

THE COMMUNICATOR

November 11, 2012 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 3 – Fall 2012

OBAMA WINS!

**Carries 26 States and Gains 303 Electoral College Votes
Governor Romney Sets Conciliatory Tone in His Concession Speech
Minorities, Women & Young Voters Propel the President to Victory
20 Women to Set to Enter the US Senate – More Than Ever**

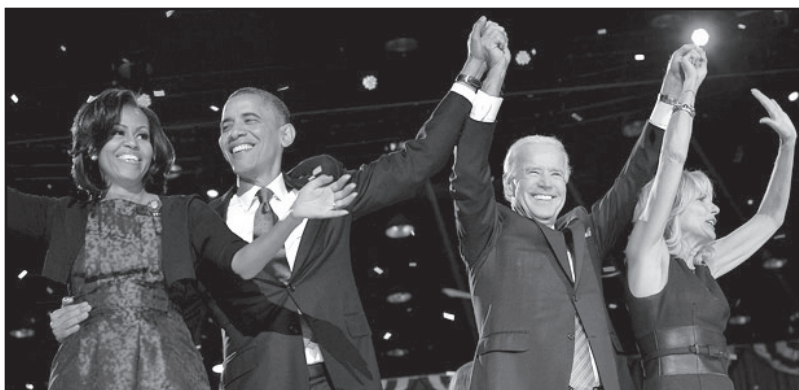
By Aziza Ingram and C. Lionel Spencer

The country can breathe a sigh of relief after what seemed like a never-ending presidential campaign. On November 6th people took to the polls and pundits took to the airwaves. Coverage started at 6:30 pm/EST, and many watched around the globe. Twitter, Facebook and Google saw major upswings in usage as the election seemed to be on everyone's minds everywhere. Viewers and social media users were glued to screens and devices for the next four hours and 45 minutes. Finally, at 11:15 pm., most networks were projecting the winner as the incumbent, President Barack Obama, but not without controversy.

Two minutes after the *Decision Desk* at Fox News declared its projection, Karl Rove, an election coverage panelist on Fox, strongly objected to the call. This led to a spirited debate on how the projections are made and the call decided. Karl Rove, Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Bush Administration cried foul and asked for the decision to be rescinded by the news outlet. While Fox News stood by the call, Rove was shown on air adding up voting numbers and trying to convince himself and the rest of the panel that he was right. His antics proved fruitless.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump, a strong adversary of Obama, took to Twitter, calling the election a "sham" and a "disgusting injustice." He later called on his Twitter followers to "march on Washington and stop this travesty." He also griped about the "divided" nation and said the Electoral College is a "disaster for a democracy."

All of the back and forth and disbelief took place while Mitt Romney and his camp scrambled to decide whether or not to give a concession speech and when. Governor Romney was so sure of his upcoming win that he had only prepared an acceptance speech. That meant his team had to quickly write a concession speech. He was able to get it together and he presented that speech, from Boston, to the American public at 12:55 am. Clearly not a sore loser, Romney congratulated his opponent and wished him success in "carrying our country forward." He urged government and public officials to "put people before politics" and appealed to both sides of the aisle to do so. He thanked his wife, Ann, as well as his running mate, Paul Ryan. His oratory was less than five minutes, and he used his words wisely and sincerely. The families of both Romney and Ryan filed onto the stage, smiled and waved



The Obamas and Bidens celebrate victory in Chicago.



Voters nationwide endured long waits to exercise their right to vote.

and left the stage.

President Obama walked on to the stage in Chicago in true rock-star form. His entrance was set to Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." The crowd was exuberant and full of excitement. His began at 1:38 am/EST and an inspiring message followed.

The president's acceptance speech was about the work of the people: the work that had been done throughout the campaign and the work that still lies ahead. He reminded Americans that it is because of us that our nation moves a step closer to perfecting our union. It is our American spirit that has allowed us to overcome the perils of war and depression, provided hope during seemingly hopeless times and that has united us. He added that even with all the success of the evening that our labor doesn't cease.

He said, "The role of citizen in our democracy does not end with your vote. America's never been about what can be done for us. It's about what can be done by us together through the hard and frustrating, but necessary work of self-government. That's the principle we were founded on."

Our newly re-elected president reminded us why it is that so many go through great lengths to come to the

United States. It is not because of our wealth, our military, our universities, or our culture; it is because though we are many, we live as one. He exclaimed, "What makes America exceptional are the bonds that hold together the most diverse nation on earth. The belief that our destiny is shared; that this country only works when we accept certain obligations to one another and to future generations. The freedom which so many Americans have fought for and died for come with responsibilities as well as rights. And among those are love and charity and duty and patriotism. That's what makes America great."

The New York Times reports that "Mr. Obama maintained his 2008 support among women. The white vote went to Mr. Romney, mostly by large margins. Young voters favored Mr. Obama, but less so than in 2008. Some of the president's firmest support came from low-income groups. The independent vote was very close, but important states like New Hampshire tilted toward Mr. Obama." The changing face of American populace is reflected in these results. And, notably, the face of the Senate will undergo a major change: for the first time, starting in January 2013, 20 women will be called "United States Senator."

The Election at Home: One of BCC's Own

While the country is celebrating the re-election of President Obama, the BCC community has someone to celebrate as well. One of our own educators was elected to office in the Bronx. Professor Eddie McShan, a 13-year adjunct professor in the law department, was elected with 97% of the vote for Bronx Civil Court Judge District 2. Professor McShan graduated from Syracuse University in 1994 with a joint degree in Law and Public Administration. Once he passed the bar exam and gained admittance to the New York State Bar Association, he began his legal career.

Since 1995, McShan has been a litigator in family and criminal matters, and more recently, he served as a special referee in matrimonial matters within the Bronx Supreme Court. His experience in matrimonial law, litigation of civil and criminal issues and judicial duties as a court referee made the nomination of McShan an easy choice. His nomination was followed by an endorsement from *The New York Times*, a victory in the primary election, and he then sealed the deal in the general election on Tuesday, the 6th.

Professor Eddie McShan, Esq., will now retire as a lawyer to take his seat as judge, but he will maintain his license to practice law. He says that he is "very excited" about his new position and he wants to "make the citizens of the Bronx proud." Once sworn in, he will hold the position for ten years. This means, if you find yourself suing someone, your case may very well be heard by The Honorable Eddie McShan.

Going Global

Volunteering Abroad, Part One

By Ivana Lazaroska



In my first semester at BCC, fall 2011, I saw a flyer on campus about a workshop on "Study and Volunteer Abroad." The next thing I knew, I had applied for the Michael Steurman Scholarship in January and started planning my trip. At the same time, I was going through the process of becoming a U.S citizen, so my excitement was doubled.

I secured two recommendation letters and the application was ready as well as the essay for the scholarship application. I submitted everything to The National Center for Educational Alliances and anxiously waited for the answer. I dreamed of the month I would spend in Cambodia working at an orphanage and learning about the Khmer culture and history. In the meantime, I tripled my work hours to save more money, and tried to find a decent person to sublet my apartment while I was gone.

I got a response for the scholarship in April. The moment I found out that I was the recipient, I was ready



to leave right there and then. Between April and June 4th, I got the necessary shots, booked my 35-hour flight and bought all the unnecessary things that my ignorant self thought I would need for Cambodia.

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The Communicator Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper.

We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

Fall 2012 Insertion Date

December issue
Tuesday, November 20th

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

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Campus News

Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine

By Alex Luma

What's brewing in that brain of yours? Are you interested in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics? The Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine Club is all about creating opportunities, creating scientific magic and making things better. Like great art, a good concept is never fully finished, only abandoned. So, what do you need to do to earn a career in the prominent STEM industry? This club would be a great start to your growing career. Take a step to become future scientists, computer programmers, engineers, mathematicians, doctors, etc... As I always say, you hold the key to your own future! Whether you use, digest or incinerate it, that's your choice. According to an old proverb, you cannot get to the top by sitting on your bottom.

What's in store for our future leaders? Currently, a majority of our leaders are amped up and ready to take on the AMATYC Student Mathematics League Challenge where community college students compete to earn a \$3000 scholarship. The test is mainly based on pre-calculus mathematics. In order to earn the grand prize, you have to compete in both exams and in order to compete in the final exam you have to be one of the top five college representative competitors of the first exam.

In addition, leaders are also learning new concepts and participating in networking ventures with elite professionals and companies in the industry. Recently, a majority of our female engineers and leaders attended the Women in Science & Engineering Conference at Columbia University, which is known as an exceptional event celebrating the achievements of women in the stem fields while educating and inspiring their minds. It also inspires future leaders to pursue graduate degrees and careers in the S.T.E.M.M. fields. That goal coincides with the purpose of this club. Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine serves the purpose of attracting, recruiting, and retaining more students in the S.T.E.M.M. fields, therefore inspiring future scientists, mathematicians, engineers, medical physicists and doctors. The purpose of this organization is consistent with BCC's mission, especially because it gives students the tools for academic and entrepreneurial success while opening the doors to a broader understanding of education in these fields, which are rigorous in standards.

Through collaborations with different clubs, departments, elite professionals and organizations, the 2012–2013 year promises to be spectacular. If you want to find out what secrets we have in store for you, look out for us around campus and/or email futureleadersofstem@live.com or alex.luma@stu.bcc.cuny.edu to find out about our regularly scheduled educational and mind-boggling mental programming and incredible events.

FUTURE LEADERS OF STEM & MEDICINE

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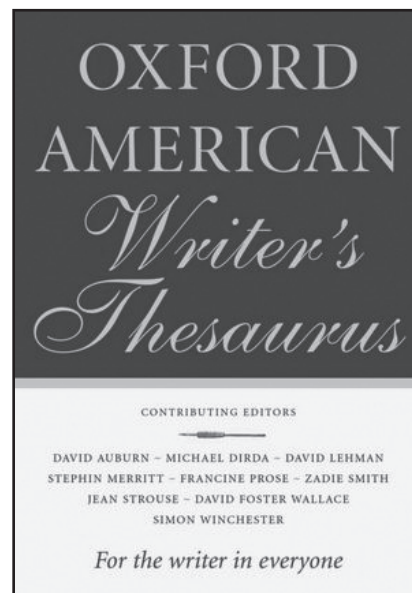
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A Thesaurus Really?

By Aziza Ingram



We all know how to use a thesaurus and some of us use them often to come up with words or phrases that may better describe what it is we are trying (attempting, venturing, doing our damndest) to say. However, most run-of-the-mill thesauruses will present you with the most commonly used synonyms for the word in question. You may also be offered an antonym and the definition. When I do my writings for class or publication, I grow tired of the words I commonly use and look for new ways of expressing my thoughts. This led me to replace my well-worn thesaurus and set out to

find a better one. The choice I made was first-rate.

The *Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* is a must have for those that have a penchant (like) for or an odium (hate) to writing, or just want to meliorate (improve) writing skill and vocabulary. This thesaurus provides the formal and informal usages, archaic, historical and rare uses of words. I especially enjoy the usage notes, these explain in finer detail, how words or phrases are used today, how they have been used in the past and how they should be used now. I refer to the usage note for "myself" quite often.

Another great part of this thesaurus is it provides clarification for words that are commonly confused. When looking up "eminent," "imminent" and "immanent," the book tells you the meaning of each, along with its spelling and the proper way to use the word. This is an added benefit to those for whom English is not a first language.

Even better still are the word banks. Say you are looking up a synonym for the word "fish." This must-have book lists ninety-one types of fish in addition to the ways in which the word is defined and used in phrases. The word bank for "chair" sealed the deal for me when it came to purchasing this thesaurus.

This thesaurus goes above and beyond the call of duty. When I first acquired it, I got to know the pages in the same way most would read a book. Every page I turned had me wanting to know more. I highlight the words I have used in yellow so I do not become overzealous in using them. I also mark words I have never used but would like to with a green pen. My edition is now well worn, and I will be looking into upgrading to a newer edition.

Volunteering Abroad, Part One

Continued from Page 1

I had weighed all the pros and cons of volunteerism before I actually started the process and applied to the program. At the time the positives outweighed the negatives. The Projects Abroad Organization that I chose for volunteering is one of the leading international volunteer organizations. They send volunteers to developing countries; they employ many people directly and provide plenty of work indirectly through the services they provide for volunteers. They work with local colleges at all levels, so their extensive network of local knowledge enables them to channel the skills of the volunteers to places they are really needed. On June 4th I took my overweight suitcases to JFK, boarded the plane and began the most exciting journey of my life.

As I walked off the plane, the first thing that struck me was the heat – it was intense. The city noises and strange smells were nothing compared to the heat that felt so extreme. The assistant from Projects Abroad picked me up from the airport and took me to the housing apartments where I was placed in a room with two other female volunteers. There was no hot water in Cambodia, so a cold shower after enduring heat all makes sense. Also there is an eleven hour time difference from New York.

I received a quick tour of the place and was told the rules of the house and the responsibilities of the volunteers. Because I was doing the Khmer Project, I spent the first two weeks traveling and learning about the Khmer culture and Cambodian history. I had the opportunity to visit The Killing Fields (Choeung Ek Genocide Centre) and

S-21 Museum (Security Office 21) Toul Sleng Genocide Museum. It gave me a much-needed understanding for the Khmer people, their horrific history and the Khmer Rouge genocide from 1975-1979 that killed over 2 million Cambodians. I also visited The Royal Palace that serves to this day as the Cambodian home of the king and that visit gave me a huge contrast to the previous places I visited. As part of the Khmer Project, I spent a few days living in Toul Pangro village and Kompong Chhnang province with the local people, which made me realize that poverty has a different meaning in Cambodia.

My second week of the Khmer Project, and the rest of my volunteering in Cambodia, was spent in the ancient town of Siem Reap. This is where Angkor Orphan and Education Organization (AOEO) was located. They were 36 children at the orphanage; half of them went to school in the morning and the other half went to school in the afternoon. There were English classes to accommodate everyone. Apart from the children who lived in the orphanage, the monks from the local pagoda as well as some of the older children from the village also took English classes at AOEO, free of charge. The orphanage itself had no income aside from donations which most of the time were enough to pay for rent and a few hours of electricity.

Life is harsh in this village because they receive no funding from government or religious groups. This means they have to be inventive to raise funds and they really struggle month to month. The children sleep, play

and do homework on the floor. Given the lack of monetary and adult support, the kids are left to fend for themselves when it comes to eating. Ideas to raise funds have ranged from planting crops to raising livestock, but nothing has come of those ideas yet.

Seeing the struggles and hunger pains of the children made me wonder, how is it that they were always happy, smiling and full of laughter? After much contemplating I decided that I would take each day as it was and make the best out of them. I bought the children breakfast from the local bakery every morning, and I spent a lot of time teaching them English and geography. We usually passed the afternoons playing with the other children from the village, but there were times when the rain was so hard that the whole front and back yard were flooded. Those few days were spent cleaning and organizing the orphanage.

Cambodia was a reality check for me. There is something very humbling in helping people but I could not help but feel self-conscious and even angry about my insignificant impact on their lives. At the orphanage, as I walked into the back yard every morning and afternoon the children would run up to me while laughing and yelling, "hello, Banana" (they could not pronounce my name) before they rushed and crushed me in their hugs. It was the highlight of my day and of my trip. The way they handled the cruelty of life without complaining or showing any sign of discomfort was incredible.

Campus News



20 Questions Meet the Faculty

By Maite Andres

When first entering her class you would think, she plays no games and is a straight to the point kind of woman. Professor Jennifer Holmes is an amazing teacher, and I promise you no matter what she is teaching, she makes it fun and understanding. I don't think you can walk by her without her giving you a big smile!

What brought you to BCC?

Before coming to Bronx Community College I made sure to do my research, as well as having a few colleagues that worked here at BCC, and I had heard a lot of wonderful comments about the program and the students. This made me more motivated to see what the excitement was about.

What's has kept you at BCC?

Most of all, the student and their motivation and their dedication, but the environment also made it easier to get up in the morning.

What was your last meal?

Pasta with ground turkey, yum!

What advice will you give your 21-year-old self?

I don't regret much, but I would advise myself to seek out people who would have made me a better person.

What is your favorite book and why?

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee is really a great read! "GO READ IT!"

If you could choose one fruit to live off, what would it be?

Strawberries. [my fav]

Tell me a joke.

I am not that funny! [We both laughed.]

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Definitely, half full. I like to be more of a positive person.

Who or what is your favorite nonfiction character?

Hmmmm, there are a few but Hamlet would be number one, because you can analyze him from so many different perspectives.

If you could do any other profession what would it be?

I would be a theater director.

Most embarrassing moment?

I am not easily embarrassed because I don't take myself too seriously.

If you could go on a date with a celebrity who would it be?

Wow, that's a hard one ... Johnny Depp (chuckles).

Snowy day or rainy day?

Snowy day.

Favorite subject in high school?

English.

Favorite genre of music?

I like a lot of genres but I'll choose alternative – all in one.

What was the last book you read? Do you recommend it?

Well, I just got out of class so I'll say our textbook, *Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication*. Of course, (laughing) I'll recommend it because I teach it.

What was the last movie you saw?

The last movie I saw was (long pause) *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* – a great movie!

Hardcover books or soft?

Hard cover; they are way better.

How many times did you change your major in school?

Never; I was sure of what I wanted from the start.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Right here! At BCC!

I really enjoyed interviewing Professor Holmes because a lot of the answers she gave were unexpected. It was really nice getting to know her outside the classroom. She is extremely funny and has a great personality. I really admire the way she conducts herself in the classroom, showing power, control and seriousness when necessary. I will carry with me the advice she would give her 21-year-old self which was "to seek out people who would have made me a better person."

I hope you all can take note of that as well. I hope you all enjoyed meeting my CMS 11 professor as much as I did.



20 Questions Meet the Student

By C. Lionel Spencer

It was a warm Wednesday night, when Kristian and I were getting ready to leave campus. (Kristian Moton is the writer of the "Courtroom Diaries" column featured monthly in *The Communicator*). It was a busy day in the newspaper office: the room had been buzzing with some of the staff there writing, editing and discussing the upcoming November issue. But

there was something that lingered in my mind; it was the interview for the "Meet the Student" piece that didn't happen for whatever reason. I didn't want to leave campus without completing the interview because, with midterms here, I wanted to use all my off-campus time to study. So as we waited for the shuttle bus I looked around hoping to spot what looked like a willing soul to participate, and about five feet away sat that soul.

How old are you?

Twenty-five.

What brought you to BCC?

It was time for me to go back to school.

What's your major?

Education.

What's your favorite/worse class?

Psychology is my favorite. Probability and statistics is my worst class.

What's your favorite place on campus?

I don't know yet; this is my first semester here.

What was your last Facebook status?

"My daughter's trying to teach my son how to crawl."

What was the last movie you saw?

Medea's Witness Protection.

How was it good?

It was funny.

What would be your perfect Saturday night?

My kids in bed by 8.

If you could have dinner with any celebrity who would it be?

That's tough... Donny McClurkin.

Are you a Republican, Democratic or...?

Democrat. You don't even need to go any further. Democrat.

Obama all the way?

All the time. Who is Mitt Romney? Who is that?

Do you believe that Obama has lived up to the promises he made during his campaign?

I believe that Obama did the best he could do in four years; it didn't take four years to run the country into the muck it's in, so he couldn't clean it up and fix it a hundred percent in four years. And it's not just Obama; he has to answer to a board just like anywhere else.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

I don't know. I don't know.

What was the last book you read?

The Fifty Shades of Gray trilogy.

How was it?

It was interesting. I don't know. It didn't live up to the hype that I think everybody else made it... it was a book about sex just like Zhane's books and other people's books. I learned something, stuff about bondage...that BDSM life. That's it.

Where do you see yourself in one year?

In one year, umm, hopefully I'll be halfway through my studies and looking for schools for my daughter.

What would fix the world?

Peace. Peace.

Who is your favorite professor?

Here? Professor Gloria Rodriguez.

What subject does she teach?

She teaches psychology for women.

Most embarrassing moment?

At an eighth grade prom I split my pants in front of everybody.

If you could be one person, dead or alive for a day, who would you be?

Myself. I can only be me; I'm here for a purpose.

Campus News

A Writing Center Experience The Success of the Socratic Method

By C. Lionel Spencer

Five days a week, I work on campus as a Writing Center Tutor in Philosophy Hall. Although, tutoring can be an extremely difficult task it is not without reward. As a tutor I get the privilege of working with ESL students; these are students who are studying English as a Second Language. They come in with their papers in hand, ready for direction and eager to learn the English language. Some students are referred by professors, while others come on their own, expecting to learn through editing how they can gain better control of the language. If you've ever been to the Writing Center you know that we DO NOT edit, which can prove to be difficult for me, being the editor of our school newspaper and all. What we do is use a technique as tutors, that have proved to be mutually beneficial, and this is the Socratic Method.

Here's some of what The Law School at the University Of Chicago said about the Socratic Method:

Socrates engaged in questioning of his students in an unending search for truth.

An ESL student comes to the Writing Center with an essay or research paper in need of a tutor: what truth will the tutor be searching for? Is there any truth to be found in an autobiographical essay? Is there any truth to be found in essays written about someone you know that made a hard decision? The truth we search to unearth is Knowledge of Self, not in the religious sense, but in how much the student actually knows about English? Do they trust in what they've learned? Are they confident in it? Are they confident in their use of metaphors, similes, tenses, grammar etc?

I'm currently taking an introduction to Spanish course and let me tell you, learning a second language is no easy task. It takes memorizing tons of words, a close attention to detail when using verbs and a special draw on confidence. Confidence is huge when it comes to learning, I mean, who successfully learns or practices anything that they feel they can't do? Most ESL students are a little insecure in the use of English; who wouldn't be?

When I first reported for duty at the Writing Center I thought my main responsibility would be: to help students write better papers, cross out misspelled words, add punctuations where needed and make their papers sound more, you know, English. There was an assumption that these language learners all needed to learn the same things. The opposite was true and more successful in the long run for students who will be writing essays long after they have left Bronx Community College. The Socratic Method has taught me so much about the ESL students here at BCC. I have a new found respect for all language learners.

This is why I believe the Socratic Method approach to tutoring is so successful and genius. By simply asking students questions about their essays, which they've worked extremely hard on, it allows them to see how much they really know. And trust me, they know a lot. When you point out words and/or sentences and they say, "Ah, ha," and make the necessary changes. When you ask them to clarify their thoughts, they make some of the most eloquent statements I've ever heard.

But there's a problem.

Several weeks ago I had a tutoring session with an ESL student that began with her saying, "I need to work on my grammar. It's really bad." But after reading her essay I assured her that her grammar was fine. She went on to tell me it was her use of punctuation that was horrible. When I checked her use of commas, semi-colons, periods and such, they were also used properly. She looked at me with disdain, almost to say you're lying. She truly believed two things about her ability to write in English: it was bad and it was horrible. It was then that I realized it wasn't her English that needed the most help; it was her perception of herself.

We have amazing professors here at Bronx Community College; my concern is that some of them may not be sensitive to the challenges that language learners face. Too many of these students believe that they have very little command of the English language, when they actually know more than many native English speakers. There aren't many native English speakers who even know what subordinating and coordinating conjunctions are, nor do they even remember the irregular verbs they learned in middle school. When someone is learning a second language from the ground up like English there's a great amount of information to attain, so their dedication to achieving fluency should be praised.

The Socratic Method allows for both student and tutor to learn from one another; the tutor learning what the student knows, and the students affirming what they already know. It approaches the task of tutoring with humility, knowing that both persons have an abundance of knowledge that they will explore during the tutoring session. Our ESL students need to be commended for all the hard work they've put in to understand the English they now possess. Though much more work is needed, professors and tutors need to be mindful of assuming that all ESL students are on the same level. Our ESL students are brilliant and should be treated as such.

Reference

"Becoming Lawyers: The Role of the Socratic Method in Modern Law Schools." *Review of Becoming Gentlemen: Women, Law School, and Institutional Change*, by Lani Guinier. 1 Green Bag 2d 199 (1998).

My Perspective

By Alisa Hamilton

My grandmother always said to me, "You carry your future in your book bag." An education is key for obtaining a career goal and a stable job. Chances are without a proper education you will struggle in life. So why it is that the welfare system is making it so difficult for students on public assistance to obtain an associate's degree? There are a lot of welfare recipients stressed and frustrated; the end result is to give up, quit and end up with a minimum wage job just to get by, living pay check to pay check. Why can't we go to school without the restraints that public assistance puts on us due to welfare reforms, rules and regulations? They don't give us a break, and it is taking some of us 6-7 years to graduate from a two-year college.

My name is Alisa Hamilton, and I am a Bronx Community College student who has joined a pilot program called GSI which stands for Graduate Success Initiative. It is a unique program that wants you to graduate within two semesters. In order to be a part of this program you must: be receiving public assistance, have 30-45 credits towards completing an A.A.S. or A.S. degree and also have a GPA of 2.0 or higher. It is that simple. Since I have been part of this program, my summer classes were paid for. I have gotten individual tutoring for my biology class.

Now there are some rules you have to comply with – like attending weekly seminars, for example, seminars about time management, which are very informative to me and better than being forced to do WEP (work experience preparation). I am encouraged to utilize my hours towards studying and doing my home-work assignments. Since I have been in the program I receive a lot of support from the GSI staff, especially Miss Denise Comara, who is the project coordinator, as well as the students in the program. I feel comfortable with others who experience the same trials I do.

There is also a GSI club of which I am the president. I want to make this program work, and I want it to be successful for those that may join behind me. If you are a COPE student you should check out the GSI program and the other services they may offer.

In conclusion, according to Henry Peter Brougham, who was once Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, "Education makes people easy to lead but difficult to drive: easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

Writing a Good Transfer Essay

By Alex Luma

According to poet William Wordsworth, you should "fill your paper with the breathings of your heart." When I say heart, I am referring to the heart of your mind not just your beating heart. The most significant factor of a transfer essay is why you intend to transfer to the selected school of your choice. Everyone has different choices and majors that he or she wants to go into. Take time to deliberate the field of your education you want to dive into.

When you start putting your pen to paper to begin your first draft, remember to be as mature, honest, and specific as possible. It is an important element to show that you've gained some knowledge and insight from your past experience. In an admission essay, you should describe yourself and state your reasons for wanting to attend the college as well as the reason the school is a match for your aspirations and dreams.

Start with an alluring introduction, but try to avoid making it sound like the opening paragraph of a research paper. Clearly state why the intended school you want to transfer into can give you what you want. Explain why you think that their education is distinct from that of any other school.

Stay clear of generic reasoning like, "I want to go to Harvard because I like the area and it is an Ivy League school." Do not be common or typical because you want to stand out from the hundreds of essays they read on a daily basis.

Essays usually have the same template unless a topic is given. You are encouraged to tell your story. What personal experiences led you to the field you are pursuing?

1. Past
2. Present – What made you decide to apply for that college?
3. Future – What do you plan to do with the education you receive?
4. Bonus – Mention any faculty members you would like to classify as mentors.

Admission representatives have tons of applications and essays to review. Even though there is a maximum word limit, do not be too wordy. Always have your essay reviewed by a faculty member and the Transfer Specialist.

Career & Transfer Services

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Loew Hall, Room 330

FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

*We would like to send our well wishes and prayers to the students,
faculty, administrators, staff and their families
who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy.
We hope and pray that the joy and peace you had before this storm hit
will be restored to you soon.*

Campus News



NYPIRG Turns General Interest Meeting into A Major Interest for BCC

By Mario Garcia

On October 11, 2012, Bronx NYPIRG initiated another year of student activism with their first general interest meeting. Over 80 eighty students filled Begrich Hall to a swell of activism and compelling speeches which helped raise awareness to a whole new level on campus. Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen helped rouse the spirits of many students and introduced the main projects NYPIRG would be working on this academic year.

NYPIRG will be covering issues like Hunger and Homelessness, Consumer Protection, Straphangers, Voter Registration and Mobilization, Clean Air and Energy, and Higher Education Accessibility. BCC students Raul Fernandez, Dominique Howard, Ruben Martinez, Mario Garcia, Jorge Quintana, and Kimberly Velasquez ran workshops for their respective campaigns, organizing dozens of students for a year of activism. Project Leader Ruben Martinez went out of his way to engage various students and had them energized for his Mass Transit “Straphangers” campaign. When asked about this he simply stated, “Sometimes you just have to be funny to make to a point. The MTA is something we all have to deal with and sometimes a little comedy is better to highlight its mistakes then to just freak people out.”

NYPIRG’s own Program Coordinator Megan Ahearn gave a rousing speech in order to make students more aware of the current political landscape and to highlight the importance of their awareness during in such a volatile climate. There are so many things going on right now just beneath students’ noses at the state and local level, including the rising costs of higher education, discriminatory hiring practices based solely on credit scores, or the negative consequences of hydrofracking. To be reminded of these things firsthand pushes people forward to try and make a difference. Consequently, many students signed up to join each of these campaigns, building the potential for more student empowerment as the academic year continues. Students interested in joining these campaigns are encouraged to contact Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen at 718-289-5409 or stop by the NYPIRG office at Meister 214.



High Voter Registration Turnout Grows CUNY Student Voting Block

By Mario Garcia

NYPIRG, as part of the statewide organization’s push to register voters for the presidential election, relentlessly registered students both on-and-off-campus since the beginning of the fall semester. The efforts to register voters across the Bronx reached a fever pitch on September 25, 2012, when Bronx NYPIRG went all out for National Voter Registration Day. Bronx NYPIRG headed to 3rd Avenue and 149th Street to bring voter registration directly to the masses. This all-day registration blitz occurred across the five boroughs, allowing thousands of New Yorkers to register while traveling the subway system. It is important to note Bronx NYPIRG’s particular success in getting over 400 New Yorkers registered during the twelve-hour registration push.

Student Raeven Ozuna worked until the late hours even heading back with Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen to NYPIRG’s main office at Murray Street to total the voter registration forms. When asked about the experience she stated that “It was an enriching experience and I am proud to know I’ve worked so hard for my neighborhood.”

The off-campus drive to register voters was met with an even more relentless effort on-campus. By the voter registration deadline of October 12, Bronx Community College had registered over 1000 students. Statewide, NYPIRG registered over 30,000 New Yorkers, crushing the registration total from the 2008 presidential election.

Fellow student Kimberly Velasquez stated it best when stating, “So many people are not aware of the problems that surround us daily and it is through voter registration that people can be made aware and help themselves in making life in New York better.”

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

BCC’s Welcome Back Party

By Untwain Fyffe

On Friday, September 28, 2012, BCC held its Annual Welcome Back Party. The event was sponsored by the Student Government Association. CUNY students were welcomed to enjoy a night of good music, flashing lights and free refreshments. As advertised on flyers months in advance, the best male and female dancers were awarded a brand new iPad. What better place to host an on campus party than the sizable lower level in Colston Hall? Some students arrived early enough to use the University Avenue entrance before its 9 pm closing. As for the non-BCC students who arrived before 9 pm, the long walk was a chance to get a feel for the campus during the night hours. Here’s my re-cap of the night events you may have missed or were lucky enough to have been a part of.

The party kicked off at 9 pm. Upon arrival, the students who intended to get in all the party time provided had to first pass the metal detector and officers in front. It’s never fun having to go through security check points, but this one wasn’t as bad. The officers were as lively as the students. In fact, some were bobbing their heads to the loud music heard from the lower level. So, after a brief talk with friends on the stairway, I made my way downstairs to the party. There were balloons, flashing lights from the DJ booth, a wall-to-wall table lined with fast food and refreshments, and enough people to fill the dance floor and dining area. Before standing in line for free drinks, I immediately noticed the folks who weren’t dressed in casual attire. Some guys wore ties, button-down shirts and sunglasses. Can you actually see wearing sunglasses in a dimly lit room [me, thinking out loud]? But who am I to question party attire? Besides, I was the only one in a bright orange hoodie. Nicholas Bakari, a Lehman student, was the middle man. He was formally dressed from the waist up and wore jeans and sneakers. I noticed him surveying the arriving competition - ready to compete for an iPad.

Collett Powel and Bikari Nicholas were among the first dancers to gain attention in front of the DJ panel. That was when a crowd of people formed a circle around them to watch. But almost everyone wanted a moment in the spotlight, including the DJ who moved from behind the turntables to showcase his pop locking skills. Songs from artists like Chris Brown, Rihanna and Beanie Man (just to name a few) helped set the good vibes of the party. The Hispanic remake of Bruno Mars’ “Just the Way You Are” brought couples to the center of the dance circle. At 11:09 pm, mic man Kwabena announced that “registration is happening in front if you want to get in the dance contest, or you can just keep dancing.” Natasha Norris of the Student Government Association looked gorgeous carrying the dance contest sign-up sheet. In the time it took me to find her, 11 students had already signed up, and not surprisingly, Nicholas Bakari was the 1st name on the list. Any outside BCC students reluctant to sign up were reminded that “the dance competition is for all CUNY students.”

Just before midnight, all dancers lined up to take a group picture. Afterwards, Kwabena asked for the male dancers to stand to his left and female dancers to stand to his right as he explained the rules. The rules were very simple; two dancers at a time will be called out to dance, while Kwabena signaled the audience when to cheer for the better dancer. They narrowed the dancers down to just six - three guys and three girls. Collett Powel was among the final three female dancers. She was, in my opinion, the guy’s favorite. Her friend Justin Washington also made it in the top six, and was set to compete with Nicholas Bakari and BCC’s own, Jonathan Bueno. The crowd was a tough judge, and not sympathetic to any of the exhausted final participants. In the end, Collett Powel and Jonathan Bueno were awarded an iPad as the female and male dance competition winners.

Successful Student Secrets

By Aziza Ingram

In last month’s issue we addressed study habits and preparation for the midterm. Now we will address the problem of Procrastination and how to avoid it. I myself am not a procrastinator so I waited until the last minute to put this article together. I must say I am feeling very stressed out knowing my deadline is just a few hours away. Thankfully, I do not have to print this out, as I would have an overwhelming fear of every printer I encountered having an issue: my home printer running out of ink, my flash drive not working, or not having access to a computer lab on campus. This kind of last-minute technological difficulty is not a new concept and certainly not a new excuse heard by a professor. So, in order to avoid this type of situation in the future, I will share the ways that help me stay organized and finish assignments and tasks with time to spare.

I know that every student is different and has many different responsibilities. Some may be mothers, fathers or caregivers, have a full- or part-time job and be tackling schoolwork as well. I cannot speak to their business, but I can speak for myself. I will use my spring 2012 semester as an example for this piece, as it was my busiest by far. I was enrolled in five classes, tutoring French twenty hours a week and working full-time in a French restaurant. Just listing it sounds daunting. All of these components happened on the same days and time of every week for the entire semester. I invested in a great planner that was organized by month, week, day, and half hour. I scheduled everything in it. This leads me to my series of points.

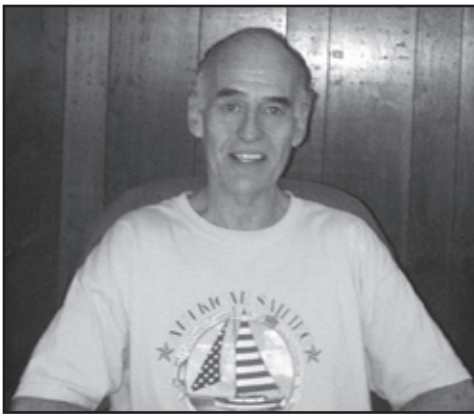
1. **Color Coded Schedule:** I block everything in my planner that MUST be done in RED. I treated everything school related as a job. This means I could not and would not in any way make plans that would take me away from my school obligations. I blocked tutor hours in BLUE and my actual job in GREEN. I even scheduled time for the gym in ORANGE. Any blank spaces I had I used a pencil to fill in gaps.
2. **Scheduling:** I mentioned what I scheduled above and it was pretty much set in stone, which is why I marked it in ink. The pencil write-ins are flexible. I would schedule everything, including study time, naps, grocery shopping, laundry, hair maintenance, and so on.
3. **To do lists:** At the beginning of the week I write down all the things I need

Continued on Page 10

Campus News

Spotlight on Professor Wayne Major

By Untwain Fyffe



Dr. Wayne F. Major is my PEA 11 – Fitness for Life – instructor. This will be his final semester teaching physical fitness and wellness to Bronx Community College students before retirement. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Major for his Wednesday morning lectures and side talks which, unbeknownst to him, have helped me fully embrace my unique outlook on life and to feel so much more optimistic towards my future. It's an interesting feeling to have your instructor ask you halfway through a thirty minute run on a treadmill, "Are you having fun

yet?" Unexpected questions like that give students the extra boost of energy necessary to complete the day's flexibility, weight management, cardio respiratory or muscular endurance/strength test.

But I am able to see past Professor Major's professional and comedic attitude and see a man of intelligence, wisdom, self-awareness and emotion. What better way is there of getting to know one of my favorite professors outside the class than a face-to-face, sit-down type interview. I prepared a list of questions ahead of time before meeting with Professor Major in his Alumni Gym office. For the record, it was a bit distracting at first to interview a man dressed in gym clothes, seated in his office lavished with trophies, degrees and awards of all sorts.

Meet Professor Major.

How long have you been teaching physical education and in what schools?

Forty-three years. I first started in the health club industry where I was everything from a gym manager to a club manager to personal trainer to spa boy – anything you think of in a health club. I started teaching at universities in 1980. I was teaching fitness classes, not instruction in the classroom. I began giving class lectures in 1991, and if you'd like the list of universities – The University of Georgia, Texas Tech University, University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV), Concordia University, Millersville University, University of Calgary, Easter Kentucky University and, of course, Bronx Community College.

What is your greatest achievement/biggest failure, and what have you learned?

I think my biggest accomplishment might be motivating others to incorporate positive lifestyle strategies so that they enhance the quality of their life. That could be a student, a corporate executive, a faculty person, anybody I've helped over the years or I've tried to help. My biggest failure? I don't know if I'd consider it a failure but certainly I might have liked to earn my degrees 10 or 15 or 20 years earlier instead of waiting. I was always trying to play professional sports and never really made it so...

Which one of these framed awards are you willing to give away?

Well, I wouldn't give any of my degrees away.

Describe your first memory on BCC campus.

I'd come in from Kentucky and I left at 7 in the morning and my interview was 4 in the afternoon; it was raining, and I was unfamiliar with New York. As I left LaGuardia and got into a taxi and I said, "Bronx Community College." He dropped me off at the gate. Despite leaving at 7 o'clock, I got to the interview at 4 o'clock exactly, walking up the front stairs. The welcome was very nice. I had my interview and I guess it went well.

At times you would ask students to smile while exercising. How does that help?

I'm not sure it actually helps with the exercise but it helps with the mind, and we know that if your mind is in a positive place then everything that follows will be in a positive place. We know that if you smile you're reducing your stress, and it enhances endorphins in the brain. So if you're reducing stress and enhancing endorphins in the brain then, obviously, your fitness will improve as a result of it indirectly.

How significantly, if at all, have bodies and habits changed in your opinion?

We have gotten fatter. We eat more junk food. Obesity, diabetes and heart attacks have all increased significantly because we eat terribly.

I've recently been introduced to the English rock band The Police, and you remind me so much of the lead singer, Sting. Can you guess why?

I don't why because I'm not so crazy about Sting but I'm familiar with them because I like their music. Why do you think?

What's on your plate on Thanksgiving?

Fish and salad. It won't be anything special.

Who's your favorite male/female athlete?

Mohammad Ali. As a matter of fact I taught his daughter when I was at UNLV; she was was in my class. I didn't know it immediately until I saw her last name.

In regards to the six dimensions of wellness, which one have you struggled with?

Spirituality.

Is there anyone in your life (past of present) you'd consider self-actualized?

Yes! I only know of one person, and his name is Dr. Bill Reimer. He's a sociology professor at Concordia University in Montreal.

What is your favorite junk food?

Pizza.

If there's only one thing a student will retain from your class, what should it be?

Take care of your health now so you can enjoy your retirement later.

Is the glass half empty or half full?

How big is the glass? Half full.

Tell me a joke.

People are looking for someone described as good looking, intelligent, funny, and incredibly sexy. You are safe but I have no idea where I'm going to hide.

Can you give a hint as to whom you think should win this year's presidential election?

Nonpartisanship doesn't exist so ...

A question I've always enjoyed asking retirees: What's the meaning of life?

Appreciating what I have. I think that's the meaning of life.

What are your thoughts on social media?

Well, I just got an iPhone 5. Generally, I don't like it because I think it interferes with personal interaction and communication.

How are you feeling nearing retirement?

I think it's important to mention that I'm leaving Bronx Community College but I hope to continue to work, maybe even teach. I'm not sure what the future holds but I'm not concerned.

If you were to sum up your career in a few sentences, what would you say?

All in all, it's been an adventure. It's been challenging but it's been enjoyable.



Professor Major is a great freaking guy. I enjoyed the interview experience with him and gained a much better sense of who the man is. Having him as a professor has improved my life by having me rethink nutritional choices, and he has broadened my mind on life and the way I view it. Professor Major will be missed on this campus but will live on in the hearts and minds of those who have had the opportunity to learn from him.



You can bid adieu to him in Alumni Gym, 300D.

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Cultural Tolerance

By Stefanos Ugbit

A majority of African refugees are from sub-Saharan Africa and most come from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. These countries are located in the “Horn of Africa” or East Africa. The journey made by many of these African migrants – primarily from Sudan and Eritrea – has been long and hard. The mistreatment of African refugees in Israel is horrendous and deplorable. Once they make this difficult journey through the harsh desert and through the Sinai, putting their lives at risk, these refugees are caught in human trafficking between the middle-men who then sell them to the Bedouins in Sinai. They are often captured, held and tortured for months at a time while being held for ransom. The captors contact the refugee’s relatives in the U.S., Europe, and Canada and demand huge sums of money and often kill them after payment anyway.

This human trafficking trade is wider than it seems as the Bedouins capture these refugees and take their organs. Human trafficking is complex and intermingled, finding its way to Europe and Asia as human organs are very vital and have an enormous value on the black market, which is open to many different countries. There are many interests that profit from the killing and robbing people of their organs from the middleman who smuggle people out into the arms of the Bedouins. The lawless region of Mount Sinai in Egypt needs to be regulated in order to quell this horrible onslaught of innocent people’s lives.

Although many of these Africans seek out refuge in Israel from political persecution and economic reasons, many of them often find themselves worse off. As the influx of African refugees continues in Israel, panic has come in what to do with all these refugees. Many right-wing members of the Knesset often refer to them as “infiltrators and as a cancer that must be stopped.” According to Interior Minister Eli Yishai, “This is only a small group of the infiltrators; I’m not acting out of hatred of strangers but love of my people and to rescue the homeland.” These kinds of statements fuel hatred and stir much of the anti-African refugee sentiment.

The language used by many political leaders is disturbing when discussing the African refugees as a cancer that is harming the “Jewish State.” The solution that has been reached in order to curb the African refugee problem is to construct a big electric fence along the Egyptian and Israeli border. “Once completed it will be



155 miles long with surveillance technology” (BBC). These hate statements spewed by political leaders have led to violence against the African migrant population living within Israel. This has been the Israeli response in dealing with the African refugee issue; they are constructing “the world’s largest detention center for illegal migrants and asylum seekers that can hold up to 11,000 people.” This will have grave implications for the African refugees and Israel as it further violates international and human rights laws and further isolates itself from the international community. It is against the Geneva Conventions on human rights that state that people need the basic necessities to survive, the right to a fair trial, and the ability defend one’s self in the court of law.

According to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, “This phenomenon is very grave and threatens the social fabric of society, our national security and our national identity.” The claim is that the African migrants are criminals and bring with them criminal and violent culture more so than Israelis. “The crime rate among foreigners in Israel was 2.04% in 2010 compared with 4.99% among Israelis” (*The Guardian*). How can a state be considered a democratic state if it doesn’t fully integrate all people from various backgrounds into the framework of the society at large? The mistreatments of African refugees being considered as a cancer that will damage or stain the “Jewish character of the state” seems to be undemocratic and reminiscent of apartheid South Africa.

The immigration problem within Israel with the African migrants is comparable to that of the United States. There are many Mexicans and other groups of people from Central America that find their way across the dangerous borders to make it to the United States. There

is a lack of a cohesive immigration reform in the U.S. as Americans feel threatened by immigrants taking their jobs while the economy is in shambles. The political rhetoric seems appalling and misdirected at best.

The global economy has been weak since the financial crisis and has yet to come to pre-recession levels. The current economic woes have made many people angry toward immigrants as they see them as competing for the fewer jobs available.

It is necessary for there to be a greater understanding and better solution for the African refugees who flee from political persecution in search of a better opportunity elsewhere aligned within the parameters of human rights. We should make sure that they are treated with dignity and respect and helped to adjust within the society dependent upon the context. The fundamental question that should be asked is why there is such instability within the African continent that leads people to flee their homeland?

The solution to this complex problem of migrants could be taken from Marseilles, France. The city and community have a sense of belongingness to each other and primarily to the city in which they live. Other countries, including Israel, can adopt the unique way in which Marseilles deals with their own immigration problem. According to *National Geographic* magazine concerning the city of Marseilles, “In the 1990s city hall reached out to religious leaders to create Marseille Esperance, or Marseille Hope, the amalgam of Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim leaders that helped shepherd the city through various crises triggered by conflicts at home and abroad over the past two decades.” They have, along with the local municipalities and local religious leaders, come together and calmed their communities irrespective to the calamities that occurred throughout the Arab and Muslim world. There have been riots and protests in other French cities but not in Marseilles. It has been calm as the leaders along with politicians set an even tone conducive to the unique environment and makeup of Marseilles.

The cultural city of Marseilles can be looked upon as an example to other nations to model after as the future holds more peoples coming together in a more globalized and multicultural world where we can all learn to live together in spite of our differences.

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Outside the Quad

Astrological Politics: The Answer By Miko Jeffries

As you might have read in my last article, “Politics from an Astrological Point of View,” I compared the personalities of two well-known politicians. If you guessed Mitt Romney for person A and Barack Obama for person B, you were correct and now have a better idea of who will be running this country.

Mitt Romney was described as a more passionate person who is abstract in his ideals, whereas Barack Obama was analyzed as a very prideful person who is loyal. I found this to be true in that Romney has very strong emotions. He always seems to get flustered when he is arguing a point and, although very eloquent, he shifts where he stands on a topic quite often. Romney’s rising sign is Gemini, which is an intellectual sign of communication. This gives off the appearance of being very approachable, bubbly and youthful. However, his true character lies in his sun, which is in the watery sign of Pisces. Romney has an enormous imagination, but it might be better suited in another field, for his dreamy Piscean nature might change its mind too much. His moon rests in Scorpio, another water sign. This mix will give you a person with intense emotions to say the least, which explains why Mr. Romney is so good at arguing. An important placement is also Mars, planet of energy and action, which is also in Pisces. Now, Pisces people are more dreamers than they are doers. With his Mars in Pisces, Romney has the power to evoke emotion in others. His feelings are strongly expressed without holding back.

Obama, on the other hand, seems much more reserved. Perhaps it’s due to his Mars being in Virgo, the sign of service and morals. Virgo is an earth sign that is associated with order and tactfulness. With this placement, Obama is able to put his emotions aside for a moment, in order to make a decision, which is an excellent trait for a politician. His real inner character is his sun, which is in Leo, the sign of the lion. This fire sign is associated most with creativity and sex. This is where the bulk of Obama’s confidence stems from and why he usually remains laid back even under constant pressure. His pride comes from the proud lion sign as well, for he never wants to make a mistake or have anyone doubt him. His moon and rising sign are both in air signs Gemini and Aquarius, making him very intellectual. Although he is a passionate Leo, he is a thinker overall and will not rush into anything without weighing the pros and cons.

I’ve got to say that analyzing the birthdays for these politicians has shed a lot of light on who they really are. I found myself nodding and laughing at certain points and saying out loud, “Oh my God, no wonder!” Astrologically speaking, I would be more inclined to vote for Obama. While I appreciate the creativity and empathy Romney has to offer, loyalty comes first, especially when we are talking about politics. Romney is definitely devoted, but he’s not very rational. I am the type of person that can handle the truth whether it be good or bad. I personally don’t like to be lied to or have a situation sugar-coated. Romney might feel this necessary to “ensure safety” and although a small lie will start off innocent, it might build if they see they can get away with it once. I prefer someone who is up front and straight to the point. I also like people who pay attention to detail and don’t make any rash decisions. Neither of these candidates are too impulsive, but like I said earlier, Romney tends to go with his emotions, and Obama, with his head. Going with your gut is important, but it should be a last resort. I want someone who carefully examines every possible outcome, not someone who is too emotionally driven and has vengeful tendencies.

Researching this was loads of fun, as anything that has to do with astrology always is for me, but I must confess that I am not really involved in politics. The subject has never interested me and as much as I try to engage myself, I always give up feeling confused and bored. I understand that it’s our country and we should all get involved, but I find myself constantly asking these politicians, “Who are you really?” It’s quite incredible, the secrets you find when using this ancient science. You look for answers in the stars and suddenly it all makes sense, THAT’S why I like this person.

Borderlands 2 Review By Kristian Moton

Upon starting this article I will have played only 25 hours into this game. In 25 hours I’m still not done with the campaign, and I’m always a fan of making that \$65.31 stretch. *Borderlands 2* is the sequel of the 2009 sleeper hit *Borderlands*. It follows the story of four mercenaries called “vault hunters” on the search for the fabled rare vault on a dangerous planet full of thieves, creatures and other horrendous things. The concept of *Borderlands* is that it’s a first person shooter with role-playing game elements. Imagine playing *Halo*, but your shots register as numbered damage points like *Final Fantasy*. Everything in this game has levels: you have a level, your enemy has a level just like a role-playing game, and your guns also have levels. If your guns are level ten, and you are level five, it sucks for you. You can’t use that gun.

The theme of this game is as I talked about in my previous article, “Games to Avoid This Semester,” is looting. [Looting, that thing that pirates do.] You wind up in a huge firefight and afterwards you go around picking up whatever you find. Sometimes the enemies are holding good weapons, and sometimes they’re holding garbage (not literally in most cases). There might be a treasure chest somewhere in the place they were, giving you the sense that it’s “you versus them.” The feeling is only amplified when you go online and play with four people. The game has about a 30-hour story, so there’s plenty of time left over to put in. After beating the game, you will be invited to play from the beginning a second time (this is often referred to as new game plus). You can still play with the character you used the first time around with the same level you ended with. Instead of starting the game at level 1, you start it at level 32 and so will your enemies, weapons, shields and so forth. There’s so much this game has to offer.

As an appreciator of the first game, one thing I was grateful for was the fact that they kept and even improved on the humor. This is what made the first game and the proceeding downloadable content great. *Borderlands* is jam packed with references from other games, Internet memes and 90’s television shows. There are references to four sewer mutants named loosely like renaissance artists, and weapons named “nukem.” The game is a love letter to the underground pop culture enthusiast.

Another element kept intact is the weapons, in both variety and fun. In the beginning, I was hard pressed not to use every gun not immediately in my face. My inner monologue went from “I can use this gun, it’s a pistol. I hate pistols” to “OMG; IT EXPLODES WHEN YOU RELOAD IT.” I found my focus shifting from what I liked to do, to how I am going to kill the most enemies in the most effective and flashy way possible. There’s a certain satisfaction and sense of accomplishment when you’re playing your character “the right way.” The company gearbox is capitalizing on this by releasing more downloadable content, where there will be more characters, maps, weapons, level cap upgrades, and stories. Personally, I cannot wait for the level cap to go up. After that, I fear it will be the end to my already lackluster social life.

The game sadly is not without fault; the time it took me to gain the satisfaction to where I could kill several enemies without getting killed myself took a very long time. And this is not because I naturally suck at first person shooters either. For the most part, in the beginning of the game you’re shifting through a lot (A LOT) of crappy weapons. In the first game every enemy dropped something decent, in this game good weapons are a lot harder to come by. In this game You MUST have friends online, friends you can trust not to loot the chests and take all the weapons. Online play can get really grimy, really quickly. In the end it’s worth it, but not too many people have the time and patience to make it to the end.

At the very least I expect to play this game for a year. Yes, I beat the game twice, but I assume I’m going to want to find the good weapons that will really make my character sparkle. This is along with the downloadable content that’s projected to come out in the next year; I believe it’s a safe assumption. The game’s \$65.31 cost includes tax, and let’s not forget the season pass which is the cheapest way to get all of the downloadable content for \$29.99.

That being said this game gets: 9/10

Computer Engineering Will Change the World

By Alex Luma

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

Computer engineering has an impact on the way we lead our lives. This is rudimentary of the automobiles we drive which can contain computer simulations to enhance vehicular safety or control of automotive systems and optimal control of the vehicle, which also contains hundreds of microprocessors.

Computer engineering can also be used for processes of communication and presentation, operating multiplicatively at the same time. It empowers and presents you with the opportunity to receive methods of creating life-changing systems and integrating hardware designs and software designs to create many things like embedded gaming systems, PDA’s, gene analytical super computers and much more. The real challenge of an engineer is to use the full potential of his/her education and whatever experience that person possesses and design the prospective system from epic proportions and with most maximized impact using principles of the scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical nature. These are among other varieties included but not limited to combinatorial physics, which unites discrete mathematics with theoretical physics, and solid state physics, which is a foundation of computer engineering and quantum mechanics. Of course, I couldn’t forget about matrices which are included in branches of classical mechanics but in the aspect of computer engineering and design, they are used to project three dimensional images onto a two-dimensional screen.

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

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

As President of Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine, I took on the goal of recruiting and retaining more students in the S.T.E.M.M. fields and increasing STEM visibility in the community. There are many ideas that I have developed over the past years, one which has initiated the process called patenting. My mind has so much mind-boggling creations swimming around just waiting to create change and scientific magic, ranging from computer engineering to unlimited proportions. When it comes to your dreams or something you have a strong passion for, giving up is not an option. You must strive and persevere until your best is what you have given and the result meets your demand.

Robert C. Gallagher, author of *The Express*, once said, “Change is inevitable except from a vending machine”. The world should definitely expect change, especially on my part. The kind of change that I won’t cease to deliver will continue to create a domino effect of positive and successful proportions.

To Be Continued...

Outside the Quad



Courtroom Diaries

By Kristian Moton

Last month I wrote about a case in housing court, more specifically, the New York City Housing Authority. In this article I'll be telling you a little story about a college student like you and me in housing court. The student (who will henceforth be named Aquafina) found herself in housing court

because she was not the legal tenant of the apartment she was living in; the apartment was leased to her deceased aunt, and Aquafina was not on the lease. The law states in this case that an apartment can be handed down after the death of a spouse, parent, sibling or children; however, residency cannot be granted to extended family like nieces and nephews.

Aquafina was not going to take this on lying down, so when the eviction notice came she promptly called her lawyer, and the case began. From the lawyer's perspective, there was no way to challenge this law: it was concrete and full of precedents that shut down any kind of defense that he could muster. The law he used instead to challenge the aforementioned brick wall of law described non-traditional relationships, where it applied in the most usual case when same-sex couples could not get married in New York. This law was passed so that if you have sufficient evidence you could prove that you were in fact living together, and had a co-dependent relationship with someone for an extended period of time, you wouldn't have to lose your tenancy. However, you would have to establish that the two people in said relationship were in fact co-dependent in finances as well as emotionally. The way Aquafina's lawyer used this was by arguing that Aquafina's relationship with her aunt was more like a mother-daughter relationship than

an aunt-niece relationship, making it non-traditional.

Aquafina's relationship with her mother was not that great. When Aquafina wanted to go out and party, her mother would not let her. Aquafina was in a house where the only answer to fun was a big fat "NO." This was a problem for her so she ran away to live at her aunt's house (which was literally down the hall). While Aquafina was at her aunt's, she had what she believed a real mother-daughter relationship should be. She was allowed to stay out all night and do whatever she wanted; that's what mothers do for their daughters, she thought. The situation became so bad after Aquafina got pregnant and didn't have the baby that her mother motioned for a restraining order (it was not granted).

While this may not be the most sterling relationship it does speak volumes for people who do or do not have biological parents, but have uncles and aunts who fill the role better for whatever reason. There are uncles and aunts who act as mothers and fathers, taking on both the financial and the parental responsibility for their family members' children, and should be recognized by the law, even now.

Aquafina's case was thrown out because she could not establish that the relationship was non-traditional in the sense that the law required. Her aunt acted irresponsibly, letting her do whatever she wanted. When it came down to the responsibilities, Mom played her part because the answer Aquafina needed to hear was a big fat "NO."

The weakness in her case is that she could not establish co-dependency in her finances. Aquafina was not paying any bills whatsoever, and in the emotional department, Aquafina had nothing to prove that her aunt did in fact offer her this kind of support. There were no supporting documents that said Aquafina was her aunt's benefactor: There was a will that Aquafina was not in, and there were no medical records where her aunt was a contact.

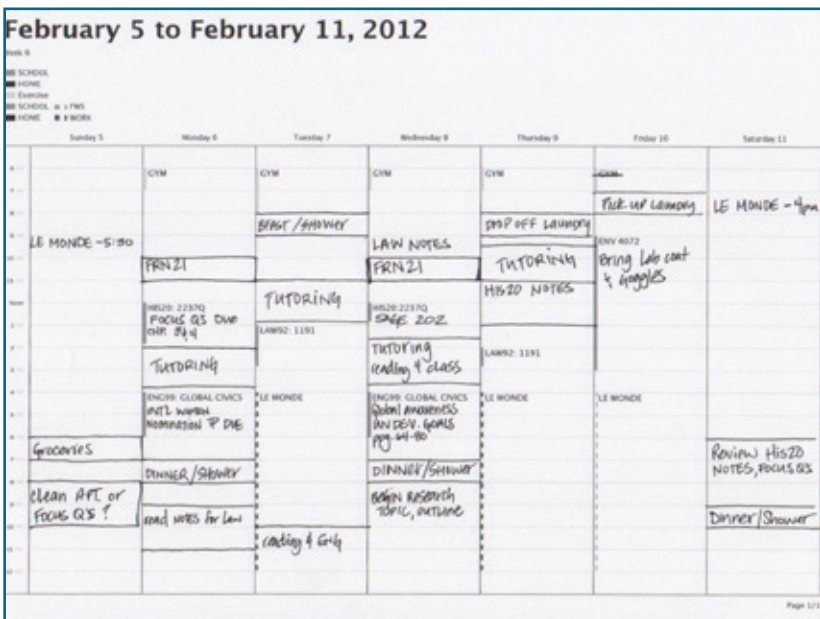
So there are two morals to this story: 1) you shouldn't run away from a parent because they're getting on your nerves, and 2) if you're going to live with someone, get EVERYTHING in writing.

Successful Student Secrets

Continued from Page 6

to find time to do. Luckily for me, there is a box for that in my planner. I would then look at my schedule and see where things could be squeezed in.

4. **Assignments:** As a professor gave an assignment followed by a due date, I would flip open my planner and immediately write the assignment in the appropriate time and day slot. I would then look backwards from that due date and write in when I would work on it. The time I designated to work on the assignment would be marked in ink, telling me it is of utmost priority.



Procrastination is something that all of us have dealt with at some point in our lives. Organization can prevent all of the mess and stress that comes from waiting until the last minute. Many people often do it around the holidays with last-minute shopping for Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas gifts. I know those scenarios sound very familiar, yet the hints I have given in the text above could very well prevent that from happening in the upcoming holiday season.

Most computers and phones have calendars in them, and they are great tools for organizing your school and personal life. As soon as an item comes up that needs to be scheduled, you can pop it in and see instantaneously if there is a conflict or label your new event as a priority. I am certain that Apple products allow color-coding for the calendar, and it looks spectacular when you print it out. Knowing how your school day, week, month and even semester will look proves incredibly beneficial when it comes to planning the rest of your life. Friends often asked last semester, "When can we hang out," "have dinner," or "see a movie?" I was able to quickly flip through my planner and say, "After my last final on Friday, May 24th around five o'clock." My friends were flabbergasted and never understood why I could not make time any earlier. My answer to them was always, "I cannot please everyone and school is a priority for me." This semester they now ask, "When can you pencil in some fun?"

If you would like help organizing your schedule, planning for the next semester or anything related to this article, feel free to visit me in CO-605A, Monday–Thursday from 12-3.



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The Writer's Corner

Society: The Leash That Binds

By Julio Marquez

In his book *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Friedrich Nietzsche states, "Society tames the wolf into a dog. And man is the most domesticated animal of all." This is a summation of the human condition. Society is the application of a moral and ideological construct to the base human psyche. From birth we are taught and conditioned to live within the boundaries of what is deemed acceptable by the general consensus of all the individuals living within our culture; we are given leeway to venture out into its outer reaches but made certain of the fact that to stray too far away from its core principles will bring steadfast repercussions. It is my opinion that society is a leash around the neck of human nature; it is of our own design and it is by choice that we submit to its demands. Without the generally accepted values of honesty and integrity that society attempts to impart on us, humanity is little more than a collection of wolves, bearing our teeth at each other in scared defense of our own individual survival.

In her essay "Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong: The Most Important Lesson Our Schools Don't Teach" Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, talks about the importance of instilling values into children at a young age. She expresses her belief through her examination of examples and statistics that to keep a civil democratic society functional, we must push for some very basic lessons on values to be taught to the youth of our society, thus promoting a stronger, deeper connection to these ideals that they would then carry on into adult hood, reinforcing the seams that hold our way of life together. She goes on to list some of those values as "honesty, responsibility, respect for others, the importance of serving one's community and nation." These are some of the basic core values that civil society operates on – each acting as a cog in the machine, individual but interdependent just the same. It is through examination and application of some of these values that society is able to continue to function smoothly, allowing us to live our lives in the way we have come to know as normal.

Honesty is one of the most prominent of these values. It is the most basic concept that most every interaction in our lives is based on. Without it there is no foundation to build upon. It is a concept that is just as multifaceted and complex as society itself. When honesty is present within a society and among its people, trust can be formed and, with trust, all aspects and interactions within a society are made easier. In the absence of honesty no trust can be formed. This leads to division among the people, dissolving the cohesion needed for civil life to run smoothly. With the rise of individualism caused by lack of trust, nothing can be accomplished, and the glue that holds everything together begins to erode. Honesty can be promoted by example. When one is exposed to the benefits honesty brings to both an individual's personal life and the state of the society as a whole, it become clear that it is in all of our best interests to keep honesty at the forefront of all our dealings. Honesty also plays an important role in the caliber of one's integrity.

Though honesty can be had without integrity, it

still remains an integral part of this concept. Yale University law professor Stephen L. Carter discusses honesty and integrity in his essay "The Insufficiency of Honesty." In it, he gives various examples of the difference between the two ideas and shows how one can exist without the other. While talking about integrity he states that "Integrity... requires three steps: discerning what is right and what is wrong; acting on what you have discerned, even at personal cost; and saying openly that you are acting on your understanding of right and wrong." This method of evaluation gives us a straightforward guideline to what it means to have integrity and how we may act it out. In Carter's method he first asks us to understand our actions and come to a conclusion of whether what we have done is right or wrong. This first step alone involves the use of our other values and calls on us to apply them in the process of assessing our own actions. Next, he asks us to take action on the conclusion we have come to as to whether our actions can be considered right or wrong regardless of any personal ramifications that may come about. Finally, he tells us to openly declare that we are acting on our own individual and fundamental understanding of what we consider to be right and wrong or just and unjust.

To be able to carry out Carter's method of acting on our integrity we must first possess several of the values talked about by Townsend in her essay. Without the base of these pre-established set of morals, there are no guidelines for us to act on our integrity, an idea calling for the understanding of the more base morals our society should have. This shows that without a strong foundation of these basic values, we have little hope of understanding higher, more complex ideals and even less hope of applying them to our daily lives.

Another value Townsend discusses is responsibility. Responsibility is our understanding of the effects and repercussions of our actions and how we are connected to the ripples they create in our world. Every action or inaction we take, whether it be physical or verbal, holds weight in the world around us. A strong understanding of responsibility shows us how we are accountable for these actions and their outcomes. As we are their cause, so must we also take ownership of their effects. This manifests in constructed society mainly in the concept of law. Under law, we are held accountable for our actions by our peers and society at large and are forced to take responsibility for their effects. A society with a strong and just system of law promotes a better understanding of the importance of responsibility within its people. This reinforces the concept of accountability of your actions and helps to keep order within the populace. Again this connects back to Carter's idea of integrity, by showing that we must first own up to our deeds if we hope to keep our integrity strong.

One more value talked about by Townsend is respect for others. A civil society cannot exist without a strong understanding of the importance of having respect for others. It is through this respect that relationships are formed and bonds made. These bonds of respect and appreciation hold civil, democratic life together,

and without them there can be no effective interaction between the individual citizens that compose all of society.

Respect for your fellow human is another value that can be promoted and instilled within our culture today through example. The ability to give respect is something that can never be forced. It is something that must be given freely of one's own volition; any show of respect that is forced or coerced is false and hollow, holding no value, simply being an act put on by the individual. True respect is given when one understands the values, actions, and beliefs of another and concludes that they are worthwhile and agreeable to one's own values, actions and beliefs. In this way, the importance of respecting each other can be shown through examples of the benefits truthfully giving respect can bring and through the practice of giving and receiving of respect in one's own life.

One of the last values Townsend places importance on is serving the community and nation. For society to exist there must always be an understanding that we must support each other constantly. The absence of this concept automatically divides us and brings us back to our natural state of solely self-preservation. A society is built on the accepted ideal that to continue living in the kind of world we are accustomed to, we must all serve each other in one form or another. Every individual is accountable for their participation in the upkeep and improvement of the society they have chosen to live in. Whether it be through taking on a job or more directly serving by working to improve the state of one's own community. This is a value that must be continuously reinforced and promoted within the society through active participation in things like community service or volunteer work.

Society guides us. It is what reigns in human nature and forces us to extend the scope of our concern to outside only our own needs to include the needs of those around us. This allows us to form a fragile community wherein we can work together to strive to improve upon ourselves and to gain better knowledge of the world both outside and within. Though the basic human instinct may be to ensure each of our own individual survival, it is society that brings us together, making a pack out of stray dogs.

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 Townsend, Kathleen Kennedy. "Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong: The Most Important Lesson Our Schools Don't Teach." *Washington Monthly*. 01 12 1992: Print.

Julio Marques is an English 12 student this semester.

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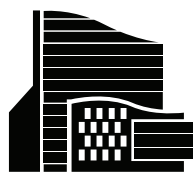


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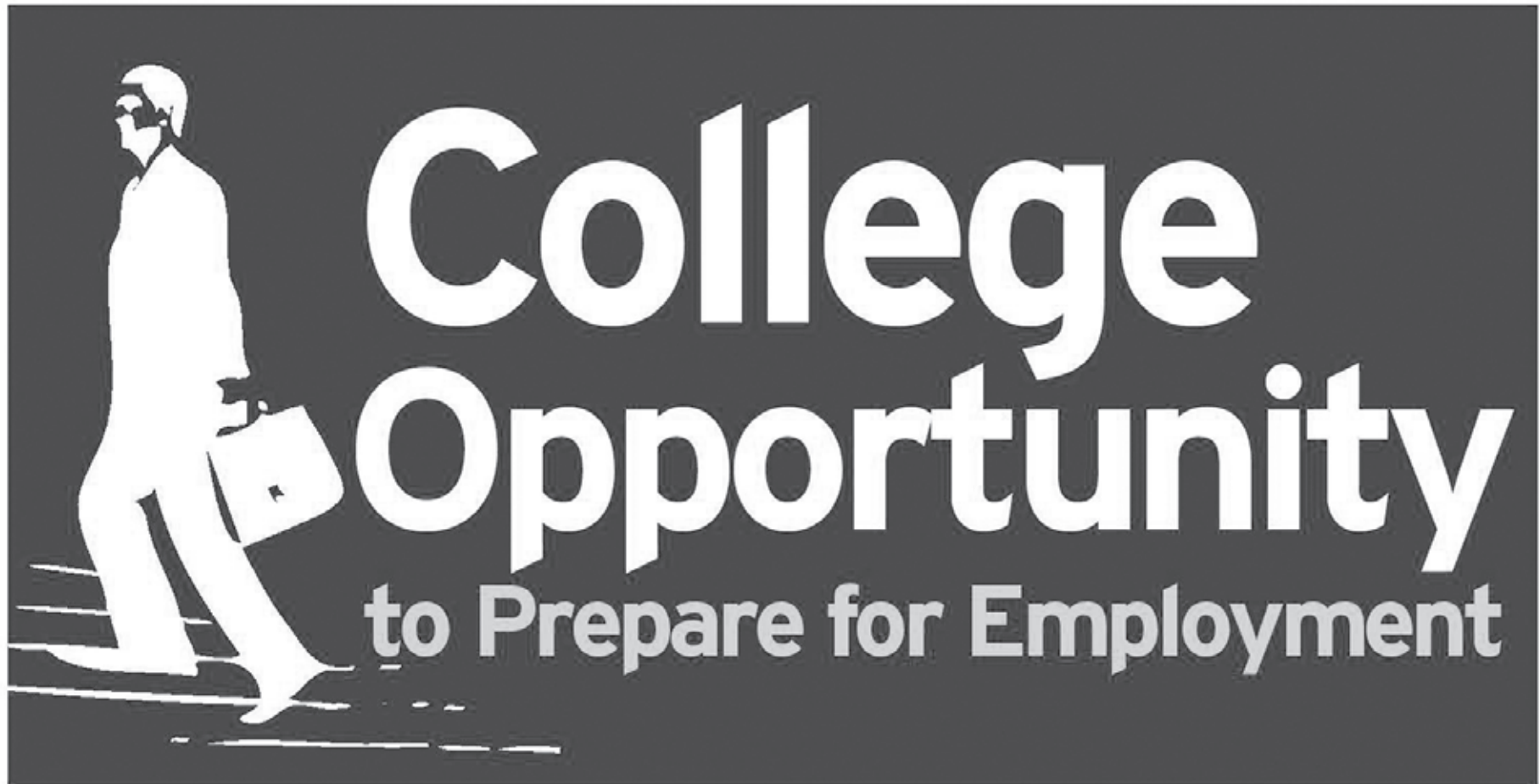
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<p>Leadership 101 (1.0 hour) What qualities make "A leader?" Who is a leader? Are You a Leader? This workshop will challenge you to think about your own concept of leadership.</p>	<p>Wednesday September 27, 2012 3-4 pm RBSC-310</p>
<p>Know Yourself; Lead Yourself (1.0 hour) Learning to Lead Yourself well is one of the most important things you will ever do as a Leader. "When someone truly understands who they are, they will also uncover their talents, abilities and strengths."</p>	<p>Tuesday October 9, 2012 2-3pm RBSC-310</p>
<p>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Leaders (1.0 hour) Utilizing principals from the National Bestseller, <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People</i> by Steven Covey, this workshop will demonstrate key strategies that you can use to help you develop your Leadership skills.</p>	<p>Tuesday October 30, 2012 3-4pm RBSC-310</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LEAD Seminar "Lunch with Leaders" Have Lunch with an influential Leader! Speaker: Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph President, Bronx Community College Pre-registration is required...limited space</p>	<p>Thursday November 15, 2012 12-2pm GML-Rotunda</p>
<p>Civility: A lost Art!(1.0 hour) <i>LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT!</i> <i>I APPRECIATE IT! YOU'RE WELCOME! PLEASE!</i> "Common civility is no longer common... respecting and treating others with civility has become scarce". In this workshop we will explore civility...its meaning... what incivility looks like...and reasons why leaders need to model and cultivate civility in every situation.</p>	<p>Monday November 19, 2012 2-3pm RBSC 310</p>
<p>Effective Communication for Leaders (1.0 hour) It is often said, "it is not what you say...but how you say it". In this workshop we will examine different communication styles and how to manage your own for effective communication.</p>	<p>Thursday November 29, 2012 3-4pm RBSC 310</p>
<p>Embracing Diversity as a Leader (1.0 hour) Successful leaders understand and educate themselves on the changing demographics within their community and world. This workshop will explore the impact that a diverse community may have in your personal interactions with others and ways to embrace it. Techniques for building community will also be addressed.</p>	<p>Tuesday December 4, 2012 4-5pm RBSC 310</p>

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Coordinated by Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Thursday, 9/13
FAITH & SPIRITUALITY FILM SERIES: BEYOND OUR DIFFERENCES (2007) • GF, GA (OCD CREDIT)
Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

A film by Peter Bisanz (74 minutes)
Politicians, religious leaders, and noted intellectuals discuss the most important issues facing the world today, and how their views on faith, whatever they may be, have helped them develop ideas to solve these problems. Director Peter Bisanz's engrossing documentary examines the role of religion in addressing such crises as war, poverty, and hunger, and it shows that despite their differences, all the major faiths share common ground.

Coordinated by Professor Mary Lou McNichol, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life. Dr. Kathleen Urdá, Department of English, guest moderator.

Wednesday, 9/19
EXPLORE LATIN MUSIC • IC (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/1-3 p.m.

Celebrate the first week of Hispanic Heritage Month at BCC with DJ Jynn, playing the best merengue, bachata, salsa, and reggaeton. Enjoy free delicious dulce de leche cupcakes.

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

Thursday, 9/20
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE • GA (OCD CREDIT) | Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

The International Day of Peace is dedicated to developing strategies for more peaceful futures, as individuals, nations, and as citizens of the world. The holiday is observed by many nations, political groups, and peoples. Our 2012 event will include a speaker from School of the Americas Watch. Additionally, we will provide an introduction to conscientious objection and an opportunity to sign the National Registry. NR of what/lower case if not proper title?

Coordinated by Dr. Julie Bolt and Dr. David Blot, Department of English

Thursday, 9/27
PREJUDICES THAT SHAPED THE WORLD FILM SERIES: FEMALE MISBEHAVIOR (1992) • GA, GW (OCD CREDIT)
Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

A film by Monika Treut (160 minutes)
Female Misbehavior is a collection of five films that explore the outer limits of female sexuality and behavior. Each film features a woman who has challenged the status quo, provoking shock and outrage in some and gaining respect and admiration from others.

Annie is an inside look (in more ways than one) at Annie Sprinkle, porn-star, performance artist, and sexual diva. *Dr. Paglia* is a confrontation with Camille Paglia, the infamous author. *Bondage* centers on a S&M practitioner and her use of pain as pleasure. Max is the story of a transsexual's journey from female to male. And the feature length *Didn't Do It for Love* explores the fascinating life of Eva Norvind, the blond Norwegian bombshell who was Mexico's Marilyn Monroe in the 1960s and New York's leading dominatrix in the 1980s.

Coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryls, Department of History, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Thursday, 9/27
Freshman Convocation • GA
Gould Memorial Library Auditorium/12:15-1:30 p.m.

The keynote address is by Desiree Vargas-Wrigley, CEO of Give Forward, an organization that provides free online fundraising pages that allow friends and family to raise money directly for a loved one when they need it the most. Give Forward has raised \$21,329,912 for medical and other causes.

There also will be an ensemble performance by La Tribu, an Afro-Caribbean ensemble and arts-in-education company, led by Juan Uera, celebrating the Afro-Puerto Rican traditions of bomba and plena. La Tribu plays a combination of traditional and original songs with unique arrangements that range from plena tipica to jazz standards.

Coordinated by Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life, and Professor Anthony Gatto, Department of Art & Music

OCTOBER

Tuesday, 10/2 | CELEBRATE HISPANIC AND LATIN CULTURE – FOOD DEMONSTRATION BY COQUI, THE CHEF • GA, IC | Roscoe Brown Student Center Cafeteria, floor 2 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Coqui the Chef encourages the value of daily nutrition and well-balanced meals through cooking demonstrations. Learn to make sofrito—a popular condiment used in many Spanish cuisine dishes.

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

Wednesday, 10/13 | ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: HUMANITARIAN SOLUTIONS • GA, IS (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/1-2:30 p.m.

Jesus Nebot will inspire you with this 90-minute, interactive, social justice presentation about his personal immigration story. Get real facts about the origin and history of illegal immigration and its current economic and social impact in the U.S. People on all sides gain a greater understanding and explore effective, comprehensive, and long-lasting solutions that you can help implement to make a difference in your community.

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

Tuesday, 10/9
UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES • GA (BY INVITATION ONLY) | New Hall/12-2 p.m.

Fairleigh Dickinson University opens its United Nations Pathways Video Conference series this fall with Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, Senior Advisor, Alliance of Civilizations, who will discuss "Promoting Dialogue and Understanding Among Cultures: The Missions and Impact of the UN Alliances of Civilizations," with moderator H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal. This event is organized by FDU's Office of Global Learning, and BCC students will participate from the college's video conference facility.

Coordinated by Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English

Thursday, 10/11
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY • GA
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.

Come and show your support for the BCC LGBTQ community. This event features campus and community speakers, spoken word performances, and live music.

Coordinated by Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Office of Student Life/ Multicultural Affairs

Monday, 10/22
GLOBAL MUSIC CONCERT: SONIDO ISLEÑO • IC (OCD CREDIT) | Gould Memorial Library Auditorium

Sonido Isleño explores different ways of mixing Jazz and Spanish-Caribbean music, while making the music accessible, organic, and logical. This is project involves New York musicians, who are completely bi-cultural, a benefit of being residents of the largest Caribbean population city in the United States. Active since 1996, Sonido Isleño is the brainchild of Dr. Benjamin Lapidus and is made up of master musicians who have performed and recorded with a who's who of Latin music, including Eddie Palmieri, Celia Cruz, Ray Barreto, and The Buena Vista Social Club, among others.

Coordinated by the Department of Art & Music

Wednesday, 10/24
FILM SCREENING/TALK BACK: LATINA CONFESSIONS • GW, GA (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/1-2 p.m.

A film by Luis E. Perego Moreno (Tio Louie)
A film screening will be followed by a Q&A with the producer/director, who explores what it means to be Latina in the U.S.—stories that Latinas don't share easily. *Latina Confessions* is a documentary about Latinas who tell their innermost fears and expose the demons they wrestle with to an audience who may or may not be Latino, but can certainly relate with the concept of not fitting in.

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

Thursday, 10/25 | FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY FILM SERIES: RENEWAL (2007) • GF, GA (OCD CREDIT)
Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

A film by Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller (90 minutes)
This documentary is inspired by the many Americans who are answering a spiritual call to confront the enormous challenges of environmental degradation. From within their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions, these men, women, and children are finding ways to become caretakers of the earth. With great courage, they are re-examining what it means to be human and how we choose to live on this planet. The religious-environmental movement grows as people from diverse traditions work to build a sustainable future. *Renewal* is their story.

Coordinated by Professor Mary Lou McNichol, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life. Dr. Kathleen Urdá, Department of English, guest moderator.

Friday, 10/26
MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION: PLATANOS Y COLLARD GREENS • IC (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.

Afro-Latino connections, from Latin Jazz to Hip Hop, are explored with David Lamb, the creative force behind the hit play, *Platanos Y Collard Greens*. Raised in public housing in Astoria, Queens, David Lamb attended Hunter College, Princeton University, and New York University School of Law. While working on Wall Street, he wrote the novel, *Do Platanos Go Wit' Collard Greens*, to explore the stereotypes African-Americans and Latinos hold of each other.

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

Tuesday, 10/30 | UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS AMBASSADOR FORUM • GA (BY INVITATION ONLY)

BCC students will attend a special forum discussion, on the Teaneck Metro campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, with H.E. Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of the Mission to South Africa to the United Nations, moderated H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal.

Coordinated by Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English

NOVEMBER

Thursday, 11/1 | PREJUDICES THAT SHAPED THE WORLD FILM SERIES: BEYOND HATRED (2007) • GA (OCD CREDIT) | Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

A film by Oliver Meyrou (85 minutes)
In 2002, three French neofascist skinheads went to a public park in Rheims looking for an 'Arab' to attack when they came across François Chenu, a young gay man. When he refused to deny his homosexuality while being taunted with gay slurs, he was viciously beaten and thrown unconscious into a pond, where he drowned. *Beyond Hatred* explores the social and psychological roots of homophobia and similar hate crimes, and it demonstrates the emotional maturity that enables the rare human quality of forgiveness.

Coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryls, Department of History, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Tuesday, 11/6
VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM • (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-2 p.m.

Learn about the global experience of veterans.

Coordinated by Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Friday, 11/9 | SAFE ZONE TRAINING • GA
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211

Students, faculty, and staff learn strategies to be supportive of BCC's LGBTQ community.

Coordinated by the Office of Student Life and the Center for Tolerance and Understanding

Thursday, 11/11
LGBTQ DISCUSSION FORUM: FOR COLORED BOYS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS STILL NOT ENOUGH: COMING OF AGE, COMING OUT, AND COMING HOME • GA (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse/12-3 p.m.

African-American, Latino, and Asian-American writers tell their own stories of coming of age, coming out, and coming home. Clay Cane, co-editor and contributor, talks with BCC Professor Robert Baskerville about the book and the struggles of this community.

Coordinated by Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Office of Student Life/ Multicultural Affairs

Tuesday, 11/13
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK EVENT WHERE I COME FROM • GA (OCD CREDIT)
Colston Hall, Lower Level/12-2 p.m.

BCC students learn about the international backgrounds of BCC faculty and staff in an informal setting.

Coordinated by Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English

Tuesday, 11/13
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK EVENT UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES • GA (BY INVITATION ONLY) | New Hall/12-2 p.m.

Fairleigh Dickinson University continues its United Nations Pathways Video Conference series with Mr. Nikil Seth, Director of Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations: Rio+20, who will discuss "Sustainable Development and Rio+20" with moderator H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal. This event is organized by FDU's Office of Global Learning, and BCC students will participate from the college's video conference facility.

Coordinated by Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English

Wednesday, 11/14
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK EVENT TOLERANCE & FORGIVENESS: A SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN SUDAN • GA (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211/2-4 p.m.

Learn about the conflicts and peacebuilding in Sudan and South Sudan. Best known as a 'North-South' conflict, Sudan is using transitional justice to deal with deeply complex and often overlapping conflicts. This forum features speakers from the Sudanese community.

Coordinated by Professor Sibongile Mhlaba, Department of History, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life, and Dr. Michael Roggous, Department of Criminal Justice

Thursday, 11/15 | FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY FILM SERIES: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS (2007) • GF (OCD CREDIT) | TBA/12-2 p.m.

A film by Martin Doblmeier (78 minutes)
This documentary explores the topic of forgiveness as having real potential for personal and spiritual transformation. At the same time, it points to the centrality of forgiveness as a virtue in many of the world's great religions and the struggle that people of all faiths have in honoring it. The film includes stories and interviews with people from many faith traditions: Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel on forgiveness in the Jewish faith, Azim Khamisa on forgiveness and Islam, and Rev. James Forbes, pastor emeritus of Riverside Church in NYC.

Coordinated by Professor Mary Lou McNichol, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Thursday, 11/15
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK EVENT STUDY AND VOLUNTEER ABROAD FAIR • GA
Location TBA/12-2 p.m.

Learn about the programs and scholarships available, and meet students who have already participated in similar programs.

Coordinated by Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English

DECEMBER

Tuesday, 12/4 | WORLD AIDS DAY • (OCD CREDIT)
Roscoe C. Brown Student Center, Room 211/12-2 p.m.

BCC students learn about the impact of HIV/AIDS on their local and global communities.

Coordinated by the Office of Student Life, the Student Government Association, and the Inter-Organizational Council

Thursday, 12/6 | PREJUDICES THAT SHAPED THE WORLD FILM SERIES: DEFAMATION (2009) • (OCD CREDIT) | Schwendler Auditorium/12-2 p.m.

A film by Yoav Shamir (91 minutes)
Intent on shaking up the ultimate 'sacred cow' for Jews, Israeli director Yoav Shamir embarks on a provocative—and at times irreverent—quest to answer the question, "What is anti-Semitism today?" Does it remain a dangerous and immediate threat? Or is it a scare tactic used by right-wing Zionists to discredit their critics? Speaking with an array of people from across the political spectrum (including the head of the Anti-Defamation League and its fiercest critic, author Norman Finkelstein) and traveling to places like Auschwitz (alongside Israeli school kids) and Brooklyn (to explore reports of violence against Jews), Shamir discovers the realities of anti-Semitism today.

Coordinated by Dr. Robert Maryls, Department of History, and Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

Friday, 12/7 | SAFE ZONE TRAINING • GA
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211

Students, faculty, and staff learn strategies to be supportive to BCC's LGBTQ community.

Coordinated by the Office of Student Life and the Center for Tolerance and Understanding

Themes

- GA** Global Awareness, Tolerance, and Understanding
- GF** Global Faith and Spirituality
- GH** Global Health
- GW** Global Women
- IC** International Culture
- IS** International Students