SURVIVAL 101: ARE YOU READY FOR COLLEGE?
By Stephanie S. Marshall

Going to college is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. College will develop your potential, broaden your view of the world and open doors to many careers. Success in college requires time and effort. When choosing a college, ask yourself the following: What do I want from higher education? How will I select my major and career? How can I make the most of the college experience?

Your reasons for attending college should be clear. If you have always dreamed of going to college, commit yourself to the goal of staying until you graduate or transfer to pursue a baccalaureate degree. Before choosing a major and career, explore your areas of interest and narrow them down to a course of study. What do you enjoy doing? Picture yourself years from now working in your chosen career. If you can visualize it, you can achieve it. To succeed in college will require work and the determination to achieve your goals.

Before applying to college, learn how the process works. Go to college websites to find out what programs are offered by a particular school. Consider attending campus tours. Speak to an admissions counselor about the admissions requirements and when to apply. Find out the cost of tuition and determine how you will pay for it (and other expenses). Be sure to apply for financial aid early, exploring options such as scholarships and grants. If you are already working, find out if your employer has tuition assistance.

If you are accepted to Bronx Community College, you will be required to take the CUNY Assessment Tests to determine your proficiency in reading, writing and math. If you need remedial classes, find out if they can be taken before the semester begins. You will see an adviser who will help you select the classes you’ll take. You will be instructed on how to register for classes on CUNYfirst. If you have been accepted into special programs (e.g. ASAP, College Discovery, CUNYstart), you will be contacted by the department. When you have completed your registration, you will be have to pay tuition and fees. You can pay online, in person, using financial aid, grants, loans or scholarships, by mail or tuition payment plans. The Bursar's Office can answer questions about paying your bill. Go to the Financial Aid Office for questions about grants, loans, scholarships and other assistance. Once your tuition is paid, you should do the following:

- Keep a copy of your class schedule
- Order books for classes
- Know when the semester begins
- Find out about college resources

You should keep a copy of your class schedule at all times during the semester. You can find out what books to order on CUNYfirst under the course description on your class schedule. Look at the academic calendar on the college website for important dates relevant to the semester (the last day to drop classes, holidays, mid-term or final exam period, etc.). Learn about college resources, such as student parking, library, cafeteria, computer labs and other services. If you need academic assistance with your courses, you can go to the Math Tutorial Lab and Learning Commons for math, the Writing Center for English, or the Education and Reading Lab for Reading.

New Student Orientation is held prior to the start of the semester and will provide helpful information to get you acclimated to the college and college life. Now you’re ready to start college. Remember to visit the Evening and Weekend Office (CO 506). See you in class!

“Kindness is always fashionable.”
- AMELIA BARR, NOVELIST (1831-1919)