

THE COMMUNICATOR

October 11, 2012 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 2 – Fall 2012

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the North Hall and Library: Honoring the Needs of Today's Students

By C. Lionel Spencer

"A unique combination of classic elegance and contemporary energy" is what President Carole M. Berotte Joseph said of our New North Hall and Library at the Friday, September 21, 2012 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

When I arrived on campus the area in which the ceremony would take place was vacant. There was a red carpet leading from the center column of the building to the stage where the guests would speak. Our university security guards were dressed like Navy Seals who had just graduated from the Academy—sharp, and reflective of the occasion. With a clear sky and a cool autumn breeze blowing, the morning air held within it a sense of triumph and accomplishment.

Though, as a student I had already been enjoying our new library, somehow today I wanted to see it with fresh eyes. As guided tours were given to various groups of sponsors and city officials, I attempted to capture the library through their eyes, wondering what they would see that I hadn't. Would they be able to see and appreciate the cost, the labor and the artistry in way I didn't? As the ceremony got underway, I was able to see it differently, and I hope you will be able to as well.

Our striking and beautiful North Hall and Library cost roughly \$70 million dollars according to a September 2nd article published in *The New York Times**. According to CUNY Trustee Valerie Lancaster Beal, the first appropriation for this building was in 1998. For three years Mr. Daniel Hauben, a Bronx-born-and-raised artist, worked on 22 paintings that decorate our new library. His works are also in the Museum of the City of New York, the Library of Congress, the White House, and the New York Historical Society. He has spent almost 30 years painting and portraying the life of Bronx. The collections of paintings that hang throughout our North Hall are entitled *A Sense of Place*.

On June 27, 2012, the Board of Trustees of CUNY approved the naming of the Carolyn G. Williams Reading Room in the new library, noted Trustee Beal. The morning was filled with much praise and thanks to Dr. Williams for all her hard work in bringing to BCC such a gift. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein noted, "I got to meet Carolyn Williams when I was president at Baruch College, and we became very good friends. She was a wonderful leader at this college, and when I became Chancellor we said we must build a fabulous building on this campus," he added.

At the ceremony I sat between Mr. Bill Howell, President of Howell Industries, and Evening Adjunct Librarian Rita Gregory. Miss Gregory exclaimed, "The students in this community deserve something like this... they really appreciate it." Mr. Howell affirmed that our North Hall is a "fabulous building" and "state of the art."

With so many people in attendance on a cool Friday morning, from various fields of work, it was very clear they were there for more than a ribbon cutting. They were there to support the financial investment, the hard work and the vision of so many people who made our library possible. As I sat there listening to everyone from President Berotte Joseph to CUNY trustees to the architects



to former faculty and alumni, it was clear that they all viewed North Hall as a blessing to be cherished. When CUNY Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall took the stage, she expressed gratitude to the architectural team saying, "I want to first mention our extraordinary architects at Robert A.M. Stern. I want to take this opportunity to thank him and his team for their truly brilliant design. They really studied the campus and the population, asking all the right questions coming to understand what people wanted and needed. And then they did something special; they created a magnificent building that both speaks to the surrounding architecture and also honors the needs of today's students."

*<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/02/bronx-community-college-gets-a-proper-college-library/>

BCC Students, Anti-Fracking Activists Attend SUNY Board of Trustees Meeting

By Armando Chapelliquen

Call on Governor and SUNY to Drop University of Buffalo Shale Resources and Society Institute and Its "Junk Science": University of Buffalo Professors, Public Accountability Initiative Continue Calls for More Transparency

New York, NY— At SUNY's Board of Trustees meeting on September 12, BCC students joined New Yorkers from around the state to call on Governor Andrew Cuomo and SUNY to stop supporting the University of Buffalo Shale Resources and Society Institute. The students and their allies noted that the Institute has a troubling track record and is giving SUNY a bad name.

"Research like that coming out of the SRSI doesn't benefit the students of the SUNY system," said Theresa Warburton, a graduate student at the University of Buffalo (UB). "It undermines the tenets of rigorous research upon which our university is supposedly built, ignores any accountability to the community that it is supposed to serve, and supports the interests of industry giants instead of acting in the interest of its employees, students, and the public. Additionally, such research -- and the subsequent scandal around it -- decreases the value of students' degrees by marring the prestige of their institution with a 'for sale' sign."

"As a SUNY student, I'm concerned that the problems with the Shale Institute make SUNY look bad," said Sebastian Bullock, a senior at the College of Old Westbury. "The governor shouldn't want SUNY to be seen as supporting the oil and gas industry and their agenda."

"Fracking is an inherently dangerous process," said Rebecca J. Weber, Executive Director of NYPIRG and a member of New Yorkers Against Fracking. "The governor should be supporting independent research that examines the effects of fracking, not compromising the integrity and reputation of SUNY."

"The Shale Resources and Society Institute is just putting out 'junk science'," said David Braun of United for Action and New Yorkers Against Fracking. "Governor Cuomo has said he wants science to determine whether fracking goes forward, but it has to be legitimate science."

The Shale Gas institute has come under fire

after it issued a controversial report in May. University of Buffalo professors recently questioned the independence of the Institute, a report detailed errors in the report, and news accounts that detailed that the authors' ties to the oil and gas industry were not appropriately disclosed.

"The UB Administration must make public all the documents bearing on the founding, funding, staffing, and governance of the Shale Institute," said Jim Holstun, Professor of English, UB and Chair of the UB Coalition for Leading Ethically in Academic Research. "Only complete transparency can remove the shadow hanging over UB and restore its reputation for academic integrity."

"Cuomo says he wants to let science dictate the state's decision on fracking," said Kevin Connor, Director of the Public Accountability Initiative. "Unfortunately, SUNY Buffalo let the gas industry dictate the science when it released its report on fracking. We found undisclosed conflicts of interest and egregious errors that seriously undermine the report's credibility. The SUNY board should take steps to regain the public trust by pursuing transparency and accountability and implementing policies that ensure that this does not happen again."

"SUNY should stand for academic integrity, and the University at Buffalo should not be given a pass on the irregularities in its new Shale Institute," said Martha McCluskey, Professor of Law and William J. Magavern Fellow at the University of Buffalo. "The University decided to launch the Institute by giving the University's official endorsement, special funding and special publicity to a report issued by non-UB authors, without disclosing the authors' conflicts of interest and financial ties, and without open procedures or criteria for selecting this industry-tied outside research for extraordinary internal support. The serious questions this raises about UB's commitment to academic excellence and independence are especially troubling given that the University failed to disclose that it was at the same time soliciting funding for the Institute from interested industries in exchange for special industry access, and given that neither the University nor its authors have responded to serious charges of the report's misrepresentations of its own data, and given questions about inattention to established policy

and faculty governance in establishing the Institute."

In recent weeks, opposition to fracking has continued to surge, with major protests in New York City and Albany, a poll showing that more people in Upstate New York oppose fracking than support it, and a new television ad highlighting the failure rates with fracking wells.

Continued on Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3

**Patience vs. Laziness
Smoke-free or Still Smoking?
Women and College**

Page 4

Sanctity of Life? Or Insanity?

Page 5

**20 Questions (Faculty)
SGA Welcomes Students to Fall Semester**

Page 6

**20 Questions (Meet the Student)
BCC 2012 Election News Source**

Page 7

**The Doctor Is In
Transfer Prep 101: Prepare for Change**

Page 8

Successful Student Secrets

Page 9

The Right Consultants

Page 10

Advice, Consejos for ESL Students

Page 11

Finding Solace amongst Chaos

Page 12

**Courtroom Diaries
Politics from an Astrological Point of View
What Games to Avoid This Semester?**

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:
communiaper@gmail.com

Notes:

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

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

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

Fall 2012 Insertion Dates

November issue
Monday, October 16th

December issue
Tuesday, November 20th

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

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BCC community.

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Contact us at 718.289.5314
to schedule an appointment.

CALL TO CUNY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MULTI MEDIA ART & WRITING COMPETITION:

THE END OF POVERTY :

What will it look like? How will we get there?

PRIZES ...

- 1 year appointment as ICIS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE to the U.N.
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- Participation in an EXHIBIT in the John Jay College President's Gallery with the option of participating in a fund-raising auction & sharing in the proceeds
- Receipt of the ICIS FUTURE AWARD at a GALA at John Jay in fall 2012

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST...

- Submit a work of art and an accompanying 30 to 300 word essay exploring solutions to "the end of poverty" & responding to the question: "what would it look like and how do we get there?" (individual & collaborative submissions accepted)
- Students should consult with a faculty mentor(s) before submitting work and essay
- 30-300 word essays must be submitted as Word files. Accompanying original art should be submitted as follows only:
 - poetry, film, music, drama & performance: electronic file—5 minutes max length
 - 2-dimensional art: 3 x 4 feet max size; must initially be submitted as jpeg or pdf
- Submissions must be labeled with student name(s), CUNY ID #, email/contact information, & CUNY faculty mentor name(s).
- It will be the responsibility of each applicant to make sure that the submission is complete & meets requirements above. *Submissions that do not include both a work of art and the required 30-300 word essay will be disqualified.*
- Submissions MUST be emailed to futureaward@icisonline.org by 10/26/12
- Finalists will be notified by November 5, 2012; winning 2-dimensional art (3 x 4 feet max) must be delivered to the John Jay College Department of Art & Music @ 899 Tenth Ave @ 59th St., Rm. 325T, New York, NY 10019 on November 6 or 7 between 9am & 3pm.



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BCC Speaks

Patience vs. Laziness

By Alex Luma

According to George Savile*, “A man who is a master of patience is a master of everything else.” However, patience should not be confused with laziness. Meanings can be twisted to make both coincide with one another. For example, laziness can be defined as the patience for the will to do more or better. Unless patience is derivative of hope, it freezes in development and becomes inactive or dull. The larger and more intense the volcano of patience, the worse the lava is when the volcano erupts.

When is the time to be patient in aspects of our lives and when should we refuse patience and take a stand to speed up the elemental turntables of destiny spinning at constant? It is rudimentary knowledge that there are times when patience is the best option and there are also times when patience is not acceptable, which is debatable from different viewpoints. The mind is a complexly unique feature that everyone has a different version of. When it comes to important choices or life-changing decisions, patience has the tendency to either shape shift into laziness or fear.

Do not let laziness consume you because it ends up making you lose precious and valuable time that you cannot get back. Don't waste time that you could use fighting for the very thing that sets off your inner fire. Have patience for better methods and better opportunities but at the same time, do not be too lazy to go searching for them yourself. We were all created with feet to leave lasting footprints in the world. We were all created with minds to be able to learn and to use that knowledge to further develop ourselves and think for ourselves. We are not perfect but by mastering patience and neglecting laziness, the world could be full of a lot more incredible wonders.

**George Savile was a benevolent English politician of impeccable character, whose heart was founded on ethics and principles of universal directness and fairness.*



BCC Students, Anti-Fracking Activists Attend SUNY Board of Trustees Meeting

Continued from Page 1

About New Yorkers Against Fracking

New Yorkers Against Fracking is a coalition of diverse organizations that support a fracking ban, and we are joining together to tell Governor Cuomo and our leaders in Albany to stand up for New Yorkers to keep our water and our state safe by banning hydrofracking.

Founding members of New Yorkers Against Fracking include statewide and national organizations like Citizen Action of New York, New York State Breast Cancer Network, Food & Water Watch, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Frack Action, Water Defense, United for Action and the Working Families Party joining with local grassroots anti-fracking groups and business in each part of the state such as Brewery Ommegang, Frack-Free Catskills and Fingerlakes Clean Waters Initiative and many more. The full list of over 100 organizations can be found at: <http://www.nyagainstfracking.org/members>.

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., author, biologist, advocate and recent winner of the prestigious Heinz Award for her life's work, donated a significant portion of her award to help prevent fracking in New York – providing the seed money for this effort. Diagnosed with cancer in her youth, Steingraber is a central voice in the fight against fracking and has devoted her career to understanding the ways in which chemical contaminants in air, water and food endanger human health. She serves as an honorary member of the New Yorkers Against Fracking advisory committee. Joining Steingraber as honorary advisory committee members are Niagara native, former Love Canal resident and founder of Center for Health, Environment and Justice Lois Gibbs and outspoken anti-fracking advocate and upstate resident and actor Mark Ruffalo, co-founder of Water Defense.

Smoke-free or Still Smoking?

By C. Lionel Spencer

On September 4, 2012 BCC, along with all CUNY campuses state-wide, went smoke-free. The policy disallows the use of any tobacco products, both non-smokeable and smokeable, on campus. It even restricts the use of “smoking-related accessories” such as electronic cigarettes, pipes, and herbal cigarettes (which I didn't know existed), to name a few, from being brought on campus by faculty, students, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors. This means there is to be no smoking anywhere on campus – “This includes building entrances and exits, playing fields and parking lots, and all vehicles on college properties, and within all college vehicles at any location.” The policy also bans the promotion, marketing and advertising of any kind of tobacco-related materials. Sounds pretty strict, right? I'll let you be the judge.

If you are one of those students or faculty that feel like the policy is too harsh to obey, and decide to continue to smoke on campus, there are consequences: “First-time non-compliant smokers (NCS) will be documented and encouraged to voluntarily participate in a BCC Individual or Group Smoking Cessation Program (BIGSC) [*See “Resources: Tobacco Use Cessation Programs”]. Second-time non-compliant smokers will be documented and required to participate in an individual or group smoking cessation program with validation of completion. Third-time non-compliant smokers will be documented and required to participate in ongoing, free smoking cessation programs on or off the campus with validation of completion [*See “Resources: Tobacco Use Cessation Programs”]. Fourth-time non-compliant smokers may be required to go before the Code of Conduct Committee.”

Here's what Healthnet.com says about the results of smoking and second-hand smoke:

“According to the America Cancer Society, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fires and AIDS combined.” Furthermore, “Exposure to secondhand smoke, also called environmental tobacco smoke or passive smoking, includes exhaled smoke from others, as well as smoke from burning cigarettes. Studies have shown that secondhand smoke causes thousands of deaths in non-smokers each year through lung cancer and heart disease.”

“According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, secondhand smoke causes about 3,000 deaths from lung cancer and about 46,000 deaths from heart disease every year. There is no safe amount of secondhand smoke. The more you are around it; the more likely you are to be affected by it.”

I asked a couple of students about the smoke-free policy and how they thought it was going and here are their responses:

Yosleidys, a liberal arts psychology option major, and her friend Raadha, a liberal arts education option major, both agreed that they have not seen anyone smoking on campus. When asked if they believe the policy is being enforced they both responded, “YES!”

Ifetayo, an accounting major said, “I don't see people smoking a lot on campus. You might see one person here or there but not much.” When asked if she feels the smoke-free policy has made a difference on campus she responded by saying, “Yeah, less pollution.” Places and things on campus “don't smell like smoke.”

I'm glad some of my fellow students are feeling comfortable about the smoking policy and how it's being enforced because I'm not. The smoking policy on the BCC website makes it clear that the consequences are as such because “BCC smokers are also viewed as people with a dependency on tobacco and who may need support, empathy, encouragement, and a ‘friendly’ reminder to not smoke on campus or school property.” I don't disagree that smokers should be seen “as people with a dependency,” but like what was stated before “tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin... combined.” I still see a considerable number of students on campus smoking as they stroll to class on or stand in front of building entrances. The consequences in my opinion are painless. I would definitely refrain from considering smokers criminals, but something more must be done. This issue of smoking shouldn't be seen through the same lenses as the issue with cocaine and heroin because cocaine and heroin don't harm the person sitting or walking right next to them. Cigarettes are held in the smokers' hand, but smoke travels making it an issue of health all by itself. The man or woman who continues to smoke on campus shows no respect for the health of their fellow student – their fellow students' children who stay on this campus and the faculty that serve us.

Smoke-free, not yet, I look forward to the day we actually are.

*http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/TobaccoFree/?page=Tobacco-Free_Campus_Policy



Women and College

By Aziza Ingram

I recently came across an article about an Iranian university banning women from certain fields of study. This struck a nerve for me as I am a woman in the process of obtaining a degree. The article led me to ask myself, “What if my college was to tell me some classes were off limits?” This internal question infuriated me, but I continued on with the reading.

In “Iran university course ban ‘bid to curb female freedoms,’” Michael Theodoulou writes that 36 Iranian universities are banning women from taking many subjects in the hopes of undermining the progress of women and their movement. In Iran, as in the U.S., female students both outnumber and outperform their male counterparts. This, for Iran, is a problem. More women in higher education equates to more women working and less women having many children. While attending Kean University's Annual Conference on Human Rights last spring, I learned that when women are educated they have fewer children. The education can be formal or informal, in a college classroom or learning to grow food for your family, yet the results are the same. Knowledge acts as a form of family planning or birth control. This concept is easy to understand and is the motivation for limiting educational access in Iranian universities.

The country is currently facing a decline in both marriages and births. The reason is that the women have new priorities, themselves! This has propelled the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to beg married couples to have more babies to address the decline in birth rate and offset the aging population. That is a ridiculous request that will create more problems.

Back to my earlier question: what would I do if I were being faced with the situation in Iran at home? Would I protest the concept? Would I change my educational goals or just go with the flow? Well, I am a strong-minded individual who takes pride in what I have set to accomplish. I very well may have started or joined a protest, while also weighing my options. But in secret, I would research my online educational opportunities. The article says that may be what women of Iran may end up doing. This is an option because the government will have a very hard time restricting it. It may also be a way to get more women together to protest in greater numbers.

More women learning is vital to the progress of a nation and the sustainability of families. In poor countries, women with some sort of education tend to manage money for families better than their husbands. Priorities for most mothers lie in feeding the family, providing clean and safe living conditions and getting children off to school. In contrast, men tend to spend money on alcohol or drugs and prostitutes. Imagine how men and women compare in developed countries.

In the United States there is a huge initiative to encourage girls to study the sciences and math. Our country can clearly see the value in women and girls when it comes to propelling our nation forward. What is it in the minds of those running Iran? Are they so concerned with the population decreasing and dying off that they cannot see the importance in allowing women to continue to get a well-rounded education? Countries become richer and more capable with women more in control of their own minds. I hope the women of Iran will not give up on getting the educations they deserve and are entitled to. I also hope that women in our own country will strive to succeed in education and share it with those that are not able to do so.

BCC Speaks

Sanctity of Life? Or Insanity?

By Aziza Ingram

When does life begin? This question is being argued in the Philippines, Canada, and the United States. Some say it begins when you take your first breath. Others would argue that it's when a fetus has a heartbeat. What would you venture to say? A handful of Republicans are trying to make a law that defines when life begins, making ending that life (abortion) a crime for anyone involved in the process, including the mother, doctor, nurse and possibly the person who accompanies you, a criminal. This is an absurd gesture and one that is struggling to take shape but worth mentioning as it will affect many Americans.

The Sanctity of Life or Human Life Bill was first introduced to in the Senate in 1981 by Senator Jesse Helms (R) and recently re-introduced by Congressman Ron Paul (R) in March 2011. Sixty-four members of the House of Representatives co-sponsored this effort, including Todd Akin and Governor Mitt Romney's running mate, Paul Ryan.

This bill seeks to overturn the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* and make two new declarations. The first defines a human being's life as beginning at conception or fertilization. The second states that said human being is protected by the 14th Amendment. Akin and Ryan both want it to go a step further and define rape for cases where an abortion may be performed. "Forcible rape" victims would be allowed to have an abortion if that rape resulted in pregnancy, but not be allowed in the case of "statutory rape" or incest rape of a person over the age of 18. I would venture to ask both Ryan and Akin, "In what case is rape not a forcible act?" The answer given by both has been when a woman is drugged or has limited mental capacity.

So, why is this important? As we live today, abortion is a legal act that a girl or woman is legally allowed to obtain in the event that one is needed. Sometimes an abortion is absolutely necessary. A rape or incestuous attack can result in a pregnancy.

Some women may choose to go to term with that pregnancy, but others may find that idea psychologically impossible to deal with. There are other instances when carrying a child could be detrimental to the life of the mother. A decision must be made in that regard. If the Human Life Bill were to become law, what would the above mentioned

women have to deal with?

The crime committed against her may be punished by having the rapist or attacker imprisoned, but the victim could face jail time too if she wanted to terminate the pregnancy under the proposed bill. To be victimized twice, once by the perpetrator and then by government, could open the door to illegal and unsafe terminations.

In another scenario, a woman needs to terminate a pregnancy because her life is at risk. She goes through with the abortion and is punished multiple times. First, she emotionally condemns her own actions. Second, her family may alienate her for her choice. Third, the doctor and nurse to provide the necessity are charged, arrested and convicted. Lastly, the friend that drove her to and from the appointment is also charged.

How many lives would this bill affect? In most of the reading I have done in regards to this matter, several have suggested that the passing of this bill would not only make abortion a crime, but it could also target the IVF procedure that has been used for the last thirty years to help infertile individuals achieve the goal of parenthood. One ironic part of this is: Mitt Romney has five sons, several of whom have used IVF to create his grandchildren. Ryan is a supporter of this bill. The passage of this bill into law could make future grandchildren for Mr. Romney a criminal act.

The potential of this bill passing in the House is projected at less than one percent. Yet, we must talk about this issue for two reasons. The first is that the Supreme Court has already determined that women are allowed to choose what they do with their bodies and that they also have a right to privacy in regards to that decision. The second, no less important, is that we elect the people that are in the rooms coming up with these absurd ideas to present as potential law of the land. We all need to think harder before checking or punching a particular box on Election Day. The sponsors and co-sponsors of this proposed bill were all elected to the seats in the House and the Senate.

I guess the better question to ask is, "Who voted to put these people in office?" and "Am I friends with any of them?"

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Noon - How to Use Social Media to Find a Job
1 PM - Preparing for a Career Change



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PETE DeLUCIA IN SEN. ADDABBO'S DISTRICT OFFICE AT (718) 738-1111



Music, Cupcakes with DJ Jynn
Wednesday, September 19th
RBSC 211, 1:30 PM

Celebrate the first week of Hispanic Heritage Month at BCC with DJ Jynn playing the best Merengue, Bachata, Salsa and Reggaeton and enjoy free delicious Dulce de Leche cupcakes

Freshman Convocation: Keynote address by
Desiree Vargas-Wrigley, CEO of GiveForward
Thursday, September 27th
GML auditorium, 12 - 2 PM

Ensemble performance: La Tribu, an Afro-Caribbean ensemble and arts in education company led by Juan Usera, celebrates the Afro-Puerto Rican traditions of bomba and plena. La Tribu plays a combination of traditional and original songs with unique arrangements that range from plena tipica jazz standards. (Sponsored by Department of Art & Music)

Coqui the Chef Cooking Demonstration
Tuesday, October 2nd
RBSC cafeteria 2nd floor, 4:30 - 5:30 PM

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

Illegal Immigration: Humanitarian Solutions; an
Interactive Presentation by Jesus Nebot
Wednesday, October 3rd
RBSC 211, 12:30 PM

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

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day
Monday, October 15th

On National Latino AIDS Awareness Day leaders from across the nation demand a heightened federal response to the threat of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community. <http://www.nlaad.org>

Felipe Galindo Art Exhibition
Monday, September 17th to
Wednesday, October 17th

Bliss Hall, Art Gallery 10AM - 2 PM

The College community is welcome to an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Mexican visual artist, Felipe Galindo. Felipe is an artist who writes and illustrates books for children dealing with the interchange between Mexican and American cultures. His projects include fine art, public art, illustration, cartoons and animation. (Sponsored by Department of Art & Music)

Sonido Isleno in Concert with Herencia Judia
Monday, October 22nd
GML Auditorium, 4 PM

Sonido Isleno Latin music's cutting-edge musician/scholar returns with Herencia Judia, a spiritually deep yet ear-pleasing recording that is inspired by the vast musical traditions of the Spanish Caribbean and the equally vast body of Jewish liturgical music. (sponsored by Department of Art & Music)

Latina Confessions Screening followed by Q&A with
Producer/Director Louis E. Perego Moreno (Tio Louie)
Wednesday, October 24th
RBSC 211, 12 PM

What does it mean to be Latina in the US? These are stories that Latinas don't share easily. Latina Confessions is a documentary about Latinas who share their inner most fears and expose the demons they wrestle to an audience who may or may not be Latino, but can certainly relate with the concept of not fitting in.

Multimedia Presentation Afro-Latino
Connections with Playwrite and Producer
David Lamb
Friday, October 26th
RBSC Playhouse, 12-2 PM

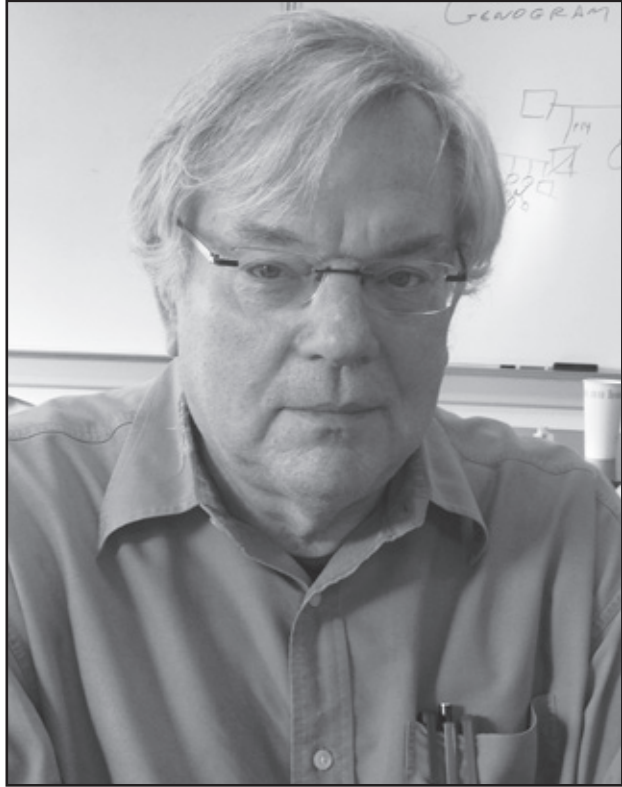
Afro-Latino Connections from Latin Jazz to Hip Hop with David Lamb playwrite and producer of the hit play Platanos Y Collard Greens. David is the creative force behind the hit play, Platanos Y Collard Greens. David was raised in public housing in Astoria, Queens. He attended Hunter College, Princeton University and New York University School of Law. While working on Wall Street he wrote the novel, Do Platanos Go Wild? Collard Greens to explore the stereotypes African-Americans and Latinos hold of each other.

Sponsored by the Office of Student Life,
the Department of Art & Music &
the Student Government Association

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CU NY

BCC Office of Communications & Marketing 10/11/2012

Campus News



Close your eyes. Let your thoughts go away, all your cares, all concerns, and all your worries. Listen to your heartbeat. Place all your attention on your heartbeat. Meditation. This is the very first thing that Professor Roger Cunningham has his Saturday afternoon psychology class do before getting started. He believes this helps his students focus better in class if they've released all their stress beforehand. He believes strongly in contemplative education, which is the integrating of rational, sensory and reflective ways of knowing. Here's my interview.

What brought you to BCC?

Well, they had a job opening. I had done an event here a number of years ago. I worked with a Thorn Hill project and I brought my clients up here so they could get a sense of the campus and going to college and every thing like that. And I just fell in love with the campus so as soon as I saw there was a position I applied for it. Plus, I really loved the campus.

What's kept you here at BCC?

The campus, and I love the student body. I love working in this community.

20 Questions

By C. Lionel Spencer

What's your favorite spot on campus?

The Hall of Fame.

What's the last goal you set that you achieved?

I think it's organizing the Dream Table to become a club on campus.

Nature or nurture?

Well, it's a blend of the both. You know, you are who you are, you know. Part of your mom, part of your dad but there's still the environment: how you've grown up, and how you're raised—so it's a blend of the both.

Do you feel like who you are more nature or nurture or fifty fifty?

I'd still say fifty fifty.

What have been your best job, worst job and first job?

Well, the worst job was working for the Board of Education; that was absolute hell. I don't know how anybody does it; I wouldn't even think about it again. I think the best job is teaching in college. Well, I guess with a having a tent out there for the library dedication, my uncle used to own a tent and awning company. I used to put up tents on fairgrounds, county fairs and things like that.

What was your last meal?

What was my last meal? I had the macaroni and cheese in the cafeteria.

We're doing a movie about your life, who would you like to play you?

Jack Nicholson

What advice would you give your twenty-year-old self?

Patience.

What's the last book that you read?

I don't even know the name of it but it's a book on dreams by a union of psychologists.

Who or what is your favorite character from fiction?

It would have to be Sal Paradise from *On the Road*.

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Half full.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Well, I think I'll still be teaching and I hope I'm living part time in the country. I think that's it.

What country?

As upstate New York or something like that, in the woods, not a foreign country.

What is one thing that you would fix on campus?

I would put William Jackson in the Hall of Fame.

Six-word autobiography?

That's too hard, what's next.

Any advice you would give psychology majors?

Let me see (then he looks into his bag to pull out a red binder). There is the absolute best laboratory as far as we know it at least in the whole cosmos which you have access to, because the absolute best laboratory in the whole cosmos which has a direct line into where everything is, that's a human being, and you have that with you, so anything that comes out of that laboratory has great possibilities, really even if it looks like a small thing.

Do you have a favorite place to travel to?

Vermont.

Do you have a favorite monster?

Jonah Hex. He's a Civil War character that came back from the dead. He's one of the comic heroes.

Tell me a joke.

If you have twenty cents in your left pocket and you put it in your right pocket, what do you call that? *Change shift*. Paradigm shift.

That's it, unless you want to give the six-word autobiography a shot again.

Good, what do people say to that?

One person said, snide optimist city kid goes forth. I said, I am the evolution of creativity.

That one's good; I'm an explorer of inner space.

SGA Welcomes Students to Fall Semester

By Elone Winston

The 2012-13 Student Government Association (SGA) would like to welcome everyone to the fall semester. We would also like to say a very big hello to our freshman class. Thank you for choosing Bronx Community College, and we hope you enjoy your stay here.

SGA is the voice of the BCC student body. We take our complaints and suggestions to decision-makers at the College. There are fifteen (15) senators elected by the student body and five (5) executives elected by the 15 fifteen senators. The Executive Board is made of the President (Ruqayah Zuhair, 212 Meister Hall); Vice President, who is also the IOC Chair, (Cory Anthony Vendryes, 214 Meister Hall); Legal Legislator (Natasha Afranie, 209 Meister Hall); Treasurer (Brian Alleyne, 212 Meister Hall); and Executive Secretary (Elone Winston, 209 Meister Hall). The offices are open Monday through Saturday; feel free to stop by to talk to us. We are also open for the convenience of evening and weekend students.

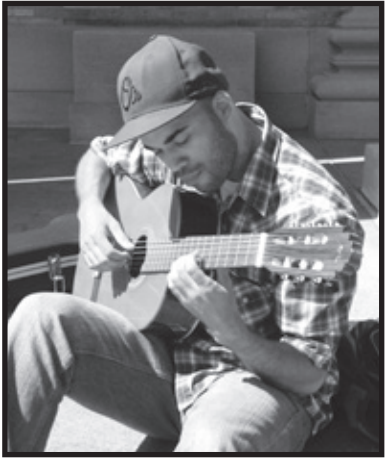
Our goals this year include:

- supporting scholarships for international/non-resident students as well as resident students,
- lobbying for more affordable textbook prices,
- using Student Activity Fees to support strong co-curricular programs and supportive services for students,
- supporting student clubs and organizations, and
- collaborating with BCC administration, faculty, and staff on all matters affecting students.

We believe that “together, we can build school spirit through empowerment.”



Campus News



While bolting to Philosophy Hall on my way to work, I walked past a few students sitting on the steps of Gould Memorial Library, and one of them was holding a guitar. Initially, I continued

past them, late for work. But after considering how interesting this 20 questions article could be, I decided to walk back. I asked the guitar man if he'd be sitting there in five minutes while I dropped my things off and came back for the interview. He said yes. So I went to the Writing Center, dropped my bag, came back and interviewed him. Meet Luis.

How old are you?

I don't what to say. Leave that unknown.

What brought you to BCC?

Music. Music. My passion has always been music. I plan to attend City College as music major. I was an EMT for awhile so my other passion is medicine so I also intend to take pre-med courses at City College. So music and medicine but, most of all, music.

What's your major?

Liberal Arts.

What are your favorite class and worst class?

My best class was biology I took with my friend here. Yeah, my favorite teacher was Professor Akkaraju. She taught us Biology 24; I got an A+ in that. And my worst class was Chemistry 11. I had to drop it because the professor I had would go on tangents and would never stick to the subject; he'd start somewhere, end somewhere else, and I would just be lost. Plus the subject is difficult so that didn't help.

What's your favorite place on campus?

My favorite place on campus is actually behind the little red brick building on the other side, kind of across from the little garden. There are some steps there; it's pretty quiet and it's always shady.

20 Questions (Meet the Student)

By Corey Lionel Spencer

What was your last Facebook status?

I don't have Facebook.

What's the last movie you saw?

I have a really bad memory, man. I'm sorry; I know I saw something recently. Oh, *Dark Shadows* with Johnny Depp, that vampire movie. It's a comedy about a vampire in the 70's; it's alright.

I see that you play the guitar, so who's your favorite guitarist?

My favorite guitarist is the lead guitarist of a progressive rock band the Mars Volta. His name is ... I can't believe I forgot his name; he's a Puerto Rican dude with a big Afro. Omar Rodriguez Lopez. He's insane, he's left handed, and he's amazing.

Have you ever heard of Raul Midon?

Yeah, he's blind and has an amazing trumpet he does with his mouth.

What semester are you in?

I believe it's my third. I forget. Honestly.

What would be your perfect Saturday night?

I don't know man. I don't really go out much. He's right [referring to a friend who was standing nearby]; I'm pretty anti-social. (laughs) Well, he's a good guy so I socialize with him.

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

None of them; I think celebrities are a fiction of society. Who are you to be better than me?

Are you a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

Neither; they all have their good and bad things. Even Independents lean toward one side. I would say more so I'm liberal than anything else.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

To live forever. [Not a bad choice I must say.]

What's the last book you read?

I'm currently reading the life story of Che Guevara, but I haven't finished it. It's ridiculously big. They say he's communist but he's more of a socialist, the guy who

helped Fidel Castro overthrow Batista in Cuba in 1950's or 60's.

Where do you see yourself in one year?

In City College taking music.

What would fix the world?

I know this is going to sound really bad but a strong, strong, control of overpopulation. It's messed up that some people have to be negated and have no chance at life because you can't have children cause the world just cannot sustain as many people that live here. There are 7 billion people in the planet, 7 billion, recently. It's an estimate. It is not exactly, maybe it is, but I honestly believe a stem in population growth would fix the world's problem. But how would you choose?

Who was your favorite teacher?

Professor Akkaraju; she teaches Bio 24 and I believe Bio 11. She is lucid, precise and an amazing human being.

Most embarrassing moment?

I don't know man. I don't know. I'm not saying I'm perfect that I don't have any; I just can't think of any. I'm sure I've messed up somewhere in life.

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

None, that's too much responsibility; I can handle myself.

If you hear some guitar playing by Gould Memorial Library, it might be Luis. If you walk along the quiet, shady area by South Hall watch out for this guy, sitting alone, reading Che Guevara still. There was so much more to this interview: more opinions, world views and jokes because it was more like a conversation among friends. If you want to know more about Luis, when you see ask him a question. I'm almost positive what you hear will be beyond what you expect.

BCC 2012 Election News Source

By Untwain Fyffe

Among the handful surveyed, BCC students rely on their handheld electronic devices and television news for this year's presidential election updates. Luckily for some, popular stations like *CNN*, *MSNBC*, and *Fox News*, to name a few, have integrated the two by creating online apps. This leaves BCC students with another convenient (and perhaps easily accessible) continuous feed of information on President Obama and Governor Romney. So I approached students in Colston Hall and the Roscoe Brown Student Center to question their source of political news.

Would you agree that the most impatient college students can be found standing in line for the financial aid office? I think so, and it proved to be a good place to look. And so I approached one of many.

Antoine Stewart practically invited me just by standing there with his iPad. That, in addition to looking oblivious to the long wait ahead of him, he was the first to be questioned.

Q: Is this how you get your 2012 election news?

A: Yes. *The New York Times* iPad application is relatively free of charge and is therefore a great choice for any college student in consideration.

Antoine gets the latest breaking news, quotes and speech summaries from both candidates directly onto his iPad. It is an excellent and reliable news source for any voter. After admitting to me that he was a political science major, I was quick to press him for feedback on any recent *NYT* election-related news that came to mind. He feels domestic issues such as education, the economy, and same-sex marriage will continue to be addressed and debated between both candidates. President Obama made public his support for same-sex marriage in an interview with *Good Morning, America* host Robin Roberts. Obama campaigned against the increase of college student's Stafford loans (which was set to go up July 1, 2012) and made popular the hashtag #DontDoubleMyRate. On the other hand, Romney is against same-sex marriage, plans to lower student-awarded Pell grants, and it's no secret that the governor intends to give tax breaks to the wealthy. Antoine supports the incumbent candidate. "Obama will get my vote," he said.

In contrast to Antoine, dietetics and nutrition science major, Padmawattie Perkal watches the local news to get her daily report on this year's presidential election. Mrs. Perkal is aware of right-winged stations like *Fox News* and chooses to balance out the

Obama bashing with left-winged stations like *MSNBC*. She admits to not actively seeking out President Obama or Mitt Romney's position on international conflict; however, Mrs. Perkal confessed she has an excellent sense of both candidates' position on issues more directly impactful to her, such as immigration, health care, jobs and taxes. Also, a supporter of education for similarly ambitious students, Mrs. Perkal says Obama is better in that regard. He will get her vote this coming November.

So it seems Obama supporters are stable no matter the news source. BCC is situated in a Democratic state, so an overwhelming support for President Obama is expected. But perhaps in the case of student support for Mitt Romney, the news source may be different. Only one of the students I questioned favored the Romney/Ryan camp. She remains anonymous in name but admits to getting her news from damn near everywhere. You would expect that any "proud supporter of Mitt Romney" who resides in the Bronx, is most likely a registered Republican. Well, remember what you've read. And know that this BCC student will give her vote to Mitt Romney this coming November.

As we near this year's 2012 election date, students are seemingly being pressed to make up their minds. Where are you getting your election news? As long as your source is credible (e.g., *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *NYT* iPad app, NY1, etc.), it shouldn't bar you from voting. October 12, 2012 was the last day to get registered to vote. TV ads, morning and nightly news, social media, and local/worldwide publications – take your pick on news source. College students played an important role in electing our 44th president. Be mindful of the record number of young voters in the 2008 election. According to Carnegie Mellon Universities' *The Titan*, "the election of 2008 was historic. Students who cast a vote in Tuesday's presidential election were part of the largest ever group in their age bracket to support a single candidate, and the second largest youth voter movement in American history...Between 22 and 24 million young Americans ages 18-29 voted." Together, we contribute to a significant number of the voting population.

Know that Obama continues to speak of this at campaign rallies, when he said to students at Iowa State University on August 28, 2012, "Your vote matters. Your votes made a difference". We've come to another important presidential election and all voters should feel appreciative to have a voice – use it! Tuesday November 6, 2012 is your time to vote.

Campus News

The Doctor Is In!

By Aziza Ingram



Most BCC students will know the Department of Modern Languages as most programs require two semesters of a foreign language. But did you know that there is a new woman in charge? The new department chair is Dr. Laurel Cummins. Madam Cummins is a seasoned professor with eighteen years under her professional *chapeau* and she has been at BCC for eight years. The well-deserved new chair obtained her bachelor's degree in French, a master's in French literature and linguistics, and a Ph.D. in French literature. In order to accomplish all those degrees, she had to study hard, live in Paris, write a dissertation, and be committed to finishing.

On that note, Madam Cummins is the *parfait* person to meet the needs of her students. She is a warm professor who understands the demands and challenges of learning a language. When anything ails you, from issues in your language class to

applying for an upper-level independent study or finding out about language exemption, Dr. Cummins is the one to see.

If you have already met her, you know of what I speak. If not, go on down to Colston 200 and see the doctor.

TRANSFER PREP 101:

Prepare for Change

James Levine was right when he said that a lot of people are impatient with the pace of change. Change is a very big thing, whether it's referring to changing attitudes, changing locations or even changing a five-dollar bill into singles when you need that soda from the vending machine that you've been thirsting for all day. Regardless, change is inevitable. It's a gift, sometimes straightforward, sometimes work-demanding. But today I'm not writing about the type of change where you improve your cologne or get a new hairstyle. I'm talking about the work-demanding change like transferring from one institution into another.

Most of you have heard of the Career and Transfer Services Department located in Loew Hall, Room 330. If not, you should get to know the staff there. A few of the responsibilities of the department include, but are not limited to:

- transfer planning and advisement,
- researching and selecting an appropriate major for college, college recruitment events, and
- assistance with admissions essays.

Now, after reading my previous article [September 2012], you already have a general idea of the basics. For example, an estimated time length of the whole transfer process is 8-10 weeks, when it comes to CUNY schools. Also, the general transfer admission deadline for the following semester is always within the first full month of classes. So, if you plan on doing general transfer admission for next fall, you should get a head start on researching your top schools and finding out what best suits your academic endeavors, which will also give you a head start on next February's transfer deadline. Therefore, when the moment comes that the transfer window opens, you don't have to waste any time.

If you are not transferring to a CUNY school, then you should research the minimum GPA requirement and also the amount of credits that will actually transfer with you to your preferred school of choice. The last thing you want to do is leave all your hard work behind. Also, when transferring to a four-year college from two-year institutions, you must make sure that you have completed at least one 3 credit college-level course in mathematics and English with a grade of "C" or better.

With all this hard work and pre-preparation, when speaking with a transfer advisor, the process won't be that complicatedly agonizing.

Career & Transfer Services
Loew Hall, Room 330

Monday – Thursday
9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Friday
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

IF YOU ARE

CURRENTLY WORKING

AND

RECEIVING FULL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

(Food Stamps, Medicaid, & Cash Assistance – even if you lost it due to employment)

THEN YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE METROCARDS!

VISIT THE C.O.P.E. PROGRAM AT LOEW HALL ROOM 117 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

(718) 289 – 5603



Campus News

Successful Student Secrets

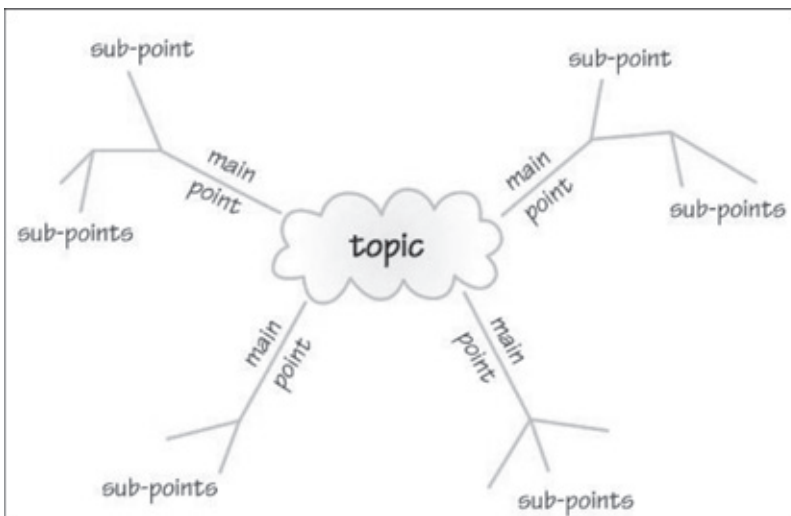
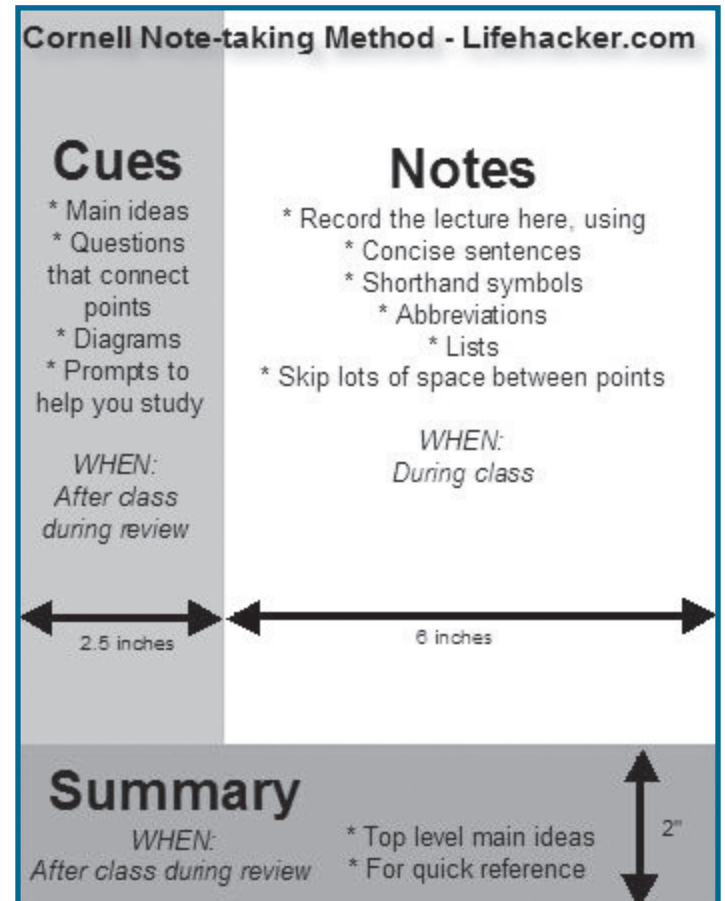
By Aziza Ingram

Can you believe the semester is nearly half finished? It feels like it just started. Last month, I addressed *Communication* and I hope you found it useful. This month I will help you tackle the midterm and the stress that may come from preparing to take it. This month's secret is all about *Preparation*. First, let me tell you that you should approach the midterm as a practice for the final. Study for it the same way you think you will want to prepare for the final. But, use these hints.

NOTE-TAKING

Every professor teaches different classes using different methods or styles of getting the information to you. Some may focus on keywords for the class and others may use a combination of keywords and questions. Below is a way to tackle almost any teaching scenario.

- The keyword "note taking" is simple, and here is how you will know to do this method.
 - The professor typically writes keywords on the board.
 - He or she may put emphasis on keywords by way of tone or gestures.
 - Repetition by the professor also suggests keywords.
- Cornell style may be helpful in a science or art class. This style was developed by Professor Walter Pauk in the '50s at Cornell University and has worked for me in previous English and law classes. This is how it's done:
 - Fold a sheet of paper into thirds
 - Label the right 1/3 of the paper as keywords and questions
 - The left 2/3 of the paper is labeled as notes and it corresponds to the text on the left.
- Mind-mapping is a method that looks very similar to a brainstorm drawing and was made popular by author Tony Buzan. This style could also prove useful for a class like biology. It works like this:
 - Start by writing the subject in the center of the paper and circle it.
 - Draw lines out from the circle and title them as main points.
 - As you continue, create stems from the main ideas with supporting information.



Note taking is a great tool for better and more effective studying. After taking notes you need to do the three R's. Review, recite and rewrite within 24 hours. This helps aid in retention of the information. In his best-selling book *How to Study in College* Dr. Walter Pauk, the creator of Cornell style, says, "One minute spent in immediate review nearly doubles retention of that data."

Once you have mastered your note-taking skills, you can now use them to study. If you prefer to study alone like I do, carry your notes with you wherever you may go. Read them on the bus, subway, standing in line for something or even sitting alone in your locked bathroom. If you find studying alone too solitary, find a friend or classmate and study together. Take turns asking each other questions and see how well you do. Write down the questions you get stuck on and review those. Only focus on what you don't remember so easily.

Now that we've addressed taking notes and studying, what do you do next? The answer is Prepare!

Every student can benefit from what I am about to tell you.

- Get plenty of rest. Sleep is very important. Scientific research has proven that sleep quality and quantity before a test can have a profound effect on your test performance.
- Eat. Feeding your stomach will also fuel your brain. If your test is in the morning, load up on fiber. Have a bowl of Wheaties, oatmeal or a big bowl of fruit. Fiber is brain food. If your test is in the afternoon, you could still eat breakfast or have peanut butter and apple, a handful of berries or even some homemade trail mix.
- Get dressed. This is not the day to dress for the runway. You should wear something comfortable. It is very hard to focus on the task at hand while constantly tugging on an article of clothing. Layer your clothing in the event that the room you test in is unseasonably warm or cold. Bring a scarf, sweater or sweatshirt.
- Be prepared. Bring at least two pencils and a pen. Your exam may be on a Scantron or handwritten. In that case you are ready for both. I also like to bring an eraser, sharpener and a highlighter.
- Breathe and read. When you first get the exam, take a deep breath. You have nearly two hours in most cases to finish. It is not a race to see who finishes first. Read the exam thoroughly. If you have any questions about wording or have any confusion, ask the professor for clarification.
- The Exam. Fill in the circles correctly (if it's a Scantron). Write clearly and legibly if it's a written exam.
- Re-examine. Make sure there are no stray marks (Scantron). Check your work. Make sure you have answered all the questions. If it is an essay exam, check for spelling and punctuation.
- Hand it in. Now you can breathe a sigh of relief. It is over now and you can look at the grade you receive and know what you need to improve on for the final exam.

After you have received your grade, take time to re-evaluate your performance. Did you get the grade you aimed for? If not, ask yourself a series of questions.

- Did you take great notes?
- Did you study hard and long enough?
- Did you get quality sleep the night before? Did you eat a brain feeding meal before the exam?

Look at all the ways you can improve and make the changes. If you find yourself in a bind on note taking there are several things more that you can do. Swing by the Learning Center in Sage Hall and watch the thirty-minute video on note taking. Ask your professor to look over the notes you take. He or she will be able to tell you what is missing or where you can make improvements. Lastly, take your notes to the tutor for the subject at hand. Tutors are here on campus as peers to help you hone in on your skills.

Campus News

The Right Consultants

By C. Lionel Spencer

On August 15, 2012 at a group of BCC students, former and current Student Government Association members and I were invited by the President Berotte Joseph's office to sit down with Dr. Fran White, a retired community college president, and Dr. Eleanor Brown, a retired vice chancellor and vice president of student affairs. Both are community college graduates who currently live out of state. The goal was to acquire information on how to improve the BCC Department of Student Development and what will make the average BCC student successful. After the introductions, the consultants asked the first question and the consultation began.

Dr. Eleanor Brown opened by saying, "We all know that one of the important things is how do you get started, so how would you rate the quality of advising, counseling, career information, financial aid, food services, bookstore, and admissions? All of those pieces, that those are the pieces that help get you into college and help you stay here."

One student spoke up, saying, "Well, advisement can be tricky depending on who you get. Some people know exactly how to guide you directly on your curriculum; some people throw you off. I've been advised wrongly twice, I've taken four classes that I never needed because of wrong advisement and being pointed in the opposite direction, and people pass the buck. If they don't have the answer they'll send you to another office, and when you get over there, they send you somewhere else and when you get over there no one has an answer."

Then, the SGA Vice President Cory Vendryes chimed in, "There's not a proper dissemination of information. BCC has a wealth of information but it's not clear who knows what...but we need to know what is where because there's a lot of information here. The campus is good in that respect but it's not disseminated what is where and who knows what; if that's fixed these problems wouldn't be. There's a disjoint between the various faculties."

One gentleman, slouched in his seat softly said, "That's common. And another issue that other students brought up to me is the cafeteria. It's pretty expensive. They're serving community college students, residents in the Bronx; a lot of students have a hard time financially affording it." "In comparison, to add to that, I have a couple of friends that go to Lehman College and are prices lower," I added.

Dr. Fran White joined the conversation with the following question: What about the quality? One of the students jumped in, saying, "We have three options; sandwich, salad or cookie." [I thought this response was hilarious.] While she was saying this, SGA Legal Legislator Natasha Afraine simultaneously said, "Sandwich, soup and coffee." [You had to be there.]

Former SGA President Tricia Warren shed some light surrounding the cafeteria prices. She explained that there has been an ongoing asbestos problem that has prevented the preparation of hot food on campus. Since we now get our food prepared and delivered from off campus, there is a price change that comes along with that. There was mention of contracts, price codes and change of management, but she ended by saying, "Now we were told it's supposed to be better coming this September, so we are keeping our fingers crossed and if nothing happens, you will still hear us crying because we have been crying, shouting, and screaming."

Another student added these comments: "And honestly when we get on campus, it's like we're on an island. Because once we get up here, to go down the hill and come back up, you're late for class, your food is

cold, you're anxious, you're sweaty, you're running to class, you barely eat, you try to go the cafeteria to maybe heat it up, you swallow two bits, mind you, you just spent five dollars on a meal you didn't even eat. And it's just having to leave and come back. And then Burnside is not exactly safe. Students have gotten robbed, picked, mugged, and they know who the students are."

Dr. Brown moved to another issue, asking, "That brings up another interesting question, though, regarding safety; do you feel like the campus is safe?" The consensus was, "No. No. The campus is safe; it's just once we leave campus between here and the train station it is not as safe." Another student said, "That's another issue that was brought up this morning: the shuttle busses are there to transport students in the evening but in the afternoon there are still predators out there."

Dr. White moved the conversation to student services, asking, "Do you consider BCC to be student friendly?" The first response was, "It depends on the department. You can go to the CMS department and find out who you have for the next semester. You can go to the sociology department and get the same thing. If you go to the history department, they don't have a clue. If you go to the paralegal department they don't have a clue. Does the biology department know, Dr. White inquired?" "It depends on who you ask," most responded.

Another student added, "So you're not able to view which professor is teaching a class, and she mentioned other schools do this, and they said they don't do that anymore because some students tend to favor other professors that are known to be good professors. So I think they cover that up... and in a way are [okaying] ineffective professors [that] don't have anyone signing up for their classes. Why don't you attack the root of the problem? If nobody wants to take your class, then there's a problem."

Dr. White continued: "So do you go online to register for your classes, and when you go online they list the professor's name." One student stated, "It says staff." Former SGA President Warren continued: "What I was told is two days before the class starts, you should know who your professor is. That's not good because if you sign up for a class, you have to register before the semester starts. Let's say you register for a particular section and a professor that you get is very terrible. You can't drop that class because, if the other sections are full, you're stuck to go through hell for one full semester if you decide to say in that class. And that's not good and that's what the students are complaining about. We have some professors here that are columns of [the] BCC campus and because of their tenure we can't get rid of them."

There were other topics discussed such as the school website, bookstore prices, and the use of books or lack thereof, among other things. I had about fifty minutes of audio to sort through which is resulting in a one-thousand word document.

Our meeting ended with an inquiry about a public document by Dr. White that read: "Student satisfaction at BCC was high in student services." One student responded incredulously, "Where did you read that?"

When it was all said and done, I was proud to sit among my fellow students who stressed the needs of the Bronx Community College student. I think Dr. White and Dr. Brown were thoroughly informed because they brought in the right consultants to listen to the students.

**JOIN
A CLUB**

Campus News



Advice, Consejos for ESL students

By Jose L. Reyes

Want to be fluent in English?

- Yes! Many of you will answer.

- Me, too!

Do you know what things you can do to be fluent?

- Yes? Maybe? No?

- I know a few things and want to share them with you, whether you come from the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, Mali or any other country

where English is not the first language.

As English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL)¹ learners, we all want to be able to speak or write English with fluency. But some of us do not have specific strategies, besides writing and correcting essays in class, to improve our learning experience. On various occasions I have shared with ESL students my experience of learning the English language and the following are some of my “tips” that have helped them and can help you to be fluent in English.

CARRY a paper Longman Dictionary [or use an online dictionary² that gives you example sentences]. I know many students do not like the idea of carrying a paper dictionary in their bags the whole day because the dictionary is a little heavy. Plus, they say, “I have to bring my textbooks and food. It’s too much!” I understand that. However, as we try to learn a new language, we need to look up definitions of words constantly. That is just part of the deal, and I understood that when I was in ESL 02 here at Bronx Community College back in 2005. Since then, you could see me with a green bag, a Longman dictionary inside. Why the Longman Dictionary? Because when I began to read novels, textbooks and articles, I read many idioms³ and phrasal verbs⁴ that I did not understand. And, unfortunately, my English professor was not around me all the time to tell me the meaning of those words. But I could always grab my Longman Dictionary to get the definitions of those idioms and comprehend clearly the phrasal verbs. In fact, this dictionary not only gives you the definition of a word, but also some example sentences to know how to use it. These example sentences are extremely helpful when it comes to using prepositions (e.g.⁵, into, on, up, over) before nouns or after certain verbs because there is no set of specific rules to know how to use all prepositions. It all depends on the context. The preposition **on**, for example, always goes after the verb *focus*, as in the sentence “*Today we focus on that project.*” Nevertheless, you cannot use **on** after the verb *invest*. For the verb *invest*, you need the preposition **in**, as in “*How much time did we invest in that project?*” Why do we use **in** instead of **on** with the verb *invest*? Nobody really knows. That is why having a dictionary with examples of the proper usage of prepositions is very important.

LISTEN to an all-news Radio Station. I like to listen to 1010WINS on the AM radio dial. 1010WINS is a 24/7⁶ radio station with a group of female and male anchors⁷, along with a team of reporters, who alternately report news stories, weather forecasts, sports updates and traffic conditions on the roads of the tri-state area around New York City. Listening to 1010WINS, for instance, is a great idea for ESL students because it sharpens⁸ their listening skills significantly. How does that happen? Let me explain. Every time you listen to one of these anchors and reporters, you get two things: 1) Acoustic discernment⁹ of different tones of voice. As you listen more and more, your sense of hearing will be better, and you will be able to understand other people more clearly, including your high-pitch History professor and your manager who is a rapid speaker with a bass¹⁰ vocal timbre. 2) Different ways to explain **coherently**¹¹ the same event. That means that you can learn reporters’ distinct styles—different ways to say the same news—and absorb well-organized sentences because every single sentence anchors say is edited carefully, so that listeners can get a clear and concise message.

Furthermore, listening to an all-news radio station is highly beneficial because it forces us to rely on meaning to process the news. For example, when we listen to a reporter describing a car accident, we have to construct mentally an image of the accident based on the description we hear. This is a productive, yet painful, cognitive process for an ESL student because, first of all, his or her brain has to get the meaning of the word,

and, then, the brain searches for an image that matches the meaning. Now, because the student does not know the different words one anchor uses in the description of a car accident, the student should listen to other words that other anchors use to describe the same accident. As students listen repeatedly to a variety of words with the same or similar meaning (synonyms), they expand their vocabulary and create a more accurate mental image of the accident.¹²

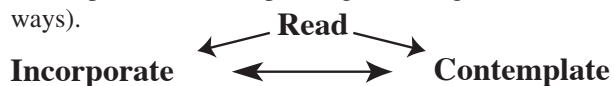
This process is different from watching TV. On TV, we can know easily about the car accident because we not only hear about the accident, but also see images of it. Once we see the images, we do not make any effort in order to create a mental image. Why? Because our eyes decode¹³ those images for us, using vocabulary from our native language, NOT English. Consequently, we learn less English when we watch news on TV than when we listen to it on the radio.

Finally, when you start listening to an all-news radio station, do NOT try to translate what they say. JUST LISTEN. At the beginning, you may feel uncomfortable because you do not understand what they say. But, do not get desperate. As time passes, you will become more patient while listening to the station and then, all of a sudden, you will start understanding more and more and more. Next, in order to get good results, you need to listen to it for at least 1 hour every day, from 6 months to 1 year. Listen to it on your way to school, when you go to the gym, while you are doing the laundry or driving on the highway. Buy a pocket radio and tune to 1010WINS while you are taking a shower. The idea is to find time to listen to an all-news radio station as much as you can.

Now, can you do me a favor? While you are listening to the radio station, please, try not to multitask, especially with tasks that require your hearing sense such as talking in person or over the phone. Also, do not perform tasks that require a certain level of concentration such as texting, writing an essay, or sending an email. The obvious reason is that if you multitask, you will not listen well.

SPEND time on RIC—Reading, Incorporating and Contemplating. Read to learn more about how the English language works. There are many books on English grammar, but I would just recommend two books that have taught me how to structure and develop my writing better and correct my grammatical mistakes. First, *Keys for Writers* by Ann Raimes is a concise¹⁴ handbook that focuses on the process of writing, research documentation styles and grammar. I recommend that you read especially the sections titled “Style,” “Common Sentence Problems” and “Writing across Cultures.” Second, *Grammar, Study and Practice* by David Blot is a booklet with a set of exercises that deal with some of the most common grammatical mistakes ESL students make.

Next, once you read these books, it is time to 1) incorporate knowledge while contemplating OR 2) contemplate while incorporating knowledge (it works both ways).



Incorporating knowledge means applying knowledge (e.g., using a grammatical rule) as you write the first draft of your essay or as you revise other drafts. At the same time, I suggest that you contemplate—“to think seriously for a long (or some) time” about your writing and how to improve it. I know I may be just describing what a natural process of writing and revising is, but I do not think that many ESL students actually take time to look closely (to contemplate) at what they write and how they write it. Nonetheless, the one thing I know is that every time I have spent time contemplating a piece of my writing for 20 minutes or more, I have been able to provide relevant supporting details, come up with more concise and coherent ways to structure my sentences and get rid of unnecessary repetitions. At the same time, I incorporated some knowledge when I corrected fragments¹⁵ and mixed constructions¹⁶. If you spend time on RIC, you will get the same good results.

Are there other tips? Of course.

Write Double-Entry Journals. Draw a line in the middle of a piece of paper and on the left side, describe **in detail** a situation that happens to you during the day. On the right side, write your reaction (how you felt, what ideas or thoughts you have) and if possible, try to connect that situation to other events or activities.

Read *The New York Times*. You do not have to buy it every day. Do like me. Just buy it on one day of

the week and then, read that same newspaper the other days of the week. If you need up-to-date information, go and check *The New York Times* online. I just saved you a couple of dollars. He he he!).

Read books made into movies. Read the book first, watch the movie, and then, read the book again. Powerful combination, isn’t it?

Speak up. Participate in conversation circles, speak with your ESL instructors, gossip, chisme with your English speaking friends and tell them about your culture as much as you can. While you do so, do not be afraid of your accent or afraid of mispronouncing words. Just SPEAK UP! However, be mindful¹⁷ of the areas in which you need to improve. If you, for example, do not pronounce the “ed” at the end of some past tense verbs, then practice pronouncing it out loud.

Above all, be persistent. Becoming fluent in a second language is not easy, but if you have hunger for learning and determination to keep studying, you will master the language.

I hope these tips help you as much as they have helped me.

See you, Hasta la vista!

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Notes

- ¹ESL is used here although the politically correct term should be ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages
²Some online dictionaries are www.thefreedictionary.com and www.dictionary.com
³Idioms: a specialized vocabulary used by a group of people
⁴Phrasal Verbs: a phrase that consists of a verb plus an adverbial or prepositional particle (“take in”, “turn out”)
⁵E.g.: Abbr. Latin *exempli gratia* (for example)
⁶24/7: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
⁷Anchor or anchorperson: a TV or Radio reporter who coordinates a broadcast to which several correspondents contribute
⁸Sharpen: to improve; to make better
⁹Acoustic discernment: a clear comprehension of accents and word sounds
¹⁰Bass: A low-pitched sound or tone
¹¹Coherently: in an orderly and logical way
¹²Note: But wait a minute! Images can help us learn more. Don’t they? Not really because on TV, when they give the news, they do not go step by step showing you an image and defining the image at the same time. It does not work that way. As they tell you the news, they just show some images that do not fit precisely the description of the event being told. In addition, anchors usually mix the description of an event with some argument that they or the reporters make about the event.
¹³Decode: To convert from code into plain text, sentences and words
¹⁴Concise: Expressing much in few words; clear and short
¹⁵Fragment: An incomplete sentence
¹⁶Mixed constructions: A sentence with parts that do not match grammatically (Raimes 398)
¹⁷Mindful: attentive; aware; careful

Jose L. Reyes came from the Dominican Republic in 2004. He took the ESL 02 course in Bronx Community College (BCC) in 2005. Because of his hard work and persistence, he was able to skip one level, ESL 03 and move to the next level, ENG 09. Jose graduated from BCC in 2007 with an Associate in Liberal Arts and transferred to New York University (NYU) on a scholarship in 2008. In 2010, he graduated from NYU with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology, and is currently applying to graduate school to obtain a PhD in Social Sciences. He works as a writing tutor in the BCC Writing Center.

The Writer's Corner

Finding Solace amongst Chaos

By Miko Jeffries

Personal space is something that almost everyone needs and when it's violated, your whole day can be ruined. Living in a crowded, hectic and often tight cluster, such as New York City, it's difficult to shut out the annoying intrusions. How can you find quiet in a noisy world? I've lived in this "melting pot" my whole life, so I've encountered issues and developed strategies that make a huge difference.

I hate crowds and, unfortunately, this city is filled with them – whether its people rushing to work or tourists walking slowly in front of you while taking pictures of billboards on 42nd Street. Sometimes I want to rip my hair out as I'm trying to get somewhere and a person in front of me is moving at a turtle's pace. I am left to weave through all the people traffic, while trying to be polite, even if a bystander is being inconsiderate. Of course, there are those who were not raised with that mentality or perhaps they have succumbed to the tense city attitude. These are the people that push and shove their way through, with an angry face to go with it. Before I let it upset me, I have to stop and think, "Maybe this person had a really bad day." Although it's no excuse, I understand how living in an overpriced, rat-infested Disneyland can affect a person's attitude. Not to say I hate this city, I have just lived here so long, that I know the good and the bad all too well. Sadly, this bitter attitude has been on the rise and I believe the culprit is lack of personal space. It's something we overlook because we are so caught up with daily life routines, but while we are busy with these everyday things, we can practice smaller ones that help make life a lot more relaxing.

One thing that pretty much everyone living in New York City loathes is the subway system. For those of us that don't have cars, this is our means of transportation. The hot and crowded train stations, rodents roaming freely on the platforms, vagrants using platforms as bathrooms, and the fares that seem to go up once a month are huge problems, just to name a few. When I think of all these things, it's kind of hard to have a positive attitude, but the last thing I want is to become a bitter New Yorker.

After getting to know my surroundings really well, I've developed a technique while commuting via subway and it seems to work really well. I, personally, have a long commute from work on 88th and 1st Avenue to my house in Inwood, which is the last area of Manhattan before you get to the Bronx. That trip is about an hour and its Monday through Friday, during rush hour. After taking a crosstown bus to the west side, I have to get on the 1 train, which, although frequent, runs local and picks up many passengers. I always make my way to the very first or very last car because I know I will most likely have a seat. Most people wait for the train in the middle of the platform, filling up all the cars in between. However, if you take the time to just walk to one of the ends, you will probably get lucky. Unless I am in a rush to get home, I will purposely miss a train if I don't make it to the front or the back because I would rather wait five more minutes than be stuck standing, confined in a packed subway car. If for some reason all the seats in the last or first car are taken, I strategize by standing in the middle of the car, not by the doors. This way, if someone gets off, I will be right there to claim the seat and have a nice ride home. For me, this makes all the difference because I know standing for 45 minutes on a crowded train will have a negative effect on my mood.

Walking in the crowded city streets can be stressful and finding your comfort zone amongst all the tourists is pretty frustrating at times. If I find myself in an area such as Times Square or Herald Square, I will try to avoid certain streets and avenues where I know I will become lost in the people traffic jam. Herald Square itself is jammed packed with shoppers and tourists, so walking up 32nd or even 33rd is a much smarter tactic than to venture up the main street, which is 34th. Even if Macy's or Forever 21 is your destination, you might relieve some stress even if one block is spent walking on a less crowded street. When I shop, I avoid this area all together and head to the Upper West Side or The East Village. Not only are there fewer-to-no crowds, but these areas have many trendy boutiques and are much less corporate. Times Square and the whole 42nd Street area are a bit more tricky because it covers about 6 blocks and is almost three avenues wide. From

Flagrant Conduct

By Aziza Ingram



This is a book for the LGBT community and those that have loved ones that belong to the group. *Flagrant Conduct* by Dale Carpenter is about a case that took place in Texas in 1998 when a false accusation was made by way of a 911 call. As a result of that phony call, police were sent to the residence of a gay couple. The police say they witnessed two men having sex and they were arrested for violating Texas state sodomy laws. As a result of the arrests there is a trial that follows and *Lawrence v. Texas* is born.

The book tells the story of how two private lives are thrown into the public eye. It only came about because of a questionable action, a 911 call placed by a jealous man who claimed one of the men in the home was waiving a gun about.

This is an important read that outlines the injustices gays face that most people would never consider. The intimacy of gays is illegal in four states (Montana, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas). Nowhere else in the country would this be a problem. On the flip side, it is legal in every state for consenting heterosexuals to have vaginal sex in their homes, but illegal in ten states to have anal sex. Lesbian acts, if entered upon by police would rarely, if at all face any consequence. The book points out the double standard in better detail.

Flagrant Conduct brings to light the fact that sodomy laws left on the books basically legislate what one can and cannot do in the privacy of one's bedroom, living room or anywhere else in your home for that matter.

This is a new form of Jim Crow on a new minority group. The book details the ways that gays and lesbians are made to be less than full citizens. Discrimination in any way is unconstitutional yet, just like the Jim Crow laws of the fifties and sixties, it continues to happen.

8th to Broadway, there are tourists jam packed in what looks like a wonder land of lights, musicals and gift shops. I view it as a smaller version of Vegas, and I cringe just thinking about moving through the huge crowds that flock there every day. I try to avoid this area at all costs, but if I can't, I will walk in the street along the curb. The sidewalks are overly crowded and, although I'll see a few frustrated faces along with my own, the majority of the crowd is smiling and pointing, while leisurely strolling along.

Something I try to stay clear of that most of us dread is a long line. Here on campus, there are many lines stretching around the corner whether it be at the registrar's or the financial aid office. I know that if I get stuck on a line, I will not be a pleasant person to be around for the next few hours, so I do my best to avoid them. If I just have a few questions, I won't bother going to the office if there is a line. I would rather call instead because I will be able to speak to someone right away. However, if I need paper work or something that cannot be done over the phone, I'll try to get there as early as possible, that way I can dodge any crowds. Office hours are typically from 9am to 5pm, so if I have to be there, I make sure I arrive at or before 9 because after 10, there will most likely be a line already forming. Anytime after 10 is just pointless, and if I can't make it before then, I would prefer to schedule it another day.

I like to seek refuge in the city's parks when I have the time. The secluded nature is a huge relief from the crowds and you are taken away from urban living, even if only for a few minutes. Central Park is very nice, but because of its vastness, it is very popular. Many tourists gather in this park and it can feel more like a museum than an open space. You can definitely explore the park to find your own safe haven, but I personally don't like to feel as if I am trespassing. With all the preserved grass and wildlife that is not really wild, being in Central Park can make you feel like you have to watch your every move, so you won't break any rules. I prefer less commercially known parks, such as Inwood Park, which is the only park in Manhattan that is not man-made. Unlike Central Park, which has a stone wall surrounding it, Inwood Park is much more open and is so far uptown; not many New Yorkers are aware of its existence, making it almost unknown to tourists. You can do anything here from exploring the hiking trails to feeding the ducks in the Hudson River and you are free to get as close as you want. There are many baseball fields and two playgrounds for kids, suiting the family-oriented area well. There is also a nature center that teaches about the park's natural resources and wildlife. The park even offers activities such as archery, plays, canoeing, fishing and walking tours, most of which are free to the public. It's also conveniently located near many buses and the A and 1 trains.

To maintain my space, I make it my business to be comfortable in any situation, whether it be sitting on the train or avoiding a long line. If my day still manages to be ruined, I try to escape to one of the parks to relieve stress and shut out the noise of the city. These simple things will save me from becoming an uptight New Yorker.



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Outside the Quad

Courtroom Diaries

By Kristian Moton



My first week at the Harlem Community Justice Center for my summer internship was great. My week started on a Friday with a 9-1 schedule, which is a great schedule I know. On Fridays the building hears housing court cases which are different from the Monday hearings. Friday is exclusively for the New York City Housing Authority. So you get a particular kind of clientele for the hearings.

One case I remember vividly is of this man who was taken to court because of his back owing rent. Once upon a time, apparently, this man was a restaurant owner while living it up in the projects. However, the recession and a few bad decisions later, and he was into bankruptcy and all kinds of sadness grown men shouldn't be involved in.

Now, here's where the case starts: the man owed about \$1,200 in back rent before his bankruptcy. This poses a problem because the renter (especially the housing authority) is not supposed to hold a debt against you after you have filed for bankruptcy. You don't even have to pay that debt. By the time he came to court the man owed \$2,400 and the housing authority had taken him to court to collect the back rent. From this set of circumstances, it was obvious that the man had no resources and couldn't pay, so housing wanted him out.

Now the argument is, if back debt is part of the consideration for eviction is the eviction still valid?

The argument that it should be is a simple one, the guy still owes money plus he has history of being late with his rent. He is delinquent on payments and should be kicked out.

However, the argument that it shouldn't stand is just as good: Bankruptcy is a way to get out and get a fresh start, albeit at the expense of your credit being shot. But how fair is a new chance when your past debts still haunt you? Why file for bankruptcy at all?

The case lasted until roughly the end of my internship term, and it would ultimately be sent to bankruptcy court for reassessment. I'm really waiting for the decision on it, and I'll write a response to it then.

Politics from an Astrological Point of View

By Miko Jeffries

We all know that politics can be a dirty business. What you see isn't always what you get and at the end of the day, we don't know what is going on behind closed doors. It can be refreshing to know who a person really is before deciding to vote for them. They can share their life story with you and seem like things are a certain way on the outside, but how do we know that is who they really are? There is a way to gain insight on a person's true personality, and it's not as taboo as some might think. It is a practice that dates as far back as 5000 BC and it's known today as astrology. Some are familiar with this study through things such as a horoscope and the signs of the zodiac, but astrology is much deeper than the few sentences seen in the *New York Daily News*. After all, human beings are very complex; we cannot be described in just a few words. Above all, astrology is the study of the planets and how they affect us because. Believe it or not, they are more than just huge masses floating around in space.

The following two descriptions are of well-known politicians and, thanks to astrology, they can be seen in a much different light than how they are seen in public. Both were analyzed based their birthdate and time and, with this information, we are able to know how the planets were aligned when they were born. So, today, they will be described based solely on their birthday and you can see which personality appeals to you more. Place your vote and each person will be revealed in the November issue of *The Communicator*.

Person A

This is someone who appears very youthful and has an active mind that needs constant stimulation. Usually a dreamer, the best is brought out of him/her when he/she is guided rather than paving his/her own way. This person has a very creative and imaginative mind, but it is hard for him/her to put his/her ideas into action. He/she performs at his/her best when a teacher or mentor can steer him/her in the right direction. Although he/she delivers to the best of his/her ability this way, this person is not often self motivated. This person is extremely sensitive with intense emotions, making him/her very empathetic towards others. Person A should be wary of whom he/she lets into the inner circle for he/she is easily influenced and can be too trusting of others.

This person is also extremely adaptable and somewhat of a nomad, which is good because he/she can blend in around others and in different environments. However, because of his/her constant drifting, this person might not be someone you can always depend on to back up what he/she says. His/her mind tends to roam from one idea to the next, so it is not uncommon for this person to have a confusing answer or standing on a topic. This person's wondrous imagination has the ability to flourish, building useful ideas, but also has the ability to consume and become a distraction, separating him/her from reality.

The devotion this person has is insurmountable for he/she will stop at nothing to prove his/her love, whether it be for a person or his/her passion. Unfortunately, stopping at nothing could mean lying as much as it takes to fix things, but deceit only makes matters worse and the consequences could be catastrophic. One quality he/she does possess that is very admirable is strength and will power to take action. There is a strong force inside this person that yearns to put forth his/her ideas and make a change, but power can also be abused and this person is very susceptible to addiction of all sorts.

Person A believes deeply in morals and truly has faith in the good of people. He/she engages others with energy and enthusiasm. Because of his/her ability to absorb everything like a sponge, this person is also incredibly wise. With the right guidance, he/she has the ability to convince others of his/her creative ideals and change the world.

Person B

There is something truly warm and charming about this person. He/she exudes confidence and instantly lights up a room. Unfortunately, his/her confidence can come off as arrogance and he/she can be viewed as someone who just simply loves attention. Although open minded, this person must think thoroughly before making a decision and is not easily influenced by other opinions. This person often has conflicting ideas in his/her head about what is more important, resulting in a long duration of careful thinking. However, taking time can easily turn into laziness for Person B, and he/she has no problem with kicking back and enjoying "the good life." This person loves all of luxuries life has to offer and can spend money excessively. It's important that he/she is surrounded with responsible individuals who will encourage him/her to be more careful with his/her savings.

Person B is extremely passionate and takes pride in everything he/she does. Rather than being swayed by others, this person has to feel in his/her heart that this is a calling. This person is also capable of being too prideful, which can be damaging because as much as he/she thinks they will always have control, some situations will be out of his/her reach. He/she can be adamant about seeking help from others in order to maintain his/her strong exterior, which can be frustrating, but it only proves the unshakeable loyalty he/she has. This person absolutely refuses to let people down or have others think he/she is incapable or unworthy.

Person B's generosity is heartwarming, but he/she can also be taken advantage of. This person's kindness is often mistaken for weakness, but ones that truly know the person know the unbelievable inner strength he/she possesses. This person is also very intellectual and open to different ideas, but more than anything, he/she is strong willed and true to, not just people, but to his/her word as well.

What Games to Avoid This Semester?

By Kristian Moton

Elder Scrolls Skyrim—and really any computer MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game)

Elder Scrolls and Warcraft are like cigarettes; you can't put them down and you get hooked instantly (or almost instantly). These two and many other RPG's (Role Playing Games) are responsible for ending relationships quicker than cheating, and are more responsible to why you don't hear your mom than deafness.

There is really no clear goal to these games, and they are very open ended; it's not like Super Mario where the goal is to get from the most left position on the stage to the most right, or a shooting game like Halo where you complete a specific mission to advance in the story. You are told to make a character to your likeness and flung into a giant fictional world where you are encouraged to explore and do whatever you want, with friends.

Why should you avoid it? Well, you have to have a good computer if don't have it already and lot of these online games require subscriptions (no, put that Pell check right back).

Borderlands 2

This game gets compared to Diablo which is a very popular MMORPG like the games I explained earlier. This game focuses on looting and grinding, which is taking the weapons and money from your enemy while gaining experience. The more hours you put in the more rewards you get and the more rewards you get the more satisfied you are.

The twist with Borderlands is that it is a first-person shooter, so imagine all the elements that make a role-playing game addictive with the satisfaction of playing a first-person shooter, and you have a game so addictive it rivals any product that Walter White can produce. (Walter White is a character from *Breaking Bad*.)

Last year I played the GOTY (Game of The Year) edition of the first Borderlands game, and put in at least 500 hours with my level 65 Sniper. This game makes you focus not only on investing in your character, but investing in the way your team builds their

characters, the missions that you do, allocating responsibility, communication with who will get what weapons after a boss fight, and quite frankly a bunch of other jobs that would take me three whole other articles to explain. (The game is just that good.)

Next game

Call of Duty Black Ops II- and subsequently every call of duty game that comes out, also Halo 4

CALL OF DUTY IS A SCAM. Let me tell you why: The release date is strategically placed right after most college students are either off from their midterms, and still have just enough leisure time to put in some hours, or during midterms, when students don't necessarily go to school every day, or If they do go to school, not during their normal hours. Call of Duty is the only game series capable of being essentially the same as the last installment, with the only difference being a different five-hour storyline, and still get near 10/10 ratings across the board with video game reviewers.

Halo 4 breaks the genres cycle of mediocrity by having an expansive several hour storyline with interesting characters and great plot. The multiplayer is where you find people lose their minds. The interest of first-person shooters is not usually that the game is good; the reason is that everyone is going to have it and no one wants to be left out. It's a great time for friends to socialize while doing something (but still not going outside) and inspires both comradery and rivalry with those social circles.

So most of you likely can't help yourselves but buy some games on this list this semester, and, at best, you just won't buy these games on their launch days. Just do yourself a big favor, and make sure your classwork and homework are done first, because, if not, you'll put the game in, and you'll realize 15 hours just went by and you only have 10 minutes to get to CMS 11.

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RBSC 310

- October 17-- ELP Orientation
- October 24, 31,
- November 7, 21, 28,
- December 5-Last session

Click on registration link below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dENIelkwUXBoNFvNTNhQzJ2YWWhCS1E6MQ>

For more information, please contact:

Audrey Rose-Glenn,
Assistant Director, Student Life
Leadership Education and Development/LEAD
Office of Student Life, Meister Hall, Room 202
Phone: 718-289-5194 or 718-289-5100 ext. 3535
audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu

www.facebook.com/bccstudentlife

WHY Participate?

- Develop your leadership skills
- Discover your personal leadership style
- Develop friendships with other future student leaders
- Build your resume
- **Succeed Academically**-students who get involved in campus life are less likely to drop out!!
- Connect and network with *Student Life staff and Student Government Association (SGA) leaders*
- Earn a *LEAD/ Emerging Leaders Certificate* and be recognized at the “Leadership in Action Awards” and MUCH MORE!!

Program Criteria:

- First-year student (*first or second semester student*)
- GPA-2.5 and above (*if second semester student*)
- Must be willing to commit and attend **ALL** seminars for the semester.

Application Deadline:

October 12, 2012

Click on registration link below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dENIelkwUXBoNFvNTNhQzJ2YWWhCS1E6MQ>



Office of Student Life/LEAD



The C.O.P.E. Program is a collaboration between CUNY and the Human Resources Administration (HRA). The program helps students meet CUNY college standards and HRA work obligations, in order to enhance students' chances of graduating and achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency through gainful employment. C.O.P.E. also provides supportive services to students receiving public assistance.

📌 Free MetroCards

If you are currently working and collecting full public assistance—food stamps, Medicaid, and cash assistance (even if you lost it due to employment)—then you may qualify for free MetroCards.

📌 Resume Assistance

If you are looking for a part-time or full-time position, you will need a resume and cover letter. We can assist you with building a resume that displays your skills. We can also review the resume you already have.

📌 Finding Jobs Online

Search and apply for positions online, through job fairs and also one-on-one sessions. Our employment database is updated weekly with positions in banking, nursing, retail, office assistance, education, technology, and more.

📌 C.O.P.E. as a Resource

Make sure we have a copy of your resume so that when employers contact us for suitable candidates, the referral process can run smoothly. Also, you can find out from our office information about career fairs and job prep workshops that occur each semester.

C.O.P.E. Program

Division of Student Affairs

Loew Hall, Room 117

718.289.5603

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (By Appointment Only)



Office of Communications & Marketing | 8.23.2012

Global Faith & Spirituality Film Series

Beyond Our Differences (2007)–Sept 13, 12 pm;
Schwendler Auditorium

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

Running time: 74 minutes

Renewal (2007)–Oct 25, 12 pm;
Schwendler Auditorium

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

Running time: 90 minutes

The Power of Forgiveness (2007)–Nov 15, 12 pm;
Schwendler Auditorium

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

Running time: 78 minutes



A Global Perspectives Program
Sponsored by the Department of Health,
Physical Education & Wellness, the BCC Library,
and the Office of Student Life

For more information, please call Student Life
at 718.289.5194, visit us in ME 202, or talk to us
on Facebook: [facebook.com/bccstudentlife](https://www.facebook.com/bccstudentlife)



SEPTEMBER

Friday, 9/7 | SAFE ZONE TRAINING • GA
Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211

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

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

Tuesday, 9/11
CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY/9-11 OBSERVANCE • GA (OCD CREDIT) | Meister Hall Lobby/12-2 p.m.

The campus community will have the opportunity to reflect on the tragedy of 9/11, featuring campus and community speakers who will reflect upon what it means to be citizen, locally and globally.

Coordinated by Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OCTOBER

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

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

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

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

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

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinated by the Department of Art & Music

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

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

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

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

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

Coordinated by Mr. Manny Lopez, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

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

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

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

Learn about the global experience of veterans.

Coordinated by Ms. Melissa Kirk, Office of Student Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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