After a semester or two here at Bronx Community College, I began to suspect that each semester I would meet someone unusual who would leave a lasting impression on me. Last semester it was Jamil, also known as Z, a dynamic poet I met at a poetry slam contest. During and after the competition, which Jamil won, we conversed, exchanged numbers, shared music, life stories, and poetic ideas. I had no idea in what way I would meet the next person who would impact me this semester but I meet her head. I was informed by Professor Andrew Rowan that this woman greatly affected every project she touched, and only later did I figure out why.

I was warned that she was no-joke kind of woman, and how she’d told a professor a thing or two. This woman is Aziza Ingram. She is a 4.0 student, student-teacher and tutor whose ambition and thirst for knowledge can’t be fully understood by her GPA. She speaks French fluently, and her understanding of English, law, and world issues humbles me. I have never come across a student so thoroughly educated in so many disciplines, yet so generous with her knowledge. Z challenges both professor and student to be excellent in all they do, or else. When she was voted to be managing editor for the Communicator, I knew I would be working alongside someone who could easily do what I would only attempt to do.

On November 20, I was scheduled to give a persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class. Aziza decided to join me for both support and persuasive speech for my Communication and Media 20 class.

turned and asked, “Have you taken this course before?” “Yep!” she replied.

After I had given my speech, Aziza surprisingly praised me for a well-organized and researched presentation. But when we returned to the Communicator office she let me have it by pointing out the amount of “ums” I used, the right hand that hardly came out of my pocket, and the dragging of my feet that irritated her so. It’s hard to come by people who demand nothing but excellence from you, so I’m grateful to call her a friend and inspiration.

But I am not alone in my admiration and appreciation, below is a few students and a faculty member thoughts on Z:

“I think she’s awesome. She’s a really nice person. She knows exactly what she wants and how to get it.” - Ivana Lazaroska

“She’s a hard-working, motivated individual… very intense and demanding… a very straightforward and presumptuous woman.” - Stefanos Ught

“She’s a strong, independent black woman with a horrible, horrible mouth. She has the capacity and discipline to be a successful woman – which she will be one day.” - Kristian Moton

“I think Aziza is not like the typical woman. I respect her. She’s definitely left her mark on me. She’s very professional.” - Utwain Fyffe

Aziza is hard driven to strive for perfection for herself and for those with whom she is associated. She has no problem letting you know when it has not been achieved. That said, she has a kind heart to complement her keen intellect. Overall, we have discovered that she has family in my hometown – Pine Bluff, Arkansas – and, as a youngster, she spent a great deal of time there.

– Professor Andrew Rowan

This semester completes Ms. Ingram’s stay at Bronx Community College, and this school will not be the same without her. We at the Communicator wish her much success in all her endeavors, satisfaction in her studies, and we hope that she will remain part of the College family.

Students Need an Education, Not Debt

By Kevin Stump

Student groups call on lawmakers to offer real solutions that address the issue of increasing tuition and decreasing aid – driving them into debt.

When the Affordable College Cost Reduction & Access Act of 2007 was set to expire on July 1, 2012, the federal government had a five-month debate over how to pay for keeping the student loan interest rate at 3.4%. This pay-for-fee focused a much-needed mainstream spotlight on rapidly rising student loan debt levels. Lawmakers were forced to address higher education affordability. However, the spotlight lost sight of steadily declining state-level and federal investment in higher education, which prompted the student loan debt crisis to begin with.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan debt has risen 51% from 1999 to 2011, pointing us to look at rising tuition and fees, which are up 559% from 1985. Students in New York State are feeling the pinch. College revenue generated by tuition recently surpassed that of public dollars, which means students are carrying more and more of the cost of attending college. In 1985, students in New York State paid $1,260 in student debt, a 5% increase from the previous year. Offering whitewashed policies that do not decrease the amount of debt that students take on will only continue to cripple young people and grow the national debt. Rising tuition and decreasing financial aid are obvious root-causes driving student loan debt past $1 trillion. According to the Project on Student Debt, 60% of students in New York State spend on average $2,855 in 2011. Students can simply not afford more policies that do not actively address rising tuition coupled with decreasing state and federal aid available.

To these ends, we, the undersigned organizations have come together as part of a coalition for a more affordable and accessible higher education, strongly urge you to publish the above editorial that will expose the lack of sound policy

Continued on Page 3
The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper. We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

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

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations. No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number.

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address: communipaper@gmail.com

Notes:
No Word submissions will be accepted that are saved in Word 2007. Please save and submit in an earlier version.
JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

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

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.

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

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Career and Transfer Services
Loew Hall, Room 330
718.289.5314
Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm

Visit us and like us on Facebook at Career and Transfer Services at BCC and let the latest updates on workshops and events!
BMI student leader Terrence Coffie and BMI project Coordinator Dwayne Brown were selected to participate in the inaugural Men Of Color Student Leadership Institute, Man-Up: Educating Minority Males for Leadership and Service, sponsored by the Presidents’ Roundtable. The conference was held at the Phoenix Renaissance Hotel in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, from October 26 – 28, 2012. The conference was a three-day event addressing the issues, skills and knowledge minority students and future leaders will need to acquire to achieve their academic and professional goals. The speakers at the conference were minority leaders ranging from CEO’s and educational administrators to other business leaders sharing their time, experience and hope. The students participating in the conference were a group of young men selected from across the country that exhibited the potential for leadership. The conference gave each of us an opportunity to develop and enhance effective leadership principles that would help us navigate the rigors of higher education and society.

Friday evening’s schedule began with Mr. Sidney H. Evans Jr., Founder/CEO of Mackenzie, LLC, leading a discussion on the topic “Champions for Change: Your Purpose, Your Relevance.” The discussion helped us identify who we are, where we are going, and that our presence represents an opportunity to assist others. Our next speaker for the evening was the dynamic and charismatic Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, Founder/CEO, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB). He gave an inspiring message entitled “Cultivating Passion for Success: From Vision to Reality” which challenged each of us to do things that need to be done in order to achieve our goals. The evening closed with dinner and an opportunity to network with Lakin/NCBAA participants.

On Saturday morning we attended the session “Preparing for Leadership” given by Ms. Saunders Johnson, Senior Vice President of Operations for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. Sessions included topics ranging from: Bridging “The Divide between Classroom and Career,” “Entrepreneurship and Investing,” and “It’s Time for Mr. Independent.” Each session was very encouraging and insightful. Our afternoon session was opened by the keynote speaker, Mr. Irving Ashford, Sr. V.P., Corporate and Public Affairs Comerica Bank. His message, “Chess, Not Checkers,” opened our eyes and minds to the reality that, as minorities, we will have to become more competitive with our counterparts from around the country and the world. But he assured us that we were definitely on the right track. He also discussed the value and importance of the decisions that we make in our personal and professional lives.

The afternoon session – “Strategic Goal Setting, Preparing for Your Future and Conversations for Student Success” – led to the conference project that grouped teams of participants to create our own summit. The project gave us an opportunity to interact on a professional and personal basis. The teams’ theme was “Fired Up and Ready to Go.” Later, we had a fabulous dinner and actually found ourselves working until the early morning hours on our project.

Sunday marked the end of the conference and an extraordinary weekend which included: networking, connecting and making commitments not only to our careers and one another. Also we made commitments to continue to strive and achieve to the best of our abilities. Our final speaker was Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of Maricopa County Community College District. Dr. Glasper reiterated the importance of this weekend and that the torch of leadership will be passed along to those who are prepared to carry it. The conference ended with an awards ceremony announcing the winners of the summit project. I must say this conference was truly one of the most inspiring and encouraging aspects of our collegiate careers. It was also one of the most rejuvenating for the mind and spirit.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Sharon Blackman and Dr. Tijaun Lee, not only for organizing such a tremendous conference, but also for their support in providing us with resources and encouragement during Hurricane Sandy back home in New York. Also, we would like to thank Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, President of Bronx Community College for her support.

Special thanks to administrators of the Black Male Initiative, Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Mr. Anthony L. Brown, and Ms. Nahdia Hamilton and all the members of B.M.I. Thank you all for an opportunity that was truly enriching.

Students Need an Education, Not Debt

Continued from Page 1

solutions needed to address the growing issue of student loan debt and shift the conversation to students’ access to affordable higher education.

Student Government Association
Creative Writing Club
Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society
Urban Unity
Paralegal Society
Peace and Social Justice Club
Rainbow Alliance
Political Science Club
Math & Computer Science Club
Speech, Drama, and Debate Team
Anime Club
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Psychology Club
Tau Alpha Phi Honor Society
Future Leaders of STEMM
Dance Workshop
International Students Club
Business Club
Garden Club
Muslim Students’ Association
Society for Artists
Media Technology and Film Society Club
Future Teachers Club
Nursing Club
Handball Club

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF) earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen (achapelliquen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.

My First Semester at Bronx Community College

By Maite Andres

I came to Bronx Community College because it was less expensive than my previous school. BCC has been a blessing to me because it has given me another opportunity to stay focused and raise my grades. Being a transfer student, adapting to an entirely new environment, a new group of people, and a new way of being taught was not an easy transition. Going through these obstacles has only strengthened my ability to learn and socialize.

Attending BCC has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. People argue that you can’t receive a decent education here but the opposite has proven true. I am learning so much here, not only educationally but socially. I am learning how to interact with professors since classes are a lot smaller than the ones at my old school, and I wouldn’t trade that for the world.

My first semester here has been smoother than I thought, mostly because the school is closer than my past schools. I find the Hall New Library, where I gather my thoughts, study and listen to music, as a really great gesture to BCC’s students. Not only is the architecture incredible but it’s amazing the amount of space and privacy it provides for all the students.

Bronx Community College has given me so many opportunities; one of them is having the privilege to be part of The Communicator, the school newspaper. The paper has given me the opportunity to sharpen my writing and find my way of expression. I’ve had the opportunity to interview people for the paper, which I normally wouldn’t do, but has proved to help me with others. Overall, BCC has been great to me so far and I look forward to finishing my two years strong.

I’m grateful to say I attend Bronx Community College.

BMI Students Go Out West!

By Black Male Initiative

The Communicator – December 11, 2012

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Meet the Student
By Maite Andres

1. Why did you decide to do this interview?
   I decided to do it because I had free time (haha).

2. Why did you come to BCC?
   I came to BCC because it is close to home, and I like walking.

3. If you could be any candy what would it be?
   Jolly Rancher because no one ever gets tired of them.

4. Favorite animal and why? Do you think this animal represents you?
   The lion: I believe it represents my strength.

5. Do you believe in love at first sight?
   Yes! Absolutely!

6. What’s your favorite ice cream and favorite topping?
   Vanilla; I’m simple.

7. If you could be a famous person for a week, who would you be?
   Dwayne Wade

8. What kind of phone do you have and why?
   I have an iPhone 4S. Well, I’ve had an iPhone for years…I guess it’s the applications.

9. If you could be any night what night would it be?
   It would be Friday night, the end of the week, beginning of the weekend.

10. How comfortable are you walking around with pink hair?
    Not comfortable at all.

11. What is your favorite book and how many times have you read it?
    My favorite book is the Bible.

12. How many jobs have you had and what is your dream job?
    I’ve had three jobs, and I don’t know what my dream job would be at the moment.

13. Favorite meal and if you could do anything with it what would it be?
    Oxtails with rice and beans; eat it!

14. Have you been outside of the United States? Where?
    Yes, Saint Kitts.

15. Do you have kids?
    No, don’t need any at the moment either.

16. Favorite brand of tooth paste and why?
    Colgate. Keeps me fresh.

17. If you could watch one show for the rest of your life what would it be and why?
    Breaking Bad; it is an addicting show!

18. Favorite movie?
    The Avengers

19. Did you eat your buggers when you where a kid?
    LOL … not that I know of.

20. How do you make a butter and jelly sandwich?
    First, you place both slices on the plate, jelly on one slice, peanut butter on the other, flip them together, and that’s it.

I decided to interview Keif Brazier because I’ve known him since we were in 7th grade, and these questions have never been asked. I thought it would be hilarious to make him feel a bit awkward. It was really fun interviewing him because he’s a very laid-back person, and I believed he had fun as well.
On Monday, November 5, 2012 the Speech, Drama and Debate Team, NYPIRG, and the Office of Student Life held a mock debate in the Colston lobby. The event, which was called the Ehrenpreis Scholar Award, would have served as the culminating thrust in NYPIRG’s voter registration and mobilization campaign, was delayed from its proposed date of November 1 during club hours. Instead, the mock debate, a parody of the Obama and Romney debates, was held November 5, on the eve of the presidential elections. Students Cesar Maceira and O’Dane Myrie of the Speech and Debate club used campaign speeches and factual statements from the three presidential debates to prepare for the event.

Students passing through the Colston Lobby and waiting for their classes stopped and listened to what the mock debaters discussed. As part of NYPIRG’s nonpartisan message, the mock debate had a clear message of empowering students and encouraging them to get to the polls the following day.

Throughout the course of the debate, NYPIRG members aided students by showing them their polling locations. As Hurricane Sandy had disrupted major sections of the city, students were able to check or double-check whether or not their polling stations had been relocated or altered.

Given the drastic changes of going from a large scale two-hour event down to a tabling event meant to grab the casual passerby, Obama, portrayed by Myrie, and Romney, portrayed by Maceira, sought to cover the most striking political points. In spite of the event being postponed and reduced in scope, everything went according to plan, as NYPIRG, Student Life, and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team accomplished their goal of informing students on the eve of the election.

“It was informative on what they said and entertaining on how they took on the character,” stated by BCC student Alyssa G. It is the hope of these organizations to hold mock debates before future major elections to maintain strong student voter turnout.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando ChapelliQuen (achapelliQuen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.
Poverty is big business. The big drain on my emotions in Cambodia was seeing the horrific marks that the Khmer Rouge has left on the country. I doubt Cambodia will ever recover from Pol Pot and his lingering legacy of slaughtering the majority of educated people and burning the country’s recorded history. Pol Pot has set this society back by hundreds of years. The survivors are courageous, have incredible personalities, and are always smiling in spite of it all. They work very hard for little to nothing while their government sells their natural resources to international buyers, making kickbacks on their kickbacks and taking the easy way out for themselves. Instead, they should stand tall and invest the money in their country so they can build a more thriving future for everyone.

I hope I never experience what they’ve gone through in Cambodia. I wish that I could wave a magic wand, improve their standard of living and end the corruption that is halting the country’s progression. However, I see no way to help in the bigger picture of repair. Seeing both sides of the culture has been confronting to say the least.

Working in an orphanage is a double-edged sword. I do believe that being able to make a child smile, mainly when they’ve been through as much as the children there, is a gratifying thing. However, the fact that most of us cannot make a life-long commitment to benefit their futures leads to greater instability for everyone in the orphanage. Whatever influence volunteers have is not building any permanent foundation. It’s a bandage after serious surgery when you really need stitches. I also believe that they are used to it; it’s the life they’ve grown up knowing and, while it seems horrid to me, it’s just how life is lived. So all I can do is hope that my presence there did more good than harm.

The cultural differences were immense and the poverty had me exhaustively depressed by the end of the first few days. I felt incredibly defeated in the beginning. I had no one to blame but myself for I was completely unprepared for the experience. In time, I got my head around the obscene poverty there and felt less shocked by it. Given that this was my first volunteering trip, it was good to have Projects Abroad as a safety net since I found the culture shock to be brutal when I first arrived. I did appreciate having someone to show me around whilst I got my head back together. I doubt I would’ve handled going to Cambodia on my own as well as I did with them. The opportunity to meet all the people working with Projects Abroad, especially the staff, made a tremendous difference in my initial understanding of the culture and costumes of the country. When it comes to working in an orphanage, I am on the fence because there is little benefit to the orphans working in an orphanage, I am on the fence because there is little benefit to the orphans bonding with volunteers that come and go so often. In the orphanage I did see the children thrive just by having someone around for emotional support.

Cambodia was heartbreaking. I know their lives will continue on in the exact way whether I am there or not. They take it all one day at a time and hope tomorrow will bring another kind heart and donations. It was very frustrating to witness the inequality of the distribution of wealth. Again, poverty is a business, and I am more aware of it now. They have very little, and what they know best is how to survive today. There are no plans for the future because the government doesn’t provide stability to build one. One way to change this is to change the mentality of the people. Before we build schools we need to help them form a better understanding on preserving food and recycling resources. Managing money and prioritizing are other obstacles they have only because no one taught them differently. Donations are always favorable because they benefit the larger picture. (http://www.aoecambodia.org)

As I left The Kingdom of Cambodia, I pondered my imprint on the place. I hope it’s as wonderful and extraordinary for them as it was for me. One thing I know for sure, there are many ways to measure value and success. This experience is the most valuable and meaningful experience I’ve done so far in my life. And even though there were times when doubt was present, at the end it gave me a reassurance for my education and future. We all try to live some sort of a successful life that is defined by the society that surrounds us. This trip thought me that I happen to find a great deal of satisfaction in helping others even when things don’t turn out the way I planned. It gave me the opportunity to see a different reality from the one I’m in, but nevertheless a reality of the world I live in, reality that needs to be changed for the better.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to The Michael Steuerman Scholarship Fund; recently retired Director of The National Center for Educational Alliances, Ms. Barbara Schairer-Peleg; Professor Andrew Rowan; Dr. Camilla Dacey; Professor Grace Campagna; and Dr. William de Jong-Lambert. (See page 9 for summer 2013 volunteer abroad information.)
Outside the Quad

Courtroom Diary
By Kristian Moton

Small claims court is a branch of civil court where claimants sue for damages totaling no more than $5,000. While criminal court usually ends with jail time or a fine, civil court cases almost ALWAYS has something to do with money. Small claims court presides over different cases, ranging from real estate to breach of contract cases and baby momma drama. Somehow I hit the jackpot and had it all figured out in about 45 minutes. When I first asked the judge how small the latter part of that sentence, he was right. It was a bright and warm Thursday afternoon, when I came in as usual and sat next to the judge listening to the cases. The case I’ll be writing about was a non-payment case, where a broker firm was the plaintiff against a man and his start-up pharmacy.

Upon first glance of the parties, I couldn’t have been more the brokers. Two were clearly independent black women. “We finally made it,” was my first thought, as I saw a tall, bald-headed ebony dream, with hoop earrings and dark skin, accompanied by an older woman who dressed smartly, a woman who could you tell dealing with all the hardships her era gave her by just looking in her eyes. “This was the dream realized,” I thought to myself. The man with the start-up business looked like your typical middle-aged man – the type of man you would see as the suspect in an overseas version of Cop’s. It was clear as day that I was biased. The man appeared to be crooked, and the case looked to be open and shut.

Upon my ebony dream opened her mouth. Never in my life I had seen so much neck turning, eye rolling, and arm crossing and sucking of the teeth. “A symphony of wretchedness.”

The particulars of the case involved this woman and the man. The female broker (who will now be referred to as Suzuki) took the man (whom I will call George) to see properties that he could rent to create a pharmacy. He wanted the pharmacy to be very close to the projects. The drugs and medicine that he was planning to order for his store would be accepted by Medicaid, which he deduced was appealing to his target consumer. Suzuki took George to properties that fit his criteria. The only store that seemed to put up a hole in the wall that was not up to city standards. After cutting his losses George bade Suzuki and her firm adieu. A few months later, George rolled back on to hole in the wall to see if there was any progress, and there was. George happily signed an agreement with the owner of the property. The only issue is that he did not pay the broker’s fee associated with the property.

The question now is do he need to pay the brokers fee if he came back months later and rented directly? Answers like this become even murkier when the agreement is not a written contract.

Suzuki was not there when or if an agreement was made. She assumed it was a written contract; otherwise, she would not have wasted her time. Unfortunately, it was Suzuki’s job to put the agreement in writing, and George didn’t. George did pay the service to go around and be shown all the places he could rent. There was no need for the contract at that time. If the brokers had a written contract they would win the case – or at least have more ground to stand on. They lost the case.

The judge didn’t get to that decision without hearing Suzuki say the REAL reason they were all there. Apparently, George asked her out, and she said “no” because “she doesn’t mix business with pleasure.” She also knew that he had a wife who he wasn’t happy with. Fortunately, the decision was made days after the hearing so I didn’t hear anymore craziness or see my people set back any years.

Fruits of Labor Mixtape Review
By Kristian Moton

Fruits of Labor is a collaboration mixtape recorded by BCC’s own Corey Lionel Spencer as L.S., Lehman College’s Malik Davis as Malcolm Davis, and several Christian students within the CUNY system.

The overall quality of sound and production isn’t what you would immediately expect from any mixtape. The album has interludes that are equally relevant and hilarious, with lyrics from Classic Bruce lee movies and Kevin Hart stand ups. These interludes give an appropriate foreshadowing of the mood for the next set of songs.

The subject matter is of our time: the content included sex, drugs, alcohol, rape and community change. When religion is being referred to it’s usually in a way that illustrates how hard is to be good.

“It’s a ‘Saint” speaks the fickleness of pew-sitting Christianity. Kyle Norville, a friend of the team, and Kingsborough CC student, says, “They think they have a Jesus piece so they got peace with Jesus. Satan rips their Jesus piece, so they say peace to Jesus.”

The sound of Labor evolves giving cohesive story telling. You can feel the struggle of both Malcolm and Lionel within the production.

“Powerless,” the middle track is refreshing, being a low key “read your book/ drive slow” song. Spencer and Davis continue the telling of their stories but to a more calm and soothing beat. The overall sound allows you to sit back, relax and enjoy the listen.

More often than not Fruits of Labor is cleverly put together. However, tracks like “Exodus” and “Nothing to Lose” venture off with beats and lyrics that just don’t fit the rest of the mixtape. Malcolm’s combining of words come off difficult to hear and almost unreadable. This is only a slight drawback to an otherwise surprisingly great work.

FL. is not your conventional Christian Rap album filled with preachy one liners that make you cringe in embarrassment; it’s a real, thought-out collaborative piece that rivals and eclipses a lot of secular works. In the end, Fruits of Labor is an intelligent piece that is kind of like the “puzzle that finally came together.” It is apparent that both artists need more seasoning and polishing; but if FL. is any indicator for Malcolm and Lionel’s future, that future looks bright.

Unheard-of Quotations and Tweets
By Untwain Fyffe

Quote: “The key to life is running and reading.”

This is a quote from world famous actor Will Smith. He said it as the opening to his acceptance speech at the 2005 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards. Since he was speaking to children, I interpreted his words as a moral joke. Then Smith took the time to explain his message to the audience, which is a very convincing one. Soon after running, you feel out of breath, tired, worn out and exhausted over time – enough reasons to stop. If you can learn to ignore those physical and mental emotions you’ll learn how to never give up. If I were a math or physics major, I’d be able to accurately calculate this.

Song: “The Communicator”

This is a quote from world famous actor Will Smith. He said it as the opening to his acceptance speech at the 2005 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards. Since he was speaking to children, I interpreted his words as a moral joke. Then Smith took the time to explain his message to the audience, which is a very convincing one. Soon after running, you feel out of breath, tired, worn out and exhausted over time – enough reasons to stop. If you can learn to ignore those physical and mental emotions you’ll learn how to never give up. If I were a math or physics major, I’d be able to accurately calculate this.

Tweet: “If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe.”

Carl Edward Sagan, an American astronaut/astrophysicist/cosmologist/author, said this during a recording of his explanation of atoms and Googolplex (one of the biggest number ever to be used in a mathematical equation, according to the Guinness Book of World Records). This is one of my all-time favorite quotes because it is direct and simple. There is no hidden meaning behind it. Technically, you cannot make anything from scratch without being the creator of that product. Physical composition – its atomic particles.

Tweet: Beware of dream killers. Keep some visions to yourself!

Angela Simmons tweeted this on September 16, 2012. She’s the daughter of Joseph Simmons (one-third of legendary hip-hop group, RUN-D.M.C.). Tweeted at 9:46 am, it was the first thing I read in the morning. I asked myself if there were any dream killers in my circle of friends, and out of the 1,307 retweets she got, it’s possible others did too. Simmons didn’t explain her tweet, and frankly she didn’t have to. For those of you who are quick to tell a friend or family member about your aspirations – think twice! Does that person really have your best interests in mind?
The rising cost of college tuition has made dreams of achieving an affordable college education in the U.S. difficult to achieve. According to a recent *New York Times* article, “The average student debt has ballooned to $26,500, a 5% increase from about $25,350 the previous year according to a report by the Institute for College Access and Success’s Project on Student Debt.” Student debt has exceeded all other forms of debt in the U.S., becoming the highest form of all household debt.” Economists have called this the student debt bubble. The student debt has exceeded $1 trillion, and it makes up about 6% of GDP. With this expanding problem, the student debt has to be put forth into the national discussion in ways of dealing with this crisis.

This has an adverse effect upon the U.S. economy for two reasons: many students can’t afford to keep up with their payments, and are saddled with debt. Second, students who can’t afford college tuition drop out or don’t attend due to the social and financial costs of college tuition. This can have a negative effect on the U.S. economy long term as America would lose its international competitiveness due to the lack of a highly skilled workforce which is essential and crucial to long-term economic growth. There needs to be a bipartisan coalition effort in reducing and/or curtling the high costs of college tuition without causing inflation which in turn causes the colleges to increase college tuition.

Students need to make their voices heard, and demand that the American dream is not lost because of the lack of an affordable college education. There are many ways to mitigate this problem such as debt forgiveness, loan consolidation, more financial aid, and scholarships. Due to the financial crisis, it has become more difficult to find a job having a college degree. Budget cuts in state governments have made affordability difficult with education being cut, and put on the back burner. Many state grants for college have been cut, making it a heavier burden to attend college. The burden of debt on students of color is higher when compared to their white counterparts. Nearly about 11% of black graduates and 13% of Latinos are unemployed compared to 9% of white graduates that are unemployed. The United Negro College Fund has set a tone to empower students by increasing financial literacy and helping to increase scholarships and providing financial aid.

The solution to this endemic problem is that it first needs to be a main priority on Capitol Hill, and there is a need to evaluate the seriousness of the crisis that this has become. Higher education in many European countries is free of cost to students. As we all know, this is not the case of the United States. Here, the dominate view of capitalism that prevails in all aspects of American life and culture is widespread in higher education as well. However, in order for us to have a solution, we need to address the problem and ask what it really means to have an education. Increasing financial aid, scholarships, and grants can be a temporary fix. As the wealthiest nation in the world, we can do better.

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”

-Walter Cronkite

**The Rising Tide of Student Debt**

By Stefanos Ugbit

BUFFALO, N.Y. — In a letter to the campus community, University at Buffalo President Satish K. Tripathi today announced his decision to close the Shale Resources and Society Institute, effective immediately.

The decision follows an internal assessment of the institute by Tripathi, Provost Charles Zukoski and E. Bruce Pitman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The decision will continue for pursuing research in the area of energy and the environment, leveraging faculty expertise across the university, but it will focus its research more broadly to establish “a comprehensive program of scholarship and education with appropriate breadth and complexity,” Tripathi said.

The full text of Tripathi’s letter is available at the University at Buffalo’s website: http://www.buffalo.edu/news/13820.

Tripathi noted that UB’s policies for disclosure of significant financial interests and sources of support are strong and consistent with federal guidelines. To further clarify UB’s policies, the university has established a committee with participation of its Faculty Senate.

This news comes following a concerted effort by New Yorkers Against Fracking, a statewide coalition of diverse organizations that support a fracking ban, who potential risks posed by hydrofracking.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is funded through the mandatory Student Activity Fee (SAF). NYPIRG offers a refund of the portion of the current SAF earmarked for NYPIRG to any student who does not wish to contribute. For more information or to receive your refund, contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapeliquen (achapeliquen@nypirg.org) in Meister 214.

Winter Inter-session Reading List

Don’t let your skills get rusty over the winter break...

Here are some suggestions for books that might capture your imagination.

**Hana al-Shaykh, Women of Sand and Myrrh (1989)**

These are four intertwined narratives from women in a wealthy Arab desert country. All of the women live in luxury and privilege but are denied the very basic freedom of self-expression. This novel has been described as “an eloquent and subtle plea for liberalization, as well as an evocative description of a society torn between tradition and the West.”

*Emma*, (1815)

*Emma*, arguably Jane Austen’s best and most representative novel, is often praised for its rich domestic realism. Like most of the author’s remarkable novels, it is also a novel of courtship and social manners. At its heart is Emma Woodhouse — “handsome, clever and rich” — who is also spoiled. She greatly overestimates her own matchmaking abilities, ignores, despite sound warnings, the dangers of meddling in other people’s lives, and misconstrues the meanings of others’ actions. Nonetheless, she eventually learns from her mistakes.

**Junot Diaz, Drown (1997)**

“Diaz’ first collection of stories — 10 in all — offers vivid details of growing up first in the Dominican Republic and then in New Jersey. The stories are narrated by adolescent males who are outwardly cool but inwardly anguished as they attempt to recreate themselves in the midst of family problems and their own surging sexuality.

**Ha Jin, Waiting (1999)**

Lin Kong is a Chinese Army doctor trapped in an arranged marriage that embarrasses and repels him. (Shuya, his wife, 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 seal his relationship with Manna. The final chapters are moving and deeply ironic when this forbidden love is finally consummated.

**The Ghost Stories of Edith Wharton**

Best known for her novels — The House of Mirth, The Age of Innocence, and Ethan Frome — Edith Wharton also produced a series of excellent supernatural stories for publication in a series of popular magazines of her day. Originally published together in 1937, these tales find her overcoming her childhood fear of ghosts to craft this series of spine-tingling tales filled with spirits beyond the grave and other supernatural phenomena. Because these stories are subtly drawn, they linger.
Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarships
For Volunteer Abroad / 2013
Bronx Community College

In 2006, one of Bronx Community College’s most distinguished faculty members, Professor Michael Steuerman, passed away. Professor Steuerman served BCC in a number of ways: as a professor of Health and Physical Education, as wrestling coach, as chair of the college’s Curriculum Committee, and as Dean of Students. Beyond BCC, he was honored as CUNY’s Director of Athletics and as coach of Israel’s national wrestling team. In addition, he founded and led Project Share, a college-based food collaborative for Bronx families. At the same time, Professor Steuerman became actively engaged with the World Hunger Project, an international organization that seeks to eradicate world hunger.

His enterprising, values-rich and generous life touched many, and he is sorely missed. Professor Steuerman addressed large, societal goals and was equally committed to empowering individuals. He believed that successful community college students brought special talents and strengths to society – and as they had been helped by others, so were they obligated to share their learning and skills. Bronx Community College, where he served with such distinction, is working to honor his commitment to community college students and to keep his legacy alive through service-oriented scholarships.

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

Volunteering abroad in Cambodia, summer 2012

The applications are due on Thursday, February 28, 2013, and require you to identify an existing volunteer program or develop your own that builds upon your current interests and contacts. The proposal must indicate that you have a well-thought out plan for both volunteer work and room and board. Former recipients have traveled to Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Jamaica on medical missions; to Cuzco, Peru, to tutor orphaned children; to Malawi to build houses for Habitat for Humanity; and to Cambodia to work on community service projects, including working in an orphanage.

Please contact Professor Andrew Rowan at andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu to arrange an appointment to receive a scholarship application and to further discuss volunteering abroad in summer 2013.

(See “Volunteering Abroad, Part Two” on page 6.)
Outside the Quad

BCC MEDIA TECH AT WORK

(From left to right) Screenwriter Larry Brenner and Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the Media Technology and Film Society, take a group picture with students after his lecture in BCC’s Television Studio.

Students from the Media Technology and Film Society Club during CLUB FAIR DAY held in Colston Hall on October 4, 2012.

CMS 61, HISTORY AND THEORY OF FILM student, Sharlene Santos, accepts her OSCAR for film directing during her ePortfolio mock acceptance speech in BCC Television Studio.
Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the Media Technology and Film Society poses with club members at the Food Networks studios during the Scripps Networks Interactive MEDIA EXPO held on Oct. 26, 2012.

Al Liguori, Food Network JIB Arm operator, gives a demonstration to Media Technology students, Andrew Roland and Natalia Melendez. Guest speakers and technical demonstrations took place at the Food Networks Studios in NYC for the Scripps Networks Interactive MEDIA EXPO held on Oct. 26th 2012. Special thanks to Bill Calamita, Director of Studio & Field Operations for inviting our club to this event.

Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor for the Media Technology and Film Society poses with club members at the Food Networks studios during the Scripps Networks Interactive MEDIA EXPO held on Oct. 26, 2012.

Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor Media Technology and Film Society, BCC Club members Natalia Melendez, Yanilsa Estrella, Sol Negrin, ASC and Dejan Geogevich, ASC. Club plaque was presented to Mr. Negrin for his leadership as Co-Chair of the Guilds Education Committee. Sol was also elected to the BRONX WALK OF FAME during Bronx Week 2012. Sol Negrin is a five-time Emmy Award nominated cinematographer who was recently honored with the coveted Presidents Award from the American Society of Cinematographers. Notably, he was the director of cinematography for the Patty Duke Show and Kojak. In the early days of his career, he even worked with Bronx Walk of Fame Inductee Stanley Kubrick.
“LIFE’S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

SERVE ON KING DAY, AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF.

MLKDay.gov