

STUDENT LIFE AT B.C.

YES, I AM ENGAGED!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST HONORS SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

The Annual Civic Engagement Breakfast was held in the State Lounge of the Student Center, on April 27, 2006. The goal of the event, which took place from 8 to 10 a.m., was to bring students and community leaders together to discuss ways to become more involved in the political process, whether on campus or in the wider world.

A delicious breakfast was provided while attendees participated in round table discussions on the definition of Civic Engagement, especially in terms of the Brooklyn College experience. *"What will motivate CUNY students to vote?" "What is the proactive role of students in Student Government elections?" "How do we communicate with our elected officials and community leaders?" "What motivated so many people to engage on the issue of immigration reform?" "How would recent vetoes by NY's governor of CUNY's funding plan affect us?"* Each table was asked to tackle one of these questions and come up with a range of views on the topic. After breakfast, the round table talks focused on the subject of Civic Engagement. (Continued on page 2)



Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs urges students at the Breakfast to get involved in the issues that matter to them.



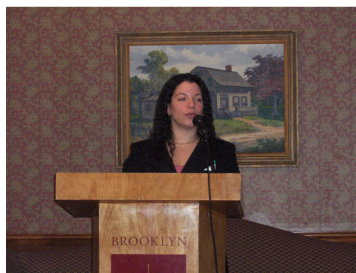
Assemblyman Nick Perry detailed the millions of dollars the new State Budget has retained for financial aid and CUNY programs.



Brooklyn College President, Christoph Kimmich, opened the event with a speech on the benefits of Civic Engagement.



Assistant Dean for Student Development, Vannessa Green, and Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Milga Morales, in discussion at the Civic Engagement Breakfast.



Moraima Burgos, Coordinator of Student Campus Communications, Outreach & Development moderated the event.



B.C. President Kimmich accepts a Proclamation, in honor of Shirley Chisholm Day in New York, by Assemblyman Nick Perry.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST 2006 AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE (CONTINUED)



NYPIRG's Daniella Weinberg recalled recent examples of student voices making a difference with elected officials.

Speakers at the Breakfast included Brooklyn College's President, Christoph Kimmich, who reminded everyone at the event that **"being civically engaged repays itself, many, many times over"** and Brooklyn College student, Stephanie Rosario, who commented on her experience being engaged on campus, in various programs. She indicated that internships had given her greater knowledge and familiarity in her desired field and helped set her on-course for her post-college endeavors. Bonnie Impagliazzo, from the Office of the Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, discussed the many current governmental leaders who are Brooklyn College graduates. Daniella Weinberg of NYPIRG, talked about the importance of student activism and NYPIRG's role in registering voters and helping students find out how they can lobby their representatives. Professor Sally Bermanzohn, Chair of the Political Science Department, announced plans for Summer courses that will specifically focus on the upcoming 2006 elections, as well as coordinating efforts with the Magner Center on internships to non-profit and social aid agencies.



Brooklyn College Student, Stephanie Rosario, detailed how being civically engaged at Brooklyn College has prepared her for the future.



Prof. Sally Bermanzohn talked about plans for new courses that focus on civic and political involvement.

Also turning out to participate were local governmental leaders. Mrs. M. Cook, a representative from City Councilman Charles Barron's Office, spoke, as did New York State Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, and Assemblyman N. Nick Perry, both BC alums, who arrived straight from a budget vote in Albany. Both members of the Assembly spoke of the need for all members of the CUNY family, students, faculty and parents of students, to know what their representatives are doing and what the issues are. Assemblywoman Jacobs stressed the importance of students knowing exactly who their representatives are at all levels of government and Assemblyman Perry remembered his days as a student activist at Brooklyn College which, he said, prepared him for the challenges he faces now as an elected official. Mr. Perry also presented President Kimmich with an official proclamation, signed by the Governor and endorsed by the NY State legislature, in honor of the late Congresswoman, presidential candidate, and BC alumnus, Shirley Chisholm.



Ms. Bonnie Impagliazzo mentioned the many notable Brooklyn College alumni who have gone on to success in public life.



The theme of the May 27, 2006 Breakfast was "Defining Civic Engagement".

All in all, the discussions and speeches at the breakfast pointed to one definition of what Civic Engagement is: Make your voice heard and get involved! All it takes is one person to make a difference.



Round table discussions, such as this one, stimulated Attendees to discover what "Civic Engagement" meant to them.

QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMENCEMENT?

Brooklyn College's 81st Commencement Ceremony will be held on June 1, 2006, rain or shine. Students who plan on attending and have questions in preparation for the event should first, check the new Brooklyn College Commencement website. A "Frequently Asked Questions" (F.A.Q) section will answer the most common questions students ask. Graduates of September 2005 and February 2006, as well as June candidates for graduation can find information about tickets, seating and scheduled speakers at the website: www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/commencement. Further questions not directly answered in the Commencement website should be e-mailed to Studentlife@brooklyn.cuny.edu. Commencement is one of the biggest days of a college student's life. Find out what you need to know ahead of time and good luck!

BC CIRCLES PRESENTS A "CRASH" COURSE DIALOGUE

by Jack Ucciardino



Professor Paul Moses of the English Department gives the keynote address at Part I of *Crash: Religion, Media and the First Amendment*.



Event coordinator, Liz Rohan (far right) leads the round table discussions at Part II of *Crash: Religion, Media and the First Amendment*.

CRASH: Religion, Media and the First Amendment was a two-part dialogue, sponsored by BC Circles and the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Diversity, brought together in the wake of the debate over what responsibilities the media has when dealing with matters of religion and the First Amendment. The first part of the event took place on April 27, 2006 in the Student Center, with a keynote address by Professor Paul Moses, a faculty member of the English Department and a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist. Taking its theme from the Oscar-winning film, "Crash", the dialogue focused on how the divergent areas of religion and media can sometimes clash and if there are ways to respect both freedom of religion and freedom of expression in a culture that seems to put the two at odds.

Professor Moses addressed different cases where First Amendment rights came into conflict and how they were resolved. In a Q&A period after the speech with Prof. Moses and those in attendance, other topics relating to the talk were raised by students. One question raised addressed the issue about the difference between what is legal and what is responsible when it comes to representations of religion in a free society.

The second part of **CRASH**, occurred one week later, on May 4, 2006. In a lively round-table discussion, students debated issues ranging from the quality of news coverage on TV to the need for the consumer of media to educate themselves and not take everything they see or are told at face value. Ethics was also another issue that came to the fore as participants argued whether more classes on ethics should be taught in fields dealing with the media and debated the role of the journalist in both knowing about the subject they are reporting on (especially when it comes to religion) and presenting verifiable facts. In the end, all sides came away with a fresh outlook on the First Amendment from the perspective of other religious and cultural points of view.



A GRADUATE LOOKS BACK...

by Vanessa Taylor

I am a child of humble Jamaican farmers who through their actions showed me that a seed planted in good soil and nurtured well will produce great fruits. Brooklyn College is my soil and the people whom I have met here have provided the nurturing that was necessary to make me a successful student and a greatly improved individual. I enrolled in Brooklyn College in the spring of 2003 as a transfer student from the University of Technology, Jamaica.

I served as President of Seeds of Hope and, during my presidency, we raised hundreds of dollars for Tsunami relief, held the first Welcoming Back Our Soldiers event that was given center page spread in the CUNY Matters Magazine and we published our first newsletter. In 2004 I was awarded a CUNY Leadership Award. In 2005 I was the youngest recipient of the Brooklyn College Make a Difference Role Model award. I am a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and a SERVA Volunteer. While at Brooklyn College I gained real media experience by interning with WB11 and most recently with CBS News. The Ivy League and private college students whom I met in these programs did not intimidate me because I am confident in the knowledge that I gained at Brooklyn College through the TV Radio Department and the Summer Broadcast News Institute. Whenever I was asked what college I attend I would proudly say Brooklyn College. I was so Brooklyn College that I was referred to as "VT the BC intern". After graduating I will be working at CBS News.

I feel confident stepping out into the world with the knowledge that I have gained from an institution that is WORLD CLASS. As I recite the Ephebic Oath, along with Brooklyn College's Class of 2006, I will smile proudly knowing that Brooklyn College has produced graduates who will **"strive to transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."**

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON CAMPUS...

SCENES FROM THE CUNY WELLNESS FESTIVAL 2006

The Annual CUNY Wellness Festival was held on the Quad on May 9, 2006, and it brought together the many health options and programs available to CUNY students. Groups represented at the Festival ranged from Brooklyn College Health Services, to the FDNY EMS, to medical insurance providers.



T.O.P.'S YEAR END EVENT

Brooklyn College President Christoph Kimmich was among those offering congratulations to this year's members of The Orientation Project (T.O.P.), a program designed to help first year and transfer students succeed at B.C. by providing them with access to information, resources and student mentors. The lunch-time event, in which refreshments were served and prizes given out, took place on May 2, 2006 in the Student Center, and allowed students to reflect on their experiences during the past year.



BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Comments may be sent to: *Student Life Newsletter*, Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, 2113 Boylan Hall, 2900 Bedford Avenue, NY 11210
Or visit our website at: www.brooklyn.cuny.edu