



Bridging the Campus

STUDENT LIFE AT B.C. *Volume IV, Issue I, Fall 2005*

Brooklyn
College

THE
DIVISION OF
STUDENT
LIFE

Stop by 2113
Boylan Hall

Or visit our
website for
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www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/offices/studlife

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PRESIDENT WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS AT CONVOCATION 2005

Before a packed Whitman Auditorium on August 23rd, Brooklyn College kicked off its 2005 Convocation with President Kimmich welcoming freshmen students to B.C. He introduced distinguished members of the faculty, including Chairs of most of the academic departments at Brooklyn College. The Dean for Student Life, Milga Morales, introduced several Brooklyn College student leaders. President Kimmich addressed the students, saying that "walking into this campus, you walk into your future". He said that Brooklyn College students can expect an education they will be proud of for the rest of their lives while at the same time the College expected commitment, and a desire for success, from them. The President's welcome was followed by the Acting Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Donna Wilson, who stated that she hoped students would leave Brooklyn College *better citizens and better people, ready to change the world.*



Student speaker Kiev Davis shares words of "student wisdom" with new students as faculty, academic and student leaders look on

Representative student leaders and The *Seeds of Hope* organization led everyone in the Brooklyn College pledge, and Special Assistant to the Dean for Student Life, Dave Bryan, and Assistant Dean, Jacqueline Williams, presented on-campus citizenship and civic responsibility.

The rest of the day's events included: Student Services workshops on topics ranging from financial aid to internships and careers, to veteran's counseling, and took place all across the College grounds. In the Boylan Hall cafeteria, a Resource Fair was held in which many of the organizations and services at Brooklyn College such as

President Kimmich addresses incoming transfer students from the steps of LaGuardia Library and freshman students at Whitman Hall on Convocation Day



Student Life, the Athletics Department, Health Services, the Magner Center and more were represented.

On the Quad, the Info Booth was available all day to answer questions. The SERVA booth received a pledge of more than 1500 hours of volunteer work from many of the newly enrolled students.

So how did entering students feel about Convocation? Transfer student, Aaron Owsley, thought the day was "a very nice, light education" about what is available on campus. He further remarked that "student service sessions were particularly informative". Others agreed that the day was worthwhile. It was "good for the Brooklyn College community", said Television and Radio major, A.J. Luna, and represented "a chance for everyone to get to know resources available to them".

The Committee on Orientation Program for all students (COPAS), chaired by Assistant Dean Vanessa Green, received many positive comments about the Orientation Program.

CONVOCATION/ORIENTATION DAY FALL 2005 IN PICTURES



Students learned about campus services at the Resource Fair



Loretta Chin leads one of the many Campus tours that took place all day long



A student volunteer helps answer questions from students new to the Brooklyn College campus



The "Info Players" perform a skit showing examples of how students can ask for information at the Info Booth in Boylan Hall



Members of the B.C. faculty and administration gather backstage before the beginning of Convocation



Whitman Hall was packed with new students, faculty, student and administrative leaders



"Volunteer, more and more" said Gina and Troy at the SERVA booth which got pledges of more than 1500 volunteer hours from students



Vanessa Taylor speaks of her own experience adapting and succeeding as a student at Brooklyn College



STUDENT LIFE STAFF CONSIDERS "LEARNING" AT RETREAT

by Jack B. Ucciardino

Over two dozen staff members of the Division of Student Life met at Kingsborough Community College on June 23rd 2005 for their annual Division Retreat to discuss highlights and achievements of the past year. Goals for the future were also reviewed. The topic of this year's retreat was: "Walking in Others' Shoes". The purpose in choosing this topic was to get each attendee to think from a different point of view and to try to understand how problems might arise or be solved from a different outlook or perspective.

A discussion was led by Special Assistant to the Dean, Dave Bryan, on diversity and the "stages of identity". The goal of this dialogue was to help attendees understand the path to the final stage, "consolidating", which means a person being comfortable with *their own* identity. According to the presentation, once this point is reached they can begin to understand the needs and perspectives of people who are different. To stress what is meant by "diversity", a role-playing scenario took place in which retreat attendees had to play out various roles. They had to think and speak from positions alien to them, which made both speaker and listeners alike aware of the diversity of opinion that can exist on just one subject. Then, via posters and presentations, Student Life staff was made aware of the accomplishments of each section of the Division in the past year and what they have planned for the future. It was noted that knowledge of events and activities in all parts of the Division helps staff members coordinate efforts and point students in the right direction.

Heshla Ash and Dolores Bashinsky of the Student Development Office and from Central Depository, respectively, led the staff in a dialogue on, "Learning Reconsidered", a learning concept that integrates both academic education with student development. Participants were encouraged to discover ways to connect the services of the Division of Student Life with the college's scholastic standards and goals, giving students a more comprehensive education. As an exercise, the retreat attendees were divided into groups and urged to brainstorm thoughts on how Student Life programs could be integrated with academic programs offered by Brooklyn College.

On the purpose of the annual retreats, Special Assistant to the Dean, Dave Bryan, said, "Student Life retreats are essential to the professional development of all its members and critical to our collective improvement of service to our students". From getting to know each other and their goals, to reflecting on how best to deal with diversity in the college community, to trying to find ways to give students a more complete learning experience, the retreat gave Student Life Divisional staff a chance to map the Division's upcoming direction. "I believe everyone involved in the retreat left feeling proud of what had been accomplished and looking forward to the future." stated Dean for Student Life, Milga Morales.

BECOME PART OF THE MULTI-FAITH INITIATIVE!

by Karen Nieves

There are so many diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds at Brooklyn College that Student Life started the Multi-Faith Initiative in the fall of 2002, established after September 11, 2001 occurred. It went into effect because it was perceived that there was a need to raise people's awareness about religious stereotypes. Many religious institutions, civic groups, and colleges organized groups and events to address multi/interfaith issues. Brooklyn College is committed to celebrate and address the religious diversity of our campus, and to work with different faiths of individuals, clubs, organizations, and programs within the College community. The purpose of the Multi-Faith Initiative is to create ties between people from different faiths, to learn from one another, search for commonalities while discussing or reflecting on beliefs and differences, make a positive difference in our community by raising public awareness of religious stereotypes and prejudice; promote spiritual growth and develop the values of mutual respect, understanding and peace.

Events are organized not only to touch upon religious concepts or a topic of interest analyzed from a multi-faith perspective, but to address social issues that concern people of all groups living in a given area. The themes of the monthly events are broad and diverse, yet current, and based on student's interests and campus community's needs as identified by the Multi-Faith Initiative Committee. Everyone is invited to attend the planned fall events listed as: "The Encounter: Religion in the Western Hemisphere" on Thursday, October 6, 2005, "Giving Thanks: Worldwide Traditions" on Thursday, November 17, 2005 and "Conservatory Holiday Concert" on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. If any of these events are of interest come help and learn more of the Multi-Faith Initiative and what it can do for you. For more questions and upcoming events for the fall 2005 semester, contact Ms. Karen Nieves at the Office of the Dean for Student Life located in 2113 Boylan Hall or call (718) 951-5352 or e-mail at knieves@brooklyn.cuny.edu.



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

The faces you see are of just *some* of the new students who pledged volunteer hours with **SERVA** on Convocation Day. Why not join them?

For more information come to the **SERVA** Office or email us at serva@brooklyn.cuny.edu or go to the Volunteer Center on the first floor of the Student Center.

As I write, you are probably buying your books, paying your bursar's bill and preparing to read your assigned text. I encourage you to read, and study hard. I know it will pay off.

In addition, I want to remind you to take advantage of the myriad resources we have on campus. The Library is one of our pride and joys. It is a state of the art facility and those that labor within want to see you there as much as possible. The Student Center is a wonderful place to attend interesting lectures, student government meetings, or to register to volunteer a few hours a week at the SERVA/Volunteer Center on the first floor.

If you want to meet students with a variety of interests in a setting outside the classroom, visit the WEB (West End Building) Student Club Complex. It seems a little far from the center of campus but as the construction is completed it will be more accessible.

Finally, looking to the future, look out for TOP events where you can ask the questions you did not get a chance to ask at the orientations. Members of TOP, your student peers, will be calling you to get you on board. In addition, as we make efforts to support the victims of the Gulf States, we hope you will join us and give your support, in whatever way possible.

*Milga Morales, PhD.
Dean for Student Life
Brooklyn College*

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2005*

September 5 – Labor Day – College Closed

September 6 – Club Fair

September 6 – Last day to add a course

September 8 – Common Reading – Common Hours

September 12 – Evening Common Hours/Dean's Hour

September 15 – Greek Rush

September 17 – Constitution Day

September 18 – Family Day

September 22 – Welcome Back Bash/Constitution Day recognized/Voter Empowerment

September 27 – Student Life Meet and Greet from 1-2 p.m.

September 27 – GSO & SGS Welcome Back

October 3 – Only classes before 4 p.m. will be held

October 4 & 5 – No classes – Rosh Hashanah

October 6 – Transfer TOP Event

October 10 – Columbus Day – College Closed

October 11 – Conversion Day – Monday Schedule

October 12 & 13 – No classes – Yom Kippur

October 18 – Dean's Hour at the Student Center at 1-2 p.m.

October 20 – BC Volunteer Day

October 27 – New Faculty Welcome at 1 p.m.

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE**