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BRIDGING THE CAMPUS

STUDENT LIFE AT B.C.

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TOWN HALL MEETINGS DISCUSS BROOKLYN COLLEGE'S FUTURE



The panelists listen to feedback on the future of Brooklyn College

Brooklyn College held two separate Town Hall meetings at the Student Center; one on Wednesday night, March 8, and another on Thursday afternoon, March 9, to discuss the college's future direction. Brooklyn College staff, faculty, students and even parents of students attended question and answer sessions on the *Brooklyn College Strategic Plan*, which charts the College's goals for the next five years. Topics of discussion included the changes to the Core Curriculum.

The B.C. Strategic Plan is the result of many meetings of sub-committees over the last few years. The members of the committee, including students, faculty and B.C. staff, discussed the kind of place they would like Brooklyn College to be by 2010. The ultimate objective of the Strategic Plan is that **Brooklyn College students will acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to live, serve, and succeed in a globally interdependent world.** The Strategic Plan serves as a road map towards that goal.

Obtaining feedback on the plan was the main impetus behind the Town Hall meetings, but several other topics emerged during the discussion as well, including the question of civility on campus, changes to the Core (see page 3 for more information), extra staffing for various departments especially during the evening when many offices are closed to students, and the progress on the infrastructural changes to campus, including ongoing improvements to the Student Center and the building of the new West Quad.

Of special interest to students who attended the events was the future of Central Depository (the "Bank" for student clubs) and the emphasis on specific academic goals in the Strategic Plan versus what was perceived as more vague language on the learning and development of students *outside* of the classroom. Also discussed was the importance of diversity on campus, including recruiting more Hispanic and Native American students and students from many other cultures that live in Brooklyn, so that the College represents the borough from which it takes its name.

All in all, many ideas were discussed and considered. While administrators were able to hear the views of a wide cross-section of the Brooklyn College community, according to Moraima Burgos, Coordinator of Student Campus Communications, Outreach and Development, *"The meetings also served to raise more awareness among the students on the direction the college is heading"*.

Copies of the *Brooklyn College Strategic Plan* are on reserve and available for viewing at the Brooklyn College Library or can be downloaded at the BC WebCentral Portal at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu>.



Dr. Greg Kuhlman (far left) moderates a panel consisting of Prof. Charles Tobey, Chair of the Faculty Council, Dr. Milga Morales, Dean of Student Affairs, B.C. Vice-President Steve Little and Provost Roberta S. Matthews



Brooklyn College President Christoph Kimmich addresses those assembled at the March 9th Town Hall Meeting



VP Steve Little addresses a question dealing with the college's budgetary situation



VP Steve Little (far right) answers a student's question



School Provost Roberta S. Matthews responds to a member of Brooklyn College's faculty

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

CUNYCAP PROGRAM HELPS GRAD STUDENTS SUCCEED

by Treish Hamilton



WHAT IS CUNYCAP?

CUNYCAP is the City University of New York Counseling Assistantship Program. Through this program graduate students gain experience in campus based services such as: academic advisement, health services, admissions, etc. Working approximately twenty hours a work week and obtaining a tuition waiver of up to six CUNY graduate credits each semester for up to six semesters, provides financial assistance to students pursuing their academic careers.

My name is Treish Hamilton and I am a CUNYCAP participant working in the Division of Student Affairs, as the Assistant Coordinator of the CUNYCAP Program here at Brooklyn College. I became involved with CUNYCAP when I received a postcard from the CUNY main office informing me about the program. I contacted the program, as I felt that it was a positive influence and a productive program to become a part of.

I am an Education major with a concentration in Counseling and, through my position as a CUNYCAP, I am able to interact with others and apply techniques that I learned in my studies. Through my organization and participation in numerous events I have been able to nurture my interpersonal skills. In counseling it is essential to understand human behavior, interactions and feelings. Through working with different campus and community organizations, I have had the opportunity to work with different people and help many through their times of need. Not only can you apply what you have learned through academics but you learn so much more through interacting with your fellow students. One gets the opportunity to work with highly admired faculty and staff members who make this college the distinct element that it is in this community.

I recommend the CUNY Counseling Assistantship Program to any graduate student. It is a great learning experience, while receiving assistance with tuition. It is flexible and it promotes positive, personal and professional growth. You can find out more about the Program and requirements by contacting me at (718) 951-5352, visiting www.cuny.edu or contacting the City University of New York Office of Student Services at (212) 290 – 5685.

FREE RAPID H.I.V. TESTING AT B.C.

by Lena Lopez

Representatives from the *Ryan Nena Center* came to Brooklyn College on March 7, 2006 to provide free and quick HIV testing. Students and other interested community members were given the opportunity to be tested and receive their results in around thirty minutes. The non-invasive procedure is performed using an oral swab, similar to a Q-Tip, which is swiped along the cheek and then tested for HIV antibodies. Eliminating the fear of a long, invasive procedure while reducing the rate of “no-shows” or those who have been tested but not received their results has proven to be a method of testing that is valuable in commuter situations, where people are always on the go. Sponsored by the Brooklyn College Health Programs Office, the staff was happy to link this service to the community. Both before and after testing, participants received counseling, their results, and safer alternatives to the most common routes of HIV exposure.

For more information visit www.ryancenter.org or visit the Brooklyn College Health Programs Office at 0710 James Hall. HIV testing is also available at the Brooklyn College Health Clinic at 114 Roosevelt Hall. Call the Health Clinic at 718-951-5580 to arrange an appointment for a free test.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON CAMPUS...



The "Welcome Back Bash" of Spring 2006 was held in the Student Center. Student clubs, associations, sororities and fraternities turned out to meet and greet new Brooklyn College students.



Dean of Student Affairs, Milga Morales, takes questions at the March 23, 2006 Dean's Hour



The Orientation Project (T.O.P.) held an information and follow-up orientation event on March 14, 2006.



Dr. Gregory Kuhlman, Director of Personal Counseling, moderated a BC CIRCLES-sponsored dialogue discussion entitled "FACING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES: WHEN WORDS DON'T SEEM ENOUGH!" at the Occidental Lounge in the Student Center on March 16, 2006. The dialogue dealt with approaches to handling controversy in constructive ways.

GET ENGAGED!!!

CORE CHANGES IN CORE STUDIES by Jack Ucciardino

Starting in the Fall of 2006, the Core Classes Curriculum required by Brooklyn College students will undergo a dramatic change. The intent of the change is to create a more learning-centered Curriculum that is flexible and gives more options to a student's preferences than the current system. The new Core is made up of Lower and Upper Tiers. All courses are 3 credits, with a total of 33 credits required altogether. That makes for a total of 11 courses with 27 of the credits in the Lower Tier and 6 credits in the Upper Tier. Lower Tier classes correspond closely to the current Core, except for the current Core 6 or Core 9. Instead, the present Core 6 and Core 9 will be transformed into new Upper Tier courses, which will focus on specialized classes in literature, science, non-Western cultures and more.

Beginning March 22, 2006, advisors will be available at Academic Advisement Center (3207 Boylan Hall) and the Registrar's Office (1108 Boylan Hall) to help students who have questions about which classes can be taken as substitutions, which courses qualify as equivalent to meet requirements, as well as queries on transfer credits and how they are applied in light of the changes. Information on the new Core Curriculum, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions and a worksheet to assist students will be posted on the Brooklyn College WebCentral Portal at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu>.

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

by Milga Morales, Ph.D., Dean of Student Affairs,
Brooklyn College

On any given day at Brooklyn College there is a chance for the student body to become civically involved in projects, on campus and off, that serve to benefit the community and create a greater sense of citizenship. This issue of "*Bridging the Campus*" contains several examples of civic engagement. From the many students, faculty and staff who turned out to the March Town Hall Meetings to discuss the future direction of the College, to the Civic Engagement Breakfast on April 27, that will allow students to meet local community and political leaders, Brooklyn College and the Division of Student Affairs is dedicated to helping students discover their voice and role in society and use it to accomplish their goals. In addition to the monthly Dean's Hour, where students can ask questions and offer suggestions about campus life, in the upcoming months, student elections will be taking place, as well as BC Volunteer Week. For students who want to know more, the Division of Student Affairs is there to help you get engaged in Brooklyn College student life. Contact Studentlife@brooklyn.cuny.edu for more information.

CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2006*

APRIL 6 – Melanoma Awareness from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at Whitehead Lobby and Breezeway

APRIL 11 – *Dean's Hour* at the Student Center from 1:30pm to 2:30pm

APRIL 12 – Spring Recess Begins

APRIL 24 – Spring Recess Ends

APRIL 26 – Administrative Professional Day

APRIL 27 – Annual Civic Engagement Breakfast/ Student Elections Debate/ *CRASH: A Dialogue on Religion, the First Amendment and the Media*

MAY 1 – 5 – BC Volunteers Week

MAY 1 – 4 – Student Government Elections

MAY 9 – Wellness Festival on the Quad

MAY 17 – Last Day of Undergraduate Classes

MAY 18 – Reading Day

MAY 18 – Athletics and Student Development Awards

MAY 26 – Graduate Classes and Final Exams End

MAY 29 – Memorial Day – College Closed

JUNE 1 – Commencement

JUNE 7 – Student Affairs Unit Recognition Awards

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST

The Division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with various student organizations, will hold a **Civic Engagement Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the State Lounge at the Student Center on April 27, 2006**. Students, faculty, staff and alumni will join with politicians and civic leaders to discuss ways in which students at Brooklyn College can become more politically and civically involved. Previous events have had guests from the City Council, State Assembly and the Borough of Brooklyn, including Congressman Edolphus Towns and Assemblyman N. Nick Perry. Everyone is welcome to a free breakfast, information on internship programs, ways to contact your elected officials and student participation programs. It will be a chance to meet community and college leaders and learn how to make your voice heard on issues that matter. We hope to see you there! For more information on the event contact the Office of Student Affairs at 718-951-5352, or email: Studentlife@brooklyn.cuny.edu.