

# THE COMMUNICATOR

September 12, 2011

Dedicated to Informative Excellence

Issue 1 Fall 2011

## Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph Welcomes Students for the Fall 2011 Term

I am pleased to greet the Bronx Community College student body as we begin the Fall semester and as you begin or continue your academic journey here. Although I have only recently come to the campus, I feel at home and look forward to meeting many of you in the days and weeks to come. Personally, I am committed to the belief in the potential of each human being. The challenge now is for all of you to do your best to reach your potential.

The College offers a wide range of learning opportunities, whether you end your studies with us or plan to seek undergraduate, graduate or professional degrees. There are numerous co-curricular activities that enrich the instruction you receive in your classes. I encourage you to take advantage of them. At BCC you can achieve your academic and professional goals. We offer 30 combined AA/AS/AAS Degree and Certificate Programs, including a menu of unique programs that are in demand in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace, including nuclear medicine technology, animal care and management, ornamental horticulture, pharmaceutical manufacturing technology, and medical lab technology.

To assist you in your work, we are constantly improving our facilities and services: From the Library and Gerald S. Lieblich Learning Resources Center, to the Office of Student Life, and the vast array of other services offered in the Division of Student Affairs. We are prepared to assist many of the varied needs you may have. A beautiful new Early Childhood Center was recently opened for those of you who need a safe environment for



Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph

your children while you are in class. This semester, once again, a number of you will be learning the ePortfolio system that is one of the latest technological innovations in higher education.

Our faculty members are among the most accomplished in CUNY; they bring a high level of commitment to their work in the classroom and to serving

the College community. Additionally, we have a dedicated group of administrators and staff whose job it is to put you, the students, first in all our endeavors.

Key to your success here is becoming part of the fabric of the College community. Join a club; become a reporter for the newspaper; apply for study and service abroad; try out for a sports team; take advantage of the many cultural programs, events, and activities that occur throughout the semester. The College web site is your lifeline to these activities, so please peruse it on a regular basis.

Here at BCC we are fortunate to have a community comprised of diverse students, faculty, and staff from all over the world. We can and should learn from one another. At our College, the global is also local, and this diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Once we get to know one another, we can learn to not just tolerate the differences in people, but to really appreciate them.

I plan to meet as many of you as I can this year: some of you in your classrooms, while I may meet others at events, programs and ceremonies that are the heart of the BCC experience. Speaking with you and hearing your first-hand accounts of your personal experiences at BCC will help me to better support you to attain your goals.

*Dr. Berotte Joseph began her presidency of Bronx Community College in early July; she is the College's fifth president.*

## SGA President Sends Greetings

I first want to welcome our freshman students to our beautiful campus and to our continuing students welcome to the Fall 2011 semester. My name is Tricia Warren, my major is Liberal Arts/Biology, and I am your newly elected President of the Student Government Association (SGA) for the academic year 2011-2012.

The SGA is a non-profit organization at Bronx Community College formed to protect and preserve the rights of all students regardless of race, sex or gender. It is also responsible for the oversight of the revenues collected from student activities fee, which is a projected one million dollars, and projects and co-curricular activities funded by these fees. The SGA is comprised of 15 students elected through a campus-wide election each year by you, our peers. Of the 15, there are five executive officers and 10 senators who are all voting members of the various campus committees that govern the operations of the college community.

The 2011-2012 SGA is committed to helping students acquire a good education through communication and student empowerment. Our goals include assisting students with needed recourses such as scholarships for international/non-resident students and resident students, lobbying for cheaper textbook rates, and by holding leadership workshops to teach students how to become good leaders in society once they have graduated and have acquired a higher education.

The SGA's main mission this year is to have an election to allow you our students to vote and approve our amended SGA Constitution, which has not been updated and revised in twenty-seven years. This document is the official governing document of the SGA and sets forth the rules and regulations on how the SGA should represent you the students. We'd also like to create an SGA website to help to inform you the students of the SGA's various activities on campus and our collaborations with other CUNY colleges. The SGA will continue to lobby against tuition increase, give away SGA Metro cards and continue to support and encourage students in joining clubs. Also the SGA promises to continue to give advice, work together with and support the administration and faculty on matters affecting you the students.

However, as the saying goes, "The man who does not contribute does not have a voice." Though we are here to facilitate the success of students in academics and enjoyment, we, the SGA, are dependent on the suggestions of the student. So we adjure you, the students, to collaborate with us and make known your desires.

Thank you.  
The SGA



*BCC student government leaders and Assistant Director of Student Life Manny Lopez in attendance at the 2011 Annual CUNY SGA Leadership Conference – "New Day, New Challenge, New Promise" – June 17, 2011 at LaGuardia Community College.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### **The Budget and the Deep Blue Sea**

Page 2

#### **Voices of the SGA**

Page 3

#### **Going Global**

Page 4

#### **NYPIRG News BCC Annual Film Festival**

Page 8

#### **The Collaborative Art of Filmmaking Alcy Leyva vs. the World**

Page 9

## 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.

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

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

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address:  
rowanandrewdavid@aol.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.

### The Communicator Submission Insertion Dates Fall 2011

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

#### DEADLINES

**October**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2011**

**November**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

**December**  
**Friday, November 11, 2011**

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

Charlotte Witherspoon, Editor-in-Chief  
Alcy Leyva, Assistant Editor  
Carol Martinez, IOC Representative  
Alex Luma, Treasurer  
Sandra Murphy, Staff Writer  
Mikhail Shevchenko, Staff Writer

Join  
*The Communicator*  
Team!

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  
to schedule an appointment.

## Communicator Welcome Letter

Dear Readers,

With a new president, a new library on its way, and a much-bemoaned tuition hike, this semester is bound to be interesting for BCC. Not all of our changes are happening in Language Hall. Here at *The Communicator* we're knocking the dust off of our old model, and shaking things up. We'd especially like to make more of an effort to hear from you. Yes, *you*.

Keep an eye out for our new features and editorials. Alcy Leyva is ready for any challenge you'd like throw at him (literally!), and Mikhail Shevchenko is handling our current affairs desk. Carol Martinez is heading up our *What Matters to You?* initiative and Alex Luma is bringing you everything you ever wanted to know about transferring. Want to know what's up with the budget and how you'll be affected by administration changes? Well, look no further than Charlotte Witherspoon. Watch out for monthly updates from the Student Government Association, and op-eds from students just like you. Ever wonder what our faculty and administrators do after class? Starting in October, you can hop on over to 20Q!

Beyond everything, we want to hear from you! Can't get enough of *The Communicator*? Why not follow us on Twitter! We're @bcccommunicator. Are you a bit more of a Facebook fiend? You're in luck, we're <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Communicator/122568027840253>. Not very fond of all the digital tech stuff? As always, you can drop by Colston 605A or shoot us an email at [communipaper@gmail.com](mailto:communipaper@gmail.com).

What are you waiting for? Jump right in!

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## The Budget and the Deep Blue Sea

By Charlotte Witherspoon

Tuition went up by \$150. Then it didn't. Then it did again. It wasn't an OSSES malfunction or a case of mass blindness, but a result of the ongoing battle between CUNY, the state, and the students.

Why all the back-and-forth? Both the State and City of New York projected decreases in funding to CUNY. Though enrollment has been increasing sharply, the colleges were not poised to garner enough new revenue to recoup money lost from the drop in aid. On July 21<sup>st</sup> the CUNY Board of Trustees voted to authorize Chancellor Matthew Goldstein to revise the tuition schedule. Chancellor Goldstein approved a tuition increase of \$150 per semester for both senior and community colleges. Three Lehman College seniors then sued the CUNY Board of Trustees and a judge froze the increase pursuant to a full meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee for the Board of Trustees reconvened on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and voted to pass the increase.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Chancellor Goldstein released a statement condemning state budget cuts and rationalizing CUNY's new five-year plan. Goldstein writes, "Let me be very clear: cuts of this magnitude are unsustainable. Without increased and predictable income, we will not be able to provide the classes that our students need. We will not be able to provide the academic support services that our students need. We will not be able to equip the laboratories and hire the counselors, financial aid staff, and lab techs that our students need. The effect of fewer class sections and fewer services is that it will take longer for students to graduate, creating an even greater financial burden on students and their families—much greater than the tuition increase that is being proposed today."

The lion's share of a CUNY community college's operating budget comes from state and federal resources. When the state trims its budget, colleges suffer. Though the five-year plan includes a \$300 tuition increase each year, it also comes with a guarantee from that the state that it will not reduce its funding to CUNY during that time. Even with the tuition increase, CUNY is still not operating at the budget it sustained in FY2010. CUNY community colleges are entering fiscal year 2011 with a projected 17.8% loss in funding.

Belt-tightening ripples will likely be felt throughout CUNY and within Bronx Community College, the only question is: How?

SARAH · LAWRENCE · COLLEGE

# Community College Transfers Welcome!

*Community college transfers are some of our  
best students, so check out an SLC degree!*

- Twice the one-on-one faculty contact as any other college or university
- 12 men's and women's teams moving to NCAA Division III
- 30 minutes to midtown Manhattan
- Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 per year
- Internships, career counseling, and study abroad
- Generous financial aid packages and credit acceptance policy

To learn more, visit [www.slc.edu/admission/apply/transfer](http://www.slc.edu/admission/apply/transfer),  
e-mail [slcadmit@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:slcadmit@sarahlawrence.edu) or call (800) 888-2858.

# Campus News

## VOICES OF THE SGA

### Know Your Reps! Eric Sutton Edition

By Eric Sutton

I would like to start off by saying thanks for picking Bronx Community College of the City University of New York as a starting place for your academic future. My name is Eric Sutton, and I am the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Officer for Legal and Legislative Affairs for Bronx Community College. My major is Paralegal Studies and I will complete my AAS degree in spring of 2012; I then plan to attend City College.

My job as the Legal Legislator is to keep the SGA informed of legislative and legal proceedings, and any and all actions put into practice that may affect the administration and students at Bronx Community College. Part of my job is managing, directing and organizing the activities of all student senators on all committees. I am also chief spokesperson for the SGA before lawmaking, governmental or legislative bodies. Additionally, I receive and review monthly reports from the SGA, of all actions, policies and procedures enacted by the college's entities. I sit on committees and on the University Student Senate.

As an SGA member I stood for, by and with the students of Bronx Community College. As a current SGA member I made it my vow to be there, support and to be the mouthpiece for those students who are not heard or seen on this campus.

I am a paralegal major here at BCC. Before becoming an SGA member I was a member of the Bronx Community College track team for a year. As an SGA member I made it by duty to be on campus seven days a week. As an SGA member and legal legislator I plan on showing this college and the CUNY system as a whole that Bronx Community College's time is here and 2011–2012 is the time for Bronx Community College to tap into its potential.

I have faith that Bronx Community College is the starting place of our futures, like many other students on this campus. My goal is to make the college experience a great one. I have faith in the students and will be there for the students of Bronx Community College. William Arthur Ward once said, "Study while others are sleeping; work while others are loafing; prepare while others are playing; and dream while others are wishing." Albert Einstein said, "Learn for yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning." I stand for and live by their words.

Bronx Community College is suffering. Our leadership and student body are so separated that BCC SGA can't truthfully be called representatives of the people. I am asking for your vote because I am person that is for, by and with the student of BCC. I will make it my main goal to end this and create a more personal community within Bronx Community College where everyone will be able to contribute. It's not going to be easy, I will have to surrender some time, and results won't be instantaneous. I am going to work harder than I ever worked before. But that's fine. I will grind my teeth and show real determination because failure is not an option. That's how winning is done! Who's with me?

This could be the greatest year of our lives, but I will let it be the worst if I give up. Well, I'm not quitting because when the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time." We as students have come too far! I'm going to stay right here and fight for this cause. A day may come when our courage and determination fails ... but it is not THIS day or THIS year. No longer will the complaints and grievances of students be brushed aside. Bronx Community College will heed the wishes of the *vox populi*, which means the voice of the people. This is YOUR time to voice your opinion! Seize the day! Never give up, victory or defeat that's the Bronx Community College way!

### Bronx Community College Student Government Members: 2011-2012

Tricia Warren – President  
Kwasi Boateng - Vice President and IOC Chairperson  
Eric Sutton – Legal Legislator  
Almarie Guy – Treasurer  
William Murray – Secretary  
Alejandro Prieto – Senator  
Angelique Montalvo – Senator  
Charles Harding – Senator  
Cherno Jallow – Senator  
Fuseina Gimballa- Senator  
Joel Altieri – Senator  
Kezia Maynard – Senator  
Lee Ann Moses – Senator



### New SGA Administration Takes Office

By Mikhail Shevchenko

It's not often that on a random day in August one can find me roaming the BCC's campus at 10:30 in the morning. Yet on the morning of August 3<sup>rd</sup> I had the opportunity to attend the first Student Government Association meeting pertaining to the upcoming fall semester. "What a wonderful chance to get a glimpse of the machinations of student government," I told myself as I walked up the stairs towards Loew Hall.

Not wanting to miss any bit of the meeting I had cut my cigarette short and stepped inside room 200. Upon entering I realized that I hadn't needed to cut any short at all for there was no one in the room yet. It was only a minute or two later that members of the SGA had started showing up. While slated to commence at 11am, the minimum requirement of members present to officially begin was only met about fifty minutes past the opening mark. Until then, the seven members present went about the usual matters in an unofficial capacity. To me this felt less like a student government meeting and more like the first day of an elective class that has nothing to do with the curriculum of anyone registered for it.

With SGA President Tricia Warren still absent at the commencement of the meeting, the Vice President Kwasi Boateng took to the helm and acted as a House Speaker, dictating both what was on the agenda for the/meeting and how to go about discussing the matters. Having never attended a meeting before I must admit that I was surprised by Tricia's absence; I didn't know if it was common to have key members missing. Supervising the meeting were advisors to the SGA, Melissa Kirk and Manny Lopez. From time to time I witnessed the discourse almost turn into something that could've turned into the infamous brawl that swept the South Korean parliament in 2009. Luckily in such moments Kirk interjected with reminders of the protocol necessary when dealing with proposed motions and civility would then resume.

An issue of particular note that was discussed at the meeting was the subject of committee leaders. The list of nominees consisted of the same five or six names for practically all committees. This had bestowed a feeling of curiosity in me as to whether these half dozen individuals were truly as ambitious as it seemed or whether the whole process was just a title-grabbing competition. I was not the only one there who saw in a dubious light the likelihood of one being able to fulfill all of the responsibilities some were attempting to attain. Certain key nominations were made with the rest being scheduled for the next meeting.

When discussion about a future meeting schedule began I quickly saw that this was going to be a topic of serious contention. It was understandable that this would be a matter that would be discussed at length and with plenty of back and forth. While optimism, compromise, and organization were all present during the discussion, at times it felt like watching members of the Senate discussing cost of living adjustments during a recession. People were quite passionate and almost unnecessarily defensive about conceding the four hours per week necessary to discuss issues and politics at Bronx Community College. After about half an hour of discussion it was motioned that the topic at hand be moved towards the end of the meeting---understandable since the last half-hour spent on the matter was fruitless. This process was repeated once again at the end of the meeting with the motion that it should be discussed further at the next meeting. I must admit that the decision to move the discussion into the next meeting puzzled me but I kept my thoughts to myself for several reasons. The most immediate one being my unfamiliarity with how this particular SGA operates.

The last topic to be discussed at length was the commencement of the upcoming fall semester and an event to be used to mark it. Perhaps it was the festive nature of this topic but for whatever reason this discussion was more diplomatic and thorough than the previous ones. The discussion was only slightly contended and only so by Treasurer Almarie Guy, since the projected budget was incomplete. Other than that, anyone present can attest to this being the least heated discussion that took place at this SGA meeting.

While rocky at first, and dispersedly bumpy throughout, this meeting went by in the same fashion one can expect of any student body organization. The members present showed an air of confidence and zeal that is typically only seen when watching freshmen politicians take their oath of office. Regardless, that kind of attitude bestows a slight confidence that is rare for people as pessimistic as I. Even if they achieved little during this meeting at the very least their hearts were in the right place.

## JOIN A CLUB

# Going Global



## Michael Steuerman Scholarship Winner Joins Habitat for Humanity in Malawi

By Emilie Jones

Reprinted by permission from Beyond the Bronx, National Center for Educational Alliances, Bronx Community College

Every year, over 180 scholarships are available to BCC students. These scholarships aren't only great opportunities, but for some, they are the keys to the doors of our future. I was lucky enough to be one of the few to receive such a \$2,500 Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship that enabled me to volunteer in Malawi. I didn't know much about the Southeast African country prior to my stay, but it is the 10th poorest country in the world. A typical village hut is made of mud and dirt floors, harboring many diseases and bacteria in the stagnant water that seeps through the thatch roofs. No one should have to live in such conditions.

I chose to contribute in the effort to eradicate poverty housing by participating in a Global Village Trip for Habitat for Humanity. I met 13 other people there from five different countries, and together we built two houses for two families who had previously lived in substandard conditions. On the work site, we were joined by "professional house builders" and tribesmen. We took ten times as long as they did, but, somehow, a mutual appreciation developed between us. Even the women in the village would contribute to the work. They would walk, at times barefoot, for a mile with a baby wrapped around them, to gather water from the river for mortar. They also made us lunch every day.

I gained a lot through the experience. I tickled children for the first time in their lives, exchanged ideas and cultures with the elders, and made a lot of friends along the way. Most importantly, though, I stayed true to myself throughout the trip and am proud of my actions and the decisions I made. I am very thankful for the opportunity and support I received and hope to inspire others to do the same.



## CUNY Study Abroad Applications Are Due

To All Students:

Have you thought about studying abroad for three-four weeks over the winter intersession? If so, you may be able to participate in one of CUNY's many study abroad programs that are offered in various countries around the world. You may also be eligible to receive a scholarship of up to \$1,650 to defray expenses.

The Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY students (STOCS) program invites CUNY students who receive financial aid, are either US citizens or permanent residents, live in New York, and who have a family income of under \$75,000 to compete for scholarships of \$1,000 and \$1,650. Please note that previous recipients of STOCS scholarships are ineligible to apply.

In addition to a clear, well written personal statement, students must submit their transcript and a letter of recommendation from a CUNY faculty member. The essay is extremely important so we recommend that applicants take their time in writing and editing the submitted essay.

The deadline for student applications is **October 11, 2011**. (All applications must be received or post-marked by that date.) Applicants must also file the 2011-12 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by September 27, 2011 for financial eligibility verification.

Students are encouraged to visit the National Center for Educational Alliances office or call Ms. Barbara Schaijer-Peleg at 718-289-5165 for further information about the application process. The application and list of eligible study abroad programs for the winter intersession is currently available in the office of the National Center for Educational Alliances in GML A1.

Please note that the process can be completed on the following website: <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/programs/international/students/scholarships/stocs.html>  
Thank you.

National Center for Educational Alliances

## This year an amazing 858 transfer students finished college at Monroe. Maybe it's time you made the move.

Maybe it's all the exciting in-demand degrees. Or the professors who actually work in their fields. Perhaps it's the fully-furnished dorms equipped with WiFi, a computer lounge and fitness center. Or the classes that meet around your schedule.

Whatever the reason, hundreds of motivated, career-minded students are taking their credits and turning them into marketable Associate or Bachelor's Degrees at Monroe College. Transferring to Monroe means:

- Generous transfer credit policy
- Additional credit for military or academy training
- Exciting degrees, in demand right now
  - Professors who also work in their fields
  - Unique Bronx & New Rochelle campuses
  - Fully furnished apartment-like dorms
  - Online & on campus class options
  - Day, evening & weekend classes
  - One-on-one financial aid & assistance



### Associate, Bachelor's, Master's and Online Degree Programs:

Accounting	Health Services	Pharmacy Technician
Baking & Pastry	Administration	Public Health
Business Management	Hospitality Management	Registered Nurse
Criminal Justice	Information Technology	MBA in Business Management
Culinary Arts	Medical Administration	MS In Criminal Justice
Early Childhood Education	Medical Assisting	



Get a free code reader from [getscanlife.com](http://getscanlife.com) from your mobile browser

**MONROE COLLEGE**  
1.800.55.MONROE  
[monroecollege.edu](http://monroecollege.edu)

# Campus News

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
AND THE  
C.O.P.E. PROGRAM  
PRESENTS



## “Working” A Job Fair Get Your “Ask” In Gear!

COPE IS HOPE

**There is a big difference  
between having something to say and having to say  
something. Learn how you can control the next step and  
still build relationships. Also, learn effective interview/  
communication techniques in addition to increasing  
positive results and mitigating negative results.**



Presented by  
Alex Luma

C.O.P.E. Program

Office of Career Services

**Thursday, September 29, 2011**

**12:00 P.M. — 2:00 P.M.**

**LOEW HALL 106-A**

C.O.P.E. PROGRAM  
LOEW HALL 106-A  
Phone: 718-289-5849  
Fax: 718-289-6487

**\*OCD CREDIT**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**



# Campus News



**LEAD** is a comprehensive leadership development program which provides leadership training, workshops, seminars and outreach programs to students at Bronx Community College. Sponsored by the *Office of Student Life*, **LEAD** complements the academic experience by teaching students the skills and providing the tools necessary for effective leadership. Active participants in **LEAD** will acquire the skills and training to serve as future leaders at BCC, in the workforce and in their community.

The **LeaderShops Certificate Series** is aimed at giving **all** students the opportunity to enhance their leadership knowledge and skill. *This series is comprised of 9 Workshops and 1 Seminar facilitated by faculty, staff and local professionals* and will focus on various topics such as: leadership styles, communication skills, diversity, personal responsibility, etc. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about a variety of topics that will expand their knowledge of effective leadership. Students can choose to register for and attend any number of workshops. However, any student who completes the required number of workshops (**see below**) with a one page reflection paper will earn a **Leadership Certificate** and be recognized at the **Leadership in Action Awards Ceremony** in spring 2012.

## Silver Leadership Certificate

attend 4 workshops and complete a one page reflection paper

## Gold Leadership Certificate

attend 7 Workshops and complete a one page reflection paper

## Platinum Leadership Certificate

attend all workshops (including seminar) and complete a one page reflection paper

## SEPTEMBER

### Get Involved...Get a Life! (1.0 hour)

September 14, 2011, 3-4 pm, RBSC 211-A

Come hear about the exciting Leadership opportunities available for first-year and all other students on campus from the *Office of Student Life*. Whether it's building leadership skills through the *Emerging Leaders Program*, *creating a club*, or *running for office in the Student Government Association*, there are many opportunities to get involved in during your first year at BCC.

## OCTOBER

### Leadership 101 (1.0 hour)

October 5, 2011, 5-6pm, RBSC 211-A

What qualities make "A leader?" **Who is a leader?** **Are You a Leader?** This workshop will challenge you to think about your own concept of leadership.

### Know Yourself; Lead Yourself (1.0 hour)

October 18, 2011, 3-4pm, RBSC 211-A

Learning to lead yourself well is one of the most important things you will ever do as a student and a Leader. "When someone truly understands who they are, they will also uncover their talents, abilities and strengths."

### Exploring your Leadership Style (1.0 hour)

October 26, 2011, 4-5pm RBSC 211-A

Students will examine different leadership styles and explore characteristics of leadership, personal goals and objectives regarding leadership and team building. Students will gain insights into effective leadership for enhanced personal achievement.

# Campus News

## NOVEMBER

### Understanding your Communication Style and how it impacts you as a Leader (1.0 hour)

November 9, 2011, 4-5pm RBSC 211-A

This workshop will focus on your own communication style. It will show how your own communication style will impact you as a student and a Leader.

### Women's Leadership Development Seminar

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 12-2pm, RBSC 211/A&B

Speaker: Stacie N.C. Grant

### Civility, Leadership and the college student (1.0 hour)

November 15, 2011, 4-5pm RBSC-A

**LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT... I APPRECIATE IT... YOU'RE WELCOME.... PLEASE...**

Common civility is no longer common. Simple gestures of courtesy such as "smiling" or saying "thank you" have become scarce. In this workshop we will explore civility, its meaning--and its impact on college life and leadership success.

### Conflict Management (1.0 hour)

November 30, 2011, 3-4pm RBSC-211-A

Conflict is part of everyday life; in this workshop we will explore conflict, our attitude towards it, and ways to manage it. Strategies for resolving both interpersonal and group conflicts will also be discussed.

## DECEMBER

### Civic Engagement, Impacting Change (1.0 hour)

December 7, 4-5pm RBSC 211-A

Discover who you want to be in the world, by identifying the causes and issues that ignite your passion, curiosity and sense of social responsibility. This workshop will explore ways to channel your passions into action through community service, political involvement, and much more.

### Embracing Diversity as a Leader (1.0 hour)

December 13, 2011 3-4pm RBSC 211-A

Successful leaders understand and educate themselves on the changing demographics within their community and world. This workshop will explore the impact that a diverse community may have in your personal interactions with others and ways to embrace it. It will help students develop openness and appreciation of differences. Techniques for building community will also be addressed.

### Register Online:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LDWS2011>

### For more information contact

Audrey Rose-Glenn

Assistant Director, New Student Leadership Programs/LEAD/Emerging Leaders Program, ELP

Office of Student Life

Meister Hall, Room 202

718-289-5194

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

**OCD CREDIT AVAILABLE!!**

# Campus News

## NYPIRG Rallies Support for Moving Planet



Dear Students,

Welcome back! NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is ready to kick off another great semester! NYPIRG fights for voter's rights, affordable and accessible higher education, consumer and environmental protection, and mass transit reform.

In addition to working on these campaigns, we run an accredited internship program on campus. Interns learn valuable skills such as public speaking, meeting with elected officials, and the overall experience of empowering students and creating social change. If you would like to sign up for the internship, please visit our office, Meister Hall, Room 214.

A main focus this semester is rallying support for Moving Planet, an upcoming international day of action against climate change. This event will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup> in front of the United Nations and will draw the attention of diplomats from around the world to this critical issue. Through the participation of our active and aware student body, we can awaken leaders around the globe to this ever-increasing threat to our environment. Demonstrations will take place worldwide from Brazil to South Africa, and in the wake of Hurricane Irene, we aim to make New York's the leading demonstration! Now is the time to take a stand against increasingly extreme weather conditions and climate change. You can join this international movement and find more information about Moving Planet at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org).

If you would like to register to vote, or get involved in the many issues we tackle annually, you can find us at our office, Meister Hall, Room 214. Please feel free to stop by the office and I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,  
Brett Vetterlein  
Project Coordinator  
BCC NYPIRG  
718-289-6480

# JOIN A CLUB

## Students Take Center Stage at the BCC Film Festival

By Alex Luma



Bronx Community College student filmmakers pose with faculty, sponsors, and staff at Clearview's Chelsea Cinema for the 18th Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival.

Photo courtesy of Thomas Donley.

### Natalie Setoute *Across The Platform* 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner

A brilliant short about a man and a woman on opposite sides of the platform, both interested in each other but separated by the division. One day, she doesn't show up at the normal time, so he creates an un-descriptive flyer to locate her. But, in the end she shows up standing in front of him with the flyer and what happens after that remains a mystery.

1. What first got her interested in film?  
DC TV Shorts worked with her high school. She joined the summer program and during her senior year, she did an autobiography documentary about how she was diagnosed with arthritis freshman year. Past jobs and internships include Cortland Film Festival, WNYC, Anthology Film Archive, and Tribeca Film Program.
2. What inspired her to make *Across the Platform*?  
This was inspired by an AT&T commercial where the guy is on a set of railroad tracks and he sees a beautiful girl across the platform and he runs as fast as he can to change his ticket to be where she's at.
3. What was her time frame for this project?  
The idea was developed in the summer but actual filming took two days to shoot.
4. What advice does she have for new students interested in film?  
"Do your research! Be able to tell your story. You can't give up, even though it's not easy. It's worth it in the end to see your name on the big screen." She noted that she used school equipment instead of fancy equipment because it wasn't necessary. The main point to her is being able to tell the story and then portraying it to the best of her ability.
5. What is the most interesting part of film to her?  
Her response was the concept of the words being changed into pictures and sound.

### Juan Rodriguez *Waiting* 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner

Second chances don't necessarily work out. This was a film about a girl waiting nervously in a bathroom to find out the results of a pregnancy test.

1. What first got him interested in film?  
Watching movies and detective films first got him interested in film-making.
2. What was the time frame for this project and what made him come up with the concept?  
It was a last-minute filming effort based on a story that he wrote in his CMS 61. The tension was simple and the actual filming took place in his bathroom. The reason for this was because the environment was known and comfortable to him. He stated that it was his bathroom and he knew the surroundings very well, he could make it work.
3. What advice does he have for new students interested in film?  
"If you're doing a first film, keep it simple. Watch your page count. You don't want to end up with three hours of extra material. Nothing is perfect. Editing makes the movie and it builds the story."
4. What does he think could better films today?

More originality would better films. People don't trust brands these days.

### Andres Cerezo *Rollerblading* Chairpersons Award for Documentary Filmmaking *Is rollerblading a hobby or addiction? This was a documentary on what rollerblading meant to him and his friends.*

1. What first got him interested in film?  
He went to high school for media and communication, in addition to editing, and learned a whole new concept of editing at Bronx Community College.
2. What inspired him to make the documentary?  
He decided to stick to something comfortable. Skating was the answer.
3. What advice does he have for new students interested in film?  
"Don't slack. Plan everything. If you don't, everything will be hectic. Take everything serious. What you put in is what you get."
4. What was the time frame for this project?  
The film took two weeks of shooting and a month-and-a-half of editing.
5. What does he think would better films today?  
"The way we go about films and the opportunities would better films. There needs to be more programs to access equipment with better affordability for people unable to access funds. There needs to be more opportunities for upcoming film-makers."

### Carl Zumatto *Smoking Gun* 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner

Some friendships mean more than everything.

1. What first got him interested in film?  
"I liked watching movies a lot, which is sad because people should read." Types of movies included sci-fi among all others, basically.
2. What inspired him to make this film?  
The film was inspired by a Jadakiss song, "Smoking Gun."
3. What advice does he have for new students interested in film?  
"Don't think there's a new idea; come up with your own unique way of telling that idea."
4. What was his film education like?  
He started in 1998 and finished in 2011. It was a back-and-forth process because he was pursuing a film degree at what point and switched majors. After catching up with Professor Jeffrey C. Wisotsky, Director of the BCC Media Technology Program, he was convinced to finish his filming degree and that is what brought him to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual BCC Film & Video Festival.
5. What was the time frame for this project?  
He started in Fall 2011 with a script. "Not everyone was pre-planning the way I was."



# Campus News

## The Collaborative Art of Filmmaking and The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual BCC Film and Video Festival

By Natalie Setoute

I was always told about the importance of film theory. You can't be a filmmaker without theory, and filmmaking produces better theorists. As much as I love to read, watch and write, filmmaking means taking action--and that fascinates and energizes me. I didn't know what to expect when I walked into Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky's CMS 61 History and Theory of Film class in the fall of 2010 but I knew it would make me a better student and filmmaker. CMS 61, a class where discussing, writing about and watching films is homework? When do we start?

We started quickly, watching classics like Jim Jarmusch's *Coffee and Cigarettes*. The meaning of that film is up for interpretation. In other words, I'm still trying to figure it out. We watched Jules Dassin's *The Naked City*. It wasn't Bogie and Bacall but it was black and white, always a plus in my book. We watched many more films, including recent Oscar winner *The Hurt Locker*. Kathryn Bigelow certainly raised the bar. I don't think I've gone past 104 lbs., and standing at 5'2", there isn't much going on in the height department, but I promised myself I'd make an honest attempt to reach higher because of artists like her. By the way, Ms. Bigelow, if you are ever in New York and in need of an intern, I will make myself available. My final project was a paper on Akira Kurosawa's films *Rashomon* and *Sanjuro*. After a semester of film analysis, screenings and discussions, I was well equipped.

This is not to say I did not have my challenges when producing a logline, pitch and fully realized film this spring for the 18th Annual BCC Film & Video Festival. I told myself I would have a script ready on the first day of class in the Spring 2011 semester when I registered for CMS 62, Beginning Film and Video Production. After all, I had experience with filmmaking before I started college. How wrong I was. Every film is different and has its own challenges.

My idea for *Across the Platform* was inspired by an AT&T commercial. I figured if they could spend millions selling a phone in 30 seconds I should be able to do this in five minutes or less. Things started off so well, it was suspicious. I finished my script, and had very interesting prospects in terms of actors and crew. The crew prospects had their own projects to do. Ok, I'll be shooting this myself. This is a film production class, so it makes sense to shoot this yourself. Screenwriter, director, cinematographer, editor--check. I had more hats to wear than I anticipated, but I had experience so I could handle it.

Fast forward to the casting date. My faithful crew: Darrina Herriot (casting assistant and script supervisor, among many other things), Sebastian Rothwyn (photographer), Phil Thompson (behind the scenes shooter), and Sonja Setoute (older sister, production assistant, casting assistant, behind the scenes shooter and driver). We waited for over 20 people to show up for casting call. Of course I did not expect everyone to show up, but imagine our surprise when just ONE person appeared. Twenty-four-year-old Akis Ntonos is a native of Greece, a theater-trained actor and former fencing champion. He was ready, willing, able and FANTASTIC. He got the job, and provided me with his co-star, the equally talented Nancy Maguire. Throughout production I wondered why these athletes, actors, and ridiculously good-looking people participated in my production. I finally realized that the story motivated everything. It gave everyone all they needed.



Much like your wedding day, no matter how much you try to anticipate what will go wrong, the problem is always unexpected. How you handle that dictates how the event will turn out. I'm happy to say that despite many problems, the actors and crew remained professional. I'm happy to include myself in that, especially since I did not go crazy. (Thank you, Darrina.) Of course there were other things I wish were shot, but we got the most important scenes filmed that day. When I started putting *Across the Platform* together, my classmates saw a good film coming together so much so that they thought I had been showing the class fake footage the entire semester as well as putting on a very convincing performance. My plan B is to be a voice actress so it's nice to know there is hope.

Before I knew it, the night of the festival had arrived at Clearview's Chelsea Cinema in Manhattan. Former employers, mentors, family and friends were expected to attend the festival. My parents were coming. No pressure. I did not expect anything at all. The festival winners' names were printed on the back of the program. I laughed and joked with my CMS 62 classmates Jeffrey Pompilus and Brian Zabala as we put the programs on the back of each seat at the theater. Brian looked at the back of the program and immediately told me not to look. Even then I didn't expect to see my name next to anything except perhaps Screenwriting. After all, I wrote a 'slice of life', feel good, location story. If there's anything I learned from my mentors--Johnny Ramos, Michael Britto (who happens to be a BCC alumnus and the reason I attend this school, because of his glowing recommendation of Prof. Wisotsky and this program) and others at Downtown Community Television Center--it's that story reigns supreme. Without that you do not have people who believe in you, people who believe in you enough to let you borrow their equipment and, more important, to give of themselves, time, energy and passion.

I was perfectly happy to be able to work with artists and tell a story as much as I was humbled to be part of the festival. I have such a great respect for filmmaking. I truly believe it starts on the page, so winning the Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Screenwriting Award holds a special place in my heart. In addition to my film winning first place at the festival, I also received the \$2,500 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize.

I sincerely applaud my classmates and their hard

work, as well as that of the staff and faculty of the Media Technology Program. I'm grateful to work with and be in the presence of such amazing people.

And now about the Media Technology Program: "This school has a TV/Film program?" This question is usually followed by, "What is media technology?" In order to stop those curious minds from scratching their heads to the point of losing hair, those of us in the program usually tell them it deals heavily with television and film. This brings me to the decent-sized million-dollar television studio in the basement of Meister Hall. Yes, Bronx Community College has a TV studio. There are always students in the studio, directing a public service announcement, shooting scenes for their short films, honing their skills on the camera and lighting board, or taking or giving direction from the control room.

Across the television studio, you'll find the media technology-editing suite, as I like to call it. There are plenty of Mac computers with media-related software on the desktops. There are programs that the professionals use, from Photoshop to Final Cut Pro and Avid, Compressor, Garage Band and Pro Tools, and we get to play with them every semester.

Have you ever walked out of a movie theater or your living room after watching a program and said, "I can do better than that"? Or maybe you wonder why you spent fourteen dollars (not including the popcorn and soda) on a movie with little substance and an explosion every two seconds that's supposed to make up for the lack of story? In response to the first question, yes, you probably can do better than that. Classes within the Media Technology Department--such as intro to TV technology and intro to film and film production--will help you discover your storytelling talents and give you opportunities to bring those stories to the screen and share them with your peers. Did I mention that upon successful completion of the CMS 62 class, your final class project has the opportunity to be entered in the annual BCC Film & Video Festival? Passing the class, having your name on the big screen and finished film in your hand, is not a bad way to end a semester.

As the media technology's description on the school's website states, students learn the skills needed to be media operations technicians in studio video production, field production, camera operation, lighting, editing, audio recording, digital graphics, photography, and the operation and maintenance of video and other basic media equipment. In addition, media tech students take liberal arts classes with the rest of the BCC student body. I'm still not sure how statistics class relates to media, but it speaks volumes about the length the Media Technology Program will go to produce well-rounded individuals that are prepared to enter the film and television industry. The Media Technology Perkins tutors are always available to help you with your production and post-production class work. And don't forget to become a member of The Communications Arts and Sciences Media Technology and Film Society club. At club meetings you will meet your actors, crew members and friends for life.

So, the next time you're on your way to the library in Meister Hall, make a left and head to room CO2. Feel free to grab a brochure and talk to Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky to learn more about the College's wonderful Media Technology Program.

## Alcy Leyva vs. the World

By Alcy Leyva

My health history reads like the resume of a retired crash dummy: Two slight concussions, one dislocated left elbow, a dislocated right knee, several bruised ribs, multiple ankle sprains, multiple torn ligaments.

After all this, you'd think that I'm basically held together by pushpins and Scotch tape. Yet I am still a high-octane, stat-savvy, grass-smelling, sports fan. I can tell the difference between a baseball "cannon" and a tennis style "cannonball"; a "shotgun" on a football field or a "shotgun shot" on a bowling alley. I have a closet full of equipment and play as much as I can. I want you to know, dear reader, that when I stepped up to handle the sports beat for *The Communicator* that I did so as a lover of the turf and the court; a respectful observer of every bead of sweat and blood and every sacrifice an athlete produces for fame and glory. And that is why I am going to give you more on the sports housed right here at BCC than you could ever imagine.

Sports are about more than stats and scores; they are about the players, the people who don the jerseys and the stories that compel them to compete. Every month, I will be showcasing one of our fine athletic clubs by talking to their coaches and players

and, I hope, beating them at their own game. A shooting contest with a player from BCC's brand new women's basketball team? A game of HORSE with a men's basketball player? Being the goalie against a BCC striker from our soccer team? How about standing in the batter's box and trying to hit some high cheese? I will be there, ready to report every detail on every sport BCC has to offer. I will even venture into sports you may have never heard about. Soccer, tennis, anyone?

George Plimpton, a sports writer, once went three rounds with the great Sugar Ray Robinson. Nellie Bly had herself committed to an asylum for ten days to expose its horrors. Alcy Leyva will be ... well, I will be playing handball. It is what I give back to the world.

So look forward to the sports section of *The Communicator* this year and consider the gauntlet thrown down. This challenge can cash in at Colston Hall, Room 605A, or via email at [alcy.leyva@stu.bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alcy.leyva@stu.bcc.cuny.edu). I am also accepting challenges from students not representing clubs at all via *The Communicator*'s Twitter and Facebook pages. You bring your A-game and I will bring my first-aid kit.

# Campus News

## C.O.P.E. Program

**LOEW HALL 106-A**  
**718-289-5849**

The C.O.P.E. Program is a collaboration between CUNY & HRA.  
The program helps students meet CUNY college standards and HRA work obligations, in order to enhance their chances of graduating and achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency through gainful employment.

**BARBARA MARTIN**  
PROJECT DIRECTOR

HYPERLINK “mailto:BARBARA.MARTIN@BCC.CUNY.EDU” BARBARA.MARTIN@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 121

**SILVIA CORPES**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HYPERLINK “mailto:SILVIA.CORPES@BCC.CUNY.EDU” SILVIA.CORPES@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 119

**ANNIE HARRIS**  
INTAKE CLERK

HYPERLINK “mailto:ANNIE.HARRIS@BCC.CUNY.EDU” ANNIE.HARRIS@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 106-A

**CASE MANAGERS:**  
**KATRINA GREENHILL**  
SENIOR CASE MANAGER

HYPERLINK “mailto:KATRINA.GREENHILL@BCC.CUNY.EDU” KATRINA.GREENHILL@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 111

**GLORIA QUINONES**  
CASE MANAGER

HYPERLINK “mailto:GLORIA.QUINONES@BCC.CUNY.EDU” GLORIA.QUINONES@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 109

**DENISE COMARA**  
CASE MANAGER

HYPERLINK “mailto:DENISE.COMARA@BCC.CUNY.EDU” DENISE.COMARA@BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 113

The College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment Program is open from 9 – 7 pm (Mondays -Thursdays) and 9 – 5 pm (Fridays).

C.O.P.E. is a Program on campus that provides supportive services to students receiving public assistance.

Services include unlimited FREE METRO-CARDS for students or graduates who are:

Working and Receiving Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Cash Assistance (TANF)

Receiving Food Stamp, Medicaid, SSI, or Unemployment Head of house hold with a child (200%)

If you are qualified, come down to the C.O.P.E. office at Loew Hall Room 106-A, and pick up an employment verification form.

If #'s (2) and/or (3) apply to you, but you are not working, you may also come down to our office for job assistance.

When employment consultants are not available, we always keep jobs posted in our employment opportunities box, located in the department.

Also, Jobs & Internships are posted on the walls outside the career development offices.

(Loew Hall Rooms 115 and 117)

Career Developer Staff:

**JONATHAN ALEJO**  
CAREER DEVELOPER

HYPERLINK “mailto:JONATHAN.ALEJO@STU.BCC.CUNY.EDU” JONATHAN.ALEJO@STU.BCC.CUNY.EDU  
LO 115

**ALEX LUMA**  
CAREER DEVELOPER ADJUTANT

HYPERLINK “mailto:COPECAREERDEVELOPMENT@GMAIL.COM” COPECAREERDEVELOPMENT@GMAIL.COM  
LO 117

In addition to providing free metro-cards & job search, C.O.P.E. also offers

Registration Advisement

Workshops and Seminars

Tutoring Referrals

Academic and Personal Counseling

Dress For Success Referrals

Resume Writing and Interview Preparation

Post-Employment Follow-Up for at least 90 Days

The C.O.P.E. Program has a full computer lab open from

9:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Mondays – Thursdays and 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.

In addition to all of these benefits, The Work Experience Program (WEP) permits full-time TANF students to meet their workfare obligation in specially designed WEP assignments that do not interfere with college attendance.

On campus, WEP is available to students enrolled at Bronx Community College for an approved major.

All CUNY WEP assignments are arranged and monitored by WEP supervisors in Loew Hall Room 129.

IF YOU ARE  
**CURRENTLY WORKING**  
 AND RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS &  
 MEDICAID

(WITH OR WITHOUT CASH ASSISTANCE), THEN  
 YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE METROCARDS!

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

(718) 289 – 5849

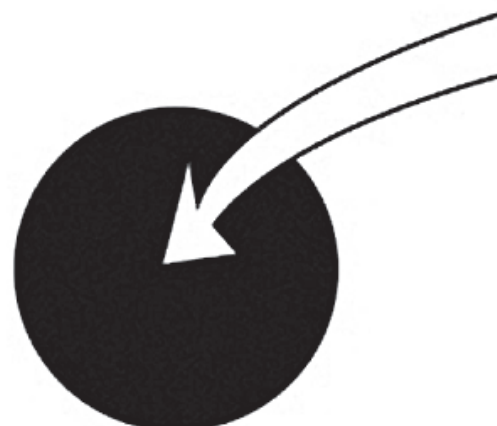


# BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

IS THE PLACE TO BE! GET INVOLVED WITH CAMPUS LIFE AND  
**JOIN A CLUB!**

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENHANCES THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE WITH :**

- Opportunities to explore many academic programs and majors
- Numerous leadership opportunities
- Professional and social networking
- Documented work experience
- Opportunities to help others
- Cross-cultural competence
- Memories and friendship
- Transferable skills
- Community service
- School spirit
- And much more !!!



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
 JOINING A CLUB, CONTACT THE  
 INTER - ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE  
 MEISTER HALL RM 202  
 718-289-5201/5962/5194

# Campus News

## One Angry Bird By Leonardo Calegare

And to think that we are supposed to believe in those that represent us. Not to sound like a broken record, but isn't this THE reoccurring theme that we all, as students and citizens, hear every day? Do we wake up and feel that the world has changed in any way? Are we supposed to struggle – day to day, paycheck to paycheck – and just assume that if prices just go up while our paychecks stay the same, that is just the way it is, so why bother? At this point, it is understandable for one to think, "What is the point of all this?" I am a student at Bronx Community College and I've been done wrong by "who knows who." The "who knows who" was not clear to me at first, but my search was just beginning. Here is my story, and if the next lines sound familiar to you, don't be alarmed- it happened before and it will keep happening again and again.

But not before some feathers are ruffled.

This is my second semester at BCC. I made the effort to finish my first semester, Spring 2011, with all As, and I am very proud of that. I even made it into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society which I hope proves that I keep my books balanced at all times. Well, summer arrived and it was all fun and beaches! BCC kept sending me these e-mails with the "validate" word right in the title just so that I could keep my end of bargain – the August 4th deadline or *else ...* all classes get dropped and you can kiss going to school goodbye for another semester! Hey, I made it. Late July, I "validated" in full. In early August, I received two new e-mails with the words 'tuition' and 'increase' in their titles. What they should have been called was "CUNY Finds New Time Travel Technology." Somehow, through some miracle of science, CUNY bills were sent backwards through the space-time continuum where they were charged to poor unsuspecting students. All that gibberish in those e-mails wasn't gibberish at all. What seemed impossible was happening right in front of my eyes.

Before we go any further, let's review the timeline of events leading to "The Happening":

**Date:** February 22, 2011. Presiding BCC President Carolyn Williams sent a massive e-mail urging everyone to write our state elected officials regarding the proposed FY 2011-2012 New York State Executive Budget. Millions of dollars of our school's budget would be cut. I couldn't help but think that the trickle-down economics of it all would result in a tuition hike. And by the way, it is expected from now on for the tuition to keep going up every year if not every semester (words from one of the highest official on campus).

**\*Date:** July 29, 2011. Even though we all had until August 4<sup>th</sup>, I validated my fall schedule.

**\*Date:** August 4, 2011. An e-mail was sent to students at 5:33pm with only one simple line: "Please see the MS Word document attachment". But wait. What's this? An e-mail at 5:33 pm when most of the offices were already closed? Did they know what was going to happen and simply try to dampen the retaliation from students by sending a disconnected attachment in the dark of night?

**\*Date:** August 6, 2011. The Bursars Office announced that the August 3rd tuition increase was approved. The August 6th e-mail mentioned that the increase was effective immediately. Okay. "Effective immediately" means from now on, right? Where did I miss the piece of information that says "from now on" means "from way back there on"? Here is something practical so that you can understand my problem with their maneuver. I once bought an expensive dining table. Upon delivery, there were no extra charges even though the store later increased the price of the table. I got what I paid for. I couldn't be legally charged more because it would be a breach of contract.

What is one's quest for justice? How does one begin to understand the forces that influence one's being and behavior? I made a commitment to find out what had happened to me. Had I been asleep? Had I been deaf to hear the changes around me? I needed an answer to my question, and in order to find the answer,

I made sure I knocked on every door. I walked into five different BCC Administrative offices.

I stood in those really long lines at the financial aid office and bursar. I even waited three hours in a student meeting held by the SGA – "students who represent students." All this just so that I could find the answer. Eventually, my perseverance led me to the truth: almost everyone realizes that increasing tuition mid-semester is an outrage. In the past it was done after classes were ongoing so if you didn't cough up the difference, you couldn't move forward. The "who knows who" I had been searching for revealed themselves to be the CUNY Board of Trustees.

Listen, I am not happy with tuition increases, but I am not arguing the increase itself. All I am saying is that I think this is a case where decency should have been shown towards our fellow students, where common sense should have been used. If tuition increases are going to be common, then we all should be well advised on the date it should be implemented. No surprises, please. I personally hope that this inconsiderate decision on the part of the CUNY Board of Trustees serves as a wake-up call for my fellow students. If our SGA could contact other SGA officials from other schools under CUNY, contact all the Paralegal Clubs from CUNY and together with the support of the student body (believe me, we are behind you) rewrite the "legal" "clause" in the "constitution" that allows increases mid-semester. (If there even is such a "clause.")

This is *our* time to fly.

This is *our* future.

This is *our* responsibility to make things right if it is within our power to be changed. Much success to all.

Happy studies.

## Never Too Late By Melodie Gonzalez

I can still remember what it felt like: eighteen years old, fresh out of high school and on a college campus. I remember the feeling I had – of independence, of freedom; no longer being scared that if I missed a class, I would get a cutting card in the mail. I was a college student and the sheer thought that I did not have to worry about my parents being called by a teacher made me feel as if I ruled the world. I was finally in the adult world that I had craved since my senior year of high school.

Like any new freshman, I was excited to get to my classes, meet my professors, receive my first syllabus, and hit the college bookstore. My first semester was great. I worked hard and was getting really good grades. I guess that made me a little cocky because by the second semester, I fell prey to the college cafeteria and the small group of peers who occupied the back left corner, some of whom had been at the college longer than they should have. I started to miss a class here and a class there. Before I knew it, I had fallen behind and forgotten my purpose, my reason for receiving a college education. This was my chance to set myself up for a great financial future and be the first in my family to receive a degree. After a couple of years of starting classes and then dropping them, I lost count of all the W's in my transcript. I left, thinking I would never return.

At twenty-years-old, I married my best friend. He is everything I could have hoped for and more--my motivation. After six years of marriage and infertility, we had our first son, Justin, my blessing. Ten months later, we were expecting our second son, Marcos. By this time, I had received my Medical Assistant certification and had already worked with some of the top doctors in Westchester County. It was through these experiences that my love of medicine began. I learned everything in the field that would make me a great nurse. My coworkers and friends would call me when they were sick, and when their doctor would confirm what I had already told them, everyone began encouraging me to get my nursing degree. But I had an experience that halted those plans. Back when I worked at a hospital in Mount Kisco, New York, a patient who had been on life support for over three years had passed away. As a medical assistant I had to assist the nurses in prepping him to be transported to the morgue. Let us just say I did not make it very far. I found the nearest wall, leaned against it and passed out. I knew then that even though I had such a love for medicine and helping sick people, I did not possess all of the skills needed to be the best in the field. I did, however, find that working in a private practice capacity suited me best, and that radiology and nuclear medicine had also caught my eye.

A year ago, my husband and I had our third and final child, Andrew. With three boys under the age of six, I felt that if there was ever any other reason to try my hand at college again, it was for them. I know my sons are all worth it. But can I do it? I mean, I am thirty-three-years-old with three small boys. I know that it will not be easy, but in the words of my husband, "You can do it all."

Thankfully, BCC offers child care at a great price, and I have a wonderful support system between my husband, my parents and my younger sister, who is also a student at BCC (we are even taking math together – go figure!). One day, I decided that I would come back, and no matter what it takes I will complete my degree in Radiology. So here I am, ten years later, back on the campus. I can't help getting this feeling again; this feeling of excitement, except this time my focus is so different. I have found out that even though all of these years have passed, I will still be paying for all of those W's. I am starting my path of higher education on probation and my financial aid has been denied due to my poor G.P.A. from 1999. I will have to figure out how to juggle schoolwork, PTA meetings and soccer practice, but I am still determined to follow my dream because I have the best cheering team ever. While I did not have to answer to anyone with my newfound freedom at eighteen, eventually I had to answer to myself. I know now that in order to succeed in the world, education is key. Now I bring with me all of my experiences: working with sick patients and great physicians, my battles with infertility (which taught me to never give up), my priorities, and my four-year-old son, Marcos, who is excited to be going to school on "Mommy's campus."

*Editor's Note: For more information about BCC's Child Care Center, go to their page on the College's web site.*

## BCC Reading Challenge 2011

on Goodreads.com

Join us this semester on goodreads.com and review at least one book to enter.

You could win a Nook or Barnes and Noble Gift Cards  
To be awarded at the Poet's Lounge, 12/2/11, 6 – 9 PM,  
Student Center, 211.

Register, then add us as a friend on good reads! Search for BCC Reading Challenge or go to <http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/53770>.  
BCC\_Reading\_Challenge

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Goodreads profile name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

BCC ID # or last 4 of social security number \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off at CO 632, or at the English Department.

Need more help?

Visit: <https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/bccreadingchallenge>

# JOIN A CLUB

# Campus News

## Transfer Prep 101

By Alex Luma

Robert C. Gallagher once said, “Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.” He’s absolutely right about that. Sometimes, in education and life, when you put out all you’ve got to get what you desire, you expect that the same old same old will continue working until the end of time, for reasons of comfort or fear of change. But it doesn’t always work out that way. Sometimes, life can be considered sort of a gamble and when you give it your best, you have to consider the possibility that your best is not necessarily un-replenishable but needs to be rebuilt on and improvised everyday as life goes on, to give you a unique edge. Change happens to everyone at some point in his or her life. Everyone knows what it’s like to change his or her mind every now and then. When changing your mind relates to education and where you go to college, the transfer to an institution or college can be agonizing, if not complicated.

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
- Assistance with admissions essays

Because most of the students in a college population do not start out with a transfer plan, questions pop up in their head. For example:

- Are my chances of getting in better or worse as a transfer student?
- Am I allowed to transfer after one year or should I wait until my associates degree is in my hand?

### How do I make a transfer destination decision?

- What is the minimum GPA requirement to transfer to my preferred college choice?
- What is the likeliness of me receiving a scholarship/merit award?

These are only a few of the possible questions soaring through your minds. Colleges often work under the assumption that you know the basic ropes and it’s possible that they might not provide the same breakdown cycle orientation method you experienced as a freshman. Therefore, as a transfer candidate, the quest for a solution is in your hands and the solution is in your grasp.

After speaking in an interview with Chantelle Wright, Career and Transfer Specialist for the Career & Transfer Services Department, this is what she had to say:

### How long does the transfer process take?

The length of the transfer process depends on the school you transfer to. CUNY requires that before transferring to another institute, you are supposed to have taken a college-level math and English course. If you have not graduated, then all of your credits won’t transfer expectedly. When it comes to CUNY schools, application processing takes 8 – 10 weeks. Then, you would have wait for a decision from the admissions office at the school you are applying to. Altogether, preparing to transfer is encouraged to begin in the semester prior to the last semester.

### What is the minimum GPA requirement one would need in order to transfer to the preferred college choice?

It depends on the college you are applying to. Some colleges take your semester grade as well as your overall GPA into consideration. To transfer to a school within the CUNY system, the minimum GPA requirement would be a 2.0.

### What is the general breakdown for the transfer process?

Transferring is more than just filling out an application. The student would list their top schools and fill out the transfer application. There are two types of applications available. There’s the physical application and then there’s the online (recommended) application. Then, they would pay the application fee and request their transcript. In some schools, a recommendation letter would be required as well as the essay and resume requirement. Then, there’s also looking into financial aid and checking into scholarships. At the end of the transfer period, the admission decision comes in to the student along with guidelines on what courses are needed to complete the final academic years of study.

*In the next edition...  
Transfer Prep 101: From the Student’s Eyes*

**Career & Transfer Services**  
**Monday – Thursday**  
**9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.**  
**Friday**  
**9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**  
**Loew Hall Room 330**



**BCC**  
FREE SHUTTLE BUS

**HOURS OF SERVICE**  
MON-THURS  
4 - 10pm

PICK UP THE SHUTTLE BUS  
IN FRONT OF MEISTER HALL

**FALL 2011**  
SERVICE BEGINS ON  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

**SERVICE TO & FROM CAMPUS EVERY 20 MINUTES  
WHEN CLASSES ARE IN SESSION**


**STOPS INCLUDES #4 SUBWAY STATIONS**  
Burnside Ave, Fordham Rd & 183rd St.

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

BRONX  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

## BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

### EMERGING AS A LEADER AT BCC



"Leadership is the ability to empower, inspire, motivate and coordinate others to achieve a common goal."

**Are you an Emerging Leader?**

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) at BCC provides an opportunity for first-year students to develop their understanding of leadership and gain practical leadership experience. Students will take part in a six week series based on the book, *"The Student Leadership Challenge: Five Practices for Exemplary Leaders."* Workshops will consist of interactive skill building sessions, team builders and guided activities designed to increase understanding of leadership theory and practice.


**Benefits:**

- Develop, learn and practice leadership skills
- Develop a strong sense of self
- Build your resume

- Connect and network with Student Government Association (SGA) leaders, faculty and staff
- Earn a **LEAD/ Emerging Leaders Certificate** in recognition of your leadership accomplishments at the **Leadership in Action Awards Ceremony** and **MUCH MORE!!**

**Program Criteria:**

- First-year student (first or second semester student)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA (for second semester students)
- Must be willing to commit to **ALL** program activities



Program Dates: October 11, 25 / November 8, 22, 29 / December 6, 2011 Time: 3-5pm Location: LO 200

Application Deadline: October 5, 2011  
Apply Online: [https://www.research.net/js/ELP\\_2011](https://www.research.net/js/ELP_2011)  
Program is competitive...**APPLY EARLY!!**

For more information contact:  
**Audrey Rose-Glenn, Assistant Director,**  
New Student Leadership Programs/LEAD-ELP  
Office of Student Life, Meister Hall, Room 202  
Phone: 718-289-5194  
[audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu)  
<http://www.facebook.com/BCCStudentLife>

# Campus News

## Establishing a Culture of Completion

By Dr. Rod Risley

I am often perplexed when I think about how higher education systems operate. Business and public leaders continuously lament that the economic prosperity of any nation is inextricably tied to the education of its citizens. In the United States, obtaining a higher education credential is a pursuit that many now consider a civil right and an essential pathway toward achieving the American Dream. So it seems the purveyors of this valued education credential, which provides individual and collective prosperity, must take great care in and accept responsibility for providing a product that is relevant, useful, and has future utility. In theory yes, but in practice no.

The United States has fallen from being the world's leader in the percentage of citizens holding higher education credentials to 12<sup>th</sup> among industrialized countries. This comes at a time when studies show that in just a few short years, jobs providing livable wages will require at minimum an associate degree. More and more students are entering higher education institutions under-prepared, but aspiring to complete a baccalaureate degree. Fifty percent of the eight million students enrolled in community colleges express intention to complete a baccalaureate degree, yet only 25 percent actually complete. Something is dreadfully wrong with our higher education system.

Higher education institutions, which are the “businesses” primarily responsible for designing and delivering the tools and vehicles to drive workers toward a brighter economic future and all its rewards, seem to act more like bankrupt automobile manufacturers than human capacity building organizations. They are selling products that are outdated with features of minimal utilitarian value, and building them replete with major structural design flaws. The stripped down versions of the products they sell may cost more than people can afford – but their attitude – as with those now defunct automobile manufacturers – is one of indifference because “someone will buy it”.

And as if that were not enough, as the consumer drives off the lot, these “businesses” are not held accountable nor do they accept any responsibility for the product they provide. Will this product take the consumer where they need to go, or provide any future value? Is there a warranty or a guaranty? Unfortunately, the only thing taken is the consumer's time and money. It's time for a change – a time to change the culture in these “businesses”. Our higher education institutions must move from a culture that provides access and a “right to fail” to a culture that provides access and supports completion.

Providing access to higher education is essential for the development and sustainability of a middle class. Without access, the gap between socio-economic classes will continue to widen, poverty rates will continue to climb, and the very foundation of democracy in this country as we know it will be placed in peril. Providing access to higher education by itself, however, is not enough. In order to return our nation to prominence in the number of adults with Associate degrees or higher will require our country's higher education system to produce an estimated 8.2 million additional graduates by 2020. Of those, an additional five million students will need to graduate from community colleges.

Answering this call, Phi Theta Kappa has joined with the five leading national organizations serving community colleges to spearhead an effort to help meet the Community College Completion Challenge. Never in the history of community colleges has there been such a sense of urgency or collective effort to effect change in institutions as there is today.

The Community College Completion Challenge is as much about process and culture as it is about the end result of increasing the number of credentials or degrees earned. The culture today for supporting completion in many higher education institutions is best characterized by the professor who stands before students in a large lecture hall and proudly boasts, “look to your left and look to your right – one of you will not complete this course.” This culture of a “right to fail” must be replaced with support to complete.

Many say that students come to community colleges with no intention to complete a degree or credential. Thus, colleges often excuse themselves from the responsibility of supporting student success and completion. While it may be true that there is value in completing even one class, it is an abdication of responsibility for the college not to take the time to help students understand the benefits of completing and the consequences of not.

Community colleges must do a better job of talking with students about potential career paths at the time of enrollment, rather than simply offering advice on course selection. We have to prepare students to be lifelong learners. Thus, certificates earned by students should not be perceived as terminal, but rather stackable, leading to higher certifications and degrees. And these certificates should equip students with the skills needed for new jobs.

Community colleges must spend more time thinking about how to monitor student progress and provide support in the initial weeks of enrollment. They must design new approaches to teaching developmental classes. Incentives need to be provided to colleges to focus on retention and persistence rather than increasing enrollment numbers.

Early colleges and dual enrollment programs should be in place in every state. The reality is that our secondary education institutions are ill-equipped to effect change



*The Call to Action signers pictured left to right at the signing include: Dr. Gerardo de los Santos, President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College; Dr. Evelyn Waiwaiole, Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD); Dr. George Boggs, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC); Dr. Rod Risley, Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society; Dr. Kay M. McClenney, Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE); and J. Noah Brown, President and CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).*

quickly enough to address soaring drop-out rates. Research has proven that early colleges dramatically increase not only high school graduation rates but also the rates of those completing associate degrees. Those earning an associate degree will earn up to \$400,000 more over their lifetime than those without a degree. Those earning a degree or certificate are more likely to be hired and less likely to become unemployed than those without.

Finally, more attention must be placed on preparing students for transfer to senior colleges. While completing a baccalaureate degree may not be the aspiration of every student, those with that goal should be provided quality advisement, a clear pathway, and set of tools to ensure that they will complete on time and with their degree.

Community colleges must change their approach and accept responsibility for advising students upon enrollment on the importance of completing the associate degree prior to transferring to senior colleges. Studies show that community college students who transfer to senior colleges prior to earning the associate degree significantly increase their chances of *never* earning the baccalaureate degree. In many states, by law, public senior colleges are required to accept all degree credits from students who earn associate degrees. Students who transfer without the associate degree may be required to repeat or take additional classes, resulting in their having to expend more time and more money to complete. Studies show that increasing the time and cost to completion lessens the likelihood of a student ever earning a degree. Finally, associate degree or credential completion provides students with a safety net for those times when unforeseen circumstances occur that derail or delay their long-term goals.

One has to wonder why, when the first community college was established in 1901 to provide access to higher education, completing college was not seen as integral to its mission. Clearly today completion must be seen as central to the mission of our community colleges. To continue with our automotive analogy, it is a moral imperative that our institutions take responsibility for providing its consumers the tools and knowledge to “build a car” with the appropriate features that will lead them down a road toward economic prosperity and well-being.

A sea change in philosophy is needed in our community colleges in order to meet the lofty goals of doubling the number of completers by 2020. A culture of completion must span all corridors of our community colleges. All stakeholders must engage – presidents, trustees, faculty, staff, administrators, students, corporate and community leaders - and each must assess their individual efforts in supporting completion. This is a call to action to our community colleges, and our nation's economic prosperity and democracy are hanging in the balance.

*Bronx Community College, together with Phi Theta Kappa: Lambda Nu Chapter, has recently joined the Community College Completion Corps in their efforts to increase completion within community colleges. Our campaign is called “Countdown to Completion” and we hope to encourage students of all academic backgrounds to complete, not just their degree program but to commit to complete small goals such as remedial, prerequisites, basic core and of course, major courses.*

# JOIN A CLUB

COMPETE IN THE

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL



# ENTREPRENEURIAL CONCEPT COMPETITION

**\$4,000 FOR THE WINNING TEAM!!!**



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact TROY URQUHART (*Competition Coordinator*)  
Marshak – MR14 • (212-650-8854 / [ecc2@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:ecc2@ccny.cuny.edu))

### COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a Current CUNY Student (Maximum of 3 CUNY Students per Team)
- Must not have Competed in any Other CUNY Business Plan Competition
- Must Complete Online Registration for Competition at <http://ProjectSTEM.net>
- Must have an Original Idea/Concept or Improvement on Existing Idea/Concept

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



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

# MIND OF AN ENTREPRENEUR

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

# BOC

# REMEMBERS:

Everybody Makes a Difference!

From September 12 to 15, 2011, Bronx Community College will commemorate both the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001, and Constitution and Citizenship Day. The weeklong series will feature speakers from campus and the community. Each event will provide the College community with the opportunity to explore how the events of 9/11 illustrate the need for global learning, tolerance and understanding. Events will also underscore our connectedness and the unique role that each of us plays in fostering tolerance, peace and understanding throughout campus, New York and the world.

#### Monday, September 12, 2011

##### Opening Ceremony 12-2 p.m. | Meister Hall Lobby

Please join us for this engaging Opening Ceremony to kickoff our weeklong series commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. The program will feature a wide range of speakers from campus. The College community will explore how the events of 9/11 highlight the need for global learning, tolerance and understanding. A mini concert and reception will follow the Opening Ceremony. **OCD credit is available for this program.**

#### Tuesday, September 13, 2011

##### Poetry, Spoken Word and Open Mic 12-2 p.m. | Roscoe Brown Student Center - 211

Join us for an afternoon of multicultural, intergenerational poetry. Bobby Gonzalez, a nationally known multicultural motivational speaker, storyteller and poet, will lead this program. The event will also feature other New York City poets and some of our best student spoken word artists. After the poetry reading, an open microphone will be available, where members of the campus community may share their reflections of 9/11. A brief reception will follow the event. **OCD credit is available for this program.**

#### Wednesday, September 14, 2011

##### Religion, Intolerance and Terrorism 12-2 p.m. | Meister Hall Lobby

Everyone is invited to attend this informative discussion about religion, intolerance and terrorism. Led by Professors Mary Rogan (President's Office and Paralegal Studies) and Christopher Grenda (History), this program will explore the impact that intolerance, specifically religious intolerance, has had on our local and global communities—both before and after 9/11. **OCD credit is available for this program.**

#### Thursday, September 15, 2011

##### Improv Theater Featuring Playback NYC 12-2 p.m. | Meister Hall Lobby

Join us for an afternoon of improvisational theater courtesy of Playback NYC. A brief reception will follow this event. **OCD credit is available for this program.**

##### *Rebirth* (A Documentary by Project Rebirth)

##### 2-4 p.m. | Roscoe Brown Student Center - 211

To end our 9/11 commemoration series, we will screen Project Rebirth's film, *Rebirth*. This full-length documentary provides a personal witness to one of the most profound events in American history and the healing that has come in its wake. Directed by Jim Whitaker; 1 hour 45 minutes. **OCD credit is available for this program.**



This series was coordinated by staff members in the Office of Student Support Services, Office of Academic Affairs, Department of History, Office of Continuing and Professional Studies, Office of Student Life, Department of Student Development, Office of the President, Center for Sustainable Energy, Department of English, and the National Center for Educational Alliances.