

# THE COMMUNICATOR

October 9, 2013 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 2 – Fall 2013

## Bronx Community College Takes the Lead in Nanoscience

By Robert C. Josman

Bronx Community College has had an active chapter of the Society for Plastics Engineers since 2005. During the years since its inception, the chapter has grown to now include Nanoscience, an emerging science which is expanding geometrically in educational, research and employment opportunities. Professor Vicki Flaris of the Department of Chemistry has not only been the chapter's advisor since its inception, she has acted in a mentoring role to those students involved with the chapter. Because of her efforts, the college has created CHM 20, a class called "Introduction To Nanoscience," which is expected to run again in the spring 2014 semester.

Each year the Society for Plastic Engineers has an international conference which includes a series of exhibits, presentations and lectures in various fields. Members of the Bronx Community College chapter have attended this conference each year and presented research done at the college to a nationwide audience.

This year the conference was held in Cincinnati, which O'Brien Awuah, our chapter's Vice-President, and I attended with Professor Flaris. Professor Flaris suggested a number of presentations we should all attend. Because the students had different majors, nuclear medicine, or nursing, for example, Professor Flaris recommended that we each pick out other lectures which interested us and/or were related to our majors.

One of the lectures I chose to attend stood out. It was given by Dwight N. Tozer, who was one of the conference's plenary speakers from ExxonMobil Chemical Company. He gave a lecture entitled "Abundant U.S. Shale Gas Supplies are Revitalizing the Plastics Industry." He showed how this new and cheaper source of energy has not only revitalized manufacturing, but also spurred interest in experimentation into Nanoscience applications in plastics. This is especially important to the medical field in many ways. For example: there are now virus mimicking nano-sized plastic particles which are injected into people rather than injecting the virus itself. This eliminates the possible adverse reactions some people have when they get their immunization shots.



Bronx Community College SPE Nanoscience Chapter at the ANTEC 2013 Conference: (From left to right) O'Brien Awuah, chapter vice president, Professor Vicki Flaris, and Robert Josman, chapter president.  
Photo: Robert Josman



Bronx Community College SPE Nanoscience Chapter Receives Two Awards: (from left to right) O'Brien Awuah, Professor Flaris, and Robert Josman.  
Photo: Lisandra Rodriguez

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

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

As president of the College's chapter, Professor Flaris and I set a goal of increasing our visibility on campus – not just within the science community, but within the college community as a whole. We accomplished our goals and received two college-wide awards for our efforts. The chapter received the College's Mission Fulfillment Award, and, as president, I received the Outstanding Leadership Recognition Award.

We invited Professor Ilona Kretschmar of City

College to give a talk about Nanoscience during the fall semester. Shortly after coming back from the conference in the spring, we also hosted Lindsey DeLaney from R&D Plastics LLC in Oregon, who came to the campus to make a presentation and talk to students about possible career paths.

In conjunction with Professor Flaris, we have held a series of "NanoDays" each spring for the past two years. At these events prospective students for the college, members of the college community, and guests from local high schools and other institutions get to see a series of demonstrations about Nanoscience and the fact that the College offers a class, Chemistry 20, "Intro to Nanoscience." This is a good selling point for the school, as this is a new and emerging multi-discipline, multi-billion dollar science field.

We are in the process of becoming a college-wide organization, which will allow us the ability to expand and build on the strong foundation we have created while we look to the future not only of Nanoscience but also of Bronx Community College and its students.

## Things in Store for BCC Athletics

By Eon Adams

In the March 2013 issue of *The Communicator*, my interview with BCC Athletic Director Michael Belfiore was about the successful season of the men's basketball team, track & field sensation Naomi Hines, and the development of the women's basketball team. My recent interview was about the current teams, star players, season, and why there will be more attention to BCC Athletics.

My first topic was about the athletic programs. I asked AD Belfiore why students, faculty and staff should be aware of the programs? His response was, "Our teams, across the board, are improving. We have a new coach for men's soccer. So far, the season's been very exciting, competitive across the board. With the restoration of the higher field, which was off limits for soccer at least, so that it provides a nice, central place on campus where people tend to walk by and see people noticing the activity on the field and drift in to find out what's going on. It's a great source of school spirit and would like to enhance the quality of student life on campus so it's not just students going to class and home."

My next topic was about the lack of publicity and attention of BCC Athletics. When Belfiore took over the program last year, his first priority was fixing core issues such as transportation, equipment and scheduling. Within a short period, he fixed the core issues and then focused his attention on promotion. By the spring semester he became involved in broadcasting, marketing events and email tags to spread the word about BCC Athletics. Belfiore has worked hard and diligently on launching the athletic website [www.bronxbrancos.com](http://www.bronxbrancos.com) which is in its final stages and will launch soon to help promote BCC Athletics.

The following topic, of course, is about the current teams that are in season. The men's soccer and women's volleyball teams are showing signs of improvement and looking to make an impact.

With the soccer team, it's nothing but positives.



With a new coach, Ibrihim Donkar, and star player Oshe Miller, the team is on the right track for a successful program. Currently, Miller scored four goals for the season, and he is showing no signs of slowing down. The soccer team is on pace to compete for the CUNY Athletics championship with a win at BMCC.

Volleyball coach Divina Arroyo is currently developing a young team that will gain experience and become contenders. Although star player Katarzyna Urena went down with an injury, it's not stopping the volleyball team from staying on pace for the future of the program. A key player to watch besides Urena is Indiana Guzman.

Within his short tenure as track coach, William Crowell has successfully established himself at BCC, and he has recruited and assembled a roster that will look to compete the upcoming season. With key players Derek Tucker and Stephan Campbell, the track/cross country team is ready to show their opponents BCC is ready to dominate.

Finally, I asked AD Belfiore what he would like to share with the readers. "We are excited. By the time this hits the press, we'll be into championships. We will be excited about the winter season. We have a great men's basketball team coming in. We expect our women's basketball team to be much improved this year. Both coaches have done great jobs in recruiting, so we're excited about that for the winter. I'm interested in seeing



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## The Communicator Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Notes:

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

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

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

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

## Communicator Staff

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Eon Adams  
Maite Andres  
O'Brien Auwah  
Glorisel Belliard  
Malcolm Brown  
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Krystal Tavaréz  
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Join  
*The Communicator*  
Team!

## Fall 2013 Insertion Deadlines

**November issue**  
Thursday, October 24

**December issue**  
Monday, November 25

Cover campus news events.  
Explore local, state, national and global stories.  
Put your finger on the pulse of the  
BCC community.

*The Communicator* is looking for writers  
photographers  
advertising representatives  
Become part of our team, and join  
*The Communicator* today!  
College work study may be available.  
Contact us at 718.289.5314



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Since the Voting Right Act of 1965, many people have been able to exercise the right to vote for their elected officials. During the last two presidential elections, college students have increasingly participated in this very important process. Unfortunately, this has not been the case at the local level, where elected officials have been neglecting critical issues like affordable housing, public health, and the increasing costs of higher education. Among the races coming next month, we will elect the next Mayor of New York City. In order to make sure the politicians hear the voices of students across the CUNY system, we look forward to registering as many students before the October 11<sup>th</sup> deadline as possible. After the registration deadline, be on the lookout for Student Life, NYPIRG, and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team's Mayoral Mock Debate on October 31<sup>st</sup> in the Roscoe Brown Playhouse. Remember, your vote is your voice. Use it.

Miguel Peña  
Project Leader  
Voter Registration and Mobilization  
NYPIRG at BCC

Dear Editor:

Hydrofracking isn't a new issue to New York State. As many of you are already aware, horizontal high volume fracturing, or fracking for short, is using hydraulic pressure to fracture shale bedrock deep underground so that the trapped gas can escape and be recovered for energy use. While this issue poses severe risks for drilling sites upstate, fracking has serious risks for people across the entire state. While a recent report confirmed the relationship between the fracking process and the occurrence of earthquakes in Ohio, for many of us in the city, it's a matter of protecting our drinking water. Our tap water, some of the best in the country, comes from upstate sources. The plundering of bedrock for natural gas threatens to pollute our water with methane gas and potentially contaminating it with hazardous chemicals. While the fight continues upstate on our state's environmental and energy future, we need to continue to inform ourselves and engage Governor Cuomo by calling 1-800-566-5020 and urging him to ban hydrofracking in New York State.

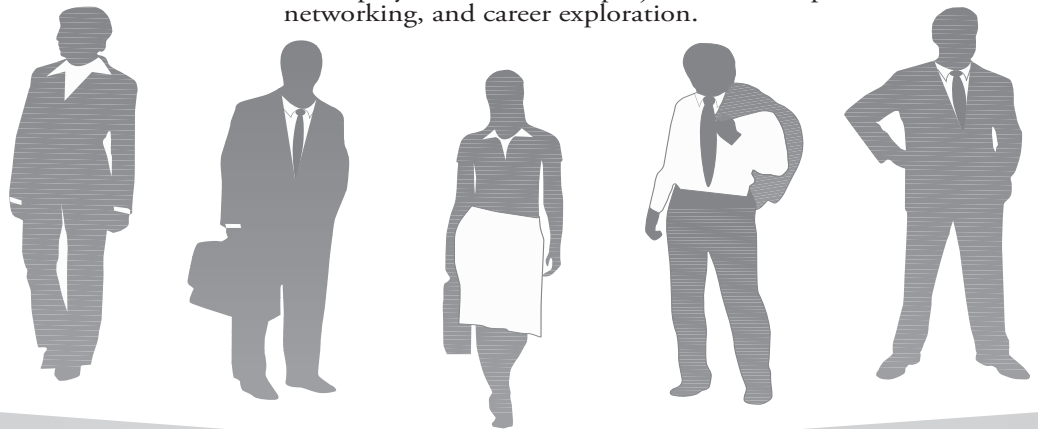
Clifford P. Bias  
Project Leader  
Environmental Protection  
NYPIRG at BCC



## FALL 2013 Career & Internship Fair

**Employers will be on campus to recruit and interview on-site.**

Find out about employment, volunteer projects, internships, networking, and career exploration.



## Thursday, October 24, 2013

Time: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Loew Hall [LO], Room 200

All undergraduates and recent alumni are urged to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to learn about Career and Internship opportunities with top organizations.

**To attend the fair, you must be dressed in business attire and you must bring a resume.**

If you do not have a resume, come to the Career Center to pick up samples or to receive assistance in creating an outstanding resume.

## Resume Review Workshop

It is strongly recommended that you have your resume reviewed before attending the fair.

### On Thursday, October 17, 2013

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Loew Hall [LO], Room 106-A

Employment preparation workshop to help you get ready for interviews, to clean up your resume and to review appropriate attire and behavior.

For more information, contact:  
C.O.P.E. Program  
Loew Hall [LO], Room 117  
718.289.5603  
jonathan.alejo@stu.bcc.cuny.edu  
alex.luma@stu.bcc.cuny.edu

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE** **CUNY**  
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# Campus News



## To Commit, Not Quit By Gilda Cote

On September 19, 2013 while Freshmen Convocation occurred inside Gould Memorial Library (GML) Auditorium, outside GML and inside the Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members were hard at work with the “Commit to Complete” Initiative, a collaborative effort between BCC’s PTK Chapter and the Office of the President to increase degree completion at BCC.

Anu Bolarinwa and Sithar Say were two of the Phi Theta Kappa members who stood outside Gould Memorial Library getting students to fill out the Community College Completion Corps form. By signing this form BCC students were committing to complete some part of their curriculum this year. Whether it is to complete their remedial courses, take writing intensive classes, work on their major courses, challenge themselves to take honors courses, or making the big leap towards graduation this upcoming spring; there was something for everyone to strive for.

Besides completing the form and pledging to commit to graduate from Bronx Community College, students were given information about PTK and benefits of being part of this society.

Across the grass field, in the Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse, PTK members were also working on another project that revolves around the “Commit to Complete” Initiative.

Not every student learns and adapts the same in a college setting and, realistically, the average student doesn’t complete their two-year degree on time. If a student has to take remedial courses, it usually takes about four years to complete their two-year degree program and, if they end up on academic probation or are academically dismissed, it takes them even longer to complete their degree work – if they complete at all. This is why BCC’s PTK Lambda Nu Chapter and President Carole Berotte Joseph have agreed to create a peer mentoring pilot program for students who are struggling academically.

PTK members and volunteers sat down with students that were selected by the president’s office whom they feel would flourish at the opportunity of gaining a peer mentor. Each mentor discussed their own experiences, their weaknesses and strengths, and how they feel they could help as mentors. The PTK members hope that these students gain an understanding of how to overcome some of their obstacles and, possibly, show them better ways of studying and learning the resources available to them on campus. The groups were fairly small, which allowed the mentees time to speak with the available mentors and select the mentor(s) they found suitable for their individual needs.



Overall, the students were pleased with what was being offered and the possibility of a brighter future.



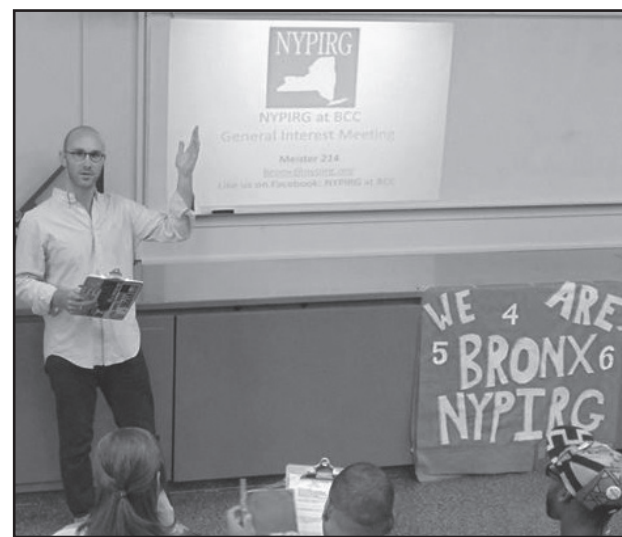
## Students Mobilize for Change: NYPIRG’s General Interest Meeting By Armando Chapelliquen

On October 3, students from Bronx Community College came out to NYPIRG at BCC’s General Interest Meeting. Colored chalk arrows and balloons decorated the Colston patio for the official kick off for NYPIRG’s various campaigns. Over 80 students came out to learn more about the work being done by the state’s largest student advocacy organization to address issues of environmental health, mass transit, hunger and homelessness, voter registration, and consumer protection.

However, perhaps the biggest draw was the campaign that connected students both inside Begrish Hall and out: fighting for affordable and accessible higher education. To address this issue as well to remind students of the challenges ahead, the keynote address was delivered by Kevin Stump, NYPIRG’s Higher Education Campaign Coordinator. “It’s great to see nearly 100 students who want to engage in the fight for social justice,” said Stump. “The attack on access to higher education is one of the greatest challenges our generation is faced with and it is our voice that needs to be heard. Similar to the 60s and 70s when NYPIRG was established, we are at a cross roads of civil rights issues - it’s imperative that progress prevails,” he added.

The goal was not simply to inspire students, but to actually begin the march towards addressing the challenges of our time.

After the keynote, students went to one of six breakout meetings. Each meeting, led by a student project leader, served as the springboard for the campaign and provided an open environment for students to brainstorm and begin planning future actions. Students Clifford P. Bias, George Arce, Miguel Peña, Brandon Robinson, and Ruben Martinez served as the project leaders for Environmental Protection, Hunger and Homelessness Outreach, Voter Registration and Mobilization, Higher Education Affordability and Accessibility, and Mass Transit, respectively.



NYPIRG Higher Education Advocate Kevin Stump addresses students during NYPIRG at BCC’s General Interest Meeting. Photo: Sithar Say

Throughout the room, the breakouts were full of discussion and plans for the future. “Everyone was really excited about the consumer protection campaign and I’m feeling very pumped and excited for the semester,” said Marcus Charlton, Project Leader for Consumer Protection.

Students looking to learn more about all of the campaigns are encouraged to come out to NYPIRG’s office, Meister Hall, Room 214, or 718, to learn more about plans for the semester and how they can get involved.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen in Meister, Room 214 or 718-289-5409.

## Spotlight on a Phi Theta Kappa Leader



**Name:** Christian Sanoguel  
**Position:** PTK President  
**Countdown to Completion:** December 2013  
**Major:** Criminal Justice  
**Motivation:** Career Advancement  
**Contribution to BCC:** Mentor for students who are academically struggling  
**Quote:** “I finally realized the importance of an education while working hard at low paying jobs.”

The book *Rays of Sunshine from the Hood* is now available via Amazon.com. Please feel free to search the web for it.

## Things in Store for BCC Athletics

Continued from page 1

where our track coach brings our team in indoor track. I think we will have some unprecedented numbers for the team.”

With numerous things to look forward to, BCC Athletics is on pace to make its mark, and the program will be a successful experience for student athletes, and with the website, the programs will no longer stay in the dark. It’s time for BCC Athletics to become a recognizable program on campus.

## Conversations with CLIP By Gilda Cote

Last year, the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) partnered with the Phi Theta Kappa Lambda Nu Chapter to create a program of conversation partners called “Conversations with CLIP.”

The CLIP students were paired with a PTK member to converse in English during the student’s lunch hour about their interests in a judgment-free environment. The numbers of mentors were few after one semester, so to keep the program running, the dynamics of the program were changed to “CLIP Conversation Group.” Instead of having a one-on-one conversation during their lunch hour, the students attend PTK meeting during the Friday meeting time (3–5 PM) and immerse themselves in conversations and leadership opportunities. The program began on October 4<sup>th</sup> and continues through December 20<sup>th</sup>.

CLIP students will have the opportunity to participate in brainstorming about community service projects, artistic talents, and become more informed about scholarship opportunities. This project will bring out these students leadership qualities that they will utilize once they get into the college.

CLIP students will also receive a certificate of completion at the end of the semester and be celebrated for their accomplishment of learning English with Phi Theta Kappa. Many PTK members began educational journey as CLIP students and eventually graduated victoriously within the top ten percent of the student population that make up PTK Honors students and scholars.



# The Alumni View

## Successful Student Secrets

By Aziza Ingram

I have successfully completed my first 30 days at NYU and it has not been an easy journey. I am taking 17 points this semester, the equivalent of nearly six classes at BCC, yet it feels like a course load of 10 classes. I have so much going on that I never feel like there are enough hours in the day. Time management and organization are really important for me here, and I would truly be lost if I did not schedule everything. I do mean everything, from time to shower, eat, make phone calls, study and even order food for dinner.

Allow me to provide a breakdown of the last month:

Dropped one class

Replaced that class with another

700 pages read of required reading

2 exams taken

6 papers written

2 speeches given

40 hours worked per week

18.5 hours per week in classes

10 hours a week at newspaper

10 cups of coffee consumed per day

5 hours average per night of sleep

I am nowhere near being the kind of reader who can read and understand 100 pages in less than an hour. It takes me about two minutes per page, followed by another minute of making notes and another minute rereading what I did not understand. This means it takes me four minutes per page to have a grasp of the material. Four minutes times 700 pages equals 28,000 minutes or 46.666 hours. That means I need 11.5 uninterrupted hours of reading in a week to have a full understanding of what is in front of me. Who has that kind of time?

This is what I have done for myself. I wake up one hour earlier than I need to and read for fifty-five minutes. The other five are used to make coffee and sit down. I then get ready for the day (shower and dress for work/school) and get on the train and read some more. When I am at work, I keep my readings close at hand, and I read during my thirty-minute break, whenever there is a lull, and on my way on to class after work. When at school, I read during my walk from one class to the next, it is quite tough to navigate the city streets while reading but I think I am mastering it.

I then continue to read on my way to the school newspaper or home on the train, whichever comes first. I have given up riding my scooter all around because it frees up for time for me to devote to the page. When I have arrived back at home, I take a thirty-minute nap and quickly order food. Thank goodness I don't cook, because that would be another few hours of my life each week that I would have to dedicate elsewhere. Once my food is ordered I settle in at my desk and review and rewrite my notes for the day. If a paper is due soon, which it most likely is, I start or continue on that and eventually retire to bed around one in the morning, only to spring back up again at five.

I say all that I have to let you, the reader, know that you are not alone in the trying times of collegiate life. It always seems like there is not enough time for anything else. As a matter of fact, as I write this I realize I have not carved out anytime for a personal life or fun time. I will definitely work on this in the coming months, for if you do not make time for fun what is this all for anyway.

So be sure and have a plan; use a daily, weekly or monthly planner to keep track of all that will be coming your way. It is the only way you will get through it with less bumps and bruises.

## Egg Donors Needed

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

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

**Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Health,  
Center for Fertility Preservation**  
141 South Central Avenue  
Hartsdale, New York 10530

[www.montefiore.org/ivf](http://www.montefiore.org/ivf)

**Montefiore**  
Inspired Medicine

Want to learn more about Psychology?

Or how about just enjoy it as a major?

**Bronx Community College's**

### Psychology Club

invites you to join us

**Every Thursday from 12pm-2pm in Colston 331**

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

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

For more information please contact Prof. Lynne Ticke at:  
[Lynne.Ticke@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Lynne.Ticke@bcc.cuny.edu)



**Not religious?  
You're not alone.**

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

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

Thursdays at noon  
Colston Hall, Room 605

For more information, contact  
[SecularHumanistClub@gmail.com](mailto:SecularHumanistClub@gmail.com)



# Beyond the Quad

## Straphangers Campaign Releases Survey of Subway Car Announcements for 2013

**Majority of Subway Car Announcements of Delays Were Found to Be Clear and Correct For Third Year in a Row**  
**Basic Informational Subway Car Announcements Are Made About 86% of the Time in 2013, Surveys Finds Perfect Score For Basic Announcements in 2013: L and Q Lines**  
**Worst Line in 2013: R**

For the third year in a row the Straphangers Campaign found that a majority of subway car announcements of delays and disruptions were clear and accurate, according to a survey released today by the group.

In another finding, some 86% of basic informational announcements made on subway cars are clear and accurate. (A basic announcement—made at or between stops—includes the name of the station, destination or direction, train letter or number, and transfer opportunities (if any).)

“For the third year in a row, the majority of subway announcements were clear and accurate during delays or disruptions,” said Straphangers Project Leader Ruben Martinez. “We hope Transit officials continue this positive trend, giving riders the information they need when regular service is affected.”

The survey was conducted by 79 volunteers between January 5 and May 16, 2013. In the survey, volunteers made 6,000 observations of in-car announcement opportunities on 20 subway lines. In 2013, our surveyors experienced and rated 98 delay and service

change announcement opportunities during the survey period.

In the 2013 survey, some 52% of delays and disruptions experienced by our raters on all lines had clear and accurate announcements.

Official transit guidelines give conductors a list of 18 possible delay announcements with detailed reasons. These announcements range from: “unruly person on the train” to “waiting for connecting train.” The policy says, “If there is a delay, [the conductor] must make an announcement immediately [and again] within 2 minutes after that.”

Prior to the 2011 survey, in a majority of delays and disruptions experienced by our raters, there was either no announcement—or an inaudible, garbled or incorrect one.

In contrast, in 2013, subway car announcements of delays were correct, clear and ungarbled 52% of the time (51 out of 98 delays). Of the remaining 48%, delay announcements were not made at all 13% of the time (13 out of 98 delays); 9% were inaudible or garbled (9 out of 98) and 26% (25 out of 98) were rated “incorrect.”

These were meaningless announcements that “we have a red signal,” ones lacking key information such as “this local is now an express” (with no explanation), or ones with jargon such as “we have a schedule adjustment.”

In another finding, some 86% of basic informational announcements made on subway cars are clear and accurate. This is largely unchanged from our last survey in 2012, which was 85%.

In the 2013 survey, the L and Q lines provided basic announcements 100% of the time and both lines had automated announcements.

The R came in last for the second year in a row, with only 56% adequate basic announcements.

This survey follows twelve similar surveys conducted between 1997 and 2012. MTA New York City Transit does not survey delay and disruption announcements on subway cars. The Agency did survey the “percentage of cars with public address announcements” in the first half of 2013. Some 91% of cars are rated as having public address announcements. This is broken down by cars with automated announcements (99%) and conductor announcements (81%).

**Table One:**  
**Best to Worst Percentages of Clear and Accurate Basic In-Car Announcements, 2010-2013\***

Line	2013	2012**	2011	2010
L	100%	99%	99%	99%
Q	100%	99%	99%	85%
2	99%	98%	98%	99%
4	99%	100%	98%	99%
6	99%	99%	100%	100%
5	98%	96%	98%	100%
E	98%	98%	97%	98%
N	98%	99%	92%	99%
J	98%	97%	95%	96%
M	97%	98%	98%	99%***
F	96%	96%	99%	92%
A	85%	79%	75%	76%
7	79%	64%	76%	63%
B	78%	67%	70%	55%
3	72%	67%	65%	67%
D	72%	69%	76%	60%
1	68%	78%	77%	64%
G	67%	71%	73%	79%
C	65%	69%	66%	60%
R	56%	56%	70%	62%
System	86%	85%	86%	83%***

\* System results significant within +/- 2%. Line results significant within +/- 6%.  
 \*\* 2012 survey conducted between January 17 and April 29, 2012. 2011 survey conducted between January 3 and April 30, 2011.  
 \*\*\* Results reflect old routing of M line prior to June 2010; system number includes results of V and W lines which were discontinued in June 2010.

**Table Two:**  
**Breakdown of Basic In-Car Announcements by Line, 2013**

Line	Clear and Accurate Announcement Made	Clear but Inaccurate Announcement Made	Announcement Garbled or Inaudible	No Announcement Made
1	68%	1%	17%	14%
2	99%	0%	0%	1%
3	72%	1%	12%	15%
4	99%	0%	0%	0%
5	98%	0%	0%	1%
6	99%	0%	1%	1%
7	79%	0%	10%	11%
A	85%	0%	5%	10%
B	78%	0%	13%	9%
C	65%	0%	21%	14%
D	72%	0%	13%	15%
E	98%	0%	1%	1%
F	96%	0%	1%	3%
G	67%	0%	14%	19%
J	98%	0%	0%	2%
L	100%	0%	0%	0%
M	97%	0%	1%	2%
N	98%	0%	0%	1%
Q	100%	0%	0%	0%
R	56%	1%	20%	23%
System	86%	0%	6%	7%

\*“Clear and Accurate Announcement Made” results significant for system within +/- 2%. Line results significant within +/- 6%. Some percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

**METHODOLOGY:**  
**NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign Survey of Subway Car Announcements 2013**

This survey is a follow-up to twelve past surveys on announcements released by the Straphangers Campaign between 1997 and 2012.

The 2013 survey was conducted by 79 volunteers between January 5 and May 16, 2013 and is based on data collected during actual subway rides taken during that period. Volunteers were instructed to complete a survey entry every time they used the subway system throughout that period. The survey form was designed to measure how each subway trip conformed to the guidelines laid out for in-car announcements by MTA New York City Transit. During survey rides, volunteers recorded announcement data for the first three stops of their trip. Specifically, surveyors noted the date and line of each trip, and monitored the following routine in-car announcements made at or between stops:

- a. station name;
- b. route designation (number or letter);
- c. route destination (borough or terminal);
- d. transfer options (if applicable);
- e. upcoming station name; and
- f. "stand clear of the closing doors" announcement.

Surveyors noted whether each appropriate item was announced, and whether any announcement made was understandable and accurate.

Announcements (a) through (f) above were grouped and totaled as the “basic” in-car announcement, determined only by characteristics of the line and upcoming station. A basic announcement was deemed adequate if all appropriate announcements were made understandably and accurately. In this survey, we recorded 300 basic announcement opportunity observations on each of 20 lines. The Times Square, Rockaway and Franklin Avenue shuttles were not included in the survey.

Our findings then reflect exactly 6,000 basic announcement opportunity observations; of these, our surveyors noted that for the entire system in 2013, 86% of announcements were adequate. This system result is accurate within plus or minus 2% (.05 level); confidence for by-line results is plus or minus 6%.

In addition, surveyors recorded whether there was a change in service or delay of two minutes or more. When such a change in service or delay occurred, surveyors noted whether an in-car announcement was made, whether any announcement made was understandable and accurate, and the exact language of the announcement.

Official transit guidelines require that conductors announce changes in service and/or delays. The guidelines also list 18 possible announcements with detailed reasons for the delay ranging from “unruly person on the train” to “waiting for connecting train.” The policy states: “If there is a delay, [the conductor] must make an announcement immediately [and again] within 2 minutes after that.”

Straphangers Campaign staff members examined the transcription of all recorded service change and delay announcements to determine whether the announcement was “correct” or “incorrect.” An incorrect announcement is one that did not offer riders a meaningful explanation for the change in service and/or delay.

**Examples of “Correct” Announcements:**  
 fire/accident/police activity  
 ahead of/behind schedule, congestion  
 sick passenger  
 emergency brake pulled  
 track/signal work  
 held by supervision/dispatcher

**Examples of “Incorrect” Announcements**  
 schedule adjustment  
 fix gap in service  
 red signal  
 change in service with no further explanation, such as “This local is running express”

In 2013, surveyors rated 98 delays and service changes during the survey period, of which 85 were followed by an in-car announcement within two minutes of stoppage. Of the announcements made, 51 provided an understandable and correct explanation for the disruption in service.

Delay and service change data was not examined on a line-by-line basis. The number of such changes would be too low to permit statistically significant comparisons among lines.

MTA New York City Transit does not survey service change and delay announcements on subway cars. The agency did survey the “percentage of cars with public address announcement.” In the first half of 2013 the agency found some 91% of cars are rated as having public address announcements. This is broken down between lines with automated announcements (99%) and those with conductor announcements (81%).<sup>1</sup>

Straphangers Campaign would like to thank staff and volunteers who assisted in data collection: Kristy Abreu, Nataly Alarcon, Harry Alexandre, Yasaman Alibaball, Javis Aristy, Sarah Bennett, Jada Bey, Michael Carlino, Ryan Carson, Deidra Chambers, Armando Chapelliquen, Steve O. Cheng, Jason Chin-Fatt, Kahliah Clarke, Jaqi Cohen, Paolo Cremidis, Jaime Dela Cruz, Jerome Davis, Latisha Eljio, Alexz Elmore, Sana Esa, Ben Fraimow, Carolina Garcia, Adam Garfield, Daniel Gelpi, Danezza Gonzalez, Omari Gregory, Shawn Hall, Naheed Hossain, Junming Jin, Kathleen Jordan, Nikolay Kabanov, Lauren Keating, Charles Kerr, Tamari Khornauli, Rob Kornblum, Dahyun Lee, Andres Legramandi, Alex Lemell, Mikolaj Lis, Liz Lovejoy, Rupert McAllister, Ruben Martinez, Jemima Matimini, Livia Mikcova, Brett Miller, Teresa Mira, Duke Nagrampa, John-David Noguera, Robert Noonan, Andrew Oppenheimer, Sean-luc Prince, Gabriel Puriente, Enrico Purita, Anna Raisch, Irene Ramos, Gabe Recchio, Helana Reyad, Yeraldin Reyes, Sharon Richardson, Lea Rivera, Pedro Valdez Rivera II, Tia Roberts, Tassia Rosa, Areeba Sabor, Sophie Simon, Milda Stanislauskas, Edward Tejada, Marisol Torralba, Trisha Townsend, Romulo Trocinoda, Kateri Turner, Anthony Vasquez, Jean-Paul Ventura, Mildred Vil, Malachi Washington, Leeipole Whitaker, Robert Williams, and Danny Zhou.

<sup>1</sup> MTA New York City Transit Committee Meeting Book, September 2013, p. 8.3 (PDF p. 310)



# Beyond the Quad

## Kim Burrell: Behind Closed Doors at the Hurt No More Conference

By William Murray

(Bronx Community College alum and current Lehman College matriculate)



On May 25, 2013, I was invited to Kim Burrell's dressing room at the *Hurt No More Conference* held in Symphony Space's Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theatre. It had been about four months since the last time I saw her sing in the New York metropolitan area. This past January 18th, in a dress majestically the color of The Emerald City and looking more amazing than ever, she remembered Whitney Houston in song, paying tribute to the Newark native by singing a medley of the title track "I Look to You" from Houston's seventh studio album and the Christian hymn "Amazing Grace" at

a Marvin Sapp concert. Along with special guest speaker Will Power, Burrell and Sapp commemorated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the celebration event in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

That same evening at NJPAC, Burrell announced her (then) upcoming performance at the Presidential Inauguration. Yet, around that same time, she was tweeting about a difficult travel itinerary, including a stopover at the 28th Annual Stellar Awards Show presented in Nashville, Tennessee.

Backstage, Burrell revisited the moment she was asked to sing at the inauguration, and confirmed that she was ultimately too ill to attend. Burrell was not certain of where in the inaugural program she was originally slated to sing, but I wondered if Ledisi was her stand-in, who sang for the morning worship service at St. John's Church on Monday, January 21, 2013.

It became apparent that her ministry compelled grueling hours amounting in long absences from her family. She was homesick and longed to see her mom and maturing son. I told Burrell that I had recently purchased her mom's (Evangelist Mother Spears') paperback *Seeing Through the Dusky Dark*. I asked if we might likewise see "Kim Burrell, the autobiographer?" She assured me of the possibility of one day sharing her ministry through memoirs.

She talked a great deal about her son Christian, and I remembered two years ago when Burrell ministered at an event hosted by Lance Williams in East Orange, New Jersey. I attended New Vision Full Gospel Baptist Church that evening where she said, "Every once in a while I'll shock the atmosphere of where I live and [I'll] just break out dancing. My son is eight and he done got the hang of it now. And every time mama goes to dancing – I don't care where he is – he'll find his way, and he goes for it. You know, I acknowledge that because at eight [years old] he needs to understand how to activate the presence of God; how to call for the Holy Ghost."

At the 9th Annual True Worship Retreat she sang a selection of the Horatio Spafford/Philip Bliss hymn "It Is Well with My Soul" and Thomas Whitfield's "Bless His Name." She preached, "The Holy Ghost causes you to be kind to people. The Holy Ghost causes you to obey God no matter what. The Holy Ghost keeps you from gossiping. The Holy Ghost gives you the power of discernment."

I believe Burrell exercised the power of discernment very recently by scrapping both her new contract with Arrow Records, and the reality show *Whatever It Takes* which was reportedly unveiled/leaked in June of 2012 via the Internet. She cited creative differences and a desire to take responsibility for her own franchise. Burrell, based on a need to keep her own best interests at heart, made these sharp decisions.

In a nutshell, she told me what a day in the life of Kim Burrell was like: enjoying and often missing home life and being an earnestly God-fearing woman. So long as she continues to express herself without fear, though, her testimony will continue to move masses. For most who have heard her will testify that her extraordinary voice causes deliverance. It confers a spiritual blessing. It lays a faith-healing unction to the soul, every time. That's because the Holy Spirit truly guides her.

Kim Burrell's *Ephesians 4 Conference* takes place in Houston, Texas, this December. Later that month, she will be in New Jersey for *An Abundant Christmas* at Abundant Life Family Worship Church with Leon Lacey. For more information visit [www.kimburrellministries.com](http://www.kimburrellministries.com).

## You Must Complete to Compete

By Christian Sanoguel

About 12 years ago I entered college at SUNY Oswego fresh out of high school. Not realizing what my purpose was, I didn't take college seriously. When I started to struggle with my course work, I sought no assistance. When I was given homework, I didn't study. When I found my classes getting harder, I didn't attend. Eventually, administration caught up with me, and I was expelled from the institution. I finally realized the importance of an education while working hard at low paying jobs. I noticed I would never advance in any career without a degree, even though my potential and all of my efforts evidenced that I deserved it.

It took 10 years of struggles and roadblocks before I finally was able to get my foot back into the doors of higher education. I was so determined and ready for college this time because I knew I wanted to be there, whereas I attended college previously with no purpose. I knew I wanted to do well, but I never imagined how determined and committed I actually was to my education until I started last fall of 2012. After my first semester, I qualified for and joined Phi Theta Kappa. I was elected to be president of PTK in spring of 2013. As president of PTK, I want to give back and share my hard learned lessons with my community.

We have created a college project which seeks to improve the motivation, study habits, and awareness of services on campus via peer-to-peer mentoring. I want to reach out to students who may be overwhelmed academically and help them achieve their academic goals. I want to reach out and understand what students are going through before they feel that college may not be the option for them. I want to reach out to students who may be in the same position I was once in. I want to be that mentor for them, who is a knowledgeable source they can come to for directory of services. I want to reach out to those students who may be afraid to ask for help or suggestions to improve their study habits.

I want to inform students about the many great programs and services that are offered here at BCC, which many students are unaware. I want students to take advantage of these opportunities here at BCC and help them tap into their potential.

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## STEMM-TOBERFEST

Do you like science?  
How about technology?  
What about math?

If you have any interest in seeing and learning about the wonderful and exciting STEM projects of BCC students then we have an event for you!!!

### STEMM-TOBERFEST

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Medicine)

**Where**  
Meister Hall, Lobby

**When**  
October 31, 2013

**Time**  
12 – 2 PM

Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by Future Leaders of STEM & Medicine



## NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CLUB

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

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

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

Lashon R. Kempson  
Email: [lashon.kempson@stu.bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:lashon.kempson@stu.bcc.cuny.edu)

There is no substitute for human blood...

# Donate Blood

BCC Blood Drive

**October 22, 23, 2013**  
12-6 p.m. | Meister Hall Lobby

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

- 1. Every 3 seconds someone needs blood.
- 2. 2,000 pints of blood a day are needed in area hospitals.
- 3. 1 out of 3 people will need blood in their lifetime.
- 4. Blood expires within 42 days.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DONATE?

- You must be between 16 and 75 years of age.
- If you are 76 and over, you must have a note from your physician.
- You must weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Please eat and be well hydrated before donating
- If you have medical eligibility questions, please call 1.800.688.0900.
- Please bring identification with photo or signature.

**Parental permission required for 16 years old donors** (New York Blood Center form available at drive).



# Beyond the Quad

## How a College Education Can Change the Rest of Your Life

By Alex Luma

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education." At times, students find themselves questioning the importance of college. A college education supplies wider opportunities for graduates as opposed to those without higher education. There is a higher demand for students in possession of a degree. As you learn in business and economics classes, supply and demand is the backbone model of the market economy for determining price within a market.

According to the law of demand, based on the equality of all factors, the higher the price, the less the demand. According to the law of supply, the quantity supplied increases as the price increases. When the functions of supply and demand intersect and the two balance each other out, the economy is said to be at equilibrium, a state of stability. Since in this case, the supply is outweighed by the demand, college graduates obtain comparatively higher wages. Even though higher education can be one of the largest hands ever to reach into your pockets, having that college education speaks in favor towards your life earning potential within today's day and age, which is worth every penny. It is the most significant investment you will make to your future.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it is reported that, on average, high school diploma recipients make \$652 weekly. Associate degree recipients make \$785 while those with their bachelors make \$1,066 and so on and so forth. In addition to the priority of earning money, there is also the effort of earning credibility. There are many opportunities for students to display everything they have learned in front of professionals in their craft and to network with leaders, which leads to insight, growth, career potential and at times, scholarship opportunities.

One prime example would be the College Media Convention for writers, publishers, and journalists. Insight offered includes "How to Be a Multimedia Journalist with Whatever Is in Your Pocket." Another prime example would be the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference. This prestigious experience presents science, technology, engineering, and math students with the opportunity to meet top employers and amplify the spark within their academic career. They also get to hear from elite professionals and see students progressing and taking initiative towards their dreams. In addition, they get to see honorable candidates receiving recognition, as well as scholarships.

By receiving a post-secondary education, not only do the students find an extra passageway to a whole new world of opportunity, they also receive the chance to hear recitations and learn from experts in their fields. In addition, it motivates them to use their brains, ask questions, and explore new opportunities for overall growth and development. The people you meet and interact with during your time as a student can have a positive influence on your future. Not only can they recommend your work, but they can also mention your name to others at any point. You never know what full potential or capabilities a person possesses. Pay close attention to the benefits and resources you may receive during your educational journey. As Napoleon Hill\* once said, "Action is the real measure of intelligence."

\*A best-selling American author widely known in the self-improvement movement. As one of the earliest producers of literature regarding personal success, he is widely credited as one of the great writers on that subject matter.



## BCC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FALL 2013 LEADERSHOP SERIES

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

### LeaderShop Certificate Requirements:

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

<b>Track 1: Platinum Certificate</b> Complete <b>ALL</b> workshops <small>*Certificates will be awarded at the Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony in May 2014.</small>	<b>Track 2: Gold Certificate</b> Complete <b>5</b> workshops
---	---

For more information please contact:

Audrey Rose-Glenn  
Leadership Educator  
BCC Leadership Institute/ Office of Student Life  
RBSC, 302  
718-289-5100 x3535 or 718-289-5194  
[audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu)  
<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Student-Life>



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

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=hJ5aHeFbpJ7NbtuWMOcbBQ>



### WORKSHOPS

**Leadership Matters!**  
Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
RBSC 310  
2pm-3pm

**KNOW Yourself...  
LEAD Yourself...**  
Tuesday, October 15, 2013  
RBSC 310  
3pm-4pm

**Get REAL!  
Be an Authentic Leader**  
Tuesday, October 29, 2013  
RBSC 310  
2pm-3pm

**Everybody Talks!  
Effective Communication  
for Leaders**  
Tuesday, November 5, 2013  
RBSC 310  
3pm-4pm

**"LUNCH with LEADERS"**  
Wednesday, November 13, 2013  
RBSC 211  
12pm-2pm  
(Limited seating...must register)

**Ethical Decision Making**  
Tuesday, November 19, 2013  
RBSC 310  
4pm-5pm

**Multicultural Leadership**  
Tuesday, December 3, 2013  
Presenter: Kimberly Roberts  
RBSC 310  
3pm-4pm

**Civic Engagement**  
Monday, December 9, 2013  
RBSC 310  
3pm-4pm

# MULTI- CULTURAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

WHEN

**October 25-27, 2013**

WHERE

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# Writer's Corner

## Poetry by C. Lionel Spencer

### Miss Dying with You

memories of me blowing my exhale into your inhale,  
such a backward love that I felt high from,  
trying to inhale your breath slower,  
hoping the high would pass and possibly stay present in  
my present I exhaled, because I had to breathe,  
and your breathe was choking me,  
causing me to cough; my body rejected you,  
I often forget and I romanticize the fact that we were  
killing each other, desperate for intimacy I stole every  
moment,  
every look, every touch when granted the opportunity,  
because love is scarce where I'm from,  
and where we were going it was would have been a  
premature death before a ripe bloom, but still I miss  
dying with you.

### I Speak to Hearts

I speak to hearts not ears, because hearing aids don't fix  
what you feel,  
they adjust the volume but don't quite quiet anxiety,  
sadness, and hurt,  
so I lift my voice hoping only hoping to connect love,  
from my mouth to your heart, from my heart to your ears,  
I only want you to hear my love, my passion and my  
truth,  
hear my old spirit battle my youth, hear your truth in my  
lies, see your face through my eyes,

I speak to hearts not ears, because the eardrums are  
weird, they don't beat like hearts do,  
Boom-boom, boom-boom, they only respond to sound,  
but can't reciprocate the joy, the love, the hope that  
surrounds us,  
you can mend, break and shape hearts, ears only hear,  
but they can't hear the tears that fall, the smiles that pry  
open or the truth in action,  
when I ask "can you feel me?", your ears hear the words  
but your heart responds,  
I speak to hearts not ears, because its really the heart that  
hears.

### Poor Reception

There will be stories that we will all tell someday,  
of dark hours and cherished moments,  
bright days and unforgettable horrors,  
on which will the scale weigh the most my conscience  
asked me?  
Decisions. Judgments.  
They will determine the weigh.  
My scale has been uneven for some time now,  
and I'm relearning how to balance it.  
Today I saw man whisper something into an ear that was  
keenly listening.  
The earlobe twitched as the words were poured in.  
I was told "men doesn't live on bread alone,"  
sounds like a preachers favorite saying if you ask me;  
unfortunately, I eat everyday  
Finding words to accurately explain your behavior is  
quite the task  
when your actions normally speak for you.  
So when asked why you do something simply reply by  
saying nothing and doing much.  
Who can really explain their behaviors, even the ones  
they themselves don't agree with?  
It's a game of chasing the tail, until you bit it and scream  
only to wonder why you chased it in the first place.  
One can only hope their actions speak clearest, at least  
clearer than their words.

## Inner Beauty

By O'Brien K. Awuah

How do you feel when someone you trust so  
much hurts you? Do you smile on the outside but harbor  
pain within you? And how do you lead a hatred-free life?  
Often times, you meet people on the streets, subways,  
at church, on campus, pretty ladies wearing the most  
expensive make-ups, some people, taking comfort in  
their expensive cars and buildings, or wearing high  
quality fabrics, thinking they are the most elegant people  
you have ever met. However, since you are not capable  
enough to delve into their innermost environments, your  
personal total judgment becomes vague. As cleverly  
defined by Kahlil Gibra, a profound Lebanese artist and  
poet, "Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the  
heart." Thus, inner beauty is not a matter of the physical  
appearance, but a matter of the heart; it relates to one's  
innermost being.

No one can boast of having the most serene inner  
atmosphere since he or she was born. Even as kids, new  
to this world, we demonstrated several behaviors of inner  
ugliness which seemed unwelcome to other people. For  
instance, you might have cried over what did not belong  
to you, fought your peers, or raised your hand on your  
parents when they refused to provide what you yearned  
for. Likewise, you might have deliberately caused pain to  
your best friend, a relative, or someone who trusts you in  
life.

A person with an inner beauty is a peaceful person  
both within and physically. His or her face glows with  
smiles at all times without showing an iota of sadness in  
his or her face. He or she controls pain and disappointment  
internally, and ceases the flow of tears that may run down  
his or her cheeks. Thus, a person with an inner beauty is  
peaceful as defined by the Merriam Webster dictionary,  
"Freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or

emotions". Besides, an inner pretty person is sociable and  
shares what he or she has with other people.

According to Mother Theresa, "If we have no  
peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to  
each other". Couples hurt each other, relationships collapse,  
close friends betray each other, siblings kill or harm each  
other, and countries wage war against each other, because  
of lack of inner beauty between them. Human beings  
easily forget their belongingness as Mother Theresa said,  
that results all sorts of unacceptable behaviors depicting  
inner ugliness.

The September 11, 2011 bombing at the World  
Trade Center, New York, by the al-Qaeda group, the recent  
bombing incidence by the Al Shabab terrorist group in  
Kenya, on September 28, 2013, that resulted the death of  
67 civilians including one of the most prolific professors  
from Ghana, the several attacks at United States of America  
embassies abroad, the political instability in Afghanistan,  
Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and street and school shootings  
are as a result of people lacking inner beauty.

Therefore, if all of us could embrace inner beauty  
by accepting each other with love, if inner beauty is  
embedded in marriages by tolerating each other's behavior,  
if we are content with what we have, if employers could  
treat their employees fairly by giving them appreciable  
incentives, if students would respect their instructors and  
one another by being polite, and if governments could  
erase corruption among them and share the national cake  
proportionally, there will be solid relations among us and  
our world will be the most peaceful place to live in.

Friends, never forget that inner beauty is  
indirectly proportional to your physical appearance, but it  
is directly proportional to your inner atmosphere.

## Change: One of Life's Few Constants

By Carolyn Robinson

Charles Darwin once said, "Change is  
something that cannot be avoided. It is not the strongest  
of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent but  
the one most responsive to change." Some people accept  
and embrace change, and for others, it needs to be thrust  
upon them through natural disasters, accidents, illness  
and even death. *Webster's Second Collegiate Dictionary*  
defines change as: "to cause to become different; alter;  
transform; convert." From the day that we are born we  
embark on a journey of endless change.

In addition, the Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes  
3:1 "to everything there is a season and a time to every  
purpose under the heaven." For this reason, in autumn  
the leaves on a tree knows when to change colors and fall  
to the ground indicating a change of season, a catapillar  
must change in order to become a beautiful butterfly,  
seeds when cared for properly will change and bring  
forth a beautiful rose bush, a splendid garden of lilies, a  
basket of sweet peas or a beautiful apple tree. In other  
words, a seed can't stay a seed forever. When cared for  
with nourishing soil, rays of sunlight, and water, they  
change shape and start to become whatever it is they  
were meant to be.

Likewise, Erik Erikson, a developmental  
psychologist, tells us that every individual goes through  
various changes and cycles throughout his or her life  
span. We all go through physical, mental, and social  
changes. He explains that there are "eight stages  
through which a healthily developing human should  
pass from infancy to late adulthood. In each stage the  
person confronts, and hopefully masters new challenges.  
Each stage builds on the successful completion of  
earlier stages. The challenges of stages not successfully  
completed may be expected to reappear as problems in  
the future" (*Wikipedia Encyclopedia*). Therefore, it is  
important that we accept change as we go from stage  
to stage and phase to phase on this journey we call life.  
There are certain changes that can astonish us: starting a  
new job, ending a relationship, or the death of a love one.  
Some changes can be pleasant, enjoyable, and exciting.

On the other hand, there are some changes that can bring  
heartaches, pains, tears and sorrows. For instance, I will  
never forget almost nineteen years ago when my mother  
who was only forty nine passed away from a sudden  
massive heart attack. Needless to say, I was devastated.  
My mother was always just a phone call away.  
Therefore, I often called her when I was feeling down  
or perplexed because the sound of her voice soothed  
me. I remember asking God, "Why of all the mothers  
in the world did He have to take mine?" The loss of my  
mother was one of the hardest changes I ever incurred.  
Nevertheless, I believe that losing my mother adequately  
equipped and prepared me to face the many challenges,  
transitions and changes that I have experienced since her  
death.

I have found that resisting change and clinging  
to the past or what is familiar can result in set-backs,  
stagnation, pain, sorrow, regret and excessive wasted  
time. Making changes in our lives require a leap of faith;  
an act of believing in or accepting something intangible  
or unprovable, without practical evidence (*Wikipedia  
Encyclopedia*). It requires us stepping out of our comfort  
zone. This can be scary and frustrating, but having the  
courage to do so can change our lives for the better. In  
fact, if we waited for all the fear to subside and all the  
what-ifs to become sure things, an entire lifetime would  
speed by before we found courage. In conclusion, King  
Whitney Jr. once said, "Change has a considerable  
psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful  
it is threatening because it means that things may get  
worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things  
may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because  
the challenge exists to make things better."

Change is one of life's few constants. It is  
inevitable. "Change is something that cannot be avoided.  
It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the  
most intelligent but the one most responsive to change"  
(Charles Darwin).

*It's Your Right. It's Your Duty. Vote!*



## Writer's Corner

### The Truth about Free Will

by Glorisel Belliard

The first time Agatha heard the voice, she did not give it much thought. Although it was very strange how the voice seemed to come from within her, but at the same time was missing any dependence, as if it had its own will. For a moment her heart began to beat frantically; this only lasted for a few seconds, so she concluded that the whole episode had been her mind playing tricks.

After some weeks, she had completely forgotten the incident and was patiently waiting for the visit of Doctor M. to conclude. He was known for his slumberous, monotonous, and never-ending monologues. Surreptitiously, Agatha glanced at her mother who was nodding her head as if she could absorb each word that was coming out of the old know-it-all's mouth. The truth is that the doctor's constant boasting of his pretended "wisdom" infuriated Agatha, but what bothered her the most was that no one, not even her, especially not her, had the courage to tell the pretentious and pompous charlatan to shut his damn trap up.

A girl servant poured them some tea. Agatha looked at hers and sadly thought that almost everything she did in life, she did because it was a duty. Like the simple act of drinking a cups of tea. Her mother and Doctor M. had started their cup, so she gulped some of hers to hold back a sigh and to finish the tea as soon as possible. Doctor M. proceeded with his monologue commenting about the benefits and properties of tea. Agatha wasn't listening to him; she was trying to understand why her mother always invited Doctor M. for tea. Everyone in C. did it, though. Her mother probably thought it was a responsibility. After all, the whole duty complying thing was like a cursed heritage. It seemed to Agatha that the ticking of the clock had reduced its rhythm to a tediously slow one. And to make matters worse, she still had to resist twenty-five more minutes before Doctor M. had to leave.

"Ha-ha-ha, ha-ha, ha!" –a woman's voice laughed in a low and vehement tone. Agatha lifted her face brusquely with eyes wide open, surprised that her mother –who always laughed with moderation, as she said a lady should- had been the one to laugh so brazenly. But then she noticed that her mother was not even smiling. She searched desperately with her eyes for the servant, but the girl had already left. The doctor was still talking immutably and her mother remained listening to him in the same way, meaning that they had not heard the laugh...

A wave of hot blood was slowly crawling up her temples clouding her reasoning, but what finished generating a live terror in her emotions and numbed her senses, was realizing how similar that laugh had been to the voice she had heard before. She started to breathe with difficulty, heavily, and to hear a sharp whistle in her ears,

but there was something overcoming her fear: an immense curiosity. She needed an explanation.

Agatha's cardiac rhythms were slowing down from their wild race, when suddenly, without the least notice, the voice talked again:

"Oh, come on..., you *want* to do it. And why not? What's there to stop you? Hypocrisy?" –it told Agatha in an exceptionally tempting tone that reminded her of the voluptuousness that the words of a lover adopt.

In the middle of her agitation, Agatha exclaimed without thinking: "What do you mean?! –becoming conscious afterwards that her mother and Doctor M. were staring at her surprised. She realized that it was obvious they would think she was talking to the doctor, although she had never asked him any questions during his soliloquys. So in order to slightly mend her error, she said in a more affable tone: "I-I mean... what were you saying? I'm very sorry to interrupt, it's just that I lost track of what you-were-saying-for-a-moment –she managed to stutter, transforming the last words into one.

"Of course, of course, I understand," –Doctor M. said with a smile that pretended to be indulgent, but was full of sarcasm, as if he thought that the most natural thing in the world was for a woman, or anyone besides himself, to be stupid- "I was saying that thanks to the studies and extensive research I have done..."

Agatha did not listen to him past that point. The doctor talked to her, pausing between each word more than was necessary, and looked at her with a glare that clearly expressed that he considered it a waste of time trying to explain to her the "brilliance" of his studies. Agatha looked directly into his rat-looking eyes, and a mixture of repulsion and hatred agitated inside her. So when the voice spoke to her again, she did not feel fear anymore because her anger had surpassed any other emotion.

"He is insufferable and conceited. Someone should tell him how pathetic he really is," –the voice told Agatha- "and you would be the ideal person to do that. I mean... you are dying to do it anyway. But you are afraid, aren't you? Now, ask yourself: afraid of what, or who? What's the worst that could happen? And, isn't it the right thing to be honest? Or do you want to be just as hypocritical as everyone else in C.?"

The questions were being fired one after the other; each one landing perfectly on the target that was Agatha's weakening willpower. The voice's words were intoxicating Agatha like the liquor she had never tasted, making her capacity to reason or decide, numb...

"Stop! Just be quiet once and for all!" –Agatha screeched, while she covered her ears with both hands tightly. She could not tell if she was talking to the voice

or the doctor anymore, but since the damage was already done she proceeded without even thinking, - "Yes! Yes, you! Are you really so stupid that you can't even notice how much everyone *hates* you? Can't you at least pretend to be humble for once in your life? You-you... *you drive me crazy!!*"

Doctor M. was incapable of assimilating what had just happened for a moment. He sat there with his mouth hanging, looking at Agatha as if she had gone mad. An insignificant brat like her *daring* to speak to him like that! Agatha's mother was just as surprised. She grew paler with every second that passed. Her daughter must be possessed by some evil spirit! It was the only plausible explanation for her little girl to go mad like that!

Agatha looked at the doctor and her mother with bloodshot eyes, knowing what was going through their minds, which infuriated her even more.

"Agatha, dear! What has become of you? What is *wrong* with you?" –her mother almost pleaded. She was deeply mortified.

All of a sudden the tea table went slowly flying through the air for what seemed centuries, and landed with the loudest bang that had ever been heard in the town of C. Agatha's arms were still in the air when the doctor and her mother could finally manage to look away from the chaos that used to be the tea table. Gently, the arms went down and Agatha stood up and ran out the door.

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By the time Agatha returned to her senses, it was nighttime and she was sitting on a bench in K. Park; a bloody knife on her lap. She gasped and threw the knife on the ground before running away. Besides the occasional drunkard, the streets of C. were deserted. After running for a while, she heard the roaring of the sea. Walking towards the East, she found it. The weakest rays of light were surging from the water. "You made the right decision." –the voice said with a chuckle.

"I did not do anything... Get away from me! Let go!" –Agatha replied frantically, brushing desperately with her hands an imaginary substance off her skin.

"Oh, really?" –the voice sounded angry for the first time- "Did *I* put the knife in your hands? Ha! I'm not even real!"

Upon hearing this, a horrifying scene only her eyes could see materialized before Agatha, and backing away from it she stepped into the precipice. To this day, locals say that if standing very still they can hear a woman's voice calling on the cliff in the early hours.

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**CRJ Program**

**ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN!**

Criminal Justice Club

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

For more information contact  
Professor Crystal Rodriguez at  
Crystal.rodriguez03@bcc.cuny.edu or  
Professor Megan Maiello  
Megan.maiello@bcc.cuny.edu  
Please stop by CO 309  
Or call (718) 289-6100 ext. 3533

You don't have to be a CRJ major to join!!  
The purpose of the club is to educate students on the importance of criminal justice topics, advocate for criminal justice issues and motivate students to be more active citizens. Through the club activities we will expose students to the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and potential career opportunities. Through our club activities we will encourage students to network with criminal justice professionals, politicians, faculty and other students.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

## DREAM TABLE

Be Among the First to Join!  
Prof. Roger Jeff Cunningham, Social Sciences  
Leader

Dreams, The Royal Road to the Unconscious Sigmund Freud

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

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

# DREAMS

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

*-marsha norman*

**BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!**

Tuesdays / Fall Semester 2013

NOON to 2:00 PM

Cafeteria – Bronx Community College

For More Information: 212 594-7501  
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## THE BIOLOGY CLUB



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- Must have an Original Idea/Concept or Improvement on Existing Idea/Concept

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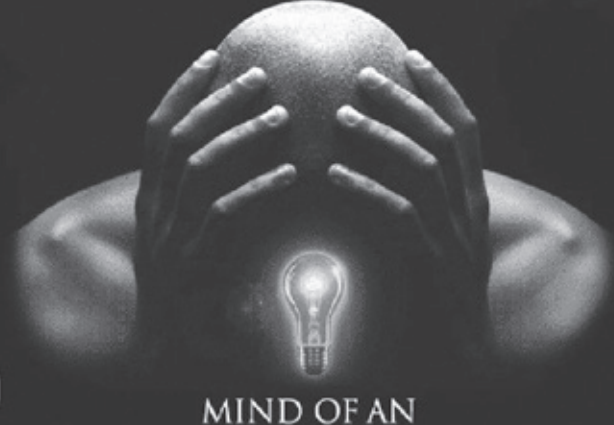
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ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING DECEMBER 13, 2013 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2014

The competition is open to all CUNY and SUNY Community College students registered for the Fall Semester of 2013 or the Spring Semester of 2014. We encourage students from all academic departments and majors to enter the competition.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEST VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN OUR QR CODE

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# BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE RAINBOW ALLIANCE




FALL 2013  
CALENDAR

Want to learn more about the Rainbow Alliance? Connect with us via e-mail at [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu) or on Facebook (Rainbow Alliance of CUNY BCC).

September 19, 2013, 12:30-1:30 p.m. **FIRST MEETING, COLSTON HALL 723**

September 26, 2013, 12:30-1:30 p.m. **RESUME WRITING 101, COLSTON HALL 723**

Explore the step-by-step processes for creating an effective resume. OCD Credit is available. Students interested in earning OCD credit must sign up in advance via an e-mail to [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu) (Confirmation e-mail will be sent).

October 3, 2013, 12:30-1:30 p.m. **HIV & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, COLSTON HALL 723**

Domestic violence affects people regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, education level, financial situation, or marital status. Abusers often use their own, or the victim's HIV+ status, as a weapon of coercion. Martez Smith of BOOM Health! will facilitate this workshop designed to increase knowledge and understanding on the intersection of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. Students interested in earning OCD credit must sign up in advance via an e-mail to [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu) (Confirmation e-mail will be sent).

October 17, 2013, 12:00-1:30 p.m. **CLUB FAIR, ROSCOE BROWN STUDENT CENTER, 2ND FLOOR**

October 24, 2013, 12:30-1:30 p.m. **MEETING, COLSTON HALL 723**

October 31, 2013, 6:30-9:00 p.m. **HALLOWEEN PARADE**

The Rainbow Alliance will be marching as a group in the parade. We will be meeting on the northeast corner of Canal and Varick Streets on Thursday, October 31, at 6:30 p.m. Should it rain or snow that day or there is a weather prediction calling for rain or snow, we will NOT be meeting there and the event is cancelled. Please confirm your attendance by sending an e-mail to [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu).

November 7, 2013, 12:30-1:30 p.m. **UNDERSTANDING OBAMACARE, ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED**

President Obama's bill aims to reform the health care system by providing Americans access to affordable care. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the official title for ObamaCare) was signed into law March 23, 2010 and upheld by a Supreme Court ruling on June 28, 2012. Saudah Muhammad, Executive Director of Bronx Lebanon Integrated Services System, Inc. (BLISS), will discuss the facets of the law and address questions.

November 8, 2013, 6:00-8:30 p.m. **BAD EDUCATION MOVIE (FRIDAY NIGHT), ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Bad Education is a Spanish drama film written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar. The film focuses on two reunited childhood friends (and lovers) caught up in a stylized murder mystery. Professor Alicia Bralove-Ramirez will give a talk before the film. Students interested in earning OCD credit must sign up in advance via an e-mail to [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu) (Confirmation e-mail will be sent).

November 14, 2013 **MEETING, COLSTON HALL 723**

November 16, 2013, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **GAY & LESBIAN MUSEUM OF ART (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)**

The first LGBTQ art museum in the world, located in SoHo, New York. Exhibits and preserves art that speaks directly to LGBTQ experience. Students interested in earning OCD credit must sign up in advance via an e-mail to [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu) (Confirmation e-mail will be sent).



The Rainbow Alliance at Bronx Community College, 2012-2013 IOC Club of the Year, provides resources and extracurricular activities that address the needs of LGBTQ students as well as the greater campus community.

**Joy Deluna, President**

Edwin Roman, Advisor, Colston Hall, Room 205, 718-289-5459

E-mail: [rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rainbow@bcc.cuny.edu)