save money by not upgrading plants or investing domestically and moving operations abroad instead. Opponents of globalization often argue that jobs are being shipped overseas. They point to whole industries being relocated to foreign countries and that this was not how things were "In the old days." It is necessary to take into account the broad context which corporations and trade operate. For instance, during the time period spanning from 1970-1980 in order to remain competitive and profitable, many corporations closed long-established key factories in the U.S. costing a loss of more than 30 million jobs (193).

One could argue that job losses within industries driving globalization have been occurring for over thirty years now and this is nothing new. We can look at industries such as the automobile, manufacturing and electronics industries and see how many of the jobs have been outsourced or offshored abroad where companies can save more money and increase profits. Notwithstanding, globalization has increased how fast the jobs and markets have moved abroad. More recently, in addition to manufacturing jobs being outsourced, core functions such as white collar office work have been sent to countries like India as well (Preble 351). All of this foreign direct investment (FDI) by multinational companies has grown faster than world trade, exceeding \$1.8 trillion in 2007 (Helpman 127). As a result, some countries have begun implementing more internal protectionist measures aimed to bring nations closer to an autarky, making them more independent and self-sufficient. Economists fear a repeat of what occurred after the Great Depression when countries began implementing protectionist measures such as tariffs and trade barriers initiated by the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 in the United States which increased nearly 900 different import tariffs on foreign goods (Karaim 2,9). However, this was later believed to worsen the depression. It is now widely recognized that protectionist measures only worsen economies in down times.

Another issue not directly caused by globalization but still heavily influenced by the growth in trade and FDI is the environment. Take, for example, blue fin tuna which up until a few years ago was mainly consumed in Japan in sushi dishes. Thanks to the growth of globalization blue fin tuna became pretty commonplace and available on a wider scale than previously so. I like to buy this type of tuna from my local fishmonger on occasion but the price has increased substantially in the last few years and I can't afford it as often. Due to over fishing there is now a

scarcity of the fish which contributes to the destruction of an ecosystem for the sake of profits. Also take into account issues with deforestation. World Bank figures show that forest areas cleared to create farms account for up to twenty percent of global carbon emissions (Philander 2). In countries like China and India there is less regulation or it is not enforced diligently which leads companies to take advantage of those regions and other developing countries. Increased trade and newly created factories in those nations has increased environmental pollution. In China, 90 percent of groundwater contains pollution, including chemical and industrial waste. one hundred and ninety million Chinese become ill every year due to the drinking water while tens of thousands die (Gore 165). Global warming is caused by both world industrial and agricultural processes as well (Philander 2). Also take into account the issues surrounding drinking water. According to the World Health Organization, unless changes are made by 2015, "605 million people will be without an improved drinking water source and 2.4 billion people will lack access to improved sanitation facilities" (Gore 164). Yet over 70 percent of the world's freshwater is used in agriculture each year (186). Over usage and consumption in developed countries is fast depleting our natural resources. Recently, Indonesia and the Philippines have started pilot projects to reduce pollution. In China, they have begun phasing out export subsidies for polluting industries and also closed down heavily polluting factories (Preble 359). Developing countries are slowly realizing that the tradeoff of the environment in the name of rapid growth is not sustainable in the long run.

On the whole, globalization is here to stay and could prove to be positively correlated with the creation of a more united world in time. No one can predict what will happen over the next ten or twenty years but it is safe to say that these pending issues have to be addressed in order to continue moving forward in a sustainable manner. The aforementioned issues related to our interdependency, the inequalities created by corporations' focus on the bottom line and the disregard for the environment must be addressed or progress will stall. While more government regulation alone will not fix the loose hands of corporations, it is difficult to deny that some level of intervention and greater controls need to be put in place in order to level the playing field and benefit both developing and already established nations.

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*Joel Mota and Miguel Alemar are students in the spring semester section of global civics (English 12 honors).*

# Campus News

## Students & Faculty to Legislators: “Invest More in CUNY & SUNY – Pass the Dream Act & Reform Financial Aid” Start a Higher Ed Endowment

Albany—Hundreds of students, faculty and college staff traveled to Albany on February 26 from every corner of the state to demand a better state budget for CUNY and SUNY and a long-term strategy for investing in public higher education. CUNY and SUNY have lost nearly \$2 billion in State funding in recent years; without a dramatic increase in funding, the two public university systems will be unable to ensure broad access to quality, affordable higher education.

Outraged by tuition hikes, full-time faculty shortages, inadequate financial aid and an Executive Budget that does nothing to rebuild their universities after years of underfunding, students and faculty, some traveling from before dawn, came to Albany to urge the Legislature to do better. Cynthia Roldan rode with a busload of students from New York City. She is a Baruch College student and vice chair for legislative affairs for the CUNY-wide student government, CUNY USS.

“Higher education is the key to success—and the key to solving the problems of poverty, economic inequality and unemployment that persist in many of our communities,” said Roldan. “When the promise of an accessible and affordable college education becomes a reality for all New Yorkers, we will lift our state socially and economically, and this is what students and faculty are rallying for.” The governor’s Executive Budget fails to provide fully for normal cost increases for energy, rent, technology and other costs of operation. It relies on revenue from tuition hikes to fill the hole. It makes no improvements to financial aid and leaves community colleges dramatically under resourced.

“It’s not fair to our students—many of whose families sacrifice to find the extra money—to use their increased tuition to cover mandatory costs. When tuition hikes are used to fill the gap left in the Executive Budget, that’s a cut—and a broken promise,” said Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY and a CUNY professor of English. “Students, faculty and legislators were told that the annual tuition hikes at CUNY

and SUNY would go to improve educational services. We are here to demand that the promise be kept.”

“Students from across the state are calling on our elected officials to prioritize higher education in this year’s budget,” said Aileen Sheil, Queens College student and chair of NYPIRG’s Board of Directors. “It’s time to make college more affordable for all New Yorkers by reforming and expanding the state’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and investing in our universities so they are relying less on tuition,” said Sheil.

“We are here today to remind policymakers of the valuable role the state’s community colleges play in New York’s economy,” said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta. “Additionally, community colleges offer access to an affordable, quality higher education to students who otherwise may not have an opportunity to pursue a college degree.”

CUNY and SUNY have a profound shortage of full-time faculty. As a result, the colleges rely increasingly on under-paid part-timers, who may not have the time they wish to give to students. Even as the university systems have hired new faculty, they haven’t been able to make up for years of under-investment and rising enrollments. The continued faculty shortage has led to overcrowded classes at many campuses, and left some students struggling to get the courses they need to graduate.

Rebuilding the ranks of full-time faculty at CUNY and SUNY after years of disinvestment will require big investments and big thinking—two things lacking in the governor’s budget plan for higher education. NYSUT’s Public Higher Education Quality Initiative recommends a long-term strategy that goes beyond a budget-by-budget approach to reinvestment—an endowment dedicated to funding new full-time faculty and staff lines.

“Creation of an endowment to add more full-time faculty and professional staff will allow SUNY, CUNY and our community colleges to begin restoring academic programs that have been lost to years of budget cuts,” said NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi. “More full-time

positions will ensure the quality courses, services and mentoring New York’s college students deserve.”

Greater direct state investment in public higher education and an endowment would lead to dramatic improvements at SUNY, according to United University Professions President Frederick Kowal.

“The time has come to end a pattern of disinvestment in public higher education. It is time to reinvest in our public colleges and universities to protect their quality and students’ access to higher education. UUP stands committed to our students. We urge our state lawmakers to confirm their commitment to the future of our students by investing more in SUNY and CUNY,” said Kowal.

Restoring the state hospital subsidy to its \$128 million level is another must-have investment, according to Kowal and the coalition. Students and faculty joined in the call for the State to help SUNY hospitals survive and protect their medical and educational missions.

The student and faculty organizations at the lobby day are part of a broader financial aid effort, the Coalition to Reform the NY Tuition Assistance Program. Together, they are advocating for passage of the NYS DREAM Act, and TAP reforms that would restore past funds cut from TAP, cover students who are excluded from the program, and align TAP with the needs of today’s students. The governor recently indicated support for the NY DREAM Act, and the State Assembly passed it on February 25.

“Every undocumented student fears a date. The date you have to drop out of classes because you can’t afford tuition,” said Luis Saavedra, a Lehman College student whose undocumented status prevents him from receiving financial aid. “The NY DREAM Act would alleviate that fear by providing access to the Tuition Assistance Program. We thank the governor and the Assembly for their support and call on the Senate to pass the NY DREAM Act this session.”

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE OR TO APPLY: [IONA.EDU/MARCHCOMMUNICATOR](http://IONA.EDU/MARCHCOMMUNICATOR) [ADMISSIONS@IONA.EDU](mailto:ADMISSIONS@IONA.EDU) 800.231.IONA



## Transfer to Iona College and Move Your World in the Right Direction

**JESSICA SCAPARRO '13**

> BA Psychology

> MA Industrial Organizational Psychology candidate

Move the World.



When Jessica Scaparro first met students from Iona, she was impressed with their enthusiasm about their experiences. “I wanted so badly to have that same excitement.” As a transfer student, Jessica obtained a rewarding internship at March of Dimes, completed a service trip to Zambia, and served as a student campus minister.

She is now staying at Iona to complete her master’s degree in industrial organizational psychology. With over 45 undergraduate majors and 35 minors in leading areas of study, led by working professionals and leaders in academics, we are confident that transferring to Iona will be one of the best decisions you’ve ever made.



**NEXT TRANSFER TUESDAY SESSION IS APRIL 8TH**

# Campus News



## NYPIRG's Student Action Meeting Motivates Students to Fight for Change

By Marcus Charlton

On February 20, Bronx Community College students gathered for NYPIRG at BCC's Student Action Meeting. Posters and leaflets decorating the campus as well as announcements written in classrooms directed students to Roscoe Brown Student Center for the official kick off for all



Consumer Action Project Leader Marcus Charlton takes questions from students on the effort to ban employment credit checks. (Photo: Zanin Lindsay)

of NYPIRG's campaigns. Despite it being a Monday schedule on a Thursday, nearly 50 students came out to learn about New York State's largest student-directed advocacy organization and its fight to address issues of environmental protection, mass transit, hunger and homeless relief, consumer exploitation, and higher education affordability and accessibility.

One major highlight was the keynote address, given by Ben DeAngelis, NYPIRG's Campus Program Director. His responsibility of coordinating all of NYPIRG's statewide chapters made him the perfect person to give the students a little background information on the organization. NYPIRG started in 1974 at Queens College when students sought to mobilize their classmates with the support of professional staff and faculty, including legal staff, to tackle many issues that have plagued New York in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and up into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also addressed the misconception that the 60s and 70s were the peak of student activism by reminding us college students and young people are on the frontlines fighting for issues ranging from environment conservation to economic equality to ending government corruption. At the end of his speech, Ben presented his audience with two options: "Will you be one of those people who stand on the sidelines and hope that everything works out or will you be one of those people who get involved?"

The goal was not to just inspire students, but to begin the fight to address the challenges of our time. After the keynote address, students went to one of five breakout meetings. Each meeting was led by a student project leader and served as the launching pad for the campaign and provided an open environment for students to brainstorm and begin planning the future of the campaign for the semester. Students Ivana Floyd, Marcus Charlton,

tuition and textbook costs low. Ultimately, this means making educational funding a priority in city and state legislation as well as in the state budget. This semester, a highlight of this campaign is NYPIRG's fight to reform the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), where the goals include increasing the maximum TAP award to \$6,500 expanding access to incarcerated students, part-time students, graduate students, and passing the NY DREAM Act, which would extend TAP to undocumented students.

Another campaign that piqued many students' interests was the Hunger and Homeless Outreach campaign. This campaign is dedicated to improving the lives of the thousands of New Yorkers living in shelters as well as the countless, many others living on the street. By organizing food and clothing drives on campus and personally delivering the donations over to local food pantries and homeless shelters, students are able to take steps in supporting the greater community. In addition to volunteering at those same shelters and food pantries, the campaign will educate students and the local community about the realities of poverty through on-campus events and educational forums.

One other campaign that drew a crowd was the Environmental Protection Campaign. This campaign advocates for the proper disposal of toxic waste and trash, increased recycling and composting, the funding and use of alternative sources of energy (wind, solar, and hydroelectric), reducing air pollution, and stopping climate change. Of course, a main highlight is NYPIRG's

fight against the dangerous drilling process known as hydrofracking. This process forces tons of sand, water, and chemicals down a drilled well at extremely high pressure to crack the bedrock with the goal of extracting gas trapped underground. One of the big problems with this process is that the gas underground does not always go back up the well and it seeps into our drinking water. Also, the chemicals used in this process can also seep through the well. Other problems include air pollution and noise. Students will be educating their peers on the threats of this drilling process and building up additional pressure on Governor Cuomo as the election season heats up.

The Straphangers Campaign focuses on improving the quality of mass transit through a number of surveys that rate the cleanliness of subway cars and train stations, the frequency of subway and bus traffic, and the accuracy of subway announcements. Students are trained to conduct the surveys and contribute to a report that is collected and presented at the end of the semester.

Lastly, the Consumer Protection Campaign focuses on protecting consumers from shady businesses and corrupt business practices, such as providing inadequate services and placing dangerous products on store shelves. The goal of this campaign is inform consumers of their rights and provide them with useful information for them to make the best decision to meet their needs. This semester, the agenda includes improving access to the justice system, fair banking services and insurance rates, and fighting against employment credit check discrimination. When applying for a job, many job seekers are subjected to having their credit history searched up because employers, convinced by the major credit agencies, believe that a person's credit history determines how good of an employee they will be. However, there is no evidence that suggests one's credit history is an accurate indicator of work performance. In addition, one-fourth of all credit reports are inaccurate. This semester, we'll be leading the charge in the City Council to make sure the practice of credit checks in employment is banned.

Students looking to learn more about all of the campaigns are encouraged to come out to NYPIRG's weekly chapter meetings every Thursday at 1:00 PM in Meister 303 or stop by the NYPIRG office, Meister Hall, Room 214, to learn more about plans for the semester and how to get involved.

### Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund has been awarded to Bronx Community College for the purpose of providing quick-response emergency grants to matriculated students in good academic standing who are facing a short term financial emergency. The goal of the Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund is to help students remain in school.

#### Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Guidelines

##### Emergencies that qualify for a Petrie Grant include

- Homelessness or sudden loss of housing
- Fire in living quarters
- Travel expenses due to illness/death in immediate family
- Overdue utility bills/turn-off notice
- Theft of computer, books, clothing or other essential belonging
- Medical/Dental emergencies
- Food or transportation needs
- Temporary loss of job or income
- Transportation card
- Loss of childcare
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Other (you may give an explanation of your emergency in personal statement)

##### Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund aid will NOT be awarded

- To cover previous college debts
- To pay for full or partial tuition or college fees
- To pay for legal representation in a criminal proceeding or Bronx Community College disciplinary proceeding

#### Eligibility Requirements

##### The applicant must

- be a matriculated student in good academic standing
- have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- complete and submit the Student Emergency Grant Application
- submit documentation to support his/her emergency

#### Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Instructions

- Download and complete the Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form
- Attach your supporting documentation to the Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form
- Return your completed Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form, and any supporting documents to the Office of Student Engagement and Success located in Roscoe Brown Student Center [BC], Room 302
- Once your completed application has been submitted, you will be contacted for a brief consultation. Individual grants will be awarded within 72 hours of us receiving your application.

For additional information please contact Ms. Yvonne Erazo-Davila, Office of Student Engagement and Success, Roscoe Brown Student Center [RC], Room 302 at 718.289.5194.

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- OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS
- CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCE
- MEMORIES & FRIENDSHIP
- TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
- COMMUNITY SERVICE
- SCHOOL SPIRIT
- AND MUCH MORE!

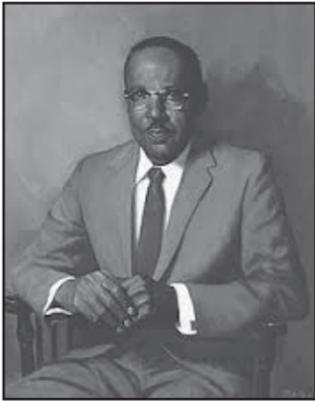
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# Campus News

## PTK Lambda Nu Celebrates Black History Month

By Sherri Dillon



In honor of Black History Month, the Lambda Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa selected the film *Something the Lord Made* to highlight Vivien Thomas (1910-1985) for his contributions in modern medicine, for his triumph in achieving success

despite tremendous opposition and discrimination, and for his relevancy to our very own scholars here at Bronx Community College. Vivien Thomas was a pioneer, and opened the doors for a large percentage of Bronx Community College's student population to a variety of careers in healthcare such as opportunities to be a nurse, doctor, surgeon, and so forth<sup>4</sup>. Thomas also acquired his accomplishments facing similar barriers that many students at BCC faced today such as living below the poverty line, working around the clock, being underappreciated, facing extreme discrimination, and entering a professional world foreign to his family.

Thomas started from the bottom, and worked his way up to achieve the dreams he had for himself and his contributions to humanity. He was born in Louisiana to a

carpenter in 1910, well before the civil rights movement brought about equal rights to African Americans. Despite the discriminative norms of the time and the fact during that time in history only 20% of all late teens even entered into high school<sup>2</sup>, Thomas managed to graduate from high school with honors<sup>1</sup>, and achieved the dream of going to medical school.

Thomas would have to overcome more than just statistics to achieve success. Poverty halted Thomas' dreams when the Great Depression wiped out all his college savings<sup>1</sup>. He initially settled for work as a janitor for Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, but caught the attention of Dr. Alfred Blalock who later hired him as his surgical assistant<sup>3</sup>. Thomas had succeeded in earning a position that would provide him the knowledge he needed to fulfill his dreams; another triumph for him.

Despite a difficult start, Thomas found success and made great contributions to humanity. While working for and studying under Dr. Alfred Blalock, he helped form a new understanding of blood pressure and the causes of shock (loss of fluid and blood volume), helped formulate a new heart surgery for "Blue Baby Syndrome," and he invented several devices for the study of blood pressure and surgery such as a heavy spring device which allowed him to simulate different blood pressures for study<sup>1</sup>. Although it took 25 years after the success of his and Dr. Blalock's

heart surgery procedure, all of Thomas' hard work, studies, contributions, and determination was recognized by the John Hopkins University with an "honorary doctorate."<sup>3</sup> For all his struggles, Vivien Thomas was triumphantly successful, and helped pave the way for our current scholars to pursue degrees in similar fields. He exemplifies what can be achieved when we refuse to give up on our dreams and continue to strive toward our goals. For all of his accomplishments, all of his contributions, and the inspiration he sparks in all of us, we honor him.

1.) *Footprints Through Time: Vivien Thomas (1910-1985)*. PBS. PBS, n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

2.) Goldin, Claudia, and Lawrence F. Katz. "The Decline of Non-competing Groups: Changes in the Premium to Education, 1890 TO 1940." *Scholar.Harvard.EDU*. Harvard University, n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

3.) Kountz, Samuel. "A Surgical Assistant with Hands Blessed by God." *ScienceHeroes.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2014.

4.) "Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Students Enrolled at CUNY, by College: Fall 2010." *HEOA Diversity Reports*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Feb. 2014.

## Welcome to Our Fulbright Scholar in Residence

Bronx Community College has added to our family for the spring 2014 semester our second Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Dr. Valerie Solomon from Nigeria. A Senior Lecturer at the University of Uyo, Dr. Solomon has joined the faculty of the Department of History for this term to develop a course on climate change – "The Human Dimensions of Climate Change" – as well as offering guest lectures in other classes as well as at other colleges and universities in the metropolitan New York area. She will also deliver the annual Ehrenpreis Lecture on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Gould Memorial Library Auditorium at 3 pm.

Her academic focus at BCC will be on collaborative and interdisciplinary curriculum development activities on "the different impacts of climate change on different societies, especially developing countries, the vulnerable

and women."

Dr. Solomon is making her presence known on campus as well as with colleagues from other area colleges and universities. On Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> she participated in a panel sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology and the Department of History – *Climate Change: Global and Community Implications*. Other panelists included Professor Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair in Education for Sustainable Development, York University, Canada, and Salzburg Global Seminar faculty member; Dr. Claudio Mazzatenta, Department of Biology, Bronx Community College and Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow; and Professor Jawied Nawabi, Department of Social Science, Bronx Community College, and Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow. The forum was coordinated by

Dr. Tamar Rothenberg, chair, BCC Department of History, and Professor Andrew Rowan, Department of English, both Salzburg Global Seminar Fellows.

Along with a group of Bronx Community College students, she also attended with UN Ambassador Forum on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Fairleigh Dickinson University where she spoke at length with H.E. Ambassador Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, after his discussion, Indonesia: Land of Many Cultures, Mysteries and Challenges. Dr. Solomon was invited by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim to address students in the Department of Geography at Hunter College, the following afternoon.



Dr. Solomon and Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim after her Hunter College lecture.



Dr. Solomon addressing Hunter College students.

## The Truth about Truth: The Truth Club

By C. Lionel Spencer

On Thursday February 28, we had our first discussion for the spring semester. Since this would serve as a somewhat introduction to many students of the clubs mission and purpose, we decided to touch on Truth. What is truth? We explore the concept against quotes by well respect men and women. Maya Angelou has said, "There's a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure the truth." When asked if facts and truth are the same at first many of the students agreed. Then we explored this idea as it pertains to our judicial system. If the facts say that someone guilty of a crime, are they indeed guilty? Do facts lie? Can they be misleading? This sparked some further contemplation of Angelou's quote. Even though, truth and fact serve similar functions; they aren't the same thing.

We moved onto another quote by Marcus Aurelius: "Everything we hear is opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is perspective, not the truth." It was surprising to see that most of the students agreed with this statement. The

idea that reality stands on the shoulders of our personal experiences isn't far-fetched. However, what is reality to one person may not be reality to another. Is Truth to be viewed this way? Can never be seen as the truth without human interpretation or influence?

Mahatma Gandhi challenges Aurelius' thought when he asserts: "Truth is self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear." It was on the quote that all of the students agreed and cheered Gandhi's wisdom. All things can't be perspective or opinion; some things are simply the truth.

It was once thought that the world was flat.

Some people think Native Americans are otherwise known as Indians.

Perspective? Opinion? Or Truth?

It was after discussing Gandhi's words that we jumped in scripture. We read John 14:6, "Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The question was posed:

what did Jesus mean when he stated he is the truth? Some interesting responses came from this. One student shared that Jesus meant life source. Another said simply said he was confused. (Best response) Yet another student stated that they all were, and are, the same thing: that Jesus pretty much stated three synonyms for the same idea.

The group was asked to consider if Jesus was giving a list of his credentials. He listed three. If they are all separated items in a list, what is truth here?

Well, the discussion concluded with these thought: I am the Way implies path, I am the Life implies source/energy, and that I am the Truth implies all he is the knowledge/understanding.

So who is right on what truth is? Is Aurelius who believes there is no truth? Is it Angelou who championing that fact and truth are distant cousins? Maybe it's Gandhi who tells us that it is self-evident? Or finally maybe it's Jesus who proclaims that He is the Truth.

What will be your Truth?

# Writer's Corner

## My Daily Dozen (written on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

By William Murray

Good morning April showers  
Here in early March  
Good morning bed of flowers  
By defrosting bark  
Good morning from the forecaster  
Who is calling all the shots  
Good morning fresh start  
Connecting dots of raindrops  
Good morning spring-cleaning  
Stuff swept under throw rugs  
Good morning draining board  
Teeming teacups and coffee mugs  
Good morning elbow grease  
My daily dozen  
Good morning to what works  
And licking into shape what doesn't



### Prayer to Nienna

“And Nienna arose and went up onto Ezellahar, and cast back her grey hood, and with her tears washed away the defilements of Ungoliant; and she sang in mourning for the bitterness of the world.” (The Silmarillion, 79)

### Prayer to Nienna

Today I call upon you, Nienna. May you lead through suffering the cruel and egocentric pleasure seekers to the path of piety marked with your tears. Listen to me, for your palace was my abode for many cycles and our wail can still be felt in the Western wind.

I can no longer endure to presence the daughter of Eru The Illuminated lending her wasted eyes to cry the tears of those who cannot weep. That lesson is lost on them, Teacher of The Sacred Wisdom. I say shake those Dionysus lovers till they end up on their knees spilling obstinate tears. And if those tears refuse to be of salt and water, then let them be of blood!

Your heart that knows no boundaries should stand strong in its love and righteousness enough to strike with the stern blow of a caring converter. Unyieldingly wait for that miraculous moment when a sincere, deep plea of forgiveness escapes from the contrite soul, and then, only then, Lady of Mercy, can the healing of your saintly grief cure their putrefactive lusts. Only when cried through the eyes of the penitents, your tears can restore.

And you will always absolve sins in the end because you are Nienna the Compassionate, whose message is not about endless grievance, but of endurance of spirit, pity, forgiveness and hope. Only you, among your brothers and sisters of the Valar, possess the virtues of transcendence that allowed you to forgive the ultimate evil: Melkor himself. With promises of gruesome rewards he lured Ungoliant, the primeval dark spirit, older than the oldest worlds, to aid him in his abomination. Melkor struck them and Ungoliant feasted on the fallen; when the Two Trees of Valinor were robbed of their sap of untainted light, the world sunk into a chaos of darkness and destruction. The mere site, oh the pain, it almost killed you Nienna. And yet when Melkor appeared before the Valar seeking absolution, it was you who interceded for him.

Nienna, who knows better than you about the purifying effects of grief? What I implore of you today is born from generosity, not rancor. I ask you to intervene, before the alluring hands of doom forever entrap one of my kind. For another soul lost, is a piece of me gone.

## Souls Out

By C. Lionel Spencer

The rain poured like rushing fresh water rivers in the jungle, and there was no umbrella or poncho that could keep him dry. The drops pounded the ground like a stampede of elephants running from prowling lions. It was difficult to hear anything except rain that night. The sidewalks were layered with water just as donuts are glazed with icing. Every step he took water washed over my Clarks; ran into his shoes and soaked his socks. Even with the collar of his supposedly rain repelling, five buttoned, mid-calf, trench coat turned up, his neck still bathed in Mother Nature's juice. His dark brown derby was dropping, and he felt the wind on his chilled bald head underneath. The office was five blocks or so from the train station which is normally a nice walk, but tonight he would've flagged a cab if there was one in sight. The streets were empty; he reasoned he didn't get the memo to leave work before eleven because his only company was the street lights. Speed walking to the train station was as hard as jogging with twenty pound weights around his ankles. Only when he raised his head was he partially blinded by the radiance from the lamps. They seemed to shine like spot lights introducing heaven to the earth this particular evening. When he finally reached the station, walking up the stairs felt like he was carrying bricks in every pocket of his jeans and coat.

As he approached the token booth he realized the light inside was out, but there was a clerk inside just sitting there with a strange look of concern. He asked for a single ride, but she remained silent and pointed at the gate. As he walked toward and through the gate she continued her unusual glare. He thought to himself: "maybe she had a rough day at work too." He continued his pitiful attempt at drying off while he walked up yet another flight of stairs to the platform. The bricks in his pockets grew lighter with every twist of coat arm and shake of the leg. On the platform, if his eyes served him right, there seemed to be a woman at the other end. It was her voluptuous silhouette that gave her away. From where she stood, along with the angle of the dim overhead light, he was only able to see from her torso down. Weary from work, he sat on one of the oasis of seats available because the almost vacant platform. Even when the minimal amount wind blew, it caused him to shiver from his frozen feet to his chattering teeth. He presumed his best defense against such discomfort was sleep. First, he checked to make sure there was no train in sight. After seeing nothing but

darkness and rain, he decided to cross his arms and close his eyes.

He wasn't sleep for long when he heard the train horn sound; his eyes opened and there right in front of him stood the train. A bit startled he quickly rose and sprinted through the open doors. Before he sat down, he tried dying himself just a bit more by shaking his derby and pants legs dog-like. It didn't take long to realize the heat wasn't on for whenever he exhaled a cloud of breath hovered in front of him. It was only five stops till his, but afterward if the bus wasn't running he'd have to walk. "The troop down that hill will be treacherous in this weather," he thought. The doors closed, but the train just stood in the station all until the lights began to flicker. It happened simultaneously: the flickering and the trains crawl out the station. It did so with a snail's pace, he noticed the woman was standing statuesque like on the platform. She reminded him a statue he had seen a few years back of an amazon woman with her hand raised. He had always thought she was shielding herself from the sun. A by standing overhead him mumbling these thoughts to himself and insisted she was trying to hide her indecently exposed breast. Either way, her body faced the train but her head was in the direction of where the train was heading. Her right hand was lifted up toward the little bit of light that shone on her. Her black trench coat was dripping for she didn't attempt to stop the rain from drenching her. It seemed to be the light that concerned her.

When he was a good distance away, and the woman was no longer in sight; he turned around and sat back down slouched in his seat. He was too tired contemplate the insanity of another human being at the moment. All he cared about was getting home and drying off, but the more he attempted to dismiss the creepiness of the evening he could not. As if the flood like rains weren't crazy enough. The thought seemed to plague him for several minutes until the conductor came back on the speaker, he attempted to say what the next stop was but was cut off half way through. When he looked out the window to see how far they had traveled he couldn't recognize anything. Maybe it was because of the frosted windows that were covered with rain that made it nearly impossible to see. However, after walking to another car window, squinting then wiping off the fog he could see: a cemetery. *The path of the soul back to the creator is nasty, scary and shocking for the living.*






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