

THE COMMUNICATOR

May 6, 2009

Dedicated to Informative Excellence

Issue XVIII

In This Issue:

Page 6
Health and Fitness
with Dr. Wayne

Page 8
BCC Holds Tree
Planting Ceremony to
Improve Air Quality
and Temperature

Page 9
Student Government
Leaders Address the
Student Body

Page 10
Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.,
Former BCC President,
Is May 29th
Commencement
Speaker

Page 12
HIV and College
Students

Page 13
Going Global

AND MUCH
MORE!

Manny Mejia: BCC's Representative to CUNY's New Leadership Initiative

Manuel Arsenis Mejia Fernandez, better known by fellow students at BCC as Manny Mejia, is a member of a special group at City University. He is one of 28 students to become a member of CUNY's new Leadership Academy out of over 480,000 students in the CUNY system.

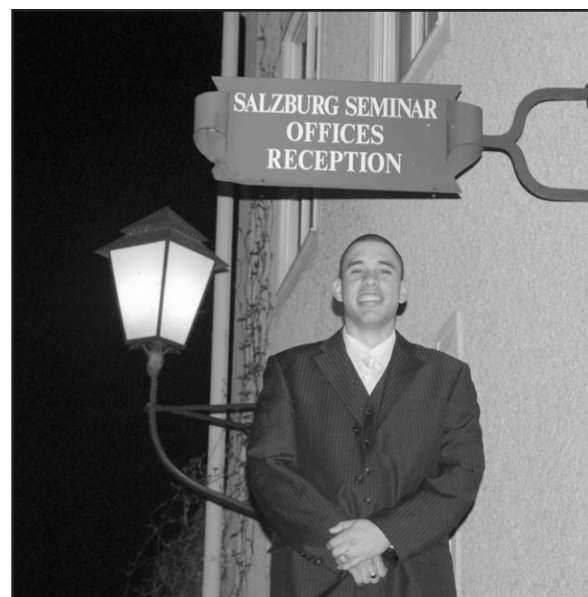
The Leadership Academy is a new CUNY initiative to move its students into the new millennium by helping them to learn leadership skills. It has recognized that all positions in this world require leadership skills.

The responsibilities of these new leaders are to bring together a sustainable alumni board and to work on service projects throughout the year. The ultimate goal will be the creation of an innovative and sustainable service project that will positively change New York City, and eventually all of New York and the rest of America.

It's a heavy responsibility. Mejia believes he is up to the task. He is a computer science major with a 4.0 average. Even though he won't graduate until 2010, he has his sights set on going to Boston University. He credits his dad, who is a trucker, and his mother, who sells food from a cart, as being the biggest influences for keeping his sights set on college.

Why was he chosen for the CUNY Leadership program? "I was selected because I demonstrated a commitment to service work and making a difference in my community. I have done volunteer work in the community, such as helping immigrants apply for citizenship, through CUNY and its Citizenship Now! Initiative. I also helped spread Hispanic art and culture in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan," said Mejia.

The computer savvy Mejia added, "My career goals include becoming successful enough to make giant contributions to inner city kids. I will accomplish this by being a leading researcher in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). [AI is the intelligence of machines and the branch of computer science which aims to create it.] I want to be responsible for making a major breakthrough in the field and to be part of the eventual creation of artificial beings."



continued on page 4

College Media Group Organizes 3-Day Journalism School in New York

By Muhammad Jalloh

In mid-March, 2009, College Media Advisers, Inc. – a nation-wide student media development and advocacy group – organized a three-day media convention to help student journalists acquire and improve the skills they would need to take their college media outlets to greater heights. The CMA brought together scores of colleges, hundreds of advisers and even nationally-renowned journalists to cover the whole spectrum of journalism, ranging from New Media and Journalism, the rise and fall of media outlets, creative penmanship, multimedia creation and technologies, newspaper design and editing, social media tools and marketing. But, most importantly, the convention was graced by some of the most influential players in the industry whose experiences would have a lasting impact on the lives and careers of the young and upcoming journalists.

A three-year journalism school is a miracle, but a three-day school just outright breaks the record. And the CMA convention, that lasted from Sunday, March 15, through Tuesday, March 17, 2009, was nothing short of that. And with every workshop spanning 50 minutes, the attendees had enough information to use right away without suffering information overload. A myriad of tools and resources were also pointed

out and shared to aid those who would need more specialized or advanced training and guidance.



ABC Evening News anchor Charles Gibson addresses convention.

Photo: Ron Spielberger, Executive Director, College Media Advisers

An Opportunity to Attend

Being asked to fill in the spot of one of the student delegates from Bronx Community College at the last minute, it did not take me more than a few seconds to send a response to Professor Andrew Rowan, the college newspaper adviser, with an "I do." Set in the beautiful Marriot Marquis Hotel right in the heart of Times Square in downtown New York City, I would have gladly paid for such an opportunity.

continued on page 4

Congratulations

Kesi Foster for Best Story Award from
American Scholastic Press for
"Yankee Stadium Deal: How the City Helped
Steal Home from the Bronx"

and to

The Communicator
Second Place Award for
Journalistic Excellence

Letters to *The Communicator* Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to respond to articles and editorials found in this newspaper. We also urge you speak out on issues that matter to the college community, as well as your neighborhood, the city, state, nation and world-at-large.

The views expressed in published letters are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Communicator*.

- We reserve the right to shorten any letter submitted due to space considerations.
- We reserve the right to refuse publication to any letter due to space considerations, as well as those letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems and/or slander.
- No letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, and telephone number.

Submissions should be emailed to *The Communicator* at bcc.communicator@gmail.com.

The Communicator Submission Insertion Dates **September** Monday, August 17, 2009

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

Please email all submissions to:
rowanandrewdavid@aol.com

Contributors:

Nicole Acosta
Maritza Cruz
Catherine Cudjoe
Gretchen Guerrero
Yessy Herrera
Isaac Marcano
Christopher Minaya
Beatrice Ray
Carlos Roldan
Toni Ruiz

Faculty Advisor

Andrew Rowan

Attention

All Bronx Community College Clubs

**Make sure that your club is represented
in the BCC 2009 Yearbook
with a group picture.**

**Contact Charles Sabat
cbigz1405@yahoo.com
or
646-544-6285
to arrange for a photo.**

To All Members of the College Community

BCC is happy to announce an important campus construction project that is scheduled to begin later this month. The project will involve the Brown Student Center building and includes:

the relocation of the College Bookstore to the first floor
the creation of a two-story Campus Cafeteria
the installation of a passenger elevator serving all floors
the construction of a new ramp for wheelchair access

While both the Cafeteria and the Bookstore will remain open during most of the construction period – the expected duration of which is approximately 18 months – please be advised that there is likely to be considerable noise, especially during the demolition of concrete slabs.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to improve our campus facilities and, as a result, improve the services we offer to the entire college community, especially our BCC students. Thank you.

Campus Planning/Administration & Finance

Join *The Communicator* Team!

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

The Communicator is looking for
Writers • Photographers • Advertising representatives

Become part of our time, and join *The Communicator* today!
Work study and Independent study may be available.

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

Join *The Communicator* Team!

Cover campus news events
Explore local, state, national
and global stories

Put your finger on the pulse
of the BCC community

The Communicator is looking for

Writers • Photographers • Advertising representatives

Become part of our time, and join *The Communicator* today!

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

BCC

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Hours of Service:
Mon-Thurs 5-10 pm
Pick up the shuttle in
front of Meister Hall.



Service to and from campus every 20 minutes.
Stops include #4 Subway Stations: Burnside, 183rd & Fordham Rd.

continued from cover

Why? “I want to do this because I am a city kid who was lost in the lights, unaware of the possibilities and opportunities waiting for me. I have always been computer savvy and believe my curiosity in artificial Intelligence to be a reachable goal.”

From Bani in the Dominican Republic, Mejia lives in the Bronx with his mom, dad, two sisters and his six-year-old daughter. He’s not the first to go to college in his family. His sister went to Brown University and is now an assistant director at J. P. Morgan Chase Bank.

Looking back, Mejia’s college career didn’t advance the way he had hoped. He attended Christopher Columbus High School, Walton High School and John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx, but too often, he said, fell in with the wrong crowd.

He came to Bronx Community College in 2004 after failing the writing composition test for Lehman College by one point. “I was told that I needed to take a remedial English class at BCC. I could have gone back to Lehman after my first semester, but I decided to stay at Bronx Community College,” shared Mejia.

Shortly after enrolling he dropped out of BCC because of legal problems and the need to go to work. It

wasn’t until 2008 that he was able to make it back to Bronx Community College at age 24.

“I really like the campus. Even though I’m in the middle of the Bronx, it makes me feel as though I’m on a campus in a foreign state,” said Mejia. The profes-



sors have been great. From my very first semester I have been fortunate to have come in contact with some of the best professors, from political science Professor Jim Freeman and psychology Professor Monique Guishard to mathematics and computer science Professors Sharon Persinger, Jorge Pineiro, and Madelaine Bates, and

english Professor Andrew Rowan. They have helped me with scholarship applications and work study jobs. Manny Lopez and Melissa Kirk in the Office of Student Life have also been very helpful,” said Mejia.

“Bronx Community College has offered me an opportunity to look at the world with grander eyes. Thanks to BCC, for the first time, I traveled out of the states to a destination other than my homeland on my spring break. I was part of the Salzburg Global Seminar and studied abroad in Austria for a week. Student Life at BCC opened my eyes to the fact that there is more to school than just classes,” stated Mejia.

The signature program of the CUNY LEADERSHIP Academy, the Fellows Program provides a unique academic and co-curricular opportunity for students who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership on their campuses and in their communities. This innovative year-long program brings together best practices in leadership development from across CUNY, and beyond. The students of the CLP, called Leadership Academy Fellows, are selected from across the University.

This year's cohort represents 15 Colleges and 20 majors. The Fellows experience state of the art multicultural leadership education with emphasis on service, community building, global perspectives, and innovation.

continued from cover

So, I did not need an alarm clock to wake me up on Sunday morning. I prayed, washed and before eight o’clock, I was already at the Marriot. But the elevator acted a little strange with me. It decided to take me all the way up to the 40th floor, when I pressed ‘4’. But I still managed to find my way down again and was in my first workshop of the day by 8 a.m.

Day One: Let the Show Begin

My first workshop for the day was “How to Start a Talk Show.” It also seemed a good place to start the convention which was a big (journalistic) talk show if you think about it. And who doesn’t want to own and manage his/her own talk show? Not me, for sure. The scheduled speaker was however, not present. But a good soul – one of the convention’s organizers – turned it into an Oprah-style talk show. She gave us tips and tricks for doing it right. Other student attendees also shared their experiences and how they were fairing with their own campus radio and online TV broadcasts. Poor me! Being neither a writer, a broadcaster nor a designer, yet, I just sat down and wrote every single word, every bit of tips that anyone could care to throw out.

Ten minutes later (at 9 am), I was in another workshop on “Narrative Journalism.” It was of the utmost importance since great journalism is not just about reporting “what happened,” but rather skillfully chronicling “how it happened.” The speaker’s advice to every aspiring journalist who wants to be at the top of his/her game was simple and straightforward, “read fiction constantly; also, read literary journalism [content] and write stories that get people engaged.” The works of such journalism icons and writers as Tom Wolfe and Hunter Thompson were highly recommended.

All this while I had my mind on one of the biggest (and personally, most exciting) workshops of the day. I have always been interested in the possibilities and opportunities that alternative and community media hold. So, when it was time for the “An Introduction to Independent, Alternative and Community Media” workshop, I got myself a nice seat with a good view of the speaker and the projector board even before the preceding lecture had ended. Ms. Nan Rubin, who had also started a couple of alternative and community media outlets herself, did a great job of miraculously providing information about all the tools, resources and “know-how” of launching an interest-based media group. That workshop alone was worth more than the cost of the whole conven-

tion, if you ask me.

Other workshops also followed. Despite the fact that I hadn’t had my breakfast yet, I could not afford to miss these informative sessions. So, I ended up attending one every one hour, including “Producing Multimedia for *The New York Times*,” (delivered by The New York Times’ own Gabriel Dance) and “Chicken Salad” (a newspaper design workshop, not a buffet, as the title seems to suggest). (Though I must confess, I had to steal away and get something to quiet my increasingly rumbling stomach after this session.)

By 1 p.m., it was time for the much-anticipated, hour-long keynote address of the day by Byron Pitts, one of the anchors of CBS News’ *60 Minutes*. He shared his story of struggles and triumphs, failures and narrow escapes from obscurity and the benevolent characters that influenced his decision to grab his dream by the forelocks and live it. Considered “functionally illiterate” at 12 and told by his English professor in his freshman year in college – “You are wasting your time, my time and government money” – he was rescued by another (angelic) professor at the most critical time in his career when he was about to join the ranks of those who turn their backs on education forever.

Mr. Pitts shared some of his most outstanding works as a reporter, including his coverage of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City. He also offered the student journalists in attendance a few nuggets of media wisdom. I could not help but ponder when he said, “The key to a great interview is to read, read, read and listen, listen, listen” or when he emphatically stated, “I don’t do interviews; I have conversations.”

Later that day, I attended other workshops, including one on “Marketing Your Newspaper Online,” hosted by the media advisers from the *University of Washington Daily*.

By the time I boarded the train bound for the Bronx later that evening, I just knew that I had finished my sophomore year in journalism. But I still had two more days (each equal to a day) to graduate. So, I went to bed ready to storm the convention again the next morning.

Day Two: Creative Penmanship, Brutal Salesmanship and the Art of Multimedia Storms

Monday saw another set of workshops that left the attendees riveting with their newfound knowledge. Of particular importance was the workshop on the art of penmanship by an older and very much experienced journalist and editor. His exposition, “Writing Good Headlines

and Cutlines” was just what every news writer and editor needed to avoid the common pitfalls faced by many an aspiring journalist.

But more was still on the way. At 11 a.m., the keynote address of the day was delivered by Brian Storm of MediaStorm.org, a multimedia creation company that boasts the biggest players in the media industry as their clients. Mr. Storm is the producer of such spell-binding multimedia journalism pieces as “The Marlboro Marine” (the story of an Iraq veteran who suffers from post-traumatic disorder), “Intended Consequences” (which tells the story of the children who are the products of rape during Rwanda’s Genocide in the 1990s), “Katrina: An Unnatural Disaster” and “The Grim Reality,” among others. His advice to aspiring multimedia journalists was concise, yet powerful: “give the subject [of your story] a voice.”

A few moments after the keynote address, I found myself in another class (if you would call it that) with a focus on “Page Design: The Basics and Beyond.” The instructor – an older gentleman – took the time to cover the basics of newspaper design and a whole lot more. The pressing-and usually misunderstood-concepts of spacing, graphics use, interpolation of graphics and text and columns creation and management were all touched on. At the end of the presentation, it was evident that most student journalists (including yours sincerely) had a lot of homework to do and design make-ups to learn, if the content of the lecture was anything to go by.

A major workshop of the day that I also had the opportunity to attend was the 120-minute long “Advertising 101” workshop by Ms. Annette Forbes of Iowa State University. She shed light on a much-neglected aspect of the survival of college media publishing-how to attract advertising clients and sponsors. Her 30 years of sales experience rained tips and strategies in the tiny room of 50 students. She also went a step further by handing out a CD packed full of sales and marketing goldmine to all those present. I definitely did not need to see another workshop to vote this one my best of the convention.

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

But it was not all lecture after lecture for the convention attendees, at least not for the college advisers. There was an hour-long “CMN Advisers Reception” that was held later that evening on the 16th floor of the Marriot Marquis Hotel, at least ten floors higher than the venues of the convention itself.

I also had a little encounter at the end of the day that gave me a fresh perspective on the role and impact of multiculturalism in modern journalism. I was talking to a fellow attendee at the end of the “Going Multimedia” workshop (by B&H Video) when an “unusually-dressed” lady passed by me. No, it wasn’t her attire that had set my adrenaline on high. So, I followed in her direction and stopped close to the collection of newspapers she was browsing. Expectedly she drew closer to where I was to take a look at more college newspapers. It was the moment I was waiting for.

Now, I could have made a good pickup artist if I wasn’t a devoted Muslim. But this wasn’t about pickup lines, polished images and the rest of the pack. We locked eyes and, smiling, I said “Assalaamu Alaikum,” the Islamic greeting formula. She responded with a smile. Yes, I got her, not for a date though; that was never my intent. She was from New Jersey. When asked, “Where are you from?” I had responded, “from here, New York.” But she pressed on, my accent or some other features of mine having giving me away, “I mean, where are you from originally?” I had no choice now. “Sierra Leone,” I blurted out. She turned out to be well acquainted with the circumstances and history of my country of origin and had even read the prose and poetry of such popular and moving icons as Ishmael Beah, a child soldier-turned writer and author of his own autobiography *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

The young lady in the “unusual” attire was Huma Munir, Co-Editor of the NJ’s Bergen Community College’s *The Torch* student newspaper. Of Pakistani descent, but raised in New Jersey, she had chosen to wear the Islamic head dress, the Hijab, even if that means she would be the only one wearing such a head gear in the convention. She could have been easily mistaken for one of the stereotypically “oppressed Muslim woman” of the western media. But she had carved out a place for herself in the American media. She also recently won first place for News Writing in the New Jersey Press Foundation Contest. It was profound having someone of her ethno-religious background making headway into the Western media. Hers is the illuminating story of the struggles of the Muslim-American woman to live the American Dream without losing her religious identity. So, I could not help but get a name and a phone number for possible future contact and follow-up.

A few minutes later, I was headed for the subway and bound for the Bronx and home. It was one heck of a day; I had acquired enough know-how to make me a skilled multimedia creator, a fairly good newspaper designer and a brutal salesman who, in the words of Ms. Annette Forbes, “never, ever, ever discount who [I] know,” for good reasons, of course.

Leaving the tourists, the Naked Cowboy of Times Square and the picture-taking and video-capturing tourists behind, I strutted away wearily, hopeful to catch an early train home before it gets dark. I was a New Yorker after all and had seen it all already.

Day Three: Interviews, “Bush Doctrines,” Creative Management and a Graduation

Tuesday, the 17th of March, though a little shorter (in terms of planned workshops) was nevertheless, at least as exciting and intellectually stimulating and motivating as any of the past two days.

My first workshop for the day was “Interviewing Strategies,” a session as crucial to the student reporter as the survival of the media industry and its employees.

Covering such issues as preparing for an interview, choosing a setting, ending the interview and follow-up strategies; it was the ideal take-away for every serious journalist.

Shortly thereafter, the kind advisers from the University of Kansas and Iowa State University hosted the “One-Man Band” session where they explored the different skills that the modern-day journalist needs to learn to get and keep a job in the ever-dwindling and competitive media job market. They noted that of particular importance to the journalist is being able to shoot, write and create compelling multimedia stories. This, they pointed out, would become especially useful as media outlets of varying interests and sizes are increasingly moving to a web platform delivery system. They advised attendees, when considering creating multimedia presentations, to “let the readers see them [the story characters] in their elements.”

A few minutes later, the main auditorium was filled to capacity awaiting the keynote address to be given by Charles Gibson of ABC News’ *World News Tonight* with Charles Gibson. I also managed to get a seat a few rows away from the front, much to my disappointment. But it was first-come, first-served, and having arrived just a few minutes before the commencement, I could not (and would not) complain.

A well-grounded journalist with more than three decades in the ABC newsroom, Mr. Gibson had anchored the very famous (or infamous, depending on your political camp) interview of then GOP Vice Presidential pick Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska in the latter months of 2008 during the heat of the campaign season. The (in)famous question he put to her about what the “Bush Doctrine” (of pre-emptive attack) was become the most memorable of the whole interview and created a few enemies for Gibson as some Palin supporters left him a few dozen “that-wasn’t-nice”

comments on his Facebook page for making the VP nominee “look bad.”

Mr. Gibson took some time to also share a little bit of his life story and of his ascent to the top of the journalism world. Ironically, he was a very humorous person, in sharp contrast with his rather strict personality on TV. Once asked by a student as to what would be his advice to “upcoming journalists,” he responded, “write, write some more and then write some more,” and also “have solid facts; have the whole story.” He also noted that the newspapers are partly to blame for the failure of print journalism for “letting the genie out of the bottle” by putting news online for free while expecting increased ad revenue.

A few minutes after the keynote address by Mr. Gibson, three former and current editors at *The New York Times* held a workshop for newspaper editors. “The Editor’s Eye” session was crammed full of invaluable information, useful web links and recommended books to help polish any editor’s grammar and punctuation and, most importantly, how to develop an eagle’s eye for extracting embarrassing mistakes from any news piece. It was one of the most useful workshops anyone could have ever attended in this convention.

Right before “graduation”, another don’t-miss workshop was in place ably managed by Nils Rosdahl, the adviser of the North Idaho College’s *The Sentinel* newspaper which has won first place for design eight years in a row, including this year. He treated the attendees of his informative session to some invaluable tips for “recruiting and training staff,” managing them and the science and art of creative and profitable joint ventures between college newspapers and the local community.

Mr. Rosdahl shared his tips for keeping his writers motivated, hunting for new talent from the high

schools in the area and for keeping advertisers happy and coming back. His secret? “We do ad trades, not cash for ads.” He revealed that his editorial team organizes a book swap at the end of every semester, both to generate cash for the paper and to donate to charities such as the “Books for Africa” project. “The [college] bookstore hates us,” he said, but it is a profitable venture for him and his writers as they net about \$5,000 every semester through the book swap event.

Is It Really Over?

An hour later, it was all over. The delegates were preparing to leave for their different states and colleges. I would have headed home too, but I was already home, right here in New York. As I walked down the escalator and out into the streets filled with happy, green-clad and colorful “St. Patrick’s Day” Irish celebrants, I knew my days here had not been spent in vain, for I have had much to gain.

As I sat back in the train, bound for the Bronx, it then just occurred to me: I am a graduated journalist. I had amassed enough knowledge in three days that some college students would not get in their four years in journalism school. Now, if I could just get my weary hands to rest, I could make this event worth its weight in words.



We give students who transfer to us a lot of credit.

Transfer to Monroe College and you will find you are a lot closer to earning your Bachelor’s Degree. That’s because Monroe offers so many opportunities for you to transfer credit. Yes, we consider all the course work from your previous college. But we also look at credit earned through CLEP exams, military, corrections or police academy training, as well as life experience.

Combine those transferred credits with flexible schedules that allow you to work full time while earning your degree, Monroe’s three-semester academic calendar, plus available scholarships and financial aid, and you have a Real World Education that’s designed to launch your real world career as soon as possible.

AS REAL AS REAL WORLD EDUCATION GETS.

Bachelor’s of Business Administration (BBA) Degrees:	
Business Management	Minors in: (optional)
Corporate Accounting	Finance
Public Accounting	Hospitality
Health Services Administration	Human Resources
Hospitality Management	Marketing
Information Technology	Entrepreneurship
Online - Business Management	
Online - Health Services Administration	
Online - Hospitality Management	
Bachelor’s of Science (BS) Degrees:	
Criminal Justice	Public Health
Online - Criminal Justice	

MONROE
COLLEGE
monroecollege.edu
1.877.269.7744

Recurring Features



Health and Fitness with Dr. Wayne

Are You Managing Your Stress?

Guidelines for Dealing with Stress

All events in life precipitate a reaction. How people react or respond to situations differ. Coping is an attempt to manage or deal with stress. Dealing successfully with stress may require using a variety of techniques. Because stress-related responses are based primarily on mental perceptions, coping strategies are often necessary. Try these, they work.

Following are guidelines for effectively dealing with potential harmful stress:

1. Schedule time effectively. Practice good time management techniques by using time wisely. This means taking time out for yourself every day and scheduling work when you are usually at your peak ability.

2. Set priorities. Know what is important to you. Do not attempt to work on four or five project simultaneously. Keep your efforts focused on one or two major items.

3. Establish realistic goals. Goals must be achievable. Do not establish impossible expectations and then become frustrated when they are not accomplished quickly as you would like. Write down long-range goals and establish checks for keeping yourself on track.

4. See yourself as achieving the goals. Visualize yourself as being successful. Go over in your mind what it will look and feel like to accomplish your goal.

5. Give yourself a break. Take time every day to exercise and relax.

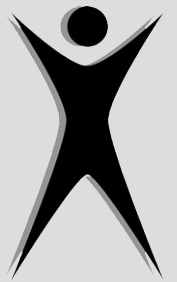
6. Smile and laugh as often as possible.

In September, relaxation techniques.

If you have any questions, please email me at: wayne.major@bcc.cuny.edu.

Be well.

Dr. Wayne Major
Health, Physical Education and Wellness Department



Need Health Insurance?

Fidelis Care Can Help College Grads

Young adults among fastest-growing segment of the uninsured

As the newest class of college graduates prepares to enter the workforce this May, awaiting them is one of the toughest job markets in decades.

Several major metropolitan areas nationwide and one-third of counties across New York state now have unemployment rates in the double digits.

No longer covered under their parents or school plans, health insurance is often among the first item sacrificed. Young adults in their 20s often gamble with their health and hope any serious medical issues do not arise.

Fidelis Care wants graduating seniors to know that free or low-cost health insurance coverage is available.

"Young adults in the 19-to-29 age bracket are the fastest-growing and largest segment of the uninsured population," said Rupert Brady, Fidelis Care Assistant Vice President of Marketing.

"Fortunately, in New York state, programs exist that often can provide complete healthcare coverage for this population."

Through New York State's Family Health Plus program, Fidelis Care members are covered for regular checkups, hospital care, emergency care, prescription drug coverage, eye care, dental care, speech and hearing therapy, and preventive care. Adults ages 19 to 64 who are residents of New York state and are not eligible for Medicaid may qualify for low-cost health coverage through Family Health Plus, based on their household size and gross monthly income. Family Health Plus has no monthly premiums, with some copays.

Fidelis Care representatives make it as easy as possible to apply for enrollment.

Representatives will often meet with individuals in their homes, at work, and even at the local coffee shop to discuss their health care insurance options.

Serving more than 472,000 members in 46 counties, Fidelis Care is founded on the belief that all New Yorkers, regardless of religion, ethnic background or income, should have access to affordable, quality health insurance.

Fidelis Care members have access to a provider network of more than 30,000 health care professionals statewide.

Regional offices are located in Amherst, Syracuse, Albany, and Rego Park (Queens), with satellite offices in Rochester and Poughkeepsie.

Individuals seeking affordable health insurance coverage should contact Fidelis Care toll-free at 1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) or visit www.fideliscare.org.

See Fidelis ad on page 15

BCC Leadership Institute

A Training Program for Collegiate Student Leaders

Free leadership training will provide students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and gain the tools needed to lead more effectively. The curriculum focuses on cutting-edge leadership skills and strategies needed to successfully implement both campus and community initiatives. Upon completion of the training component, students will have the opportunity to take an exam and become a **Nationally Certified Student Leader!**

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be considered for the program, students must:

- Be registered for at least six credits the semester the application is filed
- Have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5
- Have completed at least 12 degree credits, but have no more than 35 prior to submitting the required application
- Submit a recommendation from a member of the BCC faculty
 - Provide a brief statement of at least 250, but no more than 300 words, detailing campus and community leadership plans
- Please Note: In certain cases, the program qualifications may be waived if the student is already involved in a campus leadership program.

Applications are available now and can be picked up in the Student Life office, RBSC 102. Upon request, an application can also be sent to you via the mail or by email. If you need additional information, please stop by our office in RBSC 102 or call us at 718-289-5194.

Campus News

BCC Holds Tree Planting Ceremony to Improve Air Quality and Temperature

In a tree planting ceremony, Bronx Community College President Carolyn G. Williams inaugurated the planting of 94 trees on the campus in a joint partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and New York City. NYSERDA, on behalf of New York City, is administering a \$10 million Urban Reforestation project over ten years as part of a large-scale tree planting program and evaluation called Greening the Bronx.

“This tree planting is a symbol of Bronx Community College’s awareness and support for the ecology of the world we live in. Our campus houses the Center for Sustainable Energy and we offer an Ornamental Horticulture Education program. Our leadership and reputation for efforts to make our world a ‘green’ world is well-known throughout the broader community,” stated President Williams.

Dr. Williams thanked Andre Hurni, director of campus planning, for leading this initiative. He developed the grant proposal and is managing this project. Michael Colgrove, director of energy programs at NYSERDA and a Bartlett Tree Experts representative, Trevor Hall, attended the event.

Ten species of trees were planted on the campus by the Bartlett Company. They include: Dawn Redwood, London Plane, Little Leaf Linden, Saw Tooth Oak, Callery Pears, Hornbeams, Sophora, Sweet Gum, Katsura, Hawthorn and Serviceberry. Trees were selected because they are durable enough to handle pollution and other urban conditions.

Guidance regarding the planting locations and tree species was based on the findings of a 2006 NYSEDA study, “Mitigating New York City’s Heat Island with Urban Forestry, Living Roofs and Light Surfaces.” Heat islands can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, and water quality.



(From left) Trevor Hall, Bartlett Tree Expert; David Taylor, associate dean of Administration and Finance; Luis Lopez, BCC student; Michael Colgrove, director of energy programs, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Carolyn G. Williams, president of Bronx Community College (with shovel foreground); Biology Professor Claudio Mazzatenta (not pictured); Andre Hurni, architect and director of campus planning; and Maria Pagan Jaccoma, assistant director of campus planning.

An Afternoon of Getting to Know about Islam

By Mohammed Meishanu

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) of the college organized an afternoon of getting to know about Islam in room 228 of Begrish Hall on the 28th of April from noon to 2:00 PM. Themed “Jihad, Jesus and the Rights of Women in Islam,” the function was opened with an introduction of Mr. Manny Lopez, the Assistant Director of Student Life, and Ms. Roslyn Gillespie (Vice President of the Student Government) by the Vice President of the MSA, Mr. Muhammad Jalloh. Both Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gillespie gave short speeches encouraging the attendees to be actively involved in college activities geared towards helping them develop themselves and to let their voices be heard on campus. The guest speaker of the event, Imam Muhammad Yaseen, was then introduced and the main event was begun.

Listening raptly to the speaker were about 40 students, who came to learn more about Islam. He delved a little into the history of the beginning of Islam, the many challenges faced by the early Muslims, their successes and exemplary lives and how we can be some of God’s best creatures on earth ourselves by emulating these early Muslims’ exceptional ways of life. The speaker noted that he was not born into a Muslim family himself, but that many years ago, like many other white Americans, he had voluntarily accepted Islam after being drawn to the beauty and authenticity of the Islamic way of life. Imam Yaseen said that the best of mankind are those who are pious and serve their Lord and mankind sincerely. He added that, in the sight of God (whom the Muslims call “Allah”), obedience to the commandments of God, rather

than a person’s gender, race or nationality, is what makes one a better human and more deserving of honor before God.

He exhorted the students to strive for excellence in their educational endeavors and be productive citizens who will make their communities and country proud. “And that,” he said, “is the message of Islam.” He said that learning enlightens a human and with that enlightenment comes submission to the will of God, attainment of inner peace and compassion towards fellow humans.

After his hour-long talk, there was an opening for questions and answers, which created an avenue for students to ask questions about Islam that bothered them. They received educated responses to all their questions. On the question of Islam and terrorism, for instance, Imam Yaseen noted that it was a deeper subject and did not want to go into it, but said, “Islam is not terrorism and anybody who terrorizes in the name of Islam is at variance with the teaching of Islam.” He pointed out that the Qur’an had clearly stated, “Who so slays a soul, not to retaliate for a soul slain, nor for corruption done in the land should be as if he has slain mankind altogether. And whosoever saves a life, it is as though he has saved the lives of all mankind” (Qur’an 5:32).

Some films were going to be shown but time and technology did not allow that. The Vice President of the MSA, however, promised that the club will post links to the films on www.bccmsa.com, the club’s website. He also said that the club will regularly post articles, videos and other Islamic media on the website. An informal and interactive

session between the students and the guest speaker then followed, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion by the MSA.

This was an interesting and educative afternoon beneficial for all who attended.

Join A Club

Student Government Leaders Address the Student Body

Good Day, Students of BCC

We meet once again for the final time, for this is my last semester here at BCC. First, I would like to apologize for not keeping up communications through the use of the various editions of *The Communicator* that came out during the semesters. However, the Student Government Association has been a very active entity over this year, from fighting tuition increases all year round (and beyond if necessary), to advocating for additional student services at our own campus, always representing Bronx Community College and you students proudly and to the fullest while we did so. We have had a lot of success and we are in the process of obtaining more for students that are going continuing to struggle with the everyday struggles that college life brings. Trust me, your government has not, and never will, forget about you.

First off, let me start with our advocacy efforts against tuition increases. In total, we have attended 8 events (spread between hearings, rallies, and lobby days) in an effort to deter the upper echelon of CUNY administration (primarily the CUNY Board of Trustees) from raising tuition. We collaborated with many organizations such as the PSC (Professional Staff Congress), the A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) Coalition and NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group), Councilman Charles Barron, and many others in our efforts. Unfortunately, the Board moved to raise tuition up to \$200 per semester for community colleges (up to \$400 annually) and up to \$300 for senior colleges per semester (up to \$600 annually). In this proposition, 10-20% of those funds get returned to their respective campuses for reinvestment and 80% goes to the city and state to help balance the budgets due to the economic crisis at hand. To the credit of CUNY and its Board, the SUNY Board had made those increases long before those hit our trustee table and the words "up to" were not included in their increases at all. On top of that, their increases took effect this semester, and ours will take effect this coming fall. Also, realistically speaking, compromises had to be made, due to this crisis. However, students who pay more should receive more in services for their investment. Such is not the case, and I will be an advocate long after I am a Bronx Community College Student for such. However, fear not Bronx Community College students, the Student Government Association has been working on a solution for you.

Due to this impending reality, my administration has been in the process of working on a grant fund to help those students who face economic hardships and cannot afford to pay the tuition now, although they have to due to financial aid restrictions, which are never based on the cost of living realities of those who do not show cause on paper alone. In this effort we have been working with the Dean David Taylor (who is the Dean of Administration and Finance) and Senior Vice President Mary Coleman (who is the Vice President of Administration and Finance) in order to go through the student activity fee allocation and readjust them in order to serve the primary concern of

students today: being able to go to school! We also hope to be able to provide funding for student work on campus, and hopefully serve the international and disabled communities. The iron is hot for this project and we will succeed by the end of this academic year. If not, then I will personally make sure that it is done in time for students to benefit in the upcoming semester. Vice President Coleman has been especially been a great asset to us for she helped guide us in this direction. We are forever thankful and you all will be as well. I am also in charge structuring a fund similar to this for the University Student Senate (USS) budget, which operates as a CUNY wide student government, making this a CUNY wide initiative. Bronx Community Students will be able to tap into these funds as well for additional assistance.

As mentioned earlier, we have also advocated for improvements in many of the services here on campus. For starters, key members of my administration sat on the board the structural changes that are coming to the Child Development Center, in addition to the other committees we serve on that implement valuable changes. We have also worked to improve the cafeteria food and pricing and oversaw the three proposals for technological resource use at our campus. We are in the process of expanding the hours of the Bursars, Registrars, Financial Aid offices, in addition to our library to further accommodate evening and weekend students. We are also starting our own BCC apparel outlet in order to provide you all with the opportunity to get some new, BCC gear and expand the BCC brand in a continuous effort to put this great school on the map. And we have taken the first step in making our campus eco-friendly and aware with our "Go Green" campaign. As you can see, your student government has been very busy, attempting to implement effective and lasting changes to provide current and future BCC students to have the complete community college experience. I say we haven't done half bad.

All in all, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. I have learned many lessons and have obtained valuable experience as I hope to make myself a better student activist, leader, and public servant. I have connected with many of the students here this year and I hope those I feel touched by, were somehow moved by me. I hate to use the old cliché, but if I have inspired one student to do better, my job was a success. If I have moved this school and Student Government in the right direction, this year was a success. We have only just begun this journey in life my students and I hope that my term was the first step in a more collaborative and involved student body. And I know this administration has done its best in this effort. I couldn't be prouder.

I hope this year has been productive for you as well, as you continue to pursue your academic goals and the dreams of success that follow. I hope that you reflect on this year and everyday forward, for reflection gives one a chance to learn themselves and grow. Learning is an everyday process and if you don't learn, you won't grow, and to quote a wise man "Only dead things don't grow." Keep striving for excellence my students. Never stop

believing in yourselves and always know that this world is yours for the taking. Your first step was taken today. I am honored for the opportunity to walk with you.

P.S. For those who will miss me when I'm gone, I will be your President again one day...you can count on that.

Yours Truly and Forever BCC,
Your President, Kareem Morales

Greetings Fellow Students of BCC,

As your Vice President and Chairperson of the Inter Organizational Council it was indeed a pleasure to serve you. When I first took this job, it was truly unclear of what the job entailed, but I struggled on and with extreme enthusiasm and the will to do a great job.

Though the job was a challenge it was a very positive learning experience for me. Being in charge of more than 30 clubs and co-circular activities each semester, taking five classes, being a mom, a grandma, maintaining a GPA of 3.1, and if that was not enough breaking my ankle on Inauguration Day it was indeed challenge. Sure, I have numerous years of experience in the business arena, but I had to find that certain amount of diplomacy needed to deal with both students and faculty. For this I would like to commend all of my Inter-Organizational Council (IOC) Representatives that held their own and persevered when I know it was difficult. I too wore those unappreciated shoes at one time and was equally frustrated at times trying to follow and enforce rules that others have seemed to have forgotten.

As I leave, and a new administration enters, it is my hope that the torch will continue to be carried in the manner that I have tried to instill. It is also my hope that the IOC would collaborate with the Office of Student Life and the American Cancer Society to become involved with Relay for Life. This is an extraordinary event that would be instrumental in supplying our students with information on all types of cancers that affect both genders and an excellent opportunity to support the continued effects to find a cure for cancer.

Again, it was a pleasure serving you and please remember one thing – "If You Stand for Nothing, You Will Fall for Anything."

Good luck in your future endeavors and, may God Bless You All!!

Sincerely,
Roslyn Gillespie
Vice President, Student Government Association
Chairperson, Inter-Organizational Council

The Phi Theta Kappa Experience, Leading the Way

By Mohammed Meishanu

The Phi Theta Kappa Society, Lambda Nu Chapter of the Bronx Community College, was in Grapevine, Texas, during spring break to attend the 91st annual International Convention of the Honors Societies. Even though the activities began on Tuesday the 14th of April to the 18th, we were there from the 15th to the 18th of April. This year the theme of the convention was the "Paradox of Affluence" choices, challenges, and consequences.

Six students and a faculty adviser made it to the convention. They were the president of the society Jisseiry Rodriguez, Jinad Oluseyi, Jermaine Butler, Ahmadou Diallo, Komi Attitso, Mohammed Meishanu and the faculty adviser, Ms. Eldiane Elmeus.

There were sessions, forums, workshops and elections of PTK international officers candidates, who would be officers for the next year. We were involved in this convention's activities in order that we can gain experiences and learn new ways of doing things and also how best we can steer the activities of the society on our campus to

help the general student population and also to give back to the community. At the convention students were involved in volunteer work such as cleaning parks, painting park structures and planting flowers in gratitude to the host city.

There were speeches by politicians, PTK officials, and the keynote speakers were Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who gave an eye-opening speech on how best we can save the environment and our planet with renewable and alternative energy sources and how the future of the world depends on it, and Dr. Fareed Zakaria of CNN and editor of the *Newsweek* magazine, who spoke about the global economy and our role as Americans in it and why we should not be xenophobic. In between the sessions there were forums to discuss the various speeches and workshops on how to go about helping our communities, writing résumés, cover letters and how to ace interviews, getting scholarships and transferring to four year colleges.

The theme of the convention "Paradox of Affluence, Choices, Challenges, and Consequences" asks us to do

something in our own little ways to change the contradictions of society where some have an overabundance of resources and others can hardly make ends meet. The choice is ours to help the least fortunate despite the fact that we are constrained in our resources, but the little we can do to help will go a long way.

With the message from the convention in mind some members of the PTK spent some hours on the 1st of May at the Food Bank of New York here in the Bronx to help the less fortunate in our community, by boxing and rearranging donated food and household products to be delivered to the various soup kitchens in the New York city area. Members are set to organize some workshops on campus in the coming weeks to give back to the college what was learned at the convention. The choices we make have their challenges and there are consequences. But we must be ready to make the choice and meet the challenge and deal with the consequence all for the best of intentions and actions.

Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Former BCC President, Is May 29th Commencement Speaker

“Keeping busy” is BCC’s Commencement Speaker Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.’s secret for remaining active. Dr. Brown will deliver the commencement address on May 29th at 10 a.m. on Ohio Field. The 87-year-old president emeritus of Bronx Community College will pay tribute to the graduating class and receive the Presidential Medallion.

“I will urge students to pursue excellence, strive to overcome obstacles, make the most of their own potential, and to use much of that potential to help others,” says Brown. “I’ll also relate an adage made famous by baseball pitcher Satchel Paige: ‘Keep moving ahead and don’t look back. [The competition] may be gaining on you.’ The idea of moving ahead and not being stopped by obstacles is very important.”

Brown says he’s not nostalgic about coming back as commencement speaker. He visits BCC every year about three or four times, including the Michael Steuerman 2 Mile Fitness Walk, part of Bronx Community College’s 31st Annual Hall of Fame 10K (6.2 miles)/5K (3.1 miles) “Run and Walk for Cancer.” Brown inaugurated the 10K Race 31 years ago when he was president of BCC (1977-1993).

“I’m proud of the way the college has grown under the leadership of President Carolyn G. Williams. It continues to expand its curriculum in Digital Arts, Computer Information Systems, Energy Services, Education Associate, Nursing, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiologic Technology, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology, and Media Technology. It also remains committed to its outreach to the community as epitomized by the 10k run and many other events.

“The students are great. They are ambitious and they work hard to overcome obstacles from where they were when they first arrived. The faculty is dedicated. The neighborhood has been revitalized and the campus,



designed by Architect Stanford White, is beautiful along with the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. I am also excited about the construction that will start soon for the \$102 million, 98,000-square-foot North Instructional Building and Library. It’s the first new construction since BCC moved to the campus in 1973,” adds Brown.

A former Army Air Force captain who flew a

P51 fighter escort plane to protect B17 bombers on flying missions over occupied Europe in World II, Brown commanded the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group (the “Tuskegee Airmen”). For this service, in 2008 the Tuskegee Airmen, including the ground support crew, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for Outstanding Service to the Nation. Currently, Brown is the director of the Center for Urban Education Policy and university professor at the Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York. He was formerly director of the Institute of Afro-American Affairs at New York University.

Brown holds a doctorate from New York University, and has served on faculty at West Virginia State College and as a full professor at New York University’s School of Education. A native of Washington, D.C., Brown is a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and received his bachelor’s degree from Springfield College in Massachusetts.

He has served on the boards of the Bronx Botanical Garden, the Bronx Zoo, the Phipps Housing Development Corporation and the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. He is the former president of 100 Black Men, formerly served on the board of the City Wide YMCA of Greater New York and the national board of Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He is past chairman of the Greater Harlem Nursing Home. He currently serves on the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. Brown ran in nine New York City Marathons and created the 10K Run Harlem Renaissance Classic in 1999.

Being Bothered

By Brian Hennessey

There are many things that bother me in life; trust me, I complain a lot. One of the things that has been bothering me most lately is my lack of free time. In college I am finding it a challenge to balance my work, social, and educational obligations. It is hard to maintain a healthy, well-rounded life while having these two major time-consuming events in my daily routine, and I understand I am not the only one. I find that I am always in a rush and don’t have time to take care of my needs. I am definitely never able to “stop and smell the roses.” I am too busy studying, doing homework and bussing myself across town to get to school and work on time.

In my personal and social life, I am missing out on many of the activities I used to enjoy so much. I don’t see my friends as frequently as I would like to or get to participate in fun things like playing ball with the guys. My down time has gotten much further apart and is often hard to keep due to my work load. My busy schedule doesn’t allow any time to myself or even a chance to go to the gym. With the warmer weather right around the corner, it saddens me to think that I and many others won’t be able to enjoy it. I used to like to go to the park, or hang out outside with my friends. Now I am at school, going straight to work afterwards, and I lose the entire day.

While my personal life is suffering, I am doing all that I can to excel in school. It’s tough to find enough time to study, and when I do it is hard to sit and concentrate when I know that I have a limited time before I need to get to work or sleep. My homework is often done in a rush and could probably be much better if I had the time to apply myself and focus. The same is true for school projects. I have to work on these after work, usually staying up pretty late to get the work done. Group projects are extremely hard to collaborate on with such a packed schedule. I rarely have free time to meet with my group.

Work takes up almost all of the time that I am not in school. There isn’t even time to go home and change into my work clothes. I often have to attend class in my work clothes, as I have seen many others do as well, instead of being able to express myself the way that I would like to by wearing my own outfits. With classes during the day, I must work until closing in order to get enough hours in. By the time I leave work at 10 PM, the day is gone, and I am too tired to do much else than go home and get to bed. If I were to cut back on the number of hours I work per week that would put my money situation at risk, and that is one thing I can’t afford to lose.

Some of these problems can be alleviated by managing my schedule better. When I registered for classes this year, I did not pick my classes, but I allowed someone else to make my schedule. Next time around I will get an early start on registration, getting first pick on classes and choosing ones that are at better times, giving me a bit more free time. I will also give myself extra time between classes and work when planning my schedule with my manager. That will leave me with some time to work on homework and projects, or even play a game of ball!

The Big Read: A Conversation about Justice, Tolerance and Heroism Held at BCC

The Bronx Council on the Arts and BCC faculty held “A Conversation about Justice, Tolerance and Heroism,” lessons from Harper Lee’s classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in Gould Memorial Library Rotunda. The event, called “The Big Read,” was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts on March 31st.

The conversation brought together students from local high schools to hear a distinguished panel that included BCC’s Dr. Susan Amper and Dr. Julie Bolt of the English Department and Dr. Katherine Culkin of the History Department. The moderator was Charles Rice-Gonzalez, executive director of the Bronx Academy of Art and Dance. Bill Aguado, executive director of the Bronx Council on the Arts, and Carol White, director of public affairs at Bronx Community College, welcomed the audience.

The panel discussed issues of race raised in the book and heard from Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., 87, president emeritus of Bronx Community College (1977-1993). Brown grew up during the 1930s, an eyewitness to the era. He talked about the issues which divided the country then.

Brown is also a former Army Air Force captain who flew a P51 fighter escort plane to protect B17 bombers on flying missions over occupied Europe in World War II. He commanded the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group (the “Tuskegee Airmen”). For this service, in 2008 the Tuskegee Airmen, including the ground support crew, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for Outstanding Service to the Nation.

A dramatic reading, introduced by BCC Professor Ellen Mareneck of Communications Arts and Sciences, was delivered by the Bronx Community College Speech, Drama and Debate Team.

Join A Club

BCC Student and Kaplan Scholar Busily Prepares for Next Step after Graduation

For Bronx Community College business major Bouniyaminou Gbadamassi (the G is silent), who graduates on May 29, this year is exciting for two reasons. First, this week he received his acceptance letter to enroll at Cornell University next fall. Second, he will graduate with his brother, Taoyidi Gbadamassi, mathematics major at BCC, who helped pave the way for his younger brother to come to the U.S. from French-speaking Togo.

Gbadamassi is in a special category. The money for his transfer to a four-year college after graduation -- up to \$30,000 annually -- has been promised by the Kaplan Educational Foundation. The scholarship was given under the Kaplan Leadership Program. The foundation is a subsidiary of Kaplan Inc., a leading global provider of educational services, owned by the Washington Post Group. (Taoyidi received a \$20,000 scholarship to the Department of Teaching and Learning at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development of New York University.)

"I am so thrilled. I called my mother and father. They can't believe that the son of a farmer may go to such well-known universities as Cornell, Brown, Georgetown, or American University," said Gbadamassi. He will decide after he hears from all schools.

"Cornell teaches farming," he said. "I would like to learn more about farming so that I can obtain the knowledge to go back to Togo to help people become more profitable managing their farming businesses."

"We are interested in helping students become a part of the next generation of leadership," explained Jennifer Benn, director of the Kaplan Educational Foundation. "We work with students in associate programs to help them finish their degree and transfer to four-year colleges. They have great potential, promise and a financial need." When Gbadamassi was told last May that he had been selected for the scholarship, he was also told that he had to finish the rest of his associate's degree in good standing. He has done that. He has a 3.869 grade point average.

His goals are ambitious: "I would like to earn a master's degree in international business and ultimately create a non-profit organization that will help poor children and immigrants attend college in the US and West Africa," said Gbadamassi.

"My inspiration comes from my experiences in both the US and Togo. I come from a poor country where more than half of the population never attends college. My arrival in the US has helped me to understand that education plays a crucial role in the development of a country. I believe that my career in international business will give me a holistic view of the world that will help me to under-

stand social difficulties and how to address those needs effectively," he added.

To help choose a four-year college, he's been visiting campuses to ask questions of faculty and administrators since Kaplan first told him that they were interested in him in May 2008. Through the foundation, he has visited multiple four-year colleges including Brown, Georgetown, and American Universities.

Two weeks ago, he traveled to Cornell University to interview business department faculty about their business program. While there, he met Bronx Community College graduate Kojo Wallace, the \$60,000 winner of a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in 2008. Wallace is majoring in biology. (Many New Yorkers may remember seeing CUNY subway and bus ads publicizing his academic achievements.)

"After a five-hour bus trip from New York City to Ithaca, NY, I luckily arrived on the Cornell campus and coincidentally stepped down in front of a building and met Wallace who had just departed his class," said Gbadamassi.

Wallace spent 45 minutes with Gbadamassi. "In that time, he told me that the pace at Cornell is so fast that if you miss two days of classes you'll fall behind and not be able to catch up," said Gbadamassi. "It was a good piece of advice which I will keep in mind as I move forward in my college career."

For the 30-year-old Gbadamassi, getting to this point in his college career has been a struggle. Back in Togo when he was in grade school, his father, a farmer in a village six hours north of Lome, hoped his son would help him in the fields. Fortunately, an uncle who is a mathematics professor looked at his school results and noticed his abilities. The uncle asked if he could take Gbadamassi to another town where he could better supervise his education.

He graduated high school and interned in a bank for eight months, then returned to live with his parents for two years during which time he helped them sell crops. He came to the U.S. in 2003 and moved in with his brother, Taoyidi, who had come to the Bronx before him in 2001 and would eventually enroll at BCC. Taoyidi helped pave the way for his younger brother.

Like his older brother, Gbadamassi had goals. He wanted to save money to go to college and to help support his parents. He took a job as a tour guide on a double-decker tour bus, City Sights in Manhattan, for 40 hours a week from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. On a second job, he worked as a security guard in New Rochelle from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Finally in 2006, he enrolled in BCC and immedi-

ately researched scholarships. "Education is a key to success. It is one very important path on which one attains his goals in life," noted Gbadamassi. "If the United States is the richest country in the world, it is because many Americans are educated. The lack of education is the root of many problems in Africa. Underused and misused resources, corrupt government, high unemployment rates, diseases, and other social problems could be solved if people were better educated."

When the Kaplan Educational Foundation spotted him after he submitted his application last year, he was asked to cut back on the time he spent working and the foundation gave him a stipend while he finished his studies at BCC. He did so. Now he only works 15 hours a week.

"We want our students to be able to focus on their studies," stated Benn. "We accept students who work, but we really want them to only work no more than 15 hours. We want them to be active on campus and participate in campus programs -- to be students beyond the classroom to learn to volunteer and be a leader in the community. To do that, Kaplan gives them a living stipend based on individual need."

The foundation also helps students identify areas of needed improvement. That help can be tutoring in math, writing, and business etiquette. Scholarship students like Gbadamassi meet achievers who are invited to the Kaplan offices in Manhattan to talk about decisions they made to build their careers.

From last May, Gbadamassi has been mentored by his academic advisor Nancy Sanchez. She has worked with him to acquire the individualized training and information that he will need to move forward in the next phase of his college career.

"Our students have a vision of what they want to do, but they are not always sure of their path. That's where we can greatly facilitate their advancement toward becoming people who can take their leadership skills anywhere," stated Benn.

Gbadamassi thanks professors at BCC for their help. "Without my professors' recommendations, I wouldn't have been able to apply for the Kaplan Leadership Program, or the All USA-competition. It would have been harder for me to apply to a four-year college. BCC faculty and staff are a big part of my success. I am so grateful to them. I particularly take this opportunity to thank my history professor William De-Jong Lambert for all his support and advice. I am also grateful for the Kaplan Educational Foundation Scholarship."

Bronx Community College Scholars Shine

Mavis & Ephraim Golden Crust Scholars / Fall 2008

**Terry-Ann Barnet
Tracy Anne Joseph**

Mavis & Ephraim Golden Crust Scholars / Spring 2009

**Andre Dunbar
Ada Diallo-Bolly**

Amadou Diallo Foundation Scholars

**Komi Attitso
Marcia Brown
Kodjo Senyedji
Zizi Sinare
Issouf Tapsoba**

Marsha Cummins Scholarship Award Scholar

Daniel Torres

Booker Quattlebaum Scholarship Award Scholar

Crystal Rivas

Beyond the Quad

HIV and College Students

By Yessy Herrera

HIV is a disease that has affected many lives and brought suffering to many families. This is a disease that human beings should not have to experience. However, when we or someone we love is infected with HIV, our life course changes, which includes our dreams and goals. College students and people in general need to protect themselves from acquiring HIV. But are we taking the necessary precautions to protect ourselves from getting HIV? If not, then what steps are we to take to do so?

Today, there are many programs created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to educate the public about HIV. Their goal is to decrease the number of infected people. To a degree it has been effective because many are protecting themselves. As a result, the number of new infections has declined. However, recent studies have shown that unsafe sex remains common among New Yorkers. New data from the Centers for Disease Control indicated that blacks made up 46 percent of new infections and Hispanics made up 32 percent. BCC is greatly populated by blacks and Hispanics. Hence, this new data is related to us at BCC making it important for us to take the necessary precautions to avoid contracting HIV.

An article in August 27, 2008 *The New York Times* written by Serwell Chain indicated that 36 percent of New York men who have sex with other men and who have more than one partner within the past year do not consistently use condoms. The word consistent is important when it comes to protecting ourselves from acquiring HIV; one unprotected sexual contact can lead to HIV. Are we as college students protecting ourselves? The first step in protecting ourselves is through education about HIV and the modes of transmission. However, many people have that information already. How the information is used is an individual choice that can lead to life or death.

If we choose to not engage in unprotected sex then it will increase our chances of not being infected with HIV. The only 100 percent protection against HIV is not having sex or not using infected needles when drugs are involved.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, New York City's Health Commissioner, states that ten of thousands of New Yorkers put themselves at risk by having unsafe sex, according to *The New York Times* on February 12, 2009. He also stated that decreasing the number of sexual partners and using condoms correctly and consistently makes it less likely to get a sexually transmitted infection like HIV. This is important information to keep in mind before engaging in any sexual activities.

Other risk factors that college students are faced with is substance use like alcohol and marijuana. Casual or chronic "users" are more likely to engage in high risk behavior such as unprotected sex according to the CDC. Also an article in News Media indicated that of the 16 percent of heterosexuals that are having anal sex, only 29 percent of them used condoms. Anal sex puts a person at an even higher risk for contracting HIV than vaginal sex; the rectal lining is very delicate and tears more easily, leading to a break in the skin as a result allowing HIV to penetrate and invade our body.

Today, we do not fully know the reasons why many people are still contracting HIV. It may be because they are not taking the information seriously or may be that they are passive learners. Many do not see the importance of immediate action, such as life style changes in order to not be a victim of that disease that is literally ruining many people's lives.

I personally have experienced how HIV can change a person's life and those around them like their loved ones. My father was a nice-looking man; he had many women

and occasionally had a few drinks. Unfortunately, he died of HIV. Like many young people, maybe father thought that he had the world in his hands and that whatever he was doing was ok. When he found out about his diagnosis, he felt sorry for his actions but that came too late because three other women were infected from him. He left innocent children behind without their parents to care for them and protect them. That nice-looking man that once my father was, by the time he died looked nothing like him; the disease destroyed him physically and mentally.

In brief moments of pleasure, if we do not take the proper precautions we can be putting our live in dangers. Furthermore, when it comes to those we love we can not put complete trust in them with our lives because we do not know what the other person is doing behind our back. If a partner is cheating and we choose to stay with the person, it will be wise to use condoms during sexual intercourse. When it comes to trust; the only person whom we can trust 100 percent is ourselves. Hence, protection is imperative.

As mentioned above, protection starts with education. We will take the right actions, if we know as much as we can about HIV; for example, changing our life course by having only one partner. In addition, avoiding the use of alcohol or drugs, if not, taking precautions will be important. For anal sexual intercourse, the use of condom decreases the likelihood of getting HIV. Do not put your life in danger for no one or for few minutes of pleasure. With great resolve, let's protect ourselves!

Drunk Driving

By Maritza Cruz

Drinking and driving is a serious and dangerous issue. Drinking causes a variety of things to happen to one's body causing one's ability to function undesirably. When thinking about drinking and driving, thinking of someone actually impaired behind the wheel while you're out driving can be a scary thought. Anything can happen at any time of any day of any hour, including accidents. But getting into a fatal crash due to driving under the influence is more than just illegal, it is unethical. Don't be mistaken, people can lose control of a car not being intoxicated, but it is more unlikely. Even not having another human being to drive us to our destination, there are still more options than risking taking a life from this world.

Drinking an alcoholic beverage and then sitting in the driver's seat of the car, turning the engine on and driving away is illegal in all 50 states if the driver is scored over 0.08 on the breathalyzer test. The breathalyzer test, also known as the BAC test, standing for blood alcohol content or concentration, is what the police use to determine the level of substance in one's body. Chances are the higher the level of BAC, the higher risk of there being a car accident. When a person applies for a driver's permit, they read and are fully aware that the limit is .08, because that is what it states in the Department of Motor Vehicles Drivers Manual from each state. When and if gone above this level, our reflexes and judgments become slower. We are neither concentrated nor coordinated, and our sight weakens. With any combination of these things an accident can occur, and many times they often do.

One of today's most controversial drinking and driving accidents occurred with an off-duty police officer in January 2007. According to article in *The Jersey Journal*, "Madison Square Garden, bar to be sued in fatal

crash" by Ken Thorbourne written in March 2008, the off-duty police officer, Kevin Freibott had already been intoxicated before heading off to a college basketball game at Madison Square Garden between St. John's and Notre Dame. *The Jersey Journal* article also states, "Freibott kicked back about a dozen 16-ounce beers" that evening, violating Madison Square Garden's alcohol policy of not serving alcohol after halfway through the game. After being intoxicated Freibott got into a fatal crash, killing a two-year-old boy, Carlos Zelaya, and leaving his mother in a coma. Instances like this are avoidable.

Another instance occurred in December 2006, where a United States Marine, Brian Matthews, was killed alongside his date Jennifer Bower on Thanksgiving night in Maryland. According to the World Net Daily (evening edition), in an article "DUI illegal immigrant kills Marine home on leave from Iraq", Eduardo Raul Morales-Soriano, an illegal immigrant, slammed into Jennifer Bower's Toyota Corolla leaving Bower and Brian Matthews dead on impact. Soriano was, according to the World Net Daily article, four times above the legal drinking limit. Matthews served our country, leaving Iraq after eight months. He fought overseas to end up dead here in the United States, and Carlos Zelaya, a two-year-old boy, who had nothing but the world ahead of him, was dead too: both of them because of drunk drivers. Drinking and driving do not discriminate; anyone can be behind the wheel and, any one can get hit, causing injuries and possible deaths.

One of the worst situations to be in is getting behind the wheel and not being able to see straight. Drinking and driving can be fatal and can change the lives of many, like the lives of Bower, Matthews, and Zelaya.

The thing is that drinking and driving is preventable. Many bars have parking lots, but they do not want you to drive away when drinking. This is why it is said when you're out drinking, have a designated driver who has the keys and is taking everyone home, safely. When out to have a good time, there should be a designated driver so accidents like the ones that Jose Carlos Zelaya, Brian Matthews, and Jennifer Bower had to go might not happen.

Beyond the Quad continued on page 12

Join
A
Club

Going Global



Students Travel to DC's Holocaust Memorial

By Sonya Acosta Gonzalez

On March 7, 2009 the New York-area Hillel (The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life) sponsored a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and nine members of the BCC chapter of the Student World Assembly attended. The trip provided included transportation, food and overnight accommodations at the Holiday Inn, Greenbelt, Maryland. This trip was made possible by the generosity of the David Taub Family.

The purpose of our trip was to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where we learned about the tragedies that occurred during the Holocaust. The Museum considers a Holocaust victim or survivor as whatever person, Jewish or non-Jewish, that was displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against for political, social, racial, religious, and ethnic reasons by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Before entering the Permanent Exhibition, a visitor receives an Identification Card that explains the story of a Holocaust victim or survivor of the event. The black marble panel on the wall behind the eternal flame has the inscription: "Only guard yourself and guard your soul carefully, lest you forget the things your

eyes saw, and lest these things depart your heart all the days of your life. And you shall make them known to your

ganda – as well as new technologies – to sway millions with its vision for a new Germany. We became living witnesses for our fallen brethren. On display are more than 900 artifacts, 70 video monitors, and four theaters that include historic film footage and eyewitness testimonies. The exhibition is divided into three parts: "Nazi Assault," "Final Solution," and "Last Chapter." Its core message to me was to remember because history has a tendency of repeating itself.

The experience was both educational and depressing at the same. Each student at the debriefing session that participated in the discussion addressed his or her unique experience. The visit to the museum reminded me of the need for us as a human race to ban together as residents of one world. In 1933 the world watched as the Holocaust claimed lives, and today we are faced with genocide in Darfur and other parts of the world. The world would be a better place when "we" realize that "we" could be "them." "We" could be next. We are reminded of Ella Wheeler Cox's words, "To sin by silence when we should protest, makes cowards out of men."



children and to your children's children." This passage is taken from the book of Deuteronomy.

We also learned how the Nazi Party used propa-

Confident BCC Students Join the Salzburg Global Seminar

The nine BCC students attending the Salzburg Global Seminar's International Study Program (ISP) – *America and the World* – were pleasantly surprised by the above-average temperatures that accompanied their week's stay in Salzburg. Having prepared for cool and damp, the warm weather seemed the perfect accompaniment to their eagerness and willingness to plunge headlong into the week's lectures, discussions, the trip to Dachau, and the challenging group project.

As many other CUNY students were preparing to enjoy Spring Break, nine BCC students – Mohammed Rinaz Ahamed, Enoch Allotey, Ricardo Aponte, Millicent Appiah, Norma Collado, Armanda Estrada, Manny Mejia, Jean Carlos Sanchez, and Daniel Torres – joined 27 other CUNY students (from Kingsborough Community College and Borough of Manhattan Community College) to test their understanding of global affairs and universal citizenship that had been discussing this spring in their course *Introduction to Global Citizenship*.

Most mornings in Salzburg began with lectures, including "The First Universal Nation: The American People in the 20th and 21st Century," "The US of America and the World: Views from a Distance," "Americanization, Globalization and Popular Music," and "Creating Inclusive Societies" given by an international team of lecturers, including professor emeritus Dr. Norman Yetman (University of Kansas), Dr. Reinhold Wagnleitner (University of Salzburg), Dr. Alex Seago (University of Birmingham, UK), and Dr. Champa Patel (health promotion specialist, Nottingham, City's Primary Care Trust, UK). As always, David Goldman (ISP associ-

ate director of education) and Astrid Schroeder (program director for the ISP) provided the framework for the week's work, including an opening presentation "From Ethnocentrism to Global Citizenship" as well as the context for the day trip to the Memorial Site at the former concentration camp at Dachau (Germany).

tion, sociology, and history. What I learned there was not merely a collection of abstract ideas, but applicable for future study as well. It was the decisive foundation of my physical and intellectual journey through the world." Manny Mejia offers the following: "The Salzburg Global Seminar International Study Program has awakened a part of me that has lain dormant for far too long.

Through the various seminars, participants, and experiences, the ISP has contributed enormously to my growth as a global citizen and has given me the experience of a lifetime."

Upon reflection, Norma Collado said, "Topics such as globalization and music, the global citizen in the 21 century, and visit to the Dachau Concentration Camp memorial site made me realize the importance of being an active global citizen."

Perhaps the most strenuous part of the ISP experience is the group project where students working randomly assigned teams to research and prepare a presentation on a pair of countries and their immigration/migration relationship, including push and pull factors, demographics, human networks and economic, environmental, political and social/cultural factors. At the end of the week, through the turmoil and successes that group interaction brings among a group of people who are accustomed to being leaders, the resulting morning of presentations is a worthy capstone event for a week of hard work.

Ricardo Aponte sums up the feeling of many other students when he says, "No matter how much you read or study, being abroad brings the experience directly to



Tired but eager BCC students prepare for 9 AM lecture: (counterclockwise from bottom left – Armanda Estrada, Rinaz Ahamed, Jean Carlos Sanchez, Millicent Appiah, Ricardo Aponte, Norma Collado, Daniel Torres, Enoch Allotey, and Manny Mejia).

The students, however, are the best advocates for their ISP journeys. Says Daniel Torres, "What I learned at the Salzburg Global Seminar didn't stay in Austria, nor was that the final destination of my interest on globaliza-

you."

U.S. Department of State Official Urges Students Seek Foreign-Service Careers

Robert Dry, a career United States diplomat who is serving as Diplomat-in-Residence at the City College of New York, and is teaching a course in contemporary foreign policy at CCNY, shared his experiences at BCC. On Wednesday, April 29th he addressed a receptive audience of BCC students who are interested in foreign service careers. Students from the English 12/99 honors course – *Introduction to Global Citizenship* – as well as members of the Student World Assembly and several other interested BCC students attended this unique forum.

Dry began his remarks with a travelogue of his foreign service career in the U.S. Department of State. He mentioned in detail most of the places to which he has been posted in his State Department career: Paris; Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; Hanoi, Vietnam; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Guangzhou, China; and Baghdad, Iraq, as well as Saudi Arabia; and Yemen. In fact, he opened a spirited recounting of his time in Yemen with an exchange in Arabic with Tarek Gubari, a BCC student and Yemeni native. Luckily, they both offered quick and concise translations.

Dry repeatedly stressed the need for soft power – diplomacy – over hard power – force, saying at one point, “The problems we face are not all solved with mil-

itary might.” A 35-year State Department veteran, he alluded to the embrace of diplomatic solutions sought by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton, in stark contrast to their predecessors, President George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice. He told the gathering that the 2010 Obama budget will show a 40% funding increase that highlights this administration’s preference for widening the use of soft power in its approach to global relations.

Many of the students took careful notes when Dry referred them to web sites which offer scholarship opportunities for students – such as the Pickering Program (www.woodrow.org) and the Rangel Program (www.howard.edu) – as they move into four-year institutions and, subsequently, graduate programs. He urged the students to seek out these programs and to work hard. “The US Foreign Service is merit based,” he said. Successful completion of one of these programs can lead to a guaranteed job with the State Department for American citizens. They are also available to foreign-born residents who become American citizens.

At one point he told the students, “Maybe we should be teaching future foreign policy as you all will be the decision makers. In 2025, you all will be in charge.” Heads begin to nod in agreement all around the room.



U.S. State Department official Robert Dry (center).
Photo: Charles Sabat

There Is Still Danger in the World

By Kenneth DeLoach

The Korea Peninsula is arguably the most dangerous and volatile place in the world. It has all the makings of the next big issue for the Obama administration. While Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran are all big problems, with so much attention paid to the Middle East, we forget that there has still never been a declaration of peace between the two countries, only a ceasefire which can be broken by even the slightest mistake. And with the recent test launch of a North Korean rocket, one which they claim is for peaceful purposes and the advancement of the space program, while everyone else believes it may be to further their nuclear and ICBM (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile) programs. Whatever the case, this latest incident is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to volatile Korean Peninsula.

As Communist Korean troops routed the United Nations forces during the Korean War, forcing them to the smallest corner of the southern part of peninsula, the North Korean army grew to be a power to be reckoned with. Over 60 years later and they are still the same. A popular YouTube video shows the training their top soldiers go through. Shooting eight targets through the heart within a minute, breaking numerous hard objects with their limbs, and just being an overall super soldier are just a myriad of things North Korea’s personal bodyguards to their glorious leader must do. But why take such extremes?

Well, North Korea is a country who is gripped by a paranoid, power hungry leader known as Kim Jong Il. Like his father before him, Kim is the Supreme Leader of North Korea. Although small in stature, he is to be feared amongst some of the most dangerous leaders in the world. Former Secretary Madeleine Albright simply called the North Korean Leader “nuts.” He is a film buff, loves the Internet, and uses every chance he gets to flex his military muscle in elaborate marches in the capital city of Pyongyang. He maintains a strict military state while the country around him disintegrates into poverty. His fears of being invaded by the evil west and South Koreans have trickled down to his subject, which he controls with the proverbial iron fist. Many are forced out to live in shacks and poor villages. Those considered too old to live in Pyongyang are swept aside.

Soon after the North Korean forces had driven the United Nations forces to the Pusan perimeter on the southwest corner of the peninsula, American airpower and a wave of reinforcements came and sent the NK forces back until Chinese intervention stopped the U.N. from completely taking over the island. Now without the prospects of Chinese involvement, it is a little easier to

understand why the North is so paranoid of a U.S. and South Korean attack.

Koreans consider themselves simply Korea, both countries claiming to be the true Korea. Many seem to believe that the time will come when the countries will be reunited. When that happens, it is almost assured that Kim Jong Il, or whoever is in power will be ousted due to the poor economic and social conditions that wear on the country. Along with that, is the presence of U.S. Forces on the 38th parallel, the world’s most de-militarized zone. Though the North Koreans state that their military is capable of defeating the United States and the South in a full on military conflict, their aging technology proves otherwise. Their navy is considered obsolete and would not last long against a small U.S. battle group – let alone an entire Pacific fleet. Though their army is strong in numbers, the armor and weaponry they possess are obsolete as well. The old Soviet weaponry they have harks back to the first Iraq war in 1991. Though Iraq had more tanks, those tanks could not get within range to shoot the superior U.S. tanks, and were destroyed rather quickly. Along with that, the U.S. has superior air power which would also make quick work of the North Korean military.

So with all these odds stacked against them, the reclusive country seeks to improve its military power, wanting to be a big dog on the world stage. That’s where the recent missile test disturbs the U.S. the most. If North Korea could develop an ICBM, even a rather ineffective one, there is still the chance that it could hit the U.S. or Japan. Military action is out of the question for the U.S. Any military strike by the U.S. would result in the leveling of the South Korean capital of Seoul. North Korea has hundreds if not thousands of artillery installations pointed at Seoul, enough to level the entire city within hours. The air force would not be able to destroy all of them in nearly enough time and the resulting casualty rate could be in the hundreds of thousands, if not millions. So the U.S. can only sanction, talk tough, and frankly hope Kim dies soon enough and someone with some sense takes over, or that situations would be so bad that China invades and does the dirty work for us. Vice President Joe Biden said that someone

will test the President Obama during his first days in office. Well, this is the test: how to deal with a country always on the brink of war with your ally. The recent missile launch just upped the ante, and soon it will reach its ceiling

experienceforalifetime

**IF YOU WANT TO BE
A GREAT TEACHER
PUT YOUR STUDENTS FIRST.**

Education at Marymount Manhattan College

- NY State accredited dual certification programs in a variety of fields
- Fieldwork assignments
- Experienced faculty, small classes
- **Scholarships available** for qualified students

To learn more, visit: www.mmm.edu | 1-800-MARYMOUNT

MarymountManhattan

a college of the liberal arts

221 East 71st Street New York, NY 10021

Watchmen

by Toni Ruiz

Will this movie be what Americans need to escape from its reality of trouble times?

The answer (drum roll please)...

No. *Watchmen*, the movie, is no fairy tale. It is not the basic good-guy-always-prevails-type scenario. This movie is set in 1985, where President Nixon is serving his fifth term and in a time where America is about to go into nuclear war with the Soviet Union. The story begins with a murder of a retired super hero. There has been a law passed banning all superheroes and with this, almost all have retired. You're introduced to your classic super team in the 1940s known as the Minutemen.

The Minutemen included Captain Metropolis, Mothman, Silhouette, Comedian, Dollar Bill, Hooded Justice and the classic Silk Spectre and Nite Owl. Minutemen are later replaced by a more updated group in the 1960s called the Watchmen. These include the comedian (from the original minutemen), Nit Owl2, Silk Spectre 2(the original's daughter), Ozzymandias, Dr. Manhattan, and Rorschach.

Though all dub the title super hero, all but one has actual super powers. The rest of the Watchmen have no super human abilities or strengths. Though the team does kick major behind in the movie, one can't deny they are more human then anything. All the super heroes though being super heroes, all have human fears and faults, making it easier for the audience to relate to the character.

The Comedian is played by Jeffery Dean Morgan. Edward Blake aka The Comedian is murdered in the first couple of minutes. His story and character is presented in flashbacks through out the movie. He, according to Rorschach, is the only one who saw the world for what it was. He is the only one other then Dr Manhattan, to have work for the government. If one pays mind to his quotes and dialogue spoken, he often foreshadows what is to come.

Ozzymandias is played by actor Matthew Goode. Adrian Veidt, aka Ozzymandias, has banked in on his past as a super hero, and he has revealed his secret identity to the public. He is said to be the smartest man in the world. But even from the beginning of the movie, there's something off about him and one soon does learn he is the villain, behind it all.

Dr Manhattan is played by actor Billy Crudup. Jon Osterman, aka Doctor Manhattan, is the only character in this film with actual powers. He was once a scientist, but due to a horrible accident, is given super human abilities. He is able to see the future, and alter matter all the way down to subatomic level. He is Nixon's solution to the problem with the Soviet Union. Once his girlfriend leaves him he has little reason to save the world and even says, "The existence of life is a highly over rated phenomenon."

Silk Spectre 2 is played by actress Malian Akerman. Laurie Juspechzyk, aka Silk Spectre 2, only really took to being a super hero, only to follow in mommy's footsteps. In the beginning of the movie she is Dr. Manhattans girlfriend and a retired super hero too. She is haunted by her childhood and treatment by her mother and her mothers past. But by the end of the movie, her father is reveled though the answer is a bit obvious from the beginning. She is able to let go of her anger towards her mother and her past, and ends up with Nite Owl 2.


Nite Owl 2 is played by Patrick Wilson. Dan Dreiberg, aka Nite Owl 2, is an inventor. He is a much more gadget equipped then the first Nite Owl. His "Archie," short for Archimedes, is what was used by the team to get around to the crime scenes to fight crime. He, in the beginning, is, like the others, retired, and has been doing much of nothing. He does his best not to stir up trouble. He has a true nature to want to save the people. Later in the movie, he takes up his costume again, and with his once partner Rorschach, and Silk Spectre, finds out the truth about the comedians murder.

Last, but not least, is Rorschach played by actor Jackie Earle Haley. Walter Knovacs, aka Rorschach, is a disturbed character with a traumatizing past. I'd have to say, he is my favorite. He is the key narrator in this movie, and his raspy deep sarcastic voice and attire reminds me somewhat of a better-dressed Sherlock Holmes. But he puts his own spin on it with his mask. His own team doesn't know what he looks like, for he doesn't own up to being Walter, but only answers to Rorschach. In the movie it isn't until he is arrested and in jail that his true face is reveled. Rorschach describes and explains to the physiologist, when Walter died and why he goes by Rorschach. This scene is very graphic. Right before he takes a butch-


er's cleaver and strikes the killer in the head he tells him, men go to jail, but dogs get put down. To Rorschach, his mask is his true identity. Though it is reveled to the audience and to the rest of the team watchmen, that Ozzymandias is behind it all, it is not reveled to the people. Rorschach leaves Ozzymandias lair and is killed by Dr. Manhattan for threatening to tell the people what they should know. But the joke is on them really. For everything is written in his journal which he sent to the News Frontier, a newspaper. In the end scene, they show a man complaining how there's nothing to write about in the paper because everyone's happy. The newspaper reporter then looks over the basket and there, among numerous other papers, is Rorschach's journal.

This movie, though quite lengthy, had enough twists and turns and action to keep your attention the whole time. I don't recommend this movie for children and kids under the age of 16, even though while I was in the movie theatre there were many small children. This movie has a rating of R which is appropriate for it has much violence, sex, war, language and blood. This movie did not require you to read the graphic novel in order to understand it which is a plus. I have been told by people who have read the novel that many parts have been left out of the movie version. But I have heard that the extended version will include all the things that got cut in the editing room. So I will be sure to buy that one too.




Because of this movie, I actually am going to go buy and read the graphic novel. I'd like to get the whole story. Though parts are missing from the graphic novel, I think the movie is a full story all on its own. It does require you to think a little more, and pay attention, but isn't that what movies were all about to begin with. To make you wonder, to make you think, Since when was it okay for a movie to give it all away, and set and explain everything out for you. The details, if you pay attention, are amazing and the quotes and fight scenes will be on your mind for days to come. I rather enjoyed this movie, and though it is not an escape from our trouble times of America, it does make me think and wonder a lot about our society and government, but more importantly about the people.



“I have a college degree,
three job interviews tomorrow,
and a Fidelis Care Doctor
who helps me plan for my
healthy future.”



FIDELIS CARE™

FREE or LOW-COST health coverage from Fidelis Care.

Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and Medicaid Managed Care are New York State-sponsored health insurance programs offered by Fidelis Care. Call 1-888-FIDELIS; TTY: 1-800-421-1220.

Proof of age, income, and address necessary to enroll.

1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547)

fideliscare.org

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECONDHAND SMOKE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

BACKGROUND

Effective September 1, 2009, Bronx Community College will start a new program on the prevention of the exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) throughout the campus. This new program is based upon many years of science proving that major health problems are caused by secondhand smoke. Bronx Community College is responsible for providing a healthy environment for its entire community, which includes visitors as well. The program will promote the health of both our college community not challenged by health problems and our special needs members with asthma, diabetes, emphysema, cancer, cardiovascular conditions, etc., as well as children and seniors whose systems are not functioning efficiently. Precedence for this program has been established with the implementation at many colleges throughout New York State.

PROGRAM

Smoking will not be permitted within 40 feet of all building entrances and air intake vents. Signs will be posted at all entrances and air intake vents. Designated comfortable smoking areas, with outdoor ashtrays and tables, will be located at specific areas throughout the campus. Smoking area signs will be posted at these areas. Individuals should smoke within these areas and be sure that they extinguish and dispose their cigarettes into the ashtrays.

PROCEDURES

This program will be implemented with a friendly reminder procedure that will rely on the thoughtfulness, consideration, cooperation, and positive interaction of both smokers and nonsmokers. All members of the college community will be requested to remind individuals (including visitors) to please smoke within the designated areas. The Campus Public Safety Officers will remind the smokers of the new program by showing them the signs and indicating where they can smoke within the designated smoking areas.

EDUCATION, SUPPORT AND CESSATION PROGRAMS

This new program will periodically be publicized through all campus media to remind the entire college community of its purpose. The education, prevention and cessation programs of smoking will be included in courses within various Departments such as the Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness in conjunction with special programs implemented by the College Health Services. Individuals who wish to stop smoking will benefit from these courses and special programs. These individuals will also be referred to off-campus resources such as the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association, as well as encouraged to contact 866-NY-QUITS (697-8487) or visit www.nysmokefree.com.

EVALUATION

Emerging scientific research will be reviewed periodically to determine if new program recommendations will be needed and the goal of promoting a healthy environment is fulfilled.

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Wellness, BCC Health Services, and BCC Student Government

Ecuador's Ambassador to the United Nations Questions Current Policy on Migrants

Moving towards universal citizenship as a world policy, a polarizing topic to many, was suggested as a more humanistic way to address the ever expanding impact of migrants in the global world. The topic was explored at the twelfth annual Samuel D. Ehrenpreis Memorial Lecture in Gould Memorial Library (GML).

The somewhat novel suggestion was presented in a talk by Her Excellency Maria Fernanda Espinosa, ambassador and permanent representative of Ecuador to the United Nations. She spoke on "The Rights of Belonging: Migration and Universal Citizenship in the Case of Ecuador." She called for modifying laws that would foster better treatment of people in the U.S., Europe and Asia; people who, Ambassador Espinosa noted, should have the right to travel abroad for their livelihood. She added that Ecuador is promoting this policy at the United Nations as a needed multilateral dialogue with the European Union and the U.S.

The ambassador's remarks came at the perfect time for BCC community as the College moves forward with its Global Initiative. Global learning and awareness are being stressed in numerous classrooms and in our co curricular activities. Many of our students have are becoming aware of the term "global citizenship" yet they have trouble defining what it is and what it means. This lecture was in line with this growing campus conversation.

The Ambassador explained, "The main goals of our migratory policy is to develop nationally and worldwide a migratory policy based on the respect and exercise

of human, economic, social and cultural rights of all human beings; to generate and strengthen the ties between migrant workers and their families and their country; to urge Ecuadorian nationals to remain at home and build

ditionated action through the G77 Group (134 countries) and the non-aligned movement (118 countries).

Some three million Ecuadoreans move back and forth to other countries (1.2 million into and out of NY, NJ and CT) to find work, noted Ambassador Espinosa. Unfortunately, while their work contributes to local economies, many migrants are often in a state of anxiety because they often work without papers. In the case of the U.S., Ambassador Espinosa cited statistics on the numbers of parents who are deported, often leaving behind small children who were born in the U.S. This she said is an example of a critical problem for authorities in Ecuador who have to work to reunite families.

Ambassador Espinosa took questions from the audience and then met with students and faculty at a reception in the GML Rotunda.

Samuel Ehrenpreis, whom the lecture honors, joined the History Department of Bronx Community College in 1961 and served as chairperson from 1973 – 1990. He was also the first Coordinator of the Humanities Division. He retired in 1990.



conditions to favor voluntary, safe and sustainable return of those migrant persons currently abroad."

Ambassador Espinosa continued, "There is hope with the new political environment in the U.S., but we need coor-

Students to Volunteer Abroad in Jamaica and Peru

Seven Bronx Community College students will be going global this summer to participate in exciting volunteer-abroad programs. These experiences students will enable students to learn more about another country while also providing important assistance to local communities.

Nursing students Nadine Myers-Campbell, Priscilla Mariusso, Sonia Ruddock, Komi Attitso, Cynthia Diaz, and Joseling Pagan will participate in a program sponsored by the Organization for International Development and under the guidance of BCC nursing professor Dr. Marcia Jones. The students are being supported by scholarships from Bronx Community College.

While in Jamaica, they will assist the doctors and nurses of the professional medical team in performing basic clinical procedures, thereby gaining valuable practical nursing experience. The mission also affords them invaluable global experience working in rural areas of Jamaica where the services they will offer are not readily available. Students who have previously participated in this program have reported that not only were they more confident in their nursing skills but that they were anxious to continue to provide service to others in need both here and abroad.

BCC student Daniel Robles will also travel abroad to volunteer this summer. A recipient of the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship, an annual prize which offers students financial support for an international or domestic community-service project of their choosing, Robles will work with street children in Cusco, Peru, under the auspices of United Planet.

These students will be presenting reports of their volunteer-abroad work to the BCC community in *The Communicator* as well in events that are part of the College's Global Perspectives event series.

Student World Assembly Sponsors Shoe Drive

The Bronx Community College chapter of the Student World Assembly is teaming up with Buckner International – global organization that seeks justice for 'the least of these' by providing care and resources for orphans and at-risk children in the United States and more than 50 countries around the world – to ask the BCC student body and faculty to collect shoes for orphan children around the world.

Buckner's ninth annual "Shoes for Orphan Souls" shoe drive is planning to collect more than 200,000 pairs of new shoes, socks and shoestrings, with a nationwide campaign. Shoes will be shipped to 55 countries. Since 1999, Buckner has sent more than 1.5 million pairs of new shoes to at-risk children in the United States and around the globe.

Donated items should be for children and teens and, due to customs' regulations, shoes and socks need to be brand new. Especially needed are boys' athletic shoes sizes 1-12 and all sizes of winter boots.

"Every one pair of shoes makes a big difference to the child that receives them," states SWA president Sonia Acosta-Gonzalez. "You can drop-off shoes at Brown Student Center every Thursday during club hours until Thursday, May 14, 2009. Please bring your donation."

**Join
A
Club**



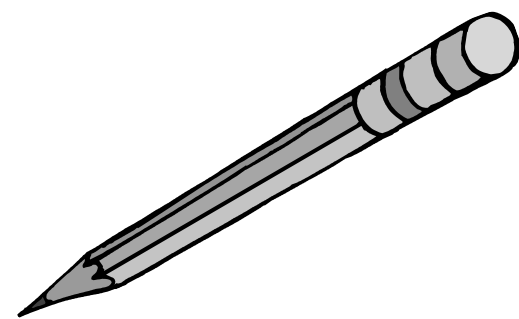
The 2009 Bronx Community College Broncos defeated Queensborough Community College 5-4 at KeySpan Park to win their second CUNY Championship in the last three years.

photo: Charles Sabat

Poetry Corner

The Transformation By Mohammed Meishanu

The transformation is so profound it shows
Yea, truly BCC is transforming lives
I can argue that for sure, this is the proof
I never sat behind a computer until Dr. Smith said so
Summer of 2007 that was the first time
Now I do research, type, and PowerPoint. WOW!

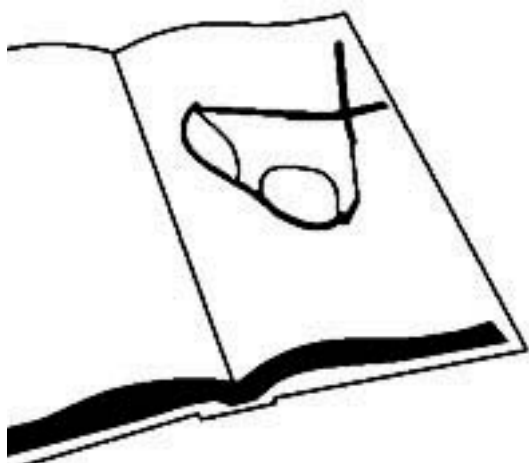


I thought my life at that moment before the transformation
Was just work at a job and feed the family
Now a career is in the offing and that can even feed the family better
I am able to help with homework and the pride of that
Some professors saw the promise and kept on the encouragement
I sure would love to thank them, they are transforming lives

I went to Spain to one of the oldest universities in the world
Amazing all from Bronx CC, transforming lives. I fell in love with
Salamanca and Spain, the culture, the cuisine, the people all made
An impression, oh, I would love to go again.

The honors convention was a blast, three days in a resort
Not just the pampering but also the lectures, sessions, forums
And the experience, to be cherished for a long time
Dr. Tarlin is my muse; she sees what my ma didn't see
I write poetry because of her, BCC is transforming lives

In my community I am asked to chair meetings
Because they see the transformation from BCC
This goes to say education is a life long thing
To strive for, if at first you couldn't do it, try again.
It takes courage to transform from pupa to imago
But if you want to be transformed, try BCC.
TRANSFORMING LIVES!



Attention Upcoming Graduates

The 2009 BCC Yearbook is Coming

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The yearbook has a group on **facebook**

"Bronx Community College 2009 Yearbook".

Open to all BCC students graduating January, June, or August 2009. Share memories, ideas, and photos that could be used in the upcoming 2009 yearbook. Get updates and news about the yearbook and vote for your favorite designs. Join us!

The 2009 BCC Yearbook - Be There!

Special pre-order price of only \$30 available until 6/06/09, so purchase your yearbook **NOW!**
Download an order form from the BCC website, or pick one up at the Student Life office, RBSC 102. Pay with cash, check, credit card, or money order at the Alumni Affairs Office, GML 14 (718-289-5162). Shipping is available for an extra charge.

Don't let the memories fade away!

Summer Reading List

***Keep up your reading and critical thinking skills over the long summer break.
Here are some suggestions from the BCC faculty.***

Knots (Penguin) by Nuruddin Farah

Set in Mogdishou, the war-torn capital city of lawless Somalia, the novel is about courage and hope of common people who seem to enjoy life against all odds.

Women of Sand and Myrrh (Anchor Books) by Hanan Al-Shaykh

These are four intertwined narratives from women in a wealthy Arab desert country. All of the characters live in luxury and privilege but are denied the very basic freedom of self-expression.

So Long a Letter (Heinemann) by Miriama Ba

This long letter is written by a widow, Ramatoulaye, to her friend, over the mandatory forty-day mourning period following the death of a husband. Both women married for love and had happy, productive marriages; both were educated and had work they loved. During their lives, both of these women's husbands chose to take a second wife - and each woman then made a different choice.

Waiting (Vintage) by Ha Jin

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

God's Bits of Wood (Heinemann) by Sembene Ousmane

This story enters on a railroad strike by Negro workers in and around Dakar. The plot revolves around the battle that ensues along racial lines and the long-lasting effects on all those involved once the strike ends.

Native Speaker (Riverhead Trade) by Chang Rae Lee

This book recounts a young Korean-American's struggle to conjoin the fragments of his personality in culturally diverse New York City.

Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust (University of Wisconsin)

The St. Louis—carrying German-Jewish refugees and refused permission to dock in Cuba and Florida in 1939—became a potent symbol of global indifference to the fate of European Jewry on the eve of the Holocaust.

Stolen Lives (Miramax) by Malika Oufkir

Oufkir tells of the 20-year imprisonment of her upper-class Moroccan family following a 1972 coup attempt against King Hassan II by her father, a close military aide.

Queen Victoria (Harvest Books) by Lytton Strachey

Strachey's classic biography offers a fascinating portrait of the long-reigning Queen of England and Empress of the British Empire whose reign spanned the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.

Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World (Fawcett Columbine) by Jack Weatherford

The author traces how the cultural, social, and political practices of the Indians of the Americas transformed the way life is lived throughout the world.

The Pioneers (Signet Classics) by James Fenimore Cooper

One of Copper's Leatherstocking Tales, he chronicles Natty Bumppo's quest to retain the freedom of frontier society in the face of the rise of modern society.