

THE COMMUNICATOR

October 8, 2010

Dedicated to Informative Excellence

Issue 2 Fall 2010

We Just Love Telling Good Stories and Making Movies! The 17th Annual BCC Film and Video Festival

By Brian Zabala

June 9, 2010 will always be remembered as an evening of great achievement not just by me but by my classmates and the Bronx Community College Media Technology Program. We just love telling good stories and making movies!

I remember the first day of class and our instructor, Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, telling us that all the hard work we put into our projects would pay off by the time of the festival. Our professor really meant every word. As for my personal experience at Clearview Cinema in NYC, it started not so good for me. I felt pains in my stomach I had never felt before, as if a million tiny swords were trying to penetrate my guts. I was extremely worried about the reaction towards my movie. I was thinking things like, what if the parts I wrote in the script that I thought were funny the audience now didn't find funny? Basically a lot of different emotions were running through my mind and body.

When my family arrived and I was finally seated, things got a little better. I was happy that all my classmates were able to produce a finished project. I felt I had a special bond with everyone in the class, and I was very proud of our hard work as a group. When it was time to show my film, *Unforgettable*, I was very nervous and eager to receive the audience feedback. It turned out to be great. The audience laughed when I wanted them to, and the film got all the responses I had hoped for.

When it was time for the awards ceremony, my apprehensive feelings came back even though I already knew I was going to win one award. The program book had listed "The Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Award" recipients. I had had my eye on the top four awards since day one of class. O.K., to be honest, I had first place on my mind, but I knew what I had produced and I did not think it was worthy of the first prize. As the names were read and Anthony Strader won 4th place, I was like, "Okay, maybe I do have a shot"; and when DeWitt Davis from the Eastman Kodak Company was announcing the 3rd -place winner, I felt that if I said my name under my breath then maybe he would be under my spell and say my name as well. Lucky for me it worked, and I won 3rd place. I was filled with joy. After I received my trophy, I gave it to my mother and told her, "This is yours." My mother allows me not to have a job and not to worry about bills; she is truly the reason for all present and future success I will receive. I'm able to focus totally on my academic and film production work.



Bronx Community College student filmmakers pose with faculty, sponsors and staff in the lobby of Clearview's Chelsea Cinema in New York City for the 17th Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival.

Left to right (Front Row): Pat Schaible, International Cinematographers Guild (ICG), IATSE Local 600;

Liz Kraus; Dr. Debra Gonsher, Chairperson, Communication Arts & Sciences Department; Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, CAS Media Technology Program and Festival Director; Ashley Barrios; Denise Garfinkel; Kevin Johnson, AVID Technology; Dr. Isabel Mirsky; Debra Isaacs; Michael Zakula, Eastman Kodak Company; Dejan Georgevich, ASC; John Amman, IATSE Local 600 ICU; and DeWitt Davis, Eastman Kodak Company.

Photo: Thomas Donley

During the Arthur Avenue reception, people came up to me and gave me very encouraging words, the words that will inspire me to produce even better films. One person told me the way I kept my film simple and never lost focus of the relationship between the boy and girl made my characters believable and outstanding! I am thankful for everyone who gave me the chance to succeed--and of course to Prof. Wisotsky for creating a Media Technology Program that surpasses that in most four-year schools. Congratulations to all my classmates--I wish you guys the best of luck on all future projects.

The 2010 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards were presented by DeWitt Davis, Eastman Kodak's Film School Liaison. Anthony Strader won fourth place for his student film, *Finding Mike's Light*. I won the third prize for my film, *Unforgettable*. Daarina Herriott won the second prize for her film, *Run On*. The first prize went to Armando Valeriano for his documentary film, *Sky's the Limit*.

"You can see so much heart up there on the screen. And it's only because the filmmakers were putting themselves totally on the line to have these films exist. There is something very special to be in a screening room and celebrate that. This was a very special evening for all of our BCC filmmakers and I was glad to be in the audience and applaud them for their efforts," said Prof. Wisotsky.

"This was the most exhilarating night of my life. My accomplishments matched my expectations," said second-place winner Daarina Herriott. "There's incredible excitement," said Anthony Strader, a senior Media Technology Program student who is also a Perkins Tutor in the Media Technology Program. "For months, all of the students in the class have struggled to complete assignments for regular academic classes, and somehow keep their jobs and maintain responsibilities of supporting families, while putting finishing touches on their five-

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SGA Fall Semester: The Beginning

By Julissa Lora

Student Senator and Co-chairperson of the Public Relations and Sustainability Committees, BCC Student Government Association

This is the second article in a series of updates from the members of the Student Government Association at Bronx Community College. Our column will show what it means to be a student senator. We will tell the process of the SGA system, how events are developed, and how decisions are made and put into action. The knowledge we obtain from this process will become lifelong lessons we will always cherish and we would like to share at least a piece of this experience with the readers of *The Communicator*.

As previously mentioned in the September issue of an article written by fellow student senator, William Murray, the SGA is one of the most recognized and rewarding extracurricular activities. As an SGA member, I have so far, experienced first hand how truly important it is to be the "official voice" of the student body.

The 2010 – 2011 Student Government Association officially took office July 1st. All senators proved to be active and committed to their duties by coming in during their summer break to our bi-weekly meetings. There, we discussed ideas to improve the BCC Experience and build our school's morale. From the very beginning there were lessons to learn, or rather skills to develop; those early meetings taught me how to take criticism and apply new ideas to projects that I work on. The meetings also provide opportunity to highlight individuals' talents and the effort each member puts into their role.

In the month of August we finished with the final part of our parliamentary trainings. In an effort to reach out to every student, the SGA created a Public Relations Committee; this committee quickly began brain storming for ideas on how to approach the student population. One of the public relations innovations was the creation of the official Student Government Association of Bronx Community College Facebook Fan Page. The fan page features special announcements and up to date information on SGA's every move and will be available for future student governments. Another task completed in August was the formation of the 2010 – 2011 SWAT (Students with Action Today) Team. SWAT is SGA's team of volunteers and is led by a student captain. Being part of this team allows all students to get involved in campus events and at the same time work closely with Student Government and BCC faculty. Most SWAT members work their way to a career on SGA.

Soon "back to school" season was upon us, and we decided to start the semester with a Welcome Back BBQ event where we spoke to the students about SGA and our goals. Overall, the event was a success, and that encouraged us to continue with our mission.

As we begin to fully embrace our responsibilities and work together we advice our fellow students to take part in campus activities, school clubs and leadership opportunities designed to target the needs of each BCC student.

We firmly believe SGA is not composed of just student senators; SGA is a body of students for students.

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**VOTE!
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 2ND**

The Communicator

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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.

We reserve the right to refuse publication to any article or letter due to space considerations as well as those articles or letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems, or slander.

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
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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.

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Fall 2010

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DEADLINE

November
Wednesday, October 27, 2010

December
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

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SGA TOWN HALL MEETING / NOVEMBER 11TH / 12-2PM / RBSC CAFETERIA

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- No. 36 180th Street Cross-town to University Avenue
- No. 12 Fordham Road Cross-town stops at University Avenue where it connects with the No. 3

Campus News

We Just Love Telling Good Stories and Making Movies! The 17th Annual BCC Film and Video Festival

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minute films. It's a real-world deadline environment, exerting the pressures similar to deadlines experienced by filmmakers at major movie studios."

Award Winners

Anthony Strader also received The First Steve Garfinkel Memorial Award for Excellence in Media. Steve passed away in Aug 2009. During his 13-year tenure at Kodak, he had served as the Eastern Regional Manager for the Entertainment Imaging Division of the Eastman Kodak Company. Steve was also an accomplished cinematographer, a member of IATSE Local 600, The Cinematographers Guild, and an associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers.

Dejan Georgevich, ASC, an award-winning feature television and documentary cinematographer, presented the memorial award. "Steve's record of helping students with their films is legendary. He was a guiding spirit and mentor to many up-and-coming talented filmmakers. Steve lived with a dedication and passion for photography and motion pictures. His photo portfolio was a remarkable collection revealing a sensitive eye for light and composition, as well as, his love for humanity," said Mr. Georgevich. Steve dedicated his life to helping filmmakers and students realize their potential. He sincerely cared about each BCC student and he clearly demonstrated this caring through sincere communication, kind words, and positive actions. He was unwavering in the support of our students and went the extra mile for our school because he understood that we serve a diverse population facing many financial challenges. Steve's enduring legacy will live in the lives of our students who are bravely embarking on film and video careers.

Media Technology graduate Derrick Johnson received the First Media Technology Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize. Established in 2007 by BCC alumna Vikki L. Pryor, the President and CEO of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc., the prize was created in memory of Ms. Pryor's grandmother, Marie Nesbitt. Marie Nesbitt was born on August 16, 1917 in Clearwater, Florida, and was raised in Kingstree, South Carolina. A great granddaughter of slaves, Ms. Nesbitt's formal education stopped at the third grade. Having lived through the Great Depression, World War II, as well as the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, Ms. Nesbitt was a woman of strong opinions and deeply held principles who was an inspiration to her family and friends. She taught everyone she touched to reach for the stars by doing their best, to trust in God, to stand up for what they believed in, and most of all, to never give up. The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize is a tribute to an extraordinary woman. The Promise Prize will be awarded each year to a Media Technology student who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and professional promise.

Invaluable Experience Gained at BCC

Employers in the film and television industry – which is a 100 billion dollar industry in New York – are always on the lookout for new talent. For one glorious evening both students and industry leaders are together in one room to discuss and view student projects.

"This pressured experience that the Bronx Community College Media Technology program puts



Brian Zabala receives Kodak Award. (From left to right): Dr. Debra Gonsher, Chairperson, Communication Arts & Sciences Department; BCC Filmmaker Brian Zabala; DeWitt Davis, Eastman Kodak Company; and Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, CAS Media Technology Program and Festival Director. Photo: Thomas Donley

students through," stated Debra Isaacs, "helps students find out whether they like becoming a filmmaker or not. You work with a camera, a tripod, actors, and sophisticated Avid Editing Software." Filmmaking and television are a collaboration between art and money and we have to make that process happen for our mini-movies," she added. Ms. Isaacs also was the recipient of a Peter J. Rondinone Screenwriting Award and premiered her documentary film, *Shinnecock Pow Wow*.

Robby Soman, a BCC Media Technology graduate who recently earned a master's degree from Brooklyn College's Radio and Television Program and serves as a Media Technology Perkins college tutor, said, "I directed a short film when I was a senior student in the Media Technology Program and it is very exciting to see students continue to produce outstanding short projects on shoestring budgets."

Students who screened their projects at Clearview Cinema were Anthony Strader, Dennis Abad, Soneree Aregbeyen, Ashley Barrios, Brian Caraveo, Samantha Day, Richard Dreier, Daarina Herriott, Jeremy Quinones, Brian Zabala, Christopher Cranston, Debra Isaacs, Armando Valeriano, and Derrick Johnson. All students secure valuable editing time to seamlessly build their final music, effects and voice tracks, employing many of the techniques and concepts that they learn during the semester.

Many of the BCC Media Technology editors work as Perkins Tutors as they assist their fellow student filmmakers. They include Robby Soman, Arthur Jones, Fernando Gil, Jenniffer Dominguez, Jeffrey Edison and Shawn Alexandre. Please drop on the student filmmakers and editors and you can hear them discuss a range of film terms from the filmmaker's glossary that they have studied with Prof. Wisotsky.

"The films that were presented at this year's film festival are as varied as the students that created them. Showing films is as important as making them," said Prof. Wisotsky. "Audience feedback is invaluable in developing a clear sense of what one wants to do as a film and video artist." The annual Film & Video Festival creates an exciting atmosphere for students to show off their work and a group of film industry representatives

to see it. Special thanks to Dr. Debra Gonsher, Chair of the Communications Arts & Sciences Department, for her continued support for this year's festival. As Prof. Wisotsky noted, the festival would not be possible without her leadership and guidance.

Production executives from the Eastman Kodak Company, Cablevision's Clearview Cinema, Avid Technology, The Independent Film Channel, Panavision, Barbizon Lighting and many other companies were on hand to screen the films and present awards

Last but not least, the BCC Film & Video Festival was also the setting for the Sixth Annual Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Awards. Professor Rondinone had his first teaching assignment in the BCC English Department. He died at the age of 48 five years ago. The Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Awards were established by the Media Technology Program to recognize students who have demonstrated the capability to make a positive difference at Bronx Community College and in their community. The 2010 Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Award Winners were: Anthony Strader, Ashley Barrios, Daarina Herriott, Brian Zabala, Christopher Cranston, Debra Isaacs and Armando Valeriano.

The AVID TECHNOLOGY Award was presented to Media Technology student Jeremy Quinones for excellence in Television Non-Linear Editing. The award was presented by Mr. Kevin Johnston from AVID Technology.

The 2010 Chairpersons Award for Documentary Filmmaking was presented to Armando Valeriano for his documentary film, *The Sky's the Limit*. The award was presented by Dr. Gonsher.

"BCC's Media Technology Program is a great place to begin to pursue a career as a filmmaker, with small class sizes and personal attention to each student. I'm writing a new screenplay and can't wait to go back into production. The most important thing about BCC is that it puts the story at the center of filmmaking. It doesn't champion special effects or the characters," said Armando Valeriano. "The caliber of the films is always amazing. I'm so impressed by what the students have managed to do on very small budgets," added Derrick Johnson.

The Media Technology Program at Bronx Community College prepares students for entry-level employment in production support and selected technical areas of video, film and associated media production. The first-year content includes exposure to the entire production process. Students are taught by industry professionals who provide extensive hands-on instruction. In the second year, students perform in various crew positions on actual production projects. Graduates may find employment as entry-level crew and/or production assistants in feature and short films, commercials, and industrial, educational, and documentary productions or in post-production houses for video and film. Other students go on to receive BA's or BFA degrees at a four-year college.

During CUNY Month you will have a chance to view all fourteen films screened at this year's film festival and also get a chance to meet the filmmakers! Admission is free and will take place in Meister Hall, Schwendler Auditorium on Thursday, November 11th during club hours from 12:00PM-2:00PM. For further information about Bronx Community College's Media Technology Program, please call (718) 289-5572.

BCC Hosts Welcome Back Bash!

Friday, September 24, 2010 was the beginning of a new positive energy on our Bronx Community College campus. What am I talking about? "The Welcome Back Bash," which was put in place and sponsored by your Student Government Association in an effort to welcome back all BCC students to their educational endeavors.

It was more than successful, it was LIVE! all night, from 10 pm to 1 am. We got it in with OVA-FLOH (aka SGA Senator) Brittany Lanzano as the Master of Ceremonies and DJ AJ on the ones and twos. Two BCC students went home that night as winners of our raffles. Benjamin Terrence from the Veterans Club won a Dell laptop, and Jasmine Brown won a 32-gig iPod Touch. Big thanks to S.W.A.T (volunteers for SGA) for all their help and hard work. And thank you, Urban Unity for the energy and school spirit you bring.

See you all at the BCC Halloween Party, which will be bigger and better, with unbelievable decorations and costume contests.

Contact the Office of Student Life for more information at in Meister Hall, room 202, and keep up-to-date on campus events and opportunities for students.

Friend us on Facebook too.



Campus News

Bronx Community College Student Changes Major to Dietetics and Nutrition: Captivated by Gardening Joys

For Bronx Community College student Aliza Koszuk, a summer gardening project became a transformative experience that influenced her to shift her career path.

A liberal arts major, Koszuk had been leaning towards studying international affairs when she first enrolled at BCC in 2009. But a year later she responded to a call to help tend a summer garden on campus. Because of nurturing that successful vegetable and fruit garden, Koszuk now has set her sights on a career as a dietetics and nutrition major.

When she graduates from BCC, after taking a chemistry course next summer, she will pursue her studies at Lehman College in Fall 2011. She then plans to get her master’s degree and work as a dietician at a hospital or nursing home. “I want to help people improve their eating habits,” said Koszuk. “Dietetics is a great choice. You can help people in an important way that becomes noticeable over time.”

Koszuk’s transformation began on Earth Day in April when the BCC campus was abuzz with students participating in activities highlighting protecting the environment. At 43-years-old, Koszuk said she had been uncertain and intimidated about coming to college, particularly as to how she would do in the classroom. Bronx Community College is her first college experience. “It has been wonderful,” said Koszuk. “The BCC professors and counselors have been very helpful to me. I have enjoyed studying and I found out that my memory is good and I’ve proved to myself that I can do well on science tests.”

Koszuk was one of six students selected to be part of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) Leadership Program. ASAP is a CUNY-initiated program that helps ambitious students move through community college in two and one-half to three years as compared to the national average graduation time of four to five years for community college students.

The group’s task was to create a project that



The joys of gardening and the awareness of the importance of eating healthy food convinced BCC student Aliza Koszuk, who holds a tomato grown in a student collaborative garden project, to change her major from international relations to dietetics and nutrition. Photo: Patricia Pascual

would benefit ASAP and BCC students. The team was headed by Cyd Williams, an ASAP advisor and facilitator. The group began meeting with David Taylor, Dean of Administration and Finance, Professor Charmaine Aleong of the Dietetics and Nutrition Science Program, and Professor Claudio Mazzatenta of the Biology Department (who had received a grant for starting a garden). ASAP contributed \$1,000 to help implement the garden project. The College’s Physical Plant Services staff prepared six 3’ x 6’ vegetable garden plots near the newly built, and soon to be opened, BCC Early Childhood Center.

Professor Aleong gave her advice based on her knowledge of and experience in raised bed gardening. “I performed a demonstration to the ASAP students on gardening with the use of two donated grow boxes,” she said. With the assistance of the students, Aleong planted herbs, strawberries, and flowers in the grow boxes. She

also acted as consultant to the students during the spring planting, summer staking of plants, watering, and soil weeding. “The students did a fantastic job as most of the vegetables and flowers were grown from seed,” said Aleong.

The excitement of preparing the garden, planting seeds, and then nurturing them to maturity was a marvel for Koszuk. She was smitten by growing healthy food, and became well aware of the impact it can have on people. “I have always been health and food conscious. We only have one body and what we put in our bodies affects us greatly. The more natural foods we consume, the better it is for us,” said Koszuk.

In two months those gardening plots bloomed into bountiful growths of snap beans, tomatoes, broccoli, peppers, okra, eggplant, watermelon, strawberries, cucumbers, and herbs (such as thyme, oregano, parsley, cilantro, and wild flowers). Learning how to nurture a healthy garden was a new and completely captivating experience for Koszuk, who found out that the good campus soil, hot sun and daily watering and weeding were a big influence on healthy plants shooting up.

She was assisted by other ASAP students and Dilcia Gonzalez, a Physical Plant Services staff member. Koszuk’s sense of responsibility and curiosity soon had her developing a green thumb. Each morning at 8 a.m., Koszuk, who lives only 15 minutes from the College, walked to campus and stopped at the ASAP office to pick up Kathleen LeCadre, career and employment specialist, and Cyd Williams. They would head off to the garden to water and weed. They would often share vegetables and fruits with students and faculty.

“It just seemed like such a wonderful idea to grow a garden in an urban setting,” said Koszuk. It is so important to incorporate nature into our lives. Just being around the garden changes the way I feel. It makes me take a breath, slow down a little, and be more sensitive to nature’s way.”

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Campus News

Bronx Community College Early Childhood Center: A Student/Parent Perspective

By Vanessa Cook

The day I was inducted into the Bronx Community College family, through the methodology of an instantaneous process of my application, I did not know what to expect. During this fragile course in time, I was not privy to accurately reading the roster/block given to and sitting before me as an incoming freshman. In addition, I was oblivious to the buildings names, the campus layout, or where to find the classrooms to attend the sessions listed on my registration print out. Finally yet importantly, I was not knowledgeable of the programs Bronx Community College had to offer students with children. Therefore, I was uncertain to where my precious son, Charles, would remain during the day while I attended class.

This has been months ago, but its course seems like only yesterday. Yes, I finally figured out how to read the roster/block, now I am well aware of where all the buildings are located along with retaining all of the names; and I am no longer in the dark, to the campus layout and to where the classrooms are located in which the sessions are to be held. I learned by trial and error. However, I did not want to take the risk of error (by choosing a center that is not conducive to learning) as it pertains to my son. Children are irreplaceable; they are a rare and priceless gem. Fortunately, for me, a young woman by the name of Yvette, who is currently employed in the Admissions Office here at Bronx Community College, told me about the Childhood Center located at 2205 Sedgwick Avenue. This young woman did not know that the information she related to me on that day would introduce my son Charles and I to a school that is unique in its own right.



Some of BCC's "Rising Stars" in action at the College's Early Childhood Center.

"Learning through Play" is a concept that I did not understand in its totality until I witnessed its amazing results with my son. His phonics and reading abilities tripled because of constant exposure to children's art, music, and other activities offered by the center. I was welcomed by the Director and Staff to participate and was made aware of all of the activities that the Center offered my child. One particular activity that captured my son's interest along with mine was Zumba. This activity incorporates dance moves for exercise with the usage of musical instruments. During Family and Friends Day my son showed me the awesome skills he acquired; I was urged to join in, that was a momentous occasion.

What is amazing, to me, was the care that was administered by the Center when my son was weighed down with seasonal allergies. Time was taken, out of the staff's already hectic schedule, to wipe my son's eyes as they watered and became puffy due to pollen. They did not have to do this; I do not believe that it is constituted in their handbook to take excessive care as it pertains to wiping children's eye's or nose's. They did it because they cared. If my son ever gets ill or wets himself the center is faithful and expeditious in calling me and keeping me informed with his progress throughout the day. I could not ask for more.

Time prevents me from illuminating all of the great times my son Charles and I have experienced, and are continuing to experience at Bronx Community College Early Childhood Center; all I can exclaim is try this center for yourself, seeing first hand will make you a believer.

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Campus News

Junot Diaz: The Real and the True

By Tamika Oliveras



Author Junot Diaz, surrounded by admiring BCC students at reception following his electrifying presentation in Gould Memorial Library Auditorium.

If it hadn't been for the extra credit, I would have missed out one of the greatest talks I've heard in a long time. There was absolutely nothing I did not find appealing about Junot Diaz's talk. My only disappointment was that he did not talk longer. His reading of his story "Alma" was hilarious, and I loved that he told the story uncensored because people need to hear real writing and not recorded, censored, or altered writing.

I appreciated his realness. He came in wearing a hoodie and jeans, and he spoke with ease and comfort, which made me feel comfortable as well. He is truly an amazing artist. What he spoke about was real and true, and I was especially drawn to his discussion about the different masks people wear. People don't really want to seem fake or as though they are not 100 percent themselves, but the truth is we're different people at different times. Just as Junot Diaz said, "We all wear different masks."

I like that he was basically a counselor for us, giving us great advice. Some of the advice I felt in my heart and will follow as when he said "persistence is absolutely essential to what you wanna do," and "things you find difficult, you could be really good at," and "never confuse the real with the truth." In my life there are things that I want to do that are time intensive and I grow impatient, but Junot Diaz confirmed for me that persistence is important and no matter what I have to do, I *can* reach my goals.

There was so much I admired about what he said that I can hardly get all my thoughts together so I'll just explain how I felt about everything. I loved that he let us into his personal life in the Dominican Republic when it was ruled by a dictator and his telling us about his father cheating on his mother. I loved how he came to this country at the age of six without knowing any English and managed to stand up on stage and speak so intellectually about his art and at the same time use slang to relate to our young urban audience. He caught my attention when he talked about learning another language because I come from a mixed family where both Spanish and English are spoken. However, I did not grasp the Spanish language as a kid and did not become fluent in speaking it. I understand Spanish but speaking it becomes a problem, and I always feel shame about how I'll sound if I don't speak it fluently. So when Diaz said that it was that shame that kept people from learning, I saw the truth in that. I feel as though I will try my best to overcome that shame so that I can communicate effectively with my family without doubts or embarrassment.

The talk was amazing, and I am truly honored to have been at this event. I learned a lot about Junot Diaz and myself.

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Campus News



The Community College Baccalaureate Association's
2011 Student Essay Contest
\$1,500 to the contest winner!
Additional \$500 to the winner's community college!

Information and Entry Rules for the CCBA Student Essay Contest:

The Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) is conducting its 8th Annual CCBA Essay Contest to determine **what students think** about community colleges that offer baccalaureate (four-year) degrees. The contest is open to students in the USA, Canada and the Caribbean.

A **\$1,500 check** and an **all expense paid trip** to the 11th Annual Community College Baccalaureate Association Conference in San Diego, California from February 25-27, 2011 will be awarded to the individual with the winning essay. **\$500 will also be awarded to the winner's college.** The scholarship prize is provided by *Community College Week*.

Rules For Entry

- Each contestant may submit only one essay and it must specifically address the topic.
- Contestant must be currently enrolled in a community college.
- Essay must be typed using 12-point type.
- The essay text is limited to a minimum of 400 and a maximum of 500 words.
- Essay must have the following at the top of the first page submitted:
 - Essay title, Author's name, address, telephone number and email address
 - Community college name, address, telephone number
- **Entries must be e-mailed by midnight January 15, 2011** to Dr. Beth Hagan, Community College Baccalaureate Association: EssayContest@accbd.org (*early entries are encouraged*)
- **The winner will be notified by January 21, 2011.**
- Essays will become the property of the Community College Baccalaureate Association. Submission constitutes an authorization to the CCBA to use the essays for research, and grants the CCBA the authority to publish the results of the research and the text of the essays.

Topic:

The essay contest topic is: “Why obtaining a four year degree on my community college campus would be (or is currently) important to me.”

Baccalaureate degrees are now offered on community college campuses throughout the United States and Canada through University Centers, 2+2 programs and Distance Learning. Community Colleges in fourteen states and four Canadian provinces confer the degrees themselves. **Students who enter the essay contest should explore the issues of baccalaureate degrees on community college campuses.**

Information about this important movement is available on the CCBA web site: www.accbd.org or by calling 239-596-7990 for contest questions.

Scholarship prize provided by:





The Power of Volunteering: My Experience from Sri Lanka

By Jeffrey P. Guard

In Spring 2010 I was awarded Bronx Community College’s prestigious Michael Steuerman Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship provides the opportunity for the recipient to experience community service in a foreign country with the intention of raising global literacy and awareness through volunteer work.

On July 13, 2010 I left my apartment in the Bronx for an 18-hour journey halfway around the world to the ancient island-country of Sri Lanka. I joined the international volunteer organization “Projects Abroad” and served as a medical volunteer for one month. I stayed with a host family in the small city of Panadura (south of the capital, Colombo) where I worked Monday through Friday at the Base Hospital of Panadura, “shadowing” physicians, learning about the human body and healthcare in Sri Lanka while assisting the doctors with whatever they needed.

During my work at the hospital, I was able to participate or observe in over 700 patient examinations and 30 different surgical procedures. I spent time in clinical rotations at the hospital in the General Clinic, the Male Ward, the Female Ward, the Surgical Ward, and the Pediatrics Ward. Aside from volunteering at Base Hospital, I also had the opportunity to spend a few days at Kethumathi Women’s Hospital in the Labor Ward where I was able to see women give birth to their newborn babies. This was remarkable and something I will never forget!

I was also able to spend a day at the Lions Gift of Sight Eye Hospital where I observed doctors perform eye examinations, demonstrations of how modern laser technology is used to correct vision loss, and I also observed several patients undergo cataract surgery.

In addition to the hospital work, I also participated in a one-day medical clinic in the smaller town of Wadduwa (south of Panadura). With the assistance of the Lions Club, a mobile clinic was established at the town hall offering free doctor consultations and medicines. My job there was to help fill/dispense prescriptions and make sure the patients received the medicines they needed.

The experience of volunteering has truly changed my life for the better. This experience taught me the impact of volunteering and how it can change not just the person volunteering but an entire world. The late prime minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

For me, as the direct result of my volunteer experience in Sri Lanka, made possible by the Michael Steuerman Legacy Scholarship, I know I want volunteering to be an integral part of my life. I want to use my hands, my mind and my heart to positively affect any community where I live. I truly believe this is how I can change the world for the better.

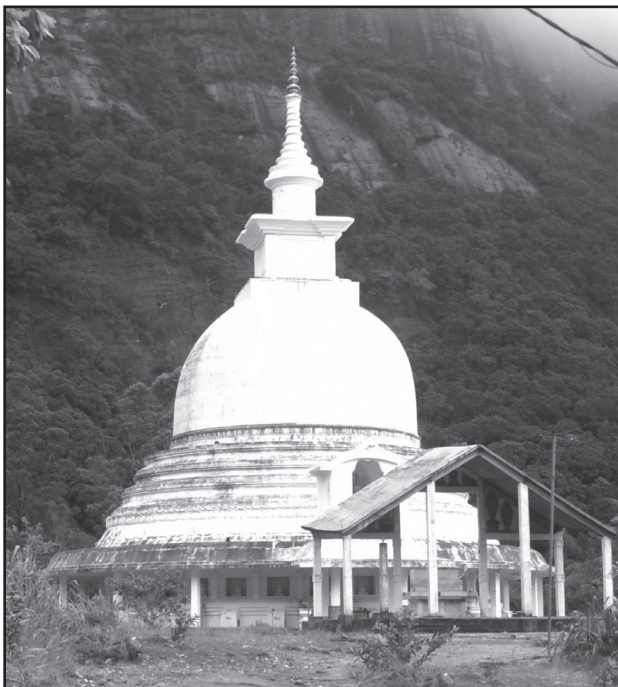
Volunteering gave me a sense of purpose in life that connected me to other people, their needs and the world at large. Helping others raised my own spirit up and gave me a feeling of self-worth that is truly unique to volunteering. It’s something an expensive car, an amazing job title or living in a mansion cannot provide—this is part of why volunteering is a life-changing experience for so many. My experience in Sri Lanka showed me how I could be an agent for change, a person who can be involved in the world to make it better for everyone.

Of course, there are also practical skills that volunteering gave me as well. These are skills that can help me find a better job and help to create greater opportunities for personal development. Below, I touch upon ten of the most powerful gifts that I was given from my volunteer experience in Sri Lanka. These are gifts that are mine, that I did not expect to receive, but nonetheless, can now use to make my own life better. In the next few issues of *The Communicator*, I will also present more in-depth stories about my experience as a volunteer in Sri Lanka that also reflect the power of these gifts.

Top Ten Gifts Volunteering Provided Me

1. Travel = The Best Education

Traveling, dollar-for-dollar, minute-for-minute, is the best education money can buy. This is doubly true as a volunteer traveling abroad. Experiencing a foreign country, halfway around the world opened my eyes, opened my heart and opened my mind. It’s far and away the best education because it’s a ‘living’ education where the textbook/lecture/instructor is the country, her people and the cultures, sights and smells. Sri Lanka was this



Buddist temple on Sri Pada.

for me. It was electric and made me feel alive, awake and even born-again!

Whether I was cleaning the afterbirth off a newborn child, examining a patient in the hospital ward or learning something new from one of the many doctors I ‘shadowed,’ the volunteer experience taught me a semester’s worth of knowledge in less than 30 days. From learning how to communicate in a new language, figuring out how to get from point A to point B or even knowing how to operate an ATM in another country, all of this forces you to work mental muscles you never knew you had.

As a volunteer, experiencing a foreign country meant that I had to learn quickly, and the only way I could do this was by keeping my mind open. This was a huge gift because now, back home, I find it much easier to be open to new experiences. Keeping an open mind has opened so many doors to friendship and new learning experiences that are changing my life and making me a better student and person.

2. Compassion

Many patients in the hospital who came in were injured as a result of many choices they made about their health. Instead of judging, volunteering helped me to see these people needed help, they were scared, terrified. Not only did they need medicine and patient education, they needed to be told things were going to be OK. I developed an overwhelming sense of compassion for every person who walked into the hospital seeking treatment.

For instance, working at the hospital, I was able to see many patients with diabetes type 2, a progressive disease where glucose becomes resistant to your body’s insulin. The progression occurs by eating the wrong kinds of food (heavy in sugar), alcohol consumption, smoking and lack of exercise, or all of the above.

Many patients who came in with diabetes type 2 had made many of the above choices that lead them to this point of needing medical intervention and treatment. A great number of these patients were not taking their insulin and other necessary medications. “Why is this?” I asked the doctors.

One of the doctors explained, “Many of the people who get diabetes are scared. They go into denial and don’t want to take their medicine because to take it means the disease is real, so they go to herbal specialists or try to pray it away or just ignore it. They only come back when things get really bad.”

This opened my eyes. Can you imagine knowing that something is wrong with your body and you are terrified that you will lose the ability to provide for yourself or your family? I could see the fear in people’s eyes. It didn’t matter how they got this awful disease, what mattered was that they got the treatment and education they needed to know things were going to be OK if they made some small changes to their lifestyle and took the medication (which was ultra low-cost).

This was a huge gift. Now, when I see someone who needs help, my heart opens up to their need, judging them seems worthless, instead I choose to do what I can to provide comfort to that person in need.

3. Gratitude

This goes hand-in-hand with compassion.

Volunteering in Sri Lanka made me grateful for everything I had in life. Experiencing life in a different world allowed me to see all that I had taken for granted.

The doctors and nurses did everything possible with the limited resources they had to ensure that anyone who needed medical attention was given the best possible treatment. However, there is a limit to what can be provided when you simply do not have enough or even access to medical technologies that here in the Bronx, that we take for granted. Even though Sri Lanka provides universal health coverage for all its citizens (meaning, visiting the doctor is free and medicines are low-cost), there are medical services that are too expensive for the government to afford to offer to every sick patient. It’s heartbreaking to witness a sick person who is in desperate need of a treatment not be given it because it’s too expensive for the government to provide.

I also learned that while primary education is available to all in Sri Lanka, admissions to university is limited and very competitive, so many will miss the chance to pursue higher levels of education. In addition, universities throughout Sri Lanka are not well funded, so even when you have the chance for a higher-level education many of the resources available may be outdated or simply not available.

This made me grateful to be a CUNY student at BCC. I was reminded of how wealthy we are as students to have access to phenomenal resources like our library and catalogues, the vast amount of computers and free access to the Internet, the science laboratories, the learning centers, and of course our hard-working, dedicated staff and faculty who make Bronx Community College an excellent learning experience for all students.

All of these ‘gifts’ that as a student I have to come to expect were not commonplace where I was volunteering and it underscores how much I have and more importantly, what I can do with it to empower my life and my community both here in the Bronx and elsewhere.

4. Critical Thinking

Both foreign travel and service are gold mines for critical thinking. In Sri Lanka, I was completely and utterly out of my element. Forget about however it worked in the Bronx, New York City, or the United States, for that matter. This was a whole new, *and very different*, world. I had to re-map my mind to really think about how I was going to get from Point A to Point B.

For example, the Base Hospital in Panadura resembled nothing I have ever seen in a hospital in the United States. I had to ‘give up’ what I thought I knew about a hospital and had to accept what was in front of me and learn how the doctors and nurses made their hospital system work. It was not easy, because on top of everything, everyone spoke Sinhala and only on occasion, English.

My first day was very frustrating, I felt left out because I understood nothing and no one was coming up and helping me. But then it occurred to me, “Well, of course, no one is going to come up and help me. Look at them; they’re busy helping sick patients.” It wasn’t until I decided that I was going to have to go in there and start being more active in my participation that things changed.

I already saw how busy everyone was, so I began to observe, listen and make sense of what I was seeing and tried to put the answer together for myself and then ask questions that re-enforced or clarified a certain kind of medical treatment with a patient. If I didn’t understand their response, I asked a different way. I was determined to use this experience to learn; when else was I going to be in Sri Lanka volunteering at a hospital? The very act of critical thinking allowed me to get past the cultural and lingual roadblocks to become an active learner who participated in over 700 patient examinations and 30 different kinds of surgeries and surgical procedures.

I was grateful to walk away from my volunteer experience with a developed sense of critical thinking. Coming back, I’m not afraid to ask questions, lots of questions—if I need to. When I’m at a lecture, I’m not afraid to say, “I’m sorry I don’t understand, can you please explain that again.” I realize that’s key to critical thinking, you have to be sure you understand how things work, if you don’t—then ask; volunteering gave me this gift!

5. Resume Gold

How many people do you know who have paid to volunteer/live abroad and gain international experience? Doesn’t that sound impressive? Yes, that’s because *it is*

Going Global





Dr. Champaka examines a patient.

impressive.

What makes volunteering abroad so impressive is the fact that I can speak to all the qualities that most employers look for in a desirable employee by speaking of my volunteer experience in Sri Lanka: Can I work with people from different backgrounds? *Absolutely.* Am I am to cope with a changing environment? *Sure am!* Would I consider myself a team player? *Yes, I do.* Do I have the ability to think outside of the box? *Yes, and then some.* Give an example where you learned the importance of communication. *I could speak to infinity about Sri Lanka and needing to communicate properly—and how vital it was to pick the right words!*

The fact that I have this incredible volunteer experience allows me to answer questions with examples and stories about my volunteer experience in Sri Lanka during interviews. To an employer it will sound both interesting and different; both of which has the likely potential to land me a great job.

6. Building Relationships

My volunteer experience was originally organized by the group Projects Abroad (projectsabroad.org) an international organization that matches you with other volunteers who share your particular volunteer interests. I met pre-medical and medical students from all over Europe as well as a few students from other parts of the US. We had lots of fun sharing our experiences from the hospital, sometimes we got to pair up during some of the clinical rotations, and outside of the hospital we bonded as friends. Being away for so long made people homesick, and having a network of fellow students who empathized gave us all the chance to help one another and make lasting friendships.

In addition to meeting other volunteers from around the world, I was housed with a host family. This provided the amazing experience of getting to live like a real Sri Lankan. The host father, Mr. J. Bandara, was a kind and generous man in that he opened his family’s house to me along with five other volunteers. Being that his family was also Buddhist, he took me to his local temple where he and his family worshipped. Inside the temple, I was in awe to be surrounded by so much sacred beauty, history and spiritual serenity. After showing me his temple, my host father showed me an eye hospital that was built with the proceeds from the Lions Club (a civic organization dedicated to helping people around the world with vision problems).

In fact, I learned that he graciously volunteered his expertise as a civil engineer in having the hospital properly constructed. This impressed me deeply to know that my host father was a man who believed in volunteering his time and services to better his community. This was a person, another fellow volunteer with whom I knew I wanted to have a lifelong connection. This is an amazing gift of volunteering, the potential to make lifelong friends, bonded by the desire to help others.

7. Deeper Insight

What is important in life?

What do I really want to do with my life?

Traveling abroad and volunteering in a foreign country can open these questions up and force you to examine the answers. Being immersed in a different country, volunteering in a hospital that was working at its full capacity, observing sick patients having to share beds, dealing with no air conditioning in equatorial heat, with limited resources, and feeling somewhat powerless—I was constantly wrestling with these questions.

My mission in life is to inspire people and to help others heal. I want to fulfill that mission by becoming a medical doctor. One of the objectives as a medical

doctor I want to provide is high-quality medical treatment to low-access communities both in the Bronx, and the world.

Now, here I was in Sri Lanka-experiencing in real-time, the very thing I say I wanted to do with my life. *Is this really what I want?* The work was hard, hot and in some ways sad, especially when there was nothing that could be done to help really sick patients. At the end of the day, the doctor in this situation rarely gets the credit they deserve. They usually end up exhausted, overworked and severely underpaid, *but despite all of that*, I could not imagine myself doing anything else.

I knew, despite, the difficult operating environment—that I was home and I was truly meant to be a doctor spending the rest of life doing this kind of work. The volunteer experience gave me this gift of deeper insight and greater perspective, and thankfully, it confirmed that I was on the right path in life.

8. Leadership

There was no one who cared if I showed up to the hospital or medical clinic, there was no one taking my attendance, there was no one who was going to hold my hand and show me the way be my teacher. The doctors with whom I would be assisting/shadowing were overwhelmed with about 70 patients to examine in a 4-hour time frame, per day. The last thing they wanted to do was babysit a healthy volunteer; it was not personal, they were just *extremely* busy and I had to be *worth* their time. Making this volunteer experience a powerful, learning, life-changing opportunity was up to me.

I quickly learned that if I showed up at the hospital at 6:00 in the morning, I could have up to two hours with the most junior doctors (“House Officers”) who were performing their morning rounds of their patients, preparing for the morning review with the senior doctors. The early morning was the right time; the junior doctors had more time to explain things like the conditions of

I arrived to the hospital and sat on bench waiting for a doctor to come and get me and show me the ropes.

9. Adventure

Without a doubt, volunteering can be extraordinarily FUN. Sri Lanka is a beautiful island and an ancient country filled with rich history, including the history of Buddha himself, who visited the country when he was alive centuries ago. The work at the hospital was hard and during the weekends, I would travel with fellow volunteers to other parts of the country to marvel at the biological diversity. We went on a safari at Yala National Park, watched elephants, warthogs, wild foxes, peacocks and crocodiles. We also climbed the sacred mountain known as Sri Pada or Adam’s Peak. At the top of the mountain is a footprint. Depending upon whom you believe, this is either Buddha’s footprint (as Buddhists believe) or the footprint of Adam (as Christians believe). It was believed that when God cast Adam out the sacred Garden of Eden, he was sent to Sri Lanka.

And, of course, there were trips to the beach and so much more! All of this adventure gave me some much needed downtime to recharge as a volunteer. I also gained a deeper love for the country and her people. So many people along our adventures opened up their hearts to us, showing us how to get from one place to the next, or warning us, or even blessing us with good energy (a Buddhist monk tied a red ribbon on my wrist wishing me good fortune as I climbed to the top of Sri Padda).

10. Self-Esteem

Last – but certainly not least – is self esteem. Volunteering made me feel like a million dollars. There is something truly magical about helping others. It’s definitely true when people say that when you help others or do something for the benefit of others not only does that person or group of people gain, but you, the giver also gains.

Helping people is the only sure path I know that



Jeffrey Guard (far right) and the house surgeons.

each patient. They allowed me to auscultate the patients (listen to the lungs and heart via stethoscope) and quizzed me based on symptoms what kind of diagnosis I would make, and then either congratulate me or correct me (usually correct me).

When the senior doctors arrived and discovered that I showed up at 6:00 they were impressed and allowed me to follow them, including me in the morning examinations and allowing me to participate.

I had to assume personal leadership and develop a series of ways to make myself worth the doctors’ time. I had to figure out the best possible way to reach these physicians and to be helpful. Some volunteers just gave up, and would only show up for an hour and then leave for the beach, but I was committed to making this a success.

I am proud to say that I developed a good reputation in the hospital and was dubbed, “The American,” and all the doctors knew me at the end of the experience because of my perseverance, willingness to work hard and learn from them. This volunteer experience could have been a disaster if I chose to be passive.

Instead, I was forced to assume a leadership position and actively find ways to be included and it exceeded my own expectations. As a result, I helped shape my own profound clinical experience of participating in over 700 patient examinations and 30 surgeries and surgical procedures: not bad for a pre-medical student. None of this would have happened if

leads to personal happiness. And, I know that personal happiness can only happen by having a high-level of self-esteem. It also doesn’t matter what kind of volunteer work you do. Helping others helps you.

My volunteer work in Sri Lanka is a chapter in my own personal life story that I am deeply happy to share with people. It makes me feel good to share it, and to possibly inspire others to want to experience something similar. I often tell people who seemed amazed that they can do it to.

It might seem like something impossible, to fly half-way around the world, to a place you’ve never been to and to help people who have a different way of life and different culture—but when you do it—you realize it’s not impossible. Volunteering teaches me that we are all human and we all want the same things: we all want to be respected and valued. This is very easy to learn, and it’s universal, so, when you know this—you can go anywhere and volunteer.

So, when are you going?

Jeffrey Guard will discuss his volunteer-abroad work and cultural experiences in Sri Lanka at a special “Study and Volunteer Abroad Fair” during International Education Week on Thursday, November 18th from 12-2 pm in Colston Hall, Room 401. OCD credit is available. Information will be available about the study and volunteer abroad programs offered at BCC.

Poetry Corner

Christina Bhuriendo

By Julien Prevost

It's a Sunday morning on the island of dummy-nee-ca
And the locals are moving in a sluggardly manner.
Look that Bhuriendo boy is coming to ring the bell
They said as they stared and raised hell.
He slowly dragged his deformed body
As though he was in a hotel lobby.

It all started at one weak moment
A day of great endowment
Christina had just won a musical competition
And she was looking for some compensation.
So she went to her male friend's house
And played a game of cat and mouse
She had her fun
Then had to run
And said good bye for the day.

Christina began to feel strange
It's like her mind had been rearranged.
Her family began to comment
On her new look and lineament
She stuck up her nose
Said to hell with them all
And took some paracetamol.

But it wasn't over there,
When the smell of vomit filled the air.
Christina was in strife
For she was carrying a human life.

It was clear as glass what she had to do
She had to stop that soul from coming through.
Every morning at eight
She threw herself down the stairs, nine times straight.
Jesus! She would say.
At ten o'clock her little brother found it quite funny
When she asked him to jump on her tummy.
At twelve midday it was rum and coke
Until she began to choke.

Nine months had passed and she was in a self-inquisition,
When she realized she had failed at her mission.
Her belly was large
As big as a barge,
And it was time to give the due.

The baby came out!
But not a baby at all,
Some poor misshapen creature
With an unaccepting feature.
It's not my child said the boy looking at the floor,
As he walked backwards and stepped out the door.

Christina claimed him her own,
And called him her child,
Even when her parents looked at him like he was wild.
Get him out of my site shouted the grandmother
As she didn't even bother.

So Christina gave him to the church
And left him but a brooch
As she thought God would have the best approach.

It's a Sunday morning on the island of dummy-nee-ca
And the locals are moving in a sluggardly manner.
Look that Bhuriendo boy is coming to ring the bell
They said as they stared and raised hell.
He slowly dragged his deformed body
As though he was in a hotel lobby.

Winged Maple Seeds

By William Murray

It's the season of
September
When leaves fall
From trees
Descending like
Whirlybirds
After they split
Many maple seeds
Get their lift
From air vortices
Pervading a fortress
Of grained wood
In autumnal breeze

Ode to Lucy

By Muhammad Jalloh

Once upon a romantic time,
There still lives a maiden in my clime,
Of heart and soul was her make,
Which made intellect and love her elite stake.

In a city by the sea, she lay awake,
Listening to the sounds of her remarkable stake,
In her little hut by the sea,
I once caught her gallant amoreic plea.

Upon her like I feasted my forlorn crystals,
And my stallions of love, I kept in her stalls,
And then sat for the feast at her feet,
And to share in the moment's holistic feat.

I looked upon her face to meet her gaze,
To read her signs and join the eve's refreshing graze.
"What art thou appellation, gracious queen,
For thou seem to have no equal or a wanting twin"

A moment of contemplation. A smile. 'Lucy', she said,
"And an ecstatic beauty", I anxiously added and said.
'But a queen I am not, dear lovely stranger,
But a bare-fingered princess swimming in the waves of danger.'

'And what made you wander to my hut,
To add salt to my bleeding cut?'
'I'm a wondering mystic in search of her,
Who eludes taming like the wounded tiger.'

"'Majnun, the Mad One' was what they called me',
And accused me of being love's grand epitome.
An exile to freedom was my penitence,
Freedom to loathe in thy hut with my resilience."

"An "amoureux san frontiere" was my way,
A lover without borders, if I must say."

"With the mountains of the East,
And the oceans of the West,
I wrote my amoreic sonnets without guilt,
The champion of maidens and custodian of their hearts' quilt."

"I ascended climbed the mountains of the East,
And scaled the scrapers of the West,
But I resolved to let into my heart none save thee,
And to visit thy abode to request thy blessings in becoming a we."

Deserve

By Natasha Brown

I don't know what I did
I have no logics of who I am.
What is left of me but a mere plane?
Rusting away from years of suffering an used pain.

Do I give up or should I walk away
What do I say that makes everything change,
Is it my mood, my voice, my presence or my serious attitude!
I can't say because neither of us communicate nor talk the same way.
So Whose primarily at fault to blame, what a shame

Don't turn back I say because it's not too late!!!
Why give into the power you feel he possesses.
But don't care what he says or do, because strength, will power
And courage comes from those that believe in themselves. But
Without doubt indeed I did deserve.

Random Love

By Ibrahim Siddiq aka P.O.E.T.

I don't believe in love at first sight
But I damn sure fell the second time she walked by
When she did we caught eyes & she fell too
But she didn't just fall, she fell through
Past all the games and the guards
No acts... it's too hard
Because her love gives me stage fright
She's what perfection would taste like
Hope lives in her eyes
But even if humanity was deprived
I still wouldn't allow her to cry
She's got me love sick so I'm absent from this world
But this girl, when she sings I'm excused with every note
If that isn't the voice of an Angel... then an Angel never spoke
I stared into her eyes...
And what I saw was every poem I ever wanted to write
Because her love is art, painted on the blank canvas of my heart
She is my muse
She gives me purpose
She taught me to never mistake priceless for worthless
Before her I was merely a pauper who admired a queens daughter
I leaned over and whispered in her ear...
The part of heart that's missing I've been keeping safe all these years
And I may not be able to erase all the tears she acquired in her past
but I can help conquer the fears that keeps bringing them back...
Her past position has made her resistant
But nevertheless I thank her ex if she already hasn't
Because anything that comes easy isn't worth having
She taught me to color outside of the lines
Which is why I would consider selling my soul to buy some of her time...
I studied her body language until I understood her native tongue
She hummed the meaning of life to the heartbeat of my drum and it was beautifully sung
We play hide and seek somewhere between reality and a dream
I always hide in her eyes because its where I feel most alive
And that gaze is essential because it reflects my potential
It provided the help, anytime I start to lose sight of myself... she reminds me
So if you're ever looking for me that's where you'll find me

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Campus News

Top 10 reasons to Join a Club at Bronx Community College

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE MANY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & MAJORS; PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL NETWORKING; NUMEROUS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES; SCHOOL SPIRIT; COMMUNITY SERVICE; TRANSFERABLE SKILLS; CROSS-CULTURAL APPRECIATION; OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS; DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCE; BUILD MEMORIES & FRIENDSHIP

Alpha Beta Gamma – An International Honor Society of Business for students at 2 year technical community or vocational colleges. (Advisor: Elsworth Brown, 718.289.5587, ME G-10)

African Students' Association – To support and introduce African culture within the BCC community. (Advisor: Eugene Adams, 718.289.5952, BU 307)

Anime/Manga Gaming Club – Creative group of students whose goal it is to share their appreciation for Japanese art and host annual video game tournaments. (Advisor: Florence Tanaka-Kuwashima, 718.289.3088, BL 310C)

A.N.S.W.E.R. Club – Act Now to Stop War and End Racism will provide educational events against war and racism. (Advisor: Andrew McInerney, 718.289.5406, CPH 109)

B.O.L.D. BCC Organization for Leadership in Disability – To promote disability awareness, rights, and culture at BCC and beyond. (Advisor: Julia Rodas, 718.289.3201, CO 626)

Book Club – To foster and further develop pleasure in reading, and reading-life within a community of like-minded people. (Advisor: Frances DiSalvo, 718.289.5443, CO 632)

Business Club – To provide a network and information forum across the business and information system curriculum. (Advisor: Howard Irby, Jr., 718.289.5585, ME GO8)

Cobra Car Club – To gather a community of BCC students to discuss automotive technology and to build a 1965 MK III Cobra. (Advisor: George Patchoros, 718.289.3213, Sage Hall B6)

BCC Cheerleading & Spirit Club – To provide inspiration and enthusiastic support to BCC sports teams. (Advisor: Danielle Jean-Marie, 718.289.5973, GML 8)

The Communicator – To publish the Bronx Community College student newspaper. To inform, update, educate and inspire the College community. (Advisor: Andrew Rowan, 718.289.5314, CO 612)

Christian Club – To share the benefits and teachings of the gospel of Christ. (Advisor: Timothy Sedore, 718.289.5736, CO 640)

Chi Alpha Epsilon Honors Society – To continue to excel academically, promote academic excellence in others, and to help those who genuinely aspire to the same goal. (Advisor: Cassandra Rosemberg, 718.289.5460, LO 400)

Dance Workshop – To learn and perform various dances for the College and local community. (Advisor: Susan Moss, 718.289.5281, AG 401A)

Dominican Cultural Club – To advance knowledge of Dominican culture within the BCC community. (Advisors: Deivid Valdez & Jacqueline Polanco, 718.289.5144/5668, LH 16)

Firebird/Creative Writers Club – To create and nurture a vibrant community of writers, reflecting the cultural, social, and political diversity of BCC and publish the literary magazine, *Firebird*. (Advisor: Julie Bolt, 718.289.5739, CO 420)

Campus News

History Club – The purpose of the history club is to encourage historical inquiry and discussion. (Advisor: William deJong-Lembert 718.289.3448 – CO 343)

International Students Club – To support the academic and social interests of International Students fostering academic success. (Advisor: Martha Charles- Glenn, 718.289.5921, LO 214)

Math & Computer Science Club – Students will be given opportunities to investigate critical thinking skills, compete, take on leadership roles and improve mathematical & problem solving skills. (Advisor: Rony Gouraige, 718.289.5926, CPH 114)

Media Technology & Film Society – To study cinematic techniques, conduct professional workshops/lectures, hold video and film festivals on and off campus and to enter films and videos into festivals. (Advisor: Jeffrey Wisotsky, 718.289.5572, ME CO2)

Muslim Students' Association – To provide information and education about the Islamic culture to non-Muslim students and people of other cultures for developing understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. (Advisor: Kamal Ismail, 718.289.5315, ME 811)

Nursing Club – To help provide guidance and support to students interested in the Nursing curriculum. (Advisor: Catherine Mbewe, 718.289.5363, CPH 402)

Paralegal Society – To support the academic development of future paralegal professionals. (Advisor: Marvin Yaker, 718.289.5958, ME 313)

Peace & Social Justice Club – To increase peace consciousness in its members and among the campus community. (Advisor: David Blot, 718.289.5688, CO 639)

Phi Theta Kappa – To recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development. (Advisor: Eldiane Elmeus, 718.289.5486, LO 418)

Political Science Club – To educate BCC students of the importance of politics and to motivate them to be active citizens. (Advisor: Peter Kolozi, 718.289.5665, CO 320)

Rainbow Alliance - To conduct community service and bring about diversity and awareness on the BCC campus. (Marilyn Russell, 718.289.5210, LO 417)

Secular Humanist Club – To successfully promote the understanding of the rights and beliefs of secular humanist students. (Advisor: Marc Barnhill, 718.289.3206, CO 604)

Society of Plastics Engineers (S.P.E.) – To enhance the study of the plastic industry by increasing awareness among students, faculty and staff of the diverse ways in which the study of plastic is helping improve our lives. (Advisor: Vicki Flaris, 718.289.5553, ME 816)

Sociology Club – To examine issues like racism, sexism and ethnic prejudice. (Advisors: Vaso Thomas Jacqueline Polanco, 718.289.5669/5668, CO 339)

Speech, Drama & Debate Team – To provide BCC students with a platform outside of the classroom in which to practice, perform, and gain proficiency in oral communication. (Advisor: Ellen Mareneck, 718.289.5766, CO 735)

Theatre Workshop – To perform and assess theatrical performances and encourage theatrical involvement of the BCC campus community. (Advisor: John Socas, 718.289.5763, CO 731)

Top Model's Club – To highlight BCC students' inner beauty and enhance their confidence through fashion and performance. (Advisor: Pina Martinelli, 718.289.5993, SH 308)

Urban Unity – To help BCC students explore ways to develop and promote their various talents. (Advisor: Benjamin Yarmolinsky, 718.289.5254, GU 203)

Veteran's Club – To establish a Veteran presence on campus ensuring a smoother transition from military to civilian/student life at BCC. (Clifford Marshall II, 718.289.5708, CO 512)

Campus News

WTF? (What's The Facts?)

By Terell Tripp

Welcome to *The Communicator's* new column, WTF?
In this column we'll be discussing famous and not so famous individuals and their media antics.
In this month's edition...

WTF happened to Lindsay Lohan...?

Let's think back to 1998. *Parent Trap* hit theaters and adored child star Lindsay Lohan entered the consciousness of America. The 'American Machine' called Hollywood just ate this darling little redhead up, and consequently swallowed her whole. Caught up in the fast-paced life of parties, sex, alcohol and drug abuse, which is mainstream Hollywood. This once promising actress who delighted audiences in such films as *Freaky Friday* and *Mean Girls* has become fish food for the Piranha, otherwise known as paparazzi.

Her battles with substance abuse and the legal system due to the media have now become a thing of legend. Understanding this, Judge Elden Fox took pity on the young starlet and released her 77 days early from her 90-day sentence in August, which she received for violating her DUI probation. Ms. Lohan did a measly 13 days. I don't know about you guys but I know where I'm from, if the judge hits you with 90 days, you're doing 90 days! They also sent her to a 90-day rehab; she only did 22. Recently, the same judge hit Ms. Lohan with another warrant, this is the fourth in her DUI probation case, due to her failing several drug tests, including this last one, in which she tested positive for cocaine; less than a month from her release.

Lindsay had this to say via Twitter; "I've admitted to the things that I've done—to, you know, dabbling in certain things and trying things 'cause I was young and curious and thought it was like, O.K., 'cause other people were doing it and other people put it in front of me. And I see what happened in my life because of it." Let's hear it for the parents! Oh' well, she seems to have happened upon the road traveled by several a 'troubled child star', including Drew Barrymore, Todd Bridges, and Corey Feldman. WTF?

Speaking of substance abuse...

Bruno Mars arrested for cocaine possession...WTF?

First of all, this guy is barely a celebrity. He's got one 'Hit Song' on which he only sung on the hook(B.o.B.'s *Beautiful Girls*) , well maybe two (He also sung on Gym class Hero front man Travie McCoy's single *Billionaire*)... Point is, who does he think he is? The singer/songwriter was found in the bathroom of the Las Vegas Hard Rock Casino with a bag of cocaine. Reportedly, he was seen by somebody who really needed to use the stall and couldn't 'hold water'... lol. The civilian alerted the bathroom attendant who promptly reported Mr. Mars (whose real name is Peter Hernandez) to a nearby security guard, who confronted him before he could leave the bathroom stall. He was asked to hand over any narcotics he might have had and gave the security a bag which contained 2.6 grams of what later tested positive for cocaine. (Real Smart) Personally, I think this is a stunt for veteran mess ups like Paris Hilton, Nick Nolte, or TI. This new guy thinks he can come along and totally risk his life and career under the scrutiny of our media and get away with it? Well...probably so, but the point is, it's way too early in the game for mistakes like this...WTF?

Now for something a little less heart breaking...

The richest man in NY, Mayor Bloomberg... Only owns two pairs of shoes...WTF?

Apparently, the mayor is not only the richest man in NY, but also the cheapest! I think it is fair to say I am probably not the shoe industry or the clothing industry's best customer," Mayor Bloomberg said, in response to a story posted by *The NY Post* about the two pairs of loafers he's worn to work every day since the Clinton administration. "The mayor owns only two pairs of work shoes," his spokesman, Stu Loeser, told *The Post*. "One day he'll wear one, the next the other -- and when they get worn down, he has them resoled." I mean, I know we only pay him \$1 a year, but come on man, you're a billionaire. \$18 billion and you only have two pair of shoes; talk about thrifty! Somebody, go get Bruno Mars out the bathroom, we need him to sing that *Billionaire* hook..! LOL

If you would like to comment on any of the stories in this column feel free to write me at RellsNells@live.com, write "WTF" in the subject line. Your comments could be posted in next month's edition of *The Communicator*.



**Children's
Halloween
Celebration**

October 29, 2010
3-6 pm
Colston Hall, Lower Level

Free and open to BCC students and their children
The program will feature a story teller, musical chairs, a dance contest and lots of treats!

This program is sponsored by the Office of Student Life and is funded by student fees
For more information, please call 718.289.5194
www.facebook.com/bccstudentlife

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Campus News

The End Has Come for Sugar Shane Mosley

By Joshua Tayborn



Who would've thought that on September 18, 2010, the 39-year old Mosley would begin to show signs of wear and tear? There is no doubt in my mind that Sugar Shane will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, however, I truly believe it's time for him to call it quits.

At L.A.'s famed Staples Center, Mosley came into the bout with Sergio "The Latin Snake" Mora hoping to continue his legacy. Just like the Mayweather fight, Shane was looking for the KO, instead of trying to win each round. Mora started off slow but was able to win every round except the last three. The judges scored the fight, 116-114, 114-113, and 114-114, which ended in a draw. When I heard the last score of the fight, I had no choice but to laugh; Mora, who had 9 of the 12 rounds won, couldn't close the door on Mosley. And, in my opinion, he shouldn't fight in a main event ever again.

Following the fight, Sergio Mora was asked if he felt he should've won. He answered, "I respect him too much." That type of response indicates he isn't ready to be on the big stage. If Mora couldn't beat an old man like Shane, what makes him think he can beat a fighter 10 times better on an even bigger stage? Mosley, who was asked the same question, said, "I could've done better but I don't feel bad about the result." In other words, Shane knew he lost the fight and now has an excuse to try to fight another mediocre fighter. Mosley's record now stands at 46 wins - 39 KO's - 6 losses - 2 draws. On the upside, the 29-year-old Mora has a lot left in his tank but can't continue to buy into the hype.

Shane has had a great career but this could be his last fight. It was a terrible night for boxing but it's always good to see a Hall of Fame fighter step into the ring.

BCC at the 25th Annual Black Engineer Conference

By Alex Luma

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference. Our students from Bronx Community College are excited and looking forward to participating in this year's conference. Students are recommended by faculty from the following departments: chemistry, mathematics and computer science, biology, physics and physics technology, business and information systems, and student life.

Students are asked to write an essay on their experience at the Black Engineer if the Year Awards. Next year, the conference will be held in Washington D.C. from February 18-21, 2011. The campus coordinators for this event are Barbara Martin, Eldiane Elmeus, and Clifford Marshall II.

The essay that follows is a brief description of one student's experience at the 2010 conference. It does an excellent job of summarizing the overall experience of students who attended.

The 24th Black Engineer of the Year Awards

The 24th Black Engineer of the Year Awards were held in Baltimore, Maryland, from February 18-20, 2010. It was a life changing experience that prepares future leaders for the 21st century. Sixteen students from Bronx Community College were selected to represent the school at the BEYA Conference. As a student in the STEM program, we were honored and privileged to attend.

The journey to Baltimore, Maryland, began on Friday, February 19 at 7:00 am in front of Roscoe Brown Student Center where all of us converged to board the school bus. We were accompanied by four chaperones that included Barbara Martin, campus coordinator, and Nirvana Burns, student campus coordinator. We arrived at Maryland University around 12 pm where we took our first tour of the university as a group.

Courtesy of the BCC Student Government Association, students were lodged at the Sheraton Hotel. At 6:00 p.m., the students were gathered at the Sheraton IH-Chesapeake Ballroom with hundreds of other students for the DIEL orientation and reception. Four speakers addressed the students and presented speeches on what BEYA was all about and its future goal. "The

2010 Black Engineer of the Year Award/Minorities in Research Science (BEYA, MIRS) honorees represent an array of scientific and technical professionals who are working in critical areas of education, government and industrial sections" (Tyrone D. Taborn, publisher, *U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology* magazine) to maintain our country's leadership in the 21st century, skilled scientists and engineers are needed to create tomorrow's innovations. Therefore, BEYA looks forward to continue to support and inspire youth into the future.

On Saturday, different seminars such as career fair expo, achieving maximum success, and fast track to leadership investing in your future were held. Students were able to network with each other, and had the opportunity to meet with representatives from different companies and universities such as Air Force Research Laboratories, Lockheed Martin, American Academy of Environmental Engineers, NAVAIR, NAVFAC, NAVSEA, Med Tonics, Morgan State University, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, Wal-Mart, Virginia State University and many more. Meeting with these representatives gave the students a wider horizon and stimulated in-depth thinking on what to do with their degree, scholarship program, internship program and job opportunities. This was rounded off with submission of resumes.

The grand finale was the BEYA Gala on Saturday at the Hilton Key Ballroom where thousands of people were present to witness the beautiful occasion. Contracts and supply chain Raytheon Company was awarded the 2010 Black Engineer of the Year Award. The Black Engineer of the Year Award recognizes and documents the contributions of blacks in the fields of Science Engineering Technology and Math (STEM) careers. These awards help build a treasure chest of histories and contributions that will endure forever.

The BEYA conference was a life-changing experience. BCC students were on their best behavior. We demonstrated intellectual curiosity, maturity, and shared information amongst one another. The journey back to New York was smooth and wonderful. We arrived back at BCC around 5 pm, and we departed to our various homes with wonderful memories.

Reminiscing an Incredible Summer

By Carmela Perez

This summer must have been one of the hottest summers I have ever experienced. With temperatures going up to the low hundreds, I was forced to buy an air conditioner which did not go well with my bank account. The struggle to install that apparatus was definitely an experience I will never forget, because (of course) I choose the hottest day of the summer to set it up. However, I'm not here to bore you with my story of how I installed an air conditioner for the very first time, but instead to share what was one of the best experiences I had this summer with my debate team as we traveled to Ohio for debate camp.

As a novice, I felt this was a great opportunity to attend and learn as much as I could from people who had more experience than me. I also used it as a mini vacation from my hectic life in the city. Christopher Forbes, the team's president, Erwin Fernandez the IOC rep, Elliot Omod, and I eagerly embarked on what was set to be one of the most strenuous yet entertaining experiences of the summer.

Erwin, Elliot and I are newbie's while Christopher, who has debated in many tournaments, is what I call a veteran. We arrived in Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, where I was complete taken aback by its architectural beauty. It was straight to business, however. There was absolutely no time to mingle, and we had our mind set on learning and winning! First things first, and that was doing our research; the amount of work that is put on gathering information in a debate tournament is outstanding as well as intimidating, especially for those with no experience.

The first five days of camp consisted of doing investigation for our topic which was "PTSD amongst Veterans." We had to come up with various scholarly articles that had to do with our proposal. We spent, during classes and lectures, approximately 12-13 hours daily

doing debate work. This was not counting the overtime we would do looking up information in our free time. As if that had not been stressful enough, the remaining three days of camp we spent debating.

NOW, let me tell you about debating ... it kicked my buttocks! Hard core. I got squashed. Defeated. Terminated. Whatever you want to call it, that's what I got. All the preparation in the world wouldn't have made a difference in such a short period of time; we went up against veterans who had more experience than us, which is why I personally felt so intimidated. During our final day at camp we had a tournament, which we were to debate six consecutive times back to back with random debaters who had also attended camp for that week as well. It was overwhelming to debate six consecutive times with only a 15-minute gap in between each debate. By the end of the night, I felt as if my brain had endured a battle of its own and was on shut down. We departed Ohio feeling exhausted but stimulated for the upcoming semester which would bring us more opportunities and challenges to practice and better ourselves as debaters.

It was a great experience overall, not because I got my butt kicked, but because it prepared me for actual competitions which are yet to come. It also united our team and brought us closer as friends, which is always great when working in unison. It was an unforgettable experience that I would want others to enjoy as well, for this reason I encourage those who are interested in debating to join the Speech and Debate club; it will be beneficial to them because it helps to develop great interpersonal skills. To get answers to any questions regarding the Speech and Drama Club stop by room 703 in Colston Hall during club hours, or contact Professor Ellen Mareneck at ellen.mareneck@bcc.cuny.edu.

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- Build your resume
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The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) at BCC provides an opportunity for first year students to develop their understanding of leadership skills and gain practical leadership experience. Students will take part in a series of interactive and skill building workshops, team builders and guided activities designed to increase their understanding of leadership theory and practice.

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LEADERS PROGRAM**

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- GPA 2.5 and above (if you are a second semester student)
- Must be willing to commit to participate in ALL program activities for the semester

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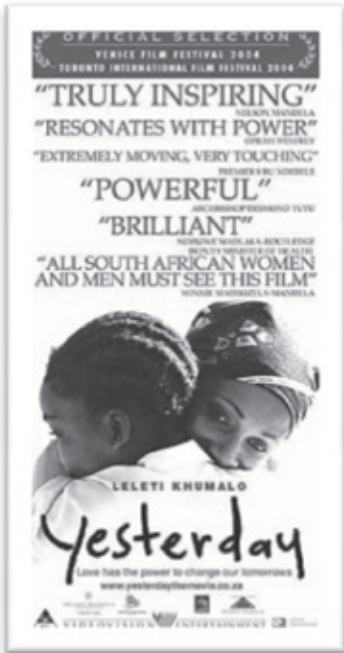
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELP_2010

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2010

For more information, Audrey Rose-Glenn, Coordinator, New Student Leadership Programs/Emerging Leaders Program Office of Student Life, Meister Hall, Room 202
Tel: 718-289-5914
Audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu
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Women’s Global Film Series--Fall 2010



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Department of History



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English, and Professor Kate Culkin, Department of History



4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days
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