



# BRIDGING THE CAMPUS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2

Jack Ucciardino, Editor



## Civility In Our Little City THAT IS BROOKLYN COLLEGE

By Moraima Burgos

Civility is defined as a polite act or expression but at Brooklyn College it much more than that. Civility is incorporated into the College's learning goals and its mission statement. Civility is something we practice everyday in and out of the classroom.

College is one step in the grand scheme of your life that will help you discover and achieve your goals and provide opportunities to practice civility. Make this campus what you want it to be. It starts with you. As you approach someone on campus tomorrow, think first of how you would want that person to treat you and treat them the same way.

The President of Brooklyn College, Christoph M. Kimmich, said it best at this Fall's Convocation, as he welcomed new students to our little city: *"There is no place here for racial or religious bigotry, for language that demonizes those with whom we disagree, for hostility that poisons the air and leads to violence. We believe in the value of free speech; we believe in tolerance. And we believe no less in our ability to extend and expand the aspirations for freedom and justice that we have inherited from the generations that have come before us."*

If you are ever in doubt about the rules or just need access to resources, visit the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs (2113 Boylan Hall). The rules and regulations are listed in a variety of places, including the Web Portal and the BC Bulletin, and you are expected to abide by them. If you use your common sense and practice civil behavior you should be just fine. We are here for you.



*"Hands Across the Campus event: A Community Expression of Civility and Unity."*

# PLANTING NEW "SEEDS" OF HOPE

*By David Wells*



**Odalis Domingues  
President,  
Seeds of Hope**



**Arianney Grullon  
Vice President,  
Seeds of Hope**

While it took some time to prepare the soil, October 7, 2008 was a great day for sowing. We had our official Seeds of Hope Induction Ceremony, and sixteen (16) enthused Seeds took the pledge and made the commitment to become Ambassadors for Brooklyn College.

The ceremony began with each seed introducing, in many cases re-introducing, themselves to each other, by stating name, major, academic year and on a couple occasions address. We then had our conflict mediation session which focused on interpersonal interactions between students. Ms. Eva Lugo presented this session, making it a wonderful learning experience for everyone present.

The ceremony concluded with refreshments as we know that all Seeds need nourishment to grow. The future looks bright green for Brooklyn College, as Seeds do grow in Brooklyn!



**Armelle Delva,  
Treasurer,  
Seeds of Hope**



**Helen Abreu,  
Projects Coordinator,  
Seeds of Hope**



**Divinda Augustin,  
Secretary,  
Seeds of Hope**



**Elizabeth Reyes,  
Secretary,  
Seeds of Hope**





# SEVEN YEARS LATER... REMEMBERING 9-11

The Brooklyn College community held a “Day of Reflection and Unity” to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The College’s flags flew at half-staff and the chimes rang to mark significant moments of that tragic day.

Yellow ribbons for students, faculty and staff to wear were available from the on-campus hospitality table and the reflection room in the Student Center, from noon-2:00 p.m. and from 5:00-7:00 p.m. In total, 565 BC community members picked up ribbons.

The official televised New York City commemoration included readings by a number of students from different CUNY colleges, including BC, and could be viewed at the Student Center.



*Volunteers on the Quad signing up new members for Seeds of Hope and giving out ribbons.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



*Milga Morales,*  
*Ph.D.*  
DEAN OF  
STUDENT AFFAIRS,  
BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Welcome to another issue of *Bridging the Campus*, the newsletter of Brooklyn College’s Division of Student Affairs. Continuing on this semester’s theme of “LEARNING TO LEAD IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY”, this issue looks at civility on campus and what students can do to make the Brooklyn College experience more fulfilling and productive.

From taking part in civic engagement on campus, in Town Hall Meetings, Constitution Day celebrations, and

“registering to vote” drives to the 9/11 commemoration, the Welcome Back Bash and the Club Fair, Brooklyn College students from all walks of life have taken advantage of opportunities to learn new things and become more engaged. New worlds have opened up for our students. Now it is time to learn to lead in a global society!

Brooklyn College’s President, Christoph M. Kimmich advised new students at this year’s Convocation that “we all

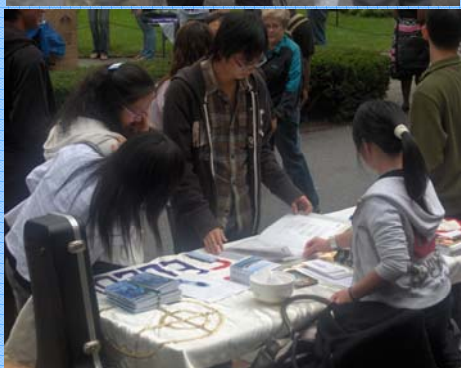
share a campus, some seventy years old, designed as a center of learning and academic activity. Make it your own.”

The President’s words apply not just at Convocation but every semester and for every student. Brooklyn College is here for you, now it is your turn to help make it the environment you want it to be. *Make it your own!*

# Events Events Events Events Events Events Events Events Events Events Events

The student organizations use these events held each semester as a recruitment tool for new members, a social tool to reconnect with other organizations and a promotional tool to let the campus know what the organizations have planned for the upcoming semester.

## CLUB FAIR



The "Welcome Back Bash" was held on September 23, 2008 to welcome current & new students to the new school year in a festive way. This year it was also used to showcase the new BC Student Center Café & gaming area. It's an event that demonstrates college can be fun as well as educational. 50+ clubs were in attendance and over 1000 students enjoyed the 2-hour event.

The Club Fair on September 16, 2008 was the first event of the academic year for the student organizations. The Club Fair is also a chance for Brooklyn College to showcase the diverse group of students that are involved in club life. 86 different organizations had tables at the event.

## WELCOME BACK BASH



Greek Rush took place on Sept. 2nd, 2008 on the BC Quadrangle. 10 fraternities and 8 sororities hosted tables and showed their wares in an attempt to entice students to join their Greek Lettered Organizations.

Special thanks to Roy Becker and Christina Waszak of the Office of Student Development for information on all the events mentioned on this page.

For more information on similar upcoming events contact:

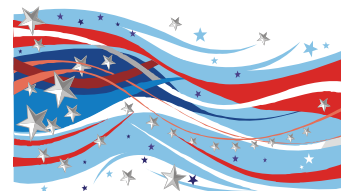
[studentdev@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:studentdev@brooklyn.cuny.edu)



## GREEK RUSH



# CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY!



Events were held across campus to celebrate Constitution Day, September 17, 2008. The day marks the 201st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Among the events was a lecture at the Student Center, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs (Student Development and Student Center offices), on the subject of Learning to Lead in a Global Society: Brooklyn Immigrants, Diversity and the US Constitution. The presentation was given by Jane Guskin and David L. Wilson, co-authors of *The Politics of Immigration: Questions and Answers*.

According to Christine Pomponio, Coordinator of Events & Meetings of the Brooklyn College Student Center: "This successful event had 75 attendees and enriched the awareness of the BC community on the U.S. Constitution. It provided an informal diverse dialogue for the students to voice their opinions while listening to others involved in the area of immigration and the Constitution".

Another event held to commemorate the holiday was a Constitution Day Trivia Contest held in the Brooklyn College Student Center (see below). Its purpose was to provide an educational, yet interactive way to discuss the United States Constitution, as well as to involve the various Greek organizations in a campus-wide initiative. With members of BC Forensics as the game hosts, thirty questions were asked to participants. Trophies were given to the 1st and 2nd place winners, with certificates given to all 29 participants. In addition, 131 mini-U.S. Constitutions were picked-up by the Brooklyn College community.



*Above from top to bottom: Constitution Day Display in the Brooklyn College Library; NYPIRG Voter Registration Drive on the Quad; Constitution Day Display on the first floor of the Student Center.*

*Below: Participants in the Constitution Day Trivia Contest held in the Student Center.*





# JASMINE PATEL

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE BC EXPERIENCE

When BC junior Jasmine Patel first came to Brooklyn College, her path seemed to be set. Jasmine had both a scholarship to Brooklyn College, as part of the CUNY B.A.-M.D. program, and a guaranteed place in medical school after graduation. Therefore, her motivation for getting involved in co-curricular life came from her need to stay busy instead of “sitting home and doing nothing”.

Jasmine always wanted to join a debate club in High School but never had the time. As a freshman at BC, she discovered the Brooklyn College Student Forensics (Speech and Debate) club and started going to meetings. One thing led to another and in no time Jasmine found herself

juggling an assortment of challenges and responsibilities such as being President of Student Forensics, Treasurer of the Academic Club Association (ACA), a member of seven different College committees and (currently) spearheading a referendum on campus to increase funding for the Health Clinic – all this in *addition* to taking academic courses!

Yet, Jasmine feels the rewards for all her hard work are great. As a member of Student Forensics, she has been able to travel across the country, meet many different kinds of people and have experiences, some of her friends (who are not involved in student life or do not go to school in an environment like BC) can only envy.

Participating in various associations and events has also led to increased visibility and leadership opportunities. Jasmine feels her voice matters and that people listen to it.

If Jasmine had to share one thing she has discovered, it would be that “college is a once in a lifetime experience”. Whether it’s getting validation and credit for a job well done, or learning to deal with a diverse group of people, or becoming a leader, or just gaining skills useful in the world beyond college, students should embrace the opportunities available at Brooklyn College and take advantage of it. After all, if you, like Jasmine, want to change the world, you have to start somewhere.

# RENEE STRAKER

## THE REWARDS OF RECOGNITION



It was on the recommendation of her father to the Brooklyn College business program that first brought Renee Straker to the BC campus, but since then it has been other aspects of the Brooklyn College experience that have occupied her free time.

A native of Barbados, Renee became interested in the Caribbean Student Union (C.S.U.) as a freshman. After seeing the organization at a BC club fair, she checked them out and found it a cool and exciting group to be a part of. Before long she found herself taking part in various events, including the Welcome Back

Bash, Volunteer Day and other campus-wide happenings.

Participation with the C.S.U. led to other opportunities. Renee began working at the Student Center and meeting the President and Deans of the College, as well as other students from all walks of life. Greater exposure led to greater recognition, which included the honor of being asked to represent Barbados (and Brooklyn College) at the 9-11 remembrance ceremony in Manhattan, held by the Mayor’s Office in conjunction with CUNY. Even though she was a bit nervous about appearing at an event televised around the world, Renee

wanted to do her country and her college proud and came through with flying colors.

According to Renee, becoming an active part of student life at BC “can and will” benefit you. Being involved shows others your willingness to work and be recognized and you can then take the knowledge gained into the world at large. As a matter of fact, if Renee has any regrets, it’s that she doesn’t have time to do more!

# First Person...

By Christopher Browne



## THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS ...

There are many different routes to take to achieve your goal to a successful career; each route is dependent on what your interests are. It should be the goal of each student to capitalize on the "God-given" talents to shape a successful career, keeping in mind the demands of the times.

The most important lessons that I've learned are to be open-minded and to think internationally. No matter what field of study you are pursuing, an international perspective is crucial, for it is this element that dictates our food prices, the prices of our homes, the prices of our education, and in this situation, the demand for the profession you wish to pursue. With this mind set you can even foresee and capitalize on the changing demands of our world.

## THINK INTERNATIONAL ...

How does one start, you may say; volunteerism. You get the inside scoop when you volunteer, whether it is at a for-profit institution or a non-profit institution you feel the pulse of a certain issue—critical or minor when you are in the line of duty. You become a more mindful individual when you get involved, and in becoming more mindful you make better decisions. There is a proverb that says, "Find a job you like and you would never work a day in your life." Your career aspiration should be gratifying. I emphasize, capitalize on your talents to shape a successful career.

There are keys to success that capture the infinite value of what I mentioned above; with these primary concepts of success, the reward of achieving your goals will be satisfying. In addition, it is only with these concepts that you can achieve your career desires. Hard work, discipline, being focused and merging your skills together helps you to get what you want from life.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that ... Brooklyn College goes through an accreditation process every 10 years by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)? Accreditation is a process of peer review that the educational community has adopted for its self-regulation and now it is time for Brooklyn College to become reaccredited, showing the world the fine institution of higher learning that it truly is!

To find out more join us at the Town Hall Meeting!

**NOV. 20th  
12pm—2pm  
Student Center**



For more information email:  
[studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

## STUDENT AFFAIRS COUPON

# FREE GIFT!

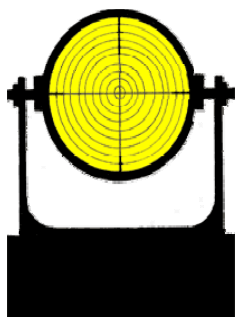
TO REDEEM:

- (1) ATTEND THE  
MIDDLE STATES  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
ON NOVEMBER 20
- (2) ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE
- (3) HAND IN COUPON AT  
DESSIGNATED TABLE AT  
THE END OF MEETING

**NO COPIES—  
ORIGINAL COUPON  
MUST BE PRESENTED**

**COUPON EXPIRES 11/20/08 at 12pm**





# THE SPOTLIGHT

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

### OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008\*

Oct. 16	Town Hall Meeting: <u>Learning to Lead in a Global Society: Event on Leadership, Politics, and Learning to Lead on a Local and National Scale</u> , Gold Room, Student Center, 6:00-8:00pm	
Oct. 18	Men's Soccer Game against City University of New York, 12:00pm	
Oct. 19	Breast Cancer Walk, Prospect Park, 10:00am-2:00pm	
Oct. 21	Women's Volleyball Game against Hunter College, 7:00pm	
Oct. 21	Mental Health Screening Day, 12:15-2:15pm, 2613 James	
Oct. 23-25	Cool Calls, 2113 Boylan	
Oct. 28	SERVA Training	
Oct. 28	CPR training – Call HPO x 4505 for time and location	
Oct. 28	Women's Volleyball Game against York College, 6:00pm	
Nov 3	Black Solidarity Day: No Special Events Should be Held	
Nov 4	General Election Day	
Nov 6	Middle States Visit Meeting, 1:00-2:30pm (with M.S. rep) - Penthouse, Student Center	
Nov 9	BC Family Welcome, Student Center, Part of CUNY Month	
Nov 10	Veterans Affairs Luncheon, 12:00pm	
Nov 11	Veterans Day Parade	
Nov 12	Evening Common Hours	
Nov 13	Latino Heritage Month: "The Possible Dream: Latino (a) Arts, Communities, and Leadership-Encuentro 2008 from 9:00am-8:30pm in the Student Center	
Nov 18	Women's Basketball Home Opener against Vassar College, 7:30pm	
Nov 18	Men's Basketball Home Opener against College of New Jersey, 5:30pm	
Nov 18	SERVA Training, 12:15-2:15pm, 2113 Boylan	
Nov 20	Great American Smoke-out, 12:00-2:00pm, Boylan Cafeteria	
Nov 20	Middle States Visit Town Hall: A Student's Perspective, 12:00-2:00pm (tentative)	
Nov 27	SERVA Training, 12:15-2:15pm, 2113 Boylan	
Nov 27-30	Thanksgiving Recess- College Closed	
Dec 1	HIV/AIDS Screening Mobile Unit, Time TBA-Contact x4505	
Dec 1	HIV/AIDS Workshop Student Center, 12:30-2:00pm-Contact x4504	
Dec 1-2	Blood Drive – NY Blood Center Mobile Unit, 12-5:00pm	
Dec 4	Evening Common Hours	
Dec 4	Men's Basketball Game against College of Staten Island, 7:30pm	
Dec 4	Women's Basketball Game against College of Staten Island, 5:30pm	
Dec 6	Women's Basketball Game against Purchase College, 2:00pm	
Dec 9	Women's Basketball Game against Saint Joseph's College (Bklyn), 7:00pm	
Dec 9	Make A Difference/Human Rights Presentation and Discussion	
Dec 12	Reading Day	
Dec 16	Last Day of Classes	
Dec 17-23	Final Examinations	

KEY  
■ Sporting Events  
■ BC Administrative Events  
■ Student Affairs Events

\*Dates are subject to change. Please check the smart calendar for the latest information or e-mail [studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

#### Comments may be sent to:

Student Affairs Newsletter, Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, 2113 Boylan Hall

Email: [Studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Or visit our website: [www.studentaffairs.brooklyn.cuny.edu](http://www.studentaffairs.brooklyn.cuny.edu)