

# THE COMMUNICATOR

November 9, 2013 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 3 – Fall 2013

## BCC at the CUNY Women's Leadership Conference

By Gilda Cote

On Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, fifteen Bronx Community College female student leaders joined Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Director of Multicultural Affairs at the College, and embarked on a journey to Hunter College for the CUNY Women's Leadership Conference. We sat in a room of roughly 200 people and listened through many different speeches that were there to empower us as female leaders, each one allowing us to gain knowledge from their experience.

Our first keynote speaker was Ms. Rossana Rosado, Publisher and CEO of *El Diario/La Prensa*, which is the top Hispanic newspaper in New York. Bringing Hispanic heritage and fusing it with the events that occur in our local and national Hispanic communities. She began her career as the first female journalist for *El Diario* and in the past 19 years, worked hard to make *El Diario* what it is today... a paper for the people. In her witty and very informative speech, she explained that no matter what is ahead of us, we should "live for the applause" and make time to "focus on you."

We as individuals are caught up on the everyday situations that occur in our lives and especially as Hispanic women; we tend to be serving even as a leader. Rosado's biggest piece of advice was to never bow your head down so low that your tiara falls off... "Don't drop your tiara," stated Rosado, because you are a queen. "Leadership is heart, caring for others, being honest, feel passion of service while you serve others..." Understanding that for many of us, we strive because it is the legacy given to us but we should consider this to be the legacy we are giving to the next generation.

Our second keynote speaker was Ms. Joann Barsch, former McKinsey & McKinsey Company director, creator of the "McKinsey Centered Leadership Project" to accelerate the development of women leaders; co-author of the book *How Remarkable Women Lead* and committee member on the NYC Commission on Women's Issues. She spoke to us about centered leadership. According to Barsch, there are five parts to centered leadership: meaning, framing, connecting, energizing, and engaging. As individuals, we strive to find MEANING? What makes you happy; "engagement in activities that makes you feel like you are making a difference"? What are you doing that you value. Barsch stated, "Find your strengths every day." Your strengths are what ultimately bring you pleasure and

you could apply to your everyday life.

Second, as an individual, we have a tendency to let our mind ruminate on a situation more than we should and it can leave us with either viewing it positively or negatively. The example she used was that you are presenting a project for the Mayor of New York City. You have been working on it for six months and you have two hours to explain it to him. The day finally arrives and you are ready to present. You stand before a room filled with men and you are the only women there. There is a long table separating you from the mayor. You breathe and begin to speak, and one hour in he picks up his papers and walks out. As leaders, we need to "separate facts from affliction" take a step back and understand what really happened. We also need to "find alternate reasons" to what had occurred and "displacement: the ability to unlock and unload from the situation and find something that helps you... gives your brain time to rest and then you are able to see the picture better," said Barsch.

Find CONNECTIONS in your everyday life; people that allow you to find "Congruence, honesty, reliability, and acceptance" in your everyday life. Find a sponsor that can view you for who you are and lead you where you want to be. Barsch also told us there are four kinds of ENERGY: "physical, mental, emotional and spiritual" and we need to find ways to use these energies to maintain or gain more in our everyday life. We have a tendency to pick up our phones in the morning, she said: Don't pick up the cell phone, buy yourself an alarm clock if you have to. Take 20 minutes in your morning and ask yourself "What do you want of yourself today?" That will give you back energy and at the end of the day, before bed, ask: "what is one new thing I have learned today? What self is one new thing I appreciate of my today?" OR ask: "What are three good things that happened to me today and what is one bad thing that happened to me today?" The whole point of the exercise is to value yourself and realize that as difficult as your day may seem, you can always find something to be thankful for. And last but not least, we need to be ENGAGING and fear tends to hold us back. We need to find assurance within ourselves and think positive; find a moment that brought you hope and always keep it in



President Carole Berotte Joseph (sitting, left) with members of BCC conference delegation.

your mind or write about it and read it frequently. Barsch ended by saying: "be aware of yourself, make choices and practice them often."

There were many other speakers like City Councilwoman Gale Brewer and moderators like BCC President Carole Berotte Joseph and Queensborough Community College President Diane B. Call.

I, along with seven other BCC women leaders, had the honor of sharing lunch and conversations with Dr. Berotte Joseph. We heard about her background as President of Massachusetts Bay Community College and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Hostos Community College and the differences between those community colleges to BCC. We were able to see her as a woman that is an advocate for the students, with a door always open to hear their concerns as well as doing what she can to address their issues. She has initiated the First-Year Seminar (FYS) class which has allowed freshman students to understand better the resources available within the school and to receive mentoring from a BCC FYS mentoring student that has gone through the program. It gave us an opportunity to voice concerns and to give accolades to many of our wonderful teachers. It was nice to meet her and know her as a person and a face rather than just a name.

In the end, the women's leadership conference was an insightful, eye-opening experience. Much of this information I will take and apply in my life and, even though you weren't able to attend, I hope you too will do the same.

## NYPIRG-PTK Coalition Fights Hunger In the Bronx

By George Arce

Phi Theta Kappa IOC Representative Gilda Cote and her daughter Charlotte preparing utensils for the community dining room at Part of the Solution (POTS).



(Photo Credit: Armando hapelliquen)

POTS as the facility's "heart and soul." In order to make sure everything was ready before the daily serving of lunch, NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen and Project Leader for Hunger and Homelessness Outreach George Arce were working in the kitchen cutting vegetables and seasoning chicken and pasta. "It always feels good to give back to the community and to show the path to the generations to come," said Gilda Cote, who brought along her daughter and joined her in preparing the dining room by wrapping and placing utensils on the tables. "Keep them humble and thankful for what they do have. I like to think I teach that to my daughter each and every day."

But this joint NYPIRG-PTK effort was only one in what has turned into a continually developing relationship focused on supporting the local community. Over the course of two weeks, NYPIRG and PTK once again joined forces for a Halloween-themed food community collection drive, the Trick-or-Eat. The collection drive had students dropping off shopping bags in the Kingsbridge area of the Bronx on Friday, October 25. The bags themselves had information on the Trick or Eat campaign and a list of desired goods to be donated. On Friday, November 1, the



On October 26, students from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and NYPIRG at Bronx Community College went to Part of the Solution (also known as POTS) to volunteer in the pantry's dining room. Part of the Solution provides a wide array of day to day quality assistance programs, including a food pantry, shower

program, clothing closet, haircuts, and mail program, with the goal of moving its guests from crises to stability and ultimately, self-sufficiency.

Students volunteered on the October Saturday morning in the Community Dining Room, referenced by



Students pose after a successful bag pick up on November 1. Back row (left to right): Ruben Martinez and Marcus Charlton; Middle Row (left to right): Jeanette Torres, Muslima Adams, Lorraine Henderson, Clifford P. Bias, and Leonora Gocaj; Front row (left to right): NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen, Hunger and Homelessness Outreach Project Leader George Arce, and Vice President of Service Sithar Say.

(Photo Credit: Derek Charlton)

## New York City Elects a New Mayor

With a landslide victory, New York City voters swept Bill DeBlasio (D) into office. Mr. DeBlasio is the first Democrat to be elected mayor since the Honorable David Dinkins' election in 1989. His margin of victory, almost 50 percentage points, was the largest for a non-incumbent mayor.

The December issue of *The Communicator* will feature an examination of the gap between campaign promises and what elected officials can actually do once they take office.

(See related NYPIRG story on page 3.)

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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:

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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Join  
The Communicator  
Team!

**Fall 2013 Insertion Deadlines**

**December issue**  
Monday, November 25

Cover campus news events.  
Explore local, state, national and global stories.  
Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community.  
The Communicator is looking for writers  
photographers  
advertising representatives  
Become part of our team, and join  
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College work study may be available.  
Contact us at 718.289.5314  
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**The Crisis of Syrian Refugees**  
By the Peace and Social Justice Club

**The Syrian crisis is a global humanitarian and security disaster.**

The civil war in Syria has been going on for three years. During this time more than 100,000 people have been killed including 10,000 children. Millions have fled Syria or have been displaced within the country due to the violence.

More than two million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries. They are escaping the horrors of war: the violence, the harassment, the fear, the hunger and deprivation. One million of these people are children. In Lebanon there are 675,000 refugees; in Jordan 515,000; in Turkey 434,000; in Iraq 160,000 and in Egypt 103,000.

Each day 4,400 more Syrians leave their country looking for safety. Seventy-eight percent of them are women and children. They tell stories of the violence going on in their country. For example, if the government soldiers don't like someone, they will strangle him or cut his throat and then burn the body to hide the evidence.

Inside of Syria five million people have been displaced due to the civil war. The children are at greatest risk because of the violence, the schools and hospitals that have been destroyed and the shortages of essential supplies such as food, water and medicine.

The neighboring countries are struggling to take care of the refugees. Jordan is an example. Jordan has very little water, yet there are more than half a million refugees living within its borders. This number could double by 2014. The people need food, water, shelter, sanitation, clothes, electricity and health care. The Zaatari refugee camp, built in a desert, houses 140,000 refugees. The Jordanian king has appealed to the United Nations for help.

Several countries are providing funds and supplies to Jordan and the other countries with refugees. The United States has provided most of the funding. However, the crisis is so bad that the funding must double.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Donate directly to humanitarian organizations such as UNICEF, Amnesty International, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, Doctors without Borders, and others.

# Campus News



## On Campus and Off: Students Say “No Fracking Way”

By Clifford Bias and Brandon Robinson

While NYPIRG has continuously worked on environmental issues, October was a big month in the fight against hydrofracking. Hydrofracking, the process of drilling and injecting a cocktail of pressurized water, chemicals, and sand into the ground to extract natural gas by breaking shale rock, has been on the fence of coming to New York State for some time. As we have already seen in other states like Pennsylvania and Ohio, doing this will cause environmental and health issues throughout the state. Unfortunately, the EPA has been MIA on this issue. In their report conducted in December 2012, “Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources,” they failed to include in their report those states that have complained and have suffered losses and catastrophic effects by fracking. In order to keep the pressure on Governor Cuomo to ban fracking, NYPIRG organizes actions every Monday: students make calls to the governor’s office to stop Hydrofracking from coming to the state. With Halloween ending the month, NYPIRG’s usual Monday call-ins took a turn on the scary side with its Horrors of Hydrofracking. While there is no connection between fracking and the zombies that graced the Halloween-themed posters, the message was the same: “Governor Cuomo: Ban Fracking in New York State.”



NYPIRG at BCC’s Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen leads the crowd of organizers in chants calling for a ban on fracking (Photo Credit: Sarah Hendricks)

While actions on campus were raising awareness within the college community, NYPIRG students and activists joined forces to send Governor Cuomo a clear message at the New York Food and Wine Festival. On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, organizations and activists from across the city convened at Chelsea Piers, Pier 61, to demand a ban against hydrofracking in the State of New York. With a huge presence of NYPIRG chapters from across the city, the broad coalition of hundreds of organizers made their presence known alongside a wide assortment of environmental, public health, and family groups. With Governor Cuomo scheduled to have brunch with Food and Wine Festival attendees right inside the Pier, the energy was high and the air was full of chants from concerned citizens; it was their collective mission to put a ban on fracking from coming to the State of New York. With huge lines of supporters united in their chanting and marching along the Westside bike trail, it was truly a day of excitement. On the water along the Pier, boats blew their horns in support of the movement. In addition, huge “Ban Fracking!” banners flew alongside their boats.

In addition to this bold display of activism on a windy Saturday morning, a guest speaker came all the way from Argentina to give his support as well as join in the fight. It was his hope to bring home useful organizing techniques to share with his community as they also fight for a clean energy future.

With such a wide array of organizing forces coming together, it is very revealing that Governor Cuomo chose to not show up to the brunch. What it demonstrates is that our Governor is listening. Whether through call-ins or outdoor rallies, we must keep the pressure on our local, state, and national officials to ban fracking. It is our duty as citizens to be heard on these pressing issues and continue our fight. While fighting to stop these dangerous practices, we must also demand more sustainable energy practices, as that is the only way to a clean energy future.

## JOIN A CLUB!

### NYPIRG-PTK Coalition Fights Hunger In the Bronx

Continued from page 1

bags were collected for final donation. To bring together the importance of supporting our pantries and community as a whole, all donations will be delivered to Part of the Solution. In this way, students at BCC are not only volunteering in the food pantry and dining room, they are actively filling the pantry and ultimately, empty stomachs.

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 in Meister Hall, Room 214 or 718-289-5409.

## Students Gather to Decide New York’s Future at BCC Mayoral Mock Debate

By Miguel Peña

To motivate the students to participate in the incoming mayoral election in New York City, the BCC Mayoral Mock Debate was held on Thursday, October 31 in the Roscoe Brown Playhouse to a tremendous audience that included students, faculty, and administrators. With the entry of Joe Lhota, Republican Party nominee, chants of “Lhota! Lhota!” were made by student rallyers. Ten minutes later, Bill DeBlasio entered to a lively applause and “Bill! Bill! DeBlasio! Bill! Bill! DeBlasio!”

Coordinated by NYPIRG at BCC, the Office of the Student Life, the Political Science Club, and the Speech, Drama and Debate Team, the BCC Mayoral Mock Debate had students Denisse Rivera and Leslie LaRue portraying the Republican and Democratic Party nominees, respectively. The “candidates” wrestled with serious questions on affordable housing, education, taxes, and stop-and-frisk. While some had seen previous debates and had already chosen their candidate, others grappled with the issues and candidates’ stances for the first time. “I was surprised that everybody was into it. It was informative and gave me a new sense of perspective on debates,” commented Lucy Cabrera, accounting major. With tuition continuing to rise \$300 every year in the CUNY system, students were increasingly becoming aware of the stakes in the coming election.

However, it was not all seriousness at the October 31<sup>st</sup> event. The crowd responded lightheartedly when the candidates talked about their favorite sports teams, including chuckles about Joe Lhota’s “pin stripe blue” blood. DeBlasio was not received as nicely (He’s a Boston fan).

The broad coalition of groups and offices that came together had one goal: to motivate students to get out and vote. Confident that students can make a difference on Election Day, Speech, Drama, and Debate Advisor Carmen Meyers noted the overwhelming turnout. “This event exceeded all of our expectations and demonstrated that BCC students are informed and ready to take a stand on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the polls.”

While the goal was to educate and engage students in the audience to be ready for the election, the candidates themselves also learned from the experience. “Being a part of the mock debate really opened my eyes. I’ve never been a person to watch the debates; I just go and vote and normally I only vote in presidential elections,” said Leslie Larue, sophomore nursing major portraying Democrat Bill DeBlasio. Taking on the role of someone with a different viewpoint was an educational process for Denisse Rivera, who portrayed Republican Joe Lhota: “I really enjoyed taking on this role, I am a Democrat but learning about a Republican was interesting because I was able to learn about both sides of the argument and I am now able to make a more thorough and informed decision come Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, everyone that was in the audience can also come to a more informed decision as well.”

(Left to Right) Debate Moderator Balissa Diaz, Leslie LaRue (as DeBlasio), Denisse Rivera (as Lhota), and NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen after the 2013 BCC Mayoral Mock Debate. (Photo Credit: Cesar Maceira)



In addition to the debate itself, everyone was provided with a voting guide complete with descriptions of all candidates running for city office. Students were also able to find their poll site using the Board of Elections Poll Finder, set up at the table with voting guides. A slideshow explaining how to access and find the Poll Finder ran before the event.

At the end of this event, NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen, dressed as Uncle Sam, answered questions regarding the elections process, and debriefed with all students that participated in the activity.

Director of Student Life Melissa Kirk recognized the event’s success was due in large part to its strong coalition: “The ‘Mock’ Mayoral Debate was a perfect example of an excellent collaboration. When clubs work together, campus life is engaging, informative and fun. Kudos to the Speech, Drama and Debate Team, the Political Science Club and NYPIRG for the time and effort devoted to preparing our students for next week’s mayoral election. Student Life was a proud co-sponsor of this event.”



### NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CLUB

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about health and wellness to help develop, organize, and run a health and wellness club here at Bronx Community.

Come learn about physical, mental social, spiritual and social health. We will discuss topics on dieting/meal planning, fitness, relationship building, sexual health and many more topics to achieve better health.

If you are interested in becoming a club officer or joining the Health & Wellness Club please contact:

Lashon R. Kempson  
Email: lashon.kempson@stu.bcc.cuny.edu

# Campus News

## SGA LETTER

Dear Bronx Community College Students,

Hello, and welcome to another semester at Bronx Community College. My name is Kelvis Cedeno and I currently serve as your Vice President of the Student Government Association. Just like it is a brand new semester, we are a brand new Student Government, thankful and excited to serve you. As senators we know it is our responsibility to take into account what is best for students, at all times. This group willingly decided to run, was elected, and we promise to see through on our commitment to the Bronx Community College student body.

The Student Government Association is an organization that represents the best interests of the students. We represent the students by sitting on committees where we vote on topics ranging from curriculum to academic advisement. I know that this group of senators is committed to making the best decision, even if it may be the toughest one. We hold our own meetings where we create programs, fund projects from clubs and college wide organizations, and grant an audience to anyone who wants to speak us. We are a Student Government that believes in an open door policy when it comes to the student body.

I wanted to write to you on behalf of the Student Government to inform you of our agenda and what we plan to accomplish in our term. Like any group when they first get together, we had many ideas, but eventually the list was trimmed to a small number of goals. The tasks we decided to tackle were all based in the thought of doing things that would benefit the school and students as a whole. Currently we are working on installing televisions in building lobbies through the AIM-TV Program. The AIM or Academic Informative Media TV program will allow Bronx Community College students to see what's happening on campus in real time, rather than have to rely on emails or word of mouth. Another project set in motion is the Student Government's idea to get the Burnside Avenue train station name changed to, Burnside Ave-Bronx Community College. We as Student Government know and respect the history of this school and we hope to reflect that within the community. We have also decided that through our Grants Committee we will also be offering internships that will result in a stipend for the students participating. The finalization of all these projects is what we strive for and we know that their implementation will have a lasting affect on the student body.

When this Student Government came together, we agreed on leaving a mark in Bronx Community College. We do not want to be known as a Student Government that just went through the motions, but one that went above and beyond the call of political duty. Our goals are realistic, have been put into play, and all we have to do is finish the job. I know politicians tend to promise many things, but the only thing this SGA can promise, is that we will work our hardest to benefit the students of this school. I know that with the leadership of our president Glendalys Salgado, the work ethic of this organization, and the support of the student body, we can make this year one that will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Kelvis Cedeno  
SGA Vice-President



(From left to right: third row) Daniel Castellanos, Kelvis Cedeño, Roy Nuñez, Duane Lewis, Issouf Kiema, Tchaa Taro; (second row) Jacob Serrano, Marie Thomas, Lynette Pascoe, Kelsey Bailey, Ayesha Depay; (first row) Glendalys Salgado, Machirouf Koli, Toshana Martin. Kelvin Urena was the only senator not present.  
(Photo Credit: Louis Lopez)



### Spotlight on a Phi Theta Kappa Leader

**Name:** Gilda Cote  
**Position:** PTK Vice President of Communications and IOC Representative  
**Countdown to Completion:** May 2014  
**Major:** Liberal Arts and Science  
**Motivation:** my daughter  
**Contribution to BCC:** Conversations with CLIP (CUNY Language Immersion Program) - Mentor for English language learners  
**Quote:** "I don't need luck because I'm a leader...and leaders are always winners!"



**Bronx Community College**  
**Student Government Association 2013-2014**  
2155 University Avenue • Meister Hall 209, 212, 214 • Bronx, NY 10453

October 25, 2013

To all BCC Students,

Hello, my name is Glendalys Salgado. Currently, I serve as your President of the Student Government Association at Bronx Community College. I am writing this letter to express my deepest sentiments and highest concerns regarding the recent attack on student activism. I hope in reading this letter you will gain a better understanding of the current state of affairs for us CUNY students.

The City University of New York is proposing a new policy that will infringe and encroach upon students' fundamental rights to freedom of speech, expression, and assembly. Any public institution receiving federal aid is subject to adhering to constitutional law. Therefore, any of the aforementioned institutions' infringement of these procured rights is criminal, and the students of CUNY will not stand for it! We must maintain solidarity and unite to ensure our rights are neither restricted nor suppressed.

Most students do not know about the struggles of CCNY Undergraduate Student Government's fight to have their student center returned. The Guillermo Morales Assata Shakur Center is a safe haven for student activists and mobilizers since 1989. Saturday October 19, 2013, Public Safety seized property of the center. It was even renamed and its purposes changed without student notification. Students were not allowed to leave nor enter the facility- during midterm week, no less! The Guillermo Morales Assata Shakur Center was used to organize protests against ex-CIA director and current Macaulay Honors visiting professor Ret. Gen. David Petraeus. Therefore one can make an educated guess that there is a connection between the new policy, the revocation of this venue, and the fact that six student protestors were arrested for disorderly conduct against Petraeus. CUNY is trying to limit our voices.

However, most importantly it is us black, brown, and yellow students that are at a disadvantage in this system where profit exceeds the value of our education. Our tuition is slated to raise \$300 per year. Within the next couple of years our Federal Pell grant will not be enough to cover our tuition expenses, leaving us disenfranchised for an education that was once complimentary to the citizens of New York City. As our tuition rises, it is hard to see where the excess funds are being allocated. The implementation of Pathways offers a "watered-down" version of general education courses in an attempt to have more students taught in less time. So in essence, we are being charged more to learn less. Sixty percent of CUNY teachers are adjuncts, who earn a measly \$3000 per course and are rehired year after year in order to refrain from offering full benefits. Personally, I have had an adjunct professor that has worked as an adjunct for over thirty years. Can you imagine what it'd be like to be underemployed for thirty years? Our infrastructure is decrepit and in dire need of repair. We are being charged more yet there are cuts all around. So where is the money going?

In the twentieth century, college campuses have been the breeding ground for pacifism and social revolution. At CUNY, we are no different. The blatant disrespect for student activism and overall respect is deplorable. It is for this reason that I call on you students to mobilize against this violation of rights. What happens at one CUNY campus affects us all. We are one.

In Peace and Solidarity,

Glendalys Salgado

**Students who want to discuss issues with members of the Bronx Community College Student Government Association – or who simply want to come by to get acquainted and see what we are working on – are welcome to see us in rooms 209, 212, and 214 in Meister Hall. We hope to speak with you soon.**



## BCC FOOD & GARDEN CLUB

**WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY AT THE GARDEN\*  
FROM 12-2PM**

(\*located between The Early Childhood Center and Colston Hall)

- Learn how to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Learn how to prepare locally grown foods
- Enjoy the tranquil space
- Make new friends

**For more information contact Professor Charmaine Aleong /**  
**[Charmaine.aleong@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Charmaine.aleong@bcc.cuny.edu)**

or

**Professor Claudio Mazzatenta / [Claudio.mazzatenta@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Claudio.mazzatenta@bcc.cuny.edu)**

# Beyond the Quad

## Students Gather For Consumer Rights

By Marcus Charlton

It is a sad and well-known fact that thousands of New Yorkers are taken advantage of by businesses every day. It is even sadder that many who are exploited are not aware of the options they have to protect themselves and get justice. On Wednesday, October 30, 2013, eight Bronx Community College students took a stand for consumer protection by getting trained for the NYPIRG Small Claims Court Action Center.

Known as the “People’s Court,” the Small Claims Court is a part of the New York State Civil Court system and its purpose is to provide a low-cost and quick resolution to everyday consumer complaints. With at least one Small Claims Court in every one of the 62 counties in New York State, including the six here in New York City (two for the borough of Manhattan and one for the other four boroughs), it is easily accessible. The reason this is called the Small Claims Court is because the monetary damages it handles can be no more than \$5,000. However, the Small Claims Court does not handle emotional distress and things of that nature. It only handles physical damage.



Left table to Right: Clifford P. Bias, Project Leader Marcus Charlton, Dany Diaz, Program Coordinator Megan Ahearn, Denise Giles, Miguel Peña, Delmonique McDowell, and Erika Delacruz at the NYPIRG Small Claims Court Action Center Training. Not shown: Melissa Guzman. (Photo Credit: Armando Chapelliquen)

Since 1977, NYPIRG has operated the Small Claims Court Action Center (or SCCAC) to provide free counseling services to the consumers of New York. As trained counselors, these students will guide their callers through the Small Claims Court system if they are in the process of suing of being sued. Since these students are not lawyers, legal advice cannot be given and they will make that clear to their callers. However, as trained counselors, the students will be able to provide a guiding hand through the entire process. The way the action center works is the counselors will encourage their callers to concentrate their efforts on three main things: 1) Documenting their damages in order to prove actual out-of-pocket costs with things like receipts and pictures of the damage; 2) Identifying the potential defendants (or person or business that they are suing); 3) Considering the option of settling outside of court because of the costs; and 4) Establishing a paper trail and case log for the purpose of documenting every contact they had with the opposing party. Of course, the students are not expected to know all of this by heart and have been provided guides that go into more detail about what to say and what not to say. In addition, the students will get a chance to visit the Small Claims Court here in the Bronx on 161<sup>st</sup> Street.

Prior to the training, several of the students voiced their enthusiasm and excitement. After the training, not only did their enthusiasm continue, but two of them volunteered to hang up posters with our phone number in their neighborhoods. One of the students, Clifford P. Bias, had this to say: “I didn’t know too much about the small claims court process so during the training I was a lot more informed about the process and how things work.”

This counseling is free-of-charge and is open to the public. As the project leader for the Consumer Protection campaign, which includes the Small Claims Court, we look forward to working with the BCC community and making people aware of this service. Ultimately, we encourage them to use this service because consumer exploitation and corrupt business practices do not have to be an everyday thing.

For calls in the Bronx, the contact number is 718-289-5409.

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- AND MUCH MORE!

For more information about joining or starting a club, contact the Inter-Organizational Council office:

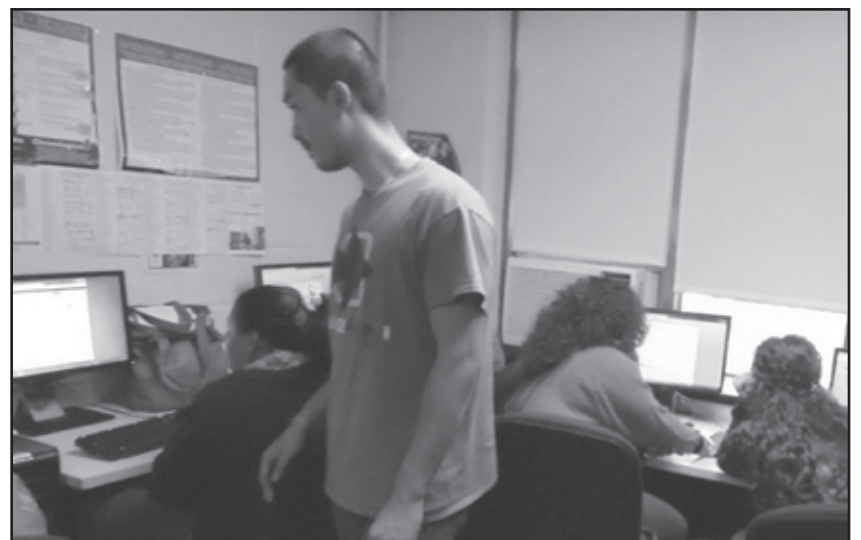
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## PTK at the Southern District Regional Conference

By Gilda Cote

Bronx Community College’s PTK Chapter President, Christian Sanogue; Vice President of Leadership, Mamadou Diallo; Vice President of Communications and Inter Organizational Council (IOC) Representative, Gilda Cote; and Student Advisor, Anoluwapo Bolarinwa had the opportunity to meet the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student officials representing New York Southern District during its Honors In Action Regional Conference on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The BCC Lambda Nu Chapter Officers expanded their knowledge on the projects that they need to complete in order to become a Five-Star Level Campus by sharing ideas on how it can be done with other regional PTK officers, members, advisors and officials. The group learned about leadership opportunities for all officers and members in the areas of individual and group goals. Information on Collegefish, a virtual college information portal that allows you to find colleges and universities of your choice and assist in matching those schools with scholarships, was also obtained at the event.

The BCC Chapter Officers met many different PTK chapters within the CUNY community colleges, which included Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College, and Kingsborough Community College. There were also many PTK chapters from the SUNY community colleges in attendance. Many of those chapters have succeeded in gaining prestige for their colleges which the BCC Chapter Officer found helpful.



However, although encouraged, the BCC Chapter Officers were left feeling unfulfilled and slightly overwhelmed next to the other chapters. Many of the other chapters are fully funded through the President’s Office at their institutions and thus can get their activities off the ground successfully. The BCC Lambda Nu Chapter Officers, however, must constantly fight for funding while striving to reach their next goal. And while the officers found the conference informative, it was understood that their chapter was unlike any of the other chapters in attendance; however, the officers know that once they gain their place, the reward will be that much sweeter.

## PTK and Collegefish Transfer Month

By Gilda Cote

PTK made great strides in the month of October to keep our members informed about Collegefish.org, a site designed to help students transfer to a four year institution and it also helps you match those schools with scholarships available for their students. The requirements vary between colleges and universities. We had two information sessions available where Phi Theta Kappa and the CLIP students built profiles and let PTK members navigate through the site while CLIP students were able to ask questions about how the site worked and how it could benefit them.

# Beyond the Quad

## BCC MEDIA TECH IN ACTION



Members of the Media and Digital Film Club attend both the CINE GEAR and PHOTO EXPO at the Jacob Javits Center during the fall 2013 semester.

The Communication Arts & Sciences Department Media and Digital Film Club (MDFC) meets during BCC Club Hours in Meister Hall C02A. Here students with a passion for movies can share their love of film and get a chance to participate as paid production assistants on major motion pictures and television shows filmed on campus. (Productions have included *Burn After Reading*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Good Shepherd*, *Maid in Manhattan*, and numerous episodes of *Law and Order*.) MDFC members also produce their own short films and videos for the annual BCC Film and Video Festival and enter them into national and international film festivals. Guest speakers from across the spectrum of the media industry – directors, writers, camera operators – are regularly invited to the club to discuss their area of expertise. Club members also take field trips to television/film studios, attend film screenings, seminars and industry trade shows.

All interested students who wish to join the Media and Digital Film Club should contact the faculty advisor, Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky (Meister Hall C02, 718.289.5572, [Jeffrey.Wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu)).



(From left to right): Dejan Georgevich, ASC, Co-Chair, Eastern Region Education Committee, International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, IATSE, Fred Elmes, ASC, Cinematographer (*Hulk*, *The Ice Storm*, *Blue Velvet*) Media and Digital Film Production major Andres Davoren, Jr. and Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, Media and Digital Film Production Program, attend the Arri Camera presentation of the latest Alexa XT cameras at the School of Visual Arts. Mr. Elmes also screened his film, *A Late Quartet*, starring Christopher Walken and Philip Seymour Hoffman.



(From left to right): Media and Digital Film Club member Jody Torres, Declan Quinn, ASC Cinematographer (*Moonsoon Wedding*, *Leaving Las Vegas*) and Media and Digital Film Club member Tamara Mclean, attend the screening and breakfast of director Mira Nair's film, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, starring Kiefer Sutherland, Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber at the Tribeca Film Center.



(From left to right): Media and Digital Film Club President Jelissa Mendez and club member Stephanie Jimenez, pose with a copy of the 2013 Motion Picture TV and Theatre Directory (MPE). Motion Picture Enterprises Publications donates copies of this invaluable publication to all students in the Digital and Media Film Production Program (MEDP). Additional copies are in front of the MEDP administrative offices (Meister Hall C02). Students use the directory to search for jobs, internships and services in the film and television industry. Special thanks to Ms. Lori Kornspun, the MPE Advertising Sales Director for her continued support of the MEDP Program.

## Egg Donors Needed

Women ages 21–32 interested in becoming anonymous egg donors should contact Jessica at 914-997-1060 or email [eggdonor@montefiore.org](mailto:eggdonor@montefiore.org).

Compensation is \$8,000 upon completion of cycle.

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**Montefiore**  
Inspired Medicine

# Beyond the Quad

## CLUB FAIR



Communicator staff members Eon Adams, C. Lionel Spencer, and Krystal Tavaréz.



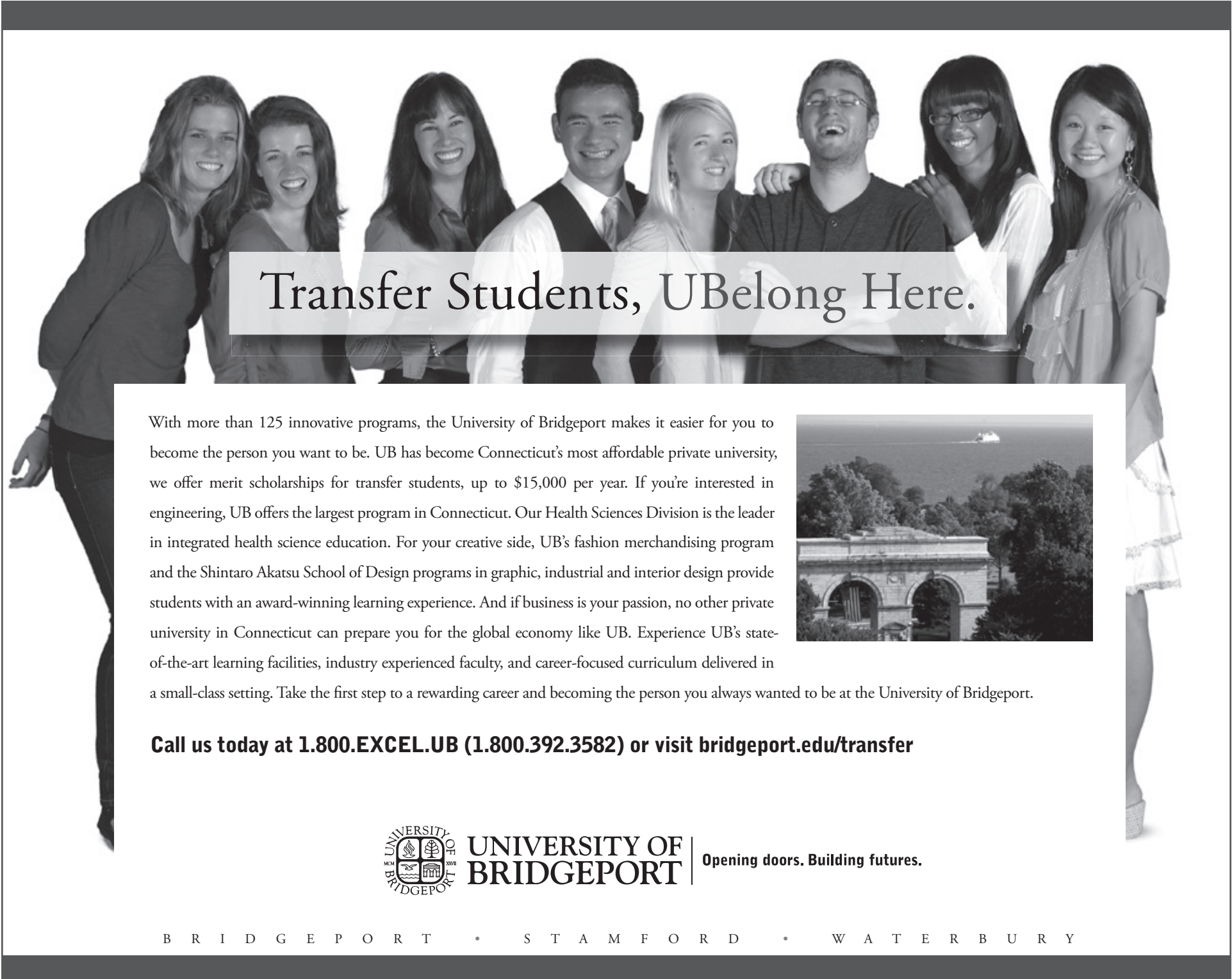
Club Fair view from above.



Members of the Rainbow Alliance discuss policy issues with Ms. Melissa Kirk (l) and Mr. Manny Lopez (center), Office of Student Life.




Robert Josman of the Nanoscience Club conducts a demonstration.



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# Writer's Corner

## Drinking You

C. Lionel Spencer

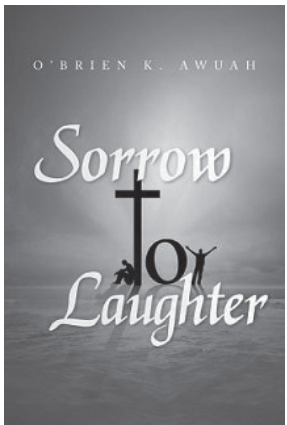
The woman with the drunken eyes stared at me  
 Her eyes poured into my heart until it overflowed  
 Immediately I began tripping over my thoughts  
 My stumbling eyes tried glancing back  
 While my body danced limply from her intoxication  
 She is a potent cocktail; one I have yet to sample until  
 now  
 And since she is my first, her effect is strong  
 My friends have me walk the line of sobriety  
 But I curve in lust, infatuation and attraction  
 The woman with the drunken eyes stared at me  
 And as the seconds passed I lingered in her top shelf  
 quality  
 I longed for several more tastes from her bottle  
 From her vulnerability, from her innocent sweet glare  
 That dulled my senses and crippled my nerves  
 She is a potent cocktail; one well worth sipping

## They Love Me

C. Lionel Spencer

They engage me: displaying before me their joy of life  
 and my significance within it.  
 They intrigue me: pulling from inside me the loftiest  
 ideas I posse and desire to express.  
 They love me: showing purpose, meaning and adoration  
 of who I am to them.  
 And, even though, I would never say they and I are  
 intimate, I would tell you that I feel closer to them. How  
 is it that nobodies can become somebody more special  
 than you in a moment's time?  
 It's not sex, but it could be, for we connect. It's not  
 cheating, but it could because I'm enjoying it: being  
 engaged and stimulated this way.  
 I love you and want us to work, but first you have to steal  
 my heart back from the nobodies you left it in.  
 I need to feel like I'm somebody to you: in my own skin.  
 And if you can't I can't promise you that I won't enjoy  
 the nobodies more, for you seem to enjoy nobody. You  
 say it's me you enjoy but neither of us seems filled with  
 it.  
 Is it me? Am I to blame for the spoken closeness that  
 materializes in doses too shallow to swallow?  
 Or is it that you are too guarded and protected that if love  
 erected itself in your presence it would be left until it  
 went limp?  
 All I want to be is somebody to you; special even. Can  
 we be special?  
 Could the I miss yous become excitement in my  
 presence?  
 Could the I love yous become actual affection?  
 Or will they simply stay words that somebody, other than  
 you, will show me?  
 They love me.  
 Will you?

## Communicator Staff Writer – O'Brien Awuah Publishes Book



Have you ever found yourself in a tight corner, and you regretted being on earth? Have you ever been swallowed by a serious problem, and you wished you were dead? Has any close relative or bosom friend ever disappointed you, and you became captive of depression?

Any problem with an admission day has a graduation day. So do not mourn to forge your good-looking smile. Your test will not kill you, and your temptation can never bury you.

Men and women of valor, I promise you, you will never regret reading this powerful book. Get a copy, and your life will never be the same. *Shalom!*

## COMPETE IN THE 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DEC 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2013



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- Must Complete Online Registration for Competition at <http://ProjectSTEM.net>
- Must have an Original Idea/Concept or Improvement on Existing Idea/Concept

*All Majors Encouraged to Compete / Profit and Non-Profit Ventures Welcome*

**For more Info: [www.cunyecc.org](http://www.cunyecc.org)**

REGISTER at [ProjectSTEM.net](http://ProjectSTEM.net)

MIND OF AN  
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**CRJ Program**

**ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN!**

## Criminal Justice Club

Thursdays  
Time: 1:00- 1:45pm  
CO Hall Room 212

For more information contact  
Professor Crystal Rodriguez at  
[Crystal.rodriguez03@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Crystal.rodriguez03@bcc.cuny.edu) or  
Professor Megan Maiello  
[Megan.maiello@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Megan.maiello@bcc.cuny.edu)  
Please stop by CO 309  
Or call (718) 289-5100 ext. 3533

**You don't have to be a CRJ major to join!!**

**The purpose of the club is to educate students on the importance of criminal justice topics, advocate for criminal justice issues and motivate students to be more active citizens. Through the club activities we will expose students to the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and potential career opportunities. Through our club activities we will encourage students to network with criminal justice professionals, politicians, faculty and other students.**

**AVAILABLE POSITIONS**

**President** - this person is to make sure that the club is running smooth and effective. This person also is to work with other clubs and offices off and on campus and other club members to plan organizations. They will work towards the advancement of the clubs mission and goal.

**Vice-President** - in absence of the President this person will assume the role of the president. They will work in concert to advance the clubs mission and goals.

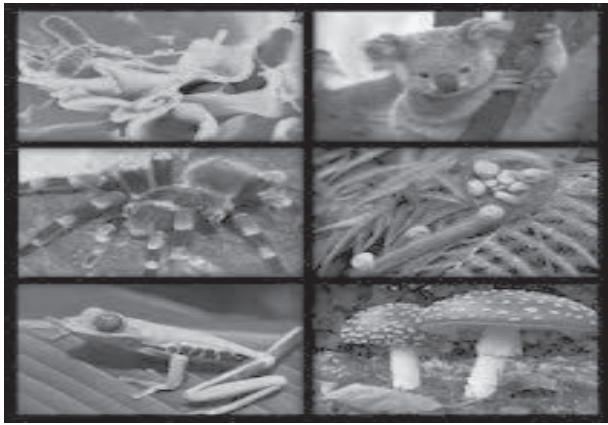
**Treasurer** - this person is responsible for the proper management of the clubs funds. The treasurer keeps track of the clubs earnings and expenditures and will also work closely with the fundraising chair. They will work towards the advancement of the clubs mission and goal.

**Secretary** - this person is responsible for maintaining a complete and organized record. These records will include the attendance, agenda and minutes of all clubs regular and special meetings, a record of current membership, names, and the contact information of all officers, committee chairs and general members. They will work towards the advancement of the clubs mission and goal.

**I.O.C Representative** - this person is the nexus between clubs/ college-wide organizations and I.O.C. the I.O.C is the only voting member of the I.O.C. Is responsible for keeping the club informed of current I.O.C discussion in the monthly meetings. They will work towards the advancement of the clubs mission and goal.



# THE BIOLOGY CLUB



Invites you to join its interactive, informative and fun activities. The Biology Club meets in Meister Hall, room 604 (Thursdays 12-2pm).

Join us for:

- Discussion period
- Fun & games
- Tutoring session
- Videos & Movies
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Leader

Dreams, The Royal Road to the Unconscious Sigmund Freud

The dream is the small hidden door in the deepest and most intimate sanctum of the soul, which opens to that primeval cosmic night that was soul long before there was conscious ego and will be soul far beyond what a conscious ego could ever reach. Carl Jung (The Meaning of Psychology for Modern Man, 1934)

In the tradition of:  
Montague Ullman, Stanley Krippner, Gene Gendlin and Allan Flagg  
*"If this were my dream ..."*

## DREAMS

*are illustrations from  
the book your soul  
is writing about you.*

*-marsha norman*

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invites you to join us

Every Thursday from 12pm-2pm in Colston 331

The floor is always open to discuss things like BCC's different Psychology courses, a variety of jobs in the Psychology field, and you also do not have to be majoring in Psychology to join!

All students are invited to join in different activities and events. There are also opportunities to strengthen leadership skills, build your resumes, create strong bonds, and have fun!

For more information please contact Prof. Lynne Ticke at:  
Lynne.Ticke@bcc.cuny.edu

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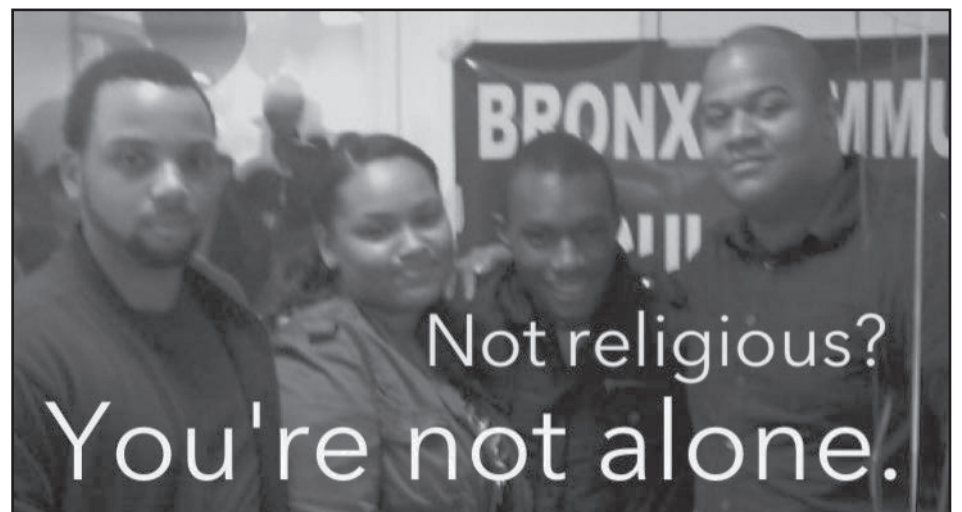
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The Secular Humanist Club is a safe space, a supportive social network, and a promoter of tolerance for the community of nonreligious students at Bronx Community College.

Join us in exploring a life guided by reason, ethics, and justice.

Thursdays at noon

Colston Hall, Room 605

For more information, contact  
SecularHumanistClub@gmail.com



# JOIN A CLUB

# Beyond the Quad

## Straphangers Campaign Measures Conditions at 862 Subway Platforms

**Finds Substantial Graffiti, Floor Cracks, and Missing Tiles on Platforms Throughout Subways; 24% Have Exposed Wiring Substantial Water Damage (82%) and Peeling Paint (74%) At Vast Majority of 525 Underground Platforms Many Subway Platforms Are "Grim" and "Dreary," Group Concludes**

The NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign today issued its third annual "State of the Platforms" report. The first two surveys were based on a random sample of subway platforms. The current report is a "census" of the conditions at 862 subway station platforms – the entire population – except those that were closed or under construction.

In all, the Straphangers Campaign released findings on twelve subway platform conditions, including the absence of garbage cans, overflowing garbage cans, large garbage bags on platforms, rats, substantial graffiti, broken lighting fixtures, broken handrails and staircases, exposed wiring, substantial peeling paint, substantial water damage, substantial floor cracks, and substantial missing tiles.<sup>1,2</sup>

"We found what many riders know from bitter daily experience: Many subway platforms are grim and dreary," said Armando Chapelliquen, Project Coordinator. "Making observations at every platform allows us to paint a more in-depth picture of the conditions that riders experience travelling through the system."

Observations were made weekdays, between the morning and evening rush-hour periods.

Among the findings of the census of 862 platforms were:

- virtually every platform had at least one garbage can, according to our observers; but
- a significant number of platforms performed poorly. The Straphangers Campaign deemed performance poor where observers found 20% or more platforms had the condition.

**TABLE ONE**

2013 Straphangers Campaign State of the Platforms Census  
Conditions Observed at 862 Platforms

Measurement	Percentage
No garbage can observed on platform	3% (30/862)
Overflowing garbage can observed	2% (17/832)
Garbage bags on platform	4% (35/862)
Staircases/handrails in disrepair	13% (115/862)
Exposed wiring	24% (205/862)
Substantial areas of missing tile	26% (226/862)
Substantial graffiti	32% (279/862)
Substantial floor cracks	39% (335/862)

"We calculated four additional conditions for belowground stations only," said Cate Contino, coordinator for the Straphangers Campaign. "We thought it fairer to rate these conditions only for underground stations." The Campaign observed 525 belowground platforms.

**TABLE TWO**

2013 Straphangers Campaign State of the Platforms Census  
Conditions Observed at 525 Underground Platforms

Measurement	Percentage
Rats	13% (66/525)
Broken lighting fixtures	20% (107/525)
Substantial peeling paint	74% (389/525)
Substantial water damage	82% (430/525)

Although the 2012 and 2013 methodologies differed – a random stratified sample of all platforms in 2012 compared to a census of the entire population of subway platforms in 2013 – we decided we could make careful comparisons between 2012 and 2013. (See Methodology.)

For example, in our 2013 census we observed rats on 13% of all underground platforms. "This appears consistent with the 10% figure we found in our 2012 survey of randomly-selected belowground platforms," said Chin-Fatt. The group followed this approach to articulating a year-to-year comparison. Contino said the resulting findings were "disappointing." Details can be found in Table Three below.

According to the group:

- four of nine conditions we observed appeared to have grown substantially worse between 2012 and 2013. These are: exposed wiring, substantial areas of missing tile, substantial graffiti and substantial floor cracks; and
- five grew slightly better or stayed the same. These are: rats, broken lighting fixtures, broken handrails and staircases, substantial peeling paint and substantial water damage.

**TABLE THREE**

2013 Straphangers Campaign State of the Platforms Census  
Conditions Observed in 2012 and 2013<sup>3</sup>

Measurement <sup>4</sup>	2013 Percentage	2012 Percentage
<b>Slight or No Change:</b>		
Staircases/handrails in disrepair	13%	10%
Rats <sup>5</sup>	13%	10%
Broken lighting fixtures <sup>5</sup>	20%	20%
Substantial peeling paint <sup>5</sup>	74%	77%
Substantial water damage <sup>5</sup>	82%	78%
<b>Grew Substantially Worse:</b>		
Exposed wiring	24%	8%
Substantial areas of missing tile	26%	16%
Substantial graffiti	32%	27%
Substantial floor cracks	39%	20%

"Because each borough does not have the same percentage of above- to below-ground platforms, we decided only to make borough-to-borough comparisons for the four indicators observed only in belowground platforms," said Jason Chin-Fatt, the Straphangers Campaign field organizer who oversaw 20 staff members and interns who rated platform conditions between June 4 and August 21, 2013.

These are reported in Table Four, below. These levels of performance will serve as a foundation against which the Campaign can compare future years.

**TABLE FOUR**

2013 Straphangers Campaign State of the Platforms Census  
Borough-to-Borough Comparison of Conditions Observed at Underground Platforms

Borough	Rats	Broken Lighting Fixtures	Substantial Peeling Paint	Substantial Water Damage
Bronx	21%	21%	67%	95%
Brooklyn	15%	15%	81%	81%
Manhattan	10%	19%	72%	79%
Queens	13%	42%	71%	85%
System	13%	20%	74%	82%

A copy of the survey instrument and instructions are attached, as is the methodology. A series of illustrative photographs can be found online at <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjL9xeKz>. Surveyors were carefully trained.

"Our dedicated interns and staff were tasked with capturing an incredible amount of information about the rider experience on platforms," said Jason Chin-Fatt, who oversaw the census. "The data we collected tells a grim tale about some conditions riders face while on subway platforms."

In general, the census sought to catalogue conditions for which the campaign felt transit officials could fairly be held accountable and were not overly time or weather-sensitive. For example, we did not rate the presence of litter, or temperatures in stations.

MTA New York City Transit performs its own twice-a-year Passenger Environment Survey (PES) for subway stations. However, it mostly rates different aspects of the station environment and, in some cases, uses different measures. In addition, NYC Transit rates an entire station; this census rates platforms only.

Among different aspects of stations rated by NYC Transit are: litter; subway maps; functioning annunciators; escalators/elevators in operation; working public telephones; and working booth microphones.

In general, NYC Transit's observations cannot be directly compared with the Straphangers Campaign report findings.

(Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Because of measurement issues we encountered during the 2011 survey, we eliminated three conditions from the 2012 and 2013 surveys. These include the presence of tactile warning strips, service notices, and large-scale maps.

<sup>2</sup> Five of the measurements are described as "substantial." "Substantial missing tiles" is defined as "areas of continuous damaged tiles five feet or more in length." "Substantial graffiti" is defined as "five feet or more of continuous graffiti on station platform ceilings, pillars, columns, floors or walls, but not graffiti on advertisements or billboards." "Substantial cracks" are cited "only if the crack creates an uneven surface on the floor or is five feet or more in length." "Substantial peeling paint" was defined as "approximately five feet or more of continuous peeling paint on station platform ceilings or walls." "Substantial water damage" is defined as "rust on station platform floor or wall tiles or pillars."

<sup>3</sup> 2012 percentages are based on a Straphangers Campaign survey of 251 platforms at randomly-selected MTA New York City Transit subway stations, May to August 2012. 2013 percentages are based on a Straphangers Campaign census of all accessible 862 platforms in the MTA New York City Transit subway system, June to August 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Few observations regarding garbage cans in 2012 and 2013 are not included.

<sup>5</sup> Rats, broken lights, substantial peeling paint and substantial water damaged measured at underground stations only.

# Beyond the Quad

## Methodology: State of the Platforms Census, 2013

This is the third Straphangers Campaign subway station platform report. It is designed to provide riders and transit officials with a “snapshot measurement” of conditions on the system’s subway platforms.

### Census of platform conditions

In our 2011 and 2012 reports, the Straphangers Campaign recorded conditions on each platform in a random, usage-stratified sample of approximately 120 MTA New York City Transit subway stations. For the current report, we expanded our study, conducting a “census” of conditions on all 862 subway platforms. This represents the entire station population, except those which were closed or under construction. In the process of analyzing the information, three stations (comprised of six platforms) were inadvertently left out of the analysis.

A list of all stations selected can be found in the Appendix.

### Survey instrument

Campaign staff created a survey form along with detailed instructions and photographs to measure twelve specific platform conditions. These include simple yes/no questions on: the presence of garbage cans, overflowing garbage cans, garbage bags on the platform, rats, substantial graffiti, broken lights, handrails and/or staircases in disrepair, exposed wiring, substantial peeling paint, substantial water damage, substantial floor cracks, and substantial missing tiles. Three other measures—tactile warning strips, service notices, and large maps—were considered but were later dropped from the survey due to concerns of measurability and fairness. The survey instrument appears at the end of this document.

### Census conduction and analysis

The Straphangers Campaign trained and deployed 20 campaign staff and volunteers between June 4 and August 21, 2013. Surveyors were instructed to complete a measurement form for every one of the platforms in the census.

Each completed measurement form was visually checked for accuracy and entered into an electronic spreadsheet for analysis. “Yes” and “No” responses were then summed across all measurement forms for seven of the conditions measured: the presence of garbage cans, garbage bags on the platform, substantial graffiti, handrails and/or staircases in disrepair, exposed wiring, substantial floor cracks, and substantial missing tiles. At least one garbage can was observed on 832 of the platforms measured; out of this number the total number of overflowing garbage cans was counted.

On the four remaining measures—the presence of rats, broken lighting, substantial peeling paint, and substantial water damage—the Campaign included only totals from the 525 belowground platforms in the study. We felt that this measurement would be fairer, due to weather and structural differences between above- and below-ground stations. The findings on each of the twelve measures can be found in Tables One and Two. A comparison of below-ground platform conditions by borough can be found in Table Four.

While the methodology used in our 2012 platform report is not identical to this one, we felt that we could make careful comparisons on nine platform measures. These are: exposed wiring, substantial areas of missing tile, substantial graffiti, substantial floor cracks, rats, broken lighting fixtures, broken handrails and/or staircases, substantial peeling paint, and substantial water damage. In comparing 2012 (survey) results to 2013 (census) results, we conducted one-tailed z-tests on the 2012 findings (.05 level) to determine significant improvement or deterioration on individual indicators over the last year. See Table Three.

The campaign wishes to acknowledge the efforts of our census volunteers. They are: Sumya Akkas, Dion Aljure, Jonathan Avila, Brittany Bing, Tiffany Brown, Sebastian Bullock, Armando Chapelliquen, Nico Connolly, Ben Fraimow, Keanu Renne-Glover, Jorge Inamagua, Paul Lee, Nicole Navarrette, Oona Newman, Robert Noonan, Andrew Oppenheimer, Christopher Ratsimbazafy, Brian Shelton, Daphne Thompson, Kateri Turner, Danny Zhou.

## NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Survey Instructions

### Overall Survey Instructions

This is a survey of conditions at subway platforms in New York City by the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign. We are **not** surveying other areas in the station, such as entrances, mezzanines, or station booths.

The questions we are asking about platform conditions:

- lend themselves to yes/no answers;
- are not directly related to changing weather conditions, such as puddles or some leaks; and
- are either not currently measured by the government agency in charge of the subways or use a different definition.

Stations will be grouped by level of ridership, then randomly picked.

It is critical to answer all survey questions honestly and fairly. There are no answers we are looking for, just correct observations. The Straphangers Campaign’s credibility has been key to our success.

Surveyors will:

- be trained by their supervisors by jointly rating the same station;
- do their observations after the morning peak and before evening peak (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.);
- survey all platforms at a single station in the same day (detailed assignments will be provided); and
- take pictures of some station platform conditions they find.

Findings will be calculated in terms of the percentage of stations with problem observed out of stations surveyed. For example, “We surveyed 50 stations and \_\_\_ percent of them had no garbage can.”

### Survey Instructions

Use one survey form per platform (e.g. Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall requires three survey forms - one for the Uptown 4, 5, 6 platform; a second for the Downtown 4, 5, 6 platform, and a third for the J, Z platform which serves both directions.)

Enter your name, the station name, the train line(s), the platform, and the time and date at the top of the station platform survey form.

Answer the questions on the survey form with YES or NO answers. A space for your comments is located at the bottom of the form.

Walk the full length of the station platform for which you are making the observations. You will likely need to walk the entire length of the platform two to three times to capture the appropriate information.



Picture Key by Question (from Left to Right)  
 Row One: 1. Garbage Can; 3. Large Bag of Garbage; 5. Graffiti; 6. Broken Overhead Lighting.  
 Row Two: 7. Crumbling Stair Edge; 8. Exposed Wiring; 9. Peeling Paint; 10. Water Damage.  
 Row Three: 11. Proper Tactile Warning Strip; 11. No Tactile Strip; 12. Floor Cracks; 13. Missing Wall Tiles.  
 Row Four: 14. Service Notices; 14. Service Notices on a Pillar; 16. Large-Scale Subway System Map; 17. Commodity Number; Two Track-Beds.

Photography is allowed in the subway. MTA New York City Transit Rules of Conduct, Section 1050.9: 3. Photography, filming or video recording in any facility or conveyance is permitted except that ancillary equipment such as lights, reflectors or tripods may not be used. Members of the press holding valid identification issued by the New York City Police Department are hereby authorized to use necessary ancillary equipment. All photographic activity must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Part. <http://www.mta.info/nycct/rules/rules.htm>

### NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time (btwn 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Name of Station (e.g. Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subway Lines (e.g. J, Z, 4, 5, 6): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Platform (e.g. Uptown 4, 5, 6): \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box - YES or NO.**

	YES	NO
1 Did you observe any garbage cans on the platform?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Did you observe any overflowing garbage cans? A garbage can is overflowing if: a) garbage is sticking out of the top of the can; or b) there is litter on the floor surrounding the garbage can.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Did you observe any large bags of garbage? Answer YES if you observed one or more lawn-size garbage bags on the platform.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Did you observe any rats on the station track roadbed or platform? Walk the full length of the platform observing the track bed. If a train enters the station, stop where the train obscures your view and wait until the train passes out of your view before continuing your walk down the platform.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Did you observe any substantial graffiti on platform or on platform walls or on stairways to platform? Substantial graffiti is approximately five feet or more of continuous graffiti on station platform ceilings, pillars, columns, floors, or walls. (Do not include graffiti on advertisements or billboards.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Did you observe any overhead broken light fixtures at underground platforms or on stairways to platform? Answer YES if one or more overhead lights are dark. Do not count unlit emergency lighting. Rate only underground station platforms, not open cut or elevated stations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Did you observe any staircases or handrails in disrepair? Answer YES if any staircases leading up to or down to the platform have portions that are missing, crumbling, loose, frayed or damaged, or handrails that have splintering wood, are broken, or are off their hinges.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Did you observe any exposed wiring? Answer YES if any wiring is exposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Did you observe any substantial peeling paint on platform or platform walls or ceilings? Substantial peeling paint is approximately five feet or more of continuous peeling paint on station platform ceilings or walls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Survey

**Answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box - YES or NO.**

	YES	NO
10 Did you observe any substantial water damage? Substantial water damage is rust on station platform floor or wall tiles or pillars. Also answer YES if - on outdoor stations - canopy coverings are damaged enough to admit leaks to the station (e.g. highly rusted areas of the canopy or holes so large you can see the sky). If you write YES, we need a photograph.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Did you observe any tactile warning strips? These usually orange or yellow strips can be found in the floor near the edge of the platform, run the length of the platform and help riders with visual impairment judge their position on the platform.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Did you observe any substantial platform floor cracks? Answer YES only if the crack creates an uneven surface on the floor or is five feet or more in length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Did you observe any substantial areas of missing or damaged tile(s) on a wall? Answer YES if there are areas of continuous damages tile(s) five feet or more in length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Did you observe any service notices? Service notices inform riders of changes in usual service patterns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Were any service notices observed out of date? An out-of-date notice is one that expired on a past date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Did you observe any large-scale subway system maps? This is either a stand-alone display or mounted on station platform wall.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Were these maps up to date? Please enter the commodity number, located on the lower right hand corner of the map: _____.		

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed survey form to the Straphangers Campaign at 9 Murray Street, Floor 3, New York, NY. If you have any questions call Jason or Cate at 212-349-6460 or email us at [straphangers@nypirg.org](mailto:straphangers@nypirg.org).

# BCC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FALL 2013 LEADERSHIP SERIES

The **LeaderShop Certificate Series (LCS)** offers a certificate to any BCC student who is interested in enhancing their leadership skills and abilities. It is comprised of a *series of leadership topics* aimed at expanding and developing a student's knowledge of the essential practices and skills needed for effective leadership.

## LeaderShop Certificate Requirements:

In order to earn a *Leadership Certificate* you **MUST** complete one of the following tracks:

### Track 1: Platinum Certificate

Complete **ALL** workshops

\*Certificates will be awarded at the Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony in May 2014.

### Track 2: Gold Certificate

Complete 5 workshops

*For more information please contact:*

Audrey Rose-Glenn

Leadership Educator

BCC Leadership Institute/ Office of Student Life

RBSC, 302

718-289-5100 x3535 or 718-289-5194

[audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu)

<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Student-Life>



**Workshop Registration:** right click on link below

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=hJ5aHeFbpJ7NbtuWMOCbBQ>



## WORKSHOPS

### Leadership Matters!

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

RBSC 310

2pm-3pm

### KNOW Yourself...

### LEAD Yourself...

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

RBSC 310

3pm-4pm

### Get REAL!

### Be an Authentic Leader

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

RBSC 310

2pm-3pm

### Everybody Talks! Effective Communication for Leaders

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

RBSC 310

3pm-4pm

### "LUNCH with LEADERS"

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

RBSC 211

12pm-2pm

(Limited seating...must register)

### Ethical Decision Making

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

RBSC 310

4pm-5pm

### Multicultural Leadership

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Presenter: Kimberly Roberts

RBSC 310

3pm-4pm

### Civic Engagement

Monday, December 9, 2013

RBSC 310

3pm-4pm