The Success of BCC Baseball

By Eon Adams

Winter is almost over and spring is on the horizon. What is spring? Warm weather, April showers, Easter, flowers blooming, pastel colors, and—of course—baseball. March has arrived and BCC’s baseball team is ready to continue the success from previous seasons. If you are looking to shake the winter blues, then a healthy dose of baseball will heat things up. The team Coach Aldolfo DeJesus has assembled is a squad that isn’t settling for anything but to add another championship to BCC athletics.

The road for Coach DeJesus’ success started with his passion for playing baseball. His story began at George Washington High School in 1975 as a pitcher. He was recruited by then baseball coach Gus Constantine and decided to enroll in BCC. After finishing BCC, he went on to pitch for Lehman College, majoring in psychology and minoring in education. In 1983, he interviewed for the coaching position for the men’s baseball team. The following year after Coach Constantine retired, Adolfo DeJesus was hired as the men’s baseball coach. He was selected over numerous candidates, including coaches from New York City’s high school teams with established backgrounds.

Coach DeJesus demonstrated he was the right candidate by establishing successful seasons with the program. In 1995, Coach DeJesus led his team to the Junior College World Series with 14 players and fought competitively against Richland Community College of Texas. Unfortunately, the men’s team lost 6–4, but it was an impressive feat for 14 players to play competitive against a 30-man roster. In a 2012 CUNY poll, Coach DeJesus was named the CUNYAC Men’s Baseball Winningest Coach. In 1993-97, Coach DeJesus took his team on a trip to the Dominican Republic during spring break. In 1995, during his team’s trip, he met former New York Mets General Manager Omar Minaya, and coachos Wilkins Pujols, Albert Pujols’ brother, during an exhibition game. Under Coach DeJesus’ tenure, three of his former players were drafted by Major League Baseball. In 2002, Theirborh Almanzar was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 14th round, and Henry Guerrero was drafted by the California Angels as a free agent. With a variety of accomplishments, Coach DeJesus’ biggest accomplishment, according to him, is continuing coaching BCC’s Men’s Baseball Team. In 2006, he led the men’s team to the CUNYAC Championship and was chosen by the CUNY commissioner to represent CUNY in Italy.

As a strict, demanding coach, Coach DeJesus’s philosophy, the Triple C’s is not only his philosophy for success, but what he looks for when recruiting, and getting the best from his players. A player must have knowledge of the game, a passion for the game, and must have courage when playing the game, not being afraid of diving for balls. Coach DeJesus focuses on fundamentals and discipline. Because of lack of discipline, he believes kids prefer to overlook the basics for success, such as bunting for runs won’t fit in Coach DeJesus’s team. Athletic Director Michael Belifore says, “Success is doing things the right way”.

Last year, the Men’s Baseball Team went to the CUNYAC Championship. Due to an exhausted pitching roster, they came up short of winning the championship. With most of the roster returning this year and with a score to settle, BCC finished the season with another championship. Coach DeJesus expects good things for this year with the tremendous talent demonstrated on his roster. With a roster that includes All-Region Talent Ward Brothers, Daniel Rojas and All-Region Second Team Second Baseman Claudio Deaza, and Freshman Pitcher Johan Mercedes, BCC Men’s Baseball Team is destined to return to the CUNYAC Championship.

Emphatically, Coach DeJesus states, “CUNY Championship won’t be a championship without BCC.”

BCC Welcomes Fulbright Scholar from Nigeria

Dr. Solomon addresses students, faculty and staff at CTLT forum on climate change, February 11, 2014. (See story on page 6.)

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A Necessary Change in Perspective
By Joel Mota

Global citizenship is a term for the social, political, environmental, or economic actions of globally-minded individuals and communities on a worldwide scale. The term can refer to the belief that, rather than politicians affecting isolated societies, it is the common man that must take up the cause. As global citizens we are held to corporate responsibility, economic fairness, education, environment, social justice, and sustainable development. It is our opinion that everyone, by consenting with one another, can take up a way of life that is not the picture-perfect place. In order to move the needle forward we must leave behind our ethnical and political views at the local level and begin to think on a global scale. To be clear we are not abandoning our alliance to our own country, instead we are joining a worldwide community of people who share the same principles. Once we’re secure in the knowledge of our convictions, and embodied by the certainty that we are not alone, our moral compasses can be reset, and only then can we begin to think about restructuring the world around us.

As we move forward we are faced with the fact that the gap between the rich and poor is staggering, and growing: the richest 1% of the world’s population control 80% of the world’s product, while the poorest 17% together control 0.3%. The top fifth of the world’s population is 300 times richer than the bottom fifth. (1) One can argue that it is an univocal proposition. It is only natural to think it’s a Sisyphean task in that the end results in nothing, and many will reaffirm that it seldom translates into political action. We can take comfort in the fact that the cause for global civics is not a trend de jour; the groundwork was well established years ago. Since World War II, efforts have been undertaken to develop global policies and institutional structures that can support these enduring efforts. For example the United Nations ratified a Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989. The UNCRC is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of children (2). In January 2011 the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women, was also established. The UN Women is an entity that seeks to sharpen the focus and impact of the gender equality globally (3). In late 2013 a series of ads, developed as a creative idea for UN Women, used genuine Google searches to reveal the widespread prevalence of sexism globally (4) In early 2014, more ads were created as part of this campaign surrounding the theme of Google search results for women worldwide. The UN Women strengthen their objectives by collaborating with advertisers that share the same values. Problems that appear overwhelming at the start soon become manageable when we work together. As global citizens this reafirms our belief that it is not in numbers but in unity that great strength lies.

Where do we start? We start locally by volunteering in organizations that help protect the Earth’s environment and those that contribute to worldwide humanitarian efforts, including the groups that fight for human rights, gender equality, and poverty alleviation, just to name a few. I speak from personal experience when I tout the value of volunteerism. I’m currently offering my free time at the New York Botanical Garden with my father Every Saturday from March to October we plant and harvest in the Children’s Family Garden. Each plot is supported by volunteers. Visitors to the Family Garden are encouraged to take samples home, many of which grow along the long low walls that surround the site. This local community effort speaks in volumes, and it’s a testament to what can be accomplished mutually when we have a shared common goal.

The cause for global civics is, in great measure, the cause for all mankind. People always desire what is good, but they do not always see what is virtuous. Through our combined efforts perhaps we can lift the veil and show others what is possible when we work in unison. With our new moral compass reset and available for immediate use, we can now begin to search for new solutions to these ever-growing global problems, with the certainty that we are not alone, and the conviction that it’s for the greater good.

Works Cited

Lenten Observation
By William Murray

The season of Lent began today. Not only does that mean our days will begin to lengthen, but most notably, this is a time for Christians to make spiritual preparations for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. As Jesus Christ fasted for forty days and nights in the desert whilst being tempted by the devil, we too can begin making sacrifices for the good of others by controlling our impulses. What will you abstain from?
Impediments to Globalization

By Miguel Alemar

Presently, our world is increasingly interconnected and interdependent than at any other time in history. Foreign investments and advancements in technology and communications have been a few of the catalysts driving globalization throughout the world economy. Over the last thirty years companies have taken advantage of reduced regulation and outsourced or offshore different business units and sometimes complete operations to reduce operational costs and raw materials are cheaper. Free markets where capitalism can flourish with little opposition bring the promise of better wages, opportunities for employment, increased availability of goods to a greater number of people and an overall increase in the efficiency of manufacturing. All of these factors have created a very complex interdependency among developed and developing nations. As corporations have expanded into less-developed nations with fewer environmental and employment regulations a level of inequality among workers has been created as well. There are also environmental concerns stemming from the rapid growth of developing nations. These issues must be addressed if globalization is to move forward in a sustainable manner and gain the support of the opponents of free trade.

Globalization has been occurring in the world since before the Roman Empire. Countries traded grains, precious metals, livestock, spices and a sundry of other items to enhance their economies. Globalization is the unprecedented level of worldwide economic and financial integration fueled by technological advances, witnessed in the last 30 years (Karam 8). In postwar 1947, 23 nations met in Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed on basic trade rules, including 45,000 tariff concessions, while lowering or purging duties on $10 billion worth of products which were being traded in that time period. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was created. This was meant to be a temporary solution and the ideas initially were to create an International Trade Organization which would have been a permanent body. The GATT was on the verge of becoming the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. This never came to be and the GATT would later become the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995 (10). This organization, while seeking to balance the field, is not what was envisioned when the GATT was originally created.

We can see examples of how corporations came to influence globalization and gained such a strong influence over our economies by looking back to the early 1980’s. Government involvement in the private sector was being blamed for economic issues. Conservative economists advocated less government involvement and more free open markets. The U.S. administration began removing regulations, cutting taxes and reducing social programs during this time in order to spur more corporate investing and to stimulate the economy. They effectively began undoing the previous fifty years progress in regulating corporate and business practices. The Great Depression of the 1930’s (Bluestone, Harrison 196-197). This scenario is very reminiscent of the capitalist and laissez-faire practices which lead to the stock market crashes of the early 20th century. We have taken a step backwards by being too hands off with businesses. These are some of the factors which drove a rapid rate of globalization over the last three decades. With less regulation, businesses were eventually left with options to invest more freely in industries such as agriculture. Over the last three decades. With less regulation, businesses were eventually left with options to invest more freely in industries such as agriculture. Hence, control of trade and goods were mainly related to trade and goods. However, that was not the case. In the early 1980’s, Barry Blest, Barry Bennett Harrison and Bennett Harrison noted that the interdependent global system created a system which corporations could take advantage of in order to save money by not upgrading labor. This is having a positive impact on manufacturing operations as well as abroad. Opponents of globalization often argue that jobs are being shipped overseas. They point to whole industries being relocated to foreign countries and that was how the Chinese made their “12 days.” It is not just China that is taking to account the broad context which corporations and trade operate. For instance, during the time period spanning from 1970-1980 in order to remain competitive and profitable, many corporations closed long-established key factories in the U.S. costing a loss of more than 30 million jobs (153).

One could argue that job losses within industries driving globalization have been occurring for over thirty years now and is not something new. We can look at industries such as the automobile, manufacturing and electronics. The majority of the jobs that are being outsourced or offshore abroad where corporations can save more money and increase profits. Notwithstanding, the previous editors Barry Blest, Barry Bennett Harrison and Bennett Harrison note that the interdependent global system created a system which corporations could take advantage of in order to save money by not upgrading labor. This is having a positive impact on manufacturing operations as well as abroad. Opponents of globalization often argue that jobs are being shipped overseas. They point to whole industries being relocated to foreign countries and that was how the Chinese made their “12 days.” It is not just China that is taking to account the broad context which corporations and trade operate. For instance, during the time period spanning from 1970-1980 in order to remain competitive and profitable, many corporations closed long-established key factories in the U.S. costing a loss of more than 30 million jobs (153).

Another issue not directly caused by globalization but still heavily influenced by the growth in trade and FDI is the environment. Take, for example, blue fin tuna which has been caught in a few areas over time and consumed in many sushi dishes. Thanks to the growth of globalization blue fin tuna became a popular commodity and available on a wider scale than previously so. I like to buy this type of fish from my local fishmonger on occasion but the price only worsen economies in down times.

Due to the growth of globalization the trade of goods and services has increased and this has led to an increase in pollution and waste. Impediments to Globalization

We will take a look at the issues surrounding drinking water. According to the World Health Organization, unless changes are made by 2025, “605 million people will be without an improved drinking water source and 2.4 billion people will lack access to improved sanitation facilities” (Gore 164). Yet over 70 percent of the world’s freshwater is used in agriculture each year (186). Over usage and consumption in developed countries is fast depleting our natural resources. Recently, Indonesia and the Philippines have started pilot projects to reduce pollution. In China, they have begun phasing out export subsidies for polluting industries and also closed down heavily polluting factories (Preble 359). Developing countries are slowly realizing that the tradeoff of the environment in the name of rapid growth is not sustainable in the long run.

On the whole, globalization is here to stay and could prove to be positively correlated with the creation of a more united world in time. No one can predict what will happen over the next ten or twenty years but it is safe to say that these pending issues have to be addressed in order to continue moving forward in a sustainable manner. The aforementioned issues related to our interdependency, the inequalities created by corporations’ focus on the bottom line and the disregard for the environment must be addressed or progress will stall. While more government regulation alone will not do the trick, it is difficult to deny that some level of intervention and greater controls need to be put in place in order to level the playing field and benefit both developing and already established nations.

Works Cited


The Communicator – March 11, 2014
Students & Faculty to Legislators: “Invest More in CUNY & SUNY – Pass the Dream Act & Reform Financial Aid” Start a Higher Ed Endowment

Albany—Hundreds of students, faculty and college staff traveled to Albany on February 26 from every corner of the state to demand a better state budget for CUNY and SUNY and a long-term strategy for investing in public higher education. CUNY and SUNY have lost nearly $2 billion in State funding in recent years; without a dramatic increase in funding, the two public university systems will be unable to ensure broad access to quality, affordable higher education.

Outraged by tuition hikes, full-time faculty shortages, inadequate financial aid and an Executive Budget that does nothing to rebuild their universities after years of underfunding, students, faculty and some traveling from before dawn, came to Albany to urge the Legislature to do better. Cynthia Roldan rode with a busload of students from New York City. She is a Baruch College student and vice chair for legislative affairs for the CUNY-wide student government, CUNY USS.

“Higher education is the key to success—and the key to solving the problems of poverty, economic inequality and unemployment—that persist in many of our communities,” said Roldan. “When the promise of an accessible and affordable college education becomes a reality for all New Yorkers, we will lift our state socially and economically, and this is what students and faculty are rallying for.”

The governor’s Executive Budget fails to provide fully for normal cost increases for energy, rent, technology and other costs of operation. It relies on revenue from tuition hikes to fill the hole. It makes no improvements to financial aid and leaves community colleges dramatically under-resourced.

“It’s not fair to our students—many of whose families sacrifice to find the extra money—to use their increased tuition to cover mandatory costs. When tuition hikes are used to fill the gap left in the Executive Budget, that’s a cut—and a broken promise,” said Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY and a CUNY professor of English. “Students, faculty and legislators were told that the annual tuition hikes at CUNY and SUNY would go to improve educational services. We are here to demand that the promise be kept.”

“Students from across the state are calling on our elected officials to prioritize higher education in this year’s budget,” said Aileen Shell, Queens College student and chair of NPRG’s Board of Directors. “It’s time to make college more affordable for all New Yorkers by reforming and expanding the state’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and investing in our universities so they are relying less on tuition,” said Shell.

“We are here today to remind policymakers of the valuable role the state’s community colleges play in New York’s economy,” said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta. “Additionally, community colleges offer access to an affordable, quality higher education to students who otherwise may not have an opportunity to pursue a college degree.”

CUNY and SUNY have a profound shortage of full-time faculty. As a result, the colleges rely increasingly on part-time faculty, who may not have the time they wish to give to students. Even as the university systems have hired new faculty, they haven’t been able to make up for years of under-investment and rising enrollments. The continued faculty shortage has led to overcrowded classes at many campuses, and left some students struggling to get the courses they need to graduate.

Rebuilding the ranks of full-time faculty at CUNY and SUNY after years of disinvestment will require big investments and big thinking—two things lacking in the governor’s budget plan for higher education. NYSUT’s Public Higher Education Quality Initiative recommends a long-term strategy that goes beyond a budget-by-budget approach to reinvestment—an endowment dedicated to funding new full-time faculty and staff lines.

“Creation of an endowment to add more full-time faculty and professional staff will allow SUNY, CUNY and our community colleges to begin restoring academic programs that have been lost to years of budget cuts,” said NYSUT President Richard C. Lanniuzzi. “More full-time positions will ensure the quality courses, services and mentoring New York’s college students deserve.”

Greater direct state investment in public higher education and an endowment would lead to dramatic improvements at SUNY, according to United University Professions President Frederick Kowal.

“The time has come to end a pattern of disinvestment in public higher education. It is time to reinvest in our public colleges and universities to protect their quality and students’ access to higher education. UUP stands committed to our students. We urge our state lawmakers to confirm their commitment to the future of our students by investing more in SUNY and CUNY,” said Kowal.

Restoring the state hospital subsidy to its $128 million level is another must-have investment, according to Kowal and the coalition. Students and faculty joined in the call for the State to help SUNY hospitals survive and protect their medical and educational missions.

The student and faculty organizations at the lobby day are part of a broader financial aid effort, the Coalition to Reform the NY Tuition Assistance Program. Together, they are advocating for passage of the NYS DREAM Act, and TAP reforms that would restore past funds cut from TAP, cover students who are excluded from the program, and align TAP with the needs of today’s students. The governor recently indicated support for the NY DREAM Act, and the State Assembly passed it on February 25.

“Every undocumented student fears a date. The date you have to drop out of classes because you can’t afford tuition,” said Luis Saavedra, a Lehman College student whose undocumented status prevents him from receiving financial aid. “The NY DREAM Act would alleviate that fear by providing access to the Tuition Assistance Program. We thank the governor and the Assembly for their support and call on the Senate to pass the NY DREAM Act this session.”

Transfer to Iona College and Move Your World in the Right Direction

When Jessica Scaparro first met students from Iona, she was impressed with their enthusiasm about their experiences. “I wanted so badly to have that same excitement.” As a transfer student, Jessica obtained a rewarding internship at March of Dimes, completed a service trip to Zambia, and served as a student campus minister.

She is now staying at Iona to complete her master’s degree in industrial organizational psychology. With over 45 undergraduate majors and 35 minors in leading areas of study, led by working professionals and leaders in academics, we are confident that transferring to Iona will be one of the best decisions you’ve ever made.
NYPIRG’s Student Action Meeting Motivates Students to Fight for Change

By Marcus Charlton

On February 20, Bronx Community College students gathered for NYPIRG at BCC’s Student Action Meeting. Posters and leaflets decorating the campus as well as announcements written in classrooms directed students to Roscoe Brown Student Center for the official kick off for all of NYPIRG’s campaigns. Despite it being a Monday schedule on a Thursday, nearly 50 students came out to learn about New York State’s largest student-directed advocacy organization and its fight to address issues of environmental protection, mass transit, hunger and homeless relief, consumer exploitation, and higher education affordability and accessibility.

One major highlight was the keynote address, given by Ben DeAngelis, NYPIRG’s Campus Program Director. His responsibility of coordinating all of NYPIRG’s statewide chapters made him the perfect person to give the students a little background information on the organization. NYPIRG started in 1974 at Queens College when students sought to mobilize their classmates with the support of professional staff and faculty, including legal staff, to tackle many issues that have plagued New York. Advocacy for the proper disposal of toxic waste and educational forums.

Consumer Action Project Leader Marcus Charlton takes questions from students on the effort to ban employment credit checks. (Photo: Zaini Lindsay)

As the project leaders for Higher Education Affordability and Accessibility, Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, Hunger and Homeless Outreach, and Mass Transit, students Ivana Floyd, Marcus Charlton, and directed students to the keynote address, students went to one of five breakout meetings. Each meeting was led by a student project team.

The goal was not to just inspire students, but to provide an open environment for students to brainstorm and begin planning the future of the campaign for the semester. Students Ivana Floyd, Marcus Charlton, and Meister 303 or stop by the NYPIRG office, Meister Hall, Room 214, to learn more about plans for the semester and how to get involved.

Carol and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund has been awarded to Bronx Community College for the purpose of providing quick-response emergency grants to matriculated students in good academic standing who are facing a short term financial emergency. The goal of the Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund is to help students remain in school.

Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Guidelines

Emergencies that qualify for a Petrie Grant include:
- Homelessness or sudden loss of housing
- Fire in living quarters
- Travel expenses due to illness/death in immediate family
- Overdue utility bills/burn off notice
- Theft of computer, books, clothing or other essential belonging
- Medical/Dental emergencies
- Food or transportation needs
- Temporary loss of job or income
- Transportation card
- Loss of childcare
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Other (you may give an explanation of your emergency in personal statement)

Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund aid will NOT be awarded to:
- To cover college debt
- To pay for full or partial tuition or college fees
- To pay for legal representation in a criminal proceeding or Bronx Community College disciplinary proceeding

Eligibility Requirements

The applicant must:
- Be a matriculated student in good academic standing
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Be a matriculated student
- Submit documentation to support his/her emergency

Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Instructions

1. Download and complete the Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form
2. Attach your supporting documentation to the Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form
3. Return your completed Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund Application Form, and any supporting documents to the Office of Student Engagement and Success located in Roscoe Brown Student Center (BC), Room 302
4. Once your completed application has been submitted, you will be contacted for a brief consultation. Individual grants will be awarded within 72 hours of receiving your application.

For more information about joining or starting a club, contact the Inter-Organizational Council office.

Rescoe Brown Student Center, Room 309
718.289.5194
www.bcc.cuny.edu/studentlife

The Communicator – March 11, 2014
5
In honor of Black History Month, the Lambda Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa selected the film Something the Lord Made to highlight Vivien Thomas (1910-1985) for his contributions in modern medicine, for his triumph in a world of discrimination, and for his relevancy to our very own scholars here at Bronx Community College. Vivien Thomas was a pioneer, and opened the doors for a large percentage of Bronx Community College’s student population to a variety of careers in healthcare such as opportunities to be a nurse, doctor, surgeon, and so forth. Thomas also acquired his accomplishments facing similar barriers that many students at BCC faced today such as living below the poverty line, working around the clock, being underappreciated, facing extreme discrimination, and entering a professional world foreign to his family.

Thomas started from the bottom, and worked his way up to achieve the dreams he had for himself and his contributions to humanity. He was born in Louisiana to a carpenter in 1910, well before the civil rights movement brought about equal rights to African Americans. Despite the discriminatory norms of the time and the fact during that time in history only 20% of all late teens even entered high school, Thomas managed to graduate from high school with honors, and achieved the dream of going to medical school. Thomas would have to overcome more than just statistics to achieve success. Poverty halted Thomas’ dreams when the Great Depression wiped out all his college savings. He initially settled for work as a janitor at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, but caught the attention of Dr. Alfred Blalock who later hired him as his surgical assistant. Thomas had succeeded in earning a position that would provide him the knowledge he needed to fulfill his dreams; another triumph for him. Despite a difficult start, Thomas found success and made great contributions to humanity. While working for and studying under Dr. Alfred Blalock, he helped form a new understanding of blood pressure and the causes of shock (loss of fluid and blood volume), helped formulate a new heart surgery for “Blue Baby Syndrome,” and he invented several devices for the study of blood pressure and surgery such as a heavy spring device which allowed him to simulate different blood pressures for study. Although it took 25 years after the success of his and Dr. Blalock’s heart surgery procedure, all of Thomas’ hard work, studies, contributions, and determination was recognized by the John Hopkins University with an “honorary doctorate.” For all his struggles, Vivien Thomas was triumphantly successful, and helped pave the way for our current scholars to pursue degrees in similar fields. He exemplifies what can be achieved when we refuse to give up on our dreams and continue to strive toward our goals. For all of his accomplishments, all of his contributions, and the inspiration he sparks in all of us, we honor him.

Dr. Solomon is making her presence known on campus as well as with colleagues from other area colleges and universities. Dr. Tamar Rothenberg, chair, BCC Department of History, one of Non-competing Groups: Changes in the Premium, and Professor Andrew Rowan, Department of English, both Salzburg Global Seminar Fellows; and Professor Jawied Nawabi, Department of Biology, Bronx Community College and Salzburg Global Seminar Member; Dr. Claudio Mazzatenta, Department of Biology, Bronx Community College and Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow; and Professor Jawied Nawabi, Department of Social Science, Bronx Community College; and Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow. The forum was coordinated by Dr. Tamar Rothenberg, chair, BCC Department of History, and Professor Andrew Rowan, Department of English, both Salzburg Global Seminar Fellows. Co-sponsored with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the event brought together students from Bronx Community College students, she also attended with UN Ambassador forum on Wednesday, February 26th at Fairleigh Dickinson University where she spoke at length with H.E. Ambassador Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, after his discussion, Indonesia: Land of Many Cultures, Mysteries and Challenges. Dr. Solomon was invited by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim to address students in the Department of Geography at Hunter College, the following afternoon.

On Thursday February 28, we had our first discussion for the spring semester. Since this would serve as a somewhat introduction to many students of the club mission and purpose, we decided to touch on Truth. What is truth? We explore the concept against quotes by well respect men and women. Maya Angelou has said. “There’s a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure the truth.” When asked if facts and truth are the same at first many of the students agreed. Then we explored this idea as it pertains to our judicial system. If the facts say that someone guilty of a crime, are they indeed guilty? Do facts lie? Can they be misleading? This sparked some further contemplation of Angelou’s quote. Even though, truth and fact serve similar functions; they aren’t the same thing.

We moved onto another quote by Marcus Aurelius: “Everything we hear is opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is perspective, not the truth.” It was surprising to see that most of the students agreed with this statement. The idea that reality stands on the shoulders of our personal experiences isn’t far-fetched. However, what is reality to one person may not be reality to another. Is Truth to be viewed this way? Can we never be seen as the truth without giving a list of his credentials. He listed three. If they are facts then we are the truth. And we are the truth. Is Truth to be viewed this way? Can we never be seen as the truth without human interpretation or influence.

Mahatma Gandhi challenges Aurelius’ thought when he asserts: “Truth is self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear.” It was on the quote that all of the students were interested in. One student stated that Jesus meant life source. Another simply said he is the Truth. Another student stated that fact and truth are distant cousins? Maybe it’s Gandhi who tells us that it is self-evident? Or finally maybe it’s Jesus who proclaims that He is the Truth. What will be your Truth?
Soul Out
By C. Lionel Spencer

The rain poured like rushing fresh water rivers in the jungle, and there was no umbrella or poncho that could keep him dry. The drops pounded the ground like a stampede of elephants running from prowling lions. It was difficult to hear anything except rain that night. The sidewalks were layered with water just as donuts are glazed with icing. Every step he took water washed over my Clarks; ran into my trench coat with water just as donuts are glazed with icing. Every step he took water washed over my Clarks; ran into my trench coat with water just as donuts are glazed with icing. Every step he took water washed over my Clarks; ran into my trench coat with water just as donuts are glazed with icing. Every step he took water washed over my Clarks; ran into my trench coat with water just as donuts are glazed with icing.
DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN
THE LEGAL FIELD?
DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN THE
LEGAL FIELD?
IF SO,
COME JOIN THE
PARALEGAL SOCIETY!

- Guest Speakers (Attorneys,
Police Officers, Judges etc...)
- Trips to Albany and/or DC and
to local courthouses
- Updates on what is currently
happening in the legal field

STOP BY
MEISTER 303
Wednesday and/or Thursday
12:00 PM

The competition is open to all CUNY and SUNY Community College students registered for the Fall Semester of 2013 or the Spring Semester of 2014. We encourage students from all academic departments and majors to enter the competition.

Entries will be accepted starting December 13, 2013 through April 1, 2014

For information about the contest visit our website or scan our QR code

www.nycourts.gov/history