The Male Empowerment Network at Bronx Community College, is among one of 30 other City University of New York Black & Latino male initiatives spread across the 5 boroughs. This program is geared toward the betterment of enrollment and academic excellence, of students from a vast variety of backgrounds who do not reside in affluent neighborhoods. Academic excellence is the key to a great future as stated by Mr. Clifford Marshall, who has the full support of the college president and the provost. The Male Empowerment Network is in collaboration with several other programs in BCC, including Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma. This is due to the academic achievements of Mr. Marshall’s band of brothers; it is a brotherhood nonetheless these gentlemen strive to achieve and surge forward on to new horizons.

During last semester BCC hosted the BMI (Black Male Initiative) conference where students, professors and several other organizations were in attendance. Thanks to the Male Empowerment Network members who were there to guide and direct our guests to specific locations on campus. The event was a complete success; we are hoping that Bronx Community College will host many more events like this in the future. Mr. Eugene Adams, the director of collaborative education for the office of academic affairs, and Mr. Marshall embarked on a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit one of the museums located in the heart of the city. The purpose of the program is to provide the student who joins the program the tools for success. To help them become men of impact in their communities, the program provides them with the information, motivation, preparation, affirmation and cultivation which, if done correctly, will lead to the transformation of these young men into productive citizens in the Black and Latino communities.

Recently, in a brief interview with Mr. Marshall, he stated that although the organization is geared towards male empowerment, it is an equal opportunity for women as well. Numerous women visit and are involved with the project on a daily basis. The Male Empowerment Movement welcomes any and all BCC women students who want to get involved with the network.

Q&A with Associate Dean for Student Development Manny Lopez
By Dion Quamina

What is Student Life?
Student Life is a nexus between student success and programming/activities at the college that supports student development. Student Life attempts to connect students with opportunities that help them to develop their own interests and identify meaningful experiences in a safe place and transition to the next learning experience. Also, students pay an activity fee, part of that funds Student Life programming and services (i.e. Shuttle Bus, Commencement).

What is the role on campus?
As Associate Dean for Student Development I am responsible for four offices and two major programs: student life, personal counseling, health services & judicial affairs as well as new student orientation and commencement. It is my duty to ensure those areas have the resources and that students are being served by those areas, so their development is supported by professional staff.

What advice do you have for incoming students?
It is vital to your success in life to understand or challenge yourself to figure out what is your educational purpose, what you ultimately want to do with your life and what getting this education will do for you. Start thinking about how will earning this degree get you on the path of what you want to accomplish. Reflect on why you are here and where does this step take you as far as your life goals are concerned. You should reflect on that daily to stay focused and help direct your goals. Take something positive out of every experience you have even if you encounter a challenging situation, person, or entity. You have something to learn from everything and everyone you encounter in life. Also, use your experiences to benefit yourself and others.

When are your office hours?
Mon-Fri 9-5

What is the best resource for students interested in extracurricular activities and clubs?
There are many resources at BCC for extra curricular activities. Athletics, Student Government Association (SGA), and the Inter-Organizational Council (IOC) are just a few. For more information, Here are the names and office locations for the Student Life staff: Student Life, Yvonne Erazo - Student Life Manager for Clubs and Student Organization 312 RBSC, Audrey Rose-Glenn - Student Life Manager for Leadership Development 306 RBSC, Shermekia Pierce IOC Office Manager 309 RBSC, and Mary Velez Student Life Coordinator 312 RBSC.

What was the toughest thing for you going through college and how did you overcome it?
In undergrad I was the primary caregiver for my late grandma, caring for her took a lot of time and energy away from school. She was very dear to me and I had her very life in my care so when she did pass I used her death as motivation. I directed all my focus and energy in to schooling. She helped push me through.

What was the most important lesson you learned while studying here at BCC?
I determined my desired outcome and used that to get focused. I was able to figure out my life goals & passion. I learned that helping others was an important aspect of my life and it still is very important to me to help facilitate the goals of other people. It gives me meaning in my life to help other people realize their goals in life and I learned that at BCC and while caring for my late grandmother.

What are some of the goals you have for Student Life and how will they affect the student body?
In the short term, I want to make sure the processes are consistent and clear to students who are utilizing or interested in the services of the Office of Student Life. Generally, I want to ensure that our efforts, activities, initiatives, programs, and policies are developed with a singular purpose: to ensure that student success is at forefront. I want to make sure students have a role and place in the decision-making on matters that affect the student body. I want students to participate in, reflect on and learn from their experiences at BCC.

What are a few pieces of advice would you give to any student?
Be appreciative of what you have and to serve others. Also, Embody empowerment, be willing to ask for help or clarification, and be willing to engage in conversation. Never give up at the first sign of challenges. Go through with what makes you happy, be confident in yourself, think about yourself as you wish to be seen, follow through with your aspirations and do not allow someone, something, or entity to combat, discourage or misdirect your aspirations.

Final Remarks
Appreciate our institution and the opportunities at Bronx Community College. Don’t miss out on the experiences of being a BCC student and value what this college has to offer. These opportunities and experiences will pass you by like life if you don’t grab it by the horns. Be in the moment. Please be mindful of our connection with one another.
**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 (we will get started in August as a team) if you are interested:

andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu.

**Editorial Staff**

Demier Hassell
Elizabeth Lopez
Yubelka Nunez
Dion Guaminia
Lara Saavedra

**TUTORIAL SERVICES FOR MATHEMATICS COURSES**

Tutorial services for mathematics courses are offered as follows:

**Credit-bearing Courses**

- (MTH 13, 21, 23, 30-35, 42)

**Math Tutorial Lab** (CPH 303)
- February 6, 2017 — May 26, 2017
- Monday — Thursday: 10 am — 8 pm
- Friday: 10 am — 5 pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 10 am — 3 pm

**Developmental Mathematics**

- (Math 1, 5, 6)
- The Learning Commons (Sub-Basement Suite 05)
- January 30, 2017 — May 26, 2017
- Monday — Thursday: 10 am — 8 pm
- Friday: 10 am — 5 pm
- Saturday: 10 am — 3 pm
- Sunday: Closed — Please visit the Math Tutorial Lab (CPH 303)

Yanil De la Rosa, M.S., Director,
Math Tutorial Lab
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

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**2017-2018**

**Student Government Association**

**Elections**

**Becoming a Student Leader @ BCC**

Things to know:

- Student Government Association (SGA) is the representative governing body of the student population
- SGA is students opportunity to be heard and recognized on campus
- Members of the SGA sit on campus committees and the College Senate
- 15 student Senators (5 of the 15 serve as Executive Officers; President, Vice President, Legal Legislator, Treasurer and Secretary)

- Elections conducted in April
- Excellent opportunity to make a difference and grow your leadership skills
- The SGA office is located in the Office of Student Life (RBSC 309)
- Applications will be sent out via BCC email
- As a student Senator you have the ability to advocate on behalf of students directly to the appropriate bodies
- SGA meets every 2 weeks

SGA Info Sessions will be held every Friday in March. Stop by the SGA office for more information.

Dion Quamina
Senator / Student Government Association
Contribution / The Communicator
Bronx Community College
The City University of New York

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**Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund**

Two $2,500 Scholarships Are Available for Volunteering Abroad in Summer 2017

Are you interested in volunteering abroad?

Are you looking for a way to help others while gaining global, intercultural experience?

The Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund is offering BCC students the chance to win one of two scholarships for up to $2,500 for an international/global community service project that will take place during summer 2017. Students may choose to participate in an existing volunteer program that will help people in other parts of the world. A list of providers that offer such projects will be provided on the scholarship application.

We are looking for thoughtful, well-planned submissions so we strongly encourage interested students to begin thinking about their application as early as possible. Assistance to any student who is interested in applying will be available. Please email Professor Andrew Rowan (andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu) to schedule an appointment to discuss your ideas, to find out more about this scholarship, and to receive an application.

Completed applications will be due no later than Thursday, March 30th by 3 pm. After reviewing submitted applications, finalists will be selected for interviews.
The discussion of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade is very difficult to tackle on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In the Americas we have yet to fully comprehend the impact of those events and their consequences for the continent. Everything of significance right down their sense of self-worth and purpose for living. In Africa no effort to explain the why and how millions of souls were forcibly ripped from the continent is ever sufficient, leaving generation after generation to stumble through these dark pages of an otherwise glorious history. In Senegal a group made up of middle, high, and university students are attempting to solve a problem that historians, researchers, and political thinkers have struggled with for decades. The Big Gorse Project is an effort by over 200 young people to learn about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, link globally with other students and organizations, and support one of Africa’s most important slavery memorial sites.

Sitting in the Atlantic Ocean about a mile off the coast of Dakar Senegal, Goree Island was one of many ports established by European slave merchants along West Africa that fueled the need for slave labor in the New World and Europe. A small patch of earth with little vegetation, Goree was once home to members of the Lebu ethic group. In 1444 with the arrival of Portuguese seaman everything changed on the meager 88 acre stretch of land, and its role in history would eternally be connect to human suffering. For more than 300 years between 1536 and 1848 Goree Island shifted between Dutch, French, and British rule and played an active role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. “Once the captured Africans arrived at the Atlantic, they were taken to one of the many slave forts that could be found along the coastline, where they would wait to be transported by ship to the Americas” (Understanding Slavery Initiative, 2011). For more than a year student teachers at eight middle and high schools and universities have been conducting research, holding events, and meeting with African American and Senegalese scholars focused on increasing their understanding of what happened on Goree Island and how those events impact on Africa and the Americas today.

The House of Slaves Museum at Goree Island is an 18th century structure that was part of a network of 28 buildings used to house African captives for the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The dark and dusty cells that once were crammed with African bodies are now empty, except possibly for the spirits of those who suffered and were stolen. The House of Slaves was involved for centuries in the capture and selling of humans and is representative of the physical, economic, and emotional oppression which is at the foundation of the insidious nature of the Trans-Atlantic slave. In both practical and metaphorical terms Goree stands a testament to the more than 20 million Africans from diverse ethnic groups who were captured, subjugated, and forcibly traded and sent to the Americas and Europe from Africa to feed the economic and industrial expansion of Western capitalism. The Big Gorse Project students hope to first learn enough about the House of Slaves to inform and attract other students in Senegalese schools to join their national effort. Students visit the Slave House and other historical sites on Goree that are part of the slavery narrative and social life on the island.

Since 1962 The House of Slaves Mansion Museum has operated as a historic and cultural attraction for tourist visiting Senegal from around the world. Annually over 100,000 visitors trek to the museum some out curiosity, some for research, and other as a pilgrimage to pay homage to ancestors lost. The vision to create The House of Slave Museum as an institution of global significance was conceived and championed by Boubacar Ndiaye. Mr. Ndiaye established the institution and was the lead oral presenter from 1962 until his death in 2009. Mr. Ndiaye once described how the captives were treated like domesticated animals, “Sometimes in the Slave House I’d find a whole family, the father, the mother, and the child […] put in different cells. The father could be led to Louisiana in America, the mother to Brazil or Cuba, and the child to Haiti or the Antilles. The separation was total”. The oral presentations provided to visitors offer an intimate and shocking portrait of the horrors of human trafficking and the destruction of African families and societies in Senegal and neighboring countries. The oral stories of Goree are offered to mostly foreign tourist and are usually conducted by official representatives of the Slave House Museum or a network of self-taught community docents who retain and share the oral history of the Island and its role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade for a nominal fee.

The task of bringing 200 Senegalese young people together on this massive project falls on the shoulders of Flame Sadaro a long time history teacher and noted authority on slavery in Africa and the history of the House of Slaves Museum. Sadaro was a student and intellectual disciple of Mr. Ndiaye. He has tirelessly fought to preserve the efforts of Mr. Ndiaye to inform the world about the atrocities that occurred on Goree Island. “Our mission is to be a part of the national and global effort to revitalize the museum. In forming the Big Gorse Project we are creating an organizational structure for young people to assume some responsibility for the museum,” said Sadaro. Throughout the years the House of Slaves Museum has operated with seemingly little financial support or resources. Though a major international attraction, the institution has never received sustained government or private funding. Sadaro believes that the Big Gorse Project Project will start to put to use the technology and media tools familiar to kids all over the world to bring support. “We hope to develop student documentary films and virtual apps on the Museum,” stated Sadaro.

The House of Slaves stands very much as it did in the 18th century when built by the Dutch. The upper floor museum space was once inhabited by the wealthy slave merchants. The ground floor contains the pens once used to confine captives in inhumane horrid conditions. The series of small cells were used to segregate men, women, and small children. Women and young girls were routinely and brutally raped. Men who resisted or fought back were either killed or tortured until broken. “About 15-20 male slaves were packed in these 2.6 meter by 2.6 meter rooms; seated with their backs against the wall, chained around the neck and arms, they would usually have to wait in the room for about three months” (“Senegal’s scenic island exposes horrors of slave trade” Errol Barnett, CNN, February 23, 2012). The central feature is the short tunnel that leads to the landing where small boats docked before ferrying the captives to the waiting ships that then would transport them to the Americas and Europe. This grim and dark passageway leads to what has become infamously known as the ‘Door of No Return’.

Stephanie Kane the Director of the Senegalese American Bilingual School (SABS), the lead institution in eight school coalition, believes that it is very important for the students to understand the raw depravity of what happened at the House of Slaves. “Children are not going to compromise the horrors of what happened toward any political agenda. They will respond and seek truthful answers,” said Kane. She sees this openness and honesty within youth as they key to establishing broad support for the House of Slaves. “Our aim is to bring together diverse thought and action partners to advance the cause of increasing local and global support for the Slave House. We want to create educational opportunities for students and global educators and learners that offer new strategies for exploring the Slave House in the classroom, on the Internet, and on field trips.”

The actions of the Big Gorse Project have already begun to attract the interest and support of those outside of Senegal. Students and faculty at The City University of New York’s Bronx Community College (BCC) created a photographic exhibit that replicated the House of Slave on their campus. “Over 500 people came to see Spirits Whispering in the Dark, our interactive photographic presentation on the Goree Island Slave House,” said Nick Fenderson a student at BCC who has traveled to Senegal and visited Goree Island. Other BCC students are conducting research, developing a virtual museum app, and developing a business plan for a possible museum souvenir shop at the House of Slaves. “We’ve collaborated with SABS and other groups in Senegal for more than 15 year and the Big Gorse Project is a wonderful way of connecting students and educators in the U.S. and Africa globally,” said Gene Adams the director of Collaborative Education at BCC.

The Big Gorse Project’s Senegalese students and their American counter parts may never totally close the understanding and communication rip caused by the horrors of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. “But with the enthusiasm and commitment they demonstrate as active participants in efforts to share the story of the Goree Island House of Slaves and the humanity of its victims may be a lesson for us all to emulate and embrace.”

The Big Gorse Project: Healing the Horrors of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade By Eugene Adams, Director, Collaborative Programs
BCC’s New Major: English

Bronx Community College is now offering a major in English. Some thought it would attract very few students, but the major itself is showing itself more resilient than many predicted. Some students want to be writers or teachers, so for them English is an obvious major. Others, however, realize that their time spent at a community college might be best utilized skill building, rather than career training, and for them English is a very attractive major. Together, both groups show that English is a good choice for many BCC students.

The major itself includes two courses might be new to many students. First, English 113, Writing about Literature. It is accepted in Pathways as the second semester of the English composition required core. The course is divided into three sections: fiction, drama and poetry, and in it we read creative works from all over the world. A second important course is English 55, Introduction to Literary Studies. It is a critical theory course which involves a wide range of interdisciplinary subjects, including psychology, history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, mythology, linguistics, law, and, of course, critical race theory and gender studies. The rest of the English major is filled up with literature electives, all of which are writing intensive and several of which are part of Pathways. These courses include – among many – Afro-Caribbean Literature, Latino Literature, and the Bible as Literature, just to name a few. In a sense the English major is like a liberal arts major: we employ perspectives from many fields, but always with the goal of improving our language skills.

The courses in the English major will transfer to almost any other college, either inside or outside of CUNY. As of now the English Department holds articulation agreements with John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Iona College. However, it will be difficult to find any college in the USA that won’t accept an English major. In fact (and this is a fact), most people going to college do not know what career path they will eventually take, and the English major leaves as many choices open as possible.

Most important, people who study words and language arts get jobs. Writers and teachers are obvious examples, but businesses are always looking for people who can read and write: that’s why when you apply for an MBA you have to write an essay. Law schools too are looking for good writers, as is any graduate program in the humanities. The simple truth is this: the ability to read and write will help you get a job, and the better your skills are, the more opportunities you will have. So you might want to think about the English major as a practical career choice. It is like a liberal arts major with a lot more focus on language and good writing. And just because you major in English at BCC, doesn’t mean that you have to major in it at your four-year school. No matter what your interests you’re good to go if you major in English.

Around campus there is a free booklet being offered with a picture of the Hall of Fame on its cover. It is called A Guidebook for English Majors, but it is really intended for all BCC students. It will help you negotiate the ins and outs of any BCC program. Have a look at it. If you want to talk about the new program, come visit the English Department on the sixth floor of Colston Hall. Everyone at BCC takes at least one English course, so you can also talk to your own teachers about it. You have nothing to lose and maybe a great deal to gain.

Join a Club or Organization

Dear Faculty and Students:

You are invited to contribute to the 21st ACS 2YC3 Conference, which will take place this year on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27 at Bronx Community College. I hope you will join me in attending and sharing your best practices to assist students in high schools to select STEM careers. Registration is $25. The theme for the conference is “Creative Teaching Strategies.” Examples include: Attracting High School Students to Science Careers, Flipped Classroom Teaching, Interdisciplinary Teaching, Chemistry for Non-Majors, Accelerated Teaching Models, Computer Technology in Chemistry, Quantitative Literacy/Case Studies/Math Phobia.

Check other topics on the conference website: http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/2yc3
Click here for our conference flyer: http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/2yc3/documents/2Yc3_CFP.pdf

You may contribute to our program by giving a presentation, leading a workshop, or participating in panel discussions. Deadline for abstracts is April 6th.

Some exciting keynote include Dr. Paris Svoronos from Queensborough Community College who will discuss “Strategies at 2-year colleges that secure the success of ethnically diverse STEM students” and Dr. Pam Mills and Dr. Donna McGregor from Lehman College, who will discuss the “Flipped Classroom.” There will also be a workshop lead by Dr. Thomas Higgins from NSF on “Hints and tips for writing NSF proposals” (an interactive session) and a Panel of 5 to 6 successful NSF recipients, including York College Provost, Dr. Panayiotis Melites, on letting us know what it takes to be successful.

The last time a 2YC3 conference was in the NYC area was 1992! There will be many networking opportunities during the poster sessions, exhibits, BCC tours, a Harlem Walking Tour, Sylvia’s Restaurant and a bus tour on the history of hip hop.

The link to registration is at http://www.2yc3.org/php/meetings.php.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Conference and Exhibits Chair
Dr. Vicki Flaris
vicki.flaris@bcc.cuny.edu
The labelling of man by hue and not by personality.

security.

Revealing the actual focus of America’s identity.

Acknowledging the true shock of today’s reality.

“Not my president, not my president”, words of alienate.

Hashtags on social media with statements that Placards up high with words that intimidate.

“You do not belong, I do not belong”, a constant reflections of our deeds.

The words we firmly resound, a contrast to the proclamations we solemnly make, a clear sovereignty.

Robustly singing to a theme of patriotism, we proclaim.

Leading the forefront of freedom and liberty, or so soverignty.

Home of the brave, a nation well lauded for its diversity.

Land of the free, a country that boasts in its Land of the free, a country that boasts in its

Home of the brave, a nation well lauded for its sovereignty.

Leading the forefront of freedom and liberty, or so we proclaim.

Robustly singing to a theme of patriotism, Standing together with shared hope and faith.

The proclamations we solemnly make, a clear mirage to the absolute reality.

The words we firmly resound, a contrast to the reflections of our deeds.

“You do not belong, I do not belong”, a constant scream in our streets.

Placards up high with words that intimidate.

Hashtags on social media with statements that alienate.

“Not my president, not my president”, words of bitter hearts.

“Lock her up, lock her up”, protests of hate.

Acknowledging the true shock of today’s reality.

Revealing the actual focus of America’s identity.

Judged by the color of skin, not ensured equal security.

The labelling of man by hue and not by personality.

“I have a dream, I have a dream”, words heralded by King, Only to realize it was just a mere illusion.

For the rise of present social disparity, An ignorance to humanity.

Leaders make promises of unity, but all they do is tear asunder.

Tapping into our fears and wears, causing us to surrender.

Enabling their coffers fill to the brim, at the expense of the layman’s labor.

Selfish gains, they strive for, using position and power.

Foul words they throw at each other, yet preaching the gospel of cohesion.

Promoting conflict and struggle, the principles of their every resolution.

Is this who we are?

Questions that develop out of fear and despair.

The struggles of our forefathers who lay weeping in their places of rest, As their earnest fights and toils are put to waste.

Tears and blood shed, standing for the just.

Uniting and taking a stance of objection, To a system so keen at creating splits and partition.

“This is exactly who we are”, declared a child of color.

Who witnessed the cruelty of racism somewhere in North Carolina.

The rouse of current events intensified her fears, A campaign of bigotry, racism, and xenophobia.

The cheers and enthusiasm portrayed by a faction to such opines, A realization of the true America.

With shrewd optimism for our future, I challenge the notion declaring, “This is not who we are.”

This who we have been made to be, By the very people consigned our trust and faith.

To ensure that we are not to be what we are believed to be.

Let us arise to take our place in society.

Not by protest, hate, or conflict, rather by compromise and arbitration.

Channeling our anger towards creating a challenge to aversion.

Welcoming opposing opinions, While finding strength in our consensus.

Rolling up our sleeves and working hard towards a cause of transformation.

Should be the common core of our identity.

Change is possible, authentic change is possible.

We have to be the change we seek.

From the words of Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator.

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

For a divided nation is a fallen land.

Layings

By Gaysha Wright

They see my glory but don’t know my story
Half of it has not been told
I stood my ground as they watch and frown
They weren’t even as curious to know
Yet I shine through my cries
There are days when I cry ohh I cried
I am like a layered onion that slowly chopped against its block
Releasing it’s enzyme
I peeled off my layers a day at a time
As I go I continue to grow and glow
They see my glory but don’t know my story
Half of it has not been told.


A collage of the riches. Caribbean roots, grown in America. An American born citizen. Desensitize by our government. Accommodating to a way of life, a community, society. A fear of god. Institutionalize... their soul purpose...the controlling of the human race. Threaten by marshal law, global warming & holy war. A dreamer, a daughter, a mother, a grandmother, a simple girl with a dream...A fighter, a realist, a rebel...An open mind, a humble soul, a righteous peer of the community.

Standing up for my rights. My right to speak. My right to live. My right to be informed. My right to express.

My right to be me

...A woman, a nurturer, a breeder, a guide, an influence. The strength behind that man... Oh yes I am...I am an important significant bloodline of race & gender… of what makes this world go round a part of the energy that feeds the universe part of the clutch that holds this humanity together

A Woman of Spice. A threat to the enemy who wants our demise & use religion to deplete the worth, the value of the female life...I’m...I’m a Woman of spice mix race blessed by rich DNA not afraid to fight for my right to be alive
The Writer’s Corner

Sacred
By Elizabeth Lopez

You are just a tool, to those who surround you. Your children are just tools, to those who govern you. Your emotions and heart are just tools, to those who would abuse it. How many prophets must come to warn you of the future that is yet to come? How many spirit guides? How many psychics? And for that sense, out of all the prophecies it is sad we are set with such a doomed one. Come back to what once was. Come back to a decade of non-existing tranquility. Come back to the present. Come back to the words forgotten.

Before it’s too late and the spirits come to collect you. Before they deliver you to where it is we go once dead. Distinguish yourself from the rest. Hold fast to the favor of others because it is sacred. Admiration for someone you love is sacred. The hopes and dreams of those who come to America is sacred. The vanity and grotesque views that politicians who are indifferent towards these sacred things will always be left in perpetual darkness, one only formed by their ignorance. Juturance, faith, grief is sacred. Privacy is sacred. Are those who break hearts in as much sorrow, as those whose hearts are breaking? Someone who gives you their energy and gives you encouragement, someone who builds you up when you crumble. Those people are sacred. Those who are there for you through funerals, there for you through holidays, they are sacred. Family is sacred.

Memories that are fleeting with old age those are sacred, even if the memories become forgotten they don’t lose their meaning, there purity. Happiness, sadness, anger they are sacred. People are sacred. Innocence and youth is sacred. Do you have to win wars or compete in competitions of strength to truly show you are strong? Must you read a thousand books to prove you are wise. Marriage is sacred, Motherhood is sacred. Anything and everything close to your heart, bound to your soul, or sewn to your spirit is sacred. This one statement will never go astray and hopefully will never be forgotten.

You will remember this, even if you don’t it will be stored in your mind forever because it has already been written already been said. And as you are reading this stop and think about these questions they may never have an answer. Are those who see believing or are those who believe seeing? Can you see? I hope so because to me, this poem is sacred. And maybe one day you’ll see it as sacred too.

Inspired by Walt Whitman

The Black Hat and the Black Cat (or the Center of the World)
By Judy Markson, Adjunct Professor of Music

From the bench of a countryside train station, a tall black hat was swept away by the wind and flew in a wild caprice that left its owner motionless with disbelief. It glided like a bat across the vast field of green rice paddies and hovered over a lone black cat. It had evidently taken the black cat for a fellow of? What could be more important than going to new places? Hats are made to travel.”

“Doubt not, child.”

“I’ve traveled with my master to lots of places where there congregated most marvelous crowds of people, each claiming to be the center of the world and each moving about all the time. It seemed a little odd to me that the center of the world had to be squeezed into the town in a tremendous rush in the morning and always got itself stuck in terrible congestion when attempting to escape the town in the evening. It was a rather curious sight.”

“That’s because they are fools,” said the black cat cooly. “The center of the world is not a place that could be chased around! Only the sun should decide. Obviously it has chosen me. I knew it the moment I perched here for the first time. The sweetness of this rice field and the morning breeze enticed me to lie down. Then the sun climbed on my back. It was a perfect moment. The sun was desirous of me and I have been here ever since. That’s a destiny worthy of a cat.”

Before the black hat could ask any more questions, the owner of the hat ran nervously past the black cat and picked up the black hat, mumbling something under his breath. A loud whistle announced the approaching train.

The cat saw the hat waving in the distance. It narrowed its eyes but it didn’t move. The center of the world doesn’t move for anyone.

“The very earth is sacred, is it not? Or maybe it’s lost its purity in the eye of the many beholders. When did this illusion and somewhat abstract hallucinatory take control of the living, suggesting that the earth is just tool. But it is living and breathing. Your children are living and breathing. Your living heart is living. You’re scared. Your children are scared. Your emotions are scared, too scared to be tampered with. The earth is just as scared. If it were not:

“Then all this time who do you think was always behind the scenes to make sure that it never misses a day? You’re the most ungrateful kind, you hat! The sun is enormous. It’s much bigger than a hundred of you put together. It needs a center to revolve around the world and I am the center.”

“The writer’s corner — February 24, 2017

The Writer’s Corner

Sacred
By Elizabeth Lopez

You are just a tool, to those who surround you. Your children are just tools, to those who govern you. Your emotions and heart are just tools, to those who would abuse it. How many prophets must come to warn you of the future that is yet to come? How many spirit guides? How many psychics? And for that sense, out of all the prophecies it is sad we are set with such a doomed one. Come back to what once was. Come back to a decade of non-existing tranquility. Come back to the present. Come back to the words forgotten.

Before it’s too late and the spirits come to collect you. Before they deliver you to where it is we go once dead. Distinguish yourself from the rest. Hold fast to the favor of others because it is sacred. Admiration for someone you love is sacred. The hopes and dreams of those who come to America is sacred. The vanity and grotesque views that politicians who are indifferent towards these sacred things will always be left in perpetual darkness, one only formed by their ignorance. Juturance, faith, grief is sacred. Privacy is sacred. Are those who break hearts in as much sorrow, as those whose hearts are breaking? Someone who gives you their energy and gives you encouragement, someone who builds you up when you crumble. Those people are sacred. Those who are there for you through funerals, there for you through holidays, they are sacred. Family is sacred.

Memories that are fleeting with old age those are sacred, even if the memories become forgotten they don’t lose their meaning, there purity. Happiness, sadness, anger they are sacred. People are sacred. Innocence and youth is sacred. Do you have to win wars or compete in competitions of strength to truly show you are strong? Must you read a thousand books to prove you are wise. Marriage is sacred, Motherhood is sacred. Anything and everything close to your heart, bound to your soul, or sewn to your spirit is sacred. This one statement will never go astray and hopefully will never be forgotten.

You will remember this, even if you don’t it will be stored in your mind forever because it has already been written already been said. And as you are reading this stop and think about these questions they may never have an answer. Are those who see believing or are those who believe seeing? Can you see? I hope so because to me, this poem is sacred. And maybe one day you’ll see it as sacred too.

Inspired by Walt Whitman

The Black Hat and the Black Cat (or the Center of the World)
By Judy Markson, Adjunct Professor of Music

From the bench of a countryside train station, a tall black hat was swept away by the wind and flew in a wild caprice that left its owner motionless with disbelief. It glided like a bat across the vast field of green rice paddies and hovered over a lone black cat. It had evidently taken the black cat for a fellow of? What could be more important than going to new places? Hats are made to travel.”

“Doubt not, child.”

“I’ve traveled with my master to lots of places where there congregated most marvelous crowds of people, each claiming to be the center of the world and each moving about all the time. It seemed a little odd to me that the center of the world had to be squeezed into the town in a tremendous rush in the morning and always got itself stuck in terrible congestion when attempting to escape the town in the evening. It was a rather curious sight.”

“That’s because they are fools,” said the black cat cooly. “The center of the world is not a place that could be chased around! Only the sun should decide. Obviously it has chosen me. I knew it the moment I perched here for the first time. The sweetness of this rice field and the morning breeze enticed me to lie down. Then the sun climbed on my back. It was a perfect moment. The sun was desirous of me and I have been here ever since. That’s a destiny worthy of a cat.”

Before the black hat could ask any more questions, the owner of the hat ran nervously past the black cat and picked up the black hat, mumbling something under his breath. A loud whistle announced the approaching train.

The cat saw the hat waving in the distance. It narrowed its eyes but it didn’t move. The center of the world doesn’t move for anyone.

“The writer’s corner — February 24, 2017

The Writer’s Corner

Sacred
By Elizabeth Lopez

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By Judy Markson, Adjunct Professor of Music

From the bench of a countryside train station, a tall black hat was swept away by the wind and flew in a wild caprice that left its owner motionless with disbelief. It glided like a bat across the vast field of green rice paddies and hovered over a lone black cat. The cat watched the flight of the hat with suspicion, calculating whether to attack or to bolt. The cat saw the hat waving in the distance. It narrowed its eyes but it didn’t move. The center of...


**The Writer's Corner**

**Poems**

*In Her Eyes*  
**By Yubelka Nunez**

A tint of green, amber, and specks of orange  
Glimmer as she looks into the black device  
That will capture her joyful stillness  
Who is this man telling me to sit still, I just want to  
Play and clap and pull on my dress  
Her dress is a pale yellow, tailored for her, with lace and ruffles  
Her shoes white  
Her steps are taken in folded white socks—again  
With the white ruffle and lace  
Particularly telling of the time  
80’s Dominican and New Yorker norms  
Influence her attire  
Influence the layers she will willingly wear,  
The layers imposed on her, and handed down to her  
Clothing, but it may as well be identities  
A warm and gentle hazel stares at the man  
That stands behind the camera  
Who is this man and why is he pointing this flashlight at me?  
I want my bunny…

In the following takes she poses with her  
Purple bunny  
Her sleep aid, comfort, friend, toy, confidant.  
She chews it sometimes because she doesn’t know  
Any better and her gums are beginning to hurt  
She’s teething  
She smiles a smile that never changes in shape,  
Style, and grace  
Dimples visible then and 30 years later  
Whatever color dominates the setting  
Yellow, but she wasn’t mellow (yet)  
She was new to the world  
Untainted  
Unharmed  
A survivor of an emergency C-Section  
"7 minutes until she dies inside…" the doctors said  
And she was born  
Born during a blizzard in NYC in an uptown  
Westside hospital during the first week of February  
Overdue but out just in time to  
Document her survival  
To cry  
To breathe  
To stay alive  
To photograph her last moments of innocence…to  
Stare in wonder.

*To Love Without Fear*  
**By Yubelka Nunez**

I tend to dread endings because they lead to new beginnings.  
Recycled heartbreaks and hopes compel me to  
Contemplate the purpose of these cycles. I fail at keeping my heart open,  
Tender. It burns with the blue flame  
That purifies gold, stones, and roadblocks.  
Sometimes I want to escape  
From the pain, but conquering my cowardice will  
Lead to my survival.  
If for the fittest is survival,  
Then my training is in its beginnings,  
I can’t lift more than my body can take, nor can I  
Keep that which wants to escape. Some people are in it for the chase, the long haul,  
The misery, the lyrics, and the purpose of pure mystery, but if I just want my heart set  
Ablaze, to be overtaken by true love’s flame. I try against my instincts to keep my heart open.  
My defenses kick in. Despite having an open  
Mind, my heart closes. We use these defense mechanisms as a way of survival,  
But they repress the very things that rise to the surface when put through the flame.  
Recognizing our baggage, density, impurities, and hypocrisy can give rise to new beginnings.  
But what is the purpose?  
If at the first encounter of true intimacy, we run  
From ourselves, we escape?  
If love is greater than us can we ever escape it?  
Is it a delusion, a self-defeating attitude to refuse to remain open  
To it? What if owning our maladaptive behaviors is part of the purpose?  
Is love really about endurance or survival?  
When will I embrace the uncertainty of new beginnings?  
When will I surrender to love’s divine flame?  
When will I accept that love’s light comes from its flame?  
So that I mustn’t be afraid? I mustn’t hide. I mustn’t escape.  
Maybe the point is for the light to expose us…to welcome beginnings:  
To accept that perhaps we release our inner darkness when we choose to be open  
With ourselves and our loved ones because honesty leads to survival.  
The truth leads to liberation. Perhaps embracing our duality is the purpose.  
I get so confused, philosophizing about love’s purpose.  
Pretending that I don’t secretly yearn to play with the flame.  
That adapting to pain is what makes us intelligent,  
What extends our survival.  
I don’t think the fear of being hurt is worth the escape.  
No. I think unlocking our secrets is what will open  
Our ears to the quiet still voice that knows all beginnings.  
What if it’s not about survival, but about the journey  
Itself being the purpose?  
Or about being receptive to beginnings, even if we  
Get burned fast by love’s flame?  
I wonder how much we’d grow if we didn’t escape  
The process, but remained genuinely open.

*Grandpa's Rocking Chair*  
**By Yubelka Nunez**

Wooden frame, basket seat and back rest  
It’s comfortable; to sit here and think,  
To rock back and forth in thought and action,  
To pass the time in rhythm, in this heat.  
My grandpa Roque owned this rocking chair.  
It sat quietly across his bedroom  
— next to a table, a lamp, and a bible.  
Momma said I could rock in it someday.  
At night, I move it to the balcony  
To rock among the diamonds in the sky.  
The stars feel close enough to touch. I want to  
Sing with the fervent crashing of the tides.  
In it, I can feel the pulse of Santo Domingo.  
Hear the rustle of the mango tree leaves  
I rock as the ground lizard jumps about  
I rock, thinking about New York City.

**Haku**

A red leaf withers  
It passes with the season  
Winter is coming

---

**3 Short Poems**  
**By Shoola Oyindamola**

Don’t give me hope with your left hand  
That says patience  
While your right hand  
Has what I need.

**PREACHER**

Sometimes, it’s not the devil  
I rebuke and tell to be gone,  
It’s me.

**SINNERMAN**

**NOT, NUTS, KNOTS**

It is not to think that I am not nuts  
It is knots to think that I am nuts  
It is not to think that knots is not nuts.  
I am knots but not like nuts.  
It is nuts to think this too is not knots  
It is knots because this is nuts.
Empowerment for Girls and Women in Education in Western Africa

By Issatou Barry

When I used to live in West Africa, as I walked going to school, I used to see some of my girlfriends from my neighborhood holding baskets in their hands, to go buy food for the family. It really upset me, hearing them wishing to see themselves working professionally in the future, but they are not even given the opportunity to make their dreams come true as their male siblings. Many parents view these girls as wife material, but not doctors, nurses, managers etc. Gender discrimination has always been an issue, especially when it comes to education. Education has been stolen from many young girls and women in West Africa. In many cases, it has to do with cultural/religious beliefs. Empowering young girls and women with education helps countries grow economically, develop more potential, learn about their political rights, health and also help better nurture their family. Not educating young girls and women has a great effect on the economy. According to “The bottom ten countries for female education” by Pauline Rose, this article mentions how young girls are denied education because of their gender. These countries on the chart show the percentage of young girls that don’t have an education. Based on this chart, the countries with these percentages are countries that actually have a very lower economic status.

If you don’t have an education you may not be able to fulfill your potential. I could certainly relate it to the story of the person I interviewed while I was on the phone from West Africa. Her name is Taibou Ly. Before the woman got married, she had already finished her college, and she was in search of a job. As a woman, you are always pressured to fulfill your potential. I could certainly relate it to the culture and also the fear of being judged by others. Chimamanda Ngozi says, “We should all be feminists” I want to tell them that I am just as human as the man, that I am just as worthy of acknowledgment.” Both man and women may be different biologically but it does not mean that one should dominate the other.

One of my uncles in Guinea, who lives in the village, married off his young daughter to someone she didn’t know and had never seen before. Several months after the wedding, she started having misunderstandings with her husband to the point that she left his home in 2011. She knew that my uncle wouldn’t accept her back nor that her mother had the power to help her, she disappeared. Since January 2012 we don’t know where she has gone. My uncle does not like to talk about it as it deprives his respect, honor, and pride. According to Human Rights Watch, “Nepal: Child Marriage Threatens Girls future” many girls who are as young as 12 and 13 years old, are being married off to an older person. “Many children in Nepal girls are seeing their futures stolen from them by child marriage,” In other words, their future is unsure now that they are getting married at young age. Some get married before they even attain their early adult years. For instance, a Nepal girl was forced into marriage at the age of twelve, by the time she reaches fifteen, she already had a baby and two miscarriages. The reason she had miscarriages was because her body was not fully developed and strong enough to have a baby (Human Rights Watch). That shows that early marriage is not only going to affect their future but also their health. Aren’t they supposed to be worrying about school at this age instead of marriage? From a very young age, girls are taught by their mothers how to cook, clean the house, care for the family, respect the father, brother, and later husband. It brainwashes her into thinking that she is not important, that her only priority is her family instead of her own priority as a human being.

It’s important for every human being to reach their full potential, both male and female. Having education is the key to success, know your divine rights and it helps develop countries. For instance: in the text Ta-Nehisi Coates “The Case for Reparations” mentions how Clyde Ross family had land, but it got taken from them by the government. Simply because they were not educated. “There was very little support for educating black people...” (Coates), if at least one member in the family was educated, that knows his/her right by law, had protection from the government, they could have fought for the land by getting a lawyer. I can relate this quote to the millions of girls get education stolen from them. The fact that they don’t know their rights, they are vulnerable. In the book by Malala Yousafzai I Am Malala, she quoted important words from Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan says, “No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men...” (Yousafzai). If society stop differentiates gender and focused on other issues, then our world would be in better place. As Maria Bello from the Ted talk say shows, “We are stronger together, than we are alone” (Bello).

The Communicator – February 24, 2017

COUNTRY SCORECARDS

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**CUNY-BC Study in China**

Summer 2017 (May 29 – June 20) to Five Renowned Chinese Cities: *Beijing, Xi’an, Nanjing, Suzhou & Shanghai*

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**Students choose 1-2 courses of study from the following:**

1. ARTD 3108 – Art of Ancient China
2. BUSN 3175 – Asian Business
3. CHIN1010, 1020, 1030 (Levels 1-3) & CHIN 2024 Advanced Chinese Skills
4. CLAS 1110 (i.e. CORC 1110) – Classical Cultures (China)
5. CORC 3202 – Classical Philosophies of India & China
6. CORC 3206 – Development of the Silk Road
7. HIST 3005 – The Shaping of the Modern World
8. HIST 3534 – Revolutionary China
9. SPEC 1619 – Intercultural Communications
10. SPEC 2623 – Business & Professional Communication
11. TVRA 3871 – Elements of T.V Field Production
12. SPEC 7296X – Special Topic Course for Graduate Students

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**Program Cost:** only $3,350

Including round-trip international tickets, hotels & meals, etc. CUNY tuition not included

Some scholarships & Financial Aid available for eligible students

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**Application Deadline:** March 27, 2017 *(first come first served)*

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

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

*(Program is open to all graduate and undergraduate students across the U.S, inside & outside CUNY)*

Questions?

E-mail Prof. Lu at CUNYinChina@brooklyn.cuny.edu; Tel: 718-951-5225
From Vision to Collective Action: Building Partnerships and Strategies to Amplify Student Success in Community College and Beyond

A Bronx Corridors to College Success Convening

Date: Friday, March 3, 2017
Location: Bronx Community College – Colston Hall, Lower Level
Time: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Breakfast & Lunch will be served

Hostos Community College, Bronx Community College, and the Center for Institutional & Social Change are pleased to invite you to a cross-campus, participatory convening on building collective strategies and strengthening partnerships to widen corridors to college for students in the Bronx.

Convening Goals
This convening will bring together stakeholders, including student leaders, faculty, and staff at Bronx community-based organizations (CBOs) and community colleges, and other institutional partners committed to supporting the academic growth and well-being of students in the Bronx. Together, we will identify promising practices, strategies, and shared commitments to enhance and strengthen students’ college experiences and academic success. This will include a focus on student-access to non-academic supports in community college.

During table discussions and breakout working sessions, students will lend their perspectives, and supporters in the college and CBO communities will share their work. Participants will work in cross-stakeholder teams to share knowledge and identify priorities and collaborative actions following the convening.

Topics will include:
- Strategies and opportunities for peer mentoring and student leadership;
- CBO-college partnerships for college access and persistence;
- Faculty and advisor professional development;
- Supporting students as they transition along the post-secondary pathway; and
- Peer-to-peer learning and promising practices across BCC and Hostos campuses.

You will receive instructions to register by mid-February. If you have any questions, please email Libbie Pattison at epattison@hostos.cuny.edu

About the Bronx Corridors Initiative
Launched in 2015, Hostos Community College, the community, and institutional partners conducted research to better understand and connect the needs, opportunities, and capacities to help build pathways to college success, particularly for out of school youth, immigrants, justice involved individuals, and veterans. A central strategy of this work is to collaborate with Bronx CBOs that are experts in serving the academic and non-academic needs of these populations. Based on this partnership and research, the Corridors to College initiative has begun to implement new programs and interventions.
Global Perspectives / Spring 2017

March

3-10 / Exhibition
6 / Monday / Reception (tentative)
The Hall of Fame Art Gallery, Bliss Hall

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Hall of Fame Art Gallery in collaboration with the Department of History will present a photo exhibition entitled, Women on the March: Images of Protest and Solidarity. The exhibition will feature photographs taken by BCC faculty, staff, and students juxtaposed with historic images of protest and demonstration.

Coordinated by Coordinated by Professor Mary Jo Ben-Nun and Dr. Andrea Ortuno, Department of Art & Music.

6-April 20 / Exhibition
13 / Monday / 2 – 4 PM / Reception
The Hall of Fame Art Gallery, Bliss Hall

In honor of Women’s History Month, the Hall of Fame Art Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of works by painter Josephine Barreiro. A daughter of immigrants from Spain, she grew up in Newark’s Ironbound area. This urban center and its diversity inspired her energetic colorful paintings as well as her black and white works on paper series that developed from her love for abstract expressionism and graffiti art. Barreiro earned an MFA in Fine Arts, an MA in Art Education from New Jersey City University, and a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York. Barreiro has exhibited extensively throughout the U.S.

Coordinated by Coordinated by Professor Mary Jo Ben-Nun and Dr. Andrea Ortuno, Department of Art & Music.

16 / Thursday / Gould Memorial Library Auditorium / 12 – 2 PM

Mivos Quartet, “one of America’s most daring and ferocious new-music ensembles” (The Chicago Reader), is devoted to performing the works of contemporary composers. Since 2008 violinists Olivia De Prato and Joshua Modney, violist Victor Lowrie, and cellist Mariel Roberts closely collaborated with an ever-expanding group of international composers who represent multiple aesthetics of contemporary classical composition, including works by emerging and established composers including Alex Minck, Helmut Lachenmann, Anna Clyne, Wolfgang Rihm, Samson Young, Luke DuBois, and Philip Glass. They have appeared at New York City venues, including The Guggenheim Museum, Kennedy Center, Zankel Hall, and MoMA— as well as concert series in Austria, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong, Shanghai, China, and the United Kingdom. Mivos has conducted workshops at, among other institutions, the CUNY Graduate Center and the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. The quartet also runs the annual Mivos/Kanter String Quartet Composition Prize, established to support the work of emerging and mid-career composers and to encourage interest in new compositions for string quartet – http://www.mivosquartet.com.

Coordinated by Dr. Monique R. Briggs and Dr. Anthony Gatto, Department of Art & Music, and supported by the Art & Music Fund of BCC, Inc.

30 / Thursday / Gould Memorial Library Auditorium / 12 – 2 PM

Valerie Capers, an acclaimed pianist, singer, composer, and educator, was chair of the Department of Music and Art at Bronx Community College from 1987 to 1995 where she is now professor emerita. Her compositions include both jazz, popular, and classical music. The first blind person to receive bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The Juilliard School of Music, she has received several honorary doctorates as well as awards and commissions from, among other, the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, the CUNY Research Foundation, the Smithsonian, The Fund for Artists of Arts International, and she was the first recipient of Essence magazine’s “Women of Essence Award for Music” along with Oprah Winfrey and Marla Gibbs. She has been recognized by the Bronx Music Heritage Center as a Bronx Living Legend for her “enduring legacy to the American jazz tradition,” and is a distinguished member of the Bronx Walk of Fame. In fall 2015, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio appointed her to the city’s prestigious Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission.

April

26 / Thursday / Gould Memorial Library Auditorium / 12 – 2 PM

Duo Montagnard was formed in 2002 and has performed over 300 concerts in 49 states, 8 Canadian provinces, and 20 countries on 6 continents. Festival performances include the Chaubatuqa Institution, Scandinavian Saxophone Festival, Hartwick College Summer Music Festival, North-West University New Music Week (South Africa), UNC-Wilmington New Music for Guitar and Saxophone Festival, Radford University International Guitar Festival, and the Alexandria Guitar Festival. The duo has commissioned, premiered, and recorded more than 20 works for guitar and saxophone by composers including James Crowley, Jonathan Elliott, Laura Kramer, John Anthony Lennon, John Orfe and Russell Peterson – http://www.duomontagnard.com/home.html.

Coordinated by Dr. Monique R. Briggs and Dr. Anthony Gatto, Department of Art & Music, and supported by the Art & Music Fund of BCC, Inc.