Broncos Post Record-Breaking Season
By Charlotte Witherspoon

The Broncos have put a fantastic cap on a banner year, bringing home their first CUNY Championship since 1991 and the first CUNYAC regular season title in BCC history. They beat Kingsborough 85-75 to clinch the title and closed the season with an 82-100 loss to Sullivan County Community College.

This season brought more than team triumphs, as sophomore Frederick Simpson has snagged CUNYAC Player of the Year and an All-American nomination. Coming to us from Grace Dodge High School, Simpson has only been playing basketball since the ninth grade, yet his stellar performance has the recruiters from four-year schools buzzing. Ever modest, he said, “It just seems like basketball to me.” One shouldn’t be fooled by his soft-spoken nature off the court; Simpson, Daquan Seymour and Chris Davis are a nearly unbeatable trio on a formidable team.

Athletic director Eric Mercado credits the team’s whirlwind season to Head Coach Shannon McKinnon. A security guard at Montefiore Hospital by day, McKinnon has proven to be a miracle worker by night. In his first year as head coach, he doubled the team’s winning record and secured the Broncos’ place as a force to be reckoned with. Not one to rest on his laurels, McKinnon has led the team to its best season yet and will not stop until the Broncos win the NJCAA National Championship.

The record season was not without its setbacks. Daniel Odiase’s dismissal on conduct grounds was a major blow to the roster. An outstanding Coach McKinnon claims that, “[Odiase] was unjustly kicked off,” and notes that Odiase was at fault for not informing the employees on time that they would be losing their jobs as their contract with BCC to operate the cafeteria was ending soon, she noted that CulinArt District Manager Ed Murray first told them in October of last year that bids for operating the cafeteria were ongoing but that the company didn’t know if they would win the bid to renew their contract with the college or not. On December 23rd, he came back again to tell the employees that a new company will be taking over the operations of the cafeteria over the Spring 2011 semester onwards.

However, when we spoke to Ms. Nneamaka Okorie, SGA Executive Secretary and Vice Chair of the BCC, Inc.’s Auxiliary Committee (which is in charge of reviewing activities and contracts of entities that do business on the college’s campus), she pointed out that there were discrepancies in the story told by the union and employees. She said that calls for bids for operating the cafeteria were put out at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester, but that CulinArt, which has been operating the cafeteria for 15 years, is being replaced. Odiase, McKinnon’s right-hand man, was let go along with the rest of the cafeteria staff.

The workers at the cafeteria were hired by CulinArt and not contracted employees of BCC and that the college is therefore not responsible for them. At the meeting, the SGA senators voted to draft a resolution supporting the laid off employees, while omitting the misleading statement found in the aforementioned materials.

As for the employees, unless they are offered positions at other locations by CulinArt or if Healthy Choices (the new food vendor’s) terms of contract with BCC change to the college’s advantage, they may have to go without any prospects for a job, either at the college or with CulinArt, their employer and operator of BCC’s food vending services.

The cafeteria went out at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester as ours. A future of job uncertainty in economic times as troubled as ours.

The BCC cafeteria is undergoing a lot of changes, and in all of them, not just the food vendors, students, and other members of the college community.

According to reports, from this March onward, Healthy Choices will replace CulinArt as the new cafeteria vendor. This may lead to new menu items, and change in the variety, types and quality of foods available to the college community, as well as some perks for the college. There is also another side to this new development: the current staff at the cafeteria will not be able to keep their jobs and may have to go without any prospecs for a job, either at the college or with CulinArt, their employer and operator of BCC’s food vending services.

While there have been whispers (both from officials and others) since last semester about the possibility of a new food vendor for the college, they have remained only rumors at most, that is, until the last week of February. Officers of the UNITE HERE (Union of Needletrades, Textiles and Industrial Employees, and Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees) Local 100 union informed us that the current employees of the BCC cafeteria may be laid off by the end of February and that February 25th is the last day that CulinArt will be handling food services at the cafeteria.

According to Ian Mikusko, UNITE HERE’s research analyst, they had already met with BCC’s Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, Ms. Mary Coleman, and President Carolyn Williams on February 17th to solicit their support in helping to put pressure on the new vendor to retain the employees so that they can keep their jobs and benefits. He pointed out, “They said that they can’t do anything about it, but they actually meant that they won’t.” He also noted that SVP Coleman said that all she can do for them right now is to have these employees send in applications with the possibility of getting to work in other capacities as employees of the college as these jobs become available.

For Carmen Ovalle, a cashier who has worked at the cafeteria for 15 years, their impending layoff is like a fog at the end of the tunnel. “I have been here for years and know what students like. I have spent the best of my years here. It’s not CulinArt that does the work; it’s we who do the work,” she said, as a cloud of tears ran down her cheeks. “I have no options; I have to start from zero,” she added. And for Victor Bonet who works at the cafeteria’s pie counter, his biggest concern was when work at the cafeteria would end. After 12 years, the layoff would mean having to start over again looking for a job in these unstable economic times. “I feel I have been here forever,” he said. Shafiq Rahman, UNITÉ HERE’s Local 100’s organizer, pointed out that, “It’s standard in the food service industry that even when companies change, the employees stay” and are rehired by the incoming food company.

If the layoff comes to pass, it will affect all current employees of CulinArt at BCC. Ms. Precious Giilliard, the cafeteria manager under CulinArt, noted that, “None of the employees has a solidified position. None of us (including the manager and assistant manager) was offered anything [with CulinArt].” The only exception will be chef Bradelsey Johnson, who will be retained by the company. As for the prospects of the cafeteria employees under CulinArt being offered employment by the incoming company, she says, “According to what I heard, the new company doesn’t want the union.” Asked whether CulinArt was at fault for not informing the employees on time that they would be losing their jobs as the company’s contract with BCC to operate the cafeteria was ending soon, she noted that CulinArt District Manager Ed Murray first told them in October of last year that bids for operating the cafeteria were ongoing but that the company doesn’t know if they will win the bid to renew their contract with the college or not. On December 23rd, he came back again to tell the employees that a new company will be taking over the operations of the college cafeteria from the Spring 2011 semester onwards.

Ms. Okorie also pointed out that as part of Healthy Choices’ contract with the college it will hire and train BCC students to work at the cafeteria. The college will also receive $20,000 worth of free food and snacks annually for its events.

In a bid to garner support from the college to help put pressure on the BCC administration to have the new company retain the cafeteria employees under CulinArt, the UNITE HERE Local 100 union got a resolution passed by the BCC chapter of the PSC (Professional Staff Congress) on February 17th. They also attended the February 25th meeting of the Student Government Association to plead the case of the employees and get support from the students. Manny Lopez, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Life, noted that there were attempts at misleading the students and portraying the college in a bad light with the mischievous phrase referring to the employees as the “cafeteria workers of Bronx Community College,” which appears on both the PSC resolution and the flyers being used by the UNITE HERE union. He pointed out that he did not know whether the workers at the cafeteria were hired by CulinArt and not contracted employees of BCC and that the college is therefore not responsible for them. At the meeting, the SGA senators voted to draft a resolution supporting the laid off employees, while omitting the misleading statement found in the aforementioned materials.

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The Communicator
Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper. We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

The views expressed in by-lined articles and in published letters are solely those of the writer, and they do not necessarily represent the view of The Communicator.

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations.

We reserve the right to refuse publication to any article or letter due to space considerations as well as those articles or letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems, or slander.

No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number.

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address: rowanandrewdavid@aol.com.

Notes:
- Submissions should be in Word 2003. Later versions of Word will not be accepted.
- JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

Deadlines
April issue: March 30
May issue: April 29

Please note that The Communicator reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission due to space considerations or if the submission is deemed inappropriate because of profane language, verification problems, and/or slander.

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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 team, and join The Communicator today!
College work study may be available.
Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.
You still have time to join a club if you haven’t yet. There is a list of BCC clubs to join, for anyone to view at the Student Life office located on the second floor of Meister Hall. Many of these clubs have meetings and activities, the only thing I had in mind was trying to get to class on time, staying as focused as possible, and passing my test so I can make it to my other classes. I began to develop the long process of setting an appointment and the group is not interested or the speaker doesn’t show up. You may place an order for refreshments and have them come in on time or be different from what was ordered.

The Bronx Community College Counsel consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and an IOC officer. The council decides on long-term projects or goals as a club. Many other educational programs. Currently, TRiO programs at BCC provide services to more than 200 students. The main purpose of TRiO is to increase access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

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By Kenneth Brown

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All Animal Lovers Unite and Fight
For Those That Do Not Have a Voice of Their Own

The Animal Advocates of BCC a motivated and passionate group dedicated to supporting the rights and humane treatment of animals is looking to further expand its membership.

Our goal this spring semester is to educate our fellow students on what they can do to get involved and prevent the unethical treatment of animals. We are looking to expand our club in order to coordinate larger fundraising events on campus and touch more area shelters by committing to a few hours each month of volunteer work. We need members that will be proactive about our cause and further contribute to the club’s goals with their own innovative ideas. We are looking for animal lovers to join us in hopes of reaching even more animals that need our help! Just a few hours of your time can make a real difference for even one animal.

Just contact us and let us know how you’d like to help.
Email us at ANIMALADVOCATESOFBCC@YAHOO.COM.
Career & Transfer Services

Career and Transfer Services provides quality services that assist students with career development and transferring to four-year colleges.

Career Services:
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Career and Transfer Services
Loew Hall, Room 330
718.289.5799
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit us and like us on Facebook—at Career and Transfer Services at BCC—and get the latest updates on workshops and events!
Enter My Mind
By P.O.E.T.

Growing up you would have thought
That baseball was our favorite sport
Because my best friends
Had a few strikes against them
Everyone was pitching
And the stickup kids tried to catch you coming home slipping
So shit wasn’t a safe...
Even though the fiends were on base
But we had faith...
Just not like you’re used to
But around here it’s the usual
They couldn’t care less about how we’re living
Little tommy once told me the gun was his religion
It makes sense...
Since it’s always court and never church when they’re calling for a witness
But we’re forced to live this way so we won’t pray for forgiveness
We ain’t ask for none of this
I was once told life was a punishment
The answer was lost but I swear that I’ve found it
I now see that some get high so they can fly... forget that they’re grounded
God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
And help them understand that my flaws make me who I am
I think with my heart when I speak my mind,
So at times my emotions get the best of me
And when they do I hope you don’t think less of me
Cause I mean what I say & I say what I think is right, I’ve always been that way

A young JFK
They tell me to be careful... Sometimes I feel like I really oughta
Cause NYC could be my Dealey Plaza
But I toss caution to the wind to block the offense from the wind
Cause life ain’t always what it seems
We’ve been living a nicotine dream.
I’m scared it’ll turn my heart black
I always been a little different
I was told the eyes are windows,
Although mine are tinted
And my soul is vintage
The world rests at the base of my neck
Burdens weighing heavy on my chest
And it don’t feel right... cause broken dreams don’t heal right
Regardless I still write
Cause words are the weapons I use as protection
From the demons, yeah I seen them in my own eyes
Was once a victim of my own lies
But I’m thankful because some died
And were victims their whole lives
We live in an age of deceit,
beware of the lessons they teach.
We’re born with our consciousness open,
sadly we’re conditioned to close it.
But I’m claustrophobic.
I gave my mind space & seceded from that mindset
Ignorance is malignant & I refuse to let that tumor grow
Although, I used to live in that place within my mind,
Took a trip back, afraid of what I might find
Because it’s been so long since I’ve been home, I was out throwing stones.
I blacked out & forgot I once lived in a glass house.
See I was zoned out
But I remembered it was I that shattered my own house
Cause they’re no more than false and fragile systems of beliefs
In which bind us confine us, don’t allow us to grow
I learned to live life like water and allow it to flow
The search for knowledge and understanding is infinite
But see, what beliefs do, is deceive you
And because of deceit you believe that the journey is complete
As I stood among the shards of broken pieces
I realized people build walls around their beliefs
Afraid to have them stand out
But these ain’t stones... these are gents that I toss at your glass house

B: You’ve just released your sophomore album entitled “Nerd at the Cool Table”; it is more of a musical album compared to your first. What brought about that kind of shift?

P: The reason for my first album being more spoken word based, and the most recent album being more musical is that between the two projects I’ve grown as an artist. I’ve always had an adoration for music and knew I wanted to make the transition eventually, but I had to first see where I wanted to go with it... as I grew I went from just writing poetry to writing music, incorporating the two, and since then I have moved on to other forms of art, including acting and photography. As I said before, “Life is art” - I just want to generate from it.

B: Who are your influences?

P: I have a few different influences, some are artists and some are not, but they all influence my art. Bob Marley, Joe Budden, John Mayer, William Cooper, Malcolm X, Tupac, those are just a few.

B: It’s clear that you have a message (or several) in your writing. Who is it for? Is this your target audience? Can you sum up the message?

P: I have a lot of messages within my work but one general message, or more so, a goal, I wish to accomplish is to serve as light for the world’s potential... Picture a dark room, now when you flip the switch, the light doesn’t create the objects within that room, but merely makes you aware of its [sic] presence. I wish to show others that they are destined for greatest; they just have to discover it within themselves. Also, most people don’t care to take a stand or help others unless it directly affects them. I want to show people that we are all connected and whatever they do, or don’t do, affects others.

B: What are your goals for your present album?

P: I have three main goals for my current album: First, I wish to express the meaning behind the album, it is entitled “Nerd at the Cool Table” and the meaning behind it is: to stand out, be comfortable with yourself, and never compromise who you are to fit in with the crowd. My second goal is to show the versatility of poetry. It’s the basis of most music. Poetry is like water, it flows and is able to adapt to anything. My last goal is to simply establish myself as an artist. I have a lot of messages within my work but one general message, or more so, a goal, I wish to accomplish is to serve as light for the world’s potential... Picture a dark room, now when you flip the switch, the light doesn’t create the objects within that room, but merely makes you aware of its [sic] presence. I wish to show others that they are destined for greatest; they just have to discover it within themselves. Also, most people don’t care to take a stand or help others unless it directly affects them. I want to show people that we are all connected and whatever they do, or don’t do, affects others.

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B: Is there another album in the works? What should we expect from it?

P: There is another album in the works, as well as many other projects. The next album is entitled “Vintage Soul.” Essentially, it’ll be a classic soulful album, but nothing like you’ve heard before. I can’t really say what to expect because I constantly growing as an artist and at times I don’t even know what to expect from myself. So I guess we’ll be all surprised. (laughs)

B: Where do you see yourself in five years?

P: I only plan live in terms of the projects I intend to finish. Other than that, I just flow with it. I want to do in life in create art and help others. I live for that! So I feel that I can be doing that in another 5 years, that’ll be pretty great! (smiles from ear to ear)

To hear his album and learn more about him, check out P.O.E.T. at www.poet.bandcamp.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FreedumbMovement, or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/FreedumbMovement (several more videos will be posted shortly). You may also contact him through e-mail at FreedumbMovement@gmail.com.
Still Standing: Harlem Landmarks

By Sara Murphy

On a sunny, bright, and cool day the sky is blue and the sun is out. Artistic beauty is all around you. What are you today, what's up, hey brother/sister, man, what's happening? This exuberant place of civility and brotherhood is the place you live, the place you call home. Harlem, New York, where Black culture was born out of necessity, leaves you with a fierce feeling of wanting to declare the culture and the Black legacy that the ancestors left behind and embracing their historical victory is a blessing.

When you slip the eye of your clear and open your heart, you are ready to start your daily journey of the central business districts and outskirts of the area. It may be going to work, school, out working, socializing or monopolizing that street corner (territorial identification). What you may have in your journey include interacting with the indigenous folks on the block and dealing with a strong sense of black solidarity, whether you like it or not. Your daily expedition requires you to nod and tip your hat to say hello to the present, future, and past.

The Harlem landmarks are the ancestors that demand our attention and acknowledgement of their presence. The old buildings, ruinous structures (blocks) consumed, throughout the years by the forces of nature, are filled with the true accounts of American history that is ignored and washed away to the history books pertaining to the American culture. Garbed in architecture of these old buildings you feel the loyalty and camaraderie for these beautiful structures that are taken for granted by your ungrateful residents (the love for history can get lost in life’s responsibilities). The dilapidated, run down brownstones and townhouses are now used as garbage dumps, laced with graffiti and other undesirable and detrimental elements that have devalued homes and neighborhoods. Tenement houses that were neglected and abused have stood the time of hardship, and struggle. The soul of Harlem’s architectural history and its noteworthy landmarks were built by the blood, sweat and labor of Black hands.

That pride is the glue that has held this community together since its inception in the early 1900s. Harlem has a reputation of being a ‘hood involved in and outstanding cultural area. The mysterious veil and secret beauty of Harlem landmarks hovers, embraces, and holds you close to its heart and spirit. When you take the journey through Harlem on this clear day or any other (rain or shine), you might glance across your street depending on where you live and what area of the ‘hood you live in, and see the mighty structures of Harlem. It is a question of when, if that if it could speak, it would shout “Hallolelah!” The roots of Abyssinian Baptist Church (137th Street between 7th and Lenox Avenues) are enfused by free Ethiopian spirit. A memorial church was established in a church building attended (the First Baptist Church). They decided to create their home of worship, Abyssinian (Ethiopian derivative). The church was founded by Adam Clayton Powell Sr. Upon his death, his son, one of Harlem’s most revered political figures, Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (congressman and Chairman of Education and Labor Committee). In 1921, Powell Sr. was the first Black man in the state of New York to be elected to Congress. During Powell Sr.’s years in Congress, the church experienced a tremendous growth and gain in recognition (in 1925, the church was named after him). The church’s growth and gain are attributed to the Black Baptists that “made it.” One reason for this euphoric growth was the Black community in the 1940s, they were allowed to live and succeed in an antagonistic society) and enjoy the American empire) and is still publishing its paper every Thursday. Keeping yourself updated and informed about Harlem’s political activities and social events was dominated and dictated by Harlem’s premier paper since the 1920s. It was Saturday night when you swayed, booty-popped, and clapping and snapping your fingers and jitterbugging, you were white marble staircase and the clouds have vanished; nature’s artistic palette is bright, white linen and -coming scholars. Jazz musicians to jam every Sunday evening for 20 plus years.

Continued on Page 8
You Are My Disappearing Act

By Latitia Collins

I once had your love when it was only me. Then another came and disappeared in the dark. That other person sees you every day when you awaken, while I only see you or hear your voice when you call me or I call you. That little girl who used to visit you often and then you did what you did and I stopped visiting altogether. And although you say you are sorry, those wounds will never dispense from my memory; they will never fade away.

Then I hear of another who will take my place again and takes my twin’s place as well. This hurts me how I find out this way, although it shouldn’t surprise me ‘cause you’re not the same, when it was just me. Although I don’t complain, I just sit there and ponder and say, “Why put another in this circle? Does my twin ghost not have meaning even though he’s gone? Can’t you respect him by keeping your pride to yourself?”

I don’t know what else to say or even what more to write on this matter but I will say this: my squint will only be my other and no other one that is coming will take her place. That is my promise and no other one will say I’m this or that, because they mean something, but it’s just another thing to block against seeing me everyday like you used to when I was small and work does matter and so does leaving mother but you should never let that overshadow the one you had in the brighter beginning.

So you make me fade into the dark and one day when you realize that you did this and the events that made this occur, you will be ridden with hate but it will be too late. I’m light when I am me or with someone else when you’re here. I’m light too, but when you ignore me, lie to me, or do things that you have done before then you are nothing but darkness to me and only a disappearing act.

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Still Standing: Harlem Landmarks

Street between 7 and 8th Avenues, owned by John D. Rockefeller Sr., designed by architect Andrew J. Thomas, and the first cooperative housing built for people of African heritage. The Harlem River Houses, a federally built housing project spearheaded by an African American architect, Macombs Place and Harlem River Drive. It was NYC’s first federally funded, federally owned, and federally built housing project spearheaded by an African American architect, John Louis Wilson in 1935. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal social program implemented Projects is a success story of how a community took charge of their lives and built a landmark.

You are still talking about your vision.

At the end of the day Harlem is weary, tired, and exhausted from the hustle and bustle of its week. However, the indigenous people and the neighborhoods are abuzz with excitement for the weekend. It could be dancing at the Savoy, jumpin’ and jivin’ at the Renny’s Ballroom, or breakdancing at Abyssinian Baptist Church, or chillin’ at Hotel Theresa, education, or reacquainting yourself with the Black literary geniuses. Whatever the case may be, Harlem speaks loud and clear about its precious landmarks. Bestowing on the Black culture and all cultures around the world that come to explore its exuberance and historical legacy, no matter what, these buildings are still here and standing strong with incomparable truth, knowledge, and history.

If you have a project that you want to get started on, feel free to contact me at the following email address: latitia.collins@gmail.com

Writer of the Month

The Communicator – March 8, 2011

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At the end of the day Harlem is weary, tired, and exhausted from the hustle and bustle of its week. However, the indigenous people and the neighborhoods are abuzz with excitement for the weekend. It could be dancing at the Savoy, jumpin’ and jivin’ at the Renny’s Ballroom, or breakdancing at Abyssinian Baptist Church, or chillin’ at Hotel Theresa, education, or reacquainting yourself with the Black literary geniuses. Whatever the case may be, Harlem speaks loud and clear about its precious landmarks. Bestowing on the Black culture and all cultures around the world that come to explore its exuberance and historical legacy, no matter what, these buildings are still here and standing strong with incomparable truth, knowledge, and history.

If you have a project that you want to get started on, feel free to contact me at the following email address: latitia.collins@gmail.com

Writer of the Month

The Communicator – March 8, 2011

You Are My Disappearing Act

By Latitia Collins

You Are My Disappearing Act

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Still Standing: Harlem Landmarks

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OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, April 9
10:00 a.m.
Text VAUGHN to 75667

Join us at the Vaughn College Ultimate Campus Visit

- Discover why 93 percent of our graduates land jobs within six months
- See how easy it is to transfer – and maximize your credits
- Choose an Open House Experience, from taking flight in our state-of-the-art simulators to exploring one of our many engineering and technology opportunities

Reserve your spot now!

www.vaughn.edu

where are the thinkers

who will foresee the forces of nature?
Imagine walking into the registrar’s office and being told, “Your money is no good here, changes have been made to the nation’s budget and we have enough to provide everybody with free tuition.” Imagine. Imagine the chants throughout the world of “tax the rich” actually happening and creating so much capital that the deficit within our budget were closed. Imagine. Imagine the Stock Transfer Tax, a minimum tax of 5 cents on every stock traded on Wall Street, being applied. This would bring billions of dollars to New York. Imagine.

Young people throughout the world are standing up and demanding that their elected officials pass the appropriate tax laws that would require the rich to pay their share. Within New York, we see a large gap in wealth, as 1% of the population receives 44% of the state’s wealth. We are broke as a state, yet Wall Street has just had a record-breaking year, with CEO’s earning all-time high profits. The truth is that neither the country nor the state is broke; the gap between the rich and poor is just being increased.

CUNY was free from 1847 to 1976. People ask why I speak about the past, and it’s because I am afraid for our future. We fought for our civil rights, the naysayers called us crazy, yet we got them. We fought for open admission, the naysayers called us crazy, yet we got it. We’ve fought for countless things, from women’s rights to workers’ rights, all throughout history. Let’s step it up one notch. Let’s fight for free, quality higher education.

The economic crisis was not brought by you or me making bad business decisions, nor was it because of our greed, so should we have to be the ones that suffer? The Stock Transfer Tax and an extension of the millionaire’s tax would help us finance our public entities, instead of cutting their funding. We are facing the closures of schools and hospitals. We blame the teachers for failing our students, we blame the students for failing, but who is really to blame? Education is an investment in this country and in countries throughout the world. Yet, governments refuse to participate in it.

Education is a right. If you can barely afford your own education, imagine how difficult it will be for your children when they reach your age. Imagine. Demand free tuition. Demand a fair opportunity. Demand that we use progressive taxes to rectify our nation’s problem. It’s only right that the wealthiest of the country pull their weight; we have been sacrificing long enough.
I
ternational initiatives represent an important component of the educational experience at Bronx Community College. Our vision is to graduate students who are prepared to live within profit from and contribute to a 21st century global environment marked by diversity, change, and expanded opportunities for learning and growth. Our curricular activities offer students and faculty unique opportunities to expand upon classroom instruction. By reinforcing global learning through interdisciplinary and collaborative initiatives, we help to prepare our students for a globally complex environment.

This year, many academic departments and BCC centers have continued to work together to produce programming that engages all segments of the College community. The themes that are listed offer the framework for the academic year’s global activities, which should serve as an important curricular resource for both students and faculty. We hope that you will support and enjoy these initiatives this spring.

**Practical Constructs**

- **February 24**, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM, **Boulder Dinner**. Coordinated by Ms. Makhni Chopra-Ghosh, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development.

- **March 11**, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM, **BCC films**. Coordinated by Ms. Makhni Chopra-Ghosh, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development.

- **April 1**, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM, **BCC films**. Coordinated by Ms. Makhni Chopra-Ghosh, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development.

**MARCH**

**THURSDAY, 2/24**

**A GLOBAL COFFEE HOUR**

- **Title**: Master Baller 31/2 p.m.
- **Location**: Room 115
- **Duration**: 30 minutes
- **Coordinators**: Ms. M. Chopra Ghosh, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development

**MARCH 3**

**KINDNESS WORKSHOP**

- **Title**: Pathways Videocoreference Series © BCC
- **Location**: Comm. Media & TV Studio
- **Duration**: 1 hour

**MARCH 7**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY: VOICES OF THE GLOBAL CITIZEN**

- **Title**: Brown College, Jhunjhunwala 6:00 PM
- **Location**: Comm. Media & TV Studio
- **Duration**: 1 hour

**MARCH 10**

**MARCH 15**

**WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THEIR HOMELANDS: AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, INDIA, AND PAKISTAN**

- **Title**: Brown College, Jhunjhunwala 6:00 PM
- **Location**: Comm. Media & TV Studio
- **Duration**: 1 hour

**MARCH 17**

**GLOBAL SECURITY, WORLDWIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

- **Title**: Brown College, Jhunjhunwala 12:00 PM
- **Location**: Comm. Media & TV Studio
- **Duration**: 1 hour

**MARCH 24**

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES SPRING 2011**

- **Title**: MICHELLE SHAFER, President ofthe New York City Department of Education, and Dr. MADHUBANEE SHANKAR, Dean of the College of Education, Bronx Community College

**THURSDAY, 2/24**

**SCA “GO GREEN” WORKSHOP**

- **Title**: BCC’s Student Government Association will educate the students of the College to discover simple actions and habits that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle. There will be a presentation on the importance of conservation and environmental sustainability.

**MARCH 2**

**A FILM BY MARILYNE SATAPRI AND VINCENT PARDOYNA (45 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

- **Title**: The story of a young girl's life in Iran from the Islamic Revolution. The film follows the young girl as she struggles against the suppression of women and the suppression of women and the restrictions on her freedom.

**MARCH 3**

**A FILM BY JENNIFER LÉONARD (23 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

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**MARCH 19**

**A FILM BY SUE KIM (35 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

- **Title**: The story of a young girl's life in Iran from the Islamic Revolution. The film follows the young girl as she struggles against the suppression of women and the suppression of women and the restrictions on her freedom.

**MARCH 23**

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**MARCH 31**

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**APRIL 4**

**A FILM BY SUE KIM (35 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

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**APRIL 11**

**A FILM BY JENNIFER LÉONARD (23 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

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**APRIL 18**

**A FILM BY SUE KIM (35 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

- **Title**: The story of a young girl's life in Iran from the Islamic Revolution. The film follows the young girl as she struggles against the suppression of women and the suppression of women and the restrictions on her freedom.

**APRIL 25**

**A FILM BY JENNIFER LÉONARD (23 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

- **Title**: The story of a young girl's life in Iran from the Islamic Revolution. The film follows the young girl as she struggles against the suppression of women and the suppression of women and the restrictions on her freedom.

**MAY 2**

**A FILM BY JENNIFER LÉONARD (23 MINUTES) FOR PERSEPOLIS**

- **Title**: The story of a young girl's life in Iran from the Islamic Revolution. The film follows the young girl as she struggles against the suppression of women and the suppression of women and the restrictions on her freedom.
Poetry Corner

The Communicator – March 8, 2011

Poetry Corner

Your Presence
Robelkys Vargas

I love with you the intensity of every starry night,
In every second of my existence,
In every heartbeat that is inside my body
I love you in every kiss of your colorful lips,
In every brush of the wind.

With your presence the strength of the wind becomes softer and subtle,
Stars acquire more light in their distant space from the earth
Your presence incite that every particle of my body shudders,
Desiring to feel the brush of your skin,
Your lips, your glance.

When I look at you I feel the love that burns in your eyes,
Which are the mirror to your soul,
I feel that the world kneels down before my feet
I want to embrace you
And stay by your side for the rest of my life
And that nobody could move us apart
You’re the sun that lights up my soul every morning
You’re the moon that makes me company every night
At the moment I gaze at every structure of the sky,
Every moment of my life

Poetry 101
By Shelton Watson

Step into my realm
Come away from the sun
Enter the gloomy clouds
Of “Poverty 101.”

I’m a thousand miles away
From smelling an inch of wealth
I could only vision the day
Success is actually dealt.

Come down to my level
For one day - consider us equal
Taste this poverty for yourself
As if you y’all are poor people

It doesn’t feel so nice
To live this type of life
Yet, I must be happy, quiet and obey your law.

And I ask you this:
How could I do such a thing
If poverty is all l ever saw?
A constructed system
Designed to keep me behind
And then send me to jail
When this poverty causes me to lose my mind.

Surviving off what I would call “needles & thread” ...
Equivalent feelings of a person who lies dead ...
It is this accepted poverty to why I could never see
myself ever getting ahead ...
Poverty ... 101!

Cause and Effect
By Lakisha Leonti

Some are not really causes
But just symptoms
And we misdiagnose
A sickness
For a symptom
Of the real sickness

The cause
And the effect
Are often interchanged

For instance
Is poverty the cause
Of crime
Or is poverty
Only the symptom
Of it?

For instance
Is ignorance
The cause of poverty
Or is it simply
An effect of poverty?

Or is poverty
Nothing but an effect
Of ignorance?
Or is poverty
Just an effect
Of an oppression
Of the rich
Taking much
From the poor
Who get poorer
Everyday
Because there
Are no reforms
Coming
To solve
His poverty
His ignorance
His having to commit a crime
To survive
His poverty
His ignorance
His being a crime
Of Society itself
That never cared
And wanted him
Who never
Instituted the much
Promised reforms?

And so you doubt
The cause and effect
The effect from cause
And if you did not mind so
Well
They may always be
Interchanged
And mistaken
For the symptoms
The conditions
That always
Are there deceiving.

The Dead of Winter
By William Murray (December 26, 2010)

don’t wither
in the windward blizzard
like green figs from the tree
like leaves of the vineyard
I fear the sky will roll
like dead sea scrolls
and the stars collapse
inward
to black holes
you just never know
when the light
through the clouds
equals the light reflected
off the snow
how not to disappear
until the driven flakes
of crystal
clear

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Are there deceiving.

JOIN
A CLUB

Mark your calendars! The New York International Auto Show will return to the Jacob Javits Convention Center from April 22-May 1, 2011. Combined in one venue, you will see some of the hottest and newest cars and trucks you have ever seen. That includes more sneak peeks, more brand new ’11 & ’12 production models and more concept vehicles than ever before.

2011 Show Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Jacob Javits Convention Center 11th ave between 24 &amp; 40 Streets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Show Dates</td>
<td>Friday April 22nd through Sunday May 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Sundays: 10am - 7pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Public Sneak Preview</td>
<td>Friday April 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Opening Day</td>
<td>Saturday April 23rd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Friday mornings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Press Preview Credits required</td>
<td>Wednesday April 20th &amp; Thursday April 21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealer Preview Credits required</td>
<td>Thursday April 21st from 4-10 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By invitation only

Note: all information is subject to change
A SPRING POETRY READING AND WORKSHOP
BY PUBLISHED POETS & WRITERS FROM

Featuring BCC Alumni
C. D. Grant & Gary Johnston, Founders
with
Layding Kaliba
Nikki Williams
David Mills
Sandra Maria Esteves
Brenda Connor-Bey

BLIND BEGGAR PRESS was created by Gary Johnston and C.D. Grant in 1977 out of workshops and readings they had done as students at BCC. After over 30 years, the company has survived and expanded.

Poetry Reading & Discussion
Tuesday, March 22, Noon - 2 pm
Hall of Fame Playhouse
An Open Discussion with Q&A
will follow the Reading.

Writer’s Workshop
Tuesday, March 29, Noon - 2 pm
Colston Hall, Lower Level

Co-sponsored by the BCC Office of Student Life
Seating is limited. Please register online at
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bbpptoetryworkshop

GET OCD CREDIT FOR THESE PROGRAMS!

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/bccstudentlife

This program is made possible by a grant from the Bronx Council on the Arts with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program. BLIND BEGGAR PRESS, INC. is a non-profit publisher registered with New York State and the federal government. www.blindbeggarpress.org

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS
Outside the Quad

The World’s Longest Running Dictator to Be Overthrown?

By Mikhail Svetchenko

As tensions escalate in Libya, a country ruled by the beleaguered dictatorship of Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi, violence is spreading like wildfire as the civil uprisings make their way closer to the country’s capital of Tripoli. Libya borderers Tunisia to its west and Egypt to its east. The two countries are of note because their revolutions are the catalysts that sparked the numerous protests currently going on in the Arab world. As the popular uprisings continue to gain momentum, Gaddafi is determined to face the opposition head-on using the country’s military. His approach is quickly making the situation in Libya the most violent of the uprisings currently taking place around the world.

Colonel Gaddafi, the self-proclaimed Brotherly Leader and Guide of the Revolution, has ruled Libya for the last forty-two years. The “revolution” to which his title alludes is a bloodless coup that deposed Libya’s former monarch King Idris I. Idris was the first and only monarch that Libya had since the country declared independence on December 24, 1951. On September 1, 1969 Gaddafi, a young military captain at the time, led a successful military coup d’état against the monarchy. After the deposition and subsequent exile of King Idris I, Gaddafi was promoted to the rank of colonel and became the de facto head of the new Libyan government.

Libya has the highest Human Development Index (HDI) of any African country and its gross domestic product is the fourth highest in Africa. This is due to numerous factors. Libya is a major exporter of petroleum and is a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or as it is commonly referred, OPEC. It boasts the largest proven oil reserves in Africa, followed by Nigeria and Algeria, respectively. The petroleum industry accounts for nearly all of Libya’s export revenue and is one of more than half of its GDP. Nationalization of the petroleum industry along with a relatively low population in comparison to its geographic area has allowed for the creation of numerous social services, including public housing and education. Despite Libya’s progressive social programs, the general unemployment rate hovers at around 10%.

The insurrectionist movement in Libya has proven to be the most bloody and violent of all the ongoing protests in the Middle East and North Africa. This is a stark contrast to the military coup that saw Gaddafi usurp power from Libya’s former monarch. While the casualties in Egypt are estimated to be between three and four hundred, the death toll in Libya is swelling to numbers that are much higher. Violence is spreading like wildfire as the civil unrest begins. Shootouts in the country’s major cities and along the area around the city of Benghazi, where the country’s military is determined to face the opposition head-on using the country’s military. Libya’s young military captain at the time, led a successful military coup d’état against the monarchy. After the deposition and subsequent exile of King Idris I, Gaddafi was promoted to the rank of colonel and became the de facto head of the new Libyan government. The area around the city of Benghazi, where the protests currently going on in the Arab world. As the popular uprisings continue to gain momentum, Gaddafi is determined to face the opposition head-on using the country’s military. His approach is quickly making the situation in Libya the most violent of the uprisings currently taking place around the world. 

I never thought life would take me this far

By Gugu Mhlabane

My name is Gugulethu Sherif Mhlabane, and I am 19 years old. I come from a very disadvantaged family background. I live in an extended family with my mother, uncle, aunts, cousins and cousins’ cousins. Being the first and last born of teenage parents was very difficult for me as I was growing up. I never had time to spend with my parents as they were busy doing their school work. Every morning I had to stay with uGogo (my grandmother) while my mother was in school. My grandmother and I would go from house to house selling vegetables for a living.

Lulu, two years later my Dad got a job as a Soldier with the South African National Defence Force and things started going smoothly for us. My mother finished high school and my grandmother continued to take good care of me while she was working on part time jobs.

Things started getting rough when my parents separated. My father left us. I got no more attention, money, food from him. In June the very same year I had more problems at home. My cousin Tshepo started suffering from headaches and saying that he had pains in his spinal cord for about a week. He was diagnosed as being mentally ill. He began doing very strange things around the house. I could not cope with school because I was writing my mid-term exams and I was so depressed because was Tshepo had to stop attending school. He was doing grade 11 before his illness, but after his illness, he couldn’t even write his name anymore. But with God and his grace I managed to pass.

On 14 June, it was Friday, I went to visit Tshepo at the hospital. He was really ill. He lay still with his eyes closed. They told us that he had TB Meningsitis and he could not survive, and if he survived he would sit on a wheelchair. After he died, I felt like I did not belong to this world again. He was like a brother to me, but I did not allow his death to stop me. I knew that I had to accept what happened, move on, and focus on my studies and my life.

At school, I had a big problem with Math. When I finished high school, I passed all my subjects with good grades, but I did not pass maths, so I did not meet the minimum requirements for going to university. I had to stay at home for the whole year. I would lock myself in my room for days without eating or doing anything. My Mom thought I wanted to commit suicide because I had the lowest self-esteem ever in my life. Luckily, I applied to UKZN and I was accepted into a program for exceptional students from disadvantaged schools. Today I am in University, away from home, and, enjoying my studies. I never thought life would take me this far.
When you've completed your associate degree you'll have many great options ahead of you and one is DeVry College of New York. We work with community college students to make sure qualifying credits transfer seamlessly and that you have everything you need, including:

- Access to required courses
- Financial aid
- Lifetime Career Services for all graduates

3 New York City Area Locations
Midtown | Manhattan | Queens

For more information on earning your bachelor's degree, please visit DeVry.edu/cc.
The Status of Women in Their Homelands: Afghanistan, Iran, India, and Pakistan

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
2-4 p.m.
Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse

Join us for this enlightening discussion about women from around the world. Our speakers will discuss the status of women in their homelands—and how it intersects with their roles as global citizens and professionals in areas such as art, scholarship, community activism, and diplomacy.

Guest Speakers:

Shayma Daneshjo (UNICEF)
Dr. Elhum Haghighat-Sordellini (Lehman College)
Dr. Vrunda Prabhu (Bronx Community College)
Dr. Farnosh Saeedi (Bronx Community College)
Sehba Sarwar (Voices Breaking Boundaries)

Sponsored by the National Center for Educational Alliances/BCC Global Initiative and the Office of Student Life.

For additional information, contact:
National Center for Educational Alliances
Gould Memorial Library, Room A-1
716.289.5365