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The Legacy of the BCC President, the Business of Running a College

By Alcy Leyva and Beatriz Ramirez with Joseph Blanco, Muhammad Jalloh and Carol Martinez

After fourteen years as the College President, Dr. Carolyn G. Williams will be retiring and handing over the reins of the BCC presidency to Dr. Carol Berotte Joseph, who will be resuming her full administrative duties on July 1st, 2011. To learn of her experiences during this last almost decade and a half in BCC and her plans for the future, *Communicator* reporters met with President Williams for a chat.

We started the conversation with a sense of the tone surrounding Williams's retirement and the change of hands. "The anxiety of change," Williams calls it, is among the staff and even for her. After all, many of the staff members of the College have been along her side for all of these years, they've all developed chemistry, and will now be taking in a new style of leadership. It is our natural human condition to feel "neophobia" and the College will be undergoing a lot of change management once she leaves. However heartbroken Williams may be about her departure, she leaves knowing she'll return every so often to take part in the community which she has served in for so long and couldn't just walk away from, "like a long time love-affair you can't just end abruptly" Williams explained, she'll continue to be an ambassador for the college, and she leaves eager to spend time with her family who have lived cross-country all of these years. Even so, the president couldn't think of anything that she would have done differently during her time at BCC. She arrived with several goals in mind for the college to thrive, although the rise of new opportunities for the college surfaced. As she puts it "goals evolve all the time," she weighed the pros and cons, and moved forward from there.

When she arrived at BCC in 1996, there were programs she wanted to change, remediation is one of



them. Remediation is the system of giving students who are otherwise not adequately prepared for college to take remedial classes to enable and lead them to enroll in regular college classes eventually. Considering the amount of time and money a student spends taking these courses and the challenges they face to graduate college as commuters, Williams always considered other programs to serve the students better.

One of the programs that prospered during her time and she hopes the new president could adopt is The Global Initiative of the National Center for Educational Alliances (NCEA). The Global Initiative is comprised of the Senegal program, the Salzburg Global Seminar, the Study and Volunteer Abroad program and the Center for Tolerance and Understanding, which have a tremendous effect on the life of the college. It was through this program that she came to know about BCC as president in her previous college. Also, she hopes that the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) could continue. A program

like the CSE (which promotes the use of renewable and efficient energy technologies in urban communities) is rare for a community college. Dr. Williams believes that we all have a responsibility to a healthy world. These are only two of many programs she is fond of in the college.

In any case, she would hope that the new president would analyze all current programs of the college. Williams says, "No one is going to come in and change everything but I think the scrutiny of everything we do is the only way to stay current." She hopes there would be dialogue of different approaches and a change for anything that doesn't work.

She adds that the improvement of facilities has been an unexpected challenge and achievement for her, as in the case of the Roscoe Brown Building which underwent huge improvements, and the North Instructional Facility, most recently built. Improving facilities has been her biggest challenge during her time due to the very old, historical, and neglected buildings. Resources are scarce and expensive for the upkeep of such old buildings like ours, "[which] require far more than a coat of paint," she rationalized.

As Dr. Williams begins a new chapter of her life which she hopes will include time with the family, some writing, some reading, and work in international leadership development, so too will students graduating this semester be commencing their new lives after BCC. Williams advises them to take on the responsibility of teaching, to be open to learning and changing, and to not be afraid of challenges and new beginnings.

Dr. Williams in Her Own Words: The Legacy of the BCC President, the Business of Running a College

By Alcy Leyva and Beatriz Ramirez with Joseph Blanco, Muhammad Jalloh, and Carol Ramirez

After fourteen years as the College President, Dr. Carolyn G. Williams will be retiring and handing over the reins of the BCC presidency to Dr. Carol Berotte Joseph, who will be resuming her full administrative duties on July 1, 2011. To learn of her experiences during this last almost decade and a half in BCC and her plans for the future, *The Communicator* staff met with President Williams for a chat.

In the following pages are some of what we discussed.

***The Communicator:* Were there any goals you walked in with that you feel you were not able to accomplish?**

President Carolyn Williams: Not really. Goals are evolving all the time. As you accomplish, or as you initiate actions that you think will accomplish the goal, other goals or opportunities surface ... When I came [to BCC], there was a great deal that needed to be done ... I had certainly done my homework before coming, so I knew the institution as well as an outsider could know it.

***The Communicator:* What would you have done differently in your career or in your position at BCC?**

President Williams: "I can't think of anything that I would have done differently. I am a pragmatist and I approach life from a practical aspect ... I weigh the pros and cons; and if the pros outnumber the cons, I will move ahead with it. So I'm pretty satisfied, at the end of the day, that I've accomplished what I could or that I have given it my best. And I always try to give everything my best."

***The Communicator:* When you arrived at BCC in 1996, what programs were established that you did not agree with and that you felt you had to change? Please, explain why.**

President Williams: There were a few that I felt did not serve the students very well. At the time, CUNY was going through a major transition as it relates to remediation ... The advantage of bringing in new leadership- which is kind of where I am and my thoughts about our new president - is that you bring new people in so that they can see some of the existing practices in a different way ... There has to be a way that we can help students come up to speed, to college level and to begin their college level work sooner. [Editor: Remediation is the system of giving students who are otherwise not adequately prepared for college to take remedial classes to enable and lead them to enroll in regular college classes eventually.]

***The Communicator:* Is there a specific BCC program or activity that you hope continues and prospers in your absence?**

President Williams: I think my successor should have the opportunity to change things as she sees fit. [But some of the programs I would like to continue include:]

- The Global Initiative (of the National Center for Educational Alliances). It was through this program that I came to know about BCC.

- Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE): It grew out of my furthering it. [I think] we all have a responsibility to a healthy world.

***The Communicator:* Presently, what do you think is BCC's greatest strength (i.e., a factor that may set us apart from other colleges)?**

President Williams: [Laughs] Our students. Our faculty. Our caring and nurturing environment. The success of our students. We are special. This is a wonderful place to live and to grow.

***The Communicator:* Are there any current programs you wish the new president would change? Which? How? Why?**

President Williams: I would encourage her to look at all of them. No one is going to come in and change everything but I think the scrutiny of everything we do is the only way to stay current. I would welcome a fresh look at who we are and where we are ... I would be very willing to engage in a dialogue about different approaches. I always say that I am not married to any of this. And if it's a way to improve, then please do that.

***The Communicator:* What is your vision for the NCEA (National Center for Educational Alliances) program? How do you feel that this program has benefited the college? How do you think the program has affected BCC?**

President Williams: The Global Initiative which is comprised of the Senegal program which Eugene Adams [Director of Collaborative Education], the Salzburg Seminar, the Study Abroad program and the Center for Tolerance has had a tremendous effect on the life of the college.

***The Communicator:* You have been a member and chair of several nationwide boards and committees [for example: the American Association of Community**

Colleges (AACC) where you served as chair, 1999-2000; the Commission on Global Education, where served as a member; and the American Council on Education where you served on their board, and many more.]

How has your work or involvement with outside boards during your time at BCC helped or hindered your work with the college?

President Williams: I don't consider them as outsiders. I consider them as part of the college ... When I'm out, I'm out representing the college ... It's an opportunity to share and to learn. And one of the things that I've always tried to make a point of doing, when asked to talk on boards, I make sure to bring the community colleges' perspective to the table.

***The Communicator:* The last class to graduate under your Presidency is the class of 2011. Much like you, they are all starting something new and exciting. Is there any advice you would like to leave them with?**

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The Communicator Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

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

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The Communicator

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Campus News

Not too late for a good grade!

By Almarie Guy

We have less than a month before the spring semester is over and that means finals are here! Keep in mind that a good grade is still possible in your courses but you have to act fast. If your midterms were great, then you still have to maintain those grades, as one bad grade can bring your entire average down. For those of you who didn't do so well, don't worry because a good grade can still be achieved. I have found the following are some important pointers that you should take into consideration for the next couple of weeks or maybe throughout your academic career.

The first thing you need to do is go back through your course syllabus –If you can't find yours ask your professor for a copy or a classmate to view theirs – to make sure that you have completed all course work and assignments. And if you have not, do them ASAP! Some professors are lenient and will accept late assignments if you show interest in completing them, you may receive half credit but it's still better than none. Doing these outstanding assignments will help to boost your grades. Make sure that all your course requirements are done on time such as practical work, Extra research papers and field trips such as attending a concert or visiting a museum.

Next, make sure you ask all your professors for extra credit assignments so you can improve your grades and working on them now. It does not matter if you are doing well in your class extra grades are always good to have as they will help your grade

even more, especially if you don't do so well on your finals.

If you don't speak then no one will know. Prepare a list of all the concepts you do not understand in your courses and ask your professor to help you. Now, it is important to be very specific about what you don't understand. Don't tell them that you don't understand everything. The professor will be better able to help you if you are specific.. Also, ask your professor to have a review session in class before your final exams on topics that will be on your finals.

Finals take up a huge percentage of our overall grades, so it is vital that we do well on them. Starting the study process now can make a difference on your final grade. Facilitate time for yourself by reserving specific times and stick to it. (It's only a few weeks you can do it!)

Forming a quick study group (two or more people) can be very helpful as you may not be able to cover all the course material and topics on your own.

Last but not least, utilize all your campus resources. Tutors are available for almost all courses, find out the schedule by visiting the departments and attend one. You may just get the help you need. The Writing Center, the Math Lab and Audio Visual Labs are useful and are there for you.

I hope that you find these suggestions useful. Summer is almost here and I am imploring you to do or even learn something new and interesting! All the best and be safe!

Professor Lectures in Poland

Professor Jim Cyborowski of the English Department gave a presentation at the *International Conference on English and American Literature and Language* in Krakow, Poland, at the end of April. Prof. Cyborowski's presentation was entitled "Using Drama School Activities to Teach ESL Students." The conference was held at the prestigious Jagiellonian University, established in 1364; it's the second oldest university in Central Europe and one of the oldest universities in the world. The university was also the alma mater of Pope John-Paul II and Nikolai Copernicus.

Establishing Your Identity Through the New BCC Honors Program

By Alcy Leyva

As a returning student, one of the biggest ideas I've set myself to investigating, on a personal level, is the principle of identity: the factors that can shape it and the people we become when we fully realize our true potential. Getting a degree is only half of my goal here at Bronx Community College. The other half of me is trying to come into his own by making sure that every project header I etch my name onto is an extension me. It's the reason I leapt at the chance to take Honors courses when they were recommended to me and now, it's a chance for anyone with the same drive to leave a personal stamp on their college career.

The current Honors Program runs on two tiers. For students who have managed to work their way to a 3.2 GPA, a special set of classes are set aside for you to take. These smaller classes offer challenging yet completely satisfying subject material designed by your professor in order to really delve deeper than the typical non-honors class. For those that find themselves locked out of these classes, BCC offers a second tier option with the Honors Contract which allows you to change any class you're taking into an Honors focus. I was able to create contracts with both my Psychology and Communications professors this semester. Sitting alongside a master of the craft while building a suitable project for honors credit is definitely an experience everyone should have.

And now, many more will have that chance.

I sat down with the Honors Program Coordinators, Professor Jordi Getman-Eraso and Professor Mathew Crick, in order to get the details on the exciting new changes and additions they have in store for the students of Bronx Community College.

The first change comes in the expansion of the actual Honors requirements. Now you, the student, can sign up for an Honors class as long as you have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and 9 or more college credits under your belt. That means a greater amount of the student body can look into those course numbers with that proud little "H" beside it when you register. That also means that a greater amount of students, whether you use a class or contract, can take advantage of every Honors benefit including:

Smaller class sizes for a more personal learning experience

Devoted faculty with a specially planned curriculum

The ability to create your own e-portfolio

Access to the college's Laptop Computer Program which gives you a free laptop for your use during the semester

Gold trim to wear over your graduation robes to designate you as someone who has completed four or more BCC Honors classes with a grade of B+ or higher

For Prof. Getman-Eraso, opening up the required GPA gives a reward to those who have the 3.0 while giving those with GPAs that are hovering nearby a visible goal to reach out and strive for. In our sit-down interview, he then shared some great news for those already in the Honors program who are looking for a similar target to set their sights on. And it all comes back to you.

"We want to bring students into a larger feeling of an Honors Community. And for that to happen, we're actually going to have a process through which students will not only take a class, but if they want to be part of the bigger community, they can enroll in the program."

This addition, called the Honors Scholars Program, is for those BCC students who are willing to devote themselves to a more personal ownership of their education. There are three elements to distinguish yourself as an Honors Scholar and the first I've already covered: your Honors classes.

The second element comes in the form of service. Working alongside BCC's Student Life and organizations outside the walls of the college, the coordinators challenge Scholars to join one of these community groups in order to bridge the gap between what you learn in a classroom and how you apply it to the environment around you. Prof. Crick believes this new service element elevates the Honors Program by "showing a strong, visible connection between Bronx Community College, you (the student) and the community."

The final element is easily the most fascinating aspect, in my opinion. As part of your graduation from BCC as an Honors Scholar, you must complete a presentation. Using an e-portfolio, Scholars will build a project reflecting on the service you have done and your years at BCC. This is a personal mosaic of who you are and how college has managed to shape this identity as you go out and establish yourself in the community.

Students interested in becoming an Honors Scholar must apply through an application, with a short essay and interview shortly to follow. Along with all of the "perks" of being an Honors Student, the Scholar also receives:

An Honors Scholar certificate, golden cord and medallion upon graduation

Special notation on transcript

Letters of recommendation to four year colleges and for employment

A chance to apply for an Honors Program Scholarship

Wanting to take that extra step in both your education and your personal growth by developing your identity is also possible through the Honors Program Student Advisory Committee. Serving on this committee, Scholars will have a chance to become representatives for the entire Honors community and, as Prof. Crick points out, it is "the primary forum for a BCC student to get heavily involved in shaping the Honors Program."

And if you are still not sure if the Honors Program is for you, Prof. Getman-Eraso puts it all into one simple idea. "This program is beyond just completing an assignment for a course. Make it about you."

Make it about you this coming fall. Consider being an Honors Student or Scholar and take the first steps towards developing your global identity.

Dr. Williams in Her Own Words

Continued from Page 1

President Williams: Be open. Learn. Take on the responsibility of teaching. Do not be afraid of challenges and new beginnings. You know, don't be afraid of the unknown.

The Communicator: What are you most looking forward to as you begin this new chapter in your life?

President Williams: Spending time with my family. I would also like to do international leadership development. And writing. And some traveling.

The Communicator: What will you be your fondest memory of BCC?

President Williams: I could have said, 'being here.' [Laughs] I have had many and can't isolate [any of] them.

Everyone here on The Communicator staff would like to thank President Williams for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with us for this sit-down interview and we wish her all the best on this new journey she is about to embark on.

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Campus News

Urban Unity's "The Arrival"

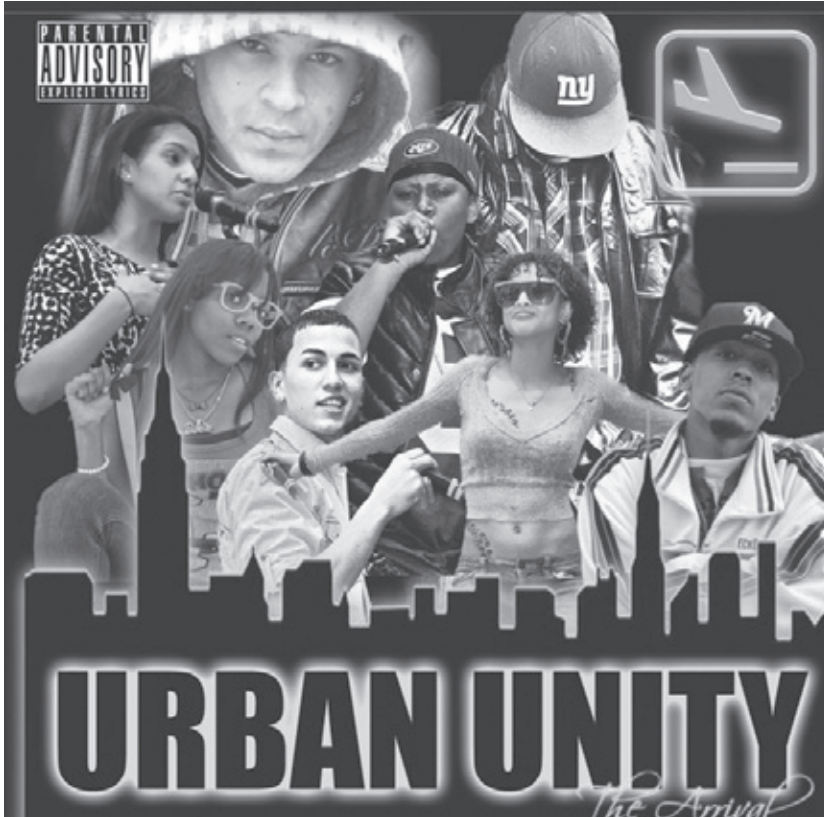
By Beatriz Ramirez

Urban Unity's showcase mixtape, titled *The Arrival*, was released this spring. The album takes on many characters, delivering a collection of hip-hop songs that manages to capture the essence of the dynamic group. The CD includes 10 tracks including an intro and SKIT from various artist members, a work that contains ample evidence of the growth and potential of our student artists on campus. The CD is no doubt the vision of student Brittany Lanzano, otherwise known on stage as Ova Floh, who has been one of the most readily recognizable voices in Urban Unity and around the campus.

It's no million-dollar production but where it lacks in precision, it makes up in resourcefulness and potential. Urban Unity provides diverse subject matters. There is something in there for everyone. If a man rhyming about the role of lust in his life and looking for attention, like "Hard to Be a Gentleman" by Castor Pollux is not for you, the propitious "You Can Make It" by Floh is a track filled with hope and optimism. My favorite on the album, the fetching, "Vernacular" by Female emcee, Mille Deville "The Lioness," is a Bronx-bearing reggaeton, mixed with a recycled favorite beat from female rapper Little Kim "no matter what people say." Millie reflects on her life, the challenges and joys of being a girl growing up in the Bronx and adds the kind of spunk that lights up a room just like her presence.

The album includes U.U.'s Anthem, "How We Roll" but unfortunately is missing a personal favorite "Busted" with Miss P and Ova Floh and perhaps some new songs from the group I expect to hear in their next mixtape titled "Summerbreeze" due to come out July 19th. Urban Unity is just beginning to rise. They became a label this year, signing their first artist Chloe Nottingham who I anticipate to hear more from in the future.

To purchase the mixtape, please contact Brittany Lanzano: Email:Blanzano@live.com or on Facebook:Brittany Lanzano/Ova Floh/Urban UnitY. [See related article on page 12.]



Nanoscience Arrives at BCC

By Robert Josman

This semester Bronx Community College has offered, for the first time, a class in

one of the newest fields, Nanoscience. This cutting edge class has been made possible for students through a special grant Dr. Vicki Flaris was able to secure to teach this program through the Chemistry Department.

Over the semester we have had a complimentary series of lectures and laboratories in the field of nanoscience. Professor Flaris has also arranged for several guest lecturers to come to help us better understand what is actually going on in the field today. This culminated in a recent trip to Boston to attend the Society of Plastics Engineers' annual ANTEC conference and exhibition.

Professor Flaris suggested a number of presentations we should all attend. Because the class has students from several different majors, Nuclear Medicine, Chemical Engineering or Nursing, Professor Flaris recommended that we each pick out other lectures which interested us and/or were related to our majors. There were two lectures out of the several I chose to attend that stood out. They both were in the New Technology Forum and combined the study of nanoscience polymers and the medical field. They were "Polymer Nanotechnology" given by Thomas Webster, and "Battling Bugs: Antimicrobials for Plastics in Healthcare Applications" by Mark Wienck of Milliken & Co. Polymer Nanotechnology dealt with the growing ability to use these to speed up human tissue regeneration and healing from the effects of illness or injury. Dr. Wienck's lecture demonstrated how the ability to add antimicrobials into and/or onto medical equipment plastics has been a great advance in our ability to stop the spread of infections within the healthcare sphere. The silver nano sized particles they are using for these processes cover a broad range of applications, from direct contact with infected human tissue to equipment handled



(From left to right): Robert Josman, Aminat Adeyemi, Olufemi Fatinikun, Dr. Vicki Flaris, Isirikoufoulou Sibabi, Nourou Alassani, Richard Anane, and Moussa Amadou

by numerous different people in a healthcare environment.

Along with the series of lectures, there was a group of exhibitions at the convention, which we toured as a class. We were able to see equipment and processes demonstrated and to ask questions about how they were being used in industry and research applications.

Through some of Professor Flaris' contacts at the convention we were invited to attend several student-centric events given by different companies. This allowed the students to get a better idea about what it would be like working in this industry when they graduate, along with the possibilities of internships and "coop" work programs which the various companies offer.

Attending this conference highlighted important aspects of learning about the new field of Nanoscience. It is important both to learn the basics of the field and also maintain our ability to stay on the cusp of new developments within the field. The information we were able to absorb at this conference, and more importantly, the contacts we were able to make with the leaders in this field of study, will be a great help in enhancing both our academic and professional careers.

Media Technology Program Students Serve as Competition Judges



Photograph: Charles Sabat

Thirteen students and alumni in the BCC Media Technology Program served as judges in the Panasonic 2011 Kid Witness News Video (KWN) Competition. KWN judges. (left to right) Robby Soman, Carl Zumatto, Felipe Silvestre, Mary Borrello, Natalie Setoute, David Diaz, Jake Wisotsky, Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Fernando Gil, Carlos Lample, Richard Martinez, Brian Zabala, Daarina Herriott, Shawn Alexandre, Brian Caraveo and James Creque

BCC students served as preliminary judges of their high school and middle school entries to the KWN competition. KWN started in a New Jersey school in 1989. Over the past 20 years, it has expanded and currently includes over 600 schools from approximately 26 countries in what has become the KWN global program. KWN is a hands-on video education program with an emphasis on team-centered learning that encourages students to develop valuable cognitive, communication and organizational skills through the use of state-of-the-art, high definition video products and technology, provided by Panasonic. Using this equipment, students are free to communicate stories that are important to them and their communities. Under teacher supervision, students research, write, act in, produce, direct and edit a variety of videos which bring to life subjects they study in school and/or encounter in real life situations. In other words, it is "The World Through Their Eyes."

A panel of student judges from Bronx Community Colleges Media Technology Program chose the top 10 videos. Once the winning schools have been selected, they will be honored at the KWN New Vision Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2011, at Panasonic headquarters in Secaucus, New Jersey. Winning schools will also be treated to a "Winners Weekend" in New York City.

Media Technology and Film Society Hosted May 11th Guest Lecture

Quenell Jones attended The School of Visual Arts and received an undergraduate degree in narrative cinematography. Quenell received his master's degree from The University of Salford in Manchester, England in documentary cinematography. This television season Quenell has been shooting the web exclusives for the NBC Universal television show *30 Rock* and also being released this year is the feature length documentary on the Legendary Boxer the 'Smokin' Joe Frazier named *Joe Frazier: When the Smoke Clears*.

The Writer's Voice

Lost in the Arms of Morpheus

By Rosa Espailat

The Loss

Papa meant the world to me. I always knew that his smoking would get him sick. On nights when his coughing would not stop, I would say to him that things would be okay. Recently, the doctors had warned me that he would not live past a few months. Papa loved his cigars. I told him they were the cause of his bloody gums, but he would not hear it. Every evening, Papa smoked a cigar in front of our fireplace, rocking back and forth in his mahogany chair. He sat there for hours on end and stared into blank spaces.

The first time I saw the plane Papa told me that he won it in a poker game. The man who bet on his plane must have been crazy. I know that there are very few one engine planes left in the world and having one was like owning an antique. I was so excited when Papa brought it over. He asked Mario for his truck because the plane was too heavy for ours. At first sight it looked like a piece of junk. Then, we realized that it was possible to fix it. The wings were in excellent shape. I was aware that there were a few parts missing and that it would be a challenge to find them in this small town. We asked Mario, who was an experienced mechanic, and he assured us these small parts would have to be shipped in from Japan and that it would cost us more than what this junk of a plane was worth.

I tried convincing Papa to buy the rest of the pieces, so that I could fly it for the first time, but he would not budge. I was naïve and unaware of the reality we were living. Reality did not hit me until Papa's death. We were poor. I was very close to selling the house to give Papa a decent funeral, but Mario talked me out of it. I felt like a little girl pretending to be a woman, playing a role that did not belong to me just yet.

My Papa and I went fishing by the riverbank on Sundays. It was especially fun when we went fishing in the winter, while the river was still frozen. He was a hardworking man. People loved him and respected him as if he were one of their own; they called him Uncle Tom. Papa emigrated here from another country. I always forget the name of it since I have never studied maps or anything of the sort. Back then, he did not know how to speak proper English but his favorite phrase was "Gimme my money" in a slurred tone. Papa spoke about racism very openly. He was darker than I, but I loved him just the same. The people who contracted people like him were very racist and paid him less for the work he did.

Papa made me feel like I had the entire world in my hands. He won my heart in more ways than one and honestly, if I could have, I would have buried myself with him. He never expected too much from me like other people did and because of his patience I was able to learn about mechanics. He made me feel as though my existence was valuable to the world, even if it was not. With him by my side I felt invincible.

He used to say I had a great imagination. Papa was a great story-teller. He was endlessly devoted to his stories and there was no way of stopping him. He would go far beyond what the average mind could fantasize. I admired that. I was very open with Papa, especially after I started having my vivid dreams. Every night they were different, but each one as vivid and as intense as the last one.

One time, I dreamt of a mission that I had to follow to get to my parents who were standing on the other side of the sea waiting for me, with their arms outstretched towards my direction. My mother waited for me with her eyes filled with tears. She wanted to see me and hold me as much as I wanted to do the same. In between us there was an old fickle bridge which deteriorated more and more. The bridge consisted of wooden pallets and old bits of rope which were being weighed down by the rain. I looked up, asking the Lord for courage and strength to fight against the angry sea. Then I looked into the sea and realized that the water was completely dark. I was too afraid to move, but inside of me there was a passionate fire burning which ached for the love and the touch of my parents. It was that love and that courage that took me to the other side of the bridge. In the precise moment that I was about to caress their faces, the dream ended and I awoke abruptly bathed in my own sweat and tears.

Being an Only Child

Kids who had older siblings never wanted to play with me because I looked so different. The sight that my blue eyes, red freckles and long nose offered, threw them off. They did not know where I was from, and I cannot say that I did either. All I know is that I have been raised in this

little town of cherry trees and dirt roads by a wonderful man.

As I sat on the ground, playing with sticks and pebbles, I stared jealously at the boys next door, who played with brand new toys. Cars and helicopters, train sets and fake guns and I compared them to my usual playing utensils, sticks and pebbles. We were poor; there was no question about it. But I know that Papa tried his best.

But then the holidays came around once again and as I looked through the neighbor's windows, I would notice them tightly hugging their father. I never had a father, so I could not imagine what that felt like. Every night I wondered. Papa was more than a father, of course, but I wondered what it felt like to hug a real father, a full-blood father. They must have felt something that I never did. Something intense probably, or who knows, maybe it was a feeling impossible to compare to any other; inexplicable with words.

At the age of seven, I finally gave up on the girls and hung out with the boys. On my defense, playing with dolls was incredibly boring, and the boys testified to my favor. I've been curious and that same curiosity has led me into loads of trouble. I was the perfect schemer. The boys and I would play tricks on their little sisters by going into the bath houses and placing toads while they showered. I was much too loud and gave us away. They would leap out, running for cover, and away from the toads, who were probably more scared than they were. Then on my thirteenth birthday, Papa decided that I was too old to hang out with boys. He took me back into his arms and began to teach me all he knew.

Their Love Story

When I was old enough Papa began to mention small but important details about my parents. Papa loved my mother as if she was his own daughter. He never mentioned details of the accident because he thought it would be too much for me to handle, and I think he was right. Even though Papa raised a strong girl, I have to admit that I am very sensitive when it comes to my parents. When I was seven, Papa created a garden in the front yard on my mother's would-have-been-birthday. She absolutely loved flowers, especially lilies. Papa tells me that I look very little like my mother, but that I'm just as kind as she was.

Mother was named after her own mother but she was very different from her family. Papa told me that Patricia's family was extremely rich and that they were considered royalty. They lived in an extravagant white mansion to the north of the country. There was a huge statue of a seraph, an angel, covered in gold in front of the house. It stood in the middle of a marvelous glistening well. Most people used it as a wishing well and my father's own mother, who was one of the servants of the house, spent hours of her days cleaning out the well of coins. She collected them because the coins were from all over the world and she loved that.

Mother was a very humble person. She was not arrogant like her sisters. She did not enjoy dressing up formally for normal occasions. Patricia was amazed at the simple things in life, but she did not have a simplistic beauty. She was tall and lean, somewhat athletic looking. That is because she loved to play out in the sun all her life, for as long as she could remember. Her eyes were as gray as the ocean and her flushed cheeks as warm as the sunset. The most beautiful woman my father had ever seen. She had a certain air of innocence, Papa would say. She was proper with her manners. Her favorite music was classical and she also played the piano herself. I wish I could have met her. I wish I could remember the way her soft ivory touch must have felt between my curious little fingers. I always think about my mother and how difficult it is to not have her with me. I do not have everything I have always wanted but I would give up every wish if my mother would return. A protective and tender woman to hold me and listen to me is exactly what I need. Anger has built up with all the pain and the loneliness it has caused me to not have her near me.

Love at First Sight

On the day of my mother's sixteenth birthday her family threw her a luxurious party. Drinks were served all day and night. There was an enormous lily ice sculpture in the center of the room and it was especially made for her. The guests merrily sat in groups. The mantels of the tables were made of gold and in the middle of the tables sat wonderful and mystical floral centerpieces of pink, blue, yellow, and purple flowers.

As my mother walked up the staircase that led to the upper floor, she came across a young man whose face

was unfamiliar. He had light green eyes and a joyful smile that took her breath away. She was astonished at how beautiful a man's smile could be. My father explained to Papa that he was left speechless by my mother's beauty. She did not seem much younger than him. Eduard was more experienced with love than Patricia. After all, he was a worker who was exposed to all different kinds of beauties in the city. A young and handsome man accustomed to having gorgeous women obsess over him.

Two weeks after Papa's funeral I met a young girl who drove a red corvette. She had just moved into the house next door. She lived with her mother and her younger teenage brother. Her name was Maria Giordinio. As I walked on the side of the road, she stopped her car on my left. Surprisingly, Maria stepped out walked up to me and stretched out her hand as she introduced herself to me. "Good Morning, neighbor, my name is Maria. What's yours? Want to go for a ride?" I was reluctant to welcoming her into my world at first but as I took a better look into her almond-shaped brown eyes, I realized her intentions were good. Her way of walking and talking seemed very familiar to me.

After that day, it was difficult to get at least one thought from Maria's mind. She laughed at my jokes; that is how I knew she was listening. On the other hand, I became more outgoing. As we walked together, holding hands, people confused us for twins. Maria's hair was jet black, mine was blonde, and her eyes were brown while mine were blue, and her complexion was olive and mine was fair. The truth was that Maria and I learned to love each other as sisters would.

Amelie: Remember that competition I told you about?

Maria: With the grand prize of a million dollars? Yes. What about it?

Amelie: I've finally decided to enter the competition Maria. Tomorrow I will ask Mario to go with me for registration. Maria: Have you really thought things over? Imagine how difficult it can be to register considering the fact that you are a... Amelie: A woman... Yes. I have thought about it Maria. But I need to do this to prove to myself and to others that I am capable of becoming a great mechanic. They cannot stop me from registering. There is not one regulation that explicitly states a woman cannot compete.

Maria: Yes, Amelie. You may be right but everyone knows this is an industry led by men. I want you to guard yourself and ask God for strength against any injustices you may face by competing for this prize.

Amelie: I'll be fine. Can I get some more sugar for my coffee? This is much too bitter.

That same night, I had a very interesting experience that changed my life forever. As I walked towards my bedroom door, I thought I had seen someone else's reflection. I quickly passed it off as a side-effect of too much caffeine and not enough sleep. I took some steps into the bedroom, sat on the edge of my bed, and calmly brushed my hair. Maria was right. There would certainly be many obstacles for me, but Papa had taught me to persevere. I had the attitude, the knowledge, and the character to win this competition. I stared at myself through my bed room mirror. I stared for what seemed like an eternity, as if awaiting the presence of someone or something. Suddenly, I felt shivers run through my spine and my body began to shake with fear. I turned around and there I found a tall black shadow looking back at me. The shadow began to change, until it finally became an immense moving puddle of darkness. Incredulous fear took over my body and I ran with no direction at all. I ran down the stairs and finally past the kitchen sink, as drops of water fell simultaneously to the sound of my heartbeat.

Papa used to tell me stories of ghosts or his mystical journeys, as he would call them. I had the ability to visualize the characters in his journeys. I felt a strong sense of déjà vu as Papa described the happenings of his journeys.

The National Competition

The day of the National Competition had arrived. I stood on the platform with hundreds of men. They were all dressed casually. I should have dressed more appropriately. I was wearing an old uniform Papa had gotten me a few years ago. It had my name on it... Amelie Jacquard. The platform was right above the sea. It felt as though it was moving. This view reminded me of a faraway place I had never been to before. With all of those old planes sitting there eloquently, I felt as though this was a museum.

Everyone did their best to diagnose and fix the

The Writer's Voice

planes' engines. Each participant was given two planes to fix in less than two hours. I was there to show these people that women were as capable as any man to do a tough job like this one. I felt empowered, invincible, and nothing would stop me now.

The host of the National Competition spoke into the microphone:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we thank you for being here today at the National Competition for One Engine Planes. The judges have made their decision. We have waited a long time for this. I am pleased to announce that the first place winner is...Amelie Jacquard!"

The crowd applauded until they realized the winner was a woman. I gave a short speech in which I described how a man had been my inspiration. But still this crowd of businessmen did not accept the idea instantly.

The Speech

"Papa described flying as the best feeling one could feel in this unjust world. 'That's what freedom tastes like', he would say. I was looking forward to winning this contest in his memory and since the very beginning my heart was filled with hopeful joy. The dream of becoming the country's best known aircraft mechanic had just begun.

The Celebration

The scene was completely different when I arrived into town. The celebration was great. There were artists, painters, poets, and writers. I instantly went from being a lonely and unpopular girl to gaining fame. That night, I drank champagne for the first time amongst my newly-made friends. The next day and every day after the celebration, people from all over the country wanted pictures with me, autographs, or simply hoped for my acknowledgement. Soon after, things began to change. Not just around me but also within me. I began to get headaches and my dreams returned. I dreamt in black and white. I heard the voices of people who attended the celebration. I re-lived every moment because I did not want that memory to be taken away from me. I forgot about Papa and I forgot where I was.

Slowly, I opened my eyes and found myself lying under what seemed to be millions of tubes. Tubes connected to my mouth, my nose, and my forearm. "Where am I?" I asked in a raspy tone, but no one answered.

Things in town changed quickly. People did not look the same way they had before. Everyone wore black. The sky was dark and cloudy. I fearfully shook under my skin. Finally, I realized that I had opened my eyes to a world far different from the one I was born into. Things had taken a drastic turn.

There was something that didn't feel quite right because strangely, I knew that Papa had died yet I felt that he was still there with me. Papa had once told me a mythical story about Morpheus, the God of dreams. Right now, as the woman in white uniform injected me with what seemed to be a clear but potent liquid, I felt as though Morpheus himself embraced me.

(Nurse) Here. More of these tranquilizers will do you good. Maria (to the Nurse): Can she hear us? I just want my sister to get better. Doctor(to Amelie's mother): Her kidneys are failing. We cannot give her any more medication. Amelie's mother: Oh, Doctor, please save my daughter's life. Maria, do not cry. We must go now. (To the Doctor and the Nurse) My heart cannot take seeing my daughter like this. I'm sorry.

Doctor (to the Nurse): Her grandfather's death must have really affected her memory. May have been the reason she climbed on that roof and threw herself off.

The Ghost of John Blenson

By Paul Bland

Professor Peters was a teacher of American prose. The library in his cluttered apartment attested to this fact as its shelves were lined with books of literature that spanned the ages. He particularly enjoyed reading poetry and some of his favorites were Russian authors, but only one or two, as his preference in literature was for mostly American writers. He had discovered a rather obscure American poet by the name of John Blenson, not well known and he had to really research to find anything written about his life. But he did eventually and it was a rather unremarkable story. The poet had been a romantic sort of fellow who had never married. He certainly sounded like a poet. He had only done this biographical search because he had come across one of Blenson's poem in an anthology printed in the late nineteenth century. He hoped to find more poems and eventually he did. It was when he began to read these short but eloquent poems that the "occurrences" began. He had read a poem or two, reflected on them and then felt as if all of the energy in his body had left him. He felt almost sleepy and he stopped his reading and took a short rest. It immediately struck him as odd and he knew it was the poetry he had read. Perhaps the poems had a certain, well, negative energy to them, somehow linked to this obscure poet's unhappy life. He would do more research and decided to leave the poems unread. In the hurried days of the new fall semester at college, he forgot all about Mr. Blenson and then one evening while having access to a research database he decided to look the name up again. Much to his surprise, information did come up and a lot more than he had anticipated. There was a photograph of John Blenson, well-dressed in a dark suit and bowtie. He was strikingly handsome and looked the romantic indeed. He didn't look poor or sad at all. He had belonged to a poetry society in the city of New York and he had lived outside the city but had returned to New York-*it only stated that he had returned to New York*. Perhaps he had traveled to Europe. And then it was that evening that he read the poems and again he felt a weakness in his body. And then the strangest thing occurred. He felt a presence as well. It stood near the window of the room, altered the light of the room as if a shadow. Or could it be his imagination? Ghosts to him were unhappy manifestations and easily explained through scientific language, but he had never encountered one and he did not wish to this evening. It was the reading of the poems. He simply would cease and put the small, tattered volume of poems away on his book shelves. And with that he went to bed...Didn't he have a student by the name of John Blenson?

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Outside the Quad

Rev. Jesse Jackson: Do Not Adjust to the Darkness

By Alcy Leyva

“What time is it?”

Just a day after the U.S. government narrowly avoided a shutdown that would affect the whole country, Reverend Jesse Jackson stood before the congregation of the Bethany Baptist Church and asked them once more:

“What time is it?”

The mass opened with a black and white picture montage of Dr. Martin Luther King and Rev. Jackson conversing. Then, following a performance by the Bethany Praise dancers and a rousing rendition of “We Shall Overcome,” Rev. Jackson calmly faced the packed house and pointed out that Easter lies in the same month in which Dr. King was assassinated. And though we are many years removed from that moment, Rev. Jackson cited a recent census report that names New York as the second most segregated city in the United States (behind Detroit). 150 years after the Civil War ended the tyranny of slavery, Rev. Jackson emphatically said, “We can now sit side by side, yet very few of us are working side by side.”

Many in attendance of the Bethany Baptist Church (which is celebrating its 79th anniversary this year) sat and nodded in time with the guest preacher’s now infamous speech pattern. While standing beside the pensive stare of Rev. Kris Erskine, Senior Pastor of the church, Rev. Jackson explained that our time is indeed full of hardships that are due to the misplaced priorities of our leaders. According to him, we live with a government system which “favors wartime spending, first-class prisons and second-class schools, and an unemployment rate that is down 8% but

three times as high for African Americans.”

But he doesn’t mean for us to give up. The activist and former presidential candidate assured every soul that daylight was on the horizon. Rev. Jackson suggested that the focus of our youth should still be on their schoolwork. To him, only by going to school and continuing working towards getting a proper education can they hope to weather this tempest of a job market. For the older and more experienced, he simply asked that they, do not “adjust to the darkness” by going out to vote, challenging our leaders and never giving into whatever struggles they face.

Rev. Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition (RPC) has been doing just that. Created in 1996, the RPC has moved to meet the growing social call of a society where the needs of the many are not being met. One of the many ways it is trying to accomplish swift economic and social reform is by urging Congress to adopt the “Rainbow PUSH Education Stimulus Plan” which would extend the benefits of the government bailout to include a 1% reduction on all student loans.

The Reverend was nearing the end of his speech, but the congregation was already on their feet, hands and voices raised in uniform agreement to his defining assessment of our current struggles.

Regardless of the time on our watches or the tinge of the sky above our heads, Rev. Jesse Jackson believes that we must all strive to do as much as we can to make ourselves and, inversely, the world better. According to him, we do this by educating our youth, giving security to our elderly and by making sure everyone in between does their part.

“Deep water doesn’t drown you. You drown when you stop kicking.”

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where are the thinkers

who will foresee the forces of nature?

Professor Lectures in Poland

Professor Jim Cyborowski of the English Department gave a presentation at the *International Conference on English and American Literature and Language* in Krakow, Poland, at the end of April. Prof. Cyborowski's presentation was entitled "Using Drama School Activities to Teach ESL Students." The conference was held at the prestigious Jagiellonian University, established in 1364; it's the second oldest university in Central Europe and one of the oldest universities in the world. The university was also the alma mater of Pope John-Paul II and Nikolai Copernicus.



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Poetry Corner

English By Latitia Collins

For the days and months that have elapsed in our English class.
The Tuesdays and Thursdays that I had this class.
When I was sad, this class made me smile .
For the progress each of my classmates have shown in my eyes from beginning to end.
To the talks about class work each of her students in this class had.
The one to one I had with her on individual bases about class work.
She truly understands her students as if we were her children.
Each day we give it are all, we embrace her room with love and learning.
When we return I look forward to working just as hard then I have in the beginning.
Why? She sees the potential within her students never questioning.
The voices or opinions for the topics she talks about in class, when we speak we are free.
I will say when all the tests are done and we have really nothing left to do
It will then dwell on me that a few more days until English Class is really over.
Although it will sadden me when the day comes upon me.
I will leave that room not with dry tears but sad ones.
But also with a feeling of accomplishment.
Why? We each earned it, worked hard for it ,had fun doing it, and better yet we were never judged.
My weird Professor TA thank you for believing our class and in me.
I honor the comments you wrote on my paper and I will live up to them.
From where we all were in different ways when we all started .
You made us better at least in my opinion.
Quote: “Your weird but I like you. Quote : I am your writer

Monster By Britney Francis

It ate. But, really did it?

Monster! You are a monster,
Yes you heard me right! You God damn monster. I am unable to sleep at night,
You gobble down precious creatures,
Puzzling can't comprehend. Can you understand? From whence did you land?
Pointless. Needless to say “He is evil and essentially frigid!” don't you think I am Right?
No Wrong. He is of no evil. Didn't you know monsters are abnormal indifferent yet different,
Thus the need to fight.
Cruel aren't they! They pit you and me and you and you and you and you in utterly dismay,
Maliciously they were placed in a state of precarious normalcy,
You see them right? You know them. Wrong. You don't see them due to attractancy.
Touch them. Yes my dear go ahead it won't hurt! No silly goose it won't bite.
Face the monster. It's all right. It won't eat you as fast as you think, it absolutely will.
The beast that is tamed will tame another thus the intrinsic kill.

Yearnings for Freedom By Robelkys Paola Vargas

English Version

Yearnings for freedom invade me,
Like the wind that demonstrate its subtle brush whenever it wants

Like a clever dove that flies away with no course
Without having to think that somebody is waiting for it.

I wish to walk without any thought that tortures my senses

Until I get to explore into the distance of the seas
The infinite of the world, of the universe.

Nobody should care if I'm wealthy or meager,
If I'm benevolent or evil,
If I feel sadness or exultation.

My desire of living in peace haunts me,
The desire of enjoying my life with no existence of a breach that can stop me,

Nourish myself from my virtues,
live the present, and
Wait prepared for the future, but calmly.

I want to beat my fears, make my dreams come true
Without anybody looking forward to see if I do it right or wrong

Just do it my own way

No one should know my suffering or neither should I about others

I'm looking forward to show the face of the world what I can do.

Spanish Version

Me invaden las ansias de ser libre como el viento
Que manifiesta su sutil roce cada vez que quiere,
Como un hábil paloma que vuela sin rumbo
Sin pensar que alguien la espera.

Caminar sin ningún pensamiento que me atormente la razón,
Hasta llegar a explorar el infinito de los mares,
Del mundo, del universo.

Que a nadie le importe si soy rica o pobre,
Si soy benévola o perversa,
Si siento tristeza o júbilo.

Me atormentan los deseos de vivir en paz,
De disfrutar mi vida,
Sin que exista brecha alguna que lo interrumpa,
Nutrirme de mis virtudes, vivir el presente,
Esperar el futuro preparada, pero con calma,
Vencer mis miedos, realizar mis sueños
Sin que nadie esté esperando a ver si lo voy a hacer bien o mal,
Que sea a mi modo

Que nadie sepa mi sufrir ni yo sepa el ajeno,
Y poder mostrarle a la faz del mundo lo que puedo hacer.

Haiku, Italian Style

Alexandra Montuoro

L'amore e' fuoco
Che e' peccato
Mai tanto dolce

Barbara Diaz

Bella, storia, turistica
La citta' eterna
Il mio sogno come destinazione

Chai Perez

Libro, compito e il treno
E' la vita di uno studente
A Bronx Community

Hankeleida Shabani

Mi piace l'italiano
Voglio parlarlo bene
Impariamo tutti insieme

Tameca Russell

Dei piu' delizioso gioiello
Il suo dono per i bambini del mondo
Come essere perfetto!

Sayonara Natera

Noi, voi, lei, lui
L'italiano e' troppo difficile
Abitare, comprare, mangiare....mamma mia non e' per niente facile !

Kenny Bautista

L'automobile e' la macchina piu' di lusso
Le forme sono molto belle
Di solito sono veloci

Angelica Vazquez

E' felice, e' triste, e agrodolce
Pensare ai ricordi di tutti i giorni
Ricorda, puo' essere il tuo migliore amico, il peggior nemico

Pamela Acevedo

Semplicemente il riscaldamento, sorprendente e dolce
Non sono mai stanca dell'amore
E' sempre cosi' vero

Stephanie Santana

Il cioccolato e' buonissimo
E' delizioso, gustoso e appiccicoso
Il cioccolato e' il mio dolce preferito

Anadelqui Romero

La mia amica
Bella intelligente, paziente
Sempre a tempo
La mia amica, il mio affetto

Rossi Delacruz

Il profumo dei fiori
Il suono del vento che soffia
Il sole che splende luminoso
Si trovano gli alberi
Anni di scuola e' quasi finita
Gli uccelli cinguettano
Colore colorato e leggero
Rosso, bianco, rosa, fiori che crescono
Trovare l'amore nuovo

Katherine Tavarez

Bambino tanto piccolo
Tanto buffo, che buffo !
Come ballare da solo !

Carlos Aguasvivas

Lo sci, la vela
Vincere, perdere
E' divertente

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Artist of the Month

Artist of the Month

By Beatriz Ramirez

Ova Floh is *The Communicator*'s Artist of the Month. Her dedication to her art surpasses expectations year in and year out. Ova Floh (real name Brittany Lanzano) is the founder and C.E.O. of Urban Unity, a group that started as a Club on campus and now functions in many facets including a record label. In this interview, Ova Floh talks about her struggles, achievements, and climb through her career thus far.

Beatriz: *Urban Unity* is the name of your group what are your objectives?

Floh: To spread and promote positive messages through out the campus and encourage students to get involved, also to let students know even though we are all different we can still work together and find a place for every type of person.

Beatriz: What has been your greatest challenge for you or the group?

Floh: I would say, for me, it would be taking the back seat to any situation at hand, I say that because sometimes you have to give others a chance to lead, and all I want to do is make it happen!!!! But we all have things to learn.

Beatriz: What is your favorite track off the new Urban Unity Mixtape entitled "*The Arrival*" ? Why?

Floh: My favorite would have to be our anthem "How We Role" ... That's one of the songs that will put us on!!!

Beatriz: What song do you like to perform the most?

Floh: It would have to be "*You Could Make It*". I have to give a lot of energy for that one!!

Beatriz: How often do you perform?

Floh: During the school semester I perform 3 to 4 times a month. During breaks it goes to like 2 to 3 times a WEEK, especially in the summer. I often perform at Rucker Park, Parades, and Talent Shows, not just as a performing artist but as a Host and Motivational Speaker.

Beatriz: How/why did you choose to rap?

Floh: Well, my Mom wrote for me from age 3 to 13 and then I found my own "Swag" and started rapping my own lyrics. But I'm very versatile and can write songs and make beats too. My Mom has been writing since she was like 7 years old so you could say I got it from her!!

Beatriz: What is it about this rapping that attracted you?

Floh: It's a craft.. People like Biggie Smalls, Tupac, Lauryn Hill, Jada Kiss, Busta Rhymes and a few others inspired my "flow".

Beatriz: What made you first realize you wanted to pursue a career in music?

Floh: Honestly, when I realized that not a lot of people can do it like me. I realized had a gift that I know I'm supposed to spread across the earth, positively. That's



what I live for and what better way to spread it then through music.

Beatriz: Was there an individual who influenced your decision to rap and do music?

Floh: Yes, actually my Mom inspired me to do music. She always had my siblings and I singing and rapping till this day.

Beatriz: What was the first song that you wrote, how old where you? How did it make you feel?

Floh: The first song I ever wrote was called "And I'll Miss You" it was a R&B song I wrote for me and my cousins to sing, we were called 7 Digits, it was the first group I put together. I was 11 years old. It made me feel like I could do anything!!

Beatriz: As a child growing up, music surrounds us; what type of music did you hear the most back then? How does it differ from what you listen to now?

Floh: Back then my Mom played a lot of Lauryn Hill, Shirley Murdock, Whitney Houston, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, and James Brown. My Dad Played a lot of Guy, H-town, Shia, R Kelly, Biggie, Snoop Dogg, and the Major Rappers of that time. Now I rarely listen to music from known artist because everyone is starting to sound the same. I do listen to music that comes out of Urban Unity from the many artist we have on board.

Beatriz: If you had the opportunity to change the music industry, what would it be?

Floh: I would change it so that Rap wouldn't be all about money, cars, clothes, etc. I would make sure that most of everything people were listening to would be inspiring and would help people through-out their lives...

Beatriz: What do you think your "greatest opportunity" has been so far in your musical career?

Floh: Performing in known places like the Jacob Javid Center, the Newyorican Poet's Café, Madison Square Garden and Rucker Park..

Beatriz: If you had to change one thing about your music/group what would be the best change to benefit the group overall and why?

Floh: Plan sooner.. I say that because even though I work well under pressure, it gets very stressful trying to get everything done with very little time.

Beatriz: As an artist, is there anything special you hope to be able to accomplish?

Floh: For my music to reach ears and give hope to people all over the world, I want my music to UNITE people from everywhere!!!

To learn more about Ova Floh and to hear her music contact: Email:Blanzano@live.com or on Facebook:Brittany Lanzano/Ova Floh/Urban Unit. [See related article on page 5.]

Show Off Your Writing Chops: Nation Student Writing Contest, 2011

We're looking for original, thoughtful, provocative student voices to answer this question:
What do you think is the most serious issue facing your generation?

Essays should not exceed 800 words and should be original, unpublished work that demonstrates fresh, clear thinking and superior quality of expression and craftsmanship. We'll select five finalists and two winners—one from college, one from high school. Each winner will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize and a Nation subscription. The winning essays will be published and/or excerpted in the magazine and featured at TheNation.com. The five finalists will be awarded \$200 each plus subscriptions, and their entries will be published online. Entries will be accepted from May 15th through June 30th, 2011. A winner will be announced by September 24, 2011.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all matriculating high school students and undergraduates at American schools, colleges and universities, including those receiving high school or college degrees in the year 2011. Submissions must be original, unpublished work. Each entrant is limited to one submission. Entries will be accepted through June 30, 2011. Submissions can be e-mailed to studentprize@thenation.com. Please include the essay in the body of the e-mail. All e-mailed submissions will be acknowledged. Each entry must include author's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and short biography and school affiliation—and say "student essay" in the subject line. Please email studentprize@thenation.com for questions. Anyone having participated in The Nation internship program as well as previous winners are ineligible.

<http://www.thenation.com/student-writing-contest>

Campus News



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Barbara Martin
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Career Development Staff:
Jonathan Alejo
Alex Luma

Monday-Thursday
9:00 A.M. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



If you were receiving public assistance and your case was closed due to employment, you may qualify for FREE METROCARDS.

For job search visit our website:
www.networknewyork.net



The One Stop Source For Help

Loew Hall Room 123
718-289-5179 or
718-289-5100 EXT. 3433
Monday-Thursday
9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Friday (Appointment Only)
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

If you are on public assistance or looking for a job, either full or part-time – or know someone who is- come and see us!
The College Opportunity to Prepare For Employment (C.O.P.E.) Program provides free services:

- Assistance with Registration and scheduling
- Full or part-time jobs
- Resume writing and interview preparation
- Metro Cards
- Designer Interviewer clothing (for you to keep)

Student's Qualifications

Students receiving Full P.A. (With or without a dependent)
Cash
Food Stamps
Medicaid

Student's Guardian is receiving Full P.A.: (Student must be on their case)
Cash
Food Stamp
Medicaid

Students with children 18yrs and under receiving one or more of the following assistances:

Food Stamp	Medicaid	Unemployment
Child Support	Alimony	Rent Assistance
SSI		



Are you or your family in need of assistance? The Single Stop Program at Bronx Community College can help with connecting you to the benefits and resources you may need, including:

- Food Stamps, Medicaid, or Public Health Insurance
- Childcare Assistance
- Low Income Housing
- Emergency Cash
- Public Assistance
- WIC
- Energy Assistance
- Legal Advice
- Domestic Violence counseling and assistance
- Financial Planning & Tax Preparation

Stop by our office for a free benefits screening and one-on-one counseling services. An appointment is not necessary, except on Fridays.

Single Stop

Dedra Polite | dedra.polite@bcc.cuny.edu Single Stop Coordinator
Rosa Peguero | rosa.peguero@bcc.cuny.edu Single Stop Administrator

Career & Transfer Services

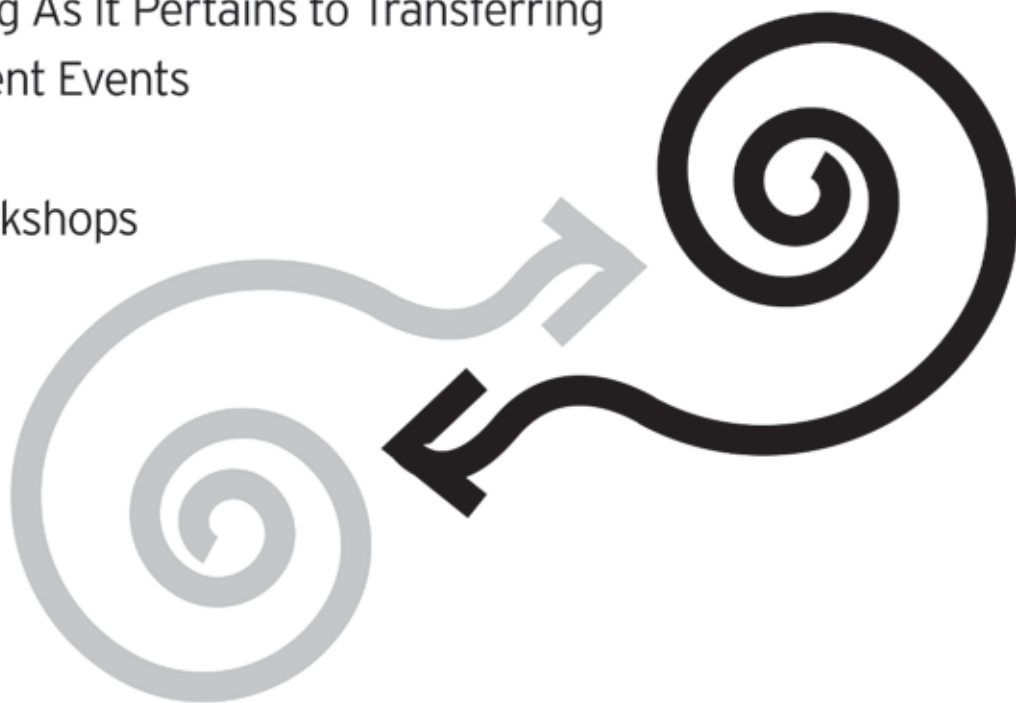
Career and Transfer Services provides quality services that assist students with career development and transferring to four-year colleges.

Career Services:

- Career Exploration and Counseling
- Resume Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Dress for Success
- Free Online Career and Personality Assessments
- Workshops
- Internship and Employment Opportunities
- Career and Internship Fairs
- Employment Recruitment Events
- Cooperative Work Experience Course
- Optimal Resume
- Resource Library and Computer Lab

Transfer Services:

- Transfer Planning and Advisement
- Researching and Selecting an Appropriate Major for Transfer
- Finding Academic Opportunities at Four-year Colleges
- Assistance Completing Transfer Applications
- Assistance with Admissions Essays
- Academic Planning As It Pertains to Transferring
- College Recruitment Events
- College Field Trips
- Informational Workshops
- Transfer Fairs



Career and Transfer Services
 Loew Hall, Room 330
 718.289.5759
 Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit us and like us on Facebook—at Career and Transfer Services at BCC—and get the latest updates on workshops and events!

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Campus News

Summer Reading List

Don't let your skills get rusty over the summer. Here are some suggestions of books that might capture your imagination. Thanks to Mr. Manny Lopez (Office of Student Life), Dr. Frederick De Naples (English) and Professor Andrew Rowan (English) for their contributions to the list.

Jane Austen, *Emma* (1815)

Emma, arguably Jane Austen's best and most representative novel, is often praised for its rich domestic realism. Like most of the author's remarkable novels, it is also a novel of courtship and social manners. At its heart is Emma Woodhouse – “handsome, clever and rich” – who is also spoiled. She greatly overestimates her own matchmaking abilities, ignores, despite sound warnings, the dangers of meddling in other people's lives, and misconstrues the meanings of others' actions. Nonetheless, she eventually eventually learns from her mistakes.

Mary Catherine Bateson, *Composing a Life* (1989) and *Further Composing a Life* (2011)

In *Composing a Life* author/educator/anthropologist Bateson explains that the act of creation – the composition of our lives – engages us all. Through the comparative biographies of herself and four of her close friends, she offers a framework for her inquiry into the creative potential of complex lives, where energies are not narrowly focused toward a single ambition but rather are continually refocused and redefined. She concludes that life is an improvisational art form and that the interruptions, conflicted priorities, and exigencies that are a part of all our lives can and should be seen as a source of wisdom. Bateson states in *Further Composing a Life* that “we live longer but think shorter.” She urges readers to draw upon wisdom that is not associated with withdrawal and passivity but with engagement with others.

Philip Roth, *The Plot Against America* (2004)

What if American hero Charles Lindbergh (widely thought to be a Nazi sympathizer) had defeated Franklin Roosevelt for the presidency in 1940? Roth imagines the aftermath. In reviewing this novel for *The New York Times*, Paul Berman states, “Philip Roth has written a terrific political novel, though in a style his readers might never have predicted — a fable of an alternative universe, in which America has gone fascist and ordinary life has been flattened under a steamroller of national politics and mass hatreds. Hitler's allies rule the White House. Anti-Semitic mobs roam the streets. [...] The novel is sinister, vivid, dreamlike, preposterous and, at the same time, creepily plausible. Roth seems to be taunting, ‘You think swastikas are only for other countries?’ And you turn the pages, astonished and frightened.”

Jeff Sharlet, *The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power* (2008)

Sharlet delves into a secretive group established in the Washington, D.C., area, known as The Fellowship, or “The Family,” one of the most powerful Christian fundamentalist movements in the United States. The Family's devoted membership includes congressmen, corporate leaders, generals and foreign heads of state. As the current scandal unfolds around recently resigned Nevada Senator John Ensign, and the role of current Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn in this matter, this book sheds light on the influence in the halls of government of this Christian Right aggregation.

The Ghost Stories of Edith Wharton (1973)

Best known for her novels – *The House of Mirth*, *The Age of Innocence*, and *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton also produced a series of excellent supernaturalist stories for publication in a series of popular magazines of her day. Originally published together in 1937, these tales find her overcoming her childhood fear of ghosts to craft this series of spine-tingling tales filled with spirits beyond the grave and other supernatural phenomena. Because these stories are subtly drawn, they linger.

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of American Migration* (2010)

Wilkerson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who offers an extensively researched study of the great migration, the exodus of six million black Southerners out of the terror of Jim Crow to an “uncertain existence” in the North and Midwest. She incorporates sociological and historical studies into her beautifully wrought narratives of migrants while striving to build new lives too often find that they have not left racism behind.

Mitch Albom, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (1997)

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom is one of my favorite books [Manny Lopez] and apparently much loved by many readers who have kept it on the *New York Times* bestseller list for four years. Both traditional and non-traditional college students can find relevant life lessons in this easy-to-read book. The first-time that I read *Tuesdays with Morrie* I was on vacation and could not put the book down for two days until I finished reading it. I was so inspired to share the author's wisdom that I purchased copies for my siblings, parents and wife. Enjoy!

Stieg Larsson, translated by Reg Keeland, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2008), *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (2009), *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* (2010)

What could be better than a trilogy of trashy mysteries for the summer? This series features the mystery-solving team of Mikeael Blomkvist, an investigative reporter, and Lisbeth Salander, a fiercely independent young woman with excellent hacking skills and absolutely no fear. The novels are set in Sweden, where the primary activity besides solving mysteries is drinking coffee. How much coffee? Coffee is mentioned 126 times in *Dragon Tattoo*, 115 in *Fire*, and 108 in *Hornet's Nest*. (Lattes and cappuccinos, not counted in the above, a reserved, too.) Readers not distracted by all the coffee drinking will probably agree that *Hornet's Nest* is the weakest of all three novels, mainly because Salander spends a good portion of the novel confined to a hospital bed. She's a much more interesting character (and the books are better) when she's mobile.

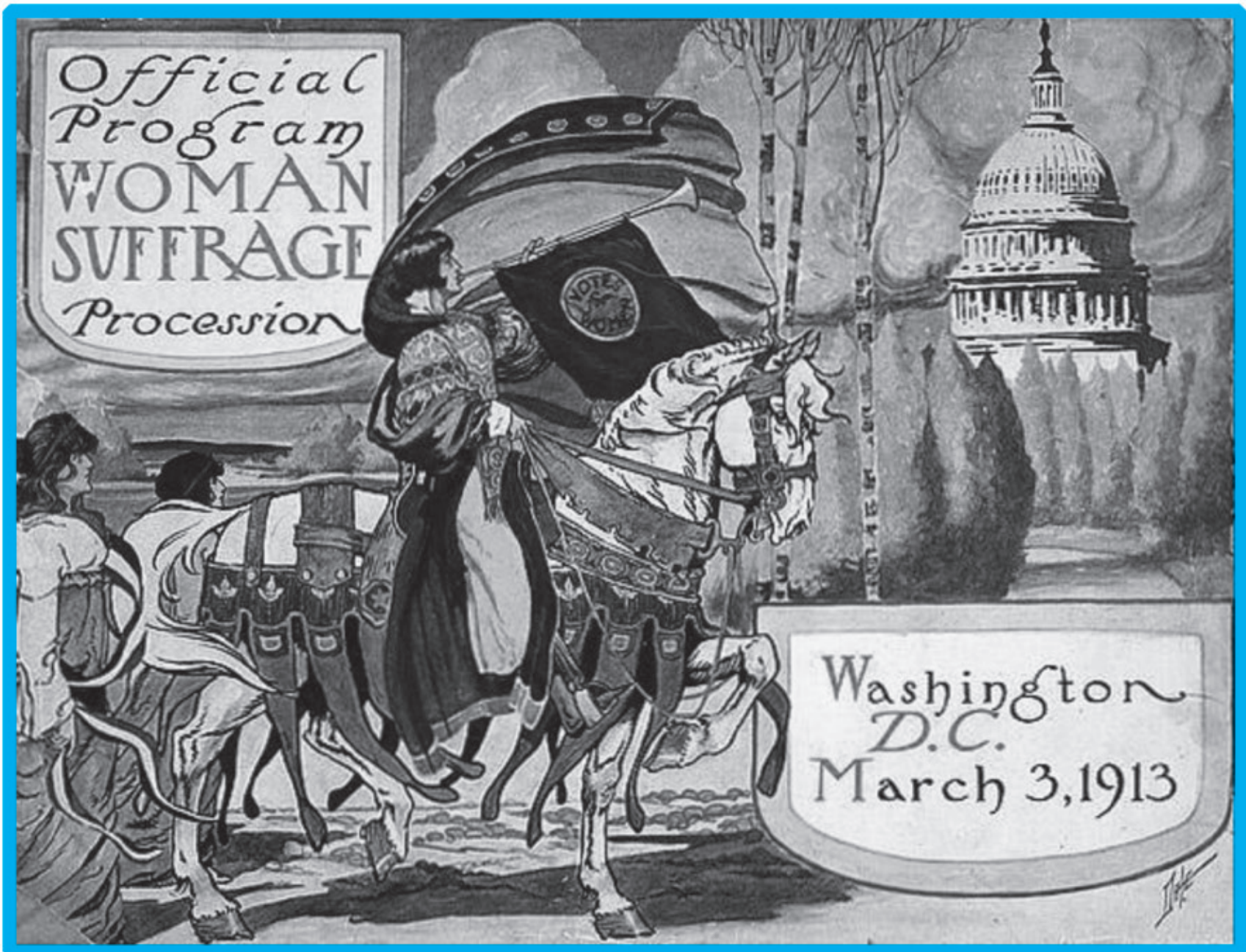
Doris Kearns Goodwin, *No Ordinary Time – Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* (1994)

This intimate portrait of the personal and political relationship between the president and the first lady forms the backdrop for one of the most important periods in American history. Informative, as well as entertaining and deceptively simple, Kearns breathes life into her subjects.

Women: The Historical Experience

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