In This Issue:

Page 6
Health and Fitness with Dr. Wayne

Page 8
BCC Holds Tree Planting Ceremony to Improve Air Quality and Temperature

Page 9
Student Government Leaders Address the Student Body

Page 10
Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Former BCC President, Is May 29th Commencement Speaker

Page 12
HIV and College Students

Page 13
Going Global

AND MUCH MORE!

Manny Mejia: BCC’s Representative to CUNY’s New Leadership Initiative

Manuel Arsenis Mejia Fernandez, better known by fellow students at BCC as Manny Mejia, is a member of a special group at City University. He is one of 28 students to become a member of CUNY’s New Leadership Academy out of over 480,000 students in the CUNY system.

The Leadership Academy is a new CUNY initiative to move its students into the new millennium by helping them to learn leadership skills. It has recognized that all positions in this world require leadership skills.

The responsibilities of these new leaders are to bring together a sustainable alumni board and to work on service projects throughout the year. The ultimate goal will be the creation of an innovative and sustainable service project that will positively change New York City, and eventually all of New York and the rest of America.

It’s a heavy responsibility. Mejia believes he is up to the task. He is a computer science major with a 4.0 average. Even though he won’t graduate until 2010, he has his sights set on going to Boston University. He credits his dad, who is a trucker, and his mother, who sells food from a cart, as being the biggest influences for keeping his sights set on college.

Why was he chosen for the CUNY Leadership program? “I was selected because I demonstrated a commitment to service work and making a difference in my community. I have done volunteer work in the community, such as helping immigrants apply for citizenship, through CUNY and its Citizenship Now! Initiative. I also helped spread Hispanic art and culture in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan,” said Mejia.

College Media Group Organizes 3-Day Journalism School in New York

By Muhammad Jalloh

In mid-March, 2009, College Media Advisers, Inc. – a nation-wide student media development and advocacy group – organized a three-day media convention to help student journalists acquire and improve the skills they would need to take their college media outlets to greater heights. The CMA brought together scores of college students, hundreds of advisers and even nationally-recognized journalists to cover the whole spectrum of journalism, ranging from New Media and Journalism, the rise and fall of media outlets, creative penmanship, multimedia creation and technologies, newspaper design and editing, social media tools and marketing. But, most importantly, the convention was graced by some of the most influential players in the industry, whose experiences would have a lasting impact on the lives and careers of the young and upcoming journalists.

A three-year journalism school is a miracle, but a three-day school just outright breaks the record. And the CMA convention, that lasted from Sunday, March 15, through Tuesday, March 17, 2009, was nothing short of that. And with every workshop spanning 50 minutes, the attendees had enough information to use right away without suffering information overload. A myriad of tools and resources were also pointed out and shared to aid those who would need more specialized or advanced training and guidance.

An Opportunity to Attend

Being asked to fill in the spot of one of the student delegates from Bronx Community College at the last minute, it did not take me more than a few seconds to send a response to Professor Andrew Rowan, the college newspaper adviser, with an “I do.” Set in the beautiful Marriot Marquis Hotel right in the heart of Times Square in downtown New York City, I would have gladly paid for such an opportunity.

Congratulations

Kesi Foster for Best Story Award from American Scholastic Press for “Yankee Stadium Deal: How the City Helped Steal Home from the Bronx” and to The Communicator Second Place Award for Journalistic Excellence
Letters to The Communicator

Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to respond to articles and editorials found in this newspaper. We also urge you to speak out on issues that matter to the college community, as well as your neighborhood, the city, state, nation and world-at-large.

The views expressed in published letters are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of The Communicator.

- We reserve the right to shorten any letter submitted due to space considerations.
- We reserve the right to refuse publication to any letter due to space considerations, as well as those letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems and/or slander.
- No letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, and telephone number.

Submissions should be emailed to The Communicator at bcc.communicator@gmail.com.

The Communicator Submission Insertion Dates September Monday, August 17, 2009

If you are interested in having an article, editorial, letter or announcement included in The Communicator, it must be received by the following dates:

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

To All Members of the College Community

BCC is happy to announce an important campus construction project that is scheduled to begin later this month. The project will involve the Brown Student Center building and includes:

- the relocation of the College Bookstore to the first floor
- the creation of a two-story Campus Cafeteria
- the installation of a passenger elevator serving all floors
- the construction of a new ramp for wheelchair access

While both the Cafeteria and the Bookstore will remain open during most of the construction period – the expected duration of which is approximately 18 months – please be advised that there is likely to be considerable noise, especially during the demolition of concrete slabs.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to improve our campus facilities and, as a result, improve the services we offer to the entire college community, especially our BCC students. Thank you.

Campus Planning/Administration & Finance

Attention

All Bronx Community College Clubs

Make sure that your club is represented in the BCC 2009 Yearbook with a group picture.

Contact Charles Sabat cbigz1405@yahoo.com or 646-544-6285 to arrange for a photo.

Join The Communicator Team!

Cover campus news events
Explore local, state, national and global stories
Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community

The Communicator is looking for Writers • Photographers • Advertising representatives

Become part of our time, and join The Communicator today! Work study and Independent study may be available.
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Become part of our time, and join The Communicator today!

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

BCC
SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Hours of Service:
Mon-Thurs 5-10 pm
Pick up the shuttle in front of Meister Hall.

Service to and from campus every 20 minutes.
Stops include #4 Subway Stations: Burnside, 183rd & Fordham Rd.

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Life at 718-289-5194
continued from cover

Why? “I want to do this because I am a city kid who was lost in the lights, unaware of the possibilities and opportunities waiting for me. I have always been computer savvy and believe my curiosity in artificial Intelligence to be a reachable goal.” 

From Bani in the Dominican Republic, Mejia lives in the Bronx with his mom, dad, two sisters and his six-year-old daughter. He’s not the first to go to college in his family. His sister went to Brown University and is now an assistant director at J. P. Morgan Chase Bank.

Looking back, Mejia’s college career didn’t advance the way he had hoped. He attended Christopher Columbus High School, Walton High School and John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx, but too often, he said, for the wrong reasons.

He came to Bronx Community College in 2004 after failing the writing composition test for Lehman College. It also seemed a good place to start the convention which was a big (journalistic) talk show if you think about it. And who doesn’t want to own and manage the anchors of CBS News’ ‘The New York Times’?, (delivered by The New York Times’ own Gabriel Dance) and “Chicken Salad” (a newspaper design workshop, not a buffet, as the title seems to suggest). (Though I must confess, I had to steal away and get something to quiet my increasingly rumbling stomach after this session.)

By 1 p.m., it was time for the much-anticipated, hour-long keynote address of the day by Byron Pitts, one of the anchors of CBS News’ 60 Minutes. He shared his story of struggles and triumphs, failures and narrow escapes from obscurity and the benevolent characters that influenced his decision to grab his dream by the forelocks and live it. Considered “functionally illiterate” at 12 and told by his English professor in his freshman year in college — “You are wasting your time, my time and government money” — he was rescued by another (angelic) professor at the most critical time in his career when he was about to join the ranks of those who turn their backs on education forever.

Mr. Pitts shared some of his most outstanding works as a reporter, including his coverage of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City. He also offered the student journalists in attendance a few nuggets of media wisdom. I could not help but ponder what he said. “The key to a great interview is to read, read and listen, listen, listen” or when he emphatically stated, “I don’t do interviews; I have conversations.”

Later that day, I attended other workshops, including one on “Marketing Your Newspaper Online,” hosted by the media advisors from the University of Washington Daily.

By the time I boarded the train bound for the Bronx later that evening, I just knew that I had finished my sophomore year in journalism. But I still had two more days (each equal to a day) to graduate. So, I went to bed ready to storm the convention again the next morning.

Day Two: Creative Penmanship, Brutal Salesmanship and the Art of Multimedia Storms

This year’s cohort represents 15 Colleges and 20 majors. The Fellows experience state of the art multicultural leadership education with emphasis on service, community building, global perspectives, and innovation.

continued on page 5
covering such issues as preparing for an interview, choosing a setting, ending the interview and follow-up strategies; it was the ideal take-away for every serious journalist.

Shortly thereafter, the kind advisers from the University of Kansas and Iowa State University hosted the "One-Man Band" session where they explored the different skills that the modern-day journalist needs to learn to get and keep a job in the ever-dwindling and competitive media job market. They noted that of particular importance to the journalist is being able to shoot, write and create compelling multimedia stories. This, they pointed out, would become especially useful as media outlets of varying interests and sizes are increasingly moving to a web platform delivery system. They advised attendees, when considering creating multimedia presentations, "to let the readers see [the story characters] in their elements." A few minutes later, the main auditorium was filled to capacity awaiting the keynote address to be given by Charles Gibson of ABC News’ World News Tonight with Charles Gibson. I also managed to get a seat a few rows away from the front, much to my disappointment. But it was first come, first-served, and having arrived just a few minutes before the commencement, I could not (and would not) complain.

A well-grounded journalist with more than three decades in the ABC newsroom, Mr. Gibson had anchored the very famous "20/20" program on your policy options or some other features of your island origin and had even read the prose and poetry of such popular and moving icons as Ishmael Beah, a child soldier-turned writer and author of his own autobiography A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.

The young lady in the "unusual" attire was Huma Munir, Co-Editor of the NF’s Bergen Community College’s The Torch student newspaper. Of Pakistan descent, but raised in New Jersey, she had chosen to wear the Islamic head dress, the Hijab, even if that means she would be the only one wearing such a head gear in the convention. She could have been easily mistaken for one of the stereotypically "oppressed Muslim woman" of the western media. But she had carved out a place for herself in the American media. She also recently won first place for News Writing in the New Jersey Press Foundation Contest. It was profound having someone of her ethnicity and background making headway into the Western media. Hers is the illuminating story of the struggles of the Muslim-American woman to live the American Dream with the "Bush Doctrine" of her religious identity. So, I could not help but get a name and a phone number for possible future contact and follow-up.

A few minutes later, I was headed for the subway and bound for the Bronx and home. It was one heck of a day; I had acquired enough know-how to make me a skilled multimedia creator, a fairly good newspaper designer and a brutal salesman who, in the words of Ms. Annette Forbes, my adviser of the North Idaho College’s newspaper and the local community.

Mr. Rosdahl shared his tips for keeping his writers motivated, hunting for new talent from the high schools,Dr. Rosdahl had given me advice for keeping advertisers happy and coming back. His secret? "We do ad trades, not cash for ads." He revealed that his editorial team organizes a book swap at the end of every semester, both to generate cash for the paper and to donate to charities such as the "Books for Africa" project. The [college] bookstore hates us," he said, but it is a profitable venture for him and his writers as they net about $5,000 every semester through the book swap event.

Is It Really Over?

An hour later, it was all over. The delegates were preparing to leave for their different states and colleges. I would have headed home too, but I was already graduated, home, right here in New York. As I walked down the escalator and out into the streets filled with happy, green-clad and colorful "St. Patrick’s Day" Irish celebrants, I knew my days here had not been spent in vain, for I have had much to gain.

As I sat back in the train, bound for the Bronx, it then just occurred to me: I am a graduated journalist. I had amassed enough knowledge in three days that some college students would not get in their four years in journalism school. Now, if I could just get to what would be his advice to me, could I make this event worth its weight in words.


**Tuesday, the 17th of March, though a little shorter (in terms of planned workshops) was nevertheless, at least as exciting and intellectually stimulating and motivating as any of the past two days.**

My first workshop of the day was "Interviewing Strategies," a session as crucial to the student reporter as the survival of the media industry and its employees.
Are You Managing Your Stress?

Guidelines for Dealing with Stress

All events in life precipitate a reaction. How people react or respond to situations differ. Coping is an attempt to manage or deal with stress. Dealing successfully with stress may require using a variety of techniques. Because stress-related responses are based primarily on mental perceptions, coping strategies are often necessary. Try these, they work.

Following are guidelines for effectively dealing with potential harmful stress:

1. Schedule time effectively. Practice good time management techniques by using time wisely. This means taking time out for yourself every day and scheduling work when you are usually at your peak ability.

2. Set priorities. Know what is important to you. Do not attempt to work on four or five projects simultaneously. Keep your efforts focused on one or two major items.

3. Establish realistic goals. Goals must be achievable. Do not establish impossible expectations and then become frustrated when they are not accomplished quickly as you would like. Write down long-range goals and establish checks for keeping yourself on track.

4. See yourself as achieving the goals. Visualize yourself as being successful. Go over in your mind what it will look and feel like to accomplish your goal.

5. Give yourself a break. Take time every day to exercise and relax.

6. Smile and laugh as often as possible.

In September, relaxation techniques.

If you have any questions, please email me at: wayne.major@bcc.cuny.edu.

Be well.

Dr. Wayne Major
Health, Physical Education and Wellness Department

Need Health Insurance?
Fidelis Care Can Help College Grads

Young adults among fastest-growing segment of the uninsured

As the newest class of college graduates prepares to enter the workforce this May, awaiting them is one of the toughest job markets in decades. Several major metropolitan areas nationwide and one-third of counties across New York state now have unemployment rates in the double digits.

No longer covered under their parents or school plans, health insurance is often among the first item sacrificed. Young adults in their 20s often gamble with their health and hope any serious medical issues do not arise. Fidelis Care wants graduating seniors to know that free or low-cost health insurance coverage is available.

"Young adults in the 19-to-29 age bracket are the fastest-growing and largest segment of the uninsured population," said Rupert Brady, Fidelis Care Assistant Vice President of Marketing.

Fortunately, in New York state, programs exist that often can provide complete healthcare coverage for this population.*

Through New York State’s Family Health Plus program, Fidelis Care members are covered for regular checkups, hospital care, emergency care, prescription drug coverage, eye care, dental care, speech and hearing therapy, and preventive care. Adults ages 19 to 64 who are residents of New York state and are not eligible for Medicaid may qualify for low-cost health coverage through Family Health Plus, based on their household size and gross monthly income. Family Health Plus has no monthly premiums, with some copays.

Fidelis Care representatives make it as easy as possible to apply for enrollment. Representatives will often meet with individuals in their homes, at work, and even at the local coffee shop to discuss their health care insurance options.

Serving more than 472,000 members in 46 counties, Fidelis Care is founded on the belief that all New Yorkers, regardless of religion, ethnic background or income, should have access to affordable, quality health insurance. Fidelis Care members have access to a provider network of more than 30,000 health care professionals statewide.

Regional offices are located in Amherst, Syracuse, Albany, and Rego Park (Queens), with satellite offices in Rochester and Poughkeepsie.

Individuals seeking affordable health insurance coverage should contact Fidelis Care toll-free at 1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) or visit www.fideliscare.org.

See Fidelis ad on page 15
BCC Leadership Institute

A Training Program for Collegiate Student Leaders

Free leadership training will provide students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and gain the tools needed to lead more effectively. The curriculum focuses on cutting-edge leadership skills and strategies needed to successfully implement both campus and community initiatives. Upon completion of the training component, students will have the opportunity to take an exam and become a

Nationally Certified Student Leader!

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be considered for the program, students must:

• Be registered for at least six credits the semester the application is filed
  • Have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5
• Have completed at least 12 degree credits, but have no more than 35 prior to submitting the required application
• Submit a recommendation from a member of the BCC faculty
  • Provide a brief statement of at least 250, but no more than 300 words, detailing campus and community leadership plans
• Please Note: In certain cases, the program qualifications may be waived if the student is already involved in a campus leadership program.

Applications are available now and can be picked up in the Student Life office, RBSC 102. Upon request, an application can also be sent to you via the mail or by email. If you need additional information, please stop by our office in RBSC 102 or call us at 718-289-5194.
An Afternoon of Getting to Know about Islam

By Mohammed Meishanu

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) of the college organized an afternoon of getting to know about Islam in room 228 of Begrisch Hall on the 28th of April from noon to 2:00 PM. Themed “Jihad, Jesus and the Rights of Women in Islam,” the function was opened with an introduction of Mr. Manny Lopez, the Assistant Director of Student Life, and Ms. Roslyn Gillespie (Vice President of the Student Government) by the Vice President of the MSA, Mr. Muhammad Jalloh. Both Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gillespie gave short speeches encouraging the attendees to be actively involved in college activities geared towards helping them develop themselves and to let their voices be heard on campus. The guest speaker of the event, Imam Muhammad Yaseen, was then introduced and the main event was begun.

Listening raptly to the speaker were about 40 students, who came to learn more about Islam. He delved a little into the history of the beginning of Islam, the many challenges the Muslims faced, their successes and exemplary lives and how we can be some of God’s best creatures on earth ourselves by emulating these early Muslims’ exceptional ways of life. The speaker noted that it was a deeper subject and did not want to go into it, but said, “Islam is not terrorism and anybody who terrorizes in the name of Islam is at variance with the teaching of Islam.” He pointed out that the Qur’an had stated that the Qur’an had clearly stated, “Who so slays a soul, not to retaliate for a soul slain, nor for corruption done in the land should be as if he has slain mankind altogether. And whosoever saves a life, it is as though he has saved the lives of all mankind” (Qur’an 5:32).

Some films were going to be shown but time and technology did not allow that. The Vice President of the MSA, however, promised that the club will post links to the films on www.bccmsa.com, the club’s website. He also said that the club will regularly post articles, videos and other Islamic media on the website. An informal and interactive session between the students and the guest speaker then followed, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion. Following, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion. Following, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion. Following, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion. Following, while everybody was busy with the sumptuous Middle Eastern food, specially ordered for the occasion.
Good Day, Students of BCC

We meet once again for the final time, for this is my last semester here at BCC. Though iron is hot for the project and we all wish to succeed by the end of this academic year. If not, then I will personally make sure that it is done in time for students to benefit in the upcoming semester. Vice President "Go Green" campaign. As you can see, your student government has been very busy, attempting to implement effective and lasting changes to provide current and future BCC students to have a complete community college experience. I say we haven't done half bad. In all, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. I have learned many lessons and have obtained valuable experience as I hope to make myself a better public servant. I have connected with many of the students here this year and I hope those I feel touched by, were somehow moved by me. I hate to use the old cliché, but if I have inspired one student to do better, my job was a success. I have moved this school and Student Government in the right direction, this year was a success. We have only just begun this journey in life my students and I hope that my term as President was the first step in a more collaborative and involved student body. And I know this administration has done its best in this effort. I couldn't be prouder.

This year has been productive for you as well, as you continue to pursue your academic goals and the dreams of success that follow. I hope that you return to your unappreciated shoes at one time and were elegantly forgotten at times trying to follow and enforce rules that others have seemed to have forgotten.

As I leave, and a new administration enters, it is my hope that the torch will continue to be carried in the manner that I have tried to instill. It is also my hope that the IOC would collaborate with the Office of Student Life and the Bronx Community Students Society to become involved with Relay for Life. This is an extraordinary event that would be instrumental in supplying our students with information on all types of cancers that affect both genders and an excellent opportunity to support the continued efforts to find a cure for cancer.

Again, it was a pleasure serving you and please remember one thing – “If You Stand for Nothing, You Will Fall for Anything.”

Good luck in your future endeavors and, may God Bless You All!!

Sincerely,
Roslyn Gillespie
Vice President, Student Government Association
Chairperson, Inter-Organizational Council
The Communicator – May 6, 2009

Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Former BCC President, Is May 29th Commencement Speaker

“There are many things that bother me in life; trust me, I complain a lot. One of the things that has been bothering me most lately is my lack of free time in school. I am finding it a challenge to balance my work, social, and educational obligations. It is hard to maintain a healthy, well-rounded life while having these two major time-consuming events in my daily routine, and I understand I am not the only one. I find that I am always in a rush and don’t have time to take care of my needs. I am definitely never able to “stop and smell the roses.” I am too busy studying, doing homework and bussing myself across town to get to school and work on time.

In my personal and social life, I am missing out on many of the activities I used to enjoy so much. I don’t see my friends as frequently as I would like to get to participate in fun things like playing ball with the guys. My down time has gotten much more limited due to my work load. My busy schedule doesn’t allow any time to myself or even a chance to go to the gym. With the warmer weather right around the corner, it saddens me to think that I am missing too much class time, which could be very beneficial.

While my personal life is suffering, I am doing all that I can to excel in school. It’s tough to find enough time to study, and when I do it is hard to rest and concentrate when I know that I have a limited time before I need to get to work or sleep. My home-work is often done in a rush and could probably be much better if I had the time to apply myself and focus. The same is true for school projects. I have to work on these after work, usually staying up really late to get the work done. Group projects are extremely hard to collaborate on with such a packed schedule. I rarely have free time to meet with my group.

Work takes up almost all of the time that I am not in school. There isn’t even time to go home and change into my work clothes. I often have to attend class in my work clothes, as I have seen many others do as well, instead of being able to express myself the way that I would like to by wearing my own outfits. With classes during the day and a job to work until closing in order to get enough hours in. By the time I leave work at 10 PM, the day is gone, and I am too tired to do much else than go home and get to bed. If I were to cut back on the number of hours I work per week that would put my money situation at risk, and that is one thing I can’t afford to lose.

Some of these problems can be alleviated by managing my schedule better. When I registered for classes this year, I did not pick my classes, but I allowed someone else to make my schedule. Next time around I will get an early start on registration, getting first pick on classes and choosing ones that are at better times, giving me a better schedule to work with. I will also give myself extra time between classes and work when planning my schedule with my manager. That will leave me with some time to work on homework and projects, or even play a game of ball!”

The Big Read: A Conversation about Justice, Tolerance and Heroism Held at BCC

The Bronx Council on the Arts and BCC faculty held “A Conversation about Justice, Tolerance and Heroism,” lessons from Harper Lee’s classic novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, in Gould Memorial Library Rotunda. The event, called “The Big Read,” was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts on March 31st.

The conversation brought together students from local high schools to hear a distinguished panel that included BCC’s Dr. Susan Amper and Dr. Julie Bolt of the English Department and Dr. Katherine Culkin of the History Department. The moderator was Charles Rice-Gonzalez, executive director of the Bronx Academy of Art and Dance. Bill Aguado, executive director of the Bronx Council on the Arts, and Carol White, director of public affairs at Bronx Community College, welcomed the audience.

The panel discussed issues of race raised in the book and heard from Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., 87, president emeritus of Bronx Community College (1977-1993). Brown grew up during the 1930s, an eyewitness to the era. He talked about the issues which bothered him.

As a former Army Air Force captain who flew a P51 fighter escort plane to protect B17 bombers on flying missions over occupied Europe in World War II, Brown commanded the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group (the “Tuskegee Airmen”). For this service, in 2008 the Tuskegee Airmen, including the ground support crew, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for Outstanding Service to the Nation.

A dramatic reading, introduced by BCC Professor Ellen Mareneck of Communications Arts and Sciences, was delivered by the Bronx Community College Speech, Drama and Debate Team.

Join A Club
For Bronx Community College business major Bounyaminou Gbadamassi (the G is silent), who gradu- 
ates on May 29, this year is exciting for two reasons. First, 
this week he received his acceptance letter to enroll at 
Cornell University next fall. Second, he will graduate 
with his brother, Taoyidi Gbadamassi, mathematician major 
at BCC, who helped pave the way for his younger brother to 
come to the U.S. and finish French-speaking Togo. 
Gbadamassi is in a special category. The money for his 
transfer to a four-year college after graduation — up to 
$30,000 annually — has been promised by the Kaplan 
Community Educational Foundation. The scholarship was 
given under the Kaplan Leadership Program. The foundation is 
a subsidiary of Kaplan Inc., a leading global provider 
of educational services, owned by the Washington Post 
Group. (Taoyidi received a $20,000 scholarship to the 
Department of Teaching and Learning at the Steinhardt 
School of Culture, Education and Human Development 
of New York University.) 

“I am so thrilled. I called my mother and father. 
They can’t believe that the son of a farmer may go to such 
well-known universities as Cornell, Brown, Georgetown, 
or American University,” said Gbadamassi. He will decide 
after he hears from all schools.

“Cornell teaches farming,” he said. “I would like to 
learn more about farming so that I can obtain the 
knowledge to go back to Togo to help people become 
more profitable managing their farming businesses.”

“Cornell is interested in helping students be a part of 
the next generation of leadership,” explained 
Jennifer Benn, director of the Kaplan Educational 
Foundation. “We work with students in associate 
programs to help them finish their degree before 
entering four-year colleges. They have great potential, promise and a 
financial need.” When Gbadamassi was told last May that 
he had been selected for the scholarship, he was also told 
that he had to finish the rest of his associate’s degree in 
good standing. He has done that. He has a 3.869 grade 
point average.

His goals are ambitious: “I would like to earn a 
master’s degree in international business and ultimately 
create a non-profit organization that will help poor chil-
dren and immigrants attend college in the US and West 
Africa,” said Gbadamassi.

“My inspiration comes from my experiences in 
both the US and Togo. I come from a poor country where 
more than half of the population never attends college. My 
arrival in the US has helped me to understand that educa-
tion plays a crucial role in the development of a country. I 
believe that my career in international business will give 
me a holistic view of the world that will help me to under-
stand social difficulties and how to address those needs 
effectively,” he added.

To help choose a four-year college, he has been vis-
iting campuses to ask questions of faculty and administra-
tors since Kaplan first told him that they were interested 
in him in May 2008. Through the foundation, he has vis-
itied multiple four-year colleges including Brown, 
Georgetown, and American Universities. Two weeks ago, he traveled to Cornell University 
to interview business department faculty about their busi-
ness program. While there, he met Bronx Community 
College graduate Kojo Wallace, the $60,000 winner of a 
Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in 
2008. Wallace is majoring in biology. (Many New 
Yorkers may remember seeing CUNY subway and bus 
ads publicizing his academic achievements.)

“After a five-hour bus trip from New York City to 
Ithaca, NY, I luckily arrived on the Cornell campus and 
coincidentally stepped down in front of a building and met 
Wallace who had just departed his class,” said 
Gbadamassi.

Wallace spent 45 minutes with Gbadamassi. “In 
that time, he told me that the pace at Cornell is so fast that 
if you miss two days of classes you’ll fall behind and not 
be able to catch up,” said Gbadamassi. “It was a good 
piece of advice which I will keep in mind as I move for-
ward in my college career.”

For the 30-year-old Gbadamassi, getting to this 
point in his college career has been a single battle. Back in 
Togo when he was in grade school, his father, a farmer in 
a village six hours north of Lome, hoped his son would 
help him in the fields. Fortunately, an uncle who is a math-
ematics professor and American University graduate 
lured him to leave school and work in an agricultural 
firm. The uncle asked if he could take Gbadamassi 
with him to acquire the individualized training and infor-
mation that he will need to move forward in the next phase 
of his college career.

“Our students have a vision of what they want to 
do, but they are not always sure of their path. That’s where 
we can greatly facilitate their advancement toward becom-
ing people who can take their leadership skills anywhere,” 
stated Benn.

Gbadamassi thanks professors at BCC for their 
help. “Without my professors’ recommendations, I would-
’t have been able to apply for the Kaplan Leadership 
Program, or the All USA-competition. It would have been 
harder for me to apply to a four-year college. BCC facul-
ty and staff are a big part of my success. I am so grateful 
to them. I particularly take this opportunity to thank my 
history professor William De-Jong Lembert for all his 
support and advice. I am also grateful for the Kaplan 
Educational Foundation Scholarship.”

BCC Student and Kaplan Scholar Busily Prepares for Next Step after Graduation
HIV and College Students
By Yessy Herrera

HIV is a disease that has affected many lives and brought suffering to many families. This is a disease that human beings should not have to experience. However, when we or someone we love is infected with HIV, our life course changes, which includes our dreams and goals. College students and people in general need to protect themselves from acquiring HIV. But are we taking the necessary precautions to protect ourselves from getting HIV? If not, then what steps are we to take to do so?

Today, there are many programs created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to educate the public about HIV. Their goal is to decrease the number of infected people. To a degree it has been effective because many are protecting themselves. As a result, the number of new infections has declined. However, recent studies have shown that unsafe sex remains common among New Yorkers. New data from the Centers for Disease Control indicated that blacks made up 46 percent of new infections and Hispanics made up 32 percent. BCC is greatly populated by blacks and Hispanics. Hence, this new data is related to us at BCC making it important for us to take the necessary precautions to avoid contracting HIV.

An article in August 27, 2008 The New York Times written by Serwell Chain indicated that 36 percent of New York men who have sex with other men and who have more than one partner within the past year do not consistently use condoms. The word consistent is important when it comes to protecting ourselves from acquiring HIV; one unprotected sexual contact can lead to HIV. Are we as college students protecting ourselves? The first step in protecting ourselves is through education about HIV and the modes of transmission. However, many people have that information already. How the information is used is an individual choice that can lead to life or death.

If we choose to not engage in unprotected sex then it will increase our chances of not being infected with HIV. The only 100 percent protection against HIV is not having sex or not using infected needles when drugs are involved.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, New York City’s Health Commissioner, states that tens of thousands of New Yorkers put themselves at risk by having unsafe sex, according to The New York Times on February 12, 2009. He also stated that decreasing the number of sexual partners and using condoms correctly and consistently makes it less likely to get a sexually transmitted infection like HIV. This is important information to keep in mind before engaging in any sexual activities.

Other risk factors that college students are faced with is substance use like alcohol and marijuana. Casual or chronic “users” are more likely to engage in high risk behavior such as unprotected sex according to the CDC. Also an article in News Media indicated that of the 16 percent of heterosexuals that are having anal sex, only 29 percent of them used condoms. Anal sex puts a person at an even higher risk for contracting HIV than vaginal sex; the rectal lining is very delicate and tears more easily, leading to a break in the skin as a result allowing HIV to penetrate and invade our body.

Today, we do not fully know the reasons why many people are still contracting HIV. It may be because they are not taking the information seriously or may be that they are passive learners. Many do not see the importance of immediate action, such as life style changes in order to not be a victim of that disease that is literally ruining many people’s lives.

I personally have experienced how HIV can change a person’s life and those around them like their loved ones. My father was a nice-looking man; he had many women and occasionally had a few drinks. Unfortunately, he died of HIV. Like many young people, maybe father thought that he had the world in his hands and that whatever he was doing was ok. When he found out about his diagnosis, he felt sorry for his actions but that came too late because three other women were infected from him. He left innocent children behind without their parents to care for them and protect them. That nice-looking man that once my father was, by the time he died looked nothing like him; the disease destroyed him physically and mentally.

In brief moments of pleasure, if we do not take the proper precautions we can be putting our lives in danger. Furthermore, when it comes to those we love we can not put complete trust in them with our lives because we do not know what the other person is doing behind our back. If a partner is cheating and we choose to stay with the person, it will be wise to use condoms during sexual intercourse. When it comes to trust; the only person whom we can trust 100 percent is ourselves. Hence, protection is imperative.

As mentioned above, protection starts with education. We will take the right actions, if we know as much as we can about HIV; for example, changing our life course by having only one partner. In addition, avoiding the use of alcohol or drugs, if not, taking precautions will be important. For anal sexual intercourse, the use of condom decreases the likelihood of getting HIV. Do not put your life in danger for no one or for few minutes of pleasure. With great resolve, let’s protect ourselves!
Students Travel to DC’s Holocaust Memorial

By Sonya Acosta Gonzalez

On March 7, 2009 the New York-area Hillel (The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life) sponsored a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and nine members of the BCC chapter of the Student World Assembly attended. The trip provided included transportation, food and overnight accommodations at the Holiday Inn, Greenbelt, Maryland. This trip was made possible by the generosity of the David Taub Family.

The purpose of our trip was to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where we learned about the tragedies that occurred during the Holocaust. The Museum considers a Hecker Mason or survivor as whatever person, Jewish or non-Jewish, that was displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against for political, social, racial, religious, and ethnic reasons by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Before entering the Permanent Exhibition, a visitor receives an Identification Card that explains the story of a Holocaust victim or survivor of the event. The black marble panel on the wall behind the eternally flame has the inscription: “Only guard yourself and guard your soul carefully, lest you forget the things your eyes saw, and lest these things depart your heart all the days of your life. And you shall make them known to your children and to your children’s children.” This passage is taken from the book of Deuteronomy.

We also learned how the Nazi Party used propaganda – as well as new technologies – to sway millions with its vision for a new Germany. We became living witnesses for our fallen brethren. On display are more than 900 artifacts, 70 video monitors, and a vast array of historic film footage and eyewitness testimonies. The exhibition is divided into three parts: “Nazi Assault,” “Final Solution,” and “Last Chapter.” It’s core message to me was to remember because history has a tendency of repeating itself.

The experience was both educational and depressing at the same time. Each student at the debriefing session that participated in the discussion addressed his or her unique experience. The visit to the museum reminded me of the need for us as a human race to ban together as residents of one world. In 1933 the world watched as the Holocaust claimed lives, and today we are faced with genocide in Darfur and other parts of the world. The world would be a better place when “we” realize that “we” could be “them.” “We” could be next.

We are reminded of Ella Wheeler Cox’s words, “To sin by silence when we should protest, makes cowards out of men.”

Confident BCC Students Join the Salzburg Global Seminar

The nine BCC students attending the Salzburg Global Seminar’s International Study Program (ISP) – America and the World – were pleasantly surprised by the above-average temperatures that accompanied their week’s stay in Salzburg. Having prepared for cool and damp, the warm weather seemed the perfect accompaniment to their eagerness and willingness to plunge headlong into the week’s lectures, discussions, the trip to Dachau, and the warm weather seemed the perfect accompaniment to their eagerness and willingness to plunge headlong into the week’s lectures, discussions, the trip to Dachau, and the challenging group project.

As many other CUNY students were preparing to enjoy Spring Break, nine BCC students – Mohammed Rinaz Ahamed, Enoch Alloitey, Ricardo Aponte, Millicent Appiah, Norma Collado, Armanda Estrada, Manny Mejia, Jean Carlos Sanchez, and Daniel Torres – joined 27 other CUNY students (from Kingsborough Community College and Borough of Manhattan Community College) to test their understanding of global affairs and universal citizenship that had been discussing this spring in their course Introduction to Global Citizenship.

Most mornings in Salzburg began with lectures, including “The First Universal Nation: The American People in the 20th and 21st Century,” “The US of America and the World: Views from a Distance,” “Americanization, Globalization and Popular Music,” and “Creating Inclusive Societies” given by an international team of lecturers, including professor emeritus Dr. Norman Yetman (University of Kansas), Dr. Reinhild Waggleineer (University of Salzburg), Dr. Alex Seago (University of Birmingham, UK), and Dr. Champa Patel (health promotion specialist, Nottingham, City’s Primary Care Trust, UK). As always, David Goldman (ISP associate director of education) and Astrid Schroeder (program director for the ISP) provided the framework for the week’s work, including an opening presentation “From Ethnocentrism to Global Citizenship” as well as the context for the day trip to the Memorial Site at the former concentration camp at Dachau (Germany).

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where we learned about the tragedies that occurred during the Holocaust. The Museum considers a Hecker Mason or survivor as whatever person, Jewish or non-Jewish, that was displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against for political, social, racial, religious, and ethnic reasons by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

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We are reminded of Ella Wheeler Cox’s words, “To sin by silence when we should protest, makes cowards out of men.”
Robert Dry, a career United States diplomat who is serving as Diplomat-in-Residence at the City College of New York, and is teaching a course in contemporary foreign policy at CCNY, shared his experiences as BCC on Wednesday, April 29th he addressed a receptive audience of BCC students who are interested in foreign service careers. Students from the English 12/99 honors course – Introduction to Global Citizenship – as well as members of the Student World Assembly and several other interested BCC students attended this unique forum. Dry began his remarks with a travelogue of his foreign service career in the U.S. Department of State. He mentioned in detail most of the places to which he has been posted in his State Department career: Paris; Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; Hanoi, Vietnam; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Guangzhou, China; and Baghdad, Iraq, as well as Saudi Arabia; and Yemen. In fact, he opened a spirited recounting of his time in Yemen with an exchange in Arabic with Tarek Gubari, a BCC student and Yemeni native. Luckily, they both offered quick and concise translations.

Dry repeatedly stressed the need for soft power – diplomacy – over hard power – force, saying at one point, “The problems we face are not all solved with military might.” A 35-year State Department veteran, he alluded to the embrace of diplomatic solutions sought by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in stark contrast to their predecessors, President George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice. He told the gathering that the 2010 Obama budget will show a 40% funding increase that highlights this administration’s preference for widening the use of soft power in its approach to global relations.

Many of the students took careful notes when Dry referred them to web sites which offer scholarship opportunities for students – such as the Pickering Program (www.woodrow.org) and the Rangel Program (www.howard.edu) – as they move into four-year institutions and, subsequently, graduate programs. He urged the students to seek out these programs and to work hard. “The US Foreign Service is merit based,” he said. Successful completion of one of these programs can lead to a guaranteed job with the State Department for American citizens. They are also available to foreign-born residents who become American citizens.

At one point he told the students, “Maybe we should be teaching foreign policy as you all will be the decision makers. In 2025, you all will be in charge.” Heads begin to nod in agreement all around the room.

The Communicator – May 6, 2009

There Is Still Danger in the World
By Kenneth Deloach

The Korea Peninsula is arguably the most dangerous and volatile place in the world. It has all the makings of the next big issue for the Obama administration. While Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran are all big problems, with so much attention paid to the Middle East, we forget that there has still never been a declaration of peace between the two countries, only a ceasefire with can be broken by even the slightest mistake. And with the recent test launch of a North Korean rocket, one which they claim is for peaceful purposes and the advancement of the space program, while everyone else believes it may be to further their nuclear and ICBM (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile) programs. Whatever the case, this latest incident is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to volatile Korean Peninsula.

As Communist Korean troops routed the United Nation forces during the Korean War, forcing them to the smallest corner of the southern part of peninsula, the North Korean army grew to be a power to be reckoned with. Over 60 years later and they are still the same. A popular You Tube video shows the training their top soldiers go through. Shooting eight targets through the heart within a minute, breaking numerous hard objects with their limbs, and just being an overall super soldier are just some of the most dangerous leaders in the world. Former Secretary Madeleine Albright simply called the North Korean army “muscle in elaborate marches in the capital city of Pyongyang, Jong Il, or whoever is in power will be ousted due to the poor economic and social conditions that wear on the country. Along with that, is the presence of U.S. Forces on the 38th parallel, the world’s most de-militarized zone. Though the North Koreans state that their military is capable of defeating the United States and the South in a full on military conflict, their aging technolog—proves otherwise. Their navy is considered obsolete and would not last long against a small U.S. battle group – let alone an entire pacific fleet. Though their army is strong in numbers, the armor and weaponry they possess are obsolete as well. The old Soviet weaponry they have harks back to the first Iraq war in 1991. Though Iraq had more tanks, those tanks could not get within range to shoot the superior U.S. tanks, and were destroyed rather quickly. Along with that, the U.S. has superior air power which would also make quick work of the North Korean military.

So with all these odds stacked against them, the reclusive country seeks to improve its military power, wanting to be a big dog on the world stage. That’s where the recent missile test disturbs the U.S. the most. If North Korea could develop an ICBM, even a rather ineffective one, there is still the chance that it could hit the U.S. or Japan. Military action is out of the question for the U.S. Any military strike by the U.S. would result in the leveling of the South Korean capital of Seoul. North Korea has hundreds if not thousands of artillery installations pointed at Seoul, enough to level the entire city within hours. The air force would not be able to destroy all of them in nearly enough time and the resulting casualty rate could be in the hundreds of thousands, if not millions. So the U.S. can only sanction, talk tough, and frankly hope Kim dies soon enough and someone with some sense takes over, or that situations would be so bad that China invades and does the dirty work for us. Vice President Joe Biden said that someone will test the President Obama during his first days in office. Well, this is the test: how to deal with a country always on the brink of war with your ally. The recent missile launch just uppied the ante, and soon it will reach its ceiling.
Will this movie be what Americans need to escape from its reality of trouble times?

The answer (drum roll please)…

No. Watchmen, the movie, is no fairy tale. It is not the basic good-guy-always-prevails-type scenario. This movie is set in 1985, where President Nixon is serving his fifth term and in a time where America is about to go into nuclear war with the Soviet Union. The story begins with a murder of a retired super hero. There has been a law passed banning all superheroes and with this, almost all have retired. You’re introduced to your classic super hero in the 1940s known as the Minutemen. The Minutemen included Captain Metropolis, Mothman, Silhouette, Comedian, Dollar Bill, Hooded Justice and the classic Silk Spectre and Nite Owl. Minutemen are later replaced by a more updated group in the 1960s called the Watchmen. These include the comedian (from the original minutemen), Nite Owl II, Silk Spectre II (the original’s daughter), Ozymandias, Dr. Manhattan, and Rorschach.

Though all dub the title super hero, all but one has actual super powers. The rest of the Watchmen have no super human abilities or strengths. Though the team does kick major behind in the movie, one can’t deny they are more human then anything. All the super heroes though being super heroes, all have human fears and faults, making it easier for the audience to relate to the character.

The Comedian is played by Jeffery Dean Morgan. Edward Blake aka The Comedian is murdered in the first couple of minutes. His story and character is presented in flashbacks throughout the movie. He, according to Rorschach, is the only one who saw the world for what it was. He is the only one other then Dr Manhattan, to have work for the government. If one pays mind to his quotes and dialogue spoken, he often foreshadows what is to come.

Ozymandis is played by actor Matthew Goode. Adrian Veidt, aka Ozymandias, has banked on in his past as a super hero, and he has revealed his secret identity to the public. He is said to be the smartest man in the world. But even from the beginning of the movie, there’s something off about him and one soon does learn he is the villain, behind it all.

Dr Manhattan is played by actor Billy Crudup. Jon Osterman, aka Doctor Manhattan, is the only character in this film with actual powers. He was once a scientist, but due to a horrible accident, is given super human abilities. He is able to see the future, and alter matter all the way down to subatomic level. He is Nixon’s solution to the problem with the Soviet Union. Once his girlfriend leaves him he has little reason to save the world and even says, “The existence of life is a highly over rated phenomenon.”

Silk Spectre II is played by actress Malin Akerman. Laurie Juspeczyk, aka Silk Spectre II, only really took to being a super hero, only to follow in nymmy’s footsteps. In the beginning of the movie she is Dr. Manhattans girlfriend and a retired super hero too. She is haunted by her childhood and treatment by her mother and her mothers past. But by the end of the movie, her father is revealed though the answer is a bit obvious from the beginning. She is able to let go of her anger towards her mother and her past, and ends up with Nite Owl II.

Nite Owl II is played by Patrick Wilson. Dan Dreiberg, aka Nite Owl II, is an inventor. He is a much more gadget equipped then the first Nite Owl. His “Archie,” short for Archimedes, is what was used by the team to get around to the crime scenes to fight crime. He, in the beginning, is, like the others, retired, and has been doing much of nothing. He does his best not to stir up trouble. He has a true nature to want to save the people. Later in the movie, he takes up his costume again, and with his once partner Rorschach, and Silk Spectre, finds out the truth about the comedians murder.

Last, but not least, is Rorschach played by actor Jackie Earle Haley. Walter Kovacs, aka Rorschach, is a disturbed character with a traumatizing past. I’d have to say, he is my favorite. He is the key narrator in this movie, and his raspy deep sarcastic voice and attire reminds me somewhat of a better-dressed Sherlock Holmes. But he puts his own spin on the mask. His own team doesn’t know what he looks like, for he doesn’t own up to being Walter, but only answers to Rorschach. In the movie it isn’t until he is arrested and in jail that his true face is revealed. Rorschach describes and explains to the psychologist, when Walter died and why he goes by Rorschach.

This scene is very graphic. Right before he takes a butcher’s cleaver and strikes the killer in the head he tells him, men go to jail, but dogs get put down. To Rorschach, his mask is his true identity. Though it is revealed to the audience and to the rest of the team watchmen, that Ozymandias is behind it all, it is not revealed to the people. Rorschach leaves Ozymandias lair and is killed by Dr. Manhattan for threatening to tell the people what they should know. But the joke is on them really. For everything is written in his journal which he sent to the News Frontier, a newspaper. In the end scene, they show a man complaining how there’s nothing to write about in the paper because everyone’s happy. The newspaper reporter then looks over the basket and there, among numerous other papers, is Rorschach’s journal.

This movie, though quite lengthy, had enough twists and turns and action to keep your attention the whole time. I don’t recommend this movie for children and kids under the age of 16, even though while I was in the movie theatre there were many small children. This movie has a rating of R which is appropriate for it has much violence, sex, war, language and blood. This movie did not require you to read the graphic novel in order to understand it which is a plus. I have been told by people who have read the novel that many parts have been left out of the movie version. But I have heard that the extended version will include all the things that got cut in the editing room. So I will be sure to buy that one too.

Because of this movie, I actually am going to go buy and read the graphic novel. I’d like to get the whole story. Though parts are missing from the graphic novel, I think the movie is a full story all on its own. It does require you to think a little more, and pay attention, but isn’t that what movies were all about to begin with. To make you wonder, to make you think. Since when was it okay for a movie to give it all away, and set and explain everything out for you. The details, if you pay attention, are amazing and the quotes and fight scenes will be on your mind for days to come. I rather enjoyed this movie, and though it is not an escape from our trouble times of America, it does make me think and wonder a lot about our society and government, but more importantly about the people.

“I have a college degree, three job interviews tomorrow, and a Fidelis Care Doctor who helps me plan for my healthy future.”

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BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECONDHAND SMOKE PROGRAM
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

BACKGROUND
Effective September 1, 2009, Bronx Community College will start a new program on the prevention of the exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) throughout the campus. This new program is based upon many years of science proving that major health problems are caused by secondhand smoke. Bronx Community College is responsible for providing a healthy environment for its entire community, which includes visitors as well. The program will promote the health of both our college community not challenged by health problems and our special needs members with asthma, diabetes, emphysema, cancer, cardiovascular conditions, etc., as well as children and seniors whose systems are not functioning efficiently. Precedence for this program has been established with the implementation at many colleges throughout New York State.

PROGRAM
Smoking will not be permitted within 40 feet of all building entrances and air intake vents. Signs will be posted at all entrances and air intake vents. Designated comfortable smoking areas, with outdoor ashtrays and tables, will be located at specific areas throughout the campus. Smoking area signs will be posted at these areas. Individuals should smoke within these areas and be sure that they extinguish and dispose their cigarettes into the ashtrays.

PROCEDURES
This program will be implemented with a friendly reminder procedure that will rely on the thoughtfulness, consideration, cooperation, and positive interaction of both smokers and nonsmokers. All members of the college community will be requested to remind individuals (including visitors) to please smoke within the designated areas. The Campus Public Safety Officers will remind the smokers of the new program by showing them the signs and indicating where they can smoke within the designated smoking areas.

EDUCATION, SUPPORT AND CESSATION PROGRAMS
This new program will periodically be publicized through all campus media to remind the entire college community of its purpose. The education, prevention and cessation programs of smoking will be included in courses within various Departments such as the Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness in conjunction with special programs implemented by the College Health Services. Individuals who wish to stop smoking will benefit from these courses and special programs. These individuals will also be referred to off-campus resources such as the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association, as well as encouraged to contact 866-NY-QUITS (697-8487) or visit www.nysmokefree.com.

EVALUATION
Emerging scientific research will be reviewed periodically to determine if new program recommendations will be needed and the goal of promoting a healthy environment is fulfilled.

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Wellness, BCC Health Services, and BCC Student Government
Students to Volunteer Abroad in Jamaica and Peru

Seven Bronx Community College students will be going global this summer to participate in exciting volunteer-abroad programs. These experiences students will enable students to learn more about another country while also providing important assistance to local communities.

Nursing students Nadine Myers-Campbell, Priscilla Mariusso, Sonia Ruddock, Komi Attitso, Cynthia Diaz, and Joseling Pagan will participate in a program sponsored by the Organization for International Development and under the guidance of BCC nursing professor Dr. Marcia Jones. The students are being supported by scholarships from Bronx Community College.

While in Jamaica, they will assist the doctors and nurses of the professional medical team in performing basic clinical procedures, thereby gaining invaluable practical nursing experience. The mission also affords them invaluable global experience working in rural areas of Jamaica where the services they will offer are not readily available. Students who have previously participated in this program have reported that not only were they more confident in their nursing skills but that they were anxious to continue to provide service to others in need both here and abroad.

BCC student Daniel Robles will also travel abroad to volunteer this summer. A recipient of the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship, an annual prize which offers students financial support for an international or domestic community-service project of their choosing, Robles will work with street children in Cusco, Peru, under the auspices of United Planet.

These students will be presenting reports of their volunteer-abroad work to the BCC community in The Communicator as well in events that are part of the College’s Global Perspectives event series.

Student World Assembly Sponsors Shoe Drive

The Bronx Community College chapter of the Student World Assembly is teaming up with Buckner International – global organization that seeks justice for “the least of these” by providing care and resources for orphans and at-risk children in the United States and more than 50 countries around the world – to ask the BCC student body and faculty to collect shoes for orphan children around the world.

Buckner’s ninth annual “Shoes for Orphan Souls” shoe drive is planning to collect more than 200,000 pairs of new shoes, socks and shoestrings, with a nationwide campaign. Shoes will be shipped to 55 countries. Since 1999, Buckner has sent more than 1.5 million pairs of new shoes to at-risk children in the United States and around the globe. Donated items should be for children and teens and, due to customs’ regulations, shoes and socks need to be brand new. Especially needed are boys’ athletic shoes sizes 1-12 and all sizes of winter boots.

“Every one pair of shoes makes a big difference to the child that receives them,” states SWA president Sonia Acosta-Gonzalez. “You can drop-off shoes at Brown Student Center every Thursday during club hours until Thursday, May 14, 2009. Please bring your donation.”
The 2009 Bronx Community College Broncos defeated Queensborough Community College 5-4 at Keyspan Park to win their second CUNY Championship in the last three years.

photo: Charles Sabat
The Transformation
By Mohammed Meishanu

The transformation is so profound it shows
Yea, truly BCC is transforming lives
I can argue that for sure, this is the proof
I never sat behind a computer until Dr. Smith said so
Summer of 2007 that was the first time
Now I do research, type, and PowerPoint. WOW!

I thought my life at that moment before the transformation
Was just work at a job and feed the family
Now a career is in the offing and that can even feed the family better
I am able to help with homework and the pride of that
Some professors saw the promise and kept on the encouragement
I sure would love to thank them, they are transforming lives

I went to Spain to one of the oldest universities in the world
Amazing all from Bronx CC, transforming lives. I fell in love with
Salamanca and Spain, the culture, the cuisine, the people all made
An impression, oh, I would love to go again.
The honors convention was a blast, three days in a resort
at just the pampering but also the lectures, sessions, forums
And the experience, to be cherished for a long time
Dr. Tarlin is my muse; she sees what my ma didn’t see
I write poetry because of her, BCC is transforming lives

In my community I am asked to chair meetings
Because they see the transformation from BCC
This goes to say education is a life long thing
To strive for, if at first you couldn’t do it, try again.
It takes courage to transform from pupa to imago
But if you want to be transformed, try BCC.
TRANSFORMING LIVES!
Keep up your reading and critical thinking skills over the long summer break. Here are some suggestions from the BCC faculty.

**Knots** (Penguin) by Nuruddin Farah
Set in Mogdishou, the war-torn capital city of lawless Somalia, the novel is about courage and hope of common people who seem to enjoy life against all odds.

**Women of Sand and Myrrrh** (Anchor Books) by Hanan Al-Shaykh
These are four intertwined narratives from women in a wealthy Arab desert country. All of the characters live in luxury and privilege but are denied the very basic freedom of self-expression.

**So Long a Letter** (Heinemann) by Miriama Ba
This long letter is written by a widow, Ramatoulayye, to her friend, over the mandatory forty-day mourning period following the death of a husband. Both women married for love and had happy, productive marriages; both were educated and had work they loved. During their lives, both of these women’s husbands chose to take a second wife - and each woman then made a different choice.

**Waiting** (Vintage) by Ha Jin
Lin Kong is a Chinese army doctor trapped in an arranged marriage that embarrasses and repels him. (Shuyu has country ways, a withered face, and most humiliating of all, bound feet.) Nevertheless, he's content with his tidy military life, at least until he falls in love with Manna, a nurse at his hospital. Regulations forbid an army officer to divorce without his wife's consent—until 18 years have passed, that is, after which he is free to marry again. So, year after year Lin asks his wife for his freedom, and year after year he returns from the provincial courthouse: still married, still unable to consummate his relationship with Manna.

**God's Bits of Wood** (Heinemann) by Sembene Ousmane
This story enters on a railroad strike by Negro workers in and around Dakar. The plot revolves around the battle that ensues along racial lines and the long-lasting effects on all those involved once the strike ends.

**Native Speaker** (Riverhead Trade) by Chang Rae Lee
This book recounts a young Korean-American’s struggle to conjoin the fragments of his personality in culturally diverse New York City.

**Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust** (University of Wisconsin)
The St. Louis—carrying German-Jewish refugees and refused permission to dock in Cuba and Florida in 1939—became a potent symbol of global indifference to the fate of European Jewry on the eve of the Holocaust.

**Stolen Lives** (Miramax) by Malika Oufkir
Oufkir tells of the 20-year imprisonment of her upper-class Moroccan family following a 1972 coup attempt against King Hassan II by her father, a close military aide.

**Queen Victoria** (Harvest Books) by Lytton Strachey
Strachey’s classic biography offers a fascinating portrait of the long-reigning Queen of England and Empress of the British Empire whose reign spanned the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.

**Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World** (Fawcett Columbine) by Jack Weatherford
The author traces how the cultural, social, and political practices of the Indians of the Americas transformed the way life is lived throughout the world.

**The Pioneers** (Signet Classics) by James Fenimore Cooper
One of Cooper’s Leatherstocking Tales, he chronicles Natty Bumpo’s quest to retain the freedom of frontier society in the face of the rise of modern society.