

Bridging the Campus

Jack Ucciardino,
Editor

Your life at Brooklyn College

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S.A.R. Helps Students Who Need a Hand

Have a question? Need some help? In an effort to be more responsive to students' needs the newly formed Office of Student Assistance & Referral (S.A.R.) was created to make the process of students' gaining help and direction as seamless and painless as possible.

Members of the Student Assistance & Referral staff provide students with information relevant to their situation (e.g., applying for emergency grants), make referrals to both internal and external resources and will personally contact programs and services on behalf of students. In other words, if the staff at S.A.R. does not have the answer you need - they know who does! Maribel Cordero-Garcia is the coordinator of S.A.R. and Associate Dean Jacqueline Williams, the college ombudsperson, ensures that the mission of Student Assistance & Referral is achieved. As part of S.A.R.'s ombuds services (an ombudsperson is an impartial mediator between opposing parties, empowered to investigate complaints as well as facilitate solutions), it works with others toward establishing effective collaborations to resolve problems and reach conclusions that will be satisfactory to all involved.

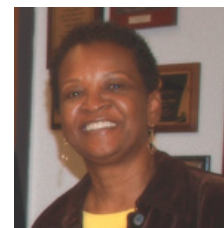
Another part of its mission is the establishment of regular contact with student service offices and academic affairs to maintain up-to-date knowledge of policies and procedures that impact both the Brooklyn



College community and individual students. All this makes it easier for S.A.R. to better serve and advise each student who comes through its doors.

In addition, S.A.R. staff members also provide: oversight for selected student emergency loan and grant fund programs, such as the *I. Mereese Ladson Emergency Hardship Loan*, the *Glaser Emergency Book Voucher Loan Fund* (for international and graduate students), and the new *Brooklyn College Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund*.

The Office of Student Assistance & Referral was created with students in mind as a place for those who do not know where else on campus to turn for help on various issues. S.A.R. offers confidential guidance and referrals depending on an individual's needs. So if you need help, seek out S.A.R. It is there for you!



Assoc. Dean Jacqueline Williams,
Brooklyn College Ombudsperson



Maribel Cordero-Garcia,
Coordinator of S.A.R.

**For more information
on S.A.R. and its programs,
contact:
studentsar@brooklyn.cuny.edu,
718-951-5352.**

**The Office of Student Assistance &
Referral is located in 2106 Boylan Hall -
sign in with reception
in 2113 Boylan Hall.**

**Day and evening appointments are
available, Monday through Friday.**

A Message from the Dean



Milga Morales, Ph.D.
Dean, Student Affairs

Soar with S.A.R...

Welcome to another issue of Bridging the Campus, the newsletter of Brooklyn College's Division of Student Affairs. This issue spotlights the Office of Student Assistance and Referral (S.A.R.), a new addition to the Division's array of student services. For those students who need aid and direction for problems on-campus and off, S.A.R. is there to provide guidance, in a face-to-face environment, offering specific information and referrals based on the problem a student is facing. S.A.R. is there to serve students, so take advantage of it!

I wish you all good luck, much success, and as always, do not hesitate to give us your feedback!

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT....

Check out the "I Make a Difference" video which premiered at the **"MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS"** event.

An awards ceremony and dinner recognizing members of the BC Community who furthered the cause of human rights through their actions and service.

The event was held at the Brooklyn College Student Center on East 27th Street & Campus Road.

Send your comments to: studentaffairs@brooklyn.cuny.edu

LEARN ABOUT THE PETRIE STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund, funded by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, is a new financial resource that assists eligible Brooklyn College students in coping with an unexpected hardship. The primary goal of the grant is to provide financial support to the widest range of students possible, so they can continue their studies and, ultimately, graduate with a BC degree. It also helps empower students to become responsible for their ongoing personal development.

Generally, all matriculated graduate and undergraduate BC students who are in good academic standing, have a clean record in regard to college conduct, and whose tuition is already paid are eligible to apply for the grant. The applications, along with supporting documentation, are reviewed by a special emergency assistance committee composed of representatives from various student service offices (such as Financial Aid, Enrollment Services, Scholarships and Student Affairs) throughout the college.

Some examples of qualifying emergencies for the Petrie Emergency Fund include prescription eyeglasses, essential dental work, and medical bills for uninsured necessary appointments, accidents or surgery. Other emergencies are covered as well, including the need to travel home for illness or death in the immediate family, sudden homelessness due to loss of housing, and documented theft of books, and other essential academic belongings. There is also



reimbursement available for transportation to get to and from school and/or medical appointments and to cover sudden loss of childcare. Just remember, though, the fund cannot be used to pay tuition or debts to the college.

To learn more about the Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund, or to apply, please contact the Office of Student Assistance & Referral at studentsar@brooklyn.cuny.edu, visit in-person at 2106 Boylan Hall (sign in with reception at 2113B) or call 718.951.5352. Students are encouraged to make an appointment in advance by phone or e-mail.

WE'RE ALL BULLDOGS NOW!



Earlier this year Brooklyn College launched a campus wide search for a new BC mascot, one that says who BC is and what it stands for. One that will be emblematic of both the college and that we can all rally around. Suggestions from members of the entire Brooklyn College community poured in and a committee representing students, faculty and staff chose those they considered the best to recommend to BC President Karen L. Gould. One of the names from this list was chosen on December 1, 2009.

During the Pep Rally held on the West Quad to kick off BC Community Day, President Gould announced the new mascot and team name.

That name?
THE BROOKLYN BULLDOGS!

