

Bridging the Campus

STUDENT LIFE AT B.C.

THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

THE NAME MAY HAVE CHANGED BUT OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME

Starting this semester the Division of Student Life has a new name: the Division of Student Affairs. The new name was chosen to more accurately describe the role of the many units that make up the Division. Some have been confused about what the Division of "Student Life" does. What it's for? What does it represent? The name "Student Affairs" was chosen to help clear up some of that confusion. It lets students know that the Division is about needs and priorities and is there to help and guide them in learning and development.

A name change, however, does not mean the mission of the Division has changed. It is still "dedicated to guiding students to enhanced personal and academic success" and helping each and every student develop into a more active, more aware, more *complete* citizen of both the Brooklyn College community and of the larger society as a whole. If anything, the change of name from "Student Life" to "Student Affairs" just serves to accentuate the collaborative link between academic affairs and student affairs in forming the whole student – both mind and body.

Student Affairs encompasses quite a lot. The Division is responsible for student development and activities. It encompasses Brooklyn College Health Services, as well as Personal Counseling, Athletics and Intramural Sports and Veterans Affairs. It oversees both the Convocation that begins a student's experience at Brooklyn College and Commencement, which caps it off. Student Clubs and Organizations, Student Government and Ombudsman Services all fall under the mandate of the Division of Student Affairs. Even where you ask for directions, the Information Booth, is part of Student Affairs.

But none of these things could be possible without the efforts of the many staff members that make up the Division. Each person makes a difference in helping the student body of Brooklyn College reach their full potential. The Division is headed by Dean Milga Morales, along with two Assistant Deans and a full executive cabinet that helps make decisions and, with students, plan many events that take place on campus. This issue of *Bridging the Campus* contains profiles of some of those individuals, in their own words. Future issues will include the many student staff members who are crucial to the daily operation of the Division, as well as other members of the Division.

DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF STUDENTS, DR. MILGA MORALES



As Dean of the Division, I provide oversight for mandated programs involving students, student activities, and special projects as they emerge in the course of the year. In addition, as Dean of Students, I am responsible for student discipline and disciplinary certifications. My administrative staff is responsible for the day to day operations and implementation of the College's Strategic Plan, the mission and goals of the Division of Student Affairs, and rules and regulations as they pertain to students. My leadership style is consultative and builds on consensus wherever possible. I began as a coordinator for the campus's College Discovery Program and counseled SEEK students as well as students for whom English is a Second Language. I have served as the program head for the Elementary Education Program in the School of Education and am tenured as an Associate Professor of Education in the Department. Serving as Dean of the Division of Student Affairs provides me with a broader outlook on the College as a whole, particularly, as I serve as a member of the President's Executive Committee. My experience as a BC student and as an alum has involved development of students and student organization and mentorship, with a focus on Civic Engagement. Most rewarding, however, is the opportunity to engage with students, either in the classroom or in my capacity as Dean. BC students are smart, goal oriented, and committed to making a contribution to their campus and or their community. Along with a Cabinet of seasoned administrators, I work to ensure the success of all Brooklyn College students.

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, DR. JACQUELINE WILLIAMS



As Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, my direct responsibilities include the coordination of college-wide ceremonial events such as the biannual Convocation/ Presidential Welcome and June's Commencement Exercises as well as overseeing the initial investigations of disciplinary complaints, and furthermore, as the college's student ombudsman/ombudsperson services director, overall oversight for such programs as the BC Information Booth and The Orientation Project (T.O.P.) including its mid-semester orientations for entering students. I also supervise Presidential Ambassadors, CUNY/BC Voter Empowerment, BC Citizenship & Naturalization project, the SERVA volunteer registry, and the Volunteer Center. As a member of the college's senior staff and that of the Division of Student Affairs, I also serve on various committees and assist with college initiatives. I believe my experience, for more than a decade, with the Brooklyn D.A.'s Office where I initiated and administered their victim assistant unit, my professional training as an applied social psychologist, and, finally, the empathy that comes with being the first in my immediate family to finish college prepared me for the challenges of my position.

What I enjoy most about my position is working with students who have such potential, and the possibilities it gives for establishing on-going services and procedures that can help students, and thereby the college, over the long term.

Student Affairs Profiles



ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT, VANNESSA GREEN

As the Assistant Dean for Student Development I oversee Orientation and welcome programs for entering students in all divisions of the college. I am responsible for student leadership programs, student activities and the student activity fee funds via the Brooklyn College Association which I chair. I facilitate student governance; that is student involvement in college wide governance committees, student government elections, and just about all activities that are planned by students, scheduled to take place on or off campus and that utilize the student activity fee. Prior to coming to BC I worked at Baruch and Kingsborough. This experience helped in a lot of ways. But nothing beats actually being here and working with the staff and students of BC. Some things are quite unique to this environment. I enjoy helping students focus beyond the next month or semester and to visualize where they want to be in five to seven years, talk about what it will take to get there and then have them come back to share how great things have worked out for them.



SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, DAVE BRYAN

I'm the Special Assistant to the Dean of Students. I'm primarily responsible for the Health Programs and Immunization Requirements Office, Personnel, Budget, Purchasing, Reception, CUNYCAP, Barnes and Noble Student Life Fund, Multi Faith and Asian Outreach. I also chair the CUNY Health Service Advisory Committee, Presidential Advisory Committee for Emergency Medical Care, Dean's Advisory Committee for Brooklyn College Health Clinic, and the Health and Wellness Consortium on Dean Morales' behalf. My educational background and experience as Director of Central Depository, a strong work ethic and motivation to succeed and faith have all helped me prepare for the daily challenges of the job. What I enjoy most about my job is having the opportunity to provide information, direction and support that may contribute to a student's or a colleague's personal, interpersonal and professional development.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STUDENT CENTER, JOSEPH H. BENEDICT

As Executive Director of the Brooklyn College Student Center, I administer a budget in excess of one million dollars with overall responsibility for the Student Center operation, including personnel, maintenance, housekeeping, scheduling/reservations; student programming and risk management. My educational background provided a good foundation to face the challenges of the position. However, my affiliation with the Association of College Unions International [ACUI -- a professional association focusing on student center/student activity administration] has been my primary resource for professional development along with a network of colleagues and students at various campuses. They have been very instrumental in helping me prepare for challenges at BC. What I enjoy most about what I do are the **STUDENTS!!!!** While some students can be difficult at times, there is great satisfaction in knowing that my interaction with most of them has generally been positive in assisting them in their growth experiences while on campus, while at the same time, I grow personally and professionally from our interactions.



DIRECTOR OF RECREATION, INTRAMURALS AND INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS, BRUCE FILOSA

I am the Director of Recreation, Intramurals & Intercollegiate Athletics, and as the title suggests, I have to wear quite a few hats in this position. I am responsible for our Recreation program that promotes wellness among students, faculty, staff and members by using the fitness facilities. I oversee the Intramurals program [with events that are as varied as a one-day Olympics for the Physically Challenged and semester-long Football and Basketball tournaments] and direct our NCAA and CUNY- sponsored *Brooklyn Bridges* - 10 athletic teams for men and female student-athletes. I am also responsible for the hiring of Personnel, bringing in the budget and helping student's balance on the tightrope of life that our diverse population faces. Having a background in Psychology has helped me prepare for some of the challenges I've faced here. My innate belief in the mission statement of Brooklyn College and the Office of Student Affairs, and the goodness of our students, gives me the strength I need to do this challenging job. The thing I most enjoy about my position is my interaction with the students. I am proud of the fact that the BC athletics office considers all of our student athletes - past, present and future - as part of the family. There is nothing I enjoy more than a former student-athlete stopping by to visit.



COORDINATOR OF CAMPUS-WIDE STUDENT AFFAIRS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, CLAUDETTE GUINN

As Coordinator of Campus-Wide Affairs and Veterans Affairs, I am directly responsible for the certification of the GI bill educational benefits for veterans, and their dependents. I also serve as the liaison for Brooklyn College and the Veterans Administration. In addition to counseling veterans, I also coordinate and co-coordinate programs and activities for the Commuter Circle Volunteers; whom are students that want to give back to the community, but have limited time to do so because of their schedule. One such program is the "Each One Read to One" community based reading program. Education, experience, and the ability to problem-solve are tools that help me prepare me for the challenges that I encounter in my position. What I enjoy most about my position is the hard work and support of the many fine professionals in the Division of Student Affairs when executing programs and activities for Brooklyn College students. We are a team!

Brooklyn College

Division of Student Affairs

Comments may be sent to: *Student Life Newsletter*, Office of the Dean of Students, 2113 Boylan Hall, 2900 Bedford Avenue, NY 11210

Or visit our website at: www.brooklyn.cuny.edu