On Friday, October 25th, fifteen Bronx Community College female students joined the 31st annual leadership conference. The conference was hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The students were welcomed by Ms. Kimberly Roberts, Director of Multicultural Affairs at the College and embarked on a journey to Hunter College for the CUNY Women’s Leadership Conference. We sat in a room of roughly 200 people and listened through many different speeches that were there to empower us as female leaders, each one allowing us to gain knowledge from their experiences.

Our first keynote speaker was Ms. Rosanna Rosado, Publisher and CEO of El Diario/La Prensa, which is the top Hispanic newspaper in New York. Bringing Hispanic heritage and fusing it with the events that occur in our local and national Hispanic communities. She began her career as the first female journalist at El Diario and in the past 19 years, worked hard to make El Diario what it is today…a paper for the people. In her witty and very informative speech, she explained that no matter what is ahead of us, we should “live for the applause” and make time to “focus on you.”

As we individuals are caught up on the everyday situations that occur in our lives and especially as Hispanic women, we tend to be serving even as a leader. Rosado’s biggest piece of advice was to never bow your head down so low that your tiara falls off…“Don’t drop your tiara,” stated Rosado, because you are a queen. “Leadership is heart, caring for others, being honest, feeling passion of service which are contagious to others.” Understanding that for so many of us, we strive because it is the legacy given to us but we should consider this to be the legacy we are giving to the next generation.

Our second keynote speaker was Ms. Joan Barsch, former McKinsey & McKinsey Company director, creator of the “McKinsey Centered Leadership Project” to accelerate the development of women leaders; co-author of the book How Remarkable Women Lead and committee member on the NYC Commission on Women’s Issues. She spoke to us about centered leadership. According to Barsch, there are five parts to centered leadership: meaning, framing, connecting, energizing, and engaging. As individuals, we strive to find MEANING? What makes you happy; “engagement in activities that makes you feel like you are making a difference?” What are you doing that you value. Barsch stated, “Find your strengths every day.” Your strengths are what ultimately bring you pleasure and you could apply to your everyday life.

Secondly, as an individual, we have a tendency to let our mind ruminate on a situation more than we should and it can leave is with either viewing it positively or negatively. The example she used was that you are presenting a project for the Mayor of New York City. You have been working on it for six months and you have two hours to explain it to him. The day finally arrives and you are ready to present. You stand before a room filled with men and you are the only women there. There is a long table separating you from the mayor. You breathe and begin to speak, and one hour in he picks up his papers and walks out. As leaders, we need to “separate facts from affliction” take a step back and understand what really happened. We also need to “find alternate reasons” to what had occurred and “displacement: the ability to unlock and unload from the situation and find something that helps you…gives your brain time to rest and then you are able to see the picture better,” said Barsch.

Find CONNECTIONS in your everyday life: people that allow you to find “Congruence, honesty, reliability, and acceptance” in your everyday life. Find a sponsor that can view you for who you are and lead you where you want to be. Barsch also told us there are four steps to ENERGIZE: emotional and spiritual and we need to find ways to use these energies to maintain or gain more in our everyday life. We have a tendency to pick up our phones in the morning, she said. Don’t pick up the cell phone, buy yourself an alarm clock if you have to. Take 20 minutes in your morning and ask yourself “What do you want of yourself today?” That will give you back energy and at the end of the day, before bed, ask: “What is one new thing I have learned today? What self is one new thing I appreciate of my today?” OR ask: “What are three good things that happened to me today and what is one bad thing that happened to me today?” The whole point of the exercise is to value yourself and realize that as difficult as your day may seem, you can always find something to be thankful for. And last but not least, we need to be ENGAGING and fear tends to hold us back. We need to find assurance within ourselves and think positive; find a moment that brought you hope and always keep it in your mind or write about it and read it frequently. Barsch ended by saying: “be aware of yourself, make choices and practice them often.”

There were many other speakers like City Councilwoman Gale Brewer and moderators like BCC President Carole Berotte Joseph and Queensborough Community College President Diane B. Call. I, along with seven other BCC women leaders, had the honor of sharing lunch and conversations with Dr. Berotte Joseph. We heard about her background as President of Massachusetts Bay Community College and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Hostos Community College and the differences between those community colleges to BCC. We were able to see her as a woman that is an advocate for the students, with a door always open to hear their concerns as well as doing what she can to address their issues. She has initiated the First-Year Seminar (FYS) class which has allowed freshmen students to understand better the resources available within the school and to receive mentoring from a BCC FYS mentoring student that has gone through the program. It gave us an opportunity to voice concerns and to give accolades to many of our wonderful teachers. It was nice to meet her and know her as a person and a face rather than just a name.

In the end, the women’s leadership conference was an insightful, eye-opening experience. Much of this information I will take and apply in my life and, even though you weren’t able to attend, I hope you too will do the same.
The Crisis of Syrian Refugees
By the Peace and Social Justice Club

The Syrian crisis is a global humanitarian and security disaster. The civil war in Syria has been going on for three years. During this time more than 100,000 people have been killed including 10,000 children. Millions have fled Syria or have been displaced within the country due to the violence. More than two million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries. They are escaping the horrors of war: the violence, the harassment, the fear, the hunger and deprivation. One million of these people are children. In Lebanon there are 675,000 refugees; in Jordan 515,000; in Turkey 434,000; in Iraq 160,000 and in Egypt 103,000.

Each day 4,400 more Syrians leave their country looking for safety. Seventy-eight percent of them are women and children. They tell stories of the violence going on in their country. For example, if the government soldiers don’t like someone, they will strangle him or cut his throat and then burn the body to hide the evidence.

Inside of Syria five million people have been displaced due to the civil war. The children are at greatest risk because of the violence, the schools and hospitals that have been destroyed and the shortages of essential supplies such as food, water and medicine. The neighboring countries are struggling to take care of the refugees. Jordan is an example. Jordan has very little water, yet there are more than half a million refugees living within its borders. This number could double by 2014. The people need food, water, shelter, sanitation, clothes, electricity and health care. The Zaatarí refugee camp, built in a desert, houses 140,000 refugees. The Jordanian king has appealed to the United Nations for help.

Several countries are providing funds and supplies to Jordan and the other countries with refugees. The United States has provided most of the funding. The neighboring countries are struggling to take care of the refugees.

Donate directly to humanitarian organizations such as UNICEF, Amnesty International, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, Doctors without Borders, and others.
On Campus and Off: Students Say “No Fracking Way”

By Clifford Bias and Brandon Robinson

While NYPIRG has continuously worked on environmental issues, October was a big month in the fight against hydrofracking. Hydrofracking, the process of drilling and injecting a cocktail of pressurized water, chemicals, and sand into the ground to extract natural gas by breaking shale rock, has been on the fence of coming to New York State for some time. As we have already seen in other states like Pennsylvania and Ohio, doing this will cause environmental and health issues throughout the state. Unfortunately, the EPA has been MIA on this issue. In their report conducted in December 2012, “Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources,” they failed to include in their report those states that have complained and have suffered losses and catastrophic effects by fracking. In order to keep the pressure on Governor Cuomo to ban fracking, NYPIRG organizes actions every Monday: students make calls to the governor’s office to stop Hydrofracking from coming to the state. With Halloween ending the month, NYPIRG’s usual Monday call-ins took a turn on the scary side with its Horrors of Hydrofracking.

Keep the pressure on Governor Cuomo to ban fracking, NYPIRG organizes actions every Monday: students make calls to the governor’s office to stop Hydrofracking from coming to the state. With Halloween ending the month, NYPIRG’s usual Monday call-ins took a turn on the scary side with its Horrors of Hydrofracking. While there is no connection between fracking and the zombies that grace the Halloween-themed posters, the message was the same: “Governor Cuomo: Ban Fracking in New York State.”

NYPIRG at BCC’s Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen leads the crowd of organizers in chants calling for a ban on fracking (Photo Credit: Sarah Hendricks)

As our students are raising awareness among the college community, NYPIRG students and activists joined forces to send Governor Cuomo a clear message at the New York Food and Wine Festival. On Saturday, October 19th, organizations and activists from across the city convened at Chelsea Piers, Pier 61, to demand a ban against hydrofracking in the State of New York. With a huge presence of NYPIRG chapters from across the city, the broad coalition of hundreds of organizers made their presence known alongside a wide assortment of environmental, public health, and family groups. With Governor Cuomo scheduled to have brunch with Food and Wine Festival attendees right inside the Pier, the energy was high and the air was full of chants from concerned citizens; it was their collective mission to put a ban on fracking from coming to the State of New York. With huge lines of supporters united in their chanting and marching along the Westside bike trail, it was truly a day of excitement. On the water along the Pier, boats blew their horns in support of the movement. In addition, huge “Ban Fracking!” banners flew alongside their boats.

In addition to this bold display of activism on a windy Saturday morning, a guest speaker came all the way from Argentina to give his support as well as join in the fight. It was his hope to bring home useful organizing techniques to share with his community as they also fight for a clean energy future.

With such a wide array of organizing forces coming together, it is very revealing that Governor Cuomo chose to not show up to the brunch. What demonstrates is that our Governor is listening. Whether through call-ins or outdoor rallies, we must keep the pressure on our local, state, and national officials to ban fracking. It is our duty as citizens to be heard on these pressing issues and continue our fight. While fighting to stop these dangerous practices, we must also demand more sustainable energy practices, as that is the only way to a clean energy future.

NYPIRG-P TK Coalition Fights Hunger In the Bronx

Continued from page 1

Bags were collected for final donation. To bring together the importance of supporting our pantries and community as a whole, all donations will be delivered to Part of the Solution. In this way, students at BCC are not only volunteering in the food pantry and dining room, they are actively filling the pantry and ultimately, empty stomachs.

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 in Meister Hall, Room 214 or 718-289-5409.

Students Gather to Decide New York’s Future at BCC Mayoral Mock Debate

By Miguel Pena

To motivate the students to participate in the incoming mayoral election in New York City, the BCC Mayoral Mock Debate was held on Thursday, October 31 in the Roscoe Brown Playhouse to a tremendous audience that included students, faculty, and administrators. With the entry of Joe Lhota, Republican Party nominee, chants of “Lhota! Lhota!” were made by student rallyers. Ten minutes later, Bill De Blasio entered to a lively applause and “Bill! Bill! De Blasio! Bill! Bill! De Blasio!”

Coordinated by NYPIRG at BCC, the Office of the Student Life, the Political Science Club, and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team, the BCC Mayoral Mock Debate had students Denise Rivera and Leslie LaRue portraying the Republican and Democratic Party nominees, respectively. The “candidates” wrestled with serious questions on affordable housing, education, taxes, and stop-and-frisk. While some had seen previous debates and had already chosen their candidate, others grappled with the issues and candidates’ stances for the first time. “I was surprised that everybody was into it. It was informative and gave me a new sense of perspective on debates,” commented Lucy Cabrera, accounting major. With tuition continuing to rise $300 every year in the CUNY system, students were increasingly becoming aware of the stakes in the coming election.

However, it was not all seriousness at the October 31st event. The crowd responded lightheartedly when the candidates talked about their favorite sports teams, including chuckles about Joe Lhota’s “pin stripe blue” blood. De Blasio was not received as nicely (He’s a Boston fan). The broad coalition of groups and offices that came together had one goal: to motivate students to get out and vote. Confident that students can make a difference on Election Day, Speech, Drama, and Debate Advisor Carmen Meyers noted the overwhelming turnout. “This event exceeded all of our expectations and demonstrated that BCC students are informed and ready to take a stand on November 5th at the polls.”

While the goal was to educate and engage students in the audience to be ready for the election, the candidates themselves also learned from the experience. “Being a part of the mock debate really opened my eyes. I’ve never been a person to watch the debates; I just go and vote and normally I only vote in presidential elections,” said Leslie Larue, sophomore nursing major portraying Democrat Bill De Blasio. Taking on the role of someone with a different viewpoint was an educational process for Denise Rivera, who portrayed Republican Joe Lhota: “I really enjoyed taking on this role, I am a Democrat but learning about a Republican was interesting because I was able to learn about both sides of the argument and I am now able to make a more thorough and informed decision come Tuesday November 5th. Hopefully, everyone that was in the audience can also come to a more informed decision as well.”

(Lef t to Right) Debate Moderator Balissa Diaz, Leslie LaRue (as De Blasio), Denise Rivera (as Lhota), and NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen after the 2013 BCC Mayoral Mock Debate. (Photo Credit: Cesar Macutea)

In addition to the debate itself, everyone was provided with a voting guide complete with descriptions of all candidates running for city office. Students were also able to find their poll site using the Board of Elections Poll Finder, set up at the table with voting guides. A slideshow explaining how to access and find the Poll Finder ran before the event.

At the end of this event, NYPIRG Project Coordinator Armando Chapelliquen, dressed as Uncle Sam, answered questions regarding the elections process, and debriefed with all students that participated in the activity.

Director of Student Life Melissa Kirik recognized the event’s success was due in large part to its strong coalition: “The ‘Mock’ Mayoral Debate was a perfect example of an excellent collaboration. When clubs work together, campus life is engaging, informative and fun. Kudos to the Speech, Drama and Debate Team, the Political Science Club and NYPIRG for the time and effort devoted to preparing our students for next week’s mayoral election. Student Life was a proud co-sponsor of this event.”

NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CLUB
We are looking for individuals who are passionate about health and wellness to help develop, organize, and run a health and wellness club here at Bronx Community.

If you are interested in becoming a club officer or joining the Health & Wellness Club please contact

Lashon R. Kempson
Email: lashon.kempson@hux.bcc.cuny.edu

NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CLUB
We are looking for individuals who are passionate about health and wellness to help develop, organize, and run a health and wellness club here at Bronx Community.

If you are interested in becoming a club officer or joining the Health & Wellness Club please contact

Lashon R. Kempson
Email: lashon.kempson@hux.bcc.cuny.edu
Hello, and welcome to another semester at Bronx Community College. My name is Kelvis Cedeno and I currently serve as your Vice President of the Student Government Association. Just like it is a brand new semester, we are a brand new Student Government, thankful and excited to serve you. As senators we know it is our responsibility to take into account what is best for students, at all times. This group willingly decided to run, was elected, and we promise to see through on our commitment to the Bronx Community College student body.

The Student Government Association is an organization that represents the best interests of the students. We represent the students by sitting on committees where we vote on topics ranging from curriculum to academic advancement. I know that this group of senators is committed to making the best decision, even if it may be the toughest one. We hold our own meetings where we create programs, fund projects from clubs and college wide organizations, and grant an audience to anyone who wants to speak us. We are a Student Government that believes in an open door policy when it comes to the student body.

I wanted to write to you on behalf of the Student Government to inform you of our agenda and what we plan to accomplish in our term. Like any group when they first get together, we had many ideas, but eventually the list was trimmed to a small number of goals. The tasks we decided to tackle were all based in the thought of doing things that would benefit the school and students as a whole. Currently we are working on installing televisions in building lobbies through the AIM-TV Program. The AIM or Academic Informativ Media TV program will allow Bronx Community College students to see what’s happening on campus in real time, rather than have to rely on emails or word of mouth. Another project set in motion is the Student Government’s idea to get the Burnside Avenue train station name changed to, Burnside Ave-Bronx Community College. We as Student Government know and respect the history of this school and we hope to reflect that within the community. We have also decided that through our Grants Committee we will also be offering internships that will result in a stipend for the students.

When this Student Government came together, we agreed on leaving a mark in Bronx Community College. We do not want to be known as a Student Government that just went through the motions, but one that went above and beyond the call of political duty. Our goals are realistic, have been put into play, and all we have to do is finish the job. I know politicians tend to promise many things, but the only thing this SGA can promise, is that we will work our hardest to benefit the students of this school. I know that with the leadership of our president Glendalys Salgado, the work ethic of this organization, and the support of the student body, we can make this year one that will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Kelvis Cedeno
SGA Vice-President
Beyond the Quad

Students Gather For Consumer Rights
By Marcus Charlton
It is a sad and well-known fact that thousands of New Yorkers are taken advantage of by businesses every day. It is even sadder that many who are exploited are not aware of the options they have to protect themselves and get justice. On Wednesday, October 30, 2013, eight Bronx Community College students took a stand for consumer protection by getting trained for the NYPIRG Small Claims Court Action Center.

Known as the “People’s Court,” the Small Claims Court is a part of the New York State Civil Court system and its purpose is to provide a low-cost and quick resolution to everyday consumer complaints. With at least one Small Claims Court in every one of the 62 counties in New York State, including the six here in New York City (two for the borough of Manhattan and one for the other four boroughs), it is easily accessible. The reason this is called the Small Claims Court is because the monetary damages it handles can be no more than $5,000. However, the Small Claims Court does not handle emotional distress and things of that nature. It only handles physical damage.

Training. Not shown: Melissa Guzman. (Photo Credit: Armando Chapelliquen)

Since 1977, NYPIRG has operated the Small Claims Court Action Center (or SCCAC) to provide free counseling services to the consumers of New York. As trained counselors, these students will guide their callers through the Small Claims Court system if they are in the process of suing or being sued. Since these students are not lawyers, legal advice cannot be given and they will make that clear to their callers. However, as trained counselors, the students will be able to provide a guiding hand through the entire process. The way the action center works is the counselors will encourage their callers to concentrate their efforts on three main things: 1) Documenting their damages in order to prove actual out-of-pocket costs with things like receipts and pictures of the damage; 2) Identifying the potential defendants (or person or business that they are suing); 3) Considering the option of settling outside of court because of the costs; and 4) Establishing a paper trail and case log for the purpose of documenting every contact they had with the opposing party. Of course, the students are not expected to know all of this by heart and have been provided guides that go into more detail about what to say and what not to say. In addition, the students will get a chance to visit the Small Claims Court here in the Bronx on 161st Street.

Prior to the training, several of the students voiced their enthusiasm and excitement. After the training, not only did their enthusiasm continue, but two of them volunteered to hang up posters with our phone number in their neighborhoods. One of the students, Clifford P. Bias, had this to say: “I didn’t know too much about the small claims court process so during the training I was a lot more informed about the process and how things worked.”

This counseling is free-of-charge and is open to the public. As the project leader for the Consumer Protection campaign, which includes the Small Claims Court, we look forward to working with the BCC community and making people aware of this service. Ultimately, we encourage them to use this service because consumer exploitation and corrupt business practices do not have to be an everyday thing.

For calls in the Bronx, the contact number is 718-289-5409.

PTK at the Southern District Regional Conference
By Gilda Cote
Bronx Community College’s PTK Chapter President, Christian Sanoguel; Vice President of Leadership, Mamadou Diallo; Vice President of Communications and Inter Organizational Council (IOC) Representative, Gilda Cote; and Student Advisor, Anoluwapo Biolarinwa had the opportunity to meet the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student officials representing New York Southern District during its Honors In Action Regional Conference on Saturday, October 5th. The BCC Lambda Nu Chapter Officers expanded their knowledge on the projects that they need to complete in order to become a Five-Star Level Campus by sharing ideas on how it can be done with other regional PTK officers, members, advisors and officials. The group learned about leadership opportunities for all officers and members in the areas of individual and group goals. Information on Collegefish, a virtual college information portal that allows you to find colleges and universities of your choice and assist in matching those schools with scholarships, was also obtained at the event.

The BCC Chapter Officers met many different PTK chapters within the CUNY community colleges, which included Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College, and Kingsborough Community College. There were also many PTK chapters from the SUNY community colleges in attendance. Many of those chapters have succeeded in gaining prestige for their colleges which the BCC Chapter Officer found helpful.

However, although encouraged, the BCC Chapter Officers were left feeling unfulfilled and slightly overwhelmed next to the other chapters. Many of the other chapters are fully funded through the President’s Office at their institutions and thus can get their activities off the ground successfully. The BCC Lambda Nu Chapter Officers, however, must constantly fight for funding while striving to reach their next goal. And while the officers found the conference informative, it was understood that their chapter was unlike any of the other chapters in attendance; however, the officers know that once they gain their place, the reward will be that much sweeter.

PTK and Collegefish Transfer Month
By Gilda Cote
PTK made great strides in the month of October to keep our members informed about Collegefish.org, a site designed to help students transfer to a four year institution and it also helps you match those schools with scholarships available for those students. The officers found the conference informative, it was understood that their chapter was unlike any of the other chapters in attendance; however, the officers know that once they gain their place, the reward will be that much sweeter.

5
The Communicator – November 9, 2013
**Beyond the Quad**

**BCC MEDIA TECH IN ACTION**

Members of the Media and Digital Film Club attend both the CINE GEAR and PHOTO EXPO at the Jacob Javits Center during the fall 2013 semester.

The Communication Arts & Sciences Department Media and Digital Film Club (MDFC) meets during BCC Club Hours in Meister Hall C02A. Here students with a passion for movies can share their love of film and get a chance to participate as paid production assistants on major motion pictures and television shows filmed on campus. (Productions have included Burn After Reading, A Beautiful Mind, The Good Shepherd, Maid in Manhattan, and numerous episodes of Law and Order.) MDFC members also produce their own short films and videos for the annual BCC Film and Video Festival and enter them into national and international film festivals. Guest speakers from across the spectrum of the media industry -- directors, writers, camera operators -- are regularly invited to the club to discuss their area of expertise. Club members also take field trips to television/film studios, attend film screenings, seminars and industry trade shows.

All interested students who wish to join the Media and Digital Film Club should contact the faculty advisor, Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky (Meister Hall C02, 718.289.5572, Jeffrey.Wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu).

(From left to right): Media and Digital Film Club member Jody Torres, Declan Quinn, ASC Cinematographer (Moonsoon Wedding, Leaving Las Vegas) and Media and Digital Film Club member Tamara McLean, attend the screening and breakfast of director Mira Nair’s film, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, starring Kiefer Sutherland, Ri; Ahmed and Liev Schreiber at the Tribecca Film Center.

(From left to right): Media and Digital Film Club member Jelissa Mendez and club member Stephanie Jimenez pose with a copy of the 2013 Motion Picture TV and Theatre Directory (MPE). Motion Picture Enterprises Publications donates copies of this invaluable publication to all students in the Digital and Media Film Production Program (MEDP). Additional copies are in front of the MEDP administrative offices (Meister Hall C02). Students use the Directory to search for jobs, internships and services in the film and television industry. Special thanks to Ms. Lori Kornspun, the MPE Advertising Sales Director for her continued support of the MEDP Program.

**Egg Donors Needed**

Women ages 21–32 interested in becoming anonymous egg donors should contact Jessica at 914-997-1060 or email eggdonor@montefiore.org.

Compensation is $8,000 upon completion of cycle.

Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Health, Center for Fertility Preservation
141 South Central Avenue
Hartsdale, New York 10530

www.montefiore.org/ivf

Montefiore
Inspired Medicine
Beyond the Quad

Club Fair view from above.

Members of the Rainbow Alliance discuss policy issues with Ms. Melissa Kirk (l) and Mr. Manny Lopez (center), Office of Student Life.

Robert Josman of the Nanoscience Club conducts a demonstration.

Communicator staff members Eon Adams, C. Lionel Spencer, and Krystal Tavarez.

Transfer Students, UBelong Here.

With more than 125 innovative programs, the University of Bridgeport makes it easier for you to become the person you want to be. UB has become Connecticut’s most affordable private university. We offer merit scholarships for transfer students, up to $15,000 per year. If you’re interested in engineering, UB offers the largest program in Connecticut. Our Health Sciences Division is the leader in integrated health science education. For your creative side, UB’s fashion merchandising program and the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design programs in graphic, industrial and interior design provide students with an award-winning learning experience. And if business is your passion, no other private university in Connecticut can prepare you for the global economy like UB. Experience UB’s state-of-the-art learning facilities, industry experienced faculty, and career-focused curriculum delivered in a small-class setting. Take the first step to a rewarding career and becoming the person you always wanted to be at the University of Bridgeport.

Call us today at 1.800.EXCEL.UB (1.800.392.3582) or visit bridgeport.edu/transfer
Drinking You
C. Lionel Spencer

The woman with the drunken eyes stared at me
Her eyes poured into my heart until it overflowed
Immediately I began tripping over my thoughts
While my body danced limply from her intoxication
She is a potent cocktail; one I have yet to sample until now
And since she is my first, her effect is strong
My friends have me walk the line of sobriety
But I curve in lust, infatuation and attraction
I longed for several more tastes from her bottle
From her vulnerability, from her innocent sweet glare
That dulled my senses and crippled my nerves
She is a potent cocktail; one well worth sipping

They Love Me
C. Lionel Spencer

They engage me: displaying before me their joy of life and my significance within it.
They intrigue me: pulling from inside me the loftiest ideas I possess and desire to express.
They love me: showing purpose, meaning and adoration of who I am to them.
And, even though, I would never say they and I are intimate, I would tell you that I feel closer to them. How is it that nobodies can become somebody more special than you in a moment’s time?
It’s not sex, but it could be, for we connect. It’s not cheating, but it could because I’m enjoying it: being engaged and stimulated this way.
I love you and want us to work, but first you have to steal my heart back from the nobodies you left it in.
I need to feel like I’m somebody to you; in my own skin.
And if you can’t I can’t promise you that I won’t enjoy the nobodies more, for you seem to enjoy nobody.
You say it’s me you enjoy but neither of us seems filled with it.
Is it me? Am I to blame for the spoken closeness that materializes in doses too shallow to swallow?
Or is it that you are too guarded and protected that if love erected itself in your presence it would be left until it went limp?
All I want to be is somebody to you; special even. Can we be special?
Could the I love yous become actual affection?
Or will they simply stay words that somebody, other than you, will show me?
They love me.
Will you?

Communicator Staff Writer – O’Brien Awuah
Publishes Book

O’Brien Awuah
Sorrow + Laugh

Have you ever found yourself in a tight corner, and you regretted being on earth? Have you ever been swallowed by a serious problem, and you wished you were dead? Has any close relative or bosom friend ever disappointed you, and you became captive of depression?
Any problem with an admission day has a graduation day. So do not mourn to forge your good-looking smile. Your test will not kill you, and your temptation can never bury you.
Men and women of valor, I promise you, you will never regret reading this powerful book.
Get a copy, and your life will never be the same.
Shalom!
Join us for:

- Discussion period
- Fun & games
- Tutoring session
- Videos & Movies
- Excursions

Invites you to join its interactive, informative and fun activities. The Biology Club meets in Meister Hall, room 604 (Thursdays 12-2pm).

Join us for:

Dreams, The Royal Road to the Unconscious

Sigmund Freud

The dream is the small hidden door in the deepest and most intimate sanctum of the soul, which opens to that primeval cosmic night that was soul long before there was conscious ego and will be soul far beyond what a conscious ego could ever reach. Carl Jung (The Meaning of Psychology for Modern Man, 1934)

In the tradition of:

- Montague Ullman
- Stanley Krippner
- Gene Gendlin
- Allan Flagg

“Who were my dream…”

The Historical Society of the New York Courts

2014 David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest

FREE SPEECH AND FREE PRESS IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE

NYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRAND PRIZE - $1,500
CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - $1,000
SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - $1,000

Entries will be accepted starting December 17, 2013 through April 1, 2014

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.

For more information about the contest you can access on the CUNY or CUNY Foundation website.

The Biomedical Society of the New York Community College

2014 David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest

FREE SPEECH AND FREE PRESS IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE

NYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRAND PRIZE - $1,500
CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - $1,000
SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIZE - $1,000

Entries will be accepted starting December 17, 2013 through April 1, 2014

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.

For more information about the contest you can access on the CUNY or CUNY Foundation website.

Who Watches the Watchers?

Not religious?
You're not alone.

The Secular Humanist Club is a safe space, a supportive social network, and a promoter of tolerance for the community of nonreligious students at Bronx Community College.

Join us in exploring a life guided by reason, ethics, and justice.

Thursdays at noon
Colston Hall, Room 605

For more information, contact
SecularHumanistClub@gmail.com

THE COMMUNICATOR – November 9, 2013

JOIN A CLUB

The floor is always open to discuss things like BCC's different Psychology courses, a variety of jobs in the Psychology field, and you also do not have to be majoring in Psychology to join! All students are invited to join in different activities and events. There are also opportunities to strengthen leadership skills, build your resumes, create strong bonds, and have fun!

For more information please contact Prof. Lynne Ticke at:
Lynne.Ticke@bcc.cuny.edu

THE BIOLOGY CLUB

Be Among the First to Join!

Prof. Roger Jeff Cunningham, Social Sciences
Leader

Dreams, The Royal Road to the Unconscious

Sigmund Freud

The dream is the small hidden door in the deepest and most intimate sanctum of the soul, which opens to that primeval cosmic night that was soul long before there was conscious ego and will be soul far beyond what a conscious ego could ever reach. Carl Jung (The Meaning of Psychology for Modern Man, 1934)

In the tradition of:

- Montague Ullman
- Stanley Krippner
- Gene Gendlin
- Allan Flagg

“Who were my dream…”

Join us for:

- Discussion period
- Fun & games
- Tutoring session
- Videos & Movies
- Excursions

The floor is always open to discuss things like BCC’s different Psychology courses, a variety of jobs in the Psychology field, and you also do not have to be majoring in Psychology to join! All students are invited to join in different activities and events. There are also opportunities to strengthen leadership skills, build your resumes, create strong bonds, and have fun!

For more information please contact Prof. Lynne Ticke at:
Lynne.Ticke@bcc.cuny.edu
The NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign today issued its third annual “State of the Platforms” report. The first two surveys were based on a random sample of subway platforms. The current report is a “census” of the conditions at 862 subway station platforms – the entire population of subway stations. Following the initial survey, the group learned that there were significant differences between 2012 and 2013. In order to more accurately depict conditions, and because of measurement issues we encountered during the 2011 survey, we eliminated three conditions from the 2012 and 2013 surveys. These include the presence of tactile warning strips, garbage bags on platforms, and working booth microphones.

Among the findings of the census of 862 platforms were:

- virtually every platform had at least one garbage can, according to our observers; but
- a significant number of platforms performed poorly. The Straphangers Campaign deemed performance poor where observers found 20% or more of platforms had the condition.

**TABLE ONE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>2013 Percentage</th>
<th>2012 Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garbage can on platform</td>
<td>3% (30/862)</td>
<td>2% (17/832)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overflothing garbage can observed</td>
<td>4% (35/862)</td>
<td>4% (35/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staircases/handrails in disrepair</td>
<td>13% (115/862)</td>
<td>13% (115/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposed wiring</td>
<td>24% (205/862)</td>
<td>24% (205/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial areas of missing tile</td>
<td>26% (226/862)</td>
<td>26% (226/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial graffiti</td>
<td>32% (279/862)</td>
<td>32% (279/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial floor cracks</td>
<td>39% (335/862)</td>
<td>39% (335/862)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE TWO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>2013 Percentage</th>
<th>2012 Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rats</td>
<td>13% (66/525)</td>
<td>13% (66/525)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken lighting fixtures</td>
<td>20% (107/525)</td>
<td>20% (107/525)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial peeling paint</td>
<td>74% (389/525)</td>
<td>74% (389/525)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial water damage</td>
<td>82% (430/525)</td>
<td>82% (430/525)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE THREE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>2013 Percentage</th>
<th>2012 Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantial graffiti</td>
<td>32% (279/862)</td>
<td>32% (279/862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial floor cracks</td>
<td>39% (335/862)</td>
<td>39% (335/862)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the findings of the census of 862 platforms were:

- four of nine conditions we observed appeared to have grown substantially worse between 2012 and 2013. These are: exposed wiring, substantial areas of missing tile, substantial graffiti and substantial floor cracks; and
- five grew slightly better or stayed the same. These are: rats, broken lighting fixtures, broken handrails and staircases, substantial peeling paint and substantial water damage.

**TABLE FOUR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>Rats</th>
<th>Broken Lighting/Substantial Peeling</th>
<th>Substantial Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A copy of the survey instrument and instructions are attached, as is the methodology. A series of illustrative photographs can be found online at http://ilr.kr/ aHj8.0eedK. Surveyors were carefully trained.

“Any of our dedicated intern and staff were tasked with capturing an incredible amount of information about the rider experience on platforms,” said Jason Chin-Fatt, who oversaw the census. “The data we collected tells a grim tale about some conditions riders face while on subway platforms.”

“Because each borough does not have the same percentage of above- to below-ground platforms, we decided only to make borough-to-borough comparisons for the four indicators observed only in belowground platforms,” said Chin-Fatt. The group followed this approach to articulating a year-to-year comparison. Chin-Fatt said the resulting findings were “disappointing.” Details can be found in Table Three below.

According to the group, conditions only for underground stations. The Campaign observed 525 belowground platforms.

“We calculated four additional conditions for belowground stations only,” said Cate Contino, coordinator for the Straphangers Campaign. “We thought it fairer to rate these conditions only for underground stations.” The Campaign observed 525 belowground platforms.
Methodology: State of the Platforms Census, 2013

This is the third Straphangers Campaign subway station platform report. It is designed to provide riders and transit officials with a "snapshot measurement" of conditions on the system's subway platforms.

Census of platform conditions

In our 2011 and 2012 reports, the Straphangers Campaign recorded conditions on each platform in a random, usage-stratified sample of approximately 120 MTA New York City Transit subway stations. For the current report, we expanded our study, conducting a "census" of conditions on all 862 subway platforms. This represents the entire station population, except those which were closed or under construction. In the process of analyzing the information, three stations (comprised of six platforms) were inadvertently left out of the analysis.

A list of all stations selected can be found in the Appendix.

Survey instrument

Campaign staff created a survey form along with detailed instructions and photographs to measure twelve specific platform conditions. These include simple yes/no questions on: the presence of garbage cans, overflowing garbage cans, garbage bags on the platform, rats, substantial graffiti, broken lights, handrails and/or staircases in disrepair, exposed wiring, substantial peeling paint, substantial water damage, substantial floor cracks, and substantial missing tiles. At least one garbage can was observed on 832 of the platforms measured; out of this number the total number of overflowing garbage cans was counted.

On the four remaining measures—the presence of rats, broken lighting, substantial peeling paint, and substantial water damage—the Campaign included only totals from the 525 surveyed platforms in the study. We felt that this measurement would be fair, due to weather and structural differences between above- and below-ground stations. The findings on each of the twelve measures can be found in Tables One and Two. A comparison of below-ground platform conditions by borough can be found in Table Four.

While the methodology used in our 2012 platform report is not identical to this one, we felt that we could make careful comparisons on nine platform measures. These are: exposed wiring, substantial areas of missing tile, substantial graffiti, substantial floor cracks, rats, broken lighting fixtures, broken handrails and/or staircases, substantial peeling paint, and substantial water damage. In comparing 2012 (survey) results to 2013 (census) results, we conducted one-tailed z-tests on the 2012 findings (0.05 level) to determine significant improvement or deterioration on individual indicators over the last year. See Table Three.

The campaign wishes to acknowledge the efforts of our census volunteers. They are: Sunny Akkus, Dixon Allure, Jonathan Avila, Brittany Bing, Tiffany Brown, Sebastian Bullock, Armando Chequillapi, Nico Connolly, Ben Fraimov, Karena Rennie-Glover, Jorge Inumaga, Paul Lee, Nicole Navarrette, Oona Newman, Robert Noman, Andrew Oppenheimier, Christopher Ratfonbush, Brian Shelton, Daphne Thompson, Kateri Turner, Danny Zhou.

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Survey Instructions

Overall Survey Instructions

This is a survey of conditions at subway platforms in New York City by the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign. We are not surveying other areas in the station, such as entrances, mezzanines, or station booths.

The questions we are asking about platform conditions:

* Land themselves to yes/no answers:
  * are not directly related to changing weather conditions, such as puddles or some leaks; and
  * are not currently measured by the government agency in charge of the subways or use a different definition.

Stations will be grouped by level of ridership, then randomly picked.

It is critical to answer all survey questions honestly and fairly. There are no answers we are looking for, just correct observations. The Straphangers Campaign's credibility has been key to our success.

Surveyors will:

* be trained by their supervisors by jointly rating the same station;
* do their observations after the morning peak and before evening peak (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.);
* survey all platforms at a single station in the same day (detailed assignments will be provided); and
* take pictures of some platform conditions they find.

Findings will be calculated in terms of the percentage of stations with problem observed out of stations surveyed. For example, "We surveyed 50 stations and ... percent of them had no garbage can."

Survey Instructions

Use one survey form per platform (e.g. Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall) requires three survey forms - one for the Uptown 4, 5, 6 platform, a second for the Downtown 4, 5, 6 platform, and a third for the J, Z platform which serves both directions.)

Enter your name, the station name, the train line(s), the platform, and the time and date at the top of the station platform survey form.

Answer the questions on the survey form with YES or NO answers. A space for your comments is located at the bottom of the form.

Walk the full length of the station platform for which you are making the observations. You will likely need to walk the entire length of the platform to two times to capture the appropriate information.

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Census

Answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box - YES or NO.

1. Did you observe any garbage cans on the platform? YES NO
2. Did you observe any overflowing garbage cans? A garbage can is overflowing if: a) garbage is sticking out of the top of the can, or b) there is litter on the floor surrounding the garbage can.
3. Did you observe any large bags of garbage? Answer YES if you observed one or more large litter-sized garbage bags on the platform.
4. Did you observe any rats on the station track roadbed or platform? Walk the full length of the platform observing the track bed. If a train enters the station, step where the train obscures your view and wait until the train passes out of your view before continuing your walk down the platform.
5. Did you observe any substantial graffiti on platform or on platform walls or on stairways to platforms? Substantial graffiti is in any area of continuous graffiti on station platforms ceilings, pillars, columns, faces, or walls. Do not include graffiti on advertisements or billboards.
6. Did you observe any exposed broken light fixture or underpasses or stairways or on stairways to platforms? Answer YES if one or more overhead lights are dark. Do not count with emergency lighting. Rate only underground station platforms, not open cut or elevated stations.
7. Did you observe any staircases or handrails in disrepair? Answer YES if any staircases heading up or down to the platform have portions that are missing, crumbling, loose, frayed or damaged, or handrails that have splitting wood, are broken, or are off their hinges.
8. Did you observe any peeling or chipped paint? Answer YES if any painting is exposed.
9. Did you observe any substantial peeling paint on platform or platform walls or ceiling? Substantial peeling paint is approximately five feet or more of continuous peeling paint on station platform ceilings or walls.

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign 2013 Station Platform Survey

Answer the following questions by checking the appropriate box - YES or NO.

1. Did you observe any garbage cans on your platform? YES NO
2. Did you observe any overflowing garbage cans? A garbage can is overflowing if: a) garbage is sticking out of the top of the can, or b) there is litter on the floor surrounding the garbage can.
3. Did you observe any substantial graffiti on platform or on platform walls or on stairways to platforms? Substantial graffiti is in any area of continuous graffiti on station platforms ceilings, pillars, columns, faces, or walls. Do not include graffiti on advertisements or billboards.
4. Did you observe any exposed broken light fixture or underpasses or stairways or on stairways to platforms? Answer YES if one or more overhead lights are dark. Do not count with emergency lighting. Rate only underground station platforms, not open cut or elevated stations.
5. Did you observe any staircases or handrails in disrepair? Answer YES if any staircases heading up or down to the platform have portions that are missing, crumbling, loose, frayed or damaged, or handrails that have splitting wood, are broken, or are off their hinges.
6. Did you observe any service notice? Service notices inform riders of changes in usual service patterns.
7. Were any service notices observed out of date? An out-of-date notice is one that expired on a past date.
8. Did you observe any large-scale subway system signs? This is either a standard-alone display or mounted on station platform walls.
9. Were these signs up to date? Please enter the commodity number, located on the lower right-hand corner of the sign.

Comments

Please return your completed survey form to the Straphangers Campaign at 9 Murray Street, Floor 3, New York, NY 10007. If you have any questions call Jesus or Erin at 212-369-4460 or email us at straphangers@nypirg.org.

Photography is allowed in the subway. MTA New York City Transit Rules of Conduct, Section 1050.9: 3. Photography, film or video recording in any facility or conveyance is permitted except that ancillary equipment such as lights, reflectors or tripods may not be used within stations. Violation of this provision will result in public fine imposed by the MTA New York City Transit Police. It is a violation of MTA New York City Transit Policy and Procedure M-10-04 to publicly record a condition or activity in any facility or conveyance that has been expressly prohibited by the MTA New York City Transit Police, or a matter that has been specifically declared illegal by the MTA New York City Transit Police. MTA New York City Transit Policy and Procedure M-10-04 applies to all MTA New York City Transit facilities.
BCC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

FALL 2013 LEADERSHIP SERIES

The LeaderShop Certificate Series (LCS) offers a certificate to any BCC student who is interested in enhancing their leadership skills and abilities. It is comprised of a series of leadership topics aimed at expanding and developing a student’s knowledge of the essential practices and skills needed for effective leadership.

LeaderShop Certificate Requirements:
In order to earn a Leadership Certificate you MUST complete one of the following tracks:

- **Track 1: Platinum Certificate**
  Complete ALL workshops

- **Track 2: Gold Certificate**
  Complete 5 workshops

*Certificates will be awarded at the Annual Leadership Awards Ceremony in May 2014.*

For more information please contact:
Audrey Rose-Glenn
Leadership Educator
BCC Leadership Institute/Office of Student Life
RBSC, 302
718-289-5100 x3535 or 718-289-5194
audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu
http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Student-Life

WORKSHOPS

**Leadership Matters!**
Wednesday, October 2, 2013
RBSC 310
2pm-3pm

**KNOW Yourself... LEAD Yourself...**
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
RBSC 310
3pm-4pm

**Get REAL!**
Be an Authentic Leader
Tuesday, October 29, 2013
RBSC 310
2pm-3pm

**Everybody Talks!**
Effective Communication for Leaders
Tuesday, November 5, 2013
RBSC 310
3pm-4pm

“LUNCH with LEADERS”
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
RBSC 211
12pm-2pm
(Limited seating...must register)

**Ethical Decision Making**
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
RBSC 310
4pm-5pm

**Multicultural Leadership**
Tuesday, December 3, 2013
Presenter: Kimberly Roberts
RBSC 310
3pm-4pm

**Civic Engagement**
Monday, December 9, 2013
RBSC 310
3pm-4pm

Workshop Registration: right click on link below
https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=hJSaIeFbpj/7NbtuWMOCbBO