

THE COMMUNICATOR

December 2018

The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College

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Dominican Veterans Honored with Impressive Monument on BCC Campus

By Alexandra Santos (Liberal Arts/History)

On Friday, November 2nd, family members gathered with New York City and state officials, including representatives from Bronx Community College and the City University of New York, to honor 351 Dominican World War II veterans for their service to the United States to fight for freedom around the globe. Located prominently outside Nichols Hall, the World War II Dominican Veterans Monument was called “a gift to us all” by the Honorable Fernando Cabrera, a member of the New York City Council. In his remarks, President Thomas Isekenegebe noted that BCC is a Hispanic-service institution and that the College plays a significant role in University Heights which is “home to many in New York City’s thriving Dominican community.” He added, “We are very pleased to be the site of this monument.”

Mr. Cabrera reminded the gathering that “These soldiers have been largely left out of U.S. history and I believed their rightful and public recognition was long past due.” With the current immigrant crisis at this country’s southern border, and in other countries in Europe and Australia, immigration is a contentious issue. At such a moment, attendees were reminded by Angelica Infante, the granddaughter of veteran Juan Infante: “Sometimes this country forgets the power and the contributions of the immigrant people.” She added, “We are a mighty community. We too are Americans.”

Local Bronx press outlets such as *Dominican Today* and the *Norwood News* spread the word to the Bronx community and beyond about this honor to these brave service members. The latter noted that also in attendance at the ceremony were diplomatic officials from the Dominican Republic.

It was stated that among those “whose names were inscribed on the monument was a Tuskegee Airman who had been identified through diligent and exhaustive research in a joint effort – CUNY Dominican Students Project, “Dominicans in New York” – between BCC and the Dominican Studies Institute at The City College of New York. As reported by Juleyka Lantigua-Williams in *The Atlantic* on November 5, 2015, this project sought to examine the role of Dominican service members who made significant contributions to the war effort or who made significant contributions to society. This specific revelation is made more poignant when we are reminded that late BCC President Roscoe C. Brown was also a Tuskegee Airman.

This event also called to mind our Hall of Fame for Great Americans that reminds the campus community of the achievements of the honorees enshrined there. So, too, does the World War II Dominican Veterans Monument remind us of the contributions and sacrifices by Americans who are often overlooked.

Writer Alice Walker in her poem “Fundamental Difference” has urged us all to “remember our ancestors” because “it is an easy thing to forget.”



Veterans, family members, and officials at the World War II Dominican Veterans Monument at BCC.



Dear Students: SGA Leadership Message

By Carolina Valenzuela (Business Administration)
Student Government Association, President 2018-2019

Broncos, hopefully this has been a successful semester. I know we are all facing challenges, but there is so much power in overcoming them. In the end we all have a common goal and that is to better ourselves and come out of this journey as better people. As President I can assure you, your Student Government Association (SGA) is working hard to better your campus. So far, the SGA has worked with New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and the University Student Senate (USS) for student voter registration. We have worked with the Office of Student Life (OSL) for New Student Orientation, Welcome Week, Second Saturdays and Freshman Convocation. To mention a few other things we’ve done, we held a Pep Rally, Town Hall meeting, Masquerade Costume Party, and we have been distributing feminine hygiene products as the Aunt Flow Initiative. We held an SGA Friendsgiving event on December 4th the Roscoe Brown Student Center.



Carolina Valenzuela

In an effort to make this college experience better for all of us, we will continue to work on improving student life on campus. It is because of this that I am proud to inform you that we’re currently in the process of establishing a permanent student lounge for all BCC students to have access to while the college is open. For now, the location of the temporary student lounge is in RBSC, room 311A, and it is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 pm.

For the remainder of our term, we want to make sure to continue to encourage student engagement and to make your journey at BCC more pleasant. We understand all the responsibilities outside of being a student and the difficulties of being able to balance everything. As such, we are determined to make navigating your campus easier and simpler as well as keeping you informed about the resources, programs, and opportunities offered here. We’re working with several other offices, clubs and organizations, such as the Office of Student Life, the Male Empowerment Network, The CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) club, Veteran’s Affairs, Égalité (the modeling club), the Track Club, Womxn Up, and BCC athletics, amongst others, to ensure that we reach as many students as possible in the entire campus community. Our goal is to make your campus work for you as you work hard for your development.

I want to encourage you to get involved, whether it’s by volunteering, informing the appropriate departments of issues on campus, applying for work-study positions available on campus, or participating on committees. This is our campus; let’s take responsibility and own it. The Student Government Association has biweekly meetings on Fridays from 2:45 to 5:45 pm. Our office is in RBSC, room 201. We are here to advocate for you, the students, and to hear your concerns.

I want to wish everyone good luck on their finals and congratulations to all the Broncos finishing their journey at Bronx Community College this semester. I wish you success.

BCC’s Student Government Association Receives Honor

The 2017-2018 Student Government Association was awarded Outstanding Student Government by the CUNY University Student Senate at the USS Annual Awards Dinner on November 8, 2018



BCC SGA & USS Delegation & NYPIRG Board Members at 45th NYPIRG Anniversary at Queens 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:
bronxcc.communicator@gmail.com.**

NOTES:

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

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

Nicholas Fantauzzi
Robert Josman
Vincent Middleton
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PROFESSOR STEPHEN POWERS
BCC Student Advocate (Ombudsman)



The BCC Student Advocate serves the College as an exceptional channel of redress for students when the normal administrative channels do not adequately respond. Receive, investigate and resolve student complaints that have not been resolved by the appropriate College agencies; in particular, complaints alleging unfairness, discourtesy, undue delay, or other malfunctioning in the process of the College. Have access to all pertinent records; collaboratively work with and/or make inquiries to any employee and/or faculty member of the College community; to receive full and complete answers; and maintain a level of confidentiality.

If you need to see Prof. Powers email him at studentadvocate@bcc.cuny.edu, call him at (718) 289-5469 or visit him in Colston 431.



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Endings and Beginnings

By Issatou Barry (Health, Physical Education and Recreation)



As my journey at Bronx Community College is coming to an end in December 2019, I would like to use this opportunity to show gratitude to all the staff members and hardworking students who have impacted my life. My experience at BCC would not have been the same without the support system I have received from inspiring professors, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society program, the Honor Scholars program, the Academy for Transitions to Health Professions, the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), the Food and Garden Club, and *The Communicator*.

With the relationships I have attained at BCC, they have uncovered me to opportunities outside of the school, like the Kaplan Transfer Initiative Program, an internship at Columbia University Medical Center called the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), where I became a Program Ambassador, and becoming a fellow at America Needs You Program. Exposing myself to programs like these has been a source of my encouragement as well as maintaining excellent academic standards. They have also given me the chance to network with highly motivated people and develop professional skills.

Thank you, BCC, for giving me the chance to be comfortable with the uncomfortable and for helping me find confidence in myself. Paving the way for students like me, gives us a bigger picture of our goals as well as the chance of grabbing opportunities that help make our dreams a reality.

Editors' Note: Issatou Barry has been a long-time contributor to The Communicator. She is always professional and reliable (and she is a nice person). Issatou will be missed. We wish her the best, and we hope that she will stay connected with us.

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BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RELEASE YOUR INNER CRITIC!

Ever been told **you have a unique perspective on the world?**

Well, here is **your opportunity** to share it with your fellow Broncos!

In a joint venture between the English and Creative Writing clubs, *Thesis*, the literary journal of BCC, is now expanding to include a **critical and creative nonfiction section.**

Categories	Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional literary criticism. Reviews/critical analysis of popular movies, TV shows, video games, books, music, art, and Broadway shows. Editorials on domestic and global current events. Personal narrative. Short memoirs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission email must include the author's name, major, preferred email address, and the title of the work. No more than five submissions per person. Each work cannot exceed five pages in length. All submissions must be attached as Word Documents and labeled as "Critical" or "Creative Nonfiction" in the subject heading. If you're submitting traditional literary criticism, you must include a works cited page and follow proper MLA format. All submissions must be sent to thesis@bcc.cuny.edu

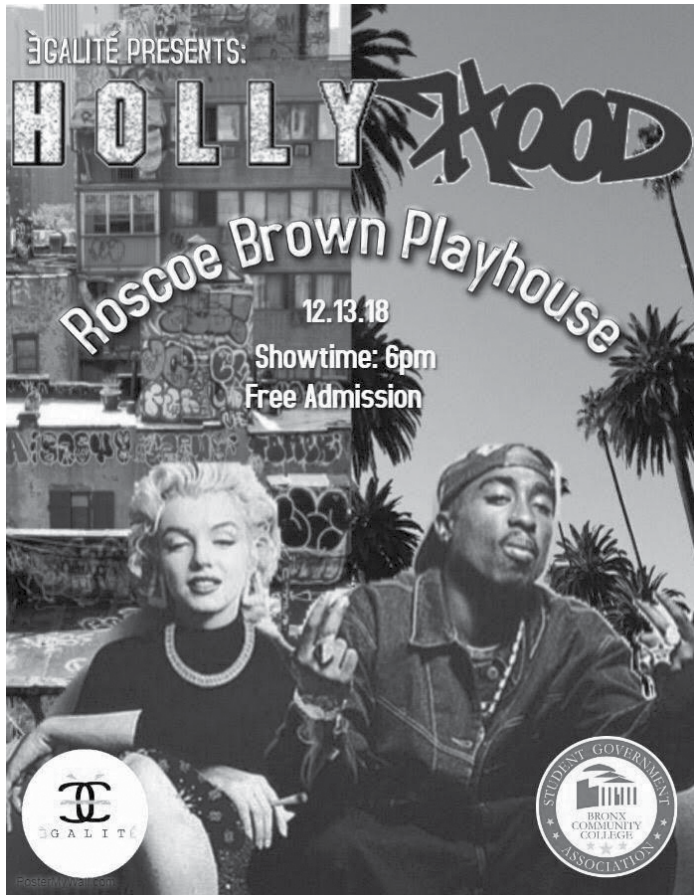
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Michael.Denbo@bcc.cuny.edu
Joseph.Donica@bcc.cuny.edu
Johnathan.Torres@stu.bcc.cuny.edu



Lights, Camera, Égalite?

By Nicholas Fantauzzi (Media and Digital Film Production)

Amber Lake, a marketing management major, has set the stage for a new club at Bronx Community College. She doesn't want this to be just a club; she wants this to be a brand that lasts even after we all graduate. She's using BCC as her runway to turn a dream into a reality. She has said, "I was inspired to start this club because I am and have always been a creative person who lived for fashion. I was involved in a modeling club in my high school, and it was one of the best experiences of my high school career. That club brought me out of my shell and gave me a confidence I only dreamed of having. I wanted to bring what I felt being a part of a modeling club as well as an outlet for other creative people to not only utilize their skills but showcase them to BCC."

"Égalité" is a French word that the first few members and I came up with which is translated to "equality." Our brand name was inspired by my desire to bring equality and diversity into the fashion industry. Fashion has always been so beautiful and unique, but it has mostly been tailored to a people that carry a specific image. There are so many beautiful and creative people that are marginalized because they do not meet that image. Our brand is designed to showcase real beauty, regardless of size, shape, height, skin color, or sexual orientation.

To achieve these goals, we set out to make a distinctive logo as well as to use social media platforms. Our Instagram and Snapchat are *ÉGALITÉSTYLES*. We also have an upcoming production which will highlight who we are, and it will give us an opportunity to show off just a little bit. We are also working to collaborate with other clubs.

The future show planned is called *Hollyhood*, and it will take place in the Roscoe Brown Playhouse on December 13th at 6 pm. This show will include a short documentary of who we are as a club, a performance, including runway and choreography. There will also be the chance for audience members to participate in a runway competition in order to win a prize. It is a great opportunity to come out and watch history being made.

Amber's message to all is that every creative or person interested in modeling should join us because they will have the opportunity to grow in their desired fields, participate in productions, as well as make connections that last a lifetime. For the whole month of November, she conducted auditions to get the wheels turning during club hours, even in venues outside of school. What makes this club so unique is that, despite being new, everyone brings something to the table that helps this club thrive.

One of the most important things in modeling – if not the most important – is presentation, through a brand name or even in pictures. There are people who contribute not only in front of the camera but behind it – which is as important. With the help of Marina Medina (business administration marketing major), we have accomplished something not even money can even buy, which is having her use her expertise from making videos on YouTube to take videos and headshots which you can find on our Instagram and other social media platforms. We also have two entrepreneur clothing designers who are in the process of making our own apparel to represent our club with pride! They are Joel Taveras (business management major) and Liana Marte (liberal arts-sociology major). Why hire professionals when we have talented individuals in our club? There are many people who are contributing to this effort to not having this be not only a club at BCC but an established program as we continue to grow this brand!



Breakfast with Crazy Rich Asians

By Christopher Guerrero (Media and Digital Film Club I.O.C. Representative)

On October 20, 2018 several members of the Media and Digital Film Club were invited to attend a breakfast, movie screening and Q&A session at the Tribeca Film Center. The event was sponsored by The International Cinematographers Guild Master Seminars, Local 600, IATSE. Special thanks to Dejan Georgevich, ASC, Chair of the Eastern Region Education Committee, who moderates the seminars.

The film screened was *Crazy Rich Asians* directed by John M. Chu. The movie is a contemporary romantic comedy based on a global bestseller that follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family. One of my classmates, Niree Garcia Sims had the opportunity to test out the Panasonic VariCam Pure, the exact camera used to shoot *Crazy Rich Asians*. Barry Russo, of Panasonic Media and Entertainment, brought this camera to the pre-screening breakfast. Vanja Černjul served as cinematographer on the film.

Before the Local 600 Master Seminar screening of *Crazy Rich Asians*, I had a chance to briefly speak to Mr. Černjul, telling him I admired his work on the first episode of *The Magicians*. The Syfy Series is a dear favorite of mine, and I felt Vanja's vision for that crucial first episode created a

strong foundation for the way it still looks now, several seasons after he made his mark on the show.

Crazy Rich Asians was an incredibly refreshing take on romantic comedies, and Vanja's approach to its cinematography left quite the enduring effect on



(Left to Right) © Margie Guzman; Frank Deruggiero; Niree Garcia Sims; Vanja Černjul, Cinematographer; Christopher Guerrero; Emmanuel Bush; and Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor, Media and Digital Film Club.

my absorption of the story's beauty. I stayed after the screening to once again speak to Vanja, this time to gain insight on how to develop a strong visual sense as he clearly possesses. Mr. Černjul suggested that I could overcome my lack of confidence brought on by my color blindness by simply embracing the practice of still photography and the occasional study of classic paintings. With attention to what details in color and light I can capture and toy with, he encouraged me to believe that I can gain the strong visual sense I seek.

Meeting Vanja Černjul and being exposed to his work has truly been a revelation. Being a Media and Digital Film Production major and a member of the club in a leadership position

has been a rewarding experience this semester. Joining a student organization presents many opportunities to learn more about yourself, your strengths and goals. This self-awareness will be beneficial in your future career.

The New York Film & Television Student Alliance (NYFTSA) Kicks Off New 2018-2019 Season of *Open Doors* at Bronx Community College

By Keith Burrus (Media and Digital Film Production)
President, Media and Digital Film Club

The New York Film & Television Student Alliance (NYFTSA), in partnership with the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development and the New York Production Alliance (NYPA), kicked off the 2018-2019 school year with a new episode of the *Open Doors: NYFTSA Film Panel Series*. The series, filmed before a live studio audience at Bronx Community College, is produced entirely by student members of the BCC Media and Digital Film Club. The show, which live-streams and is archived on the NYFTSA YouTube channel, was created in 2016 to give film students around the state invaluable film industry access and advice.

This year's series opener focused on women location managers and the wide variety of duties and positions they fill. A December episode is scheduled with a discussion on how to obtain student film permits and other resources offered by The NYC Media and Entertainment Office. The first episode taped last month, and it featured three women film and TV location managers.

Charlynn Hopson is a New York-based location manager. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, after graduating from Adelphi University located in Garden City, Long Island, she permanently moved to New York to pursue a career in film and television. Her first job was working as an office production assistant on the feature film *Fly by Night* thanks to the generosity of Spike Lee and his Forty Acres and a Mule production company. She went on to work as a location assistant on numerous Spike Lee films, including *Clockers*, *Girl 6*, *He Got Game* and *24th Hour*. Eventually, she worked her way up to assistant location manager/location manager. She's worked with such directors as Forest Whitaker, Penny Marshall, Bill Duke, Kevin Smith, and Ed Zwick and on numerous television shows, including *The Black Donnellys*, *Pan Am* and the CBS series *Blue Bloods*. She is currently working as a location manager on the Netflix limited series about the Central Park Five, which is being directed by Ava Duvernay (*Selma*, *13th*, *A Wrinkle in Time*). Charlynn also was a producer on the independent feature *Citizen X*, directed by actor Doug E. Doug.

Mara Alcaly is a New York-based location manager and native New Yorker. After earning her degree in art history from NYU, Mara accepted a position in the location department of her first feature film. This opportunity launched an exciting decade (plus) long career where she has honed her scouting and management skills, working her way up to her current position of location manager. Her credits include *The Girl on the Train*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *The Bourne Legacy*, *Crashing*, and more. Mara resides in Brooklyn with her husband and son and is currently working on the first season of *Ramy*, a series for Hulu, produced by A-24.

Malaika Johnson was born and raised in Queens, New York. Malaika decided that she wanted to work in the film industry after

seeing *Terminator 2: Judgement Day* in theaters. Malaika studied media studies at Queens College, and it was during this time that she worked on her first set as a production assistant (PA) for one of AMC's earliest scripted shows, *Remember WENN*. Malaika worked on various independent films after college before moving on to bigger budgeted productions where she started working in the locations department. She is currently a location scout for a new CBS series in production called *The Code*.

During the show, film students learned what locations mean to your characters and what it means as a character in your film. We learned what is a location scout/manager and how to find and secure the best location for your student film project. All three guests talked about logistical, creative, and practical considerations regarding your location(s). Also, how student filmmakers get the most production value out of a location was discussed. In addition, we discussed the role of the location manager and scout on a production and why it's a great department to begin a production career in.

After the taping, The Media and Digital Film Club hosted a pizza reception in honor of our guests. One of the location managers, Mala Alcaly, provided club members with A24 sweatshirts. Mara is currently working on the first season of *Ramy*, a series for Hulu produced by A-24. Since starting five years ago, A24 has produced one hit film after another, with *Moonlight* being last year's Oscar winner for Best Motion Picture.



BCC Media and Digital Film Club members producing live OPEN DOORS web-cast of the season opener *Women on Location*. Photograph by Dylan Stewart



Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky (moderator), film and TV location managers Mara Alcaly, Charlynn Hopson, and Malaika Johnson on the set of *Open Doors* live web-cast 2018-2019 season opener, "Women on Location."



Members of the Media and Digital Film Club pose with A24 sweat shirts donated to club members who produce the show bi-monthly in the BCC TV studio. Photograph by Dylan Stewart

Eldercare, Our Families and Us

By Robert Josman (Nuclear Medical Technology)

We have all heard of the ageing of our population. I'm sure that just that mention brings to mind a parent, grandparent, or some other relative near and dear to you that is in their advanced years. Because of better diet and medical care, the average life expectancy has risen sharply in the past 50 years. But our ageing population has opened a series of issues that many families struggle with daily, as the situation takes its toll. That toll is not only financially hard but also emotionally hard as well.

I have written this based on what I recently went through over the past several years. I'm not a lawyer or expert in these matters, but I found it to be a great learning experience. My hope is that through my experience others might gain some benefit. That doesn't mean what worked for my family will work for yours, or perhaps a part of it will. Each situation is different.

As I'm active in several leadership roles on campus, some of you may have heard what I went through recently, losing both parents and my sister, my only sibling, in a roughly 2-½ year period.

Having Older Parents

My parents were older than most when I was born. My father used to say that the six years of the Second World War got in the way of his meeting anyone. Later in life, he would refer to it as his "European Vacation." Both he and my mother were children of the Great Depression. They both went to Juilliard, and they were married the week after graduation. After teaching for a while, my father started one of the premier classical music performance companies, working as its Music Director and Conductor for almost 50 years. My mother sang with the company as a soprano soloist, while at the same time working in the office full time and raising my sister and me. At the time she was doing this many women stayed home with their children, but money was tight, and things had to get done. Working together they figured out a way to make it work. We had a very small family as both my parents were only children.

Growing up they did not own a television, and we ate a lot of chicken for dinner as it was the cheapest meat. A big night out was going to the local family run Italian restaurant and getting a pizza occasionally. There were no vacations period, full stop; we just could not afford them. Each summer we would drive in two days nearly 1,300 miles to Nova Scotia to the old family home until early September, before returning to New York City. They instilled in my sister and me a great drive to succeed, to find a way to get things done with almost nothing. One of the best things I picked up from them was a great love of reading and not just for fun, but also to learn. I always laughed when one of my teachers called home about my choice of book for my book report. They couldn't understand how some kid would rather read about Henry the VIII or something similar rather than a Judy Blume book.

When my father passed away, they had been married over 58 years. There were good times and bad. But somehow they were able to make it work. They kept a roof over our heads, kept us fed, clothed, and out of trouble. Most importantly, they enabled us to be ready to go out into the world to make our own way. They allowed us to make our own mistakes. Even when they knew what would happen before us, they were smart enough to let us figure things out on our own. Their one general rule was to do what you want as long as you took care of your responsibilities, such as your own family when you had one. A second part of that rule, but no less important, was that whatever you do, you should be able to look yourself in the mirror each morning.

I don't really have a name to give to it, but when my parents both became critically ill, I felt it was my responsibility to help them for all they had done for me.

Illness Comes, Being a Caregiver

My father had a long-term battle with prostate cancer. He had surgery and a very aggressive course of radiation treatments over the course of several months. During which time he "only" went to the office one day a week and worked from home. Seventeen years later, he died. The last two years of his life he was having obvious symptoms, but he kept them hidden. He worked up to about six months before he died. In his last weeks of life, we asked him why, and he just said he had too many things to do and what would it have changed to complain at his age. He was nearly ninety when he died.

He was a large man, not fat, just tall and muscular all his life. Seeing him waste away to less than 100 pounds was hard on my mother. You could tell it bothered him to not be able to do even the smallest thing for himself. Since my sister lived in California, I was the only other caregiver here in New York.

During his prolonged illness, in the last several months I got my first taste of the rules and regulations of eldercare. The paperwork never seemed to end. The first thing I learned was if something is not clear to you, ask questions. If it's still not clear, ask again. I kept all the paperwork in an orderly file as well as the names, dates and contact information of all the people I talked to about my father's care. This helped us get him into a rehab portion of a nursing home for several weeks between his hospital stays. He could not get out of bed on his own and the hospital originally wanted to send him home. Therefore, I say ask and ask again.

After he passed, my mother and I meet with an attorney and a financial advisor to get his affairs in order. That was in July. My sister came from California that Christmas, and she had several seizures before being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor that had come on suddenly. The following November, my sister passed away. Unlike my father's passing this was a shock; she was only 52 at the time. With this sudden passing we meet again with the advisors and set up a Healthcare Proxy and a Durable Power of Attorney. I will talk about them shortly, but they were a godsend as my mother became critically ill shortly thereafter.

My mother was already in her eighties when my father and sister passed, but I had been noticing changes in her that bothered me. At first, I chalked it up to her age when she forgot this or that. But things started to change drastically in large jumps. For example, she did two last concerts at Lincoln Center as a soprano soloist doing Mozart's *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah* from memory, but she could not remember why she came to the concert hall that night. She began to plan imaginary dinner parties or decide at 2 am that she had to get up and go to a meeting somewhere. She was living alone and was starting to wander away without knowing where she was going or who she was.

After one of these episodes, she was hospitalized, and they were finally able to do a full work up on her. As expected, she came back with a diagnosis of advanced "Major Cognitive Impairment," which is basically Alzheimer's. This is where the fun really began. The hospital and doctors made it clear that she needed to be in a nursing home with a secured area for dementia patients.

I started trying to find a place for her, but the hospital was pressuring me to get her moved as they wanted the bed space and medically could do nothing further for her. About a week into the process I arrived at the hospital to have them announce to me that my mother would be transported in 30 minutes to a nursing home they had selected in another borough. They showed me the paperwork they had her sign saying she approved the transfer. I made it clear to them that she could not sign anything as she didn't know what she was signing because of her dementia. They became rather quiet when I asked them if they would agree to send their mother, in her condition, to a facility that they had just heard of, let alone looked at.

With that Healthcare Proxy and Durable Power of Attorney in place they could not do anything without my "OK." Even though these were on file with the hospital, they still tried to push her out. With these documents I could make medical decisions for my mother's care and sign documents on her behalf.

As I said before ask questions, get things in writing.

Due Diligence Is Important

Working with an eldercare attorney made the process much easier, as he had a member of his team that is a specialist in getting people into nursing homes that are the right fit. She was able to show me where and how to quickly get important information on them. The state and city licenses these facilities and inspects them regularly. You can get the information about how clean the facility is. Do they have a large enough medical staff on hand? Have they had an outbreak of a preventable illness like the flu or worse? I would strongly suggest you go see the facility as well. Take a tour, see the dining room, get a copy of the menu, and get a copy of what activities they have for their residents both in and outside of the facility. Go see the physical therapy room and the library. Most of all, ask to see a room that would be an example of where your family member would be. Look at how well or not it is maintained. Is it clean? Is there peeling paint, as well as other issues, throughout the facility that would raise red flags about how well the facility is maintained? Look, especially, at the patients already there. Do they look like they are being cared for adequately? Things as simple as, are your feet sticking to the floor because a spill was not cleaned up, or is there dust everywhere, are important. Most of all don't be afraid to ask questions. Without the eldercare attorneys, finding this information is not that easy.

Takeaways from the Experience

As you may have heard, nursing homes can be prohibitively expensive for most families. Since my mother did not have insurance, just Medicare, I thought they would pay the majority of it, and I would have to cover the remaining 20%. Boy, was I in for a shock. Medicare does not cover long-term nursing home care for dementia. Again, having the eldercare attorneys show me this was a shock, but it helped greatly. They showed me what the options were; for example, she could have gone on Medicaid, and they would have paid for her care. To do so you need to basically turn over all your assets to them. Both my mother and father worked all their lives, and I didn't want the state to just take all that they had worked so hard for. She, however, grew steadily worse, and after just over a year in the nursing home, she passed.

Earlier on in this piece I mentioned the toll eldercare can take on families, especially the direct caregiver, such as myself in the case of both parents. I won't kid you it was tough on many levels. I go to college full time and work in a field that regularly requires more than 40 hours a week. It is a very high stress

continued on page 7

BCC and CUNY Students and Faculty Make Their Mark in Mallorca

By Robert Josman (Nuclear Medical Technology)

Bronx Community College, through the Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Dr. Neal Phillip, applied for and won the one 2018 Center for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Faculty Led Study Abroad Access grant (\$20,000) from among the over 250 schools that applied, to take 10 BCC/CUNY students to conduct sustainability activities on the island of Palma de Mallorca, Spain from June 1-June 16, 2018.

Dr. Phillip and the other faculty lead, Ms. Shaneza Rohoman, an academic advisor and adjunct lecturer in the Chemistry and Chemical Technology Department, worked with Ms. Loida Cedenro and Dean Alexander Ott of the BCC Study Abroad Office, Dr. Sheldon Skaggs and Dr. Soosairaj Therese, both of the Chemistry Department, and Professor Andrew Rowan of the English Department to select seven Bronx Community College students with backgrounds in the sciences and non-sciences: (Willmar Guzman Ulloa-computer science; Mary Martinez Nunez-chemistry; Samantha Ramcharran-liberal arts; Ylianny Paulino Batista-accounting; Adrianny Montero Nunez-biology; Grissel de Jesus Sosa-chemistry; and Anthonella Contreras Linarez-chemistry); as well as Jessica Chiu (City College-engineering); Kristin Donovan Hudgins (Lehman-biology); and Mayra Guaman (York College-environmental science) to participate in the program.

Mallorca is an island of just under one million permanent inhabitants, but it boasts more than 10 million tourists during the summer season. The students had a highly successful trip to Mallorca and counted among their many accomplishments the following:



BCC and CUNY students training high school students about sustainability STEM activities.



Students at the Colegio san Cayetano setting up the weather station.



A five-hour hike through the mountains of Mallorca.

Prior to departure, they were trained in the collection of climate and air pollution data using specially designed weather stations affixed to their backpacks. In Mallorca, they installed a solar powered/wireless weather station they had brought from New York for a high school in Mallorca (Colegio san Cayetano), conducted a STEM workshop for 80 local high school students, conducted a STEM workshop for 30 American high school students studying abroad, conducted a Collective Social Learning Workshop for 350 local students, and held a Skype session with the Great Barrier Reef in Australia to learn about the issues surrounding climate change and coral reef habitat destruction.

Other activities included:

- a visit to Spanish Oceanographic Institution where students learned about marine ecology issues facing Europe and dissected fish to see on the health of their species,
- a visit to the famed Cathedral in Mallorca (built in the 16th century) while collecting climate and pollution data, and Bellver Castle (built in the 12th century) whilst also collecting climate/pollution data,
- a 10-mile bike ride along the Palma coast while collecting climate data and pollution, using the backpack weather stations,
- a 5-hour mile trek through the mountains of Mallorca from the town of Soller to Deia while observing plant and animal biodiversity, remnants of Arab agricultural practices when they ruled Spain, and collecting climate data using backpack weather stations.
- a 1-hour (each way) boat ride to Cabrera National Park (also a military installation) while collecting climate/pollution data and conducting water quality tests of the surrounding waters.

They also learned how to cook paella conejo (rabbit meat) and marisco (fish), make almond cake and watermelon soup from with the help of a trained Mallorcan chef.

As a result of the successes on the trip, Dr. Phillip and two of the students, Willmar Guzman Ulloa and Grissel de Jesus Sosa, were invited to present at the 26th Annual Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, from November 26-28, 2018. They presented their work in Mallorca as a model for community engagement in tourist destinations in the Asia-Pacific-Oceania region. Along with presenting at the conference, the students also helped install a weather station at a high school, conducted similar STEM activities with their backpack weather stations, and they engaged with local students in collective social learning workshops.

See page 8 for other student global opportunities at BCC

Eldercare, Our Families and Us *continued from page 6*

environment on a daily basis. It has also played havoc with my educational advancement because there were classes that I tried to pull through, but I had to withdraw from the classes. This happened several semesters in a row, but each time I was knocked down, I got back up. It's as though my parents have given me one last bit of guiding advice. Having to take additional time to complete my education, I have been able to avail myself of many more opportunities to further my studies, such as a competitive Research Fellowship and being a mentor to two students in the CUNY I Corps NSF Short Course, opportunities that I would not have had if all this had not happened.

Although I have done this in a story form, and not a dry legal list, I hope it helps get across the importance of eldercare. The options I chose were right for me, and they may or may not be best for you and your family. There are a number of organizations that can provide you with eldercare legal and medical advice. Both New York City and state have specialized areas that provide help at little or no cost. There is also the New York Bar Association where some of the lawyers who are members offer no cost eldercare legal assistance.

There were bumps along the way, but having the expert advice on these legal and medical eldercare issues was an immense help. If you want more detailed information from me, you can reach me through *The Communicator* (bcc.communicator@gmail.com).

In a 2-1/2 year span I lost my father, sister and mother, as well as my 17-year-old Labrador retriever. I could not have made it through all of this without being willing to ask a lot of questions and get clarifications of things I didn't understand. This may not be a pleasant thing to talk about with your family members, but try. It's a lot easier to set up eldercare in advance, rather than in a crisis like I did. The Durable Power of Attorney allowed me to pay my mothers bills. The Healthcare Proxy explicitly stated what my mother wanted in the end, to go with the class and dignity she lived her life with.

People have asked me how I was able to do it. How did I hold it together and do the best that I could in my parent's time of need? My only response to that is would they have done any less for me as a child.

Study- and Volunteer-Abroad Opportunities for BCC Students



The CUNY Office of International Education and BCC urge our community college students to explore study- and volunteer opportunities. There are numerous programs (as well as scholarship funds) throughout the University system, including the volunteer-abroad scholarship offered at BCC (described below).

Be sure to check your email at the beginning of the spring semester for the Broadcast announcement for BCC's Spring Study- and Volunteer Forum. We will bring to you information about CUNY programs as well as funding opportunities, including scholarships, and how to use financial aid to fund your experience.

Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund (MSLF) Scholarships for Volunteer Abroad / Summer 2019 Bronx Community College



*Working in an orphanage
in Peru*

In 2006, one of Bronx Community College's most distinguished faculty members, Professor Michael Steuerman, passed away. Professor Steuerman served BCC in a number of ways: as a professor of Health and Physical Education, as wrestling coach, as chair of the college's Curriculum Committee, and as Dean of Students. Beyond BCC, he was honored as CUNY's Director of Athletics and as coach of Israel's national wrestling team. In addition, he founded and led Project Share, a college-based food collaborative for Bronx families. At the same time, Professor

Steuerman became actively engaged with the World Hunger Project, an international organization that seeks to eradicate world hunger.



*Building houses for
Habitat for Humanity,
Malawi*

His enterprising, values-rich, and generous life touched many, and he is sorely missed. Professor Steuerman addressed large, societal goals and was equally committed to empowering individuals. He believed that successful community college students brought special talents and strengths to society – and as they had been helped by others, so were they obligated to share their learning and skills.

Bronx Community College, where he served with such distinction, is working to honor his commitment to community college students and to keep his legacy alive through service-oriented scholarships.

The Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund was established to highlight and sustain his belief in community college students and service learning by supporting BCC students. Each year, the MSLF awards one or two summer scholarships for up to \$2,500 to students who apply for distinctive international service-learning projects and propose realistic ways to bring their experiences and findings to share with Bronx Community College students.



*Volunteering in a Sri
Lankan hospital*

Applications will be available on Monday, January 28, 2019. For further information, please contact Professor Andrew Rowan at andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu or Ms. L. Vicki Cedeño at Loida.cedeno@bcc.cuny.edu.

To My Ancestral Mother

By Yubelka Nuñez (Liberal Arts)

I am the sweat from your brow,
the callus in your heavy hands and tired feet,
the burning heat on your sun-kissed skin—
I am the fruit of your labor;
a harvest you did not reap.

You survived the genocide of the Taino,
the system of the encomienda,
centuries of European colonization,
the Dominican War of Independence,
the Dominican Restoration War,
World War II,
and the Dominican Civil War.
You are the Spirit of resistance and perseverance,
and your spirit lives in me.

I am the journal entries desperately written on paper napkins.
Moments of inspiration saved in mental pictures.
I am the stitch of embroidery on your handmade clothes.
The Sancocho you created with the little bit of this and that when
you were cold.
I am the child you chose you to keep.
The stories you refused to silence.
I am the family you chose to feed.
I am the sting from the ruler your teacher chastised you with.
The books you hid in your little corner because you refused to be
subjected to mental bondage;
through reading you were free.
I am the love notes you wished you'd written to yourself.
The poem your body conceived when you unleashed your power.
I am the formation of Los Tres Ojos, fractured and collapsed only to
be filled with water
of depths unknown.
You and I are made from the same cup; our cup runs over.
I am your fresh-water reflection, that first mirror you gazed into with
admiration for your natural beauty.
Your essence is my inner beauty.

When you grieved over the separation of families,
dangerous labor, starvation, abuse, infectious disease,
and your invisibility in government,
I felt your pain.
(Some of these conditions are the same today)
Your tearful prayers echo through me.
Your voice stirs my soul every morning and tells me that I can wake up
and stay woke,
that I too can fight, and leave an imprint in this world.
Ancestral Mother, You were never alone in your burdens.
Although you carried a heavy load,
your love for womanhood was always certain.
Your wisdom guides me in my sleep, your memories encrypted in images
and symbols only I could see.
Understand...
You and I and all our ancestral mothers are connected through the
universal consciousness.
Your traumas pinch my soul.
The wounds that have reopened in the face of my adversities, I know you
feel them too.
They are our own, and from them we push forth with the strength
of a goddess warrior.
Your experience makes me your apprentice.
I'm eager to walk in your audacity
to sow in faith
the dreams I get to witness become manifested.

I am the sweat from your brow,
the callus in your heavy hands and tired feet,
the burning heat on your sun-kissed skin—
I am the fruit of your labor;
a harvest you did not reap.
But a legacy that's yours to keep.

It's OK

By Maritza Ortiz (Liberal Arts)

It's ok to be sad.
It's ok to cry, to feel pain, laughter and pride.
It's ok to be human and fail when you try.
It's ok to love as if you've found the last star in the sky.
It's ok to want better and strive in your life.
It's ok to leave things and people behind.
It's ok to be broken and realize the strength you carry inside.
It's ok to love yourself and not have to hide.
It's ok to live in the open and still not let anyone inside.
Just know that everything will be ok in your life.
Even when all you can do is cry and feel everything at the same time.
It's ok,
just wake up today
and try.



We Have a Winner!!! - Rhyannon Cole

Rhyannon Cole, an 18-year-old BCC did a fantastic job in winning the first BCC "The Voice" talent competition by the slimmest of margins. The College community congratulates Rhyannon on a battle well fought with grace and dignity. Everyone who watched her grow from her audition in early October to Tuesday's finale wishes her the best in the future.

— Clifford L Marshall II, Manager,
Male Empowerment Network
Diverse Paths, Common Goal

Write from the heart.

THE WRITING CENTER

Writing is a process of exploration and discovery.



We offer support for writing in all subjects:
CATW
English & ESL
Education
Geography
History
Art & Music History
Psychology
Sociology
All sciences

Writing Center Hours
Monday 10am-8pm
Tuesday 9am-9pm
Wednesday 9am-9pm
Thursday 9am-8pm
Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-3pm
Sunday 10am-3pm



We aren't here because students can't write; we're here because they do.

Peter Elbow, UMass
Mary Wiyeth, St John's U

The Writing Center
SAGEHALL ROOM 100
Jan Robertson, Director; Kenisha Thomas, Assistant Director
718-289-5279

PROOFREADING POLICY: Sometimes students wish to have their papers proofread. Proof reading implies co-authoring, raising issues of academic integrity. Students who come to The Writing Center should show they have reviewed their work independently, or they can be given the opportunity to edit independently. The tutor will suggest ways the student can identify errors, and using instructional materials, teach the student error correction.

Inter-Session Reading List / 2018-2019

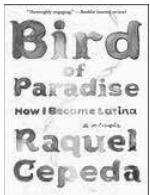
Prose & Poetry / Fiction & Nonfiction

Women explore the power of gender. Race/ethnicity, identity, and power and privilege in honor of the record number of American women elected to the United States Congress in November 2018.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We Should All Be Feminists* (2015)

The author argues for a 21st-century, inclusive definition of feminism. She reaches into her own experiences to illuminate the often between-the-lines realities of sexual politics. She details of what it means to be a woman now, offering a rallying cry for why we should all be feminists.

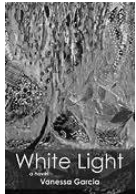


Raquel Cepeda, *Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina* (2013)

After almost losing her estranged father to heart disease, Cepeda determines to learn more about her heritage. In the mirror, she sees a racial and ethnic mosaic, but she needs further answers about her identity. Using the science of DNA, she begins her exploration that will eventually blossom into a discourse on the concepts of race, identity, and ancestral

DNA among Latinos, especially Dominican

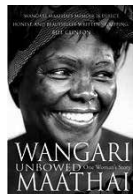
Americans. Along the way, she also achieves a limited accord with her father.



Vanessa Garcia, *White Light* (2015)

In the throes of grief and confusion after the death of her loved but difficult Cuban-American father, the novel's protagonist struggles to deal with her heartache and to pursue her dream of becoming a visual artist. In so doing, she is able to assimilate her views of the past and the present and her past and present heritages. This brilliant first novel was awarded the Kirkus Prize which, in its review, stated that this masterwork

was a "lush, vibrant portrayal of the creative process, a daughter's love, and the unstoppable maelstrom of grief."



Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed* (2006)

Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and a single mother of three, Wangari Maathai – charismatic, humble, and spiritual – recounts her extraordinary life as a political activist, feminist, and environmentalist in Kenya. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in the United States, she became the first woman to earn a PhD in East and Central Africa and to head a university department in

Kenya. In *Unbowed*, she explains the political and personal reasons that compelled her to establish the

Green Belt Movement in 1977, which spread across Africa to help restore indigenous forests with the assistance of rural women who were paid to plant trees in their villages. As assistant minister for the environment and as a member of Parliament, her courage and determination helped transform Kenya's government into a democracy.



Celeste Ng, *Everything I Never Told You* (2014)

At the outset of her award-winning debut novel, Ng establishes that the oldest daughter of the Chinese-

American Lee family has died. What follows is an exploration of alienation, achievement, race, gender, family, and identity--as the police investigate Lydia's death. The Lee family uncovers information about the sister and daughter they thought they knew. Ng's novel was a *New York Times* bestseller, a winner of the Alex Award, and winner of the APALA Award for Fiction.

the Alex Award,



Michelle Obama, *Becoming* (2018)

Former First Lady Michelle Obama has stated, "In sharing my story, I hope to help create space for other stories and other voices, to widen the pathway for who belongs and why." The web site for *Becoming* notes that this memoir is "a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, where she invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of

Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address." In so doing, she encourages both men and women to find their best selves and to work together for the common good.



Zainab Salbi, *Between Two Worlds: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (2006)

When she was 11 years old, Zainab Salbi's father was chosen to be Saddam Hussein's personal pilot, and her family's life became entwined with his. Her mother began to teach her the skills she needed to survive: how to present the plastic smile, and how to say "yes," even when you want to say "no."

Salbi recounts how she saw Hussein's tyranny first hand. As a privileged child, a typically cynical teenager, an abused wife, and ultimately a public figure, her one protection has been her silence. In this memoir, she presents a quest for truth by giving voice to themes of power, fear, and sexual subjugation.



Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream* (1949)

"I began to see racism and its rituals of segregation as a symptom of a grave illness," Smith writes in this courageous, insightful, and eloquent critique of the pre-1960s South. Published to wide controversy, it has influenced much contemporary thinking about race relations, and it was for many Americans across the color line a catalyst for the civil rights movement. The Kirkus Reviews has noted that this is a book "for all who are concerned with the future, rather than the past." This review adds that it is "always courageous, even on that difficult ground of hurting those one loves, exploring "causes behind the walls of custom, of good taste, of evasions. She has dared to look into the poverty making pattern of southern life and beliefs and boasts," finding "close links between the South's attitudes towards sin, sex, and segregation."



Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose* (2004)

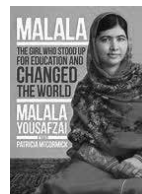
In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens is a collection of the non-fiction writings of poet and novelist

Alice Walker from 1965 to 1983. The writings gathered here, which include book reviews, speeches, articles, and personal statements, cease to be simply responses by the writer to singular events. The artist has gathered the remnants of her own personal history and pieced them together as a living gift, anticipating the needs of the daughters" (Opal Moore, University of Iowa).



Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)

In 1905 *The House of Mirth* shocked the New York upper-crust society it so deftly exposed, portraying the moral, social, and economic limitations on a woman – any woman – who dared to claim the privileges of marriage without assuming the responsibilities and restraints. As Lily Bart nears thirty, her prospects have become scarce. A poor girl with expensive tastes, she needs a husband to preserve her social standing and to maintain her in the luxury she demands. Battling her own independent spirit, however, prevents her from achieving her goal.



Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (2013)

Daud Khayyak (*Newark Star Ledger*) states that this "A story for each and every girl who chooses to break societal taboos, challenge the clergy, declare war against illiteracy and believe in the power of the pen." Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education when the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan in October 2012.

A *New York Times* editorial (October 10, 2012) stated that "If Pakistan has a future, it is embodied in Malala Yousafzai. Yet the Taliban so feared this 14-year-old girl that they tried to assassinate her. Her supposed offense? Her want of an education and her public advocacy for it." In 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Bronx Community College Broncos Basketball Fall 2018 / Spring 2019



Men's basketball team in action against Monroe College in the Alumni Gymnasium.

Men's Basketball Schedule

Thursday, December 13, 2018 / 7 PM / Queensborough Community College
 Thursday, January 3, 2019 / 7.30 PM / at Queensborough CC
 Friday, January 4, 2019 / 7 PM / Bergen Community College
 Tuesday, January 8, 2019 / 7 PM / Westchester Community College
 Thursday, January 10, 2019 / 8 PM / at Kingsborough Community College
 Saturday, January 12, 2019 / 3 PM / at Rockland CC
 Tuesday, January 15, 2019 / TBD / at Monroe-Bronx (at New Rochelle)
 Thursday, January 17, 2019 / 7 PM / at SUNY Orange
 Sunday, January 20, 2019 / 3 PM / at SUNY Ulster
 Tuesday, January 22, 2019 / 8 PM / at Dutchess Community College
 Thursday, January 24, 2019 / 7 PM / ASA-Manhattan
 Tuesday, January 29, 2019 / 7.30 PM / at Borough of Manhattan Community College
 Thursday, January 31, 2019 / 8 PM / Nassau Community College
 Saturday, February 2, 2019 / 2 PM / at Suffolk County Community College
 Thursday, February 7, 2019 / 7 PM / Hostos Community College
 Tuesday, February 11, 2019 / TBD / CUNYAC Tournament
 Friday, February 15, 2019 / TBD / CUNYAC Championship

Women's Basketball Schedule

Thursday, December 13, 2018 / 5 PM / Queensborough Community College
 Thursday, January 3, 2019 / 5.30 PM / at Queensborough Community College
 Friday, January 4, 2019 / 5 PM / Bergen Community College
 Tuesday, January 8, 2019 / 5 PM / Westchester Community College
 Thursday, January 10, 2019 / 6 PM / at Kingsborough Community College
 Saturday, January 12, 2019 / 1 PM / at Rockland Community College
 Tuesday, January 15, 2019 / TBA / at Monroe-Bronx (at New Rochelle)
 Thursday, January 17, 2019 / 5 PM / at SUNY Orange
 Sunday, January 20, 2019 / 1 PM / at SUNY Ulster
 Tuesday, January 22, 2019 / 6 PM / at Dutchess Community College
 Thursday, January 24, 2019 / 5 PM / ASA-Manhattan
 Tuesday, January 29, 2019 / 5.45 PM / at Borough of Manhattan Community College
 Thursday, January 31, 2019 / 6 PM / Nassau Community College
 Saturday, February 3, 2019 / 12 PM / at Suffolk County Community College
 Thursday, February 7, 2019 / 5 PM / HOSTOS Community College
 Tuesday, February 11, 2019 / TBD / CUNYAC Tournament
 Friday, February 15, 2019 / TBD / CUNYAC Championship

Support your Broncos!!!!

By Nicholas Fantauzzi (Media and Digital Film Production)

Not only is it the season to be jolly but it's also the start of the basketball season for both our men's and women's teams. These players aren't playing to win games; they're playing to keep their dreams and careers alive. You can tell in the way they play, their tenacity, and their assertiveness like this cornered animal-like mentality. It is a beautiful thing to watch.

After talking with Assistant Coach Lamont Watson (men's basketball), we had the same vision and goal for the team. That goal is to build a long-lasting culture of excellence. Many people see community college athletics as something that's rudimentary and as a place where your dreams to play in a big school die. However, that's not the case. As author Jonathan Swift said, "Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." You all have to start somewhere and it's not how you start but how you finish to get where you envision yourself to be. NBA star Jimmy Butler started in a community college, and he worked his way to play for Marquette University where NBA players such as future Hall of Famer Dwayne Wade also began. For all current and future athletes, this is where you make your mark to bring you where you deserve to be. The atmosphere at games is lively and intense, but more people should come to the games. We need to be in their corner as they fight.

Bouncing back from both losses to Monroe College in the Alumni Gymnasium, both teams showed an intensity and continuity which was missing before. Leading an offensive display of multiple moves on the men's basketball team, Tilquan Rucker scoring over 25 points in two straight games.

Both teams kept their feet on the gas pedal as they got their records to .500, and they are hungry for more to show that their dreams don't stop, rather, the dreams have only begun.



**Sure, We're All Broncos,
But What Is Our
Mascot's Name?**

Most of us know that the
Bronx Community College's Mascot
is a Bronco, but what is the
BCC Mascot's name?

Help to name our
beloved BCC Mascot!

Vote today at

<https://goo.gl/uCaiWm>