A Magical Evening for Bronx Filmmakers: The 20th Annual BCC Film & Video Festival
By Sebastian Rothwyn

When one walks into Clearview Cinemas on 23rd Street in Manhattan, New York, one expects to see a major theatrical production which costs tens or sometimes hundreds of millions of dollars being brought to the screen. But, no matter the cost, the best films are always a labor of love.

On this night, June 5, 2013, members of the BCC Media Technology and Media Studies program of the Department of Communications Arts & Sciences were able to share with the college and its students the fruits of their labor of love with a full house at the 20th Annual Bronx Community College Film and Video Festival.

The Peter J. Rondonine Screenwriting Memorial Award was presented by Dr. Eddy Bayardelle, Bronx Community College Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and awarded to Joseph Almonte, Andres Davoren, Edgar Matos, Alexia Ingram, Sebastian Rothwyn, and Aaron Waring.

Rondoinune grew up in the Bronx where he was a gang member and unsuccessful student. When he could no longer find a job as a firefighter or police officer, he entered CUNY under an open admissions program and attended a class called “The Writer and the City.” When he read Richard Price and his realistic depictions of gang life, Rondoinune dedicated himself to writing. His stories dealt with youth culture and the development of a unique language they could understand. That power that lies in the written word is why the award was created and was an honor to be received by all who were awarded.

The prestigious Marie Neshitt Promise Prize was presented by Ms. Vikki L. Pryor, BCC alumna who established this prize in 2003, and by last year’s winner, Ian J. Findlay. The prize was awarded to, Sebastian Rothwyn.

Ms. Pryor is the CEO of The American Red Cross in Greater New York. Recognized as one of the 50 most powerful women in New York by Crain’s New York Magazine in 2009, she was president and chief executive officer of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for 11 years. The first African-American woman to head a major life insurance company in the U.S., she repositioned this 71-year-old company into a national provider of financial services to underserved markets and audiences, a strategy which resulted in the reversal of a 10-year business decline and a $200 million increase in assets. The company now has more than $16.7 billion in insurance in force, 300,000 customers, and has been twice cited as one of the 50 best places to work in New York City. As testimony to her leadership and impact, Ms. Pryor recently was named one of the 75 most powerful women in business by Black Enterprise Magazine.

The $2,500 prize was created in memory of Ms. Pryor’s grandmother, Marie Nesbitt, who was born on March 17, 1906 in Kingstree, South Carolina. A great-granddaughter of slaves, Ms. Nesbitt’s formal education stopped at the third grade. Having lived through the Great Depression, the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, she was a woman of strong opinions and deeply held principles who was an inspiration to her family and friends. She taught everyone she reached to touch for the rights by doing their best, to

A Night at the Movies: BCC’s 20th Annual Film & Video Festival
By C. Lionel Spencer

Not long after school had finished, I was invited to the 20th Annual Bronx Community College Film and Video Festival at Chelsea Clearview Cinemas on June 5th by a fellow writer, and BCC alum, Aziza Ingram. She explained that this year’s festival was sure to be both bigger and better for there would be more movies of continuous exceptional quality. Since she is a trustworthy friend and colleague, I decided to attend.

When I arrived at the cinema and walked upstairs, I noticed there was a floor strictly dedicated to our BCC students in honor of their hard work. The entryway was adored with director’s chairs, movie clapboards and posters for each film. It felt as though I was at the Sundance or the Tribeca film festivals. The ambience set the tone that this was quality. Since she is a trustworthy friend and colleague, I decided to attend.

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The Communicator – September 10, 2013

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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Fall 2013 Insertion Deadlines
October issue
Thursday, September 26

November issue
Thursday, October 24

December issue
Monday, November 25

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, and more.

Become part of our team, and join The Communicator today!
College work study may be available. Contact us at 718.269.5314 to schedule an appointment.

Going Global

CUNY Study Abroad Reflection: England
By Ashley Gonzalez

One thing that did bother me is how London is changing. I know it is a city that is constantly growing and adapting to itself, but I feel like London is trying to break away from its history. Walking through the streets of London, you can see the changes. One minute you’re walking down a tiny cobblestone street with old-fashioned buildings and then you turn the corner and you see a skyscraper rising, modern buildings, and no more cobblestones. Every time I walked down one of these streets I was excited and couldn’t help but imagine how these streets looked in the 1800’s. Then I would turn the corner and feel like I’m back home. Also, all the new skyscrapers are beautiful but it made me feel like it was taking away beauty from the Tower of London, Big Ben, and everything you imagine London to be.

The biggest lesson London taught me that is not everything is what it seems. Always come in to a situation with an open mind and never expect anything so you won’t have any disappointments. It’s ok to make changes, no matter how much history is there. Change is for the good, but never forget where you came from, because your past is the reason you’re making changes in the first place.

I will never forget this experience; it was a dream come true for me. I’ve learned a lot about the world and myself, and also found peace within myself. I learned to do things back home; I would blindly walk to my destination without even looking around at the beauty that surrounds me or what’s going on. This makes me want to pay more attention to the problems back at beautiful home.

Meeting Henry, the homeless guy, and going on the tour with him through the East End of London also opened my eyes and gave me a whole new perspective on homeless people. Henry gives tours of the East End and shows you how homeless people live in London. It is illegal to be a homeless person there and he showed us where they hide, eat, and sleep.

The East End is also known as the “ghetto” part of London, and during the tour you see why it is known for its reputation. Back at home we completely ignore homeless people and assume they are on the streets because of drugs or because they are lazy. Hearing Henry’s story and seeing his pain made me feel guilty for all the times a homeless person asked me to spare some change and I quickly sucked on my throat, rolled my eyes, and turned away. I never thought how that person felt, how they had to lower their pride and the humiliation they are going through just to get their next meal. That experience taught me how to appreciate the people and things I have in my life. There are people all over the world who have nothing and nobody to turn to when they need somebody the most.

Successful Student Secrets: A Transfer Story
By Aziza Ingram

Welcome to your first, next or last semester!
College is an exciting place and time in our lives, but it can also be stressful one. The most stressful can be found in the planning which college to attend after Bronx Community College.

I began the transfer process during my second semester at BCC. The application for Columbia University consisted of several pages of information and educational background, and that was the easy part. There were two letters of recommendation needed, and I only had one previous educator in mind. Since I am one who likes to make myself known in and out of the classroom, I was very comfortable approaching my English professor from the previous semester. The last and most important aspect of the application was a 4,000-word essay. This was a daunting chore, and I worked on it for three months. I rewrote it and submitted it for review to a transferee 11 times before I believed it was complete. I submitted the application and chewed off all my fingernails while I anticipated an answer.

After all that nail biting, my application was denied. The second after reading it, I was flabbergasted and on the phone with the main admissions director where I made an appointment and went with her face-to-face. I learned quite a bit in that meeting.

I needed to get more involved on campus (join some clubs), take math and science courses (colleges really liked students who excel in these areas), have a professional background (maintain a good GPA for a few more semesters), and expand my experiences (volunteer in the community).

I took her words very seriously and got to work. I was nominated for a study abroad program, the Salzburg Global Seminar, applied and was accepted. I joined this newspaper, became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a tutor in the Modern Language Department, a volunteer with Catholic Charities, and got a full time job. I gave 100% effort in all that I signed up to do. Colleges look for well-rounded students that do not take on too much but excel within the activities they commit.

In my very first “Successful Student Secrets” article in September 2012 I stated “… If you get to know your professors you may find them to be a valuable resource. They are great when it comes to getting letters of recommendations for jobs, scholarships, and transfer applications.” This still rings very true. However, now I must stress the impact of your professors knowing you. He or she needs to know your academic and character strengths. You can show this by being on time or early to class, turning in assignments on time and to specifications, and ask questions if you do not understand a final draft. Trust me when I tell you, it saves both you and your professor time and energy if you go in all the way as opposed to half way. Raise your hand in class when you know the answer to a question and ask a question about an answer given. Being prepared before class will help you be prepared after BCC. Think of your time here as your resume. Wiring fessionalism as a student will be noticed and rewarded when it comes time for your bosses (professors) to give you a raise or promotion (letters of recommendation).

Most students know that transferring to a CUNY four-year college comes with guaranteed acceptance, and knowing this information helped me when planning my transfer options. I aimed very high toward Ivy League colleges and had a CUNY school

Continued on page 6
Welcome back to campus! We would like to take a moment to update you on events and activities happening at NYPIRG. For those who may be unfamiliar with us, NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is the state’s largest student-directed consumer, environmental protection, and government reform organization. With the support of Bronx Community College students, we continue to fight every semester for affordable and accessible higher education, prevention of hunger and homelessness, and mobilization of student voices with the help of our interns and student leaders. 

Over the summer, NYPIRG was on campus informing students about rising student loan interest rates and continuing our fight against hydraulic high volume fracturing (fracking) here in New York. In addition to registering hundreds of new student voters, NYPIRG lead the charge here on campus by calling on the candidates for mayor to address the issue of employment credit check discrimination at the mayoral forum held over in the Memorial Hall Auditorium. 

This semester, NYPIRG will continue to galvanize student voters by continuing our voter registration campaign, culminating in our second annual Mock Debate in conjunction with Student Life and the Speech, Drama, and Debate Team on October 31. This event will give students the opportunity to hear the positions of the candidates for New York City mayor, as acted out by BCC students. With tuition continually rising throughout the CUNY and SUNY systems and our environmental future being uncertain, now is the time for students to make their voices heard loud and clear at the local level. 

The best way for students to be heard is to lead the charge on these issues. I invite you to stop by our office in Meister 214 or contact us at (718) 289-5409 or bronx@nypirg.org. See how you can come in on the ground level and really build up a great political campaign.

Have a great semester!

Armando Chapelliquen
Project Coordinator
Meister 214, 718-289-5409
achapeliquen@nypirg.org

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.

Dear Editor:

The effects of smoking on one’s personal health are nothing new. Significant efforts have been taken to reduce smoking here in the city. However, what demands our attention is the systematic targeting of our youth by the tobacco industry to pick up the deadly habit. In New York State, the tobacco industry spends $175 million annually on marketing to target our youth, need to be informed that the target is on their backs. 75% of tobacco retailers in NYC are within a few blocks of a school, and it’s no coincidence that nearly 90% of adults who smoke daily started by age 18.

Community leaders and organizations are working to change this trend by educating students about the prevalence of tobacco advertising around their schools and homes. Through a public health mentorship program that NYPIRG piloted in conjunction with the NYC Coalition for a Smoke-Free City, students in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens are mapping out tobacco advertisements around their schools.

Students we are working with have already begun to recognize just how targeted they are and feel empowered to make more educated and healthy decisions.

As part of the pilot mentorship program here in the Bronx, BCC NYPIRG worked with PULSE high school to evaluate the amount of tobacco advertising in the Tremont neighborhood surrounding the high school. Brandon Robinson, a Bronx Community College electrical engineering major, served as a student mentor throughout the pilot program. The pairing of students from local high schools and colleges reinforced the need to engage students directly while presenting younger students with role models who care about public health.

While evaluating tobacco advertisements in the Tremont neighborhood around PULSE high school, we found a large disparity between the amount of health warnings and tobacco ads that were visible in bodegas and corner stores. The community mapping survey found 46 ads on the interior of stores, 21 of which were visible from the entrance. The survey also found 15 ads on the exterior of stores, totaling a whopping 61 ads in just a three by five block radius. By comparison, only six warning signs that addressed the health effects of smoking were found in the same area.

Think about your own walk to school, back home, or to work. Each block, store by store, our youth are seeing more and more tobacco ads. The most aggressive ad placement surveyed was directly across the street from the high school. That is pretty convenient placement for the tobacco industry. By overwhelming the area around PULSE high school with advertising for tobacco, youth are more likely to be reminded of tobacco name brands than of the health hazards those same name brands cause.

Even with such an alarming problem, students are standing up against the barrage of tobacco advertising! To get involved visit www.nycsmokefree.org or contact the NYPIRG office at BCC at 718-289-5409 or bronx@nypirg.org.

Sincerely,
Armando Chapelliquen
BCC NYPIRG
achapeliquen@nypirg.org
214 Meister Hall

The BCC Film and Video Production Award was presented to Rothwyn who said, “I think my face hurt from all of the smiling that I did, but I loved every moment of it and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

The moment that everyone was waiting for: The 2013 Eastman Kodak Student Filmmaker Awards were presented by Anne Hubble, Eastman Kodak Company’s Regional Account Manager, Studio & Independent Feature Film and Film Schools.

First Prize was awarded to Ariela Rosa for Pursuing Animas. “I feel like this is the first time EVER in my life that I was recognized for the hard work I put into something. It’s the first time that someone will look at something I’ve produced and they’ll never know there was a crisis” said Ariela Rosa, a Media Studies major who won first prize in the competition. “As Robert Frost said, Don’t aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in it, and it will come naturally.” Second Prize was awarded to Sebastian Rothwyn for Double Agent. “This is the first time ever in my life that I was recognized for the hard work I put into something.”

Third Prize was awarded to Joshua Cruz for The Perfect Day. Fourth Prize was awarded to Ke’Yonna Johnson for her documentary, Skin Deep. “I feel like this is the first time ever in my life that I was recognized for the hard work I put into something,” said Ariela Rosa, a media studies major and salutatorian at this year’s BCC graduation.

I’m so grateful and so blessed. Hard work and smart work truly pays off. I didn’t give myself any hopes of winning anything in particular, that way I could not be disappointed. I received more than I had ever imagined. Never think that anything is too insurmountable. Just put your best in, knowing that it is your best, and you will reap great rewards,” said Rothwyn.

The Clearview Cinema event on June 5th was by invitation only. A larger film festival with screenings open to the public will take place during the fall 2013 semester. The New Media and Digital Film Production Program at Bronx Community College prepares students for entry-level employment in production support and selected technical areas of video, film and associated media production. The first-year students’ content includes exposure to the entire production process. Students are taught by industry professionals who provide extensive hands-on instruction. In the second year, students perform in various crew positions on actual production projects. Other students go on to receive BAs or BFA degrees at a four-year college.

For further information about Bronx Community College’s Media and Digital Film Production Program, please call Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky at (718) 289-5572.

Armando Chapelliquen
Project Coordinator
Meister 214, 718-289-5409
achapeliquen@nypirg.org
I was so excited to be exploring Siem Reap and the beautiful places like Angkor Wat. The more time I spent with the kids I realized that they lived there their whole lives but have rarely gone outside to see their own country. The other volunteers and I decided to take them on a trip to a lake, because, although they had seen Angkor Wat before, they had never been swimming. I’ve never seen people so excited to see their own country that they always lived in like these children. As we passed by they would yell out words we taught them “teacha! tree, cow, airplane, grass.” They played and swam in the sun all day.

We took the older children out to eat, since we were learning so much about their culture we wanted them to learn about ours. We took them out to dinner, and we ordered burgers, pasta, quesadillas, and other different plates for them. They enjoyed it so much; we even ordered rice in case they didn’t like the food. Some even asked for seconds. I think both of these trips I enjoyed more than them because of how happy it made them. How grateful they were to swim in a lake to eat something else but rice and vegetables. How their faces lit up when we announced we would give them ice cream. The fact that these simple things can make them so happy. That with everything they’ve been through their hearts were still soft and their minds were still open. They’ve welcomed everyone with open arms and treated us as nothing less than family. I went to Siem Reap thinking I was going to change these kids’ lives, when in fact they changed mine.

I have taught them words; I even taught some of them how to add and multiply, but I’ve gained so much more from them than they gained from me. I’ve learned to be even more kind to others than I was before, to have that open mind and heart for every person that comes along. That even if you had a rough life you shouldn’t let it harden you, and that family and friends have no borders.

My wish is that everyone becomes more aware of how – no matter how far we are across the globe – we are all connected. I believe if people enhanced their global perspective they would have the urge to help in some way. The 13th century Persian poet Rumi once said, “Yesterday I was clever, So I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”

The urge and hunger to learn felt like a breath of fresh air. I started doing activities with them such as word of the day for the younger ones (3-7) and letter of the day for the older ones (8-19). I played math bingo with them, and helped them with their ABCs.

The orphanage is two stories with five bedrooms. All the boys, fourteen of them, have to sleep in one room which only had two beds (now three after a volunteer’s generous donation), and none with mattresses. There was one bathroom that they could shower in, privately, with a water pump and a bucket. Most of the kids showered outside where there were two pumps and a big bucket.

The orphanage is run by Mrs. Mao Soheap, the kindest lady I had the pleasure of meeting. She started the orphanage in 2007 with one girl called, who was 5 at the time. I went to Siem Reap thinking I was going to change these kids’ lives, when in fact they changed mine.

I landed in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on July 3, 2013; I was greeted by a Projects Abroad member, Pak. I remember I had this excitement and curiosity for the unknown. On our way to the villa, the house where I stayed, Pak told me about the history and culture of Cambodia. I could not stay focused because I was in a trance or as others call it I was having “culture shock.” I was taken aback to know that this is the way people live day by day: kids without shoes or proper clothes; cats, dogs, and cows walking in terrible conditions. I took a special notice of the houses. People lived in houses made out of bamboo with more than four people living in each of them. They showered outside and used the bathroom outside.

To me Siem Reap was everything and nothing I imagined. The children have back home – about the hardship they endure, but they never mention their good spirits, how happy they are with how little they have. How although they live in these conditions they are not defeated by them.

From the moment I walked through the gates of OPC I was greeted with big hugs, high lives and hellos by all the children and mentors behind the gate. I started to learn about their hardships and struggles – about the hardship they endure, but they never mention their good spirits, how happy they are with how little they have. How although they live in these conditions they are not defeated by them.

Mrs. Mao Soheap has a very generous heart. She started the orphanage in 2007 with one girl called, who was 5 at the time. She is so giving not only to her children but also to everyone she meets. Every day for the younger ones (3-7) and letter of the day for the older ones (8-19). I played math bingo with them, and helped them with their ABCs.

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When you start volunteering everyone always has this mentality that they’re going give so much, and make people’s lives very different. Before volunteering people don’t realize that the person’s life that will change is theirs that you gain much more than what you give. I never understood the weight of this until this past summer, where I spent six weeks in the Orphanage and Poverty Center (OPC).

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O’Brian Awuah was one of two Bronx Community College students to receive the annual Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship for volunteering abroad. His work in summer 2013 was in Kenya.

It has always been my greatest passion to provide free service to the needy through volunteerism. Fortunately for me I was introduced to the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship by Prof. Andrew Rowan which seeks to help my dreams take the form of volunteerism abroad. With the help of the BCC Writing Center directed by Prof. Jan Robertson, I came out with an explicit proposal on HIV/AIDS to be undertaken in Kenya, and, together with other deep-going research and my application, I chose Africa because it is one of my greatest goals to serve the continent that brought me forth. Unfortunately, I could not volunteer in Ghana, my homeland, because it was contrary to the requirements of the scholarship fund.

My heart bled with an overwhelming joy when I received a confirmation message from the scholarship office notifying me of my acceptance to receive $2,500 to embark on my trip. I was really beside myself so exceedingly that I could not stop smiling throughout that fateful day. While patiently awaiting my cheque, I combed through the internet again to obtain less airfare and a reputable, affordable non-governmental organization to volunteer with in Kenya.

Educatings Kenyans about HIV/AIDS was my sole project that met the aim of my proposal. Kindly, Dr. Abdullahi Abbas, one BCC’s biology professors, assisted me to choose the best and genuine organization called Helping Abroad, since he comes from Kenya. Helping Abroad to volunteer with Living Positive- Kenya (LPK), a national non-governmental organization (NGO) that seeks to assist HIV/AIDS patients and their children to live sustainably. The patients are taught sewing, cake making, craft making, micro financing, and literacy. After my orientation, I was scheduled to take part in the daycare and literacy classes, hospital visits, and home-base visits because more volunteers were needed in those projects. The first month LPK and HIV/AIDS patients were at Kilima, the largest slum in Africa, during a special ceremony to mark the end of a project called “Healthy Water for Healthy Living,” which was initiated by HEART, a religious organization that conducts Bible studies classes for the patients.

The women said to have inculcated the habit of drinking water frequently even when taking medication, hence the need to plant the desire of drinking water into them. Several of them testified to their health improvements after constantly drinking water for 40 days; I was really excited for that super enlightenment. That was the first time I held a hatchling (baby crocodile) in my hands, rode a horse, enjoyed my day. That was the first time I visited the first kid’s mother. She and her husband, with two kids, live in a very small room, made of roofing sheets. I presume the living room will be very hot during sunny seasons. The woman is a petty trader; she earns about 2,000.00 Ksh ($23) monthly. Her husband is jobless so she caters for the family. Their poor financial condition does not allow them to send their kids to a good school after graduating from the daycare, so they begged LPK to structure the daycare into a proper school system so that her kids could continue at the school after daycare. I looked straight into her sorrowful face as she spoke. My spirit was truly on hearing that sympathetic story. I encouraged her to have hope, for her labor in her daughter’s future will not be in vain.

The rest of the parents’ story was not different from the first family. They all live in the slum, with poor financial circumstances; they really need help. One family comprised of 10 children was stuck for utmost poverty. The ninth born, who was one of my students, was literally deaf but her oldest sister, her guardian, could not send her for medical assistance due to financial constraints. I felt pity for her because her health state affects her performance in class. Each report of my visits was later sent to the NGO’s office to help raise funds to support these kids. A week after my birthday, I bought some fruits, cookies, candies, and popcorn for the kids; they really enjoyed the party.

Furthermore, the adult literacy classes which comprised female HIV patients were very interesting. I taught the beginners and another volunteer taught the advanced class. The women learnt how to read and write. They were very enthusiastic to gain knowledge so they grabbed whatever I taught them. The advanced classes also learnt some vocabulary and spelling. They were also taught lessons on the computer keyboard. These students, in spite of their sickness, wished with eagerness to obtain information that will transform their lives.

I was really inspired by their efforts. This infers that there is hope for the future no matter their humiliating and bizarre present situations. Most of them have been rejected by their families so they live in the slums. Some are widows, and others, their husbands have escaped due to their sickness. Had it not been the efforts of Living Positive-Kenya, they would have remained wretched in their sick beds. The constant health care and various activities administered have transformed them to look fit, hard to regard as HIV/AIDS patients.

The most emotional pain I had was when I visited a 25-year-old HIV/AIDS patient at the Nong hospital. She has two lovely kids, no husband, and no close relative around to help her. LPK’s staff assisted her for two weeks and when the sickness worsened, she was sent to the hospital. She was diagnosed as anemic and she needed blood, but there was no relative to help. Later, she was referred to another hospital for help. Worst of all, she had no money to pay her hospital bills for one night. Fortunately, the head of the slum gave us 1,000,000.00 Ksh ($15) to send her to the referred hospital after obtaining favor to waive her bills. Quickly, we passed by the patient’s house and checked on her kids; they looked lovely. This young woman was really in pain during our first visit. She struggled to sit up but could not until my colleague helped her up. She was hungry but she had no appetite for food. Even taking her medication was a problem; she really struggled before swallowing it. That was too miserable. I stood by her side afterwards, ceased my tears, prayed for her and assured her to cheer up, for she would be ok. When we returned from the administrator’s office, she was up and enjoying lunch; I felicitated her.

Lastly, I embarked on a day’s trip around Nairobi. I could not do the safari, neither did I climb Mount Kenya because of HIV/AIDS. These kids are sweet. However, I really enjoyed my day. That was the first time I held a hatching (baby crocodile) in my hands, rode a horse, and stood by a donkey. Besides, I saw several wild animals for the first time; they were awesome.

Reader, HIV/AIDS is real: I have seen some of the patients. I ate with them, we played together, and I interacted with some of its orphans. For this, I lead a humble life free of indiscriminate sex, and you will enjoy life to the fullest.

I wished I could do more than what I did but time did not permit me. However, I have gained a lot of experience pertaining to HIV/AIDS that will help me educate the public and also utilize in my own foundation (Rural Health Aid Foundation).

Above all, I thank God for a successful journey to Kenya and from Kenya. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the leaders of the Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship for their sponsorship, including the selection committee members (Ms. Barbara Schaier-Peleg, Dr. Marcia Jones, Ms. Melissa Kirk, Dr. Neil Phillip, and Prof. Rowan). My plea is that they should increase the amount given in order to sponsor more students and also help them acquire at least a month’s volunteer experience.
My Participation in the March on Washington
By Prof. David Blot

“The March on Washington is tomorrow. There’s a meeting tonight at 8:00. Please be there.”

The meeting was in the basement of a building somewhere in Northwest Washington. Two organizers were there along with about 15 young men like me, each one representing a different order of priests, seminarians or religious brothers. We were called to this meeting because we were active in the Civil Rights Movement, were leaders in our congregation or order, and could mobilize our brothers for action.

Many people believed that there was a potential for violence during the march the following day and the organizers wanted a religious presence on the streets to help maintain peace. The organizers wanted us to dress in our black suits and white roman collars and wear armbands that said “marcher.” We were to stand along the line of march maintaining a solemn presence. At the meeting each of us was asked how many men we could bring with us. I said “eight.”

The next day eight of my brothers and I arrived at the march dressed in our suits and collars. We were given armbands and shown where to stand. There were dozens and dozens of young men in black lining the route of the march. We stood in the streets for hours while hundreds of thousands of people jubilantly marched by on their way to the Lincoln Memorial. That day there was no violence. Not one person was arrested.

That day I got to hear all the singing and listen to all the speeches, especially Martin Luther King, Jr’s “I Have a Dream” speech. I was truly blessed and privileged to participate in one of the greatest events in American history.

Editor’s Note: We are very proud to publish the personal experience of Dr. David Blot (Department of English) at the historic March on Washington. His lifelong devotion to fairness and social justice is unassailable.

Continued from page 2

The Communicator – September 10, 2013

Successful Student Secrets: A Transfer Story

as my safety net. I visited colleges here in the city, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont. While on these campuses, I met with admissions directors and financial aid officers, and I talked with other students. When I had the opportunity to do so, I also talked with professors in the departments I was considering majoring in. I became aware of what was needed in my application, the cost of attendance and what scholarships were available. I learned what was expected of me as a student, what I could expect as a student as well as the caliber of the teaching staff.

Every application had the same standard required information. The only differences were the essays: four were creativity based and two were very rigid autobiographical essays. I attacked each like my life depended on it and worked on them until I felt I had perfected them all. Within eight weeks of submission I had answers from all six colleges. This includes the Skadden Arps Legal Program at City College. Now I had an even bigger problem. I now had six proposals and only one finger on which to put a ring. Which do I choose? Which is the best for my career goals? Which is going to cost me less and get me more when I am done?

I immediately narrowed my choices by striking out the ones that would have me packing my bags and vacating my apartment. I applied out-of-state on the off chance I was not accepted locally. Bye-bye Massachusetts and Vermont. I also did not really care for a hectic commute every day (there were four) know my name and face. I spoke with each of them after the first class to discuss the syllabi and let them see my dedication as a student. I also have joined the Washington Square News [NYU’s student newspaper] team as a contributing writer and copy editor. I hope to join a few clubs and possibly go Greek.

This was my transfer process, and I hope you have learned a thing or two. It does not have to be limiting in any way, nor should it be the most stressful thing you do in life. Leave that for weddings, divorce and death. I will be up there the next month or so when I am doing, handling the curriculum and managing my time.

Aziia Ingram graduated from BCC in June and is now a New York University student. She will continue writing for The Communicator as an alumni correspondent. We are lucky to still have her input at the newspaper.
I first attended Bronx Community College in August of 2011. On the first day of school, I was very intimidated. This was the first time I was in an environment where I didn’t know anyone since middle school. It was also the first time I had to take the train by myself to travel to a new school. The first thing that comes to mind when I thought of college was that the campus was not going to be that great, and the work was going to be very easy. As soon as I entered the school, I was already proven wrong. As I walked up the stairs, I saw very nice, tall buildings with a beautiful cherry blossom tree near the handball courts. Although there was construction going on, the campus was still better than my expectations. As I walked to my classes, I felt lost and confused. I didn’t know where any of my classes were or the name of the buildings. By the time my first week of school ended, I already had homework from each class plus a quiz the week I got back. This showed me that the title of the school didn’t determine how hard the work was.

After my first semester was completed, I wasn’t happy with my results. It turned out I didn’t know how or what classes to pick. I was a full-time student yet I only received 6 credits with a GPA of 1.67. Also since I was very shy, I didn’t take advantage of the help that was being received. The following semesters I got a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

One thing I like about BCC is the environment. It’s a friendly yet quiet atmosphere to work in. There are many places to just sit and relax and talk with friends but there are also many secluded areas to study and do homework. I also like the easy accessible technology there is. In just about every building there is a computer lab. I also like the new library as compared to the other library that was in Meister Hall. It’s more spacious and a great place to study. I like how there are two floors: one that’s filled with computers and it’s where everyone studies together, as opposed to upstairs where it’s more quiet and comfortable.

One thing I would change about BCC is to add air conditioners and heaters to each classroom as the weather gets nicer or colder. I had an English class in Colston Hall during the spring semester, and it was so incredibly hot that I could not pay attention and had to leave the class. Another thing I would change about BCC is that the OCD class should not be mandatory. I honestly feel that there is no need for that class and that it was a waste of time. On top of that not only was it mandatory but it is a no credit class with a midterm and final. If it has to be a class that we take, then it shouldn't go on all semester long and we shouldn't have tests. If we do have tests, then make it into a credit class. A third thing I would change about BCC is the many different websites we have to go to for different things. I feel that OSSES, Blackboard and CUNYfirst should all be in one website instead of us making three different accounts. Also when signing up for classes, I believe that CUNYfirst can be too complicated at times, making signing up for classes a hassle. I preferred the old way better; it was simpler.

After two years of BCC, I will now graduate this semester. Bronx Community College was nothing what I expected it to be like. It was actually better and I’m glad I can take all the things I’ve learned and experience and carry it out to the next school where I will be transferring.

Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCS)

Undergraduate students participating in short-term (summer and winter intersession) CUNY study abroad programs may apply for scholarships for Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCS). Applications are reviewed by a committee of CUNY faculty and administrators. Grants range from $1,000 to $1,650. Judges base their selections on two main criteria: the benefit of the program to the student’s studies and career plan and financial need. Students with a family income of more than $75,000 are not eligible.

Funded by a grant from The New York Community Trust DeWitt Wallace/Youth Travel Enrichment Fund, the STOCS program aims to increase the number of CUNY students studying overseas by providing scholarships to deserving students. It has contributed toward the strengthening of existing short-term CUNY study abroad programs and the development of new ones.

More than 1,500 CUNY students have received STOCS grants since 1994.

The deadline to submit STOCS applications is October 8, 2013.

For more information, as well as a list of programs for students for the winter 2014 intersession and an application, please visit: http://www.cuny.edu/studyabroad.

You can also contact Professor Andrew Rowan at 718.289.5314 if you have questions.
I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel abroad both in the Salzburg Global Seminar in Salzburg, Austria, and conduct research in Cali, Colombia, with CINARA\textsuperscript{*} in the past six months. These experiences have been amazing, and have influenced a tremendous paradigm shift in my career. Ever since, I have strongly valued personal and professional character growth as I have learned to reflect more often with optimism and appreciative trainees of thought, gaining a better understanding of my place in the world. My study experiences in Cali, Colombia, have experienced invaluable and have been life changing.

My experience in Salzburg, Austria, was phenomenon. Living in Salzburg, Austria, is not only inspiring but also forcing me to sharpen my ability to communicate and get along with strong personalities. Ideas came about in the United Nations when working with strong personalities. Communication and leadership initiative. I believe these experiences have helped me to become better when working with strong personalities. Communication was obviously one of intended functions of this exercise. After the exercise we were reminded of the similar challenges political leaders are facing with us. It was a great experience in Cali, Colombia. There is a shortage of passionate science students in my current environment, and it was very challenging for me to work alongside other science students and professors. The individuals I had the pleasure of working with were very informative. This experience has helped me to mature and find myself a little more. Listening to feedback from others and from another country and culture has provided me with a different perspective that was previously out of reach in my own country. Being able to travel to two of these countries I noticed the differences in economic classes, differences in social sciences, and differences in political ideologies. If you are a Columbian, they also gave me some insight on the perspectives of citizens of Colombia on how Americans do and how we do. As a Colombian, being a descendant from this continent I am prouder to be an American, realizing that I live in one of the most conflicted environments in the world. I have given further thought since then and have greater empathy and understanding for such situations. I have used this seminar as my opportunity to obtain a new perspective where I can make a difference and share some of the responsibility. Whatever paths I may undertake in my journey on life, I fully intend to make the best use of my experiences to influence impactful changes that will be a substantive difference. The Salzburg experience has altered my perceptions of the globe indefinitely in a positive light, and as a bonus, I gained some valuable friendships along the way. I miss my fellow BCC global citizens, Glory, Muhammed and Terrance. My Cali, Colombia, internship was another amazing life-changing experience given the opportunity to travel abroad and partake in the Salzburg Global Seminar. Please, not walk ins.

As a born New Yorker from Hispanic heritage, my Cali, Colombia, internship was another amazing life-changing experience given the opportunity to travel abroad and partake in the Salzburg Global Seminar. Please, not walk ins.

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# New York State Voter Registration Form

**Register to vote**
With this form, you may register to vote in elections in New York State. You may also use this form to:
- change the name or address on your voter registration
- become a member of a political party
- change your party membership

**To register you must:**
- be a US citizen.
- be 18 years old by the end of this year.
- not be in prison or on parole for felony conviction.
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

**Send or deliver this form**
Fill out the form below and send to your county’s address on the back of this form, or take this form to the office of your County Board of Elections.

**Questions?**
Call your County Board of Elections listed on the back of this form or 1-800-VOTE (8683) Text: 1-800-711
Find answers or tools on our website www.elections.ny.gov

**Verifying your identity**
We try to check your identity before Election Day, through the DMV number (driver’s license number or non-driver ID number) or the last four digits of your social security number, whichever is valid.

If you do not have a DMV or social security number, you may use a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address. You may include a copy of one of these types of ID with this form—be sure to tape the selects the form above.

If we are unable to verify your identity before Election Day, you will be asked for ID when you vote for the first time.

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1. **Qualifications**
   - Are you a citizen of the U.S.?
   
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   If you answer No, you cannot register to vote.

2. **Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day?**
   
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   If you answer No, you cannot register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.

3. **Your name**
   - Last name
   - First name
   - Suffix
   - Middle Initial

4. **Birth date**

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6. **Phone**

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7. **Email**

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8. **The address where you live**
   - Address
   - Apt. Number
   - Zip code
   - City/Town/Village
   - New York State County

9. **The address where you receive mail**
   - Address or P.O. box
   - Zip code
   - P.O. Box
   - City/Town/Village

10. **Voting history**
   - Have you voted before?
   
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   **What year?**

11. **Voting information that has changed**
   - Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before
   - Your name was
   - Your address was
   - Your previous state or New York State County was

12. **Identification**
   - You must make 1 selection
   
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13. **Political party**
   - You must make 1 selection
   - To vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in one of these listed parties — except the Independence Party, which permits non-registered voters to participate in certain primary elections.
   
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14. **Affidavit:** I swear or affirm that
   - I am a citizen of the United States.
   - I have lived in the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election.
   - I met all requirements to register to vote in New York State.
   - This is my signature and mark as in the box below.
   - The above information is true. I understand that if it is not true, I can be convicted and fined up to $5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years.

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15. **Optional questions**
   - I need to apply for an Absentee ballot
   - I would like to be an Election Day worker

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Peter

The purpose of this study abroad program was to learn the photovoltaic systems, and apply it in a community where there was dire need for electricity. The BCC group consisted of two STEM students, a criminal justice major, and chemistry professor Soosairaj Therese. The place chosen for the study abroad program was Wilberforce Community College, Evaton, South Africa.

We arrived in a new country away from the comforts of home can be a daunting thought. It could be a good experience or a nightmare you wish you never had. I didn’t know what to expect but I was pleased with the way everything turned out. I was impressed by what I saw but surprised at our arrival in Johannesburg. It is a beautiful place and almost made me wonder if I had really left New York but my body could confirm that from the strains of the 14-hour flight. We were warmly welcomed at the college by the provost Dr. Hasan Crocket and his wife, Kimberly Crocket, who showed us around the school.

The community college is located near Johannesburg. ESKOM is the only power company that supplies the entire nation of South Africa. It finds itself in a situation where it has reached its full capacity. This has brought about a lot of power outages due to load shedding particularly at Wilberforce Community College. Prior to our arrival in South Africa, training sessions were conducted by Prof. Kim Curran from the Center for Sustainable Energy-Bronx Community College on the concepts of solar panel systems and its installation procedures. This helped us to understand the solar panel installation we performed in South Africa.

As a STEM student, my focus is normally on math- and science-related subjects. I never tried to understand or showed much interest in learning about PV systems. After coming from this study abroad program I strongly believe that it is very good to learn something new. Before this program I barely knew anything about solar energy. I thought of it as an expensive way of generating energy which was not practical for the everyday energy needs of the average person. The things I learnt took part in this thought. Yes, it was a revolutionary in me and it eventually paid for itself over the years and, with proper maintenance, it can last for several decades. I also gained knowledge on the design and installation of solar systems. I learnt about various instruments and tools like the solar pathfinder which is used to determine the path of sunlight at a given location in a year. The skills that I acquired believe me give me a big leap in going forward in a world where there is an aggressive push for greener renewable energy like solar energy.

Of all the experiences and things I learnt from this program, one that made the greatest impression on me was my interactions with my fellow students in the program. Being in a group that comprised of students from Zambia, South Africa, and students from Lane Community College (Oregon) provided a group of very diverse cultures. I realized that we had lots of similarities which brought us together and made it easy to relate to each other. It felt good to meet colleagues from all the way across the world who shared similar goals to succeed in their academic endeavors.

I also realized the South Africans and Zambians knew quite a lot about American culture like rap music. There was a student from Zambia who knew every Tupac song. I tried learning a few languages like Zulu from the South Africans and Bemba from the Zambians but found it challenging because I had to roll my tongue to pronounce some of the words. One word I would never forget though is “Ujwani” which is Zulu for “how are you.”

Being Ghanaians I figured the food was going to be similar to what we had in Ghana, but I realized how diverse cultures could be even within Africa itself. It took time to adjust to the food but eventually I came to like it. South Africa in itself is a very diverse society of the White Afrikaans and the blacks, most of whom we met were from the KwaZulu tribe. Nelson Mandela is a man who is greatly respected all over the world, especially in South Africa. But I never really appreciated how strongly South Africans feel about him before this trip. They refer to him as Madiba, his traditional name which means reconciler. On our trip to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, I was hit by how passionate the locals felt about what took place during the apartheid years, and you realize how much of an impact it had on their society.

Taking part in a study abroad program is something I would recommend for every student because it makes a great impression on the way you view the world and open your eyes to different ways people live. One cannot experience this real-life education, cultural exchange, lifestyles of different people in a classroom setting. I never would have had these wonderful experiences if not for the people who organized the program. My utmost thanks go to Professor Soosairaj Therese of the Department of Chemistry, who organized the entire program and had the desire to see me learn and selected me to take part in this program. I would also like to thank everyone who made this program happen, the Interim Associate Dean for Student Success Dr. Neal Phillip for helping in soliciting funding for the program, the Interim Vice President Dr. David Hasfield, who enthusiastically supported the trip and the chemistry department that funded for our transportation in South Africa. I am also thankful to Professor Andrew Rowan and Professor Kim Curran who helped in preparing us before leaving for South Africa.

Ishmael

As a young man born and raised in Africa, it has always been my wish to go back to Africa and give back something to the people. Because of that I didn’t hesitate when the opportunity arose; I applied to the study abroad program immediately, and fortunately I was selected. Before we left for South Africa, I didn’t know what to expect but, now, I’m glad to say that the trip met my expectation and even beyond. Even before we left for South Africa, Kim Curran, a professor from the Center for Sustainable Energy, gave us an overview of what solar energy is about. This built my confidence and readiness for the program.

The primary purpose of the trip was to acquire knowledge about the photovoltaic system and also assist the local students in photovoltaic installation. Before the program, I didn’t like or no idea about solar system but the trip helped me to acquire knowledge about this system and its installation. Qualified personnel instructed us about the photovoltaic system and how to install it properly. I was also able to assist in the installation, and I believe I can now install a photovoltaic system from start to finish.

Although the primary reason of the trip was to install the system, we also had the opportunity to associate with the local students, the staff members and some local instructors. We also had the chance to meet some of the people in the community. We arrived in South Africa on Saturday, June 22, 2013; the people from Wilberforce Community College welcomed us with a delicious meal and refreshing drinks. On the following day, which was Sunday, the authorities arranged for us to meet with some of the prominent people in the township who received us with great warmth, excitement and courtesy. I was amazed and impressed that the people showed such interest in us.

We were also able to establish a cordial relationship with the students and staff from Lane Community College. Bronx Community College formed a partnership with Lane to make this program a successful one. They were very friendly, likable and funny at all times. I’m so grateful that this program gave me the chance to reach out to the students from Lane.

We also encountered some high school students on the campus who were there to prepare for their final exams. They made our stay even better; their enthusiasm was beyond imagining. Their screaming voices reminded me of my high school days. Upon their request and the request of the local authorities, Peter and I taught them chemistry. That actually helped me to discover my other talent which is teaching. They spread it beyond imagining. Their screaming voices reminded me of my high school days. Upon their request and the request of the local authorities, Peter and I taught them chemistry. That actually helped me to discover my other talent which is teaching. They spread it around that Peter and I are the best teachers they have ever encountered. Thanks to Prof. Therese who helped us with some teaching tips. I was so happy that I was able to positively impact someone else’s life.

I had a lot of fun in South Africa and I just can’t wait to visit the place again. Thank to Prof. Therese, Prof. Andrew Rowan, Dr. Neal Phillip, the entire chemistry department, and all the people who contributed to make the trip possible. It was a lifetime experience, and I will always cherish it.
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 LeaderShop 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

Workshop Registration: right click on link below
https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=hJ5aHeFbpI7NbTuWM0CbBO

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