

The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College

Issue 1, Fall 2017

### Two BCC Students Among Kaplan Scholarship Awardees Special to The Communicator

Bronx Community College is pleased to announce that two graduates have been awarded the prestigious Kaplan Scholarships. The success of Karen Alvarez Julian and Felix Patawah should serve as inspiration to other qualified Bronx Community College students to apply for a Kaplan award.

Historically, the Kaplan Educational Foundation (KEF) has sought to eradicate barriers to education for underserved students to open pathways for them to become leaders for the global American workforce and civil society. Their mission is to successful transfer "low-income Black, Latino and Native American students of exceptional academic merit from New York City's community colleges to top four-year universities throughout the country, while preparing them to succeed academically and assume leadership roles in their professions and communities." Kaplan Scholars have received a wide range of support, including financial and academic, transfer admissions advising, and leadership skills development.

Kaplan Scholars who graduated from CUNY community colleges this year are slated to attend fouryear institutions including Stanford, Brown and Syracuse universities, and Wellesley College. Kaplan Scholars have been accepted at numerous selective and elite four-year and graduate programs across the country, and program alumni are employed in fields including education, nonprofits and scientific research, and at Fortune 500 companies. A

number of selective four-year colleges actively recruit and provide substantial aid to Kaplan Scholars, all of whom are drawn from CUNY.

'By providing financial and other support, the Kaplan Scholars program affords low-income students an invaluable opportunity to prepare for and excel in highly James B. Milliken. "Congratulations to the newest cohort of Kaplan Scholars."

The Kaplan Leadership Program, launched by the nonprofit foundation in 2006, provides scholarships, stipends, living expenses, intensive guidance and academic preparation during the Scholars' community college years, continuing through their graduation from their four-year schools. Foundation Executive Director Nancy Sánchez said that Kaplan candidates, who are identified by their CUNY colleges and receive application assistance from them, are generally students of color who have at least a 3.5 GPA, demonstrate high academic potential and leadership abilities, and have financial need.

"Many of the schools really want these students," she said. "Unfortunately, students don't have the resources to apply." She said she hoped the Transfer Initiative Program would expand in the coming years to accommodate a bigger group of students.



From left to right: Felix Patawah is on the left and Karen Alvarez Julian is fourth from the left.

The foundation's website has noted that "The Kaplan Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity initially established and supported by a generous endowment funded by Kaplan, Inc. executives with the idea of helping a small group of students in a big way. Kaplan, Inc. and its employees continue to provide financial, in-kind and volunteer support to KEF and our Kaplan Scholars."

#### BCC, NYU, and Salzburg Scholar Terrance Coffie Delivers Freshman Convocation Keynote

Bronx Community College is so intentional in making newly-minted Broncos feel at home, entering freshmen are treated to a two-phase introduction to the college; and this year was no exception. Freshman orientation is a matter-offact, bare-bones introduction to the what and where of the college, while the official Freshman Convocation is a more celebratory affair that puts students in contact with the who of the conce-government leadership. who of the college-including administration and student

Student Development, Dean Manny Lopez put it, orientation welcomes the student while the official Freshman Convocation is to tell students, "We support you." Dean Lopez said this year some 2,000 students have chosen Bronx Community College to begin their tertiary education journey. And, according to Student Life Specialist Yvonne Erazo, while orientation gets students familiar with the college, Freshman Convocation serves to "welcome and motivate" entering Broncos.

And supported and motivated they were. This year's Freshman Convocation featured BCC alumnus and NYU graduate, Terrance Coffie, whose life story

serves as a powerful motivation to Broncos, many for whom college is their only way out of hopelessness, lowexpectations, and marginalization. As Erazo told The Communicator, this year she wanted students to hear not just from any motivational speaker with whom they cannot relate, but from someone whose "story is theirs."

Coffie, whose story has been highlighted on television and in The New York Times, and several other media outlets, is a former 6-time felon who entered college at 39 armed with a GED and hunger and thirst to turn around a life that had been going nowhere for too long. Sitting



#### By Alixan Ducreay

with Coffie before the event began, he told this writer he wanted his story to help students understand "the value of who they are," and that even if there are forces that seek to "devalue who they may be in the current climate," they must understand the "big picture, [which is] they are members of this society." According to the BCC alumnus and twice-selected NYU student of the year, students should challenge the assumptions that the society makes

about them because of where they live, what language they speak, and their ethnicity. Overcoming low expectations, "doesn't come low expectations, "doesn't come with wishful thinking...[but with] determined action" Coffie said. Students will need to "make effort and focus to understand their purpose.'

Ĉoffie told his felon-to-scholar story with passion and authenticity, while avoiding two pitfalls that bedevil motivational speakers with rags-to-riches, or adversity-to-opportunity stories. He didn't regale students with accounts of his past life (which he summarized as "another chapter to Terrance Coffie"), neither did he revel in his new status as a self-made super achiever. From the beginning, he said his talk would not be about himself, but focus on the students. And he kept that promise,

telling students, "the story that matters today is not mineit's yours." Still, his own story of how education helped him escape the limitations of being a "thirty-nine-year -old body, homeless, six-time felon," served as a powerful subtext to his elevating speech which was well received by the 300 persons gathers at Gould Memorial auditorium during club hours, Thursday August 31.

Other addresses came from the president of the college, Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, and Student Government Association president, Mary Martinez. President Isekenegbe officially welcomed the entering students and told them



From left to right: Mr. Clifford Marshall, Mr. Terrance Coffie, and SGA Senator Bright Igbinigun. Photo courtesy of the Student Government Association.

they were embarking on a long process, because "education is a lifelong process.

Student government president, Mary Martinez, welcomed entering students to "your second home." To the featured speaker, she said, "Welcome back home." Introducing herself in both English and Spanish, Martinez, with her characteristic authenticity and personability, had four suggestions for the students, whom she addressed as," my people." Drawing on her own experience as student leader, tutor, and Phi That Kapa scholar, Martinez called on students to ask questions, excel in their classes, get involved, and be their best selves.

Student Andre Cheeks also held to the theme of motivation and support with an energetic musical performance titled, "Anything is Possible."

If Freshman Convocation is any indication, the class of 2019 is well poised, as Student Life Specialist Yvonne Erazo predicted, to be "happy and successful, ...confident, knowledgeable, and strong.

Sources and further reading

"The Journey." http://www.thejourney.info/aboutterrance-coffie.html.

The Journey: Educate Don't Incarcerate." https:// www.educatedontincarcerate.com/terrence-coffie

# **CAMPUS NEWS**



2017-2018 Student Government Association



**Executive Board Senators** 







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**Community College** 

My name is Mary Martinez, Student Government Association President. I would like to share with you four suggestions that if followed, I believe can support your success at Bronx Community College.

I am, like you, a proud student here at BCC. This fall I'm starting my second year as a C=chemistry major. I am also an ASAP math tutor and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Like you, not long ago, I was a freshman at BCC, and I understand the feelings many of you may have already experienced during your first week of classes. Maybe you are anxious, nervous, excited, or just calm. Those feelings are expected. Fortunately, I developed an important skill-- I asked questions wherever I went on campus. Therefore, I was able to learn the BCC student life and the various opportunities available on campus. So that's my first advice to you: "ASK QUESTIONS." The second advice is direct: "EXCEL IN YOUR CLASSES." We expect you all to graduate from BCC in two to three years from today. We have tutors, success coaches, freshman seminars, ASAP, MEN (the Male Empowerment Network), College Discovery, support services, and excellent faculty to support

you along the way. Your job here is not only to pass your classes but to excel in your classes.

There are many opportunities you can take advantage of that enhance your academic experience in BCC. You can join clubs and honor societies that are related to your major and hobbies, or sport teams that interest you. Another opportunity for students at BCC is to join the Student Government Association. We represent each one of you. Our job is to make sure your voices are being heard and your concerns are being addressed. With this said my third advice is to "GET INVOLVED." My last and fourth advice is "BE YOUR BEST SELF" everywhere you go, not only on campus.

Remember there's always someone watching, you are officially a BRONCO and whatever you do will be taken as a reflection of us. Be authentic and with that authenticity include respect, humbleness and desire to learn. It is your duty to build a strong foundation for your future.

And like author, Nora Roberts said "If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it, If you don't ask the answer is always no and If you don't step forward you're always going to stay in the same place!

Again, welcome to BCC!

## Phi Theta Kappa Announces JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Application Now Open

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation seeks outstanding community college students with financial need for its Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship makes it possible for the nation's top community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees by transferring to a selective four-year college or university.



If you are a student who stands out for your exceptional academic abilities and achievements, persistence, leadership, and desire to help others, please visit the JKCF website to learn more. The application deadline is October 24, 2017.

#### Our Mission

The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

Contact Us 1625 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211 1.601.987.5741

Mariama Bah Senator mariama.bah05@stu.bcc.cuny.edu



Bright Igbinigun Senator bright.igbinigun@stu.bcc.cuny.edu

Philip Bredu Senator philip.bredu@stu.bcc.cuny.edu

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Senator

juliet.konadu@stu.bcc.cuny.edu



Daouda Diop

## Welcome to Your Second Home and to Your Extended Bronx Community **College Family** Bienvenidos a su segunda casa y a nuestra gran familia de Bronx

#### By Mary Martinez-Nuñez

# SAVE THE DATE!



## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES **BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **Department of Art & Music** Fall Concert Series

#### September 28, 2017 at 12pm

Roscoe C. Brown Playhouse Ali Bello and The Sweet Wire Band In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month

## October 26, 2017 at 12pm

**Gould Memorial Library Auditorium Palisades Virtuosi** 

## November 30, 2017 at 12pm

**Gould Memorial Library Auditorium** Oliver Markson, pianist

The BCC Concert Series is funded by the BCC Inc. Music and Art Consortium, the Office of Academic and Student Success and the Art and Music Department of Bronx Community College.

## **Celebrating International Education Week** November 13-17, 2017

**Dreamers/DACA Panel Discussion** Thursday, November 16th 12-1.30 PM Location: to be announced

## Where I Come From **Tuesday, November 14th** 12-1.30 PM Location: to be announced

These programs are curated by Mr. Eugene Adams, Director, Collaborative Education, and Co-director, Science and Technology Entry Program; Ms. L. Vicki Cedeno, Academic Programs Specialist, Office of Academic Affairs: and Professor Andrew Rowan, Department of English.

# **OUTSIDE THE QUAD**

#### Society of Plastics Engineers Spotlights BCC Student - ROBERT JOSMAN

properties of ion infused polymers and the antimicrobial

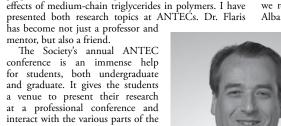
Reprinted with permission from *Plastics Engineering* / July-August 2017

www.plasticsengineering.org

My name is Robert C. Josman and as a student at the City University of New York, I'm a double major in Nuclear Medicine and History. I have received an Honors History degree, but have been a bit delayed completing my Nuclear Medicine degree, as I have been taking care of my elderly parents. My father passed away about two years ago and my 84-year-old mother is critically ill. Although it has been a hard road with my father passing and now my mother, it has had a silver lining, though it sounds odd to put it that way. It's as though they have done one last bit of parental guidance by giving me the time to be exposed to educational/career opportunities that I would not have able to pursue had my educational timeline not been extended due to their illness.

Although my major is Nuclear Medicine, I have been drawn into the medical uses of plastics over the past couple of years. Polymers in medicine are no longer just limited to the physical machines. Corn based polymers are used in medicine, on a nanoscale, for the delivery of virus mimicking particles, and the targeted delivery, on a cellular basis, of life saving drugs and treatments like chemotherapy. Once the body is fooled into creating antibodies to the "virus" or the chemotherapy is delivered, the body can breakdown the corn based polymer through its normal processes. Although I started with an interest in medicine, my interactions with SPE have helped me tailor my interest into using polymers on the nanoscale to enhance surgical processes. By using polymers in this way, we will have better patient outcomes as well as being able to lower the ever-increasing cost of care across the medical spectrum.

As part of my medical program I had the great luck to take several classes with Dr. Vicki Flaris, a full Professor in the Chemistry department. Professor Flaris does research on campus and I quickly joined her research group and have subsequently done my own research into the antimicrobial



Robert Josman

polymer industry. The educational and career opportunities that the conference provides are extensive. I plan to become more active in the SPE "NexGen" group this coming year and encourage other students and professionals to do so as well. I am also an officer for the SPE NY Section.

We have all heard about the problems with plastics, but I see the

industry trying to be proactive. For example, you can now buy garbage bags made from a biodegradable corn based polymer. When one thinks of the plastic industry one must consider all the products we use directly and indirectly that allow us to function as individuals and as a society. These products have allowed us to greatly enhance the quality and capabilities of our daily lives.

As the President of the college's SPE chapter I have been aggressive about increasing our profile on campus. The chapter was established in 2005 and has been growing in size and scope. The administration and the college community have been pleased with our efforts on behalf of our students as well as the college itself. We regularly

are asked to be representatives of the college, this year we represented the college at a legislative conference in Albany, as well as several other conferences and events. I

have received a highly competitive City University of New York Research Fellowship to continue my plastics research on campus. The college presented me with this year's Emerging Leadership award, as President of our SPE chapter, "in recognition of your valuable contributions to the social, cultural and academic life at the college". They also honored the entire chapter with a special award for its work on behalf of the students. As the President of the SPE

chapter I realize that it is important to keep bringing in new students. As I was mentored when I joined SPE. I have done that with the newer students, encouraging them to join our research group. Having attended

several ANTEC's, I truly feel that as many students as possible should be able to have the opportunities I have had through my research. Therefore, this year I paid my entire cost to go to ANTEC in Anaheim, as well as seven registrations, to allow us to take an additional two students from the team for a total of seven.

As President of the college's SPE chapter I started doing informational demonstrations of what SPE is all about on campus. It's with a profound sense of pride when the students join our team and go from asking, "how do you do that?" to "I can do that", to "I have achieved my dream". Thank you SPE for all the wonderful opportunities you have provided me to grow.

#### Bronx Community College Accounting Majors Attend AICPA Leadership Workshop Houston, Texas

#### By Melody Atumah and Tawfic Siiba

Bronx Community College Accounting Majors; Tawfic Siiba, Melody Atumah and Marlene Gomez were selected to represent the college at the 2017 AICPA Accounting Leadership Workshop which was held from May 17th through May 19th at Houston, Texas. Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop "ASLW" is an annual, all-expenses paid program, open to ethnic minorities who demonstrate a strong desire to pass the CPA exam and an interest in pursuing a career in Accounting.

This was the 23rd year that the AICPA has held the ASLW Program, which emphasizes the variety of opportunities that the CPA profession provides and how to make a positive difference through leadership development. Students were selected to represent a diverse range of backgrounds from colleges and universities across the United States and Puerto Rico. Three weeks before the start of the program, all attendees received a book titled "Emotional Intelligence" by Travis Bradberry and Jean Greaves. All attendees were to read the book and complete a couple of assignments before the start of the workshop. The assignments were a great tool to help students be aware of not only their strengths and weaknesses, but also be mindful about time-management strategies.

The workshop started on May 17th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The first event on the agenda was for all participants to get a headshot photo to update their LinkedIn profile picture. A networking session followed so participants could get to know one another.

During the workshop, we had the privilege to listen to distinguished professionals in the field of Accounting. On the first day, the chairman of AICPA Kimberly N. Ellison-Taylor, CPA, CGMA spoke to us about "winning with your "A" game". She said we should assess every reason why and why not a business would want to hire us. She talked about knowledge, attitude, accountability, and skills acquisition required to win in a competitive world.

Also on the first day, with our various color codes,

which was attached to our nametags, we had to attend different sessions. First session was from Kemberley Washington, CPA, who talked about "Smart Money Decision." The next session was from Tatia Granger, PHD, who spoke on the topic "from classmate to colleagues." At the end the day we had a lovely three-course dinner where we thought we were going to be just eating but instead we had a presentation on eating etiquette for a business dinner, which was very interesting and useful for our professional careers.

The second day started with a panel discussion from various minority professional chapters. We had representative from NABA: National Association of Black Accountants, ALPFA: Association of Latino Professionals for America and Ascend: Pan-Asian Leaders

After the panel discussion, we

broke into groups based on our nametag color codes. We received a presentation from Anthony Fletcher, who talked about the culture of business and the most critical things to do when pursuing your dream job. After that informative presentation, we had a talk about successful networking from Jonna Martins. She discussed the power of networking and how to network effectively. The last presentation was from Patrick Connally who spoke about rsonal branding.

We had a presentation during lunch from Billy Williams "Boss". He is a partner at KPMG, which is one of the top four accounting firms in the world; He spoke about building your own story, and the road that took him from

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being a football athlete in college to becoming a partner at KPMG.

To conclude the three-day workshop, the organizers invited Mr. John O'Leary, a motivational speaker who survived a near death fire accident as a child. He stated that the only thing that can stop us from achieving our goal are the limits we set for ourselves. Which mean we can succeed if we believe in ourselves, and that we should always remember that one person who inspired us to be our best. With that, we will be able to keep pushing through the storm.

Sincere thanks to our professors Howard Clampman, Paul Jaijairam, and Clarence Perkins for their encouragement and contributions.

As interest and excitement build for the upcoming citywide elections, the Bronx Community College chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group kicked off a seven-week campaign to register 1000 students to vote on their campus and ensure that student's voices are heard this November.

Their efforts are part of NYPIRG's campaign to register thousands of college students to vote across New York State. "Eighteen to twenty-four year olds are the lowest percentage of registered voters in this country," said NYPIRG Project Coordinator Tammie David. "We are working to change that."

We have been making presentations to classes and student organizations about how to register and the importance of voting. Students were also given information about their voting rights and will be signing up to help assist voters on Election Day.

"Regardless of who's on the ballot, it should remain clear that your vote does count. Some politicians are corrupt? Sure. The political process can be frustrating? Sure. But that only gets worse when we don't involve ourselves in the political process. When we don't get involved and know what our 'representatives' are doing, we cannot hold them accountable. Above all the political issues on the national

front such as healthcare, college affordability and climate change, political illiteracy is our biggest challenge as a lack of knowledge of policies and events that impact the issues we care about taints democracy for years to come," said Wali Ullah, BCC student & NYPIRG Board of Directors member.

"Registering voters is vital because it liberates citizens to take action in a firm and stable way. It makes it clear to our government that we will hold our politicians accountable for making important decisions that impact everyone in very concrete ways. We as young voters have a substantial amount of power to improve the state of our and other countries. That power is in voicing our concerns, researching issues and prominent figures, and gathering as communities to go out and vote. I can tell voting is an important power because discriminatory national and statewide policies have historically disenfranchised minorities, and continues to do so today. They don't want us voting ... and we have to

Dr. K. York & Noelle Chynn 美德 **CUNY Ethics and Morality Essay Contest: Virtue** Submission Deadline CUNY EDGE PRESENTS Monday, October 9, 2017 The Third Academic and Prizes Best Essay (\$1,000) First Runner-up (\$300) Open to all CUNY undergraduate and graduate students! Second Runner-up (\$200) The goal of the Chynn CUNY Ethics and Morality Essay Contest is to stime late college students to ponder the topic of morality, and to broadcast the best essays, in an attempt to promote the teaching of morality in America education L to R: Ferima Haidara (2016 Winner Professional n today's modern society, virtues have slowly begun to lose their impo tance, or oft forgotten, in the busy daily goings of people's lives. By recog-nizing the importance of virtues in our lives, it will lead to better communica 011 Winner Sean McCormick tion, understanding, and acceptance between us and our fellow man Select one Virtue to discuss in detail DEVELOPMENT FAIR Seven Virtues **Five Constant Virtues** Prudence/Wisdom Ren (Benevolence, Love) i (Righteousness) Justice Li (Propriety, Loyalty, Filial Piety, Chastity, Respect) Fortitude/Courage Temperance/Self-Thursday, October 5, 2017 Xin (Integrity, Honesty, Fidelity) Colston Hall [CO], Lower Level | 12:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m Please incorporate all of the following points in your essay · Tell us about your own experience in practicing the Virtue you have chosen to write about and what personal reward or sati you gained from it. Opportunity knocks at this exciting afternoon of information and · Why did you think the Virtue that you chose was an important one to 2015 Winner Radya Shaid practice in your life? networking! Learn about the many resources available to BCC · What obstacles did you encounter in practicing this particular Virtue and students interested in: how did you, or do you, still strive to overcome the difficulties Affordable Housing Full rules and application available online. Volunteer Work College and University Transfer · S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Employment and Internship Leadership and Extra-curricular Activities www.aaari.info Professional Development Phone: 212-869-0182 / 0187 Facebook: aaaricuny Twitter: aaaricuny Facilitated by CUNY EDGE In collaboration with the MEN: Male Empowerment Network

For more information, contact: Alex Luma, Marketing Associate Phone: 718.289.5100, ext. 5045 | Fax: 718.289.6487 | alex.luma@s

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# **OUTSIDE THE QUAD**

#### **NYPIRG News**

Reported by Tammie David tdavid@nypirg.org; 718-289-5409

# W YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

ask ourselves why", said Santana Alvarado, BCC student &

NYPIRG will be leading efforts across the state to register

thousands of new voters for the November general election.

Volunteers will be trained and get to participate in this

non-partisan effort. Efforts will include community and

campus efforts including for National Voter Registration

Throughout the next five weeks, the BCC NYPIRG

chapter will set up tables, hang posters, make classroom

presentations and speak one-on-one to students about this

issue. Students can also go the NYPIRG office to register to

vote or ask questions. NYPIRG's voter registration efforts

are strictly non-partisan. The deadline to register for the

November Election and to enroll or change party enrollment

for future primary elections is Friday, October 13th.

Day on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Interested students can contact

NYPIRG Board of Directors member.

# **CAMPUS NEWS**

## Join a Club at **Bronx Community College!**

## **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: andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

#### NOTES

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 November issue of The Communicator, it must be received no later than Friday, November 10th.

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.

#### Join The Communicator Staff

The Communicator is seeking interested and committed editorial staff members. We need news (campus events, including sports, club, and cultural events), editorial columnists, creative writers (poems, short stories, and memoirs), photographers, and proofreaders as well as an office manager (someone who is eligible for work study would be perfect).

Senior colleges, as well as scholarship sources, love to see campus involvement such as working for the college newspaper on your applications.

Please contact Professor Andrew Rowan if you are interested: andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

Alixan Ducreay, Editor-in-Chief Demier Hassell Robert Josman Elizabeth Lopez Andrew Rowan, Faculty Advisor

# CUNY-BC Study in China

Winter 2018 (Jan 1- 23) to Five Renowned Chinese Cities: Beijing, Xi'an, Nanjing, Suzhou & Shanghai



- HIST 3534 Revolutionary China
- PHIL 3722 Asian Philosophy
- SPEC 1619 Intercultural Communication
- SPEC 2623 Business & Professional Communication
- TVRA 3871 Elements of TV Field Production SPEC 7296X Special Topic Course for Graduate Students

#### Program Fee: only \$3,350

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Including round-trip international tickets, hotels & meals, etc. CUNY tuition not included Some scholarships & Financial Aid available for eligible students

Application Deadline: Oct 24, 2017 (first come first served)

- All courses are taught by Brooklyn College faculty for CUNY credit
- Travel by group to 5 famous Chinese cities: Beijing, Xi'an, Nanjing, Suzhou & Shanghai
- · Lectures and academic discussions at sites throughout the program in all cities
- Visit historical & cultural sites (Tiananmen Square, Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terra Cotta Warriors, Buddhist Temples, Synagogues & Mosques, Silk Factory, Shanghai Bund Financial Center, etc.)
- Experience Chinese culture, interact with local people & immerse yourself in everyday Chinese life
- Side trips to Hong Kong, etc.

#### Program Website: depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc-china

(Program is open to all graduate and undergraduate students across the U.S, inside & outside CUNY) Questions? E-mail Prof. Lu at CUNYinChina@brooklyn.cuny.edu; Tel: 718-951-5225

#### September 2017 Monthly Horoscopes

There's nothing wrong with a little planning. Get as much

detail as you can to ensure the best possible outcomes.

This is no time for slacking. Keep your goal in sight and

You should start opening up to others. You may need

Don't stop believing in yourself. Keep fighting for what

some help from time to time to get things done.

Scorpio: October 23 to November 21

you want and you will receive it.

Virgo: August 23 to September 22

Libra: September 23 to October 22

#### **By Demier Hassell**

Leo: July 23 to August 22

make the effort reach it.

Aries: March 21 - April 19 Take a minute to slow down and see the bigger picture. You can't always rush into things so quickly without stopping to smell the flowers.

Taurus: April 20 to May 20 Now is a wonderful time to enjoy nature. Go outdoors and breathe some fresh air

Gemini: May 21 to June 20 It's time for you to think clearly. Shut out all external influences and find your peaceful state of mind.

Cancer: June 21 to July 22 There's no need to put yourself down. Listen to some beautiful songs to help return to a good state of mind.

Sagittarius: November 22 to December 21 Outer forces are at work. Let things fall into place on their own and you'll be fine.

Capricorn: December 22 to January 19

Aquarius: January 20 to February 18 You may have lots of options to choose from. Follow your

Pisces: February 19 to March 20 You have all the tools in your arsenal. Pave your own

# JOIN A CLUB AT BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- social campus life.
- which is derived from student activity funds.
- The benefits of club membership include:
- · Opportunities to explore many academic and social programs

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bcc.cuny.edu)

wolf@bcc.cunv.edu)

- Making lifelong friendships
- Numerous leadership opportunities
- Professional and social networking
- School spirit

ART CLUB/ SOCIETY FOR ARTIST - Gather as artists to support and help broaden student skills with artistic projects. (Advisor: Mary Jo Ben-Nun, maryjo.ben-nun@ bcc cunvedu)

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY - To support scientific inquiry in the field of chemistry. (Advisor: Vicki Flaris, Vicki.flaris@bcc.cuny.edu)

BCC BUSINESS CLUB - To provide a network and information for students across the business and information systems' curriculum. (Advisor: Harini Mittal, Harini.mittal@bcc.cuny.edu)

#### BCC MEDIA AND DIGITAL FILM CLUB - Students

with a passion for the movies can share their love of film and get a chance to participate as paid production assistants and major pictures and television shows filmed on campus. MTFS members also produce their own short films and video for the annual BCC Film and Video Festival and enter them into national and international film festivals. (Advisor: Jeffery Wisotsky, Jeffery.wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu)

C.A.M.E.O. - A creative group of students whose goal it is to share their appreciation for Japanese art and host annual video game tournaments. (Advisor: Mary Jo Ben-Nun, maryjo.ben-nun@bcc.cuny.edu)

CHI ALPHA EPSILON HONOR SOCIETY (XAE) - Recognizes students who excel academically, promote academic excellence in others, and to help those who genuinely aspire to the same goal. (Advisor: Cassandra Bellabe- Rosenburg, Cassandra.bellabe@bcc.cuny.edu)

THE COMMUNICATOR - Bronx Community College student newspaper. To inform, update, educate and inspire the College community. (Advisor: Andrew Roman, Andrew.roman@bcc.cuny.edu)

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB/THESIS - To create and nurture a vibrant community of writers, reflecting the cultural, social, and political diversity of BCC and publish the literary magazine (Thesis). (Advisor: Melissa Coss, Melissa.coss@bcc.cuny.edu)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB - A forum of support for students entering the vibrant field of Criminal Justice. (Advisor: Tamar Montuma, Tamar.montuma@bcc.cuny. edu)

DANCE WORKSHOP - To learn and perform various dances for the College and local community. (Advisor: Kelvin Cooper, Kelvin.copper@bcc.cuny.edu

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB - To provide a network and information for students interested in entrepreneurship. (Advisor: Harini Mittal, Harini.mittal@ bcc.cunv.edu)

FOOD AND GARDEN CLUB - To provide an understanding of self-sufficiency in the urban environment provide experience in gardening and create a sustainable food system. (Advisor: Charmaine Aleong, Charmaine. aleong@bcc.cuny.edu)

SEEKERS CHRISTIAN CLUB - To share the benefits and teachings of the gospel of Christ. (Advisor: Timothy Sedore, Timory.sedore@bcc.cuny.edu)

Loved ones will seek to give you advice. Make sure their advice is reliable and not opinion based.

heart with the choices you make.

pathway to a better life.



- BUSN 3175 Asian Business CHIN1010, 1020, 1030 (Levels 1-3) & CHIN 2024 Advanced Chinese Skills
- CHIN 2110 Classical Culture of China HIST 3005 The Shaping of the Modern World

• There are more than 35 clubs and organizations at the College connect students to BCC's academic, cultural, and

• Students can join an existing club or start a new club with other students based on similar interests. • A club consists of at least 10 students and a faculty advisor. Clubs are entitled to an annual budget of \$1000,

• A College-wide organization consists of at least 15 students and a faculty advisor. A College-wide organization focuses on providing some type of service to the campus community. College-wide organizations are entitled to an annual budget of \$2,000, which is derived from student activity funds.

FUTURE LEADERS OF S.T.E.M.M. - To recruit and retain students pursuing careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine. (Advisor: Karen Registe, Karen.registe@bcc.cuny.edu)

MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB -Students will be given opportunities to investigate critical thinking skills, compete, take on leadership roles and improve mathematical & problem solving skills. (Advisor: Evangelia Antonakos, Evangelia.antonakos@bcc.cuny.edu)

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (MLT) CLUB - To ensure that people who have a passion for Medical Laboratory Science can obtain the information needed to progress academically and professionally. (Advisor: Diane Price, Diane.price@bcc.cuny.edu)

MUSIC PRODUCTION CLUB - Provide knowledge and practical applications in music production. (Advisor: Clifford L. Marshall, Clifford.marshall@bcc.cuny.edu)

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION - To provide information and education about Islamic culture to non-Muslim students and people of other cultures and to develop understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. (Advisor: Hisseine Faradj, Hisseine.faradj@bcc.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ACCOUNTANTS (NABA) - Developing, encouraging and serving as a resource for greater participation by African Americans and minorities in the accountant profession. (Advisor: Clarence Perkins, Clarence.perkins@

NURSING CLUB - To educate BCC about health related issues and give back to the community through volunteerism. (Advisor: Virgena Bernard, Virgena. bernard@bcc.cuny.edu)

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB - To increase peace consciousness in its members and among the campus community. (Advisor: David Blot, David.blot@

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY - To recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development. (Advisor: Tiffany Dubon, Tiffany.dubon@bcc.cuny.edu)

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB - To educate BCC students of the importance of politics and to motivate them to be active citizens. (Advisor: Alex Wolf, Alexander.

**RAINBOW ALLIANCE** - Provides resources and extracurricular activities that address the needs of LGBTQ students as well as the greater campus community. (Advisor: Edwin Roman, Edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu)

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY - To promote an understanding of human cultural linguistics and biological diversity from prehistoric and present. (Advisor: Stefan Bosworth, Stefan bosworth@bcc.cunv.edu)

SPANISH CLUB - To promote an understanding and practical application of the Spanish language in a group setting, (Advisor: Laurie Lomask, Laurie.lomask@bcc. cunv.edu)

SOCIETY FOR PLASTIC ENGINEERS (S.P.E.)/ NANOSCIENCE - To enhance the study of the plastic industry by increasing awareness among students, faculty and staff of the diverse ways in which the study of plastic is helping improve our lives. (Advisor: Vicki Flaris, Vicki. flaris@bcc.cuny.edu)

SPOKEN WORD - To express, improvise, recite and relay feedback of your works with friends. (Advisor: Janet Robertson, Janet.robertson@bcc.cuny.edu)

SPEECH, DRAMA AND DEBATE - To provide BCC students with a platform outside of the classroom in which to practice, perform, and gain proficiency in oral communication (Advisor: Carmen Meyers, Carmen. meyers@bcc.cuny.edu)

TAU ALPHA PI HONOR SOCIETY - Promote and encourage scholastic achievement and to recognize high standards of scholarship among students among students in engineering technology programs. (Advisor: Hamad Khan, Hamad.khan@bcc.cuny.edu)

TENNIS CLUB - Promote and encourage the practice and learning of tennis among students. (Advisor: Jonathan Scott, Jonathan.scott@bcc.cuny.edu)

THEATER WORKSHOP - Perform and assess theatrical performances and encourage theatrical involvement of the BCC campus community. (Advisor: John Socas, John. socas@bcc.cuny.edu)

THE PEACE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE CLUB - To increase peace consciousness in its members and among the campus community. (Advisor: David Blot, David. blot@bcc.cuny.edu)

#### Contact:

Ms. Yvonne Erazo-Davila Student Life for Inter-Organizational Council Office Inter-Organizational Council Office Roscoe Brown Student Center [BC] Room 309

(718) 289.5201/5962/5194

#### The Suffering Artists

#### **By Elizabeth Lopez**

- Create a world, a world of equality but be warned society will break it down into insanity Wrap the universe in a bow and tear your own heart out
- for the world to devour.
- Only they will never be satisfied hunger ever growing.
- What do you want from an artist? What expectations do you hold?
- You want us to put beauty on a page Take the secrets of life and splatter it on a canvas
- Give you a feeling of worth,
- Of love,
- To stop time itself ...
- Do you want us to jump in front of cars?
- Cut our own ears off,
- Type until were blind?
- Write stories and poems, as we leave our sanity behind. Want us to struggle, lose our culture, and become slaves.
- Just to twist it into a sympathetic song for you to hear.
- We have to suffer, experience, question even our own being, to entertain the masses.
- To try and reach you
- To try and teach you
- To teach you how to see
- Suffer and sacrifice our children, our reputations, and our
- soul and sew it into our art.
- Hoping it will reach you.
- Hoping you will understand.
- Wishing you could read our minds, see what we see, feel
- what we feel, and know what we know.
- A word can mean a thousand things.
- Poetry is a difficult language.
- What cost do we have to fulfill for you to understand. We suffer, we starve, and we deal with demons, never
- ending wars. War in our heads, war in our minds.
- Multiple personalities, multiple decisions. Give and give.
- We give and give until there is nothing left but our art.
- We pour our heart, our soul into our art and nothing but a shell is left
- We wither, die, and only than do you ever give us recognition.
- Only when we are gone do you try to understand.
- You think us crazy, you think us weird. We spin reality to fantasy and are accused as sinners. Well we curse all the killers of dreams; curse the judgmental, curse heartbreakers, idea stealers. We curse everything there ever
- All we do is give and give.
- You take and take.
- We try to be prophets, philosophers, thinkers. However, for you "Heaven forbid we are ever taken
- seriously
- Our tears are artificial to you.
- Were manipulators
- We are devils in disguise
- We have rose colored glasses permanently attached to our eyes and you want us to tear ourselves apart for you to obtain it.
- We are aliens, witches, sinners, demons.
- The ones looked down upon until we are in the grave. Until you feel bad for doubting us.
- We are suffering, not a penny to our lives only to our deaths.
- The boatman is richer than we are across the river Styx.
- We only want to reach you.
- We only want you to understand.
- We only want you to hear us.
- We,
- The Suffering Artists.

### Musings on Katrina, Harvey, Irma; Musings on Nature and the Universe

#### **By Matthew Rodriguez**

Man has often equated or attributed acts of nature as the whim of whatever deity that best represented the act itself. For instance, in India, the god known as Shiva within the Hindu pantheon is called the Great Destroyer and the Great Creator, supreme over all others. Now when one says to "destroy", what one often means is "to tear down to its constituent components". There is a decisively negative connation attached to the word "destroy", something which instinctively terrifies and repels us. It is hard not to be horrified by the results of a storm such as Hurricane Irma or Hurricane Harvey, which so recently devastated our Caribbean neighbors and our southern states. To those affected by these disasters, whether directly or indirectly, they are often left in dire straits, whether they be physical, psychological, or emotional.

However, it is impossible to ignore that from the act of destruction comes life; born anew. One of the greatest laws of our universe is that neither energy nor matter can ever be destroyed. That which has been torn asunder will always come back together, albeit in a different form. Take our sun for example. The Sun is a main-sequence star and is the sole reason we are alive today, thanks to the warmth and light with which it bathes our world. That warmth and light is a transfer of energy from the sun to our planet, and into our various ecosystems across the Earth. Our sun has existed for approximately four and a half billion years and, for all intents and purposes, should exist for another four and a half billion. But nothing lives forever in our universe, not even our sun. Stars, much like us, have a finite lifespan; and when they reach the end of that span, they die. When they do, nothing goes to waste; they cast off layers of dust, laden with elements and minerals that eventually condense and coalesce into balls. These balls continue to aggregate dust and increase in size until they become big enough to sustain a nuclear fusion reaction at their core. Thus are new stars born from the ashes of others. Earth formed in a similar, though slightly different fashion, as do all planets or stars.

Our world and the universe are filled with peril, from the massive storms and tectonic shifts of Earth, to the comets and asteroids that zip through the void of space at hundreds of thousands of miles per second, even the radiation from our very own sun; just to name a few. But there is never so much peril as to make life impossible. It was the promise of great dangers and wonders that drove explorers to venture farther afield (and sometimes drove them to madness). There is often vast beauty to behold in danger, which makes life all the sweeter, and enticing. It is in this way that nature is both giver and taker; creator and destroyer; yin and yang. It is the great equalizer, ever indifferent, always ambivalent. It is neither good nor evil; it simply is.

#### As I Publicize My Secrets

#### **By Latsha Lee**

Have you ever felt completely alone in a crowded room? That's how it feels when you're constantly connected to a world that's disconnected from reality. As I publicize my secrets I'm curious as to how strangers recite, so fluently, my innermost thoughts. Although, I'm lonely in this new tech age, I'll do nothing to change it. I'm addicted to this feeling of emptiness. My brain is flooded with thoughts of my next status update. As I compulsively check my inbox, my obsession is undeniable. I hate that I love social media.

To say that social media has taken on a life of its own would be an understatement. It would be more accurate to say that it has instead, created a completely new world. Not only has it changed the way we communicate with one another, it has changed how frequently we speak. Though, we speak more often we're less invested. Where we were once inaccessible we're now within arm's reach. Anyone, anywhere is just a message away. It's quite amazingly a beautiful disaster. We can easily reconnect with people we thought we'd never hear from again. Social media has made it possible for childhood friends to remain friends though, life has physically torn them apart. However, these friendships are only an illusion. It seems that we have traded in true human connection for these virtual friendships. We live in a world where it seems the main reason we hang out with friends is to capture the moment. While all these moments are being captured, they aren't truly being experienced. How can you really enjoy a once in a lifetime moment if you're too busy trying to get a perfect picture?

I find myself consumed with the urge to take the perfect selfie. I often take fifty pictures just to post one. Who I am no longer matters. It's all about how the world sees me. I must be perceived as beautiful even when I don't feel as so. My smile must be the brightest even if I've just wiped away tears for the sole purpose of this picture. The picture you take is essential to the picture you paint. Though, my captions are usually lyrics from a song, the message is the same every time. My life is better than yours. As I scroll down my timeline the same message I deliver is the same one I receive. My life is no longer good enough. Compliments mean nothing unless you comment them on my post. Don't tell me how you feel. Your words are meaningless if the world can't see them. It isn't enough to like me. If you mean it, you'll like my pictures and statuses. If you don't post me as your WCW then how can I believe your words are true? All these unwritten rules that define the way I'll allow myself to love. The key to my heart lies in a tagged post. Relationships used to end due to lack of communication and unfaithfulness. Now relationships end because he didn't put her as his cover photo, or she liked some other guy's picture.

I don't pay attention as I cross these busy city streets. My eyes are glued to my phone because I'm addicted to Facebook. Though, they warn us not to drive and snap, I must snap to let them know that I'm driving. I've become so reckless and I'm not alone. In this new world, we all engage in these dangerous habits. I am not blind to my sickness but I will not stop. As I publicize my secrets I'm ashamed of the things I post. It's those shameful posts that get virtual likes. It doesn't matter that I no longer like myself because Instagram assures me that the world likes me. I posted a picture of my natural beauty with the caption "I love who I'm becoming." To my surprise, I got three likes. In my next post, I wore a bikini. No caption just an emoji. I got 300 likes. If I had to decide I'd trade my morals for Facebook likes every time.

I don't check in on my family because I can see them post. If I like their post they know I'm okay too. I killed two birds with one stone so I'm not forced to have a real interaction. I'll sit at home alone in the dark scrolling down my timeline. Tomorrow, I'll go out so I can take pictures that remind the world that I'm the happiest. As I publicize my secrets I only post what I want the world to know. Sometimes I push my phone away in disgust. I will not socialize in this virtual world today. Within five minutes I'm back online because I must know what my friends online are having for dinner. I'm addicted to this feeling of loneliness but I will not stop. Why would I? I'd rather be constantly connected to a world that's disconnected from reality than to just watch with no connection. Though, I'm so very unhappy, I can be happy online.

# JOIN A CLUB!

8

#### **By Adoracion Hernandez**

In these days of political turmoil, it is clear that supremacists' social perspectives are alive and growing in the twisted minds of many American citizens. The polarized political campaign to win the right to be elected President of the United States of America led to the election of the Republican candidate, who based his election in a populist campaign which echoed the Nazi points of view in Germany's 1930s. Right now, white supremacist's organizations are praising themselves for Mr. Trump's presidential election and congratulate themselves because they are, once again, in charge. Right now, they are regaining the White House, which is now whiter than ever (Musumeci, 2016). Racism is one of the not so hidden reason why Mr. Trump is now the President of the United States. Even worse, white supremacists nowadays are acting as if they have the right to murder any black person they please, only because their skin color is different.

Recently, The New York Times reported in the article: "Another Murderer Crazed by Color, This Time Met by Silence" (Dwver, 2017) that one white supremacist was crazy enough to take a gun to seek justice by his own hand. Harris Jackson came from Baltimore to Manhattan with the solely intention of killing black men, as many as possible. He didn't care about who, but it had to be black. Why? Because he was obsessed about the purity of the white blood. Black men who had the liberty of having descendants with white women were for him despising all American society. His way to fix this social problem was to kill as many black men as possible. Unfortunately, he was able to murder one man. Mr. Caughman, an African American who happen to cross Mr. Jackson's path that day. For his lawyer Mr. Jackson, the murderer, has mental health issues that had to be addressed. The White House has been silent on this murder, neither condemning neither recognizing that something wrong happened on Manhattan that day. According to the article "Donald Trump and the Ku Klux Klan: A History" this mutism coming from the White House is the consequence that David Duke, the former Klan Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan supported his candidacy, and he doesn't want to confront him and his followers. In this documented article, published in The New Yorker in 2016, the author states that Duke himself was "telling radio listeners that a vote for one of Trump's rivals would be 'treason to your heritage'".

The Enlightenment ideals instilled courageously in the United States Declaration of Independence stating that "all men are created equal" were adopted in 1776 by our new nation. In this historical context, we have to realize that "all men" for our Founder's Fathers meant only white men of European ancestry. All the other races and origins were not included in God's creation by any means. All the other races were inferior and their role in the World was to serve the white race. This cruel and unjust belief was repeated and justified by all kind of authorities: religious, politics, judicial... as a mean of perpetuate white supremacy forever. The myth of perceiving the Anglo-Saxon race as superior over all the other races came from pseudoscientist studies and observations which lead to scientific racism. Theorists like Joseph Arthur de Gobineau - a French nobleman who wrote "Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races" - divided humanity in four racial groups. Of course, Europeans were intelligent, noble, and superior to the other races. This racist point of view identified each race by his skin color and other physical characteristics.

But the most hypocritical proposition of these racist thinkers was that they bestowed over the other races diminishing traits like: African were unintelligent and lazy, while Natives American were dull and arrogant. (Bentley, Jerry and Ziegler, Herbert. 2011) Prejudices that have Americans.

CURRENT EVENTS:

#### Dwyer, Jim. "Another Murderer Crazed by Color, This Time Met by Silence" New York Tim March 23, 2017. Accessed March 25, 2017

#### PRIMARY SOURCES:

13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Civil Rights (1868) 1234Lynching of Henry Smith in Paris, Texas, in 1893

#### SECONDARY SOURCES:

Bentley, Jerry and Herbert Ziegler. Traditions and Encounters, Vol. 2, from 1500 to the Present, Blum, Bill. "Trump's Core Support Is Driven by Emotion, Not Fact, According to Sigmund Freud." Huffpost, US Edition, May 8, 2017. Accessed May 14, 2017 5th Fd (2011)

Karaim, Reed. "America's Peculiar and Horrifying Tradition of Vigilante Justice." American History, vol. 46, no. 6, 2012, p. 50+.

survived until nowadays, representing the dominance of Journalist Reed Karaim, published in American History, vol. 46, no. 6, 2012, p. 50 his article: "America's Peculiar European people over the entire World and its people. In the late 19th century in the United States, the agreement and Horrifying Tradition of Vigilante Justice." There, he explains that the word "lynching" comes from Colonel between Southern and Northern white male American Charles Lynch of Bedford, Virginia, who during the citizens was fading away due to economic interests. For the plantation's elite owners in the South was crucial to keep American Revolution "hunted down, tried and punished slavery so they could maintain their status quo meanwhile British lovalists and criminals without official sanction" the more industrialized North was riding in a surge of By his Vigilante Justice, he could decide who was guilty keeping or not slavery - divided north and South in a Civil or innocent but the punishment that the guilty received was or a determined quantity of lashes or forced to shout War. At the end of this fratricide war, slavery was abolished in the U.S.A. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued a motto stating what they considered right. At that time by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 declaring that all lynching mobs could tar and feather a person who was against the society, but the punishment usually was seeking former slaves were from that day on free citizens with the to humiliate the guilty, not murder them. Everything changed after the Civil War, when lynching was united to same rights as the Anglo-Saxons descendants. The 13th Amendment of the U.S.A. Constitution clearly states (CATO Institute, 2002): the different races. White people were seeking to protect "Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, their powerful social status quo by intimidating, abusing, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall vexing, oppressing, forcing, assaulting, beating, torturing and murdering whoever they could envision as a danger to have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." his white society. The Thirteenth Amendment was ratified on December In the south, as we can observe in the picture of the lynching of Henry Smith in Paris, Texas, in 1893, lynching 6, 1865. The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified on July 9. was a spectacle, which could gather a crowd of 10,000 to 1868 was assuring the right to citizenship for all African Americans. At that time, the winning northern States entertain themselves while watching a mentally retarded were imposing the Reconstruction to the southern States black man being tortured and burned. He allegedly had which lost the war. The Republican Reconstruction

and the pursuit of Happiness".

Historian John Kirk argues in his article "The Long Road to Equality" published in History Today on February 2009, that society has to leap on time until 1909, a century after Abraham Lincoln's birthday, to find a movement willing to spread the ideals of racial justice. That group of people, 60 black and white activists, was known as "The Call". From that group, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - NAACP - was born. Before arriving to the necessary work of this organization, Dr. Kirk explains in this open-mind article that the southern authorities found paths surrounding the Constitution Amendments and Federal laws which extended to African-Americans the rights reserved to white Anglo-Saxons males. The U.S. Supreme Court accepted the doctrine of segregation affirming that "separate but equal" was constitutional. Besides, in the southern states authorities introduced literacy tests and fees as necessary to vote which limited widely the

possibilities of African-Americans had to cast a vote. It was not only that surreptitious modus operandi which African-Americans had to endure, even worse, in Dr. Kirk's

### **Racism beyond Horror: From Freedom to Lynching**

Movement lasted until 1877, when southern Democrats reorganized the power and dedicate themselves to destroy policies that allowed, for example, that former slaves could acquire land, or that former slaves could hold an elected position. After that moment, the so called "Redeemers", conservative southern Democrat, with the northern policy based on "looking to another place" converted the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments in meaningless documents. (Richardson, 2000) From then on, African-American descendants have been denied their rights to "Life, Liberty

own words "It was not just the vigilantism of groups like the Ku Klux Klan that enforced white supremacy." The idea was instilled in the entire southern society, where white supremacists had their feud. There, one black person who didn't show proper deference to a white person could be lynched. NAACP exposed more than 3,000 lynchings of African-American between 1889 and 1919. The complicity of southern authorities and massive lies in courts in every state resulted in total impunity for the white men who kidnapped, tortured, burned and murdered African-

murdered the 3-year-old daughter of a white police officer. Family members of the girl tortured him during two hours burning parts of his body little by little even his tongue, before killing him. In this case, and in many others, as we can read in Karaim's article, to lynch an African American was a sign to belonging to the white supremacy elite. Anywhere in the south, a black American could be lynched for anything, for example a suspected robbery or to talk back or presuming to talk back to a white woman. In 1892, after the lynching of 3 of her friends -whose only sin was to have a successful grocery, which was withdrawing clients to another grocery store, whose owner happened to be white Ida B. Wells, an African-American courageous woman dedicated her life to combat lynching, exposing the lies that concealed the real reason why lynching occurred; virulent and institutional racism (Karaim 2012).

African-Americans in the United States had to fight for their lives and for their rights in any possible way: by pacific protests, by civil disobedience, by confronting the political status quo, by signing petitions, by taking streets... The last lynching happened in 1981, when Michael Donald, a 19-year-old black youngster stopped in Mobile, Alabama and was chosen by two Ku Klux Klan members. They beat him, slit his throat and hung his body from a tree, only 19 years ago (Gold, 2008). In this case, one of the murderers has Henry Hays, the son of the local Klan chief. In this case, he and his fellow murderer were convicted by the law. Nowadays, according to Bill Blum, a law specialist and a retired judge, there is an explanation about the support that Mr. Trump has had since his campaign and his posterior victory. "Trump's base has given him unwavering support because he professes to hate the same people, institutions and values they hate. In this mind-opening article, the author understands that "hate is central to Trump's power, and for a good reason: Hate is a primal passion" Following this state of mind, you cannot reason with one of the Trump's supporters because there problem is not in the mind, it is an emotional problem, it is based in the destructive instinct that lays in the human being. For the author, citing Freud, aggression could never be eliminated, but we can emphasize reason, culture, empathy and community as foundations to build a better society, an equalitarian society.

1 <i>es</i> ,	Kirk, John. "The Long Road to Equality." History Today, February 2009.
	Musumeci, Natali. "KKK Celebrating Trump's Election with Victory Parade" <i>New York Pos</i> November 11, 2016.

Osnos, Evan. "Donald Trump and the Ku Klux Klan: A History." The New Yorker, February 29, 2016. Accessed May 14, 2017

TERTIARY SOURCES:

## **THE WRITER'S CORNER**

## **Another Sestina**

#### **By Heidy Santos**

You're always here, my dear. You show me nothing but love. But sometimes I'm questioning. How can you love someone like myself? Like an old Elvis Presley record, worth caring; You tell me, you want to be here forever.

But how can you believe in a forever? Do you even believe in us? My dear. For so long, I've been caring. All I have shown you is nothing but love. However, I have to learn how to love myself. And then you start questioning.

But should you really be questioning? This "ludus" love will not last forever. I don't even believe it myself. Oh, you're so silly my dear. This poison can't be considered love. I have completely stopped caring.

Even though you still seem to be caring, I'm still questioning. I have never experienced this thing you call love. I don't think I can't love you forever. Here's the thing, I don't want to get hurt my dear. I have to protect myself.

I'll walk through emotions to save myself. Stop pretending to be caring, Because I know you like playing my dear. You tell me to stop questioning; To hide my doubts forever, Because you want to show me how to love.

You tell me there's only solution: love. But I am selfish and before you, I put myself. You wanna be my forever? I can't believe you're so caring I should stop questioning, But you're nothing but lies dear.

Sometimes I doubt myself because I can't believe there are caring people like you. There's never a forever; No sincere

And that is why I keep questioning you, my dear.

#### Love Keeps Us Going

#### By Isela Larreinaga

Fear, hatred, anger, Something that overcomes love nowadays Society is lacking the expression of love Black, White, Latino, Asian, Should be coming as one We are human Humans deserve love and kindness Not this irrational behavior, That one is given

Love is free It's the key to a better and brighter future Hate isn't the correct answer Love isn't difficult to give It opens your eyes to something different Hatred belittles you It consumes you to become someone you're not You cannot let hate win Love will always win

#### **Curious Pussycat**

#### **By Heidy Santos**

The nodes in my brain, are as big as the stars in the sky. The neurons in my head, are as intense as the galaxies outside. My curiosity goes beyond your pride; Telling me to wonder about the universe as much as I wonder what's inside my mind.

#### The Significance of Your Voice

#### By Isela Larreinaga

I wake up one early morning, questioning my self-worth and everything that's happening around me. My everyday life consists of school, home, and spending time with friends. I often tend to forget about the rest of the world, and how others are not living the same as I am. I come from a Latino family and the way one's raised differs. I am part of a minority and there's always a certain number of rules that comes with it. There might not be written rules but growing up you're often taught. I have to stay out of the way and to not cause any chaos because it will give us a bad reputation. I laugh every time I say this to myself because the way many sees us will never change.

I begin to dress myself and head over to Manhattan, I was going to meet up with my best friend Lilly. Her and I were planning to go sightseeing since both of us have never explored Manhattan as we would've liked. I'm walking down the street when I noticed Lilly standing there talking to some fellow New Yorkers with signs in their hands. I've always had interest in politics or anything that involves change. I walk over to Lilly and the strangers, waving and giving a small smile. "Jackelyn! Hey, this is Logan and Samantha" Lilly said cheerfully. I waved again and they greeted me with a huge smile

and big eyes. They began to talk about the lives of minorities and how we were the easily targeted. "Blacks, Latinos, Indians, Chinese, and many more are in more danger than ever." Logan said while twirling around

his sign. I looked down at his sign and it had "WE ARE HUMANS" painted in big black bold letters. I continued to listen onto what Logan and Samantha said, I couldn't agree more with what they said. My parents, if they were here now, wouldn't have condemned this. They would've told me to just keep walking because of the fear of being punished of having your own voice. America, the land of the free, we shouldn't be afraid. When Logan and Samantha finished their discussion, they asked if we wanted to join the fight for equality and I didn't hesitate to say yes because this is my right as a human being.

I grabbed a sign and started to join alongside Lilly. An anchor from a local news station walked up to Lilly and I, asking why we're protesting and what's the benefit of it. Lilly was about to answer but I quickly cut her off.

"Many would think that our voice doesn't matter because we're nobodies compared to the higher officials but in my mind, that's not true at all. They're humans just like us, just because their rank is higher, doesn't mean they have different rights from us." I said straightforward.

'Your voice, what difference does it make, to you? What if you don't get what you desire for?" The anchor lady who went by Brenda Malo questioned.

"My voice matters, it might not cause an instant change but it causes a reaction. It brings awareness to what's happening in our world. Day by day people are becoming corrupted, we need to take a stand against the corrupted, or at least try. Attempting is key because that is what makes a difference." I smiled and continued on with the march, many might disagree with my train of thought but that's me. No one should be punished for their words unless it causes harm to another. Our voice besides love is something that cannot be taken away from us.

#### **BluePrint**

#### A poem by Roseyvel Reid

They lied to you. He gazes into her eyes memorized by her smile Pretended to be someone they're not. his simple touch ignites the flame deep in her soul she's feeling something she has never felt before Invaded your privacy, stole your heart. She's scared to let him in because she doesn't have good Entertained your thoughts but neglected your feelings. history with men It's true...the very first heartbreak can leave you aloof. Just by gazing into her eyes he can see the pain that she Shattered and tired, your wall is up. tries to hide You feel protected because you isolate yourself and keep He assures her that her heart is safe with him just by a them out simple touch to her face She closes her eyes and exhales all her worries away But I know your blueprint. He grabs her hands and place it across his heart I know you want people to believe your daily acting He whispers let me show you what true love is routines I promise I won't hurt you I dare not to cause you any pain You don't care? That's not true. put your trust in me and I'll be the superman of your This mirage you've produced only tells me your heart is dreams crying out for I'll shower you with love and affection and armor you with ONE. protection You just want one. Let me be that sparkle in your eye your reason to smile To pat your back because all you ever did was your best. just because let me sweep you off your feet and take your breath away Long roads bring stress the anger on your breath, the danger they created I promise to love you just as much as I love me I want you to be my everything, my Queen, my pretty when they left, keeps you guarded for respect. young thing I know... because I know your blueprint. I'll be that shoulder you lean on when things get too much I've seen this kind of movie before. I know how these scenes I'd go to hell and back for you just so you know you mean end. that much to me Don't make me go. I'm new and I'm fresh, no toxic on my All I'm asking for is your trust Trust me blindly and I will make you see that we are I understand with each step, the weight on your chest. destined to be I know your blueprint. She looks at him with tears in her eyes She heard everything he said but yet she's still scared to take that next step She doesn't want to be sold a dollar and a dream She doesn't want sleepless nights, empty promises, and a seed that won't grow

She tells him I want you right here next to me, I want us to be unbreakable, thick as thieves

**Blind Trust** 

**By Jasmine Hayes** 

I don't want our walls to come crumbling down I want us to be able to withstand anything If I take you hand ever so blind promise me we'll always

stand and conquer the end of time

He looks into her eyes and says I promise baby to give you the world

Four Bronx Community College students – Alixan Ducreay, Shivanie Harry, Larasita Saavedra, and Jason Angel Santiago – attended the Salzburg Global Citizenship Alliance GCS (Global Citizenship Seminar) in Salzburg, Austria. What follows are excerpts from their final reflections on what these study-abroad experiences have meant to them.

#### SHIVANIE HARRY

I was ecstatic to be selected as one of the four students who would represent the college on an international level. However, I knew it would be no easy feat and would require that I step out of my comfort zone continuously.

We arrived in Austria late on Monday, April 10, exhausted but bright-eved after hours of delayed flights and travelling. Upon arrival, I was immediately taken aback by the beauty of the Alps that seemed to stretch across the width of the horizon.

There was something new to learn from each lecture session and each presenter had their own unique style of presenting the material that captivated me. Dr. Jochen Fried was the first to present on Culture and Ethnocentrism. He posed the question to us of whether people make culture or culture makes people. I was transported back to the crooning old ladies at my cousin's pre-wedding. Was it our culture that demanded women to be married by a



certain age? Or was this a notion that had nothing to do with culture, but was somehow ingrained in it after years of practice? While culture fosters predictability, communication, efficiency and safety among people, it also tends to place us all in boxes and blinds us to injustices sometimes. I had never thought of it before, but after a moment, I realized that we make culture and, therefore, we have the power to break the norms that no longer apply. This is precisely what I did when I ventured abroad on my own.

The plenary discussion with Xenia Avezov on Gender and Us: A Dialogue was our last session but was the one that carried the most weight for me. It addressed many issues that coincided with my initial essay on gender disparity. We were shown a video of a few child brides in African countries and given a glimpse of the lives they led. Xenia also told us to the Old World and endeavored to use that 1 in 3 girls will suffer a similar fate. A boisterous discussion ensued where everyone's emotions ran high. After everyone shared their opinions, the solution seemed to boil down a better future.

#### **My Bianxious Mind**

#### By Brianna McColly

I remember my first panic attack that was in eighth grade. A teacher had yelled at me for not following the rule of handing in papers late. It wasn't until I got to recess did it happen. My hands were numb; tears were streaming down my face; I was staring into space; and whenever I saw my teacher I had just cry more. What I wasn't aware of was that that was just the beginning.

Middle school wasn't the best; in fact, the best thing I can remember from it was leaving, so I was hoping high school to be better. I hoped for too much. High school was so much worse. The bullies were meaner because they were my own 'friends' and the teachers were disarming. Looking back now, it could be possible that it was my autism that made me terrible to the people. I called my friends, back then. I would say inappropriate and mean things to all of them without knowing I was doing something wrong. I can't blame them for being mean because I was mean myself. I don't even blame them for not noticing something wrong. I didn't even know something was wrong, until the middle of my freshman year.

It was parent teacher conferences, I was failing a good amount of my classes, and my mom was talking to me afterwards. She was saying she was disappointed of me and that if I continued to fail she would put me in public school. I started crying before she started talking, but it was after she said the public school comment that I started hyperventilating. She didn't see anything wrong until my fingers started contorting into painful looking positions. I was still crying when she started calling my name, asked me to unwind my fingers and started yelling at me to calm down. It was so different from that one from eighth grade; with this one, there was so much pain. Not just the physical kind either but, almost as if my soul was dying a slow, agonizing death.

After that incident, my mom saw it best if talked to someone, since she had researched different things on the web and assumed that I had a panic attack. She found an independent social worker that accepted her health insurance and was close to my school and home. The social worker helped somewhat with my anxiety. I found it's best to talk about the things that worry you to give them less power, but she wasn't a miracle worker. What some people forget about mental illnesses is that they may not only be about emotions, or any other abstract matter, but can also be due to a person's brain chemistry.

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# THE GLOBAL LENS

### Salzburg Global Citizenship Seminar Reflections – 2017

to one thing: education. Most of these girls were deprived of an education and sent to their husband's house. Educating a girl would provide her with some opportunity, but this notion was rebutted by the fact that, in most poor communities, there is no framework for such opportunities to flourish, since people cannot eat their education.

I left Austria with more questions than answers. I was more keenly aware of the importance of a global citizenship mentality and the role of globalization. Most of the material we had studied in our global civics class at BCC class had addressed the importance of interdependence, and after the Dachau experience, I wholeheartedly agree that we need each other to survive.

Since the GCA program I have joined organizations that advocate for important causes. I have started to read exorbitantly and critically for I do not want to lose the strides I have made in terms of thinking outside of the box. I have also felt my ambitions and drive grow and reinstate themselves firmly in my mind, and I will work even harder for my law degree, since I believe this would be a valuable tool to a global citizen. The one last thing that I have learnt from Professor Rowan, the readings, and the Salzburg experience is that change does not have a manufacture or an expiration date. We don't need to wait on degrees or good jobs or good networking relationships or anything that postpones our helping another person. Change is when you make it, and I choose to make it now.

#### JASON ANGEL SANTIAGO



Philosophically, intellectually even spiritually, this trip was a profound epiphany-an awakening to be a more conscious cosmopolitan citizen. It has equipped me with the knowledge to have a greater impact on my world. We talked much about bridging the dichotomy between our knowledge and taking action. Anyone can have knowledge of the wrongs of this world, and may even have ideas of how to combat those wrongs; however, it is the coordinated and deliberated actions that follow such knowledge that truly makes a difference. This is one of the many takeaways from this trip. It was definitely a personal conquest in that I feel our group, as minority students, have conquered the conquerors: the New World came back humankind's past as a means of paving



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# THE WRITER'S CORNER continued from page 10

### Courage of Changing During My Lifetime By Xhuliano Dodaj

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore," that's what the French winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Andre Gide, said, What would our lives be without the possibility of redemption, the opportunity to change, to improve or just to something new? Since when we were born, we are always subjects of alterations. We are pushed right and left by new circumstances; our certainties are

questioned. What we created with the best intentions is destroyed, and probably, at first we can't appreciate the new events or things that infiltrate our lives -- some of them slowly and progressively, some of them quickly, with a devastating force, shaking our lives, leaving us stunned.

We must face the new challenges that life puts us on with enthusiasm and confidence, because situations are never like they are for a long time: they get worse or better. And if they cannot get worse, they can only go for the best.

In my life I have had to change many times. I was born in Albania, and when I was six, my family had the possibility to transfer to Italy. There I grew up, and I had friends. I can speak and write in Italian better than I can in Albanian. I attended school and finalized my education, until I went to university without having, unfortunately, the opportunity to finish my studies in nursing because life put me on the condition to change again. I came on New York, and I feel motivated to go all the way. Obviously I had to leave my friends, my dreams there, and my habits. But I'm not afraid; I welcome the future with hope: change is an integral part of my life.

What does change mean in our lives? Where does it originate? Our changes start (at least those of which we are masters) with our thoughts, when we begin looking at the people, circumstances, events and mainly ourselves in a different point of view, because only like this we can have a complete opinion of reality.

We always have to fight for what we want, or what we think. Sometimes people are in contradiction with us, and we have the duty of defending what we think, because what we think is what we are and we are valuable. Dialectical confrontation is the only way to grow and improve: if you isolate yourself from people and the world that surrounds you, you never learn nothing, never lose, never win, and never discover who you really are.

Sometimes, in our ongoing struggle, we have to identify our limits, our mistakes. We should just stop for a while and think where we are going wrong. Our goal should not be to be right but to want the truth.

Another insightful conversation I had was with a German receptionist in the Schloss Leopoldskron from Bavaria who professed he worked there to have discussions that would expose him to other perspectives. We had political discussion over the ideas of universal healthcare, political participation, and even postsecondary education. He provided anecdotes with respect to political life in both Germany and Austria.

When we engage in conversations of humankind's problems, we must not talk in divisive language, categorizing and distinguishing between people, because all of our experiences and capabilities are the same. The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site visit helped me realize that the same capacity high cultured Germans in the twentieth century had to produce a systematic and cruel form of mass extermination is the same way the Rwandan genocide was able to be carried out. Yet, this same capacity for evil can be channeled for a greater good as well. The color of our skin is superficial and is simply an adaptation to environmental changes. Therefore, in order to have conversation about solutions to humankind's problems we need to have holistic conversations that overlook skin color.

The program is both physically and mentally demanding, yet, so much is given for our success. The biggest takeaway from this trip is the philosophical questions it provoked me to face consistently. These are questions I often ponder, the program offered a space where I could delve into these topics which include: Who am I? (The very first question posed to us by Jochen Fried).

#### LARA B. SAAVEDRA

It is very interesting when at your 23 years of age, you find yourself confined with the smartest people that you have probably met in your entire life: the faculty advisors, the students, and the lecture facilitators. It is also interesting when you are selected randomly to work with 8-10 students that you have only met briefly at the pre-session mixer in Queens to agree on what type of world issue your group presentation will be about. It is even more interesting when you are a student from BCC and your group is the smallest (only four BCC students went on the trip), and so you are divided, and each one of you is placed in separate groups. Therefore, while all the other schools knew their partners, we [BCC students] did not know anyone well.

When you have to do group work, you have to agree to disagree. We are supposed to be grownups. There is no fighting, or pettiness, none of that. You have to get the job done. To me, a South American woman who is extremely

passionate, this was a challenge. In the end, even though we got loud sometimes, even though we talked over each other, in the end, we came to an understanding. We all thought that our issues to solve to help make the world a better place were important, and we each pitched in. We compromised.

After we came back, we missed our trip. However, we were also exhausted. The GCA was hard work, but amazing hard work. Everything that we learned in our global citizenship class at BCC prepared us for the best week of my life. Once we were there, we noticed how well informed we were. We shined extremely bright because out of 30 students that went to Salzburg, only four were from BCC. We truly were the best of the best.

It has opened my eyes to different realities, and it has given me a more meaningful view of the world. It has awakened me. Now, I know that I have to do something to be an active member of the world. Now, I know that it is not about individualism; it is about collectivism, because we are all interconnected. All of our actions and choices, no matter how meaningless they might seem, matter. Now, I feel more prepared to face on the world, and to know and identify what I seek in my own path. I feel as if I have found myself in this journey, and what I can now give back. I think that education is one of the most

important things any human being can have, especially for women.

There are no words to describe how grateful and blessed I feel. I will be forever grateful to BCC, President Isekenegbe, Professor Rowan, the Salzburg Selection Committee, and to Dr. Elizabeth Hardman and Dr. Laura Barberan, who recommended me for the seminar. Thanks to Dr. Jochen Fried, Ms. Astrid Schroder, and Mr. David Goldman, as well as the entire seminar faculty, for a life-changing experience.

#### ALIXAN DUCREAY

One of the unshaken experiences I had throughout GCA 8 was the feeling that everything that had happened thus far (following the UN debate on the "Sustainable Development Goals," taking Urban Politics, getting selected for interview, and ultimately being selected to attend GCA 8) fitted as part of a grand design in which I was an alltoo-willing passive agent. That included all the lectures and presentations-they all seemed part of a finely woven quilt. This makes it difficult to highlight a single facilitator or lecture/presentation that had the greatest impact on me. GCA is well put together with a team of first-rate lecturers with cuttingedge presentations that are interesting, relevant, and challenging. Identifying one that impacted me seems like pulling the thread in a major seam from that quilt. Knowledge is power, and one of the greatest benefits of GCA is the empowerment through knowledge that the presentations and lectures afforded us.



I believe the Dachau visit serves as a valuable education and reminder of the depths to which enlightened, scientific humanity can go if not guided by a spiritual and ethical consciousness of the interlocking, interdependent, mutually inclusive nature of our life as humans, and of all life. The attempts to pigeon-hole science in competing political and ideological camps is a concerning development. Dachau, and the Holocaust, in general, is a tribute to the viciousness that can ensue when science is subservient to ideology. Dachau, therefore, is as much about the present and future as it is about the past.

Group-project work was an important part of the intellectual and social experience at GCA 8. One of the things I looked forward to before leaving for Salzburg was the opportunity to meet with other students and to learn from them and build networks and community. I was not disappointed. The selection committees of the various colleges represented at GCA were to be commended for their section of students. I was impressed by the knowledge, willingness to learn, and commitment to developing as global citizens of all the members in my group.

In finishing my honors research paper on global civics I have availed of the thought strategies and competencies that I have gained at GCA, and the insights and guidance provided by our global civics professor, Andy Rowan. I believe our global civics class was the perfect way to be introduced to and transition into the GCA program.

In our global civics class, the writings of thinkers such as Hakan Altinay, David Orr, and Amartya Sen helped to give direction and framework to a variety of issues, but, there too, none of these authors dogmatically spelled out a definition. I believe then as now that was a wise approach. It freed me to keep an open mind and continue to struggle with the question of what it means to be a global citizen, and how understanding and perceiving myself as a global citizen make me part of the responsible solutions the world will need. I am more convinced now after the class on global civics and attending the GCA that understanding that global citizenship and global civics involve more than focusing on human problems. The concepts must embrace concern for other life forms and for the proper stewardship of abiotic individuals within our global ecosystem. Global citizenship must account for the worth and place of every aspect of material reality, living and non-living.



