

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Filmmaking at Bronx Community College: The Nineteenth Annual BCC Film and Video Festival

By Ian J. Findlay

Students in the BCC Media Technology and Film Society Clubs, along with The Media Technology Program of the Communications Arts and Science Department, were working late hours to complete their films for the Nineteenth Annual BCC Film and Video Festival, which took place on Wednesday, June 6th, at Cablevision's Chelsea Clearview Cinema in Manhattan.

This was the night when the five-minute original movies that my classmates and I were working on last semester were shown in a theater and our names were outside on the marquee. Motion picture and television representatives and potential employers were in the theater that night, checking out BCC filmmakers to watch, provide scholarships to, and, perhaps, hire.

The 2012 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards were presented by DeWitt Davis and Melanie Jones. First Prize went to Ricardo Faria for his film *Natal*. Second Prize went to Alcy Leyva for his film *No Man's Land*. Third Prize went to my film *12 + 2*, and Fourth Prize went to Natalie Setoute for her film *Petits Details*.

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

"June 6, 2012 will always be remembered for me as a day of great achievement not just by myself but by my fellow classmates and the Bronx Community College Media Technology Program," said Mark Jeremiah, a member of the Media Technology and Film Society Club and a Media Technology student. Mark's film *Rewind Poem* was screened at the festival.

"There's incredible excitement," said Carl Zumatto, a Media Technology student who is also a Perkins Tutor in the Media Technology Program. "For months, all of the students in the class have struggled to complete assignments for regular academic classes, keep their jobs and maintain responsibilities of supporting families, and put finishing touches on their five-minute films. It's a real-world deadline environment, exerting the pressures similar to deadlines experienced by filmmakers at major movie studios."

Alcy Leyva also received The second Steve Garfinkel Memorial Award for Excellence in Media. Mr. Garfinkel passed away in August 2009. During his 13-



Bronx Community College student filmmakers pose with President Carole M. Berotte Joseph, faculty, sponsors and staff outside Clearview's Chelsea Cinema in New York City for the 19th Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival.
Photo courtesy of Thomas Donley

year tenure at Eastman Kodak, he served as the Eastern Regional Manager for the Entertainment Imaging Division of the company. Mr. Garfinkel was also an accomplished cinematographer and a member of IATSE Local 600, The Cinematographers Guild, and an associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers.

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

I received the third Media Technology Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize, established in 2007 by BCC alumna, Vikki L. Pryor, Chief Executive Officer of The American Red Cross in Greater New York. Recognized as one of the 50 most powerful women in New York by *Crain's New York Magazine* in 2009, Ms. Pryor was most recently President and Chief Executive Officer of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company in New York for 11 years. The first African American woman to head a major life insurance company in the U.S., she repositioned this 71-year-old company into a national provider of financial services to underserved markets and audiences, a strategy which resulted in the reversal of a 10-year business decline and a \$200 million increase in assets. Ms.

Pryor recently was named one of the 75 most powerful women in business by *Black Enterprise Magazine*.

The \$2,500 prize was created in memory of Ms. Pryor's grandmother, Marie Nesbitt, who was born on August 16, 1917, in Clearwater, Florida, and was raised in Kingstree, South Carolina. A great-granddaughter of slaves, Ms. Nesbitt's formal education stopped at the third grade. Having lived through the Great Depression and the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, she was a woman of strong opinions and deeply held principles who was an inspiration to her family and friends. She taught everyone she touched to reach for the stars by doing their best, to trust in God, to stand up for what they believed in, and most of all, to never give up. The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize is a tribute to an extraordinary woman. The Promise Prize will be awarded each year to a Media Technology student who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and professional promise.

Networking Opportunities

Employers in the film and television industry – which is a \$7 billion industry in New York – are always on the lookout for new talent. For one glorious evening

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BCC's 19th Annual Film Festival: A Critical View

By Aziza Ingram

On June 6, 2012 the 19th Annual BCC Film Festival was held at Clearview Cinemas in Chelsea. Eight films were presented following the showing of two previous winners' films: *Across the Platform* directed by Natalie Setoute and *Sky's the Limit* directed by Armando Valeriano. These two films gave me an understanding of what to expect from the newest features. I settled in my seat and the show began.

These new films captured in a few moments what some feature films fail to do in a two-hour presentation. While some of the films were thought provoking, others provided guttural laughter. The "man-child," a term coined by Kay Hymowitz, author of *Manning Up*, came alive in *The Phone Call* by Joshua Cruz, as well as in *A State of Reverie* by Joshua Bisano. A poem was the narrative for how domestic violence progresses. A torch was lit for the problem of babies having babies, and new views were shared on topics of finding beauty in small details, pulling through situations when all hope has been dashed, life perceptions creating fear and the love a father has for his son.

Rewind Poem, *Natal*, *12 + 2*, and *No Man's Land* were the most interesting. While I did enjoy the occasional chuckle from the comedies presented, the aforementioned were the most riveting. *Rewind Poem* by Mark Jeremiah told the story of a loving relationship which devolves into jealousy and violence. This story sheds light on the ways in which love can sometimes turn to hate and gives value to the adage that hindsight is 20/20.

Watching a lonely young boy facing bullies and solitude in a single-mother home by gripping onto the only thing left of his father, a teddy bear, brought a tear to my eye. *Natal* by Ricardo Faria showed that not all fathers remain absent. They present themselves in times when you least expect them to turn up.

12 + 2 by Ian Findlay tells the story of a twelve-year-old girl with a two-year-old son. The young girl's struggles were shown in a way that made one really appreciate having had a childhood. To see that this pre-teen was raising a child was troubling, and knowing that the story was based on fact made it even more troubling.

The last film, *No Man's Land* by Alcy Leyva, told a story that is relevant to nearly every American. It opened in a war scene, a young soldier, severely injured and surrounded by his fallen brothers-in-arms struggles and screams for help. No one comes to his aid and he considers his options. He has two choices, end his own suffering or continue on. He draws on the love from those at home to pull him through.

In the end, the festival left me remorseful that I had missed so many previous film festivals. The filmmakers of tomorrow are in touch with the world around them and are ready to tell the stories that need to be told. Overall, it was a wonderful experience, and I will make every effort to attend in the future.

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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:
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Notes:

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

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

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

Fall 2012 Insertion Dates

October issue
Monday, September 17th

November issue
Monday, October 16th

December issue
Tuesday, November 20th

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

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Check-in, On-Site Registration, Breakfast

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Campus News

Filmmaking at Bronx Community College: The Nineteenth Annual BCC Film and Video Festival

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both students and industry leaders were together in one room to discuss and view student projects. “This pressured experience that the BCC Media Technology program puts students through,” stated Ricardo Faria, “helps each student find out whether they like becoming a filmmaker or not. You work with a camera, a tripod, actors, and sophisticated Avid Editing Software. Filmmaking and television are collaborations between art and money, and we have to make that process happen for our mini-movies.”

Natalie Setoute, a BCC Media Technology filmmaker and a recent graduate from the program, also served as a Perkins College Tutor last semester. “I directed a short film both last year and this year, and it is very exciting to see students continue to produce outstanding short projects on shoestring budgets,” she said.

Students who screened their projects at Clearview Cinema were Joshua Bisono, Joshua Cruz, Ricardo Faria, Ian Findlay, Yara Infante, Mark Jeremiah, Alcy Leyva and Natalie Setoute. All students are securing valuable editing time to seamlessly build their final music, effects and voice tracks, employing many of the techniques and concepts that they have been learning all semester. As young filmmakers, we utilize many of the techniques discussed last semester in our “History and Theory of Film” class when we studied films by such greats as Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, Yasujiro Ozu, John Singleton, Linda Wertmuller, Jean-Luc Goddard, Jim Jarmusch, and Spike Lee.

Many of the BCC Media Technology editors work as Perkins tutors as they assist their fellow student filmmakers. They include Fernando Gil, Natalie Setoute and Carl Zumatto. Eavesdrop on the student filmmakers and editors and you can hear them discuss a range of film terms from the filmmaker’s glossary that they have studied with Professor Wisotsky. Some of the terms discussed include dynamic cutting, mise-en-scene, familiar image, slow disclosure, and separation.

“The films that were presented at this year’s film festival are as varied as the students that created them. Showing films is as important as making them,” said Professor Wisotsky. “Audience feedback is invaluable in developing a clear sense of what one wants to do as a film and video artist.”

The annual festival creates an exciting atmosphere for students to show off their work and a group of film industry representatives to see it. Special thanks to Dr. Debra Gonsler, Chair of the Communications Arts & Sciences Department, for her continued support. “The festival would not be possible without her leadership and guidance,” said Professor Wisotsky.

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

More Student Awards

Last, but not least, the festival was also the setting for the Tenth Annual Peter J. Rondinone Screenwriting Memorial Awards. Professor Rondinone had his first teaching assignment in the BCC English Department. He died at the age of 48, nine years ago. These awards were established by the Media Technology Program to recognize students who have demonstrated the capability to make a positive difference at BCC and in their community. This year’s awards presenters were Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph, President, Bronx Community College, and Dr. Gonsler. The 2012 Peter J. Rondinone Screenwriting Memorial Award Winners were Ricardo Faria, Ian Findlay, Yara Infante, Mark Jeremiah and Alcy Leyva.

The AVID TECHNOLOGY Award was presented to Victor Burgos for excellence in Television Non-Linear Editing. The award was presented by Mr. Eric Anjou.

The 2012 Chairperson’s Award for a film that excels in exploring contemporary issues was presented to, Alcy Leyva for *No Man’s Land*. The award was presented



2012 Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Award Winners (Left to right):

Yara Infante; Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, CAS Media Technology Program; Ricardo Faria; Alcy Leyva; Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph, President, Bronx Community College; Mark Jeremiah; Ian Findlay; and Dr. Debra A. Gonsler, Chairperson, BCC Dept. of Communication Arts & Sciences. Photo courtesy of Thomas Donley

by Dr. Gonsler.

BCC’s program is a great place to begin to pursue a career as a filmmaker, with small class sizes and personal attention to each student. I’m writing a new screenplay and can’t wait to go back into production. The most important thing about BCC is that it puts the story at the center of filmmaking. It doesn’t champion special effects or the characters. The caliber of the films is always amazing. I’m so impressed by what the students have managed to do on very small budgets. The first-year student’s content includes exposure to the entire production process. Students are taught by industry professionals who provide extensive hands-on instruction. In the second year, students perform in various crew positions on actual production projects. Graduates may find employment as entry-level crew and/or production assistants in feature and short films, commercials, and industrial, educational, and documentary productions or employment in post-production houses for video and film. Other students go on to receive BA’s or BFA degrees at four-year colleges.

I can genuinely say I am a dream come true, with more dreams to be actualized. As far back as I can remember in the mind of a ten-year-old boy I had daydreams that were stories swirling in my head. Professor Robert Baskerville told me to enroll in BCC’s prestigious Media Technology Program. He read some of my work and suggested I become a member of the Media Technology and Film Society. Prof. Wisotsky also suggested that I enroll in CMS 61, History and Theory of Film and begin to study film theory. I did, and then I also enrolled in his CMS 62, Beginning Film and Video Production class. Cut to the spring 2012 semester: I remember back in February and early March struggling late nights on my laptop perfecting my screenplay. Then came everything that entails making a movie: auditions, storyboard, locations, talent, crew, shooting, deadlines, frustrations, obstacles, issues; you name it! Though this is no easy task, it is fun if you truly have a passion to make movies

Once my movie was completely shot, my editor, Victor Burgos, and I were off to the editing room in the basement of Meister Hall for weeks of fine-tuning sound, assembling scenes, and painfully removing parts of the movie based on test screenings. Still, it was mostly fun for me. I now was adding filmmaker to my name. There were precious moments of laughter in the editing room. The greatest lesson I learned was that there has to be teamwork for every project, or you have no project. Whether it’s a short of five minutes, or a full-feature movie, collaboration is essential to bring forth one’s vision.

Alcy Leyva, a former writer for *The Communicator*, was also my classmate in my CMS 62 class. “I remember when I first heard that BCC had an annual film festival. It was the day of the 18th annual film festival, and as a writer for the school newspaper, I was asked to go and cover it. Unfortunately, due to summer

classes, I wasn’t able to attend. But the thought stuck to me. I’ve always wanted to make a small film. I had written a few short screenplays on the side, but never anything to be seen on the big screen. Motivated, I sought out Professor Wisotsky to learn more. Two semesters and one great night later, I can honestly say what I wasn’t able to before: that I was a filmmaker.”

“The road wasn’t at all easy. Putting together a film was much harder than writing a book, believe it or not,” said Leyva. “A book is something small and intimate, a project you build on your own accord and at your own pace. A film is quite the opposite. Suddenly, you’re at the mercy of everything in the universe: time, day, weather, sound, locations. I was ready for it. I knew that in order to see *No Man’s Land* through, I had to have nerves of steel—that and to be slightly insane. A war film? It was an ambitious idea and I definitely had several other ideas beforehand.” Leyva was persistent and did not give up. “Professor Wisotsky told us all that our first films would set the tone for our careers; that these were the kind of movies we’ll be doing for the rest of our lives. Everyone knows me as a humorous person and my friends were all left scratching their heads as to why I would do such a serious film. But the truth is that I didn’t want to be known as a comedic filmmaker. I wanted to be known as a storyteller.”

“I shot the movie in three days, worked alongside my editor, Jennifer Dominguez, to the wee hours of the night in the editing room, consuming copious amounts of pizza and Diet Coke, as we spoke with our talented Perkins tutor Fernando Gil about machine-gun fire and artillery shell explosions like crazy people.”

“The night was full of great memories for me. Having graduated from BCC just a few days before, I was able to invite my professors from school, my family and my friends to come see this project that I had been mulling over for now an entire year. I stood by my poster, hugged my fellow filmmakers, and took pictures with everyone that I could. When someone asked if I thought that I could win with such an ‘out there’ concept, I told them, honestly, that it didn’t matter, that I was proud of everyone who put their hard work and time into their film projects and were able to screen it. Winning several awards, including Second Place in the entire festival was great, but nothing can come above the relationships I’ve forged, the wonderfully brilliant people I’ve been able to work with, and the laughs I’ve had along the way.”

The Clearview Cinema screening on June 6th was by invitation only. A larger film festival with screenings open to the public will take place during the fall 2012 semester. For further information about Bronx Community College’s Media Technology Program please call (718) 289-5572.

JOIN A CLUB

Campus News

20 Questions

By Charlotte Witherspoon

I defy you to walk away from a conversation with Eva Antonakos without a smile. It is just not possible. She and I met through an on-campus committee and after this interview I am absolutely convinced that she is one of the smartest, funniest people at BCC. A double-major in mathematics and dance, Professor Antonakos is nothing if not multitasking. Besides, she does an Elmo impersonation that recalls the muppet himself. She almost makes me want to face the dreaded Math 05. Almost.

(Former) Editor's Note: Pillar of professionalism that I am, I neglected to bring the interview questions with me on my visit to C.P. Hall. This edition is more like 18Q than 20.]

1. What brought you to BCC?

As a student at the Graduate Center, I was assigned to Bronx Community College as a graduate teaching fellow. I was very pleased to because at the time the chair of the department was one of my professors, Roman Cossack. I felt very comfortable.

2. What's kept you at BCC?

I felt very supported by the department as a graduate student, which was very unusual for some of my friends on other campuses. There is a faculty seminar here, so people are committed to their own research as well as their pedagogy. It was a lively and invested group of people.

3. What is your favorite spot here on campus, beyond lovely CP?

Hey, I have a window! Honestly, I try to get as much work as I can done on campus ... I'm usually at my desk or in one of my classrooms.

4. What do you think lives in the sinkhole?

I'm sort of amused by the fact that it's now grown in size and now they've put a fancier fence around it to protect the sinkhole. Hmm. I have not personified it yet. It may be the home of a large creature.

5. How do you build a TARDIS?

I think you don't build one; you steal one, right?

6. Best job, worst job, first job?

The best job is my current job, I have to say. This is what I hope will be my forever job. The first job I would say was probably in ninth-grade working in my high school library. The worst job wasn't so bad. I've been very fortunate. I didn't have any cleaning sewers things [where I got] bitten by seventeen rats. I'd say my worst job was when I working at a health club as a manager. The job itself was pretty good; my clients were pretty good. It was hard for me because I had grown up in a home where everybody was self-employed; I didn't get this whole employee thing. There was real stratification. When they offered me a new position and said that my supervisor had been terminated, I laughed out loud because I didn't know that people actually used that terminology. Did Arnold Schwarzenegger come from somewhere?

7. Last meal?

I would like to have my last meal draw out over about twenty years. "No, no. I'm not quite done yet! I'm just taking a break to digest." Sushi. Tomoe Sushi on Thompson Street. It would include yellowtail and good old California roll.

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

Does it have to be human? I think an animated character might work, but I might do the voice over. It would be from Futurama. It would emphasize the chipper parts. High drama, then high comedy!

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

At twenty-one I had just graduated from college and was starting more school. I have lots more advice for myself a few years afterwards. Twenty-one was fine! Early twenties? I would encourage myself to do some of the things I was doing then, which was to, yes, travel a lot,

since I had that time available and was only taking care of myself. I would travel more inside the United States and I would have started graduate school sooner.

10. What's the last book that you read?

I'm currently re-reading *Abel's Proof* because I thought it would be good for my Math 30 students, but they have enough to do. It is about "space" and it is accessible to anyone who has gone through high school math. It is sort of a history of Abel showing that there is no generalized formula to solve a fifth-degree equation. There isn't one uniform general way to solve it using radicals and arithmetic operations.

11. Who or what is your favorite character from fiction?

It's been a long time since I've read fiction. Now I tend to grab old favorites. ... Nothing is coming to mind. I didn't have someone where I really identified with their struggle. I'll go with Adrian from the Stephen Fry book *The Liar*. He's a version of Stephen Fry himself as a youth. Basically, the book is called *The Liar* after him. He's not a vicious liar ... but we get a lot of fun out of him.

12. Tell me a joke.

I don't know if this is because I know more scientist-y people than I do humanities people, but they seem to be inveterate punsters. There's always that t-shirt from undergrad that says, "Mathematicians do it discretely and discontinuously."

13. Glass half-empty or half-full?

Depends on how tasty the liquid is. I'm an optimist.

14. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

What day is today? The twenty-third? Well, I think I'd like to still be part of this department.

15. Would you have overthrown McInerney in a vicious coup?

He is a fabulous chair. I feel like we are so lucky to have him because he knows how everything works on this campus. I like teaching more [than being chair.] I hope to be still active in my work and going to lots of conferences in lots of nice places. I'd like to be a parent by then. I really still want to live in New York. [I like to do] more and better of the same, perhaps with a few more cha cha lessons thrown in there.

16. Six-word autobiography.

Snide optimist city kid goes forth.

17. Favorite monster?

Grover. They're all monsters! Two things upset me about *Sesame Street*: First, Cookie Monster is no longer Cookie Monster because monsters are scary apparently and his name is just Cookie. What?! The other thing is, the original series were released on DVD and they are not rated for children.

18. Any parting words for your students?

Here's my really dorky PA: Please see a math professor when you're trying to register for your math classes. Or see any adviser!

To you as a BCC student: Get involved on campus. You will have a much better experience; you will enjoy it more; you will get more out of it, whether it means joining a club, or going to see your professors.

This is your education, so you have to take the initiative. If you are interested in doing something, there is a way to get it done. It's your time; this school is here for you.



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Campus News

20 Questions (Meet the Student)

C. Lionel Spencer



After stopping several people, asking them to be a part of our twenty questions student series, and receiving unfavorable answers I was beginning to get a little frustrated. I don't know who told me BCC students would be up for the task of talking but I must have been misinformed. That is until I tried my plea once again. I stopped a young lady, told her my mission at hand, and asked her if she would be

willing to bare her soul through twenty questions? And she said, "Yes." Meet Angelica Garcia, but you can call her Angie.

1. How old are you?

Almost nineteen.

2. What brought you to BCC?

Well, I just moved to New York so the closest college to my house was here, so I thought, okay, go.

3. What's your major?

Criminal Justice

4. Taking any classes yet?

Yeah. This is my second year.

5. Best class, worse class?

My best class would have to be American Government. The worse class would have to be math; I can't stand math. I had MTH 01, I didn't like it, and the teacher was really bad. He didn't really want to teach us, but I still passed, though.

6. Favorite place on campus?

I like to go to the cafe a lot. And also I like to walk around, as long as there are no skunks.

7. What was your last Facebook status post?

It was about someone passing away, so. Yeah, someone from my high school passed away a couple of days so I wrote something.

8. What was the last movie you saw?

Brokeback Mountain. I saw it a couple of days ago, I love that movie actually. I was sobbing like a little girl. It's a good movie.

9. Snowy day or rainy day?

Snowy day cause I hate rain and it frizzes up my hair.

10. What semester are you in?

Third semester.

11. What would your perfect Saturday night be?

Umm, probably watching movies, if not then I'm out with my friends. Either or.

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

I would go with either Ryan Gosling or Jake Gyllenhaal. If not those, I have so many I could say. If not then, I'd probably go with Edge Sarin. He's a British artist; he's amazing.

13. Republican, Democrat or Independent?

I don't know; I don't have a political status.

14. If you could have one superpower what would it be?

Superpower? Umm, that's a hard one...but I'd have to go with laser vision like Cyclops, that's so awesome. Or ummm, maybe super strength because I'm a weakling.

15. What's the last book you read?

Good question, I haven't read in a while. Probably *The Hunger Games*, that was the last one. I watched the movie before I read the book and I wanted to read the book for the longest but when I got the book I didn't even read it. Crazy!

16. Where do you see yourself in one year?

Good question. Hopefully, graduating from Bronx Community, getting a job, and supporting my family. That type of thing. And maybe, maybe, having an internship at the UN because you know criminal justice and the UN go (she did a finger-locking thing to show me how tight they are). It would be cool.

She asked me "anything else?"
Yes, we're almost finished.

"I hope there are questions about athletics and sports."

Uh! No, sorry.

17. Hard cover or soft cover book?

It doesn't matter; if the book is good, the book is good.

18. Bugs Bunny or Mickey Mouse?

Ha. D*@n! Mickey Mouse!

19. Favorite teacher?

Ummm, I don't know if you know her, Melissa Cassabeno. She was my favorite. I had English 02 because I failed by one point. So, I had her and she was really really nice. She wasn't just a teacher. She was more like...you know, she would help you in other ways besides school work.

I said, "Like a Mister Feenie, the female version?" She was really nice. She was really helpful. She helped me with essay writing. I'm horrible at essay writing and she really helped me with that. I'm really grateful.

20. Most embarrassing moment?

I have too many of those. Let's see, one day I was walking and a person kept looking at me and I'm like what? I'm walking and I didn't realize I had a hug rip behind here so they could see my underwear. I was just walking still and the person's like (looking gesture) and I'm like what? They were like you have a rip back there. I was like, "Oh, man." I have more than that but that one that's like...I threw those jeans out quickly.

So when you're on campus, preferably in the cafeteria, look out for this Mickey Mouse loving, United Nations going, Criminal justice major. She's sweet and full of energy.

The Other Room in the Basement

By Aziza Ingram

There are two rooms in the basement of Meister Hall. Most of us are familiar with one, and, until recently, it was the library, but the second is a room that very few know about. That other room in the basement is used from time to time for OCD classes and the showing of some films. In my time here at BCC I have [gone a few times], and I often invite other students to join me. When I tell them the name of the meeting place, I always receive a puzzled look. It goes something like this:

Question: "Hey, you want to come and see a film with me in Schwendler Auditorium.

Answer: "Where is that?"

Response: "The other room in the basement of Meister."

Answer: "Oh yeah, ok!"

Funny, most of the places on campus are known by their correct names and by the end of this article you should be more familiar with the name of "The Other Room."

Once upon a time, BCC was NYU's engineering campus. William T. Schwendler was in the first graduating class of that school in 1924 with a degree in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. In his professional career with Grumman Ironworks, Schwendler made significant contributions to military, space and commercial aviation. They include:

- The retractable landing gear first introduced on the FF-1, later improved on

in the F4F Wildcat and F6F Hellcat. The latter models were responsible for downing 75 percent of Japanese aircraft in World War II.

- The development of the Executive Gulfstream Aircraft Program, and
- The development of NASA's lunar module that took astronauts to the Moon and back.

Schwendler's design philosophy helped the Grumman Ironworks Company have a stellar reputation. His career lasted there from 1929 to 1971 when he retired.

Over the summer break a rededication took place for the lesser-known room in the basement. William T. Schwendler Jr. was there for two reasons. The first was to present the first winner of the annual William T. Schwendler Memorial Scholarship to William Jorge-Berroa. The scholarship is awarded to a student majoring in any of the STEM disciplines with a demonstrated interest in aviation/aerospace industry. The second was to unveil the new and improved marquee for the auditorium in memory of his father. The unveiling was greeted by applause and smiles. It is a beautiful adornment to the entrance of the Schwendler Auditorium that acknowledges a man that made incredible contributions to air and space travel and loved the NYU/BCC campus.

So now, the next time you are headed down to that "room in the basement," you will know that it indeed has a name and the story behind its namesake.

I feel educated as should the readers. Great job! Pure awesomeness!

New York Voter Registration Information & Requirements If you need to register to vote in New York, go to RegistertoVote.org.

At RegistertoVote.org, we provide New York residents with all the information and documents you need to complete your registration quickly and painlessly. Whether you've recently moved, changed your name, or just become eligible, our New York voter registration form builder will allow you to create your application in just a few seconds. Once your application has been generated, we'll provide you with a link to download your completed New York voter registration form, as well as instructions for signing and submitting it to your local election committee.

YOU MUST

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of the county, or of the City of New York, at least 30 days before an election
- Be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary, or other election in which you want to vote
 - Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not currently be judged incompetent by order of a court of competent judicial authority
 - Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

Registration Deadline: 25 days before the election: RegistertoVote.org

Campus News

Transfer Prep 101

By Alex Luma

Author 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 their lives. Everyone knows what it’s like to change their minds every now and then. When changing your mind relates to education and where you go to college, the transference to an institute 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
- And the list goes on....

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.

What follows is what Chantelle Wright, Career and Transfer Specialist for the Career & Transfer Services Department, had to say:

How long does the transfer process take?

“The length of the transfer process depends on the school to which you plan to transfer. CUNY requires that before transferring to another institute that you have taken a college-level math and an 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 to wait for a decision from the admissions office at the school to which you are applying. Altogether, transfer preparation 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 to which you are applying. 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

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 a 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 \$626 weekly. Associate degree recipients make \$761 while those with their bachelor’s degree make \$1,025 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 brain, 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 an influential effect 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 (widely noted as one of the first and best personal-success authors) once said, “Action is the real measure of intelligence.”

GRADUATE SUCCESS INITIATIVE

If you are a C.O.P.E student (collecting public assistance) with a 2.0 GPA or better, in good academic standing with 30-45 credits towards an A.A.S or A.S degree then you are eligible to receive:

- Free monthly Metro Cards for the academic year
- Free book vouchers
- Free loaner laptops
- Special exemption from WEP

For More Information,

Contact:

Denise Comara

Project Coordinator/ CUNY COPE GSI Program

Department of Student Development

Bronx Community College LO 113

2155 University Avenue

Loew Hall Room 106A

Bronx, New York 10453

☎(718)-289-5100 X 5047

denise.comara@bcc.cuny.edu

Outside the Quad

The Perfect End to Summer A Dedication to Cathy and Frank Sambula Jr.

By C. Lionel Spencer

The end of the 2012 spring semester ended in academic excellence for me; I earned my very first 4.0 semester, but my life wasn't as flawless. In the middle of June, after working five years at the best job I ever held, I quit my office clerk position at a midtown law firm. To many this decision wasn't the wisest, considering the state of our nation's economy, but to a man who had become used to settling, out of fear, this decision couldn't be avoided. Have you ever searched for something special, something seemingly made just for you?

My close friend Frank Sambula Jr. knows about this all too well. It had been several years since his last serious relationship, and his focus hadn't changed, just play his guitar and chisel out his career path. If you approached him and asked about his love life he would tell you plainly that it wasn't time yet; he was simply enjoying his single life. He was busy doing the things most people I know say they want to do before settling down: traveling, changing serious lifestyle habits, and lots of reading. But beginning the year of 2011, all this changed; something in his heart said it was time. It was time to move on from being single to having a wife. Time for him to explore the next step and do all these things with another. And he found that person in Cathy Basilian. Marriage became a focus, it became a prayer, it became a goal.

My summer wasn't smooth. It wasn't easy making the hard decision to quit my job to go back to school full time, but I knew it was time. I hadn't saved enough money to pay for all my expenses until I could find a new job. I was late on my rent, my phone was disconnected and stress was mounting as my bank account went into the negative. But what do you do when you feel like your life needs to go from great to greater? That you've spent all the time you need traveling, changing, reading and it's time to get married sort of speak. You've exhausted all your possibilities and options at this place or with this thing and could continue to, but at the same time you can't. It's time. It's time to

move on and leave whatever it was behind you. Sometimes we're only living in comfort, afraid to take a risk, because it won't be an easy exchange, it won't be a smooth turnover.

Well, today, on August 18, I'm heading to a wedding, and it's raining outside. I personally love the rain, but good thing the wedding is indoors. But that's the thing; it's always going to rain! The decisions we make won't always go as we plan or envision them, but like with love, we have to risk something important in order to gain something more special.

Anyone who's married, or ever been in a committed relationship lasting more than six months, knows the challenges that come along with sharing your life, past and hopes with someone. It's messy. It's complicated. But at the end it's worth it. Now, I know there maybe someone who reads this and says, "It didn't work out for me. It wasn't worth it." Well, if life is a teacher, then you're a student always in class. If you have no lesson to show for all its teaching, you have to ask yourself if you're really paying attention in class.

So, whether it's getting married, changing a career path or some other difficult decision, remember, before you take a class there are always the bursars and registrars of life. The running back and forward to offices to get this stamped and changed and rearranged. And after it's, finished you get your education; you get to build relationships and pursue lifelong dreams. Today, several weeks after taking care of all my admission logistics and even solidifying a position tutoring at the Writing Center, I'm going to a wedding.

And as I look out window with seemingly the autumn rain pouring, getting ready to see two friends get married, it's feeling the perfect end to summer.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDYING ABROAD OVER THE WINTER 2013 INTERSESSION

Please review the following two scholarships if you are thinking about studying abroad over the winter intersession. The winter intersession programs are usually three to four weeks long and offer academic credit.

The deadlines are rapidly approaching, so if you are interested you must give this your immediate attention. **Please note that you will need to apply for a study abroad program before you submit either scholarship application.** Both scholarships also require well written essays and faculty recommendations. These scholarships will also be offered for programs that take place over the summer with application deadlines sometime in February. Both scholarships require that you be eligible for financial aid.

2012-2013 STOCS Scholarships for Winter Intersession Programs

These scholarships are funded by CUNY and supports short-term study abroad to one of the programs that fulfill the STOCs guidelines. A list of these programs is available at <http://www.cuny.edu/studyabroad> or in GML A-1. The scholarships range from \$1,000- \$1,650. The deadline is October 9th.

Spring 2013 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship is a federal program to support study abroad. In order to receive a scholarship, the study abroad program must be eligible for credit at BCC and fit within your academic program. It also must be at least four weeks long. A few of the programs offered by CUNY STOCs over the winter intersession may be appropriate. The application must be completed online, and the deadline is October 2nd. The maximum scholarship is \$5,000, but the amount is considerably less for the shorter winter programs.

If you would like additional information or any assistance, please call 718.289.5164 or come to GML A-1 to make an appointment.

NEWLY RENOVATED APARTMENTS FOR RENT


Kelly Street Restoration LP is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 31 affordable housing apartments at 916, 920, 924, 928, 935 Kelly Street. The buildings are being rehabilitated through the Participation Loan Program (PLP) of the City of New York's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) with funding from Round 3 of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 31 apartments are as follows:

Available Apartments	Apartment Size	Monthly Rent*	Household Size	Total Annual Income Range** Minimum-Maximum	
4	Studio	\$769	1	\$28,869	\$34,860
6	1BR	\$827	1 2	\$30,926 \$30,926	\$34,860 \$39,840
14	2BR	\$1,005	2 3 4	\$37,131 \$37,131 \$37,131	\$39,840 \$44,820 \$49,800
7	4BR	\$1,297	6 7 8	\$47,863 \$47,863 \$47,863	\$57,780 \$61,800 \$65,760


*Includes Heat and Hot Water Only. Tenant Pays Electric and Cooking Gas.
** Income guidelines subject to change.

Applicants will be required to meet income and family size guidelines and additional selection criteria to qualify. Applications may be requested by mail from: Kelly Street Restoration LP, P.O. Box 1166, New York, NY 10039. Please include a self-addressed envelope with your request. **Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express, overnight or oversized mail will be accepted) to an address that will be listed on the application and must be postmarked by September 18, 2012.** Applications postmarked after September 18, 2012 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by a lottery. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Duplicated applications will not be accepted. Preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Bronx Community Board 2 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive preference for 5% of the units. Visual and Hearing Impaired residents will receive preference for 2% of the units.

No Broker's Fee. No Application Fee.
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, Mayor
The City of New York
Department of Housing Preservation and Development
MATHEW M. WAMBUA, Commissioner
www.nyc.gov/hpd



Department of Housing Preservation & Development



Equal Housing Opportunity

Campus News



Dear BCC Community,

Welcome to another great year at BCC! My name is Armando and I am the new Project Coordinator with NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group. For those of you who may not be unfamiliar with us, NYPIRG is the state's largest and most effective student-directed organization on 20 college campuses across the state. For the past 39 years NYPIRG has been building student power through grassroots organizing and advocacy, public education, and offering students countless opportunities to become civically engaged members of the campus and the community to help develop the skills needed to become effective student activists.

NYPIRG is urging every member of the campus community to help build student power by registering (or re-registering) to vote. With the deadline quickly approaching, we are launching our annual voter registration campaign. 2008 was a big year for the youth vote, but historically the 18-25 year old age group has not been represented in the polls. This lack of voter mobilization allows politicians in the City Council, Albany, and Washington, to ignore the issues that we care about most. With growing education costs, mounting student debt, a weak economy, and a presidential election this year, students cannot afford to sit this election out.

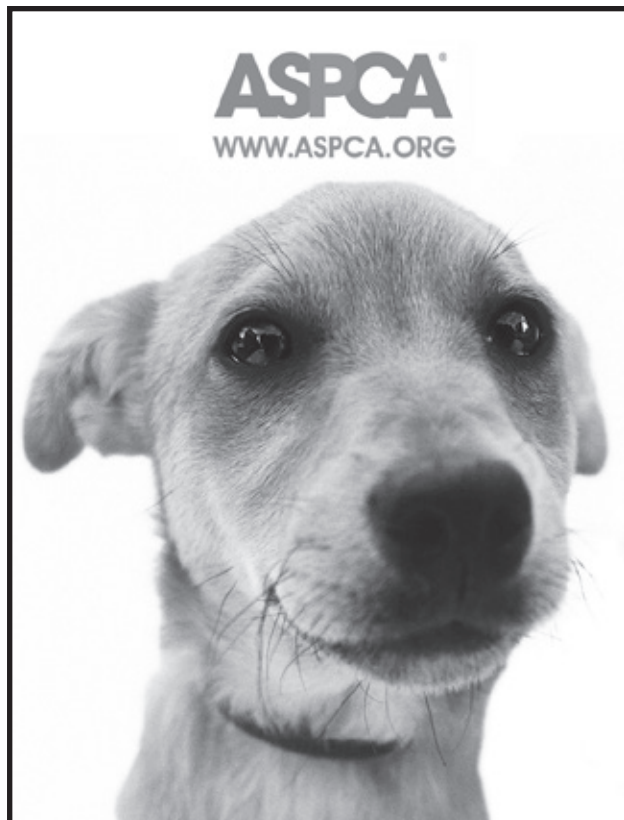
Be sure to stop by our weekly tables in the Colston and Meister Hall lobbies to register and make your voice heard. In addition, find out how to you can play an integral role in our various campaigns, including our upcoming projects with higher education reform, and hunger and homelessness.

To get active and join NYPIRG stop by our office anytime in Meister 214.

I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,
Armando Chapelliquen
BCC NYPIRG
718-289-5409
Bronx@nypirg.org

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.



Successful Student Secrets

By Aziza Ingram

It's a brand new semester, and we are all starting with the same blank slate. High school is over and college is starting. Whether you are a freshmen or preparing to graduate, we can all use some hints in making our college careers successful. I have asked around and compiled a long list of helpful hints that if applied will help you to be successful on this campus.

This month's lesson is all about: *Communication*.

1. You may find yourself running from building to building trying to get an answer to a question, get your schedule changed, or take a placement exam. Here is what helps: get the name of *every* person you speak to. Know the room number and/or their phone extension. This is helpful when you are asked the dreaded question you will inevitably get – "Who sent you here?"
2. Once that stress has been dealt with, you will be in a classroom. There is a person in charge there, and that is the professor. It's important to know his or her name. Why? Most professors like you to include their name in the header of the assignments you turn in. If you go for tutoring, your tutor may ask, "Who is your professor?" This information is helpful to the tutor and *you* because most of them have a relationship with him/her or may have taken their class.
3. Lastly, if you get to know your professors you may find them to be a valuable resource. They are great when it comes to getting letters of recommendations for jobs, scholarships, and transfer applications.

I hope you start this new semester with a new outlook. This article should have helped you to do two things. First, by getting the names of those sending you on what will feel like a wild goose chase, if you follow Secret One, you will know who to blame for all the unnecessary cardio. Second, Secret Two may have you learning more about yourself as a student and taking advantage of the wealth of knowledge found in the brain of that person telling you to "look at the syllabus for the next assignment."

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

This competition is co-sponsored by ICIS—the International Center for Integrative Studies (an accredited United Nations NGO) and by the Art & Music Department of John Jay College of the City University of New York. For more information, contact: futureaward@icisonline.org

THE END OF POVERTY :

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

PRIZES ...

- 1 year appointment as ICIS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE to the U.N.
- UP TO \$1500 in stipends for college expenses
- Participation in an EXHIBIT in the John Jay College President's Gallery with the option of participating in a fund-raising auction & sharing in the proceeds
- Receipt of the ICIS FUTURE AWARD at a GALA at John Jay in fall 2012

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST...

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

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

50TH ANNIVERSARY 2012
ICIS

Arts & More



Sex and the Single Girl

By Aziza Ingram

This review is being written in anticipation of resurgence in sales of the late Helen Gurley Brown’s book *Sex and the Single Girl*. Originally published in 1962, it was a book deemed controversial because Brown told women to have fun (sex) and stop putting so much pressure on themselves to be married by age 23. Although it was written many decades earlier, most of the contents are still relevant to women today.

Brown gives women ideas and guidelines for everything from how to meet a man and where, as well as how to maintain your home, host parties and diet. Chapter Nine – “The Shape You’re In” – is quite interesting. The things we know now about nutrition are not the things known to the author at the time she wrote this book. It will register as hilarity, not common sense.

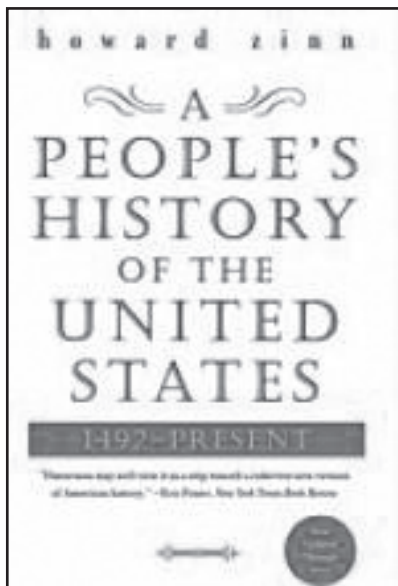
Helen Gurley Brown’s *Sex and the Single Girl* will make you laugh, think and, possibly, make some changes. Brown was editor of *Cosmopolitan* Magazine from 1965 to 1997 and she is one of the main reasons that magazines look the way they do today.

Brown died on August 13, 2012, and her book will live in my heart forever.

Required Reading

A People’s History of the United States: 1492 – Present

By Aziza Ingram



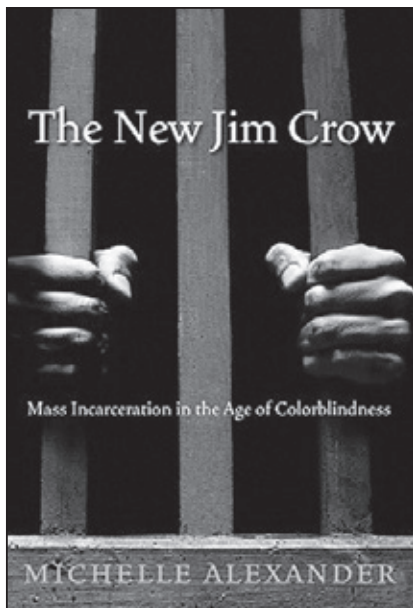
Professor Brandt Reiter, as the required reading for English 12, introduced this book to me. I was not excited to be reading a history book in an English class. However, I began to feel different about it by page four. This *is* a history book but *not* the history book American students are accustomed to reading. Howard Zinn writes his book through the voices of those who have suffered at the hand of exploration, fought the wars for expansion, and those that were exploited and discriminated against.

For those that are averse to reading history texts, Mr. Zinn presents his facts like a relatable novel. Accounts given in this book will have you questioning the things you know of our so called “American Heroes,” and some of the time you will become angry. The pages will nearly turn themselves and you will cherish your copy long after you have completed the read.

This is an excellent companion to History 20 or any American government classes and will aid you in making well-rounded arguments in any upcoming research papers.

The New Jim Crow: A Review

By Aziza Ingram



*The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander describes the incredible ways that blacks and minorities continue to be ruled by Jim Crow. It is no longer only a way of life in the southern states but is now, a way of life throughout the entire United States. When slavery was made illegal, peonage became the new way to enslave a race believed to still be inferior. Once that was determined to be illegal as well, a new way of enslavement and control had to be devised.

Alexander says this new way of enslavement is “The Prison System.” She explains in great detail how the new system works, claiming that more blacks are in jail or prison, or are on parole or probation than were ever enslaved in the time that slavery was legal. This statistic floored me and made me look at the lives lived around me. While reading the book I looked to the men I have come to know. Most of those in my high school years have been to jail, and, most recently, I have had to add my own brother to the list.

Jailing has become the best way for “The Man” to keep minorities in line. Criminality has been broadened and the net widened to catch “criminals.”

Once in jail, they are kept in cages and given few freedoms. Release grants them freedom to wander yet the freedom to vote has been stripped. The same way that poll taxes and reading tests were administered to keep blacks from voting in the past is what the prison system does in modern times. A few states, including Maine and Vermont, do allow ex-convicts to regain the right to vote, but the process to do so is a lengthy one. Other states, such as Florida, are working to ease these restrictions, and advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Brennan Center for Justice, the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (Acorn) are also active in the struggle to return voting rights to the disenfranchised.

This book is one that every American should read. Every race in America can be put into the penal system, and history is a good way to determine who will be targeted next. *The New Jim Crow* is especially relevant to the academic community. We are the future leaders of this country and the world. The upcoming 2012 election is a great way to put the word out as to what it is “We” want and how “We” want it done.

**Jim Crow* was not a person, yet this system affected the lives of millions of people. Named after a popular 19th-century minstrel song that stereotyped African Americans, “Jim Crow” came to personify the system of government-sanctioned racial oppression and segregation in the United States.

IF YOU ARE
CURRENTLY WORKING
 AND
RECEIVING FULL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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

THEN YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE METROCARDS!

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

(718) 289 – 5603




Writers of the Month

Knights of Desperation (Prologue)

By Zanin Lindsay

With the coming of age came evolution and consequently the end of the world as we knew it. In the year 2008 the stock market crashed bringing with it the world economy. People were losing their jobs and homes to the banks while industry fell and debt rose. Automobile companies were shutting down factories due to skyrocketed cost for materials and such, resulting in thousands of job lost. Scrambling for new solutions, governments failed to present a solid plan for the global deficit leading to more foreclosures and bankruptcies. The never ending conflicts in the Middle East and Africa finally took its toll when the oil reserves started reaching their depletion point, making price for oil equal to the value of diamonds. Needless to say, no one was buying any. As a defensive measure, oil was strictly used for emergency and military personnel to maintain order and political infrastructure within nations. Transporting food and supplies to major cities were becoming a major issue of concern, for the readiness of fuel was becoming vague. Power and water shortages were also becoming common for research into alternate fuel was turning out empty solutions. As countries were becoming more desperate for resolution they had increased their stockpile and maximized their military readiness. With no other alternate energy available, the United States secretly declared all-out war for resources and dominance. Russia and China were the first to be attacked due to the obvious threat they posed and proximity to the US. South America was completely unprepared for the technological might of the US Armed Forces. They were decimated by chemical and biological warfare, leaving only the forests intact for harvesting. Africa and Europe were wiped clean by a combination of firebombs and infantry artillery units, similar to that of a German blitzkrieg. Australia, cut off from the world, was picked clean of resources and left to wither on the vine. The US Air force surgically cut off any means of defense Australia had, leaving them vulnerable to be seized. Forests were chopped down and harvested while livestock and crops was transported and cultivated. Remnants of the militaries around the world that had retreated, tried to make Australia their turning point in the war against the US. Due to the significant losses the US were experiencing in battle they ordered a retreat, to regroup and deliver the final blow to end the skirmish. In intense battle that stirred, the US leveled the entire country with an atomic bomb putting an end to the war. To ensure our continuity as a species Canada and Mexico was spared and became a part of the newly established totalitarian Confederation of America. A vast majority of the US was opposed to the war and in result Freedom's Haven was founded. Their goal was to bring the people together, and fight back against the tyranny and injustice that was being done. One of their major victories was convincing the state of Hawaii to rebel against the US, and gaining their support. Freedom's Haven had

threatened the Confederation that it would use nuclear power to protect its new allie. Forced into a pact, the U.S left Hawaii alone and declared it a restricted zone constantly watching over it. Martial law is in affect daily, maintaining constant security over the government district and agricultural zones throughout the country, for the threat of Freedom's Haven is always about. The working class is held at suspicion. Stocks and trades have been limited to specialized sectors of industry that produce materials needed to maintain the framework of the nation. The middle class has been destroyed for the lines between rich and poor are very clear. Education is given up to the 12th grade but no financial aid is given to attend trade schools or college. Even if you had money, there are many restrictions that apply to the working class. You would have to pass the pre-screening background check just to see if you are a potential risk against the welfare of "the people". Waiting periods are mandatory, for they do an exhaustive screening, so receiving these results take time. At the end, the test doesn't matter because once your class is discovered you automatically fail the screening. As days go on the will and the voice of the people grow weak, all that past leaders and revolutionaries fought so hard to give us went to waste, for we now live in a world without hope or dreams. As for me, my mother was killed by a government cell that makes sure people like me are dead. War was not the only trait we gained for survival and the evolving times, for a select few have obtained the power of telekinesis. We do not know exactly how a person comes to get it, however symptoms are the only way to detect it. SPAEP, the Special Provisions Against Extraterrestrial Phenomena unit, are responsible not only for my mother's death but for the death of many more. People like my sister and I are constantly on the run, looking over our shoulders, trying to survive in a world that demands our extinction. Welcome to the future of evolution, welcome to the end of the world.



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