

# THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2019

The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College

Issue 3, Spring 2019

## BCC Hosts Tutors' Alliance Conference: Staff Reflections

### *Who's Gonna Wanna Go to a Tutors' Conference?*

**Jan Robertson, Director, BCC Writing Center**

After a week of warm, sunny spring days, cold and rain were predicted for Friday, April 5, 2019. Despite all the prayers and hopes that the forecast would be wrong, we woke up to damp, cold gray fog and a chill drizzle. We were certain that the Tutors' Alliance conference, *Out of the Shadows and Into the Light*, was doomed, the months of hard work down the drain - the CFP, the proposals, the flyers, the program, the name tags, the phone calls, emails, but, maybe worst of all, a colleague's cynical observation affirmed, "Who's gonna wanna go to a tutors' conference?"

But when I walked into the Meister Lobby that morning, carrying the box of beautiful canvas bags stamped with our conference logo, breakfast was already set up, Writing Center staff were seated at the welcome table, and guests were gathering. Within minutes, a long line formed to register and receive their nametags and bags; guests started pouring in, and tutors from everywhere were introducing themselves and engaging in discussions. Undaunted tutors from twelve colleges had traveled from John Jay, Queens College, Lehman, Brooklyn College, Fordham University, City Tech, BMCC, City College, Hostos, Medgar Evers, Baruch, and, of course, Bronx Community College. Pure joy infused the air, dissipating the chill and the rain with the undeniable warmth of enthusiastic anticipation to share ideas and experiences with those who would listen and understand.

As I walked around observing the spirited interactions in sessions, a comment from another colleague came to mind: that we, at the Writing Center, were "trying to be a family," and that was "unprofessional." That morning, I recognized what I have long known, that all tutors from across the disciplines share multiple commonalities. We share language: words and concepts such as listening, reciprocity, patience, scaffolding, among dozens of others; habits, expectations, joys, successes, and frustrations. At this conference, tutors met to share what

they know, to learn, and to collect ideas, strategies, philosophies, pedagogies and projects, to inspire each other, to validate their existence as a profession. Most importantly, to truly find the answer to the original question: "who's gonna wanna go?" to this first-ever Bronx based, BCC funded, all-CUNY, all-tutors' conference, ask the 150 participants who, by the way, without trying at all, are a community of practice, a family, relevant, scholarly and, yes, professional.



*On the promenade of the Hall of Fame, College Discovery and Writing Center tutors chat, network and make connections on the way to lunch.*



*(L. to R.) Betty (handing out the canvas bags), Franchely, Elizabeth, Rohanie and Tamanna welcome and sign-in participants.*

### *Out of the Shadows and Into the Light* **Kenisha Thomas, Assistant Director, The Writing Center**

Bronx Community College (BCC) is an eclectic mix of races, religions, cultures and interests. Hard at work in almost every academic department on campus is a select group of well-trained professionals who often serve in the shadows but who are remarkably committed to the success of BCC's students. They are the tutors of Bronx Community College. Academically diverse, with degrees ranging from Associates to Masters and majors from Business, Education, Psychology and Social Work to Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Art, Creative Writing and English, the tutors are an integral part of the College's teaching and learning process. Brendon Duran Faraa, an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Western Cape, South Africa, writes that "the academic support tutors provide beyond the traditional classroom is crucial for improving students' academic success, maximizing engagement and increasing retention."

Having successfully navigated the sometimes tempestuous waters of higher education, the tutors have become key learning partners to students. They simultaneously function as peers, guides, helpers, collaborators and sounding boards bridging the gap between the classroom and the library, or the classroom and home. Tutors are very often a lifeline for students. The support they offer (or not based on different constraints) has meant the difference between students remaining in college

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## Outgoing SGA President's Farewell to Students

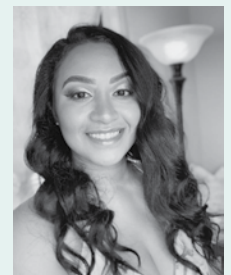
Dear Broncos,

First and foremost I want to say great job this semester and congratulations on getting to the end, even through the hardships we faced the first weeks of classes and with the battles we have every day within our lives. The commitment to our education and academics I see in my peers is admirable and inspirational.

On Thursday, May 2nd at the President's and Dean's List Induction, over 1,600 students were inducted and celebrated. It was well deserved. I can't even begin to express how proud I am of all of you. I am honored to have represented you all. As part of this graduating class and your outgoing SGA President, I want to wish you all success and luck on all future endeavors, and congratulations to all the graduates. It was my honor and pleasure to be amongst and serve the best of the best of the Bronx here at BCC.

It is after a great year of battles and triumphs I say farewell to all my peers, constituents and colleagues.

With Love,  
**Carolina Valenzuela** (Business Administration)  
SGA President - 2018-2019



*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.

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
- Alexandra Santos

**ON THE RISE**  
with **NJIT**

**INSTANT DECISION DAY**  
every Thursday  
at NJIT

All transfer students can contact Anthony Jackson for dedicated support - [tonyj@njit.edu](mailto:tonyj@njit.edu)

**NJIT**  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Office of University Admissions  
[njit.edu](http://njit.edu)

**The 2019-2020 SGA Election Results Are In!**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the 15 SGA Senator Elects!**

*Selection of Student Government Association Senators for 2019-2020*

*Total Voters: 10,494      Total Votes Submitted: 1,150*

CANDIDATE	VOTES	%
Hope Agbeli-Kwao.....	720.....	7
Kathryn Arias-Kalinowski.....	714.....	7
Tynajah Jackson.....	649.....	6
Christian Davila.....	630.....	6
Diana Valenzuela.....	615.....	6
Stephanie Dorleans.....	606.....	6
Issac Gonzalez.....	604.....	6
Anthony Cuevas.....	558.....	5
Nicholas Fantauzzi.....	530.....	5
Amber Lake.....	516.....	5
Quiana Berry.....	510.....	5
Jeffrey Ewell.....	501.....	5
Chelsey Lopez.....	500.....	5
Jazmin Caldwell.....	472.....	5
Celine Sanders.....	465.....	4

**Have you seen this man?  
If you have, you know that he is here to help you!**

**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](mailto:studentadvocate@bcc.cuny.edu), call him at (718) 289-5469 or visit him in Colston 431.**



or dropping out. However, despite their exceptionalism, tutors remain in the shadows—seemingly marginalized—their contributions to student success often unacknowledged. This conference seeks to bring tutors out of the shadows and into the light where they belong.

**Jason C. Sanchez, M.A.**  
**College Discovery Tutor and Adjunct Lecturer, History**

It was a joy and an honor to attend this spring's Tutor Alliance Conference as a presenter and participant. For my workshop presentation, I had a small yet interested audience eager to listen and ask questions after the end of the session on "A Career Journey from Tutor to Faculty at BCC." Coming from four-year colleges, they were curious to ask, what is the College Discovery (itself a special program especially for two-year colleges) and what is SI? To their delight and to mine, their questions were answered, and I gave them printed handouts of "Ten Tips to Take to Go from Tutor to Faculty for them to take home. It was an honor to present at the conference. As a participant, three experiences stand out. First, I attended a session that coached tutors with how to help students judge reliable from questionable sources (*New York Times*: reliable, or *New York Post*: questionable) when conducting research using the proper format (Chicago, MLA, APA). Second, in that same session, Dr. Juechter presented a video with clips of tutors (including myself) sharing their experiences as a tutor over the years. The third and last experience was kind of a mini-family reunion fitting for a conference such as ours. I saw Jarret, a Writing Center Tutor whom I see every so often on campus, and Lisa Estreich, the current Writing and Literacy Coordinator at Lehman College, whom I had the pleasure of working with as a tutor at Lehman, while I was researching and writing my master's thesis nearly 15 years ago. Together, we caught up on old times, asked about our mutual colleagues, and shared ideas and feelings about the Bronx Tutor Alliance. Overall, the conference had the feel of a family reunion as well as a birth of a new, united alliance of Bronx Tutors. It was a historic experience I will remember for a long time.



*Keynote Speaker, Corey Spencer, former BCC Writing Center tutor, current PhD candidate at Fordham University addressed the participants at lunch.*

**Santana Alvarado, SEEK: College Discovery Tutor (Liberal Arts)**

As a tutor and student, I'm constantly studying and reflecting on how to better my practices and perspectives in education. I believe that is the invisible work of tutors - to create and solidify a liberatory culture in education that, for many reasons, is absent in the classroom. Part of what our outrageously expensive tuition and fees are for is tutoring – that's a big responsibility. This year's tutoring conference was a great reminder, like a refreshing splash of water to my face in the morning, of how important my role is in the college community and in the individual lives of my students and peers. I was excited to facilitate a workshop at the conference titled: How to Use Social Media to Boost Your Grades. My goal was to not only incorporate social media platforms in studying techniques but to use the thought processes common when using technology to strengthen comprehension (i.e., hashtags, emojis, tweets, bios). I think part of my job is also to continually renew my education practices to ensure they're inclusive, relevant, and leave enough room for the student to get through the inevitable grievances of higher education and lifelong learning. I'm grateful to the team that planned and led such a great day, this kind of work should be protected as CUNY gets defunded!

**Chiamaka Emesim, Writing Center Tutor (Pre-Nursing)**

The Bronx Community College's 2019 Tutors Alliance Conference was a memorable and wonderful one. It was a very inspiring event. I enjoyed the motivating speech that was given by the keynote speaker, Mr. Corey Spencer. As a tutor at the writing center and helping with some of the preparations for this event, it was very wonderful seeing it manifest into such a great event. I really enjoyed the session for the Tutorial Intervention Program (TIP). It included a demonstration that showed what happens in a TIP class. This helped us to see tutoring from the student's perspective.

Listening to the stories of other tutors from both Bronx Community College and other colleges was nice because they were also doing similar things I had experienced while tutoring. It made me feel as part of something greater than myself. The theme of the Tutors Alliance Conference, "Out of the Shadows and into the Light" was a very strong one because this conference helped to make known the incredible and wonderful works of tutors wherever they are. The works of tutors are essential and helps the students on a fundamental level, and it should be brought into the light. Tutors are part of the fundamental structure that make up the college community. I want to thank everyone that thought about this and helped to make everything this conference needed possible.

**Miguel Gil, Writing Center Tutor and Non-teaching Adjunct**

My name is Miguel Gil, veteran tutor, and I have to say that from beginning to end my experience of Bronx Community College's 2019 Tutors' Alliance Conference was enlightening and meaningful, both attending various workshops but also as a presenter.

I have to say that in all of my roughly 27 years tutoring for BCC's Writing Center, as well as instructing as workshop facilitator as well as a College Adjunct Instructor for the English Department at Bronx Community College, I found my work and association with other tutors and the staff that took part as a deeply inspirational and introspective to all the work I have done with tutors and students of the past and present. To respond how it was for me? It was my first time presenting on a topic that I spent months, enthusiastically researching peer work based on writing center ethics, mission statements and how the impact of each in regard to the positive work we do tutoring the many students who attend our centers.

I was happy to see the turnout of many of my peers as tutors from all across CUNY writing center from as close as Lehman College and Hostos Community College to City College and New York City College of Technology either in sharing my work as a presenter or in attending workshops. What gave me the greatest fulfillment was learning that to some degree, no how diverse in race, gender or creed or ideology, we could all sympathize with how much we struggle and still seek deep collaboration with students and our colleagues. I found this not solely attending workshops of other presenting tutors but I clearly observed this in my workshop "From Writing Center Missions to Ethical Tutoring: A Tutor's Personal Evaluation of Ethics in Writing Centers", where I shared with visiting tutors how research from authorities of Writing Theory and Practice doesn't consider enough the relation of tutorial ethics in connection to the standards set by writing centers in regard to the Mission Statements supposedly meant to guide meaningful and effective practice. I found it enjoyable hearing the feedback on how our work as tutors often times falls short with what is written and taught as writing center pedagogy versus the triangulated expectations between tutor, tutee and instructor.

It was also meaningful for me because I was able to share past assessment work of Professor Jan Robertson, how BCC's very own writing center consistently seeks to reinforce general Writing Center Theory and Practice by sharing how our center has sought to actually and responsibly serve our college community the relationship between our work and our writing center mission statement and our purpose to assist anyone who comes to our center in Sage Hall (room 100) to develop into empowered, independent writers capable of realizing themselves through their written work.

**Djelilatou Lawani, Writing Center Tutor**

I went to two sessions, but the one I stayed in for the longest was about Supplemental Instruction sessions (SI) presented by tutors and their team from Lehman college. I learned that the tutors work in collaboration with professors to help students understand the concepts of the lessons they are learning in class. For example, in the Science Learning Center (SLC) at Lehman College has tutors who tutor students in biology, chemistry and physics. Some of these tutors communicate with some professors to inform them about the difficulties and strength of their students who visit the center for assistance. These tutors are called SI leaders. Sometimes professors send their students to work with specific tutors at the SLC. The tutors always give feedback to the professors on how much their students are grasping the lessons. If they understand well the material, the tutors will let the professors know about that. However, if the students are struggling understanding the material, even after getting help from the tutors, the tutors address that to the corresponding professors. The tutors report to the professors the percentage of the students that are struggling with the material and specifically in which areas of the subjects they need more assistance. This allows professors to know how to address this issue in order to help students pass the class. Depending on the number of students that need help, professors may decide to go over those concepts in class to allow students to understand better especially if future concepts are based on the ones they are learning now in class. Professors may also discuss with SI leaders to see what other strategies they can use. This collaboration between SI leaders and professors contributes to the success of students.

During the conference, my group presented on Tutorial Intervention Program. People in my group are Akini, Jarrett, Ms. Betty, Bright and me, Djelilatou. We presented all the parts of the topic well. At the end of our presentation, the audience said it was good and that they like the topic, but I think we were

*continued on page 4*

not organized that much. I felt like we were not well prepared in terms of communication between us about the task each of us was supposed to perform. Also, I felt like we could have prepared materials to hand in to the audience, and we could make a PowerPoint presentation instead of just talking or writing on the board. The conference was good because I learned from some presentations, and I met new people who I enjoyed interacting with them. I gained experience presenting during the conference since it was my first time participating in a conference. Overall, it was a successful conference.

**Raul D. Cobeo, Writing Center Tutor (Criminal Justice)**

The first ever tutors conference here at Bronx Community College was amazing. After receiving so many mixed opinions and emotions from people all over, we still managed to push through and have the conference. Over 150 people attended from all over CUNY. The sessions Elizabeth Ogunloye, Miguel Gonzalez, Tamanna Boksh, Gloria Kusi, and I held were very creative, productive and unique. We were able to teach both students and tutors about the many ways to de-stress and be original with their writing. We created a riddle with a scavenger hunt that encouraged everyone to branch out and socialize without having to worry about anything that would normally cause them stress in their everyday lives, priorities that would stress them such as school, work, family, and their finances. Next, we held a teacherless writing session. This particular session motivated the tutors and students to be absolutely raw and authentic with their writing. It was completely whatever they wanted it to be without facing judgement from their professors or peers. At the end of each session we were praised for how free everyone felt and how much fun they had while participating in the work. Overall, everyone was impressed with what Bronx Community College had to offer and enjoyed the conference as a whole.

**James Noguera, Writing Center Tutor and English Department Adjunct**

At the conference my group, consisting of Jarrett Taylor, Betty Doyle, Akini Legair, Bright Igbiginun, and Djelilatou Lawani, and I presented on the topic of the Tutor Intervention Program (TIP). The tutors in TIP often work closely with BCC professors in, for example, preparing lessons, evaluating student work, and/or supplementing student learning. Every professor utilizes an in-class tutor in a different way. The presentation's aim was to model three different approaches professors have taken in TIP in order to not only *tell* the audience what we do and why it is important - but also to *show* them.

One method is through the use of tutor pullouts. Betty (as professor) and Bright (as tutor) demonstrated this approach. Betty handed out copies of a student essay containing professor comments to the audience. Bright then spoke to the "class" as if it were one student. Having a tutor who can pull a student aside allows two key things simultaneously: 1) for particular students to get additional, more focused attention away from distractions and 2) for the professor to get more time and greater ability to focus on the class as one learning whole.

Next, Jarrett (as professor) and Akini (as tutor) illustrated the merits of a tutor-led in-class workshop. The tutor is able to communicate and supplement a professor's teaching in a way that is often more accessible and/or relatable to students; at the very least, it often provides a different voice and teacher to learn from. The professor can then allow the class to reflect on the workshop and lesson given, and even provide the tutor with feedback to foster his/her own growth as an educator.

Finally, Djelilatou (as tutor) and I (as professor) displayed how using a tutor

during an in-class writing assignment can benefit student learning and writing. The audience played along and began to write a short persuasive essay. Djelilatou went around the room answering writing questions as they came up. When she was unsure of the answer to a question, she deferred to me. This ideally helps students during the difficult initial steps of the writing process, while allotting the professor in-class time for conferences or grading, for example.

All in all, despite the complexities derived from having three different scenarios to model and six presenters, it came out quite well. We reflected on the scenarios with the audience and told stories of our own experiences with TIP. Personally, it has been invaluable to me as an educator. It allows a professor to step back and consider the learning *and* pedagogical processes from another angle, and even provides the opportunity to learn from someone else's perspective. For the tutor, it is a crucial opportunity to learn from a mentor and put what he/she has learned into practice in a more dynamic and complicated environment.

**Elizabeth Ogunloye, Writing Center Tutor  
Conference Steering Committee Co-Chair**

All the wonderful words in the world are not enough to describe how I felt about our first Tutors' Alliance Conference that took place on April 5, 2019. Maybe if you saw my face and the joy in it, you could have fathomed my feelings. As a member of the Steering Committee, I was there at the initial planning of this conference that started in fall, 2018. So, I can say the journey for me in this conference started since fall last year, and I have enjoyed every bit of it. Even though we had some challenges on the way, looking at the result completely melted all those bumps we had on our way.

I took part in three of the sessions' presentations. I totally enjoyed all three because they touched on what tutors need in order to continue to shine brightly in the college community. As tutors, we were not just in the shadows; we were shackled in the shadows. This conference has given us the opportunity to break those shackles and stepped into the light. Now, our collaborative works can bring about a better-organized, productive and illuminating community to the students.

It was with great joy to see that the different colleges that were invited came. Thanks to all these colleges: Lehman, City Tech, Hostos, Queens, Medgar Evers, John Jay, Baruch, Queensborough, City and Fordham. My thanks also go to professors, staff, tutors and students of Bronx Community College that came and participated.

We couldn't as Tutors' Alliance Club have done all these without the help of Bronx Community College, so my special thanks go to all the departments that contributed.

**Yadira Bonilla, Writing Center, Receptionist  
(Business Administration and Accounting)**

At the 2019 Tutors' Alliance Conference, I left feeling honored to be a part of such an event. Directors, tutors, and students came together from the writing centers of many surrounding colleges. I saw the dedication shown by these educators and students. Special workshops were conducted on a wide range of topics. What I learned in a session showed me that becoming unified, helps educators to develop an elevation of learning by sharing key tools to enhance the quality of the students' learning experience. These tutors and educators have the same goal to achieve a level of higher education by helping students' reach their full potential. These tutoring partnerships will ensure that students leave their writing center with the right tools and skills that they need. Students usually leave their writing centers feeling positive and with a better understanding of material.

**Commencement at BCC / 2019**

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COMMENCEMENT WEEK AT  
A GLANCE**

**Monday, 5/27**

College Closed for Memorial Day

**Tuesday, 5/28**

Graduation Fair in RSBC 211 from 10 AM-6 PM

Cap & gown pick up \$ E-ticket Verification

**Wednesday, 5/29**

Graduation Awards Ceremony in Community Hall

from 12-2 PM. By Invitation only.

**Thursday, 5/30**

Graduate Rehearsal on Ohio Field at 4 PM

**Friday, 5/31**

Commencement Day on Ohio Field. Arrive to

Loew Hall no later than 8:30 AM

***Tatyana Kuptsevich (Business Administration/Management Option):  
59th BCC Commencement Valedictorian***

I came to the United States from Belarus at the age of 16. I was not able to attend college after graduating from high school due to legal and financial reasons and, like many new immigrants, often had to juggle multiple jobs to survive. Eventually, I ended up in healthcare revenue cycle management, and after many years in the industry, my career hit a ceiling due to lack of educational credentials, which prompted my enrollment in BCC. Prior to BCC, I had not imagined that it was possible to attend college full-time while working, but this school offers such a flexible class schedule, I found myself zooming through the degree in record time. I feel very fortunate to have had support of many kind and patient professors as well as classmates who faced similar hardships of being a working student. Since graduating from BCC, I have been attending Baruch College as a finance major and continue working in healthcare.

***Joanmaris Cuello (Liberal Arts/Human Services): 59th BCC Commencement Salutatorian***

My name is Joanmaris Cuello and I am 21 years old. I was born to Dominican parents in the Bronx on May 21, 1997. I always knew that I had potential to do great things, but it never felt like the right time to show what I was capable of. Looking back at how unenthusiastic I was about going to BCC, I would have never thought that I would experience the amount of growth and success that I did. Bronx Community College was one of my very last choices for college. As a high school student who put in a lot of effort and hard work to do well in her classes, I felt ashamed at the idea that I could only be good enough for a community college. Bronx Community received me with open arms and enabled me to thrive in many ways I never believed possible. My career goal is to become a mental health therapist who works with the adult population (18+).



## Sociological Concepts of Race and Ethnicity, Culture, Society and Identity Discussed in Intro to Sociology (SOC 11 – D22 455589) BCC’s One Book, One College, One Community

Dr. Remi Alapo’s spring 2019 students participate in the “One Book, One College and One Community Book” read as part of course syllabus content. Students explored sociological concepts of culture, society, social interaction, race, ethnicity and identity politics of The Dominican Republic and Haiti and made comparisons to the similar scope in history of the United States and its roots on racism and discrimination and one that many communities of color are in search of ethnic identities and equality. The books were provided to the class by the Office of Academic Affairs as part of the Bronx Community College “One Book, One College, and One Community” events for the 2018 / 2019 academic year.

Culture is the sum of practices, languages, symbols, beliefs, values, ideologies, and tangible objects that mankind has created to deal with real-world conflicts. Culture enables individuals to adapt and thrive in any setting. The element of cultures consist of shelter, norms, clothing, economy, religion, or education. Three primary theoretical perspectives are symbolic interactionist perspective, the functionalist perspective, or conflict theory. Symbolic interactionism uses symbols to represent significant part of one’s culture. Functionalism is the aspect of society being interdependent and this contributes to how society functions as a whole. Conflict theory is competition for scarce theory. In many experiences, individuals, groups of people and their communities are determined to keep aspects of their culture alive through a common or shared language, tradition, music, folk-tales, folklores, folkways, norms, beliefs or values. In addition, many individuals uphold their spiritual beliefs as sacred, and they will attach significant cultural meaning and values in the preservation of their cultural heritage, language, and artifacts.

Other course topic discussions included socialization and interaction of different cultures sharing similar national interests, symbols, music, dance, food



Left to right: Jeanne Martinez, Mareanny Paulino, Jackeline Moran, Abel Dominguez, Oswaldo Franco, Kimmarley Braitwaithe, Professor Remi Alapo, and Taj Scott.

and relating it to life in their communities as the majority of the students are predominantly from the DR.

Cultures can persist overtime if we can sustain our traditions by documenting our native language, recording ancestral delicacies, practices or showcasing our traditions through various aspects of the arts such as gestures, body movements, facial expressions, dance, music, food, clothing, and language or other communication modes. Local communities can join together to orchestrate programs to teach their neighbors about their cultures traditions and customs so that they will not be completely lost in peril. A strong culture or tradition can foster stronger economic or community ties that can reduce or eliminate discrimination at various aspects of the community level and end racial inequalities at the national level.

## The Art of Design: A Conversation with Production Designers for Film & TV

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

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, the Media and Digital Film Club (MDFC) produced our 11<sup>th</sup> episode of the *OPEN DOORS* live web-cast. Did you ever wonder who is responsible for the overall visual look of a film or TV show? During our 2018-2019 season finale of *Open Doors*, film students took an inside look at how production designers create the overall visual look of the production. Working directly with the director, cinematographer, and producer, they must select the settings and style to visually tell the story. What does a scenic, title, and graphic artist do? What does a model maker do? What is a concept illustrator? We also learned that production designers are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 800 Union and The Art Directors Guild. Professional production designers answered all these questions and more.

The series, videotaped before a live studio audience in the BCC TV Studio, 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.

The show featured two guests from the Art Directors Guild. Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the MDFC club, served as moderator for the show. The first guest, Kristi Zea, has been in the contemporary film scene for over three decades and is acclaimed for her work as a production designer, costume designer, and producer of major feature films of the 80’s, 90’s and 00’s. She production designed Martin Scorsese’s films *New York Stories*, *Goodfellas*, and *The Departed*. She was nominated for an OSCAR and a BAFTA for her production design work on Sam Mendes’ *Revolutionary Road*. Zea production designed Kasi Lemmons’ *Black Nativity*, Nancy Meyer’s *The Intern*, the NBC series *American Odyssey*. Her most recent credits include NBC’s series *New Amsterdam*, which she designed and recently directed one episode and HBO’s

*Notes from the Field* starring Anna Deavere Smith (2018), which she also directed. Zea then produced and directed the documentary *Everybody Knows... Elizabeth Murray* (2018) for *American Masters*.

The second guest, Javier Ameijeiras, has been working in the New York film, television, and theatre industries for over a decade. He is known for his chameleon-like abilities to visually conceptualize virtually anything needed by a production, using both digital and traditional mediums. Ameijeiras, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, has contributed to various major motion pictures, including *Aladdin*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Wonderstruck*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Intern*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Moonrise Kingdom* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. His TV/episodic work includes the Emmy award winning *GREASE LIVE!*, *New Amsterdam*, *Grace and Frankie*, *Designated Survivor*, *Person of Interest*, *SMASH*, *Boardwalk Empire* and *Bored to Death*. Ameijeiras has also contributed to the design of numerous projects for the stage, including Tony- award winning *Hamilton*, the *91st Academy Awards*, and over a dozen other live events and experiences.

Both guests responded to questions such as “What did you study to prepare you for the work you’re both doing now?” “How important is it to join a union?” “Did the Oscar nomination you received for *Revolutionary Road* change your career? Did your salary increase after the Oscar nomination?” “What computer programs do you use to create renderings?” “How much prep time do you usually have to design a film?” “Is the time different in both feature films and TV production?”

After the taping, the Media and Digital Film Club hosted a pizza reception in honor of our guests, and engraved BCC movie slates were presented to the panelists.



BCC Media and Digital Film Club members producing live *OPEN DOORS* web-cast with two guests from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 800 Union and the Art Directors Guild. Photo by Christopher Guerrero.

## Regional Tutor Conference Sponsored by BCC

By J. Juechter, Director,  
Perkins Tutoring Center

A sustained effort has been in place to upgrade tutoring at BCC and this conference's *VISION*, to further upgrade tutor skills, has been in our sights for many years.

Twenty years ago, the Perkins Tutoring Center was founded with the specific purpose of changing the nature and quality of tutoring on the BCC Campus. At the time the old, dinosaur model, was in place. Faculty were used to finding an "A" student and asking them to help other students without training and supervision as this was the standard. A few modest tutoring centers were in place but specific training, resource materials or certified training was unknown. And staff often said, at the time, "It's only a tutor."

Fast forward to 2019!

The success of the regional conference, "Out of the Shadows and into the Light; the Luminous Work of Tutors," emerged after many important benchmarks were reached. The conference attendance demonstrated the interest and viability of the career field as more than 150 people from 12 colleges and universities arrived on campus. If you asked whether Tutors could be presenting 22 workshops and round tables, the answer is a definite "yes." The diversity of program was unusual. In one session by Lehman College tutors, they addressed the challenges of working with tutees with narrow, prejudicial viewpoints. In another, collaborating departments, Media and Film Program and the BCC Writing Center demonstrated their work assisting student scripts for their film major classes.

The conference demonstrated that this new generation of Tutors are becoming consummate professionals. They have resumes, are well trained, and tutor skillfully no matter what the content. In addition, the tutors related how they are involved in different methods of improving student learning - embedded, online, assessment and, in many disciplines using high tech equipment or tools in their work. Many BCC tutors have received national tutor certification with the College Reading and Learning Association at three levels.

This Community of Practice on campus has other visions as well:

We plan a sequence of credit courses to train students, passionate about tutoring, as a career. These credentials will help start a tutor business, apply for employment at other colleges, or use the experience to enhance their finances and reduce student debt by working privately.

We envision tutor exchanges with major institutions. Fordham University, whose staff attended the conference, has extended an invitation and others are in the pipeline.

The committee will be organizing a non-profit Tutor Alliance to fund tutors who will attend and present at professional conferences.

The development and delivery of tutoring workshops with tutors and faculty as presenters is another priority.

The next regional tutor conference is also in the committee's work plans.

## Directing the Actor for a Student Film

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

On April 3, 2019, The Media and Digital Film Club (MDFC) held an acting workshop in the television Studio with Hollywood actor and BCC alumni Joel Weiss.

Weiss has appeared in more than 75 films, 60 plays and 40 television shows, and dozens of commercials, including multiple requests by acclaimed film directors Walter Hill, Garry Marshall, and Robert Townsend. He kicked off his career as one of the stars of the classic cult film *The Warriors* as Cropsey, the rogue gang member who has the unforgettable part of driving the hearse. In 2019, the film is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with celebrations worldwide, including ones where Weiss is an invited guest at in England, Ireland, Scotland, Chicago, and the film's birthplace, New York City.

Joel Weiss is a graduate of both Bronx Community College and Lehman College in the Bronx.



BCC Media and Digital Film Club member Christopher Guerrero poses with actor Joel Weiss as he receives his *Warriors* autographed picture. Photo by Keith Burrus.

## Cinematographers Symposium

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

The IATSE Local 600 hosted the Cinematographers Symposium, a CUNY outreach event dedicated to shining a light on the many benefits of joining a trade union in the field of cinematography. Led by Quenell Jones, the discussion brought together cinematographers Leland Krane, Ramulas Burgess, and Timothy Naylor. Attendees were treated to four uninterrupted hours detailing the diverse differences in their career paths and what they have experienced. The wealth of knowledge at hand here served as another reminder that whether you are an aspiring photographer, hope to be a director one day, or simply love to write, now is an incredible time to be a film student in CUNY and cinematography is the achievable perfect fit for you.



BCC Media and Digital Film Club members producing live OPEN DOORS web-cast with two guests from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 800 Union and the Art Directors Guild. Photo by Christopher Guerrero.



## A Celebration of the Life of Vicki Flaris, Ph.D.

By Robert Josman (Nuclear Medical Technology)

In February of this year Dr Vicki Flaris, Professor of Chemistry, at the college passed away. She will be greatly missed by all. Dr. Flaris started her BCC teaching career in 2004, and before coming to the College, she had a successful career in industry before turning to teaching. She received several degrees from the University of Melbourne, a B.S. in Chemistry, a B.A. in English and Greek as well as a Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry. She also held various positions including research scientist, market development engineer, industry marketing manager at major companies, including DuPont, BASF Corporation, and Huntsman Corporation.

Dr. Flaris not only taught, but she was heavily involved in doing research, bringing her students into her research, while at the same time mentoring them so to do their own research at a professional level. Because of her mentoring, students regularly had their research accepted for presentation at professional conferences, such as the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) and the American Chemical Societies (ACS) National conferences. She was the faculty mentors for both the ACS and the SPE chapters at the college. This passion for education and mentoring resulted in a richly deserved honor in 2015 when she received SPE's national award for "Educational and Mentor Excellence."

She was always looking for ways to help her students in new, innovative ways. As part of this process, she wrote and successfully brought to the college a \$5 million National Science Foundation grant, "Developing a Growth Mindset Model to Build Resiliency in STEM Students." This is the largest grant ever awarded by NSF to a community college. The grant provides scholarships and other support to help 575 Bronx Community College STEM students transfer into STEM disciplines at Lehman College and to persist and successfully complete their bachelor's degrees.

The Director, Member Experience for SPE, Sue Milazzo Wojcicki, could not have described Dr. Flaris better than when she said, "I first met her at ANTEC® 2011 in Boston (my first SPE ANTEC® as a staff member.) I was rushing down a hallway, and I saw this woman being trailed by a group of eight or nine students. Now, at an ANTEC® that's not entirely odd. What captured my eye was the way they were following her – like a duckling follows a mama duck. It caused me to stop and stare. You could immediately tell that they were more than just a group of acquaintances. There was something special going on between them. It was in the way that she interacted with them. While some people may say it was her role as a faculty advisor, or a mentor or a professor role that she was performing, I know it was so much more. Being around her and her students, you could see her passion for them and this industry. While there were other faculty advisors that went to ANTEC® with their students, very few spent the amount of time and energy making sure they experienced every ounce of educational and networking opportunities they possibly could. She was very protective of them. However, at the same time, she gave them every tool they needed to be able to become self-sufficient. It was beautiful to watch and wonderful to see the students grow from year to year."

### My Personal Experience

It is not the professor that makes the person; it is the person that makes the professor. She was more than a professor; she was a mentor, and I was also lucky enough to call her a friend as well. She was always pushing us to do more than we ever thought we could, yet somehow knowing we could do it.

There are two anecdotes that I would like to share with you that will give you an idea of her. We were at a conference in Las Vegas, and we came across a hotel that had miniature Sphinxes outside. Guess who suggested that her students each climb up on one so she could take a picture of us all in a row? Well, she took one, maybe two, snaps before hotel security came running yelling at us to leave ASAP as they were only hollow plaster of Paris. I didn't know she could run as fast as the rest of us.

The second occurred in her lab. Another student of our research team, Henry Siccardi, and I were working in her lab. We were melting some samples, but it was taking several hours. At one point we started eating pizza, and guess who walked by and saw us? She just shook her head and closed the door. We quickly got rid of it, but we felt bad that we had disappointed her and apologized profusely.

She was always trying to help others. Even when she spent much of a conference, we were at, in her room, down with food poisoning and when I brought her a few things to make her feel better she tried to pay me for them. I had to tell her repeatedly, please no, you have done so much for me it is time someone did for you.

### Dr. Flaris' Professional Relationships

SPE was a big part of her endeavors, personally, professional and educationally. In early 2018, I created the bulletin board outside her office. As you can see, SPE was important to her and me, being one of the more active organizations on campus. The SPE chapter and its students won numerous City University of New York awards and research fellowships as well as recognition from outside educational institutions and industry organizations. Over the past several years, she has mentored me, as I became president of our local SPE chapter. In doing so, she instilled in me the desire to mentor the next group of students each year as they joined our research team. Don't get me wrong, you had to do your work and put your time in the lab, but she was a vocal proponent of student research. We were lucky enough to have secured funding from the college each of the past several years, after our research had been accepted for presentation at two professional yearly national scientific conferences, the Society of Plastics Engineers and the American Chemical Society. At a conference you could not go two feet without someone coming up to say hi and wanting to catch up, and not only because of her science and research background, but because of her as a person. Nevertheless, she always made sure that all her students got to talk with these people as well. Several students have gotten research assistance and internships because of this.

As news of her passing spread quickly through her current and former student researchers, many a student shed a tear. More than one saying, "She changed my life," the greatest compliment we could give her. Her legacy lives on in us. She urged me to mentor others as she had mentored me. Helping others from "how do you do that," to "how do I do that," and, finally, to "I have done that."

### A Celebration of Dr. Flaris' Life

On Thursday, May 9th, a celebration in honor of Dr. Flaris was held on campus at the historic Gould Memorial Auditorium. It was truly the right place to have it as the contributions she made to so many people's lives will be historic touchstones as they continue in their academic and professional careers. Her husband, Paris, and son, Alex, attended with a mix of people from the different areas she touched. Dr. Neal Phillip, Chairperson of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, and Dr. Debra Gonsler, Chairperson of the Communications Arts and Sciences, both offered gracious, heartfelt comments about Dr. Flaris. Dr. Gonsler is setting up a scholarship at the college, the Dr. Vicki Flaris "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Award.

Others who offered their tributes included BCC President Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe and Dr. Jamie Gomez, President and CEO of Equitech and President-elect of the Society of Plastics Engineers. Dr. Panayiotis Meletis, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at York College, talked about how he had hired her in 2004. Chemistry professors Anthony Durante and John Molina shared experiences from their working with her over more than a decade. Professor Robert Lupo (Chemistry and Chemical Technology) said that she always left him feeling better when he was having a rough time. Student Raul Rivas stated, "Professor Flaris lived trying to show others that our time here is a gift and that it's best spent helping others."

### Moving On but Not Forgetting Dr. Flaris

Last month I attended the Society of Plastics Engineers conference in Detroit. Even though I was there by myself, I could not go very far without someone coming up to me to talk about Dr. Flaris and how much she had done for them. These were not students; they were her peers saying this, many of whom I have been lucky enough to know over the past few years because of Dr. Flaris. At the conference, I was also asked to speak about her in the executive board sessions as well as several of the public meetings. Doing so was an honor for me.

To honor her commitment to undergraduate research in STEM by women, I am establishing a scholarship at the college for women who are doing research and need additional funding for research materials and/or help in defraying the cost of traveling to present their work at a conference.

I am proud and honored to have studied with her as my professor as well as a mentor and, best of all, a friend. I can only hope to lead my life with as much grace and dignity as she did. Somewhere up there she is looking down on us laugh saying why all the fuss, it was just me. I did it because I wanted to not for the praise.



## The Fast Fashion Industry Standard

By Alexandra Santos (Liberal Arts)

Clothing has many purposes; it's not only a necessity but also a form of self-expression. Our clothing choices are dictated by several factors – the weather, our culture, personal tastes and availability. Yet, for something that is so important, there has been historically little conversation around the production of apparel.

In 2015, Netflix released *The True Cost*, a documentary highlighting the devastation caused by over consumption and unsustainable production. The production has inspired countless others to examine their relationship with fast fashion.

Fast Fashion refers to the industry standard of creating as much product as possible for the lowest cost. Originally, fashion was divided into two seasons, fall/winter and spring/summer. However, in recent times “micro seasons” have taken over. Instead of new designs and products released every six months, shelves are filled with new goods on a weekly basis.

With the dawn of the Industrial Revolution came a complete reworking of the way clothing was produced and distributed. Technology has transformed the process of making garments so thoroughly that it is totally unrecognizable from what it once was.

Fibers, the building block of fabric, are twisted together into yarn that creates threads, thereby increasing the size and strength. Once the yarn is made it is woven into fabric which can then be cut into various shapes and attached to one another in order to create a piece of clothing. This dangerous, time consuming and highly skilled process was once done by hand and in recent times is completely automatized. Ready to wear clothing now dominates the industry and are made in abundance.

Fast Fashion is now a 2.5 trillion-dollar worldwide industry. On average each American buys 66 new items, while also tossing 81 pounds each in the same amount of time. While the cost of clothing has dropped by 8.5% since 1992, spending has gone up.

The clothing industry is now the second-most polluting industry, only outdone by Fossil Fuels. The production and transportation of apparel is seeping poisonous chemicals into our environment. That coupled with the enormous amount of garment waste that ends up in landfills every year, over 300,000 tonnes in Britain alone. Natural fabrics like wool, silk, and cotton will decompose in a relatively short time span, but clothing made from synthetic fibers will not. Thankfully, virtually all fabric can be recycled into pulp and reused.

The biggest culprit of environmental strain is polyester, which is made of petroleum similarly to single use plastic products. Polyester also has a role to play in the micro-plastic crisis. Every time a garment is washed, microscopic pieces of it will shed into the water. These fragments of plastic are increasing found in our ocean, rivers and lakes and the living creatures who consume water are at growing risk of digesting the shards. Dr. Mark Browne, Professor of Ecology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) estimates that “85% of the plastic pollution in the ocean is due to microfibers from synthetic clothing.”

*The Economist* reports that 80 billion pieces of clothing are manufactured each year oversaturating the market. These trend-based pieces are disposable and once they are no longer in style they move from closets to landfills. Clothing that manages to evade this fate is sent to developing nations. While at first glance this seems like an act of charity, it is in fact a death sentence for the artisan clothing makers in these regions. Without local demand for clothing, their labor is not required. This cripples the local economy and without active practice their skills are lost.

The average wear on a single piece of clothing has decreased, and simultaneously the number of pieces purchased has increased. Pressure to keep up appearance on social media feeds this cycle. Influencers, or internet

celebrities, encourage wastefulness by constantly featuring new items of clothing and rarely featuring the same items more than once.

Over 97% of the clothing worn in the Western world is manufactured overseas in countries such as Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and India. Multi-national fashion corporations have set up shop in these nations thanks to a lack of government regulations and low wages. These conditions allow for the exploitation of some of the most vulnerable. Of the 40 million garment workers worldwide, 85% of them are women. Many are forced to work in slave-like conditions for pay that is less than the national cost of living.

As grim and all-encompassing as this issue seems, there are solutions. Services such as Rent the Runway allow you to rent high-end pieces, once they are returned the garment is dry cleaned and is sent off to another renter. This both lowers the amount of money spent and increases the life span of clothing. Secondhand shopping is as easy today as it has ever been. Thredup, Poshmark, Etsy and Depop are a few of the many pre-owned clothing resellers on the market. Their apps mirror those of fast fashion houses with none of the waste. If every American bought one piece of clothing secondhand it would divert – pounds of waste from landfills.

Thredup has begun to collect data on the ever-growing secondhand and resale markets. In 2018, thrift stores made 19 billion dollars in profit, and resale 5 billion dollars accounting for 24 billion dollars in total for the secondhand apparel market. That number is expected to grow double fold in the next five years, reaching 51 billion dollars in 2023. In two years between 2016 and 2018, the number of women who have bought secondhand has increased by 21%.

Fast Fashion still accounts for the lion's share of the market, bringing 35 billion dollars in 2018, but the tides are turning and Thredup estimates that by 2028 the market will be dwarfed by its secondhand counterparts. Overall, spending is expected to grow by Thredup projects that 44 billion dollars will be spent on new Fast Fashion and 64 billion dollars spent on the secondhand market. Stagnation is also on the way for Fast Fashion, with an expected 3% growth on the next half decade, compared to a 16% for the pre-owned.

Innovation in clothing development has led to new sustainable fabric made from natural materials like wood and corn. Stella McCartney creates her bags out of corn materials, meaning that they will disintegrate much more rapidly compared to petroleum-based counterpart. Rayon is formed using wood pulp but when worn gives off a silk feel and the ease of care is similar to polyester.

Simply consuming less clothing is also a sustainable option. Online communities have sprung up advocating for small streamlined wardrobes with items that effortlessly match creating many outfits. This idea exists in many variations but all fall under the umbrella term “capsule wardrobe.” The number of items vary from person to person and are dependent on climate, lifestyle and seasons, but at its core calls for intentional buying and using each item to its fullest potential.

Consumers and manufacturers are caught up in a symbolic relationship in which both need the other to survive. The blame is only to be placed on the individual when they take no steps to improve the system. Social media gives the average person a voice they can use to spark change. Clothing stores don't want their online profiles flooded by people causing a stir by asking for change. We've seen from other social movements that this type of exposure will push corporations towards better ethics, even if it is only to appease their buyers and not for any moral reason.





## The Mirror

By Shontae B. Usman  
(Liberal Arts/Social Sciences)

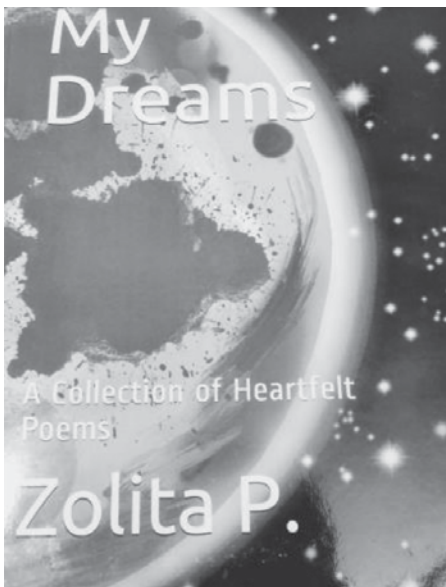
The mirror  
only possesses the power  
to reflect the image  
that stands before it.  
A guiltless refraction  
of the world's opinion  
of what we should be.  
Capable of creating  
a beautiful facade  
of deception  
that weaves a tangled web  
of destruction.  
Source of identity  
for the vain and desolate.  
Its revelation addictive  
to those who choose to become subject to its scrutiny.  
Possesses the potential  
to reveal truth  
and provide restoration  
to those who are willing  
to discern  
reality from illusion.

## Troubled Woman

By Zola Pinto  
(Liberal Arts/Human Services)

### Part 1

Girl I feel for you  
Because I have been there too  
I see sadness on your face  
It was yesterday I was in the race  
You are up and down the street  
Like a cop on the beat  
I presume you have no place to go  
I know, the situation is a blow  
Unhappiness, sometimes purling  
But you have to be headstrong  
Things aren't always the best  
I truly hope you can find rest



## Arrow

By Daeli Vargas (English)

He was sitting in the front row  
While I was sitting right behind him  
He's got the jacket with the arrow  
And it's pointing right at me  
I know this is some sort of a sign  
It's been ringing inside me all night  
But before I even get to speak  
Why should I even try?  
I always waste my time trying to greet him  
And he's busy chewing his gum  
Hanging with his buddies and a glass of bourbon  
Whenever he walks by, I always end up biting my tongue  
I never ever want to be on this jock's field because then I'll have nowhere to hide  
It's the feeling of being helpless that accumulates in my lungs  
At least it wouldn't be the first time



## The Communicator Wants You!



The Bronx Community College student newspaper is seeking talented students.

Gain valuable professional experience and, at the same time, bolstering your college resume.

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For further information, please contact before the end of the spring term or during the summer to discuss how you can contribute: [andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu).



### The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*



"A free press is essential for peace, justice, sustainable development and human rights."

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

# THE GLOBAL LENS

## Views and Comments from the 2019 Global Citizenship Alliance Seminar Salzburg, Austria / Schloss Leopoldskron April 20-27, 2019



*The entire CUNY cohort: BCC, QCC, and SEEK/CD students with the magnificent Untersberg as a backdrop.*



*Luis Saldana, Medger Evers College, (left), and Carlos Pérez Valle, BCC, enjoy the banquet on the final night.*



*Triamber Whittaker, BCC (left), and Ashly Sanchez Flores, LaGuardia Community College Discovery student, report on their group project.*



*BCC College Discovery student Victor Gonzalez makes a point during a lecture/discussion.*



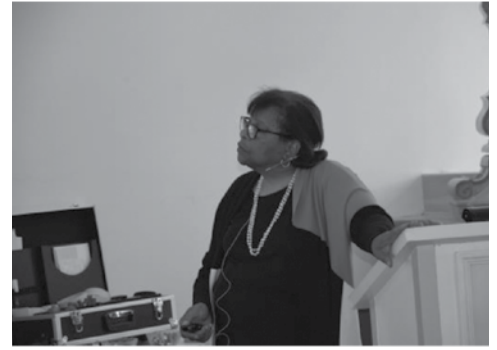
# THE GLOBAL LENS



*BCC student Berany Morel enjoys some free time in Salzburg's Old Town.*



*Isela Larreinaga next to the sign that says it all.*



*Dr. Yolanda Moses, professor, University of California, Riverside, and former president, City University of New York, lectures on race and diversity.*



*A cross-section of CUNY students in place for the formal banquet.*



*Dr. Jochen Fried, GCA President and CEO, welcomes students to Salzburg.*



*BCC CD student Cinthya-Peña Hernandez bundles up on a rare cool day at the schloss.*



*View from the schloss terrace: fading light.*



*Former Kingsborough Community College Salzburg student, and Clark College alum, Lavar Thomas delivers first presentation as GCA faculty member.*



*Schloss Leopoldskron*



*Dr. Reinhold Wagnleitner delivers a stirring lecture on views of America from abroad.*

## SUMMER READING LIST

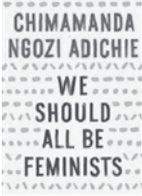
Keep your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills honed over the long summer break. Read and enjoy!



### Michelle Obama, *Becoming* (2018)

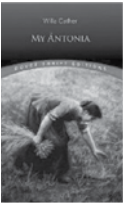
*Becoming* is the Bronx Reads selection for 2019-2020.

Through an intimate look at her own life, former First Lady Michelle Obama provides insight into U. S. history; racial identity; education; intersectionality, gender, and feminism, and civil rights and activism.



### 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 offers details of what it means to be a woman now, offering a rallying cry for why we should all – men and women, old and young – be feminists.



### Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918)

Cather's evocation of life in early 20th-century rural Nebraska is a classic immigrant story of a family that has come from Europe seeking a better life and finding joy as well as great sorrow. Their resilience, portrayed through Antonia and her lifelong friendship with narrator Jim Burden, is a classic American tale of striving, overcoming obstacles, and achieving peace and contentment (on her part) and continuing to search for those ideas (on his part).

### 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 that, in its review, stated that this masterwork was a "lush, vibrant portrayal of the creative process, a daughter's love, and the maelstrom of grief."



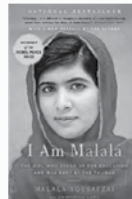
### Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed* (2006)

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. As assistant minister for the environment and a member of Parliament, her courage helped transform Kenya's government into a democracy.



### 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. In this memoir, she presents a quest for truth by giving voice to themes of power, fear, and sexual subjugation.



### 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 is "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. Yet the Taliban so feared this 14-year-old girl that they tried to assassinate her. In 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.



## Broncos Baseball Team Claims 2019 CUNYAC Title

Congratulations to the student-athletes and coaches of our Broncos baseball team who defeated the Kingsborough Community College team 9-7 to claim the 2019 CUNYAC baseball title at a cold, rainy MCU Park in Brooklyn. This is BCC's first title since 2015, and the 11th if all time.

BCC standouts include freshman Adrian Urena, who was named the Most Valuable Player after producing a double, two singles, three RBI, two stolen bases, and two runs. Sophomore Quincy Williams contributed with a pair of singles and drove in a run, and Neudy Salvador singled twice and stole a base.

Pitcher Victor Pena earned the win over 3.1 innings, allowing just one earned run and four hits. Fellow freshman Esteban De Los Santos made the save with an incredible performance 3.1 scoreless innings in which he allowed no hits.

Congratulations also go to coaches Adolfo DeJesus, Luis A. Cortorreal, Efrain Palmares, and Adolfo Javier.