THE COMMUNICATOR

September 10, 2013 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 1 – Fall 2013

A Magical Evening for Bronx Filmmakers: The 20th Annual BCC Film & Video Festival

By Sebastian Rothwyn

When one walks into Clearview Cinemas on 23rd Street in Manhattan, New York, one expects to see a major theatrical production which costs tens or sometimes hundreds of millions of dollars to bring to the screen. No matter the cost, the best films are always a labor of love. On this night, June 5, 2013, members of the BCC Media Technology and Media Studies program of the Department of Communication Arts & Sciences were able to share their labors of love with a full house at the 20th Annual Bronx Community College Film and Video Festival.

My professor and past attendees had told me that premiering one's film at the festival is a magical feeling, but no amount of preparation or explanation could prepare me for what happened. It started with the energy of the people involved. All of the filmmakers put in lots of work and were all equally as nervous as I was. The anticipation of seeing one's film on a giant cinema screen is indescribable. As the previews of past films and the screening of our goofs and gags played, it didn't make us any less anxious. Knowing what long hours and abundant effort had been placed into every frame made it that much more exciting. "You can see so much heart up there on the screen," said Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, "and it's only because the filmmakers were putting themselves totally on the line to have these films exist. This was a very special evening for all of our BCC filmmakers, and I was glad to be in the audience for the 20th year and applaud them for their efforts."

The majority of the cast and crew of every film that was screened were present to see their work come alive. Fifteen films, one of which was a documentary, were shown. There were moments of laughter, cheers, sad sighs, sounds of fright and sounds of relief--all of the reactions of an emotional ride that the cinematic experience can take us on. It meant a lot to me to have my family there, and this was a fulfilling experience for them to see the fruit of my labor and where all of my attention had been.

When the final film, my spy action thriller, *Double Agent*, was screened, there was applause--not only for mine but for all of the films. In the audience were production executives from the Eastman Kodak Company, Cablevision's Clearview Cinema, Avid Technology, HBO, The Independent Film Channel, The Food Network, Panavision, Barbizon Lighting, and many other companies on hand to present awards. During the festival, special thanks were extended to Dr. Debra Gonsher, Chair of the Department of Communications Arts & Sciences, for her continued support for the festival.

The Peter J. Rondinone Screenwriting Memorial Award was presented by Dr. Eddy Bayardelle, BCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and awarded to Joseph Almonte, Andres Davoren, Edgar Matos, Ariela Rosa, Sebastian Rothwyn, and Aaron Waring.

Rondinone grew up in the Bronx where he was a gang member and unsuccessful student. When he could not land a job as a firefighter or police officer, he entered CUNY under an open admissions program and attended a class called "The Writer and the City." When he read Richard Price and his realistic depictions of gang life, Rondinone dedicated his efforts to writing. His stories dealt with urban youth and the development of a unique language they could understand. That power that lies in the written word is why the award was created and was an honor to be received by all who were awarded.

The prestigious Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize was presented by Ms. Vikki L. Pryor, BCC alumna who established this prize in 2007, and by last year's winner, Ian J. Findlay. The prize was awarded to me, Sebastian Rothwyn.

Ms. Pryor is the CEO 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, she was 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. The company now has more than \$16.7 billion of insurance in force, 300,000 customers, and has been twice cited as one of the 50 best places to work in New York City. As testimony to her leadership and impact, 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



Bronx Community College student filmmakers pose with faculty, sponsors and staff in front of Clearview's Chelsea Cinema in New York City for the 20th Annual Bronx Community College Film & Video Festival.



2013 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards (from left to right): Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Director, CAS Media Technology Program; Ke'Yonna Johnson; Joshua Cruz; Anne Hubble, Eastman Kodak Company's Regional Account Manager, Studio & Independent Feature Film and Film Schools; Sebastian Rothwyn; and Ariela Rosa.



Film Festival Reception (from left to right): Professor
Jeffrey Wisotsky poses with BCC filmmakers at Arthur
Avenue reception in the lobby of Clearview Cinema.
Photos courtesy of Thomas Donley

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 Continued on page 3

A Night at the Movies: BCC's 20th Annual Film & Video Festival By C. Lionel Spencer

Not long after school had finished, I was invited to the 20th Annual Bronx Community College Film and Video festival at Chelsea Clearview Cinema on June 5th by a fellow writer, and BCC alum, Aziza Ingram. She exclaimed that this year's festival was sure to be both bigger and better for there would be more movies of continuous exceptional quality. Since she is a trustworthy friend and colleague, I decided to attend.

When I arrived at the cinema and walked upstairs, I noticed there was a floor strictly dedicated to our BCC students in honor of their hard work. The entryway was adorned with director's chairs, movie clapboards and posters for each film. It felt as though I was at the Sundance or the Tribeca film festivals. The ambience set the tone that this was the real deal!

I took the escalator up one more level and rushed into the theater. Most of the seats were full as I scanned the screening room. The lights were dim and popcorn was being enjoyed. The show was about to begin, and I was eager to find my seat. I found one in the back middle row alongside some faculty members and enjoyed the show.

There were fifteen short films previewed at the festival, which included: Day 13 directed by Joseph Almonte, No Glue by Darlene Vanderhorst, A Certain Romance by Rameek Grant Pressley, The Interview by Gavin Hickson, Apparition by Leroy Strother, The Perfect Day by Joshua Cruz, Skin Deep by Ke'Yonna Johnson, Love That Kills directed by Victor Burgos, I Do Feel by Elvis Lopez, Vigil directed by Edgar Matos, My Bad by Andres Davoren Jr., Blue Déjà vu directed by Aaron Waring, Two Sides, One Story by Ian J. Findlay, Pursuing Anima by Ariete Rosa, and Double Agent directed Sebastian Rothwyn.

The students did a masterful job producing these films as there was a delightful mixture of genres like comedy, drama, and even horror. Some got a giggle or sigh from me, but one really grabbed my attention. *The Perfect Day* directed by Joshua Cruz was about a young man reliving the time spent with his lady love. We see them frolicking in the park and watch them enjoy a picnic. At one point they even have a short waltz. The film ends with the young man placing a flower at his beloved's resting place. Maybe I'm just a sap for love, but this film nearly caused some salty discharge from the corner my eye. I mean death and love are two inescapable themes in our lives; therefore, it moved me deeply.

Once all the films were presented and the awards were given, a catered reception followed. There, the proud filmmakers celebrated their achievements with friends and family. I overheard lively discussions and banter about the films from most of those in attendance.

Overall, it was an enjoyable experience. The 20th Annual BCC Film Festival was a hit in my book, and I look forward to returning next year. If you have never been it is definitely worth the time. Hey, I may even save you a seat!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2

CUNY Study Abroad Reflection: England

Pages 3
A NYPIRG Welcome

Page 4

Volunteering Abroad: How Do You Start to Explain?

Pages 5

My Trip to Kenya

Page 6

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

Page 7

Discovering What BCC Has to Offer

Page

More Than One Global Perspective

Page 9

New York State Voter Registration Form

Page 11

Study Abroad Experiences in South Africa

The Communicator Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper. We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

Communicator Staff

Maite Andres Glorisel Belliard Muhammed Ceesay Aziza Ingram Roy Nunez C. Lionel Spencer Krystal Tavarez Andrew Rowan, Faculty Advisor

> Join The Communicator Team!

Fall 2013 Insertion Deadlines

October issue

Thursday, September 26

November issue Thursday, October 24

December issue

Monday, November 25

Cover campus news events. Explore local, state, national and global stories. Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community. The Communicator is looking for writers photographers advertising representatives Become part of our team, and join The Communicator today! College work study may be available. Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.



Going Global

CUNY Study Abroad Reflection: England

By Ashley Gonzalez

Oh, London, I will miss you; I had a great time here. It's such a bittersweet feeling now that this journey is over. For the first time in my life I felt alive. I was living, breathing, seeing, smelling, and hearing

everything clearly, and taking notes of it all. I've learned a lot about myself during this trip.

Studying abroad forces you to deal with people. Everybody I met on this trip was all very different, but we were all here for the same reason. We were in a search to find ourselves and define who we are. I guess that's why we all got along and understood

London also taught me that it is not so different from home. The problems we have back in the states are problems that are dealt with all over the world. On one of my first days in London I witnessed

each other.

an equal marriage protest in front of Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament. It was a peaceful

strike. There was music people singing and dancing to Lady Gaga songs, and they were giving out cupcakes to the crowd. I remember we sat down on the curb and

just observed the events happening. This is something I would never do back home; I would blindly walk to my destination without even looking around at the

beauty that surrounds me or what's going on. This makes me want to pay more attention to the problems back at home.

Meeting Henry, the homeless guy, and going on the tour with him through the East End of London also opened my eyes and gave me a whole new • perspective on homeless people. Henry gives tours of the East End and shows you how homeless people live in London. It is illegal to be a homeless person there and he showed us where they hide, eat, and sleep. The East End is also known as the "ghetto" part of

London, and during the tour you see why it is known for its reputation. Back at home we completely ignore

homeless people and assume they are on the street because of drugs or because they are lazy. Hearing Henry's story and seeing his pain made me feel guilty

for all the times a homeless person asked me to spare change and I quickly sucked my teeth, rolled my eyes,

and turned away. I never thought how that person felt, how they had to lower their pride and the humiliation they are going through just to get their next meal. That

experience taught me how to appreciate the people and things I have in my life. There are people all over the

world who have nothing and nobody to turn to when they need somebody the most.

One thing that did bother me is how London is changing. I know that a city has to change to better itself, but I feel like London is trying to break away from its history. Walking through the streets of London, you can see the changes. One minute you're walking down a tiny cobblestone street with old-fashioned buildings and then you turn the corner and you see a skyscraper rising, modern buildings, and no more cobblestones. Every time I waked down one of these streets I was excited and couldn't help but imagine how these streets looked in the 1800's. Then I would turn the corner and feel like I'm back home. Also, all the new skyscrapers are beautiful but it made me feel like it was taking away beauty from the Tower of London, Big Ben, and everything you imagine London to be.

The class I took in London was a creative writing class. It was just like your typical CUNY class but the difference was you were on the other side of the world. Most of the stuff I did in London was part of my field work for class. We went on little adventures to inspire our writing. My writing has become better since I took the class. I would recommend everybody to take this, especially if you're really into writing. The class also gave you the experience of having to take the tube every morning like all the other Londoners on their morning commute. The classroom was absolutely beautiful; it had a wall with floor to ceiling windows that opened up to a little balcony. Now coming back home and getting ready to start class makes me wish I was in London again.

The biggest lesson London taught me is that not everything is what it seems. Always come in to a situation with an open mind and never expect anything so you won't have any disappointments. It's ok to make changes, no matter how much history is there. Change is for the good, but never forget where you came from, because your past is the reason why you're making changes in the first place.

I will never forget this experience; it was a dream come true for me. I've learned a lot about the world and myself, and I also found peace within me. I learned to accept my past, and it helped me put the pieces to the puzzle together. I can't run from my problems, doing that just builds up unnecessary negativity and anger. Everything happens to let you know it's time to change and take the next step. When you finally accept your flaws that's when you discover yourself.

Successful Student Secrets: A Transfer Story By Aziza Ingram

Welcome to your first, next or last semester! College is an exciting place and time in our lives, but it can also be a stressful one. The most stress for me was

planning which college to attend after Bronx Community College.

I began the transfer process during my second semester at BCC. The application for Columbia University consisted of several pages of information and educa-

tional background, and that was the easy part. There were two letters of recommendation needed, and I

only had one previous educator in mind. Since I am one who likes to make myself known in and out of

the classroom, I was very comfortable approaching my English professor from the previous semester. The

last and most important aspect of the application was a 4,000-word essay. This was a daunting chore, and I

worked on it for three months. I rewrote it and submitted it for review to a trusted source 11 times before I

believed it was complete. I submitted the application and chewed off all my fingernails while I anticipated

After all that nail biting, my application was denied. The second after reading it, I was flabbergasted and on the phone with the main admissions director asking why? I made an appointment and met with

I needed to get more involved on campus (join some clubs), take math and science courses (colleges really like students who excel in these areas), have a proven

her face-to face. I learned quite a bit in that meeting.

academic record (maintain a good GPA for a few more semesters), and expand my experiences (volunteer in

I took her words very seriously and got to work. I was nominated for a study abroad program, the Salzburg Global Seminar, applied and was accepted. I joined

the community).

this newspaper, became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a tutor in the Modern Language Department, a volunteer with Catholic Charities, and I also acquired a full time job. I gave 100% effort in all that I signed up to do. Colleges look for well-rounded students that do not take on too much but excel within the activities they commit.

In my very first "Successful Student Secrets" article in September 2012 I stated, "... 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." This still rings very true. However, now I must stress the import of your professors knowing you. He or she needs to know your academic and character strengths. You can show this by being on time or early to class, turning in assignments on time and to specifications, and treating rough drafts like a final draft. Trust me when I tell you, it saves both you and your professor time and energy if you go in all the way as opposed to half way. Raise your hand in class when you know the answer and when you have a question about an answer given. Being prepared before class will help you be prepared after BCC. Think of your time here like an entry-level position. Your professionalism as a student will be noticed and rewarded when it comes time for your bosses (professors) to give you a raise or promotion (letters of recommenda-

Most students know that transferring to a CUNY four-year college comes with guaranteed acceptance, and knowing this information helped me when planning my transfer options. I aimed very high toward Ivy League colleges and had a CUNY school

Continued on page 6



A NYPIRG Welcome

Welcome back to campus! We would like to take a moment to update you on events and activities happening at NYPIRG. For those who may be unfamiliar with us, NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is the state's largest studentdirected consumer, environmental protection, and government reform organization. With the support of Bronx Community College students, we continue to fight every semester for affordable and accessible higher education, prevention of hunger and homelessness, and mobilization of student voices with the help of our interns and student leaders.

Over the summer, NYPIRG was on campus informing students about rising student loan interest rates and continuing our fight against hydraulic high

volume fracturing (fracking) here in New York. In addition to registering hundreds of new student voters, NYPIRG lead the charge here on campus by calling on the candidates for mayor to address the issue of employment credit check discrimination at the mayoral forum held over in the Memorial Hall Auditorium.

This semester, NYPIRG will continue to galvanize student voters by continuing our voter registration campaign, culminating in our second annual Mock Debate in coordination with Student Life and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team on October 31. This event will give students the opportunity to hear the positions of the candidates for New York City mayor, as acted out by BCC students. With tuition continually rising throughout the CUNY and SUNY systems and our environmental future being uncertain, now is the time for students to make their voices heard loud and clear at the local level.

The best way for students to be heard is to lead the charge on these issues. I invite you to stop by our office in Meister 214 or contact us at (718) 289-5409 or bronx@ nypirg.org. See how you can come in on the ground level and really build up a great political campaign.

Have a great semester!

Armando Chapelliquen **Project Coordinator** Meister 214, 718-289-5409 achapelliquen@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.



NYPIRG students (from left to right) Teonia Fitten, Board Representative Brandon Robinson, Flor Carrasco, and Patrick Lewis pose after a day of tabling in front of Meister Hall.

NYPRIG Views

Dear Editor:

The effects of smoking on one's personal health are nothing new. Significant efforts have been taken to reduce smoking here in the city. However, what demands our attention is the systematic targeting of our youth by the tobacco industry to pick up the deadly habit. In New York State, the tobacco industry spends \$175 million annually on marketing. Those most vulnerable to the tobacco industry's marketing, our youth, need to be informed that the target is on their backs. 75% of tobacco retailers in NYC are within a few blocks of a school, and it's no coincidence that nearly 90% of adults who smoke daily started by age 18.

Community leaders and organizations are working to change this trend by educating students about the prevalence of tobacco advertising around their schools and homes. Through a public health mentorship program that NYPIRG piloted in conjunction with the NYC Coalition for a Smoke-Free City, students in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens are mapping out tobacco advertisements around their schools. Students we are working with have already begun to recognize just how targeted they are and feel empowered to make more educated and healthy decisions.

As part of the pilot mentorship program here in the Bronx, BCC NYPIRG worked with PULSE high school to evaluate the amount of tobacco advertising in the Tremont neighborhood surrounding the high school. Brandon Robinson, a Bronx Community College electrical engineering major, served as a student mentor throughout the pilot program. The pairing of students from local high schools and colleges reinforced the need to engage students directly while presenting younger students with role models who care about public health.

While evaluating tobacco advertisements in the Tremont neighborhood around PULSE high school, we found a large disparity between the amount of health warnings and tobacco ads that were visible in bodegas and corner stores. The community mapping survey found 46 ads on the interior of stores, 21 of which were visible from the entrance. The survey also found 15 ads on the exterior of stores, totaling a whopping 61 ads in just a three by five block radius. By comparison, only six warning signs that addressed the health effects of smoking were found in the same

Think about your own walk to school, back home, or to work. Each block, store by store, our youth are seeing more and more tobacco ads. The most aggressive ad placement surveyed was directly across the street from the high school. That is pretty convenient placement for the tobacco industry. By overwhelming the area around PULSE high school with advertising for tobacco, youth are more likely to be reminded of tobacco name brands than of the health hazards those same name brands

Even with such an alarming problem, students are standing up against the barrage of tobacco advertising! To get involved visit www.nycsmokefree.org or contact the NYPIRG office at BCC at 718-289-5409 or Bronx@nypirg.org.

Sincerely,

Armando Chapelliquen Bronx NYPIRG achapelliquen@nypirg.org 214 Meister Hall



A Magical Evening for Bronx Filmmakers: The 20th Annual BCC Film & Video Festival

Continued from page 1

Prize will be awarded each year to a media technology student who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and professional promise.

Ian J. Findlay, a Media Technology Major and Film Society President, received the 4th Annual Steve Garfinkel Memorial Award for Excellence in Media, which is given in honor of the late cinematographer who passed away in 2009. Garfinkel was a member of IATSE Local 600, the Cinematographers Guild, and former Eastman Kodak Company Film School Liaison. The award was presented by fellow cinematographers Dejan Georgevich, ASC, along with Sol Negrin, ASC. Co-Chairs, Eastern Region Education Committee, International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, IATSE. "Steve's record of helping students with their films is legendary," said Georgevich.

The 2013 Chairperson's Award for a film that demonstrates creativity, imagination and the DNA of a future filmmaker was presented to Elvis Lopez for his film I Do Feel and to Gavin Hickson for his film The Interview.

The Avid Technology Editing Award was presented by Peter C. Frank, film editor of the box-office hit Dirty Dancing; Bill Calamita, Director of Studio and Field Operations, The Food Network; and Terra Bliss, General Manager, Panavision, to Rothwyn for Excellence in Television Non-Linear Editing.

The BCC Film and Video Production Award was this year's BCC graduation. presented to Rothwyn who said, "I think my face hurt from all of the smiling that I did, but I loved every moment of it and wouldn't trade it for anything."

The moment that everyone was waiting for: The 2013 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards were presented by Anne Hubble, Eastman Kodak Company's Regional Account Manager, Studio & Independent Feature Film and Film Schools.

First Prize was awarded to Ariela Rosa for Pursuing Anima. "I feel like this is the first time EVER in my life that I was recognized for the hard work I put into something. It's the first time that someone will look at something I've produced and they'll never know there was a crisis" said Ariela Rosa, a Media Studies major who won first prize in the competition. "As Robert Frost said, 'Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally." Second Prize was awarded to Sebastian Rothwyn for Double Agent. Third Prize was awarded to Joshua Cruz for The Perfect Day. Fourth Prize was awarded to Ke'Yonna Johnson for her documentary, Skin Deep.

"I feel like this is the first time ever in my life that I was recognized for the hard work I put into something," said Ariela Rosa, a media studies major and salutatorian at

"I'm so grateful and so blessed. Hard work and smart work truly pays off. I didn't give myself any hopes of winning anything in particular; that way I could not be disappointed. I received more than I had ever imagined. Never think that anything is too insurmountable. Just put your best in, knowing that it is your best, and you will reap great rewards," said Rothwyn.

The Clearview Cinema event on June 5th was by invitation only. A larger film festival with screenings open to the public will take place during the fall 2013 semester.

The new Media and Digital Film Production Program at Bronx Community College prepares students for entry-level employment in production support and selected technical areas of video, film and associated media production. The first-year students' 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. Other students go on to receive BAs or BFA degrees at a four-year college.

For further information about Bronx Community College's Media and Digital Film Production Program, please call Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky at (718) 289-5572.

Going Global

Volunteering Abroad: How Do You Start to Explain? By Krystal Tavarez

Krystal Tavarez was one of two Bronx Community College students to receive the annual Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarships for volunteering abroad. Her work in summer 2013 was in Cambodia.

When you start volunteering everyone always has this mentality that they're going give so much, and make people's lives very different. Before volunteering people don't realize that the person's life that will change is theirs – that you gain much more than what you give. I never understood the weight of this until this past summer, where I spent six weeks in the Orphanage and Poverty Center (OPC).

I landed in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on July 3, 2013; I was greeted by a Projects Abroad member, Pak. I remember I had this excitement and curiosity for the unknown. On our way to the villa, the house where I stayed, Pak told me about the history and culture of Cambodia. I could not stay focused because I was in a trance or as others call it I was having "culture shock." I was taken aback to know that this is the way people live day by day: kids without shoes or proper clothes; cats, dogs, and cows walking in terrible conditions. I took a special notice of the houses. People lived in houses made out of bamboo with more than four people living in each of them. They showered outside and used the bathroom outside.

To me Siem Reap was everything and nothing I imagined; you hear about developing countries back home – about the hardship they endure, but they never mention their good spirits, how happy they are with how little they have. How although they live in these conditions they are not defeated by them.

From the moment I walked through the gates of OPC I was greeted with big hugs, high fives and hellos by all these beautiful, kind faces. Originally, I went to Siem Reap to care for children, to play with them and teach them about taking care of themselves, things such as bathing and oral hygiene. But these children have such a hunger for learning new things that, instead of spending their time playing, they would yell "study teacha, study!"

In Cambodia children start going to school at eight years old at the earliest. When they go they only get four hours of school, and some teachers barely show up. The urge and hunger to learn felt like a breath of fresh air. I started doing activities with them such as word of the day for the younger ones (3-7) and letter of the day for the older ones (8-19). I played math bingo with them, and helped them with their ABCs.

The orphanage is two stories with five bedrooms. All the boys, fourteen of them, have to sleep in one room which only had two beds (now three after a volunteer's generous donation), and none with mattresses. There was one bathroom that they could shower in, privately, with a water pump and a bucket. Most of the kids showered outside where there were two pumps and a big bucket.

The orphanage is run by Mrs. Mao Soheap, the kindest lady I had the pleasure of meeting. She started the orphanage in 2007 with one girl called, who was 5 at the time. Soon it grew to 31 children, one of them being her own. Once she was asked, "How many children do you have," and she answered "31." She is so giving not only to her children but also to everyone she meets. Every day she would make a point to give us volunteers food that Cambodians ate to teach us about the culture and to show gratitude for teaching and spending time with her kids.

On my free time I explored the town and learned about the history. I learned that people are still suffering from the Khmer Rouge regime. It started in the 1970s where Pol Pot, a dictator, killed thousands of Cambodians, tortured and captured them, and forced them into his military. Many people were not treated for diseases such as polio; still today if you go you will see a person with polio since many victims are still alive. As I was learning about the Khmer Rouge I realized that it not so long ago when Pol Pot died in 1998 and Cambodians gained their independence. There are still land mines out there that could kill any person working or a kid just running in the wrong place.

What dawned on me was that some of my children at the orphanage were alive at the time; some might even remember. Once I sat down with Mrs. Soheap and asked her about the children and their stories. I then asked her if she lived in Siem Reap her whole life she said yes. Then I asked her about the Khmer Rouge; her face got sad as she nodded her head. I asked no further questions; I did not want to be the one to make her go through painful memories. I believe the Khmer Rouge was the reason she started the orphanage.

I was so excited to be exploring Siem Reap and the beautiful places like Angkor Wat. The more time I spent with the kids I realized that they lived there their whole lives but have rarely gone outside to see their own country. The other volunteers and I decided to take them on a trip to a lake, because, although they had seen Angkor Wat before, they had never been swimming. I've never seen people so excited to see their own country that they always lived in like these children. As we passed by they would yell out words we taught them "teacha! tree, cow, airplane, grass." They played and swam in the sun all day.

We took the older children out to eat, since we were learning so much about their culture we wanted them to learn

about ours. We took them out to dinner, and we ordered burgers, pasta, quesadillas, and other different plates for them. They enjoyed it so much; we even ordered rice in case they didn't like the food. Some even asked for seconds. I think both of these trips I enjoyed more than them because of how happy it made them. How grateful they were to swim in a lake to eat something else but rice and vegetables. How their faces lit up when we announced we would give them ice cream. The fact that these simple things can make them so happy. That with everything they've been through their hearts were still soft and their minds were still open. They've welcomed everyone with open arms and treated us as nothing less than family.

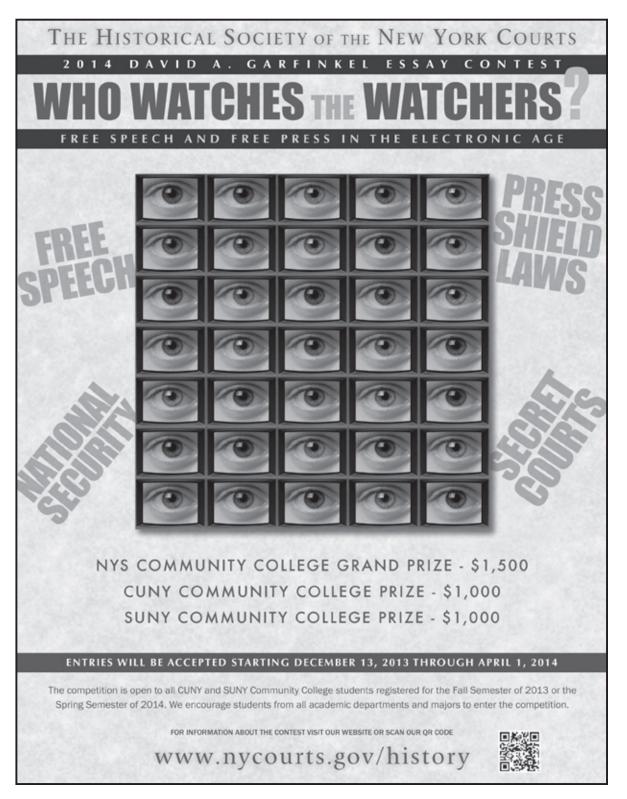
I went to Siem Reap thinking I was going to change these kids' lives, when in fact they changed mine.



Krystal displays paperwork with OPC children, staff and other volunteers.

I have taught them words; I even taught some of them how to add and multiply, but I've gained so much more from them than they gained from me. I've learned to be even more kind to others than I was before, to have that open mind and heart for every person that comes along. That even if you had a rough life you shouldn't let it harden you, and that family and friends have no borders.

My wish is that everyone becomes more aware of how – no matter how far we are across the globe – we are all connected. I believe if people enhanced their global perspective they would have the urge to help in some way. The 13th century Persian poet Rumi once said, "Yesterday I was clever, So I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."



My Trip to Kenya By O'Brien Awuah

O'Brien Awuah was one of two Bronx Community College students to receive the annual Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarships for volunteering abroad. His work in summer 2013 was in Kenya.

It has always been my greatest passion to provide free service to the needy through volunteerism. Fortunately for me I was introduced to the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship by Prof. Andrew Rowan which seeks to help students obtain volunteer experience abroad. With the help of the BCC Writing Center directed by Prof. Jan Robertson, I came out with an explicit proposal on HIV/ AIDS to be undertaken in Kenya, and, together with other documents, I submitted my application. I chose Africa because it is one of my greatest goals to serve the continent that brought me forth. Unfortunately, I could not volunteer in Ghana, my homeland, because it was contrary to the requirements of the scholarship fund.

My heart bled with an overwhelming joy when I received a confirmation message from the scholarship office notifying me of my acceptance to receive \$2,500 to embark on my trip. I was really beside myself so exceedingly that I could not stop smiling throughout that fateful day. While patiently awaiting my cheque, I combed through the internet again to obtain lesser airfare and a reputable, affordable non-governmental organization to volunteer with in Kenya.

Fortunately, I found three organizations which had good projects that met the aim of my proposal. Kindly, Dr. Abdullahi Abass, one BCC's biology professors, assisted me to choose the best and genuine organization called Helping Abroad, since he comes from Kenya.

Educating Kenyans about HIV/AIDS was my sole aim because, according to the statistics of Kenya, about 1.6 million of her citizens are victims of HIV/AIDS, besides, several children have become orphans (National AIDS Council Commission, Kenya 2013). To excel in my project I read a lot about this deadly disease to embed myself with adept knowledge pertaining to its causes, mode of transmission, and prevention.

Before my departure, I was assigned by Helping Abroad to volunteer with Living Positive- Kenya (LPK), a non-profit organization at Ngong-Nairobi that seeks to assist HIV/AIDS patients and their children to live sustainably. The patients are taught sewing, cake making, craft making, micro financing, and literacy. After my orientation, I was scheduled to take part in the daycare and literacy classes, hospital visits, and home-base visits because more volunteers were needed in those projects. The first meeting I had with the HIV /AIDS patients was at Kibera, the largest slum in Africa, during a special ceremony to mark the end of a project called "Healthy Water for Healthy Living," which was initiated by HEART, a religious organization that conducts Bible studies classes for the patients.

The women were said to have inculcated the habit of not drinking water frequently, even when taking medication, hence the need to plant the desire of drinking water into them. Several of them testified to their health improvements after constantly drinking water for 40 days; I was really excited for that super enlightenment. That same joyful day was my birthday. Surprisingly, the director of LPK invited me in front of the gathering and in unison all of them, with tuneful voices, sang a birthday song for me. I stood dumbfounded, short of words. Happily, I jumped with glee to express my happiness as they sang. Afterwards, we all celebrated with some tasty Kenyan dishes; I really loved that day.

I became intensely engaged with my project the second week after arrival. And since I had a short time to do a lot, I managed my time wisely to make sure I was apt to all my daily tasks. Teaching the daycare and the adult literacy classes, and doing home and hospital visits were my duties for the week.

At the daycare center, I assisted the kids with their class work and also engaged them with games during break time. We played soccer, basketball, skipped, and enjoyed other new games which I introduced, however, with no names. There were other volunteers from China, Germany, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, all of whom were females, so I handled the male kids more often than the females.

After school, I visited parents of a number of the kids to administer a questionnaire which comprised questions about their living standards, means of obtaining income, kids' behavior at home, future expectation for their kids, and suggestions for daycare. Since I paid visits with some of the local teachers, communication was not a barrier to

me at all because they translated whatever I wanted to know from the parents, and vice versa.

Due to finacial constraints, most of these parents live in the slums with their kids. I felt very sorry when I visited the first kid's mother. She and her husband, with two kids, live in a very small room, made of roofing sheets. I presume the room will be very hot during sunny seasons. The woman is a petty trader; she earns about 2,000.00 Ksh (\$23) monthly. Her husband is jobless so she caters for the family. Their poor financial condition does not allow them to send their kids to a good school after graduating from the daycare, so she suggested LPK should structure the daycare into a proper school system so that her kids could continue at the school after daycare. I looked straight into her sorrowful face as she spoke. My spirit was truly down on hearing that sympathetic story. I encouraged her to have hope, for her labor in her daughter's future will not be in vain.

The rest of the parents' story was not different from the first family. They all live in the slum, with poor financial circumstances; they really need help. One family comprised of 10 children was stricken down with abject poverty. The ninth born, who was one of my students, was literally deaf but her oldest sister, her guardian, could not send her for medical assistance due to financial constraints. I felt pity for her because her health state affects her performance in class. Each report of my visits was later sent to the NGO's office to help raise funds to support these kids. A week after my birthday, I bought some fruit, cookies, candies, and popcorn for the kids; they really enjoyed the party.

Furthermore, the adult literacy classes which comprised female HIV patients were very interesting. I taught the beginners and another volunteer taught the advanced class. The women learnt how to read and write. They were very enthusiastic to gain knowledge so they grabbed whatever was taught quickly. The advanced class learnt some vocabulary and spelling. They were also taught lessons on the computer keyboard. These students, in spite of their sickness, wished with eagerness to

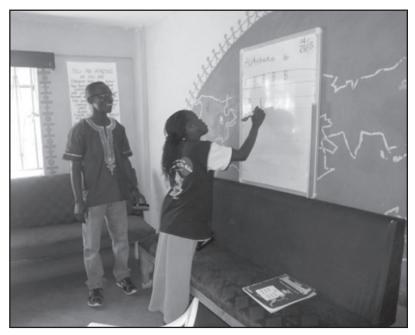
I was really inspired by their efforts. This infers that there is hope for the future no matter their humiliating and bizarre present situations. Most of them have been rejected by their families so they live in the slums. Some are widows, and others, their husbands have escaped due to their sickness. Had it not been the efforts of Living Positive-Kenya, they would have remained wretched in their sick beds. The constant health care and various activities administered have transformed them to look fit, hard to regard as HIV/AIDS patients.

obtain information that will transform their lives.

The worst emotional pain I had was when I visited a 25-year-old HIV/AIDS patient at the Ngong hospital. She has two lovely kids, no husband, and no close relative around to help her. LPK's staff assisted her for two weeks and when the sickness worsened, she was sent to the hospital. She was diagnosed as anemic and she needed blood, but there was no relative to help. Later, she was referred to another hospital for help. Worst of all, she had no money to pay her hospital bills for one night. Fortunately, the head of the slum gave us 1,000.00 Ksh (\$15) to send her to the referred hospital after obtaining favor to waive her bills.

Quickly, we passed by the patient's house and checked on her kids; they looked lovely. This young woman was really in pain during our first visit. She struggled to sit up but could not until my colleague helped her up. She was hungry but she had no appetite for food. Even taking her medication was a problem; she really struggled before swallowing it. That was too miserable. I stood by her side afterwards, ceased my tears, prayed for her and assured her to cheer up, for she would be ok. When we returned from the administrator's office, she was up and enjoying lunch; I felt happy for her.

Lastly, I embarked on a day's trip around Nairobi. I could not do the safari, neither did I climb Mountain Kenya, because I had a short stay. However, I really enjoyed my day. That was the first time I held a hatchling (baby crocodile) in my hands, rode a horse,



The author works with a student during a literacy session.

and stood by a donkey. Besides, I saw several wild animals for the first time; they were awesome.

Reader, HIV/AIDS is real: I have seen some of the patients. I ate with them, we played together, and I interacted with some of its orphans. For this, lead a humble life free of indiscriminate sex, and you will enjoy life to the fullest.

I wished I could do more than what I did but time did not permit me. However, I have gained enough experience. pertaining to HIV/AIDS that will help me educate the public and also utilize in my own foundation (Rural Health Aid Foundation).

Above all, I thank God for a successful journey to and from Kenya. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the leaders of the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship for their sponsorship, including the selection committee members (Ms. Barbara Schaier-Peleg, Dr. Marcia Jones, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Dr. Neal Phillip, and Prof. Rowan). My plea is that they should increase the amount given in order to sponsor more students and also help them acquire at least a month's volunteer experience.



The Global Lens

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963. Attended by some 250,000 people, it was the largest demonstration ever seen in the nation's capital, and one of the first to have extensive television coverage.

My Participation in the March on Washington By Prof. David Blot

"The March on Washington is tomorrow. There's a meeting tonight at 8:00. Please be there."

The meeting was in the basement of a building somewhere in Northwest Washington. Two organizers were there along with about 15 young men like me, each one representing a different order of priests, seminarians or religious brothers. We were called to this meeting because we were active in the Civil Rights Movement, were leaders in our congregation or order, and could mobilize our brothers for action.

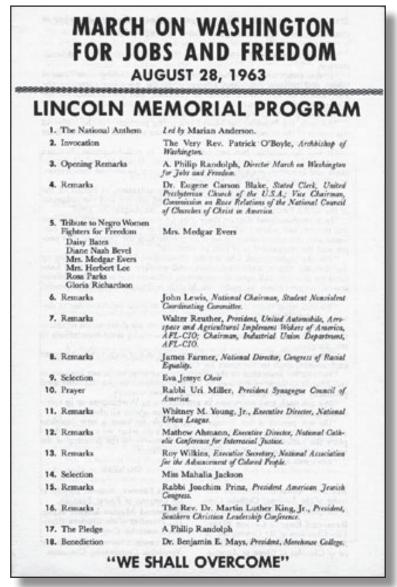
Many people believed that there was a potential for violence during the march the following day and the organizers wanted a religious presence on the streets to help maintain peace. The organizers wanted us to dress in our black suits and white roman collars and wear armbands that said "marshal." We were to stand along the line of march maintaining a solemn presence. At the meeting each of us was asked how many men we could bring with us. I said "eight."

The next day eight of my brothers and I arrived at the march dressed in our suits and collars. We were given armbands and shown where to stand. There were dozens and dozens of young men in black lining the route of the march. We stood in the streets for hours while hundreds of thousands of people jubilantly marched by on their way to the Lincoln Memorial. That day there was no violence. Not one person was arrested.

That day I got to hear all the singing and listen to all the speeches, especially Martin Luther King, Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech. I was truly blessed and privileged to participate in one of the greatest events in American history.

Editor's Note: We are very proud to publish the personal experience of Dr. David Blot (Department of English) at the historic March on Washington. His lifelong devotion to fairness and social justice is unassailable.







Successful Student Secrets: A Transfer Story

Continued from page 2

as my safety net. I visited colleges here in the city, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont. While on these campuses, I met with admissions directors and financial aid officers, and I talked with other students. When I had the opportunity to do so, I also talked with professors in the departments I was considering majoring in. I became aware of what was needed in my application, the cost of attendance and what scholarships were available. I learned what was expected of me as a student, what I could expect as a student as well as the caliber of the teaching staff.

Every application had the same standard required information. The only differences were the essays: four were creativity based and two were very rigid autobiographical essays. I attacked each like my life depended on it and worked on them until I felt I had perfected them all. I submitted all of my applications early, in order to recommit to the rest of my life and also so that I may have a leg up on the competing applicants. I am a firm believer in the saying that "the early bird gets the worm."

The time passed by easier on this go-round. No nail biting, vomiting or other stress-related symptom consumed me. I knew I had done my best and was patient in the wait-

ing game. Within eight weeks of submission I had answers from all six colleges. This includes the Skadden Arps Legal Program at City College. Now I had an even bigger problem. I now had six proposals and only one finger on which to put a ring. Which do I choose? Which is the best for my career goals? Which is going to cost me less and get me more when I am done?

I immediately narrowed my choices by striking out the ones that would have me packing my bags and vacating my apartment. I applied out-of-state on the off chance I was not accepted locally. Bye-bye Massachusetts and Vermont. I also did not really care for a hectic commute on a daily basis. Bye-bye New Jersey. This left local New York City universities and a college.

I read through all my materials and weighed the pros and cons. Being a well-rounded student who had planned very carefully paid off when it came to scholarship and grant offerings. I would almost be making money if I attended City College and this was a plus. Columbia University is just down the street but I would have to take a sizeable student loan to make up the difference in scholarship and grant money. This left NYU wide open, winning my hand,

and today it is the college that I attend.

I have completed my first full day of classes and I am tremendously excited. All of the professors I have met thus far (there were four) know my name and face. I spoke with each of them after the first class to discuss the syllabi and let them see my dedication as a student. I also have joined the Washington Square News [NYU's student newspaper] team as a contributing writer and copy editor. I hope to join a few clubs and possibly go Greek.

This was my transfer process, and I hope you have learned a thing or two. It does not have to be limiting in any way, nor should it be the most stressful thing you do in life. Leave that for weddings, divorce and death. I will be updating you next month on how I am doing, handling the curriculum and managing my time.

Aziza Ingram graduated from BCC in June and is now a New York University student. She will continue writing for The Communicator as an alumni correspondent. We are lucky to still have her input at the newspaper.

Discovering What BCC Has to Offer By Angelica Colon

I first attended Bronx Community College in August of 2011. On the first day of school, I was very intimidated. This was the first time I was in an environment where I didn't know anyone since middle school. It was also the first time I had to take the train by myself to travel to a new school. The first thing that comes to mind when I thought of community college was that the campus was not going to be that great, and the work was going to be very easy. As soon as I entered the school, I was already proven wrong. As I walked up the stairs, I saw very nice, tall buildings with a beautiful cherry blossom tree near the handball courts. Although there was construction going on, the campus was still better than my expectations. As I walked to my classes, I felt lost and confused. I didn't know where any of my classes were or the name of the buildings. By the time my first week of school ended, I already had homework from each class plus a quiz the week I got back. This showed me that the title of the school didn't determine how hard the work was.

After my first semester was completed, I wasn't too happy with my results. It turned out I didn't know how or what classes to pick. I was a full-time student yet I only received 6 credits with a GPA of 1.67. Also since I was very shy, I didn't take advantage of the help that was being offered or bothered making any friends that could also

help me. I thought that it was irrelevant making friends because, since I didn't live or hang around in the Bronx, there wasn't any reason to talk to people if after school I would go straight home. I soon realized that you do need at least acquaintances to help you out just in case you're absent and need the homework or if you're struggling at a certain subject and they happen to understand it. Taking all of these things into consideration and determined to get better grades, the following semesters I got a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

One thing I like about BCC is the environment. It's a friendly yet quiet atmosphere to work in. There are many places to just sit and relax and talk with friends but there are also many secluded areas to study and do homework. I also like the easy accessible technology there is. In just about every building there is a computer lab. I also like the new library as compared to the other library that was in Meister Hall. It's more spacious and a great place to study. I like how there are two floors: one that's filled with computers and it's where everyone studies together, as opposed to upstairs where it's more quiet and comfortable.

One thing I would change about BCC is to add air conditioners and heaters to each classroom as the weather gets nicer or colder. I had an English class in Colston Hall

during the spring semester, and it was so incredibly hot that I could not pay attention and had to leave the class. Another thing I would change about BCC is that the OCD class should not be mandatory. I honestly feel that there is no need for that class and that it was a waste of time. On top of that not only was it mandatory but it is a no credit class with a midterm and final. If it has to be class that we take, then it shouldn't go on all semester long and we shouldn't have tests. If we do have tests, then make it into a credit class. A third thing I would change about BCC is the many different websites we have to go to for different things. I feel that OSSES, Blackboard and CUNYfirst should all be in one website instead of us making three different accounts. Also when signing up for classes, I believe that CUNYfirst can be too complicated at times, making signing up for classes a hassle. I preferred the old way better; it was simpler.

After two years of BCC, I will now graduate this semester. Bronx Community College was nothing what I expected it to be like. It was actually better and I'm glad I can take all the things I've learned and experience and carry it out to the next school where I will be transferring.

Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCS)

Undergraduate students participating in short-term (summer and winter intersession) CUNY study abroad programs may apply for scholarships for Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCS). Applications are reviewed by a committee of CUNY faculty and administrators. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$1,650. Judges base their selections on two main criteria: the benefit of the program to the student's studies and career plan and financial need. Students with a family income of more than \$75,000 are not eligible.

Funded by the a grant from The New York Community Trust DeWitt Wallace/Youth Travel Enrichment Fund, the STOCS program aims to increase the number of CUNY students studying overseas by providing scholarships to deserving students. It has contributed toward the strengthening of existing short-term CUNY study abroad programs and the development of new ones.

More than 1,500 CUNY students have received STOCS grants since 1994.

The deadline to submit STOCS applications is October 8, 2013. For more information, as well as a list of programs for students for the winter 2014 intersession and an application, please visit: http://www.cuny.edu/studyabroad.

You can also contact Professor Andrew Rowan at 718.289.5314 if you have questions.



Paris



Salamanca Spain



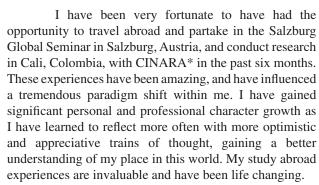
Florence



Shanghai

Going Global

More Than One Global Perspective By Roy Nuñez



My experience in Salzburg, Austria, was phenomenal. I am an individual from a violent East New York, Brooklyn neighborhood and now a resident in an underserved Bronx community. Taking a seminar and studying in Europe on a full academic scholarship was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! I felt very accomplished and blessed everyday during the week I spent in Austria as I constantly reminded myself and others where we were. I continually reflected on the notion that no matter where you are from, and what hardships one has endured or is currently confronted with, with hard work, dedication, and a dream doors and avenues will open. A year ago I would have never dreamed of going to Europe.

The Salzburg Global Seminar was intense with consecutive sessions, and some of which extended throughout the evening, summing up to 11-hour days at times. However, despite the long days, the energy and enthusiasm of concerned and passionate students was always present. The entire seminar was vibrant with the global citizenship spirit and the genuine desire to make change was evident.

There were many outstanding presentations made by staff that opened our minds and helped us reflect on history and how it has impacted cultures around the globe today. Understanding the global political conflicts and the factors that have led to them is very important when in search for solutions. Earth and the events that transpire within it are interconnected, and as this planet's inhabitants we all share the responsibility of communicating with other Earth dwellers and keeping peace.

As I listened to the speakers at the seminars, I reflected on various experiences, news and historical facts I learned. I was consciously connecting dots through information in my mental database. Seminars such as the Salzburg Global Seminar help engaged participants gain a greater understanding of the story of mankind and dissidence amongst us. As part of the Salzburg seminar participation I also partook in a global civics class with Professor Andrew Rowan where I saw an extraordinary film, The Journey of Man, which also encouraged further reflection on our history as humans and understanding of human race divergence. Gaining a higher cognizance of our origins and evolution, and the differences and tensions that exist between some cultures provides me with a way of thinking that can help me become more adept at effective communication and leadership initiative. I believe these experiences have better equipped me to continuously adapt and survive in a highly competitive and diverse city.

As part of the seminar, groups were forged together to work on a project that aimed to answer a question that lingered around throughout the week: what does it mean to be a global citizen and what are his or her obligations a global citizen? During this group project I experienced how difficult accomplishing goals can be when working with strong personalities. Ideas came flying in, and grappling with and harnessing these ideas to produce a final product was difficult. This project forced me to sharpen my ability to communicate and get

points across with other strong-minded individuals and accomplish goals. As my first group project of this sort, I have learned to more effectively communicate and work with other leaders, a valuable skill I knew needed and still needs further improvement.

Building our leadership and improving team communication was obviously one of intended functions of this exercise. After the exercise we were reminded of the similar challenges political leaders are faced with as they work on global issues with others who have conflicting interests. I have given further thought since then and have greater empathy and understanding for such leaders. I vowed to myself to one day obtain a position where I can make a difference and share some of the responsibility. Whatever paths I may undertake in my journey on of life, I fully intend to make the best use of my experiences to influence impactful changes that make a substantial difference. The Salzburg experience has altered my perceptions of the globe indefinitely in a positive light, and as a bonus, I gained some valuable friendships along the way. I miss my fellow BCC global citizens, Glory, Muhammed and Terrance.

My Cali, Colombia, internship was another amazing life-changing experience. I was able to experience a different South American culture other than the one belonging to my Ecuadorian ancestors. Colombia is a country rich in natural resources, culture and pride, with a strong presence of its ancestry. In my opinion, backed by Thomas Baez and Chad Hannibal, other CUNY students who accompanied me on this experience, the people of Cali, Colombia, are some of the most amiable people in the world.

In Cali, I learned some very useful skills and lab procedures such as using spectrophotometers to quantify nitrate and phosphate concentrations, the incubation of bacteria cultures, and much more. As an aspiring scientist, it was an extremely rewarding to see familiar material that was lectured and practiced in the chemistry labs such as titrations and spectrometry. Applying learned coursework to real life applications and making contributions to science has made studying those long dreadful hours worth it. It was an exceptional honor to work alongside other science students and professors. The individuals I had the pleasure of working with adored science, lived and breathed it. There is a shortage of passionate science students in my current environment, and it was inspiring for me to interact and build strong and meaningful friendships with these individuals as we brainstormed and laughed together.

As a born New Yorker from Hispanic heritage, I always thought my Spanish was pretty good. However, effectively communicating with other students and professors' students who knew very little English initially proved to be very challenging at first. In the U.S., most inhabitants usually know even a little English and I have been able to communicate with such individuals with Spanglish, a combination of both Spanish with a little English. Nevertheless, living in Colombia gave me the opportunity to improve my Spanish significantly. I can now hold Spanish conversations longer and conduct a presentation in Spanish. This was an immense benefit gained from my study abroad experience. Being bilingual is a valuable skill in an increasingly global economy, especially in a diverse country where over 35 million people claim Spanish as their primary language. The improvement of this language can empower me as I work to penetrate barriers and build liaisons between cultures and countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and the U.S. in the future.

This experience has helped me to mature and find

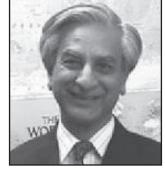
myself a little more. Listening to feedback from others from another country and culture has provided me with a different perspective that was previously out of reach in my own country. Being able to travel to two of these countries I noticed the differences in economic classes, the differences in the way of life. Speaking to many Colombians also gave me some insight on the perceptions citizens of Colombia have on America. I sensed some individuals harbored a love-hate relationship. America is held in high regard by many because the power it yields. However, because America yields so much power, it is also loathed by many. My previous experience in Salzburg has peaked my interest on how other countries around the world perceive us since I sensed some minor disapproval of America and its policies there as well. Because of the increased curiosity I acquired along my previous venture, I took every opportunity I had to ask South Americans of their opinions on the U.S. At the end of my internship, I was able to visit family members in Ecuador.

The United States has been very prosperous, triumphant in innovative technologies and successful in becoming a world power. This is a country of ample opportunities were many impossible dreams have been materialized. As America's inhabitants we are fortunate to have so many resources available that other countries barely have access to. In Colombia and other developing countries, access to water and other resources are severely limited. Yet many of us, including myself, take resources like clean, potable water and insulated homes for granted. I strongly believe that as a world power, this country has an obligation to help others on this Earth and curb some of the damage that's been done to our environment. My experiences abroad have reinforced these notions. At the Salzburg Global Seminar I was pushed to think about the ethnocentrism that exists within our American culture and the resentment it has caused abroad. As American college students with access to an education that many others in other parts of the world are still fighting to attain, we also have an obligation to not stand by idly while the rest of the world turns around us. I saw the revolutionary student spirit was alive and strong in the University of Univalle college campus I sometimes visited in Cali. As Americans we have opportunities and resources that many others across the globe don't.

Traveling to two distinct parts of the world besides my own has opened my mind and has set the path to a greater New World for me and my loved ones. As I look beyond the horizon, I see a world out there that is more accessible than I ever imagined before beginning my journey at Bronx Community College. Working with fellow Colombians, neighbors of my ancestors has made me reflect on my own heritage and gain greater pride to be a descendant from this continent. By the same token, I am prouder to be an American, realizing that I live in one of the greatest and most diverse cities of the world, New York, with access to an array of opportunities and dreams. I have a greater appreciation for what is at home and feel I have been blessed with these experiences which have now bestowed upon me a upon me a greater responsibility to help others as we Earth dwellers collectively seek to improve our world and our way of life.

*Cinara is a research and development institution based at the Faculty of Engineering at Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. The institute is widely recognized within the water supply and environmental sanitation sector in Colombia, as well as in other Latin America countries, mainly from the Andean and Central America regions.

BCC Joins Fairleigh Dickinson University UN Pathways Video Conferences



Each semester, Bronx Community College participates in the United Nations Pathways Video Conference series at the College's on-campus facility in New Hall. Colleges and universities – including Lehigh University, Arizona State University, Mercy College, among other – from around the United States participate each semester in this prestigious series. The series is moderated by H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan), founder and

president, the Ambassador's Club at the United Nations. United Nations ambassadors and officials of major global non-governmental organizations join Ambassador Kamal to discuss timely issues affecting the global community. There is also ample time for students to pose questions to the ambassador and his guests.

The dates for the fall 2013 are Tuesday, October 8th (with Mr. James Sniffen, Senior Information Programme Officer, United Nations Environmental Programme: "Reversing

Global Climate Change: Too Little Too Late?") and Tuesday, November 19th (with Ms. Nandhini Krishna, Head of the Genetics Section at the United Nations: "Pervasive Genetic Engineering and its Impact on Human Well-Being" from 12-1.30 PM. Space is limited so reservations are necessary. **Please, not walk ins.**

For more information, please contact Professor Andrew Rowan, 718.289.5314 / 612 Colston Hall.

Fairleigh Dickinson University, in collaboration with the Ambassador's Club at the UN, sponsors interactive video conferences with the UN every semester. Video conferences feature several ambassadors, delegates and academics debating current global issues, followed by a question and answer session with faculty, students and staff at multiple universities. Live video feed from the United Nations is broadcast to both of the Fairleigh Dickinson University campuses as well as participating sites from universities across the nation.



New York State Voter Registration Form

Register to vote

With this form, you register to vote in elections in New York State. You can also use this form to:

- · change the name or address on your voter registration
- · become a member of a political party
- · change your party membership

To register you must:

- be a US citizen;
- · be 18 years old by the end of this year;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction;

Send or deliver this form

Fill out the form below and send it to your county's address on the back of this form, or take this form to the office of your County Board of Elections.

Mail or deliver this form at least 25 days before the election you want to vote in. Your county will notify you that you are registered to vote.

Questions?

Call your County Board of Elections listed on the back of this form or 1-800-FOR-VOTE (TDD/TTY Dial 711)

Find answers or tools on our website

Verifying your identity

We'll try to check your identity before Election Day, through the DMV number (driver's license number or non-driver ID number), or the last four digits of your social security number, which you'll fill in below.

If you do not have a DMV or social security number, you may use a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address. You may include a copy of one of those types of ID with this formbe sure to tape the sides of the form closed.

If we are unable to verify your identity before Election Day, you will be asked for ID when

not claim the right to vote elsewh	ere.	www.elections.ny.gov	www.elections.ny.gov you vote for the first time.			
Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-367-8683			어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 0-367-8683 으로 전화 하십시	যদি আপনি এই ফর্মটি বাংলাতে গেতে চান ভাহলে এ- 1-800-367-8683 নশ্বরে ফোন করুন		
It is a crime to procure a false	registr	ation or to furnish false information to th	ne Board of Elections.	Please print in blue or black ink.		
Qualifications	1	Are you a citizen of the U.S.? If you answer <i>No</i> , you cannot registe	Yes No	For board use only		
	2	Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day? ☐ Yes ☐ No If you answer No, you cannot register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.				
		Last name	Suffix			
Your name	3	First name	Middle Initial			
More information Items 6 & 7 are optional	4 6	Birth date	Y Y Y 5 7	Sex M F Email		
The address where you live	8	Address (not P.O. box) Apt. Number City/Town/Village New York State County	Zip code			
The address where you receive mail Skip if same as above	9	Address or P.O. box P.O. Box City/Town/Village	Zip code			
Voting history	10	Have you voted before?	s No	11 What year?		
Voting information that has changed Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before	12	Your name was Your address was Your previous state or New York	State County was			
Identification You must make 1 selection For questions, please refer to Verifying your identity above.	13	□ New York State DMV number □ Last four digits of your Social Se □ I do not have a New York State dr	,	x x - x x -		
Political party You must make 1 selection To vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in one of these listed parties — except the Independence Party, which permits non-enrolled voters to participate in certain primary elections.	14	Democratic party Republican party Conservative party Working Families party Independence party Green party Other I do not wish to enroll in a party	I am a citiz I will have for at leas I meet all to vote in This is my The above if it is not to	vit: I swear or affirm that ten of the United States. lived in the county, city or village t 30 days before the election. requirements to register New York State. signature or mark in the box below. information is true, I understand that true, I can be convicted and fined up and/or jailed for up to four years.		
Optional questions	15	☐ I need to apply for an Absentee ballot ☐ I would like to be an Election Day worker	Sign			

				ngiS	Date
Eye color		Height Ft.	·ul		
Birth date M M D D Y Y	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Sex M F		and eye banks and hospitals upon your death.	
Vity				gro batslugar (rishabat of notisemot enecit-2YM bns enotesinsgro fraem	enssa pes
Apt. Number		aboo qiZ		DOH for enrollment in the Registry; and authorizing DOH to allow access to this in-	
ssaybbA				authorizing the Board of Bections authorizing the Board of Bections	ebivorq of
uS laitial elbbiM	xilluS			 18 years of age or older; consenting to donate all of your or tissues for transplants tion, researc 	
First name					
rast name				you certify that you	are:



You will receive a confirmation letter from DOH, which will also provide you an opportunity to limit your donation.

If you would like to be an organ and tissue donor, you may enroll in the NYS Department of Health (DOH). Donate Life $^{\text{IM}}$ Registry online at www.nyhealth.gov or provide your name and address below.

Optional) Register to donate your organs and tissues



Board of Elections Borough Offices

General Office

32 Broadway, 7 Fl New York, NY 10004-1609 Tel: 1.212.487.5300

Phone Bank: 1.866.VOTE.NYC E-mail: www@boe.nyc.ny.us Web Page: www.vote.nyc.ny.us

Borough Offices

Manhattan

200 Varick St., 10 FI New York, NY 10014 Tel: 1.212.886.2100

Bronx

1780 Grand Concourse, 5 FI Bronx, NY 10457 Tel: 1.718.299.9017

Brooklyn

345 Adams Street, 4 FI Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel: 1.718.797.8800

Queens

126-06 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11415 Tel: 1.718.730.6730

Staten Island

1 Edgewater Plaza, 4 Fl Staten Island, NY 10305 Tel: 1.718.876.0079

գեժելուգիերեր ինալիկունի արկրերի արկրերի

NEW YORK NY 10275-0067 32 BROADWAY FL 7 BOARD OF ELECTIONS

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

BOSINESS REPLY MAIL PERMIT NO. 4339 NEW YORK NY

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



Rev. English 7/13

Going Global

Study Abroad Experiences At Wilberforce Community College, South Africa 6-22-13 to 7-3-13

By Peter Ansong & Ishmael Sagoe

Peter

The purpose of this study abroad program was to learn the photovoltaic systems, and apply it in a community where there was dire need for electricity. The BCC group consisted of two STEM students, a criminal justice major, and chemistry professor Soosairaj Therese. The place chosen for the study abroad program was Wilberforce Community College, Evaton, South Africa.

Travelling to a new country away from the comforts of home can be a daunting thought. It could be a good experience or a nightmare you wish you never had. I didn't know what to expect but I was pleased with the way everything turned out. I was impressed by what I saw upon our arrival in Johannesburg. It is a beautiful place and almost made me wonder if I had really left New York but my body could confirm that from the strains of the 14-hour flight. We were warmly welcomed at the college by the provost Dr. Hasan Crocket and his wife, Kimberly Crocket, who showed us around the school

The community college is located near Johannesburg. ESKOM is the only power company that supplies the entire nation of South Africa. It finds itself in a situation where it has reached its full capacity. This has brought about a lot of power outages due to load shedding particularly at Wilberforce Community College. Prior to our arrival in South Africa, training sessions were conducted by Prof. Kim Curran from the Center for Sustainable Energy-Bronx Community College on the concepts of solar panel systems and its installation procedures. This helped us to understand the solar panel installation we performed in South Africa.

As a STEM student, my focus is normally on math- and science-related subjects. I never tried to understand or showed much interest in learning about PV systems. After coming from this study abroad program I strongly believe that it is very good to learn something new. Before this program I barely knew anything about solar energy. I thought of it as an expensive way of generating energy which was not practical for the everyday energy needs of the average person. The things I learnt taking part in this program made me come to the realization that, yes, it was expensive to install but it eventually paid for itself over the years and, with proper maintenance, it can last for several decades. I also gained knowledge on the design and installation of solar systems. I learnt how to use various instruments and tools like the solar pathfinder which is used to determine the path of sunlight at a given location in a year. The skills that I acquired I believe give me a big leap in going forward in a world where there is an aggressive push for greener renewable energy like solar energy.

Of all the experiences and things I learnt from this program, one that made the greatest impression on me was my interactions with my fellow students in the program. Being in a group that comprised of students from Zambia, South Africa, and students from Lane Community College (Oregon) provided a group of very diverse cultures. I realized that we had lots of similarities which brought us together and made it easy to relate to each other. It felt good to meet colleagues from all the way across the world who shared similar goals to succeed in their academic endeavors.

I also realized the South Africans and Zambians knew quite a lot about American culture like rap music. There was a student from Zambia who knew every Tupac song. I tried learning a few languages like Zulu from the South Africans and Bemba from the Zambians but found it challenging because I had to roll my tongue to pronounce some of the words. One word I would never forget though is "Unjani" which is Zulu for "how are you."

Being Ghanaian I figured the food was going to be similar to what we had in Ghana, but I realized how diverse cultures could be even within Africa itself. It took time to adjust to the food but eventually I came to like it. South Africa in itself is a very diverse society of the White Afrikaans and the blacks, most of whom we met were from the KwaZulu tribe. Nelson Mandela is a man who is greatly respected all over the world, especially in South Africa. But I never really appreciated how strongly South Africans feel about him before this trip. They refer to him as Madiba, his traditional name which means reconciler. On our trip to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, I was hit by how passionate the locals felt about what took place during the apartheid years, and you realize how much of an impact it had on their society.

Taking part in a study abroad program is something I would recommend for every student because it makes a great impression on the way you view the world and opens your eyes to different ways people live. One cannot experience this real-life education, cultural exchange, lifestyles of different people in a classroom setting.

I never would have had these wonderful experiences if not for the people who organized the program. My utmost thanks go to Professor Soosairaj Therese of the Department of Chemistry, who organized the entire program and had the faith in me and selected me to take part in this program. I would also like to thank everyone who made this program happen, the Interim Associate Dean for Student Success Dr. Neal Phillip for helping in soliciting funding for the program, the Interim Vice President Dr. David Hadaller, who enthusiastically supported the trip and the chemistry department that funded for our transportation in South Africa. I am also thankful to Professor Andrew Rowan and Professor Kim Curran who helped in preparing us before leaving for South Africa.

Local community leaders explain to the study abroad crew their local energy problems, especially the RDP (Rural Development Houses), which need electricity. There is no facility to have them on grid, so they expect the study abroad group to help them install solar panels in RDP houses (visible in the background).



Ishmael

As a young man born and raised in Africa, it has always been my wish to go back to Africa and give back something to the people. Because of that I didn't hesitate when the opportunity arose; I applied to the study abroad program immediately, and fortunately I was selected. Before we left for South Africa, I didn't know what to expect but, now, I'm glad to say that the trip met my expectation and even beyond. Even before we left for South Africa, Kim Curran, a professor from the Center for Sustainable Energy, gave us an overview of what solar energy is about. This built my confidence and readiness for the program.

The primary purpose of the trip was to acquire knowledge about the photovoltaic system and also assist the local students in photovoltaic installation. Before the program, I had little or no idea about solar system but the trip helped me to acquire knowledge about this system and its installation. Qualified personnel instructed us about the photovoltaic system and how to install it properly. I was also able to assist in the installation, and I believe I can now install a photovoltaic system from start to finish.

Although the primary reason of the trip was to install the system, we also had the opportunity to associate with the local students, the staff members and some local instructors. We also had the chance to meet some of the people in the community. We arrived in South Africa on Saturday, June 22, 2013; the people from Wilberforce Community College welcomed us with a delicious meal and refreshing drinks. On the following day, which was Sunday, the authorities arranged for us to meet with some of the prominent people in the township who received us with great warmth, excitement and courtesy. I was amazed and impressed that the people showed such interest in us. Arriving from a place such as New York City where everybody minds their own business, I was surprise and impressed to see that there is still a place in the world where people genuinely care about strangers.

The official activities actually began on Monday, June 23rd. We met the local students for the first time. I initially thought them to be mean and rude but my perception changed shortly after we introduced ourselves. They received us with a smile and were very friendly and helpful. The local students have a good sense of humor which drew me close to them all the time. They assisted us in many ways and even taught us some traditional dances and a few words in their local language. We also visited places of interest such as Lion's Park and Nelson Mandela Square.

We were also able to establish a cordial relationship with the students and staff from Lane Community College. Bronx Community College formed a partnership with Lane to make this program a successful one. They were very friendly, likable and funny at all times. I'm so grateful that this program gave me the chance to reach out to the students from Lane.

We also encountered some high school students on the campus who were there to prepare for their final exams. They made our stay even better; their enthusiasm was beyond imagining. Their screaming voices reminded me of my high school days. Upon their request and the request of the local authorities, Peter and I taught them chemistry. That actually helped me to discover my other talent which is teaching. They spread it all around that Peter and I are the best teachers they have ever encountered. Thanks to Prof. Therese who helped us with some teaching tips. I was so happy that I was able to positively impact someone else's life.

I had a lot of fun in South Africa and I just can't wait to visit the place again. Thank to Prof. Therese, Prof. Andrew Rowan, Dr. Neal Phillip, the entire chemistry department, and all the people who contributed to make the trip possible. It was a lifetime experience, and I will always cherish it.



Tanya and Peter take measurements and locate the installation area for the solar panels on the IT building of Wilberforce Community College.



BCC students Tanya, Peter, and Ishmail have breakfast at the Wilberforce Community College cafeteria with Mr. Ebbage Roger and Mr. Ryan Mayfield, instructors from Lane Community College, and students from LCC.

FALL 2013 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FALL 2013 SERIES

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

LeaderShop Certificate Requirements:

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

Track 1: Platinum Certificate

Complete **ALL** workshops

REGIS

NOW

Track 2: Gold Certificate
Complete 5 workshops

*Certificates will be awarded at the Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony in May 2014.

For more information please contact:
Audrey Rose-Glenn
Leadership Educator
BCC Leadership Institute/ Office of Student Life
RBSC, 302
718-289-5100 x3535 or 718-289-5194

<u>audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu</u> <u>http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Student-Life</u>

Workshop Registration: right click on link below

https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=hJ5aHeFbpJ7NbtuWMOCbBQ





WORKSHOPS

Leadership Matters!

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 RBSC 310 2pm-3pm

KNOW Yourself... LEAD Yourself...

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 RBSC 310 3pm-4pm

Get REAL!

Be an Authentic Leader

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 RBSC 310 2pm-3pm

Everybody Talks! Effective Communication for Leaders

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 RBSC 310 3pm-4pm

"LUNCH with LEADERS"

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 RBSC 211 12pm-2pm (Limited seating...must register)

Ethical Decision Making

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 RBSC 310 4pm-5pm

Multicultural Leadership

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Presenter: Kimberly Roberts

RBSC 310
3pm-4pm

Civic Engagement

Monday, December 9, 2013 RBSC 310 3pm-4pm