



Matters

The Newsletter of the Office of Human Resource Services

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Brooklyn College and Your Kids

Children are a welcome sight on the Brooklyn College campus, and if you have kids, you should know about the many programs the College offers for them. Like all other CUNY schools, Brooklyn College does not provide child care for its employees, but its official policy regarding bringing children on campus during work hours (printed in the last issue of *HR Matters* and available for review in the Women's Center) is flexible.

The following is a partial list of activities that can keep your children occupied on campus, not only on occasional days when child care is unavailable but also on a long-term basis:

Recreation facilities: When accompanied by their parents, children of Brooklyn College employees who have a valid recreation pass may go for a dip in Plaza Pool for only \$3. If swimming isn't to their liking, they might hit the tennis and racquetball courts. Employees may purchase an annual

recreation pass for \$75 in the Office of Recreation, Intramurals, and Intercollegiate Athletics, 125 Roosevelt Hall. An annual pass for children is \$65. Children under age eighteen must be supervised by a parent.

Brooklyn College Library: Employees may bring their kids to the library—as long as they don't leave them unsupervised. Not only does the library have an extensive collection of books for young people, on the second floor next to the New Media Center, but it also offers high-speed Internet access for your tech-savvy offspring.

Continuing Education: This program offers many special courses for high school students who are preparing to take college entrance exams or New York State Regents Examinations, or who just need help in such subjects as mathematics. Courses are held in the evenings and on weekends. For more information, contact the Continuing Education Office, 1212 Boylan Hall, 951-4141.

Art Academy: Launched over the summer, this Continuing Education program offers weekend classes for aspiring artists in grades K–12. For further information, stop by the office and pick up the latest catalog.

Young Person's Academy: During July young people flock to this Continuing Education program, which is divided into the High School Preparatory Academy (grades 7–8) and the College Preparatory Academy (grades 9–12). Tuition for the four-week session is \$550. Classes are held Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Brooklyn College Preparatory Center for the Performing Arts: The Prep Center, located in 234 Roosevelt Hall (951-4111), offers classes in dance, music, and theater for children ages 3½ and older and adults. Hands-on, skills-based classes are taught by talented faculty, many of whom are professional artists or teach at the Conservatory of Music. Students enroll for the full academic year, September 13 to June 20. To view the catalog and registration requirements, log on to <http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bcpc/>.



Speech and Hearing Center: The College has a thriving Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program and runs a clinic for children and adults with speech impediments. The clinic, staffed by faculty and graduate students, offers a \$200 diagnostic session and \$50 weekly therapy sessions for those with speech disorders. Employees qualify for a 50 percent discount. Children who are experiencing hearing loss due to excessive fluid in the inner-ear are invited to join a free research project to test a new nonsurgical device developed by Professor Shlomo Silman. For more information, stop by the center, 4400 Boylan Hall, or call 951-5186.

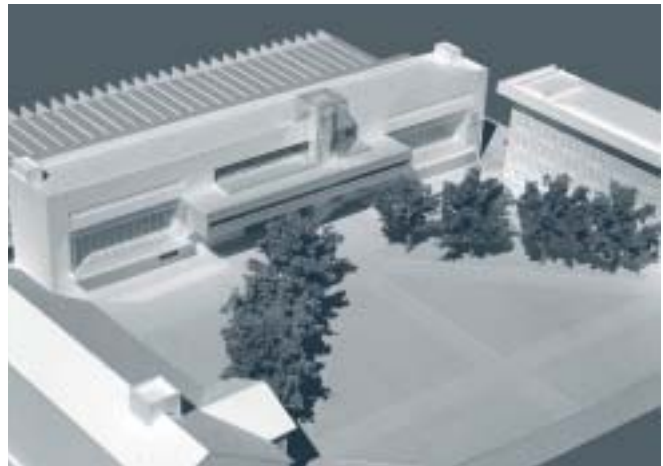
The West Quad Project Has Begun

Slated to be completed in late 2007, the project will bring to the campus another leafy quad as well as one of the most distinctive new buildings to be constructed in the borough of Brooklyn in recent years. This summer the Bedford Avenue Overpass was removed, leaving the crossing at Bedford Avenue much brighter. Photographs of the demolition are posted on the Brooklyn College Web site. The Plaza Roof will be closed permanently as of late September.

During the initial stages of the West Quad Project, the Office of Photo Identification Services will move to 1401 Plaza Building. A major reshuffling of offices in Plaza Building and on the lower levels of James Hall will follow early next year, with many offices moving to Roosevelt Hall. Some offices, such as the Office of Testing, the Department of Film, the Student Clubs Room, and the two computer centers in Plaza Building, will relocate to the Field Building, while others will change locations several times as sections are remodeled and temporary workspaces are established.

Throughout the fall semester, there will be no parking adjacent to the tennis courts as drilling for underground soil samples occurs and trucks will move in and out. Access to the tennis courts for playing will not be impeded, nor will access to the athletic field and passage to the west campus entrance (near Avenue H and Ocean Avenue).

From October until February, parking spaces behind Plaza Building, next to Roosevelt Hall, and near the tennis courts will not be available in order to permit the construction of a utility tunnel for underground cables.



However, the relocation of the construction trailers from behind the library to the west side of the campus has opened up new spaces behind the library and Whitman Hall. In addition, we encourage you to use spots designated for Brooklyn College at the Municipal Parking Lot (Nostrand Avenue at Avenue H). If you have any questions about parking, please contact Bob Robinson, in Auxiliary Accounting, 951-5241.

The College has developed a number of media that will provide up-to-date and accurate information about moves and relocations. A "Relocation Kiosk" will be set up in the lobby of Plaza Building. In addition, the College Web site, the newsletter *Construction Zone*, and posters in campus buildings will inform the community on the progress of the project.

A Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the Office of the Dean for Student Life will be held on Thursday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center. This meeting is open to the entire College community. Staff from the Facilities Office, representatives from Viñoly Architects, and a consultant hired to manage all relocations will make presentations and answer questions.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to westquadproject@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Information from the Benefits Office

Social Security

The Social Security Web site has become the first site recognized by the National Federation of the Blind. Log on to www.socialsecurity.gov to check out the site's exciting features.

New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS)

The New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (RSSL) was amended by Chapter 96 of the Laws of 1995 establishing two additional Tier 4 Programs: the 25-year Early Retirement (55/25) and the Age 57 Retirement Program. These programs allow members to retire prior to age sixty-two without a reduction in benefit. Most new employees joining NYCERS are eligible for the Age 57 Retirement Program. Members who were in an eligible position on June 28, 1995, had the opportunity to participate in the 55/25 Program; the period to elect this option has expired.

The 62/5 Plan (referred to as the Basic Tier 4) states that in order to retire, employees must be age sixty-two with at least five years of credited service. This plan is for employees of the city of New York who joined NYCERS after July 26, 1976, but prior to June 29, 1995, and who *did not* elect to participate in the 55/25 Program.

The 57/5 Program (referred to as Age 57) is for new employees or members who were *not* employed in an *eligible* position on June 28, 1995. This program is mandatory for any person who was not employed in an *eligible* position on June 28, 1995, and became a Tier 4 member after that date.

The 55/25 Program stipulates that you must be age fifty-five and have twenty-five years of credited service in order to retire. This program is *only* for persons who were members of NYCERS on June 28, 1995, were employed in an *eligible* position on that date, *and* filed an election to participate in the program on or before September 26, 1995.

For more information about these programs or for a list of eligible titles and positions, please call NYCERS at (347) 643-3000.

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

TRS has a new service that allows members to apply online for a Qualified Pension Plan (QPP) loan application.

Note that TRS has relocated to 55 Water Street, in downtown Manhattan. The office hours remain the same, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., as does the service line, (888) 8-NYC-TRS. For more information about this change or any issues pertaining to TRS, visit their Web site, www.trs.nyc.ny.us.

Citistreet (formerly Copeland)

Alice Dorsey is no longer the Citistreet representative for Brooklyn College. The new representative is Mr. Hollick Glasgow. He may be reached at (888) 267-3526, extension 5115.

PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund Dental Plan

Effective May 1, the dental plan was changed from SIDS to Guardian DentalGuard Preferred Network. New ID cards were mailed directly from the welfare fund to members at their home address. If you have not received the card, please call the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund at (212) 354-5230. For more information about the plan, visit the Guardian Web site, www.guardianmarketing.com/psccuny.

TIAA-CREF Visits

Representative Eileen Hawe will be on campus on the following days this semester: October 29, November 19, and December 16. Scheduled dates for the 2004 spring semester are January 22, February 18, March 25, April 29, May 25, and June 23.

Ms. Hawe will be located in 036 Library on each of the above dates. To schedule an appointment, please call (800) 842-2011.

Open Enrollment Transfer Period

The Open Enrollment Transfer Period for 2003 will run from October 15 to November 14. For more information, contact the Benefits Office, 951-4255. This is the only opportunity during the year to change health plans.

Little Fugitive to Launch Library Film Series



The Brooklyn College Library's 2003–04 "Brooklyn and Film" series began on Thursday, October 9, in the library's comfortable, acoustically sophisticated Woody Tanger Auditorium. The series will feature films that portray the people and places of Brooklyn that have captivated audiences over many decades.

The series began with

Little Fugitive, an independent film that won the Silver Lion at the 1953 Venice Film Festival and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Motion Picture. Filmmaker Morris Engel tells the story of a seven-year-old boy named Joey who, mistakenly believing he killed his brother following a silly prank, runs away to Coney Island. With six dollars in his pocket and a fascination with amusement rides and junk food, Joey spends a weekend indulging in the sights and sounds of this renowned Brooklyn attraction.

French director François Truffaut once said, "Our New Wave would never have come into being if it hadn't been for the young Morris Engel, with his fine *Little Fugitive*." Other reviewers called the film "a classic," "a gem," and "a wonderful job of catching the innocence of the '50s." This nostalgic trip to Coney Island brings the rides, the beach, the boardwalk, the hot dog stands, and, of course, the people of Brooklyn back to life again.

After the screening, Professor of Film Foster Hirsch chatted with Engel, who related stories and anecdotes about *Little Fugitive* that made it a memorable evening.

Watch for announcements of other films in this series and join your friends and colleagues on a stroll down memory lane.

Focus on Environmental Health and Safety—Indoor Mold

Concerns about indoor exposure to mold have been increasing due to reports that it can cause a number of health ailments, including allergic reactions. Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine at what level health problems occur: Standards for judging what is and what is not an acceptable or tolerable exposure level have not been established, and knowledge about the potential quantity of mycotoxins, which are produced by spores of certain types of molds, is lacking.

Some individuals may be more sensitive or even allergic to mold and experience a reaction; most others will only experience symptoms if exposed to much higher levels. Because molds are fungi that thrive in moist conditions, they grow both outdoors and indoors on wet surfaces or where humidity levels are high. Generally, mold growth is confined to areas near a source of moisture, high humidity, or dampness.

In order to prevent or control mold spore growth, the water sources or highly humid conditions need to be removed. Sampling is usually not necessary unless contamination becomes widespread. Nonporous surfaces can be treated with a disinfectant solution, such as bleach and water. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, which cannot be cleaned, have to be replaced once they become moldy. The recommended protective gear to clean small areas includes gloves, a facemask, and eye protection. Larger cleanups require additional safety precautions and equipment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Aldo Orlando, 951-5400 or Aldo@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

In Memoriam

HR Matters joins the campus community in mourning the loss of Dominic Campliglia, 41, the foreman of the electric shop in the Office of Facilities, who died August 15. Dominic, who had worked in the CUNY system since 1985, had spent the day of the blackout making sure that the three emergency generators on campus were fueled and working. He leaves behind a wife, Anna, and two children. "Besides losing a very dear friend," said Louis Fanelli, administrative superintendent, "we have lost a valuable asset to the College."

Celebrating Civil Service: CUNY Administrative Assistant

Sandra Stumbo remembers her interview at the Brooklyn College Library in 1994: "They asked, 'Do you like books?' and I said I didn't really think too much about it, but I really like people. Then they said, 'You're hired!'" Since then, Stumbo has moved from the Periodicals Department to the Office of the Chief Librarian, where she is Barbra Higginbotham's assistant. "It's very busy around here. Not only is the library the showcase for the campus, it's also the flagship library for all the CUNY schools," Stumbo says. "I thought everything would slow down once we settled in, but it hasn't."

Before coming to Brooklyn College, Stumbo, a friendly and personable Bensonhurst native and graduate of Lafayette High School, worked for a dozen years at Supreme Equipment & Systems Corp., a Brooklyn-based business that specialized in data storage and retrieval systems. When the company folded—a victim of the revolution in computer technology—she got a part-time job at Brooklyn College, which led to a full-time job in the library. In 1998, Stumbo went back to school. "Nobody in my family ever went to college," she says, "but when I started to go to classes in the CUNY Baccalaureate Program, I knew I was going to go all the way and get my master's degree."

As a CUNY administrative assistant, Stumbo was entitled to take undergraduate classes for free as long as they didn't conflict with her work hours. She excelled, earning multiple scholarships and making the Dean's Honor List, and in 2001 she received her bachelor's degree in marketing—a major she designed with the help of the late Professor of Economics Antony Arcadi. Without pausing to catch her breath, she enrolled in the Master's in Liberal Studies Program. Under her job classification, she was able to take six credits of graduate courses free of charge each semester, and she finished the program in two years, graduating this past May. The hardest part was writing her thesis, "Bickering Their Way to Marriage: Courtship and Debate in the Hollywood Comedies, 1934–1942." The 136-page paper analyzed the classic movies of Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, Clark Gable, and Claudette Colbert with an eye toward the



traditional comedic treatment of romance, drawing on examples from Shakespeare and the Bible to make her point. Professor of English David Corey and librarian Bill Gargan were extremely helpful, and within a year she had completed her thesis.

"After I graduated, everybody asked me where I was going to go, now that I had the degree," says Stumbo, "but my heart is here at Brooklyn College." She does admit to wanting to further her education, perhaps with a master's in higher education administration or maybe in business administration. Meanwhile, Stumbo continues her professional education in the chief librarian's office. The library is hosting a number of very important conferences—the American Library Association and the Metropolitan New York Library Council will hold meetings there—and Higginbotham is always surrounded by a whirl of activity, pushing the library further into the forefront of information technology. "She keeps abreast of all the latest high-tech developments. For example, she had a Palm Pilot before anyone else did, and I had to learn how to upload data into it," remembers Stumbo. "Nobody had ever seen one before, and I kept thinking I was going to accidentally blow it up!"



Top: President Kimmich enjoys the entertaining company of Employees of the Month Ireen Quercia (November) and Dolores Bashinsky (March). *Bottom, left:* February Employee of the Month Officer Tafari Sherry receives President Kimmich's congratulations for his excellent customer service as the "Keeper of the West Gate." *Bottom, center:* President Kimmich acknowledges January Employees of the Month George Forstner, Steve Alliano, Heriberto Ferrer, and Julio Estrada, of the Facilities Office, as the key reasons for Brooklyn College's blossoming as the nation's most beautiful campus of 2002. *Bottom, right:* As President Kimmich congratulates her, June Employee of the Month Mitzu Handy demonstrates the positive energy and cheerful personality that infuse her work as assistant director of scheduling for the Student Center.



Employee-of-the-Month Luncheon

The third annual Employee-of-the-Month luncheon was celebrated on June 5 in the State Lounge in the Student Center. Hosted by President Christoph M. Kimmich, the luncheon honored the awardees for the 2002–03 academic year. To learn more about the program, visit the Human Resources Web site, www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/offices/hr/.

Calendar

October

October 19

Breast Cancer Walk / Central Park Walk

For more information, call the Health Programs Office, 951-4505.

October 23

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

October 29

TIAA-CREF Representative
9 a.m.–5 p.m. 036 Library

Listening Post

Noon–2 p.m. Occidental Lounge,
Student Center

October 30

Pay Date for Adjuncts

November

November 1–December 31

CUNY Campaign for
Charitable Giving: Working Together,
Making a Difference

For information, call 951-5131.

November 1–December 18

Toy Drive
Plaza Building Lobby

November 5

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

November 6

Diabetes Screening
1:30–3:30 p.m. Call 951-4505 for
location.

November 10

2001: A Space Odyssey
Guest speaker: Kier Dullea
7 p.m. Whitman Hall

November 13

Pay Date for Adjuncts

November 19

TIAA-CREF Representative
9 a.m.–5 p.m. 036 Library

November 20

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

Great American Smokeout

1:30–3:30 p.m. Call 951-4505 for
location.

November 26

Pay Date for Adjuncts

November 27–28

Thanksgiving Holiday
College closed

December

December 1

World AIDS Day Quilt Display
10 a.m.–6 p.m. Oriental Lounge,
Student Center

December 1–2

Blood Drive
12:30–6 p.m. Occidental Lounge,
Student Center

December 3

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

December 11

Pay Date for Adjuncts

December 16

TIAA-CREF Representative
9 a.m.–5 p.m. 036 Library

December 18

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

December 24

Pay Date for Adjuncts

December 24–25

Christmas Holiday
College closed

December 31

New Year's Eve
College closed

January

January 1

New Year's Day
College closed

January 8

Pay Date for Adjuncts

January 15

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
College closed

January 22

TIAA-CREF Representative
9 a.m.–5 p.m. 036 Library

January 28

New Employee Orientation
(Subject to change)

Who's Who in Human Resource Services

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BROOKLYN



COLLEGE

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