Student Affairs Fosters Student Success Through Collaboration and Communication

By Naydeen T. Gonzalez-De Jesus, Ph.D.

I am excited to become a member of the Bergen Community College community as your new Vice President of Student Affairs. In my years of experience as a higher education administrator and educator, it has become clear that students are successful due to various factors which include but are not limited to:

- Individual drive and motivation
- Social capital
- Personal responsibility

As higher education professionals, we strive to foster individual drive and motivation in our students by encouraging social engagement.

In doing so, we demonstrate to students how to become owners of their educational experience by ensuring we are engaging ourselves in collaborative partnerships with each other, across divisions, and departments. It is through collaboration across college departments and divisions that the staff of the Division of Student Affairs is one of the many pieces to the puzzle that plays an important role in the lives of Bergen Community College students.

Student lives are impacted through financial aid, peer mentoring, academic advising, personal counseling, liaison activities between students, staff, and faculty, protection of student records, ADA accommodations, student events and organizations, assessment of behavioral intervention student cases, and through educational presentations on navigating WebAdvisor, the student portal, and understanding college procedures and policies, among

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Bergenstages presents “The Farnsworth Invention”

By Jim Bumgardner

The most important event of the 20th Century wasn’t ON television. It WAS television.


Philo Farnsworth was a young, naïve Utah farm boy who loved nothing more than trying to understand electricity and all its possibilities. Tinkering in his lab, he found a way of sending picture waves over the air, like sound waves did for radio. In 1926, the 22-year-old shared his creation of the television tube with the world, only to have it stolen by spies sent by David Sarnoff, then the president of RCA, who was determined to control emerging television technology much the same way he controlled existing radio technology.

This compelling drama will share with audiences the incredible story of one young man’s fight against corporate America. The production is being directed by Peter A. Campbell, Associate Professor of Theatre at Ramapo College, and will feature 12 BCC actors and actresses creating over 30 different characters.

As a special bonus evening, there will be a panel discussion and audience talkback immediately following the performance on Thursday, February 28. Guest panelists Peter A. Campbell (Theatre), Andrew Baddish (Broadcasting) and Mark Altschuler (English) will discuss the production, the writing, as well as the historical significance of this event.

BCC audiences will be treated to a piece of dynamic theatre under the meticulous direction of Prof. Campbell. Tickets to “The Farnsworth Invention” are available at the BCC box office in A-130 or online at tickets.bergen.edu. For further information and reservations please call 201-447-7428.

The author is the producer of Bergenstages, and a director and assistant professor of performing arts in the School of Arts, Humanities and Wellness. He can be reached at jbumgardner@bergen.edu or 201-493-3615.

Lyndhurst Launches Second Annual Best-Practices Conference

By Sarah Shurts

On March 9, 2013, Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands will host the second annual Tri-State Best Practices Conference dedicated to innovation and creativity in the community college classroom. The theme of this year’s conference is the role of the community college as a place of transition for students. Students at community colleges come from diverse backgrounds and experiences in high schools, other colleges, and professional life and seek to transition into four year colleges, new professions, or a life of continuing education.

The purpose of the conference is, therefore, to provide community college educators, high school educators, employers in the community, and four-year college educators with a forum both to exchange successful strategies for transitioning students and to discuss expectations and learning goals at each level in the education system. In particular, the conference this year hopes to begin a regional conversation about how we can best prepare students to transition from high school to college and/or to professional life.

The conference program will include over 90 presenters from 19 different community colleges and four-year colleges throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Of these 90 presenters, 15 are from BCC.

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Student Affairs Fosters Student Success Through Collaboration and Communication

other activities that promote student engagement and success.

To better serve the Bergen Community College student, we owe it to our students to become fully engaged in our own procedures and institutional mission to contribute to the overall experience and success of students while on campus.

There are shared values we are committed to, such as promoting student safety and well-being, proactively communicating with students, being available to respond to and address student concerns in a timely manner, promoting individual worth through inclusion, and ensuring the collective endeavor of mutual personal responsibility for the greater good of the Bergen student and its community.

Students benefit from the synergy of social capital building between the Division of Student Affairs and other areas of the college by promoting networks, trust, and cohesion.

It is all about the Bergen Community College student, and it is my intent and passion to develop a framework of collaboration that invites planning, assessment, and transparency in all that is done in Student Affairs to serve our students.

The author is the Vice President of Student Affairs. She can be contacted at ngonzalez-dejesus@bergen.edu or 201-301-1577.

Faculty Development Announces Winner of 2012 NISOD Award

Professor Robert Saldarini, chair of the Department of Business, Accounting and Finance, has been chosen as the 2012-2013 winner of Bergen Community College’s NISOD Excellence in Teaching award. The award recipient is chosen by the Faculty Development Committee, whose chair, Professor Annemarie Roscello, said Saldarini was selected from a large and strong field of candidates.

“Winning this award is an exceptional honor, especially since the recognition comes from a committee of your professional colleagues,” Saldarini said.

He will be honored at the 35th annual conference of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in Austin, Texas, in May 2013. Since its founding in 1978, NISOD has focused on the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.

The Faculty Development Committee’s selection process for the NISOD winner focused on the individual applicants’ evidence of continual improvement in teaching and evidence of improved student learning, retention and future success, plus leadership contributions to the department, school and college.

“I believe if you really value your students and their future lives beyond Paramus Road, excellence in teaching almost becomes a byproduct of your daily lessons,” Saldarini said on being told of his award.
New Degrees, Programs Offer Hope for Sustainability

By Rachel Wieland

This past May Professor Robert Dill and I graduated in the first cohort at Ramapo College to receive an MS in Sustainability Studies. I was beyond thrilled to be part of the new graduate program and hoped to gain knowledge and skills to use towards ongoing sustainability projects.

As a child I spent a lot of time with my grandparents due to my mother’s ill health. My grandfather was a quick wit graduate from MIT with a degree in mechanical engineering and possibly a quicker wit in real estate development.

I watched through most of my childhood as we moved closer and closer to the bay front of Long Beach Island, eventually to live in a house looking right over the water with an expansive private beach. At a young age, I had a tremendous up-close experience of nature and of development, to which my astute love of and respect for nature probably is due.

So to get a degree in Sustainability felt like my life purpose had come full circle, with something I held so close to my heart. With that degree also came the knowledge of a world tilting in a very uncomfortable direction.

I didn’t know that we are currently in a phase of the world’s sixth extinction of species, or that geologists were toying with calling this current time period the Anthroprocene, because humans were now the major geological force on the planet. Hurricane Sandy had a deeper meaning to me, and gave me a more urgent sense of responsibility.

I can remember a few times in my life when I paused, as if something very important was moving in front of me and that I should take careful note of it. Like the time I heard that new born babies now leave their mother’s birth canal with close to 150 unnatural chemicals in them, or that our trash gets burned in the Newark incinerator only to come back and blow in the faces of our community. Plastic bags and plastic bottles looked so odd and misplaced to me after that tour. And it made sense why my doctor said that now in my 40’s I was getting asthma.

I get a strong resurgence of hope when I see colleges and universities educating students on issues of sustainability. And I dearly hope one day that BCC will set that example as well. This past semester I had a student who lost everything in Hurricane Sandy: his house and all four cars. His family was rescued by the National Guard. He now wonders about the environment too, and whether maybe he could have acquired some knowledge that would have softened the blow of this disastrous reality he now faces.

The author is a professor of mathematics in the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology, a member of the Sustainability Task Force and an advisor to the Environmental Club. She can be contacted at rwieland@bergen.edu or 201-447-7975.

BCC Professor Scores Publishing Triple-Play

James H. Zorn, a professor in the department of Composition and Literature and the Creative Writing Program, published in November a short story entitled “The War Against the Ants” in The Westchester Review, a literary journal devoted to the work of poets, essayists, and fiction writers of the Hudson Valley region. In December, Professor Zorn won second place for fiction and publication in The Seven Hills Review, a literary magazine published by the Tallahassee Writers Association, for his short story “One Torrid Night Above a Café in Leimen.” In March 2013, Professor Zorn’s short story “The Labyrinth of Space” will appear in the online science-fiction anthology Third Flatiron. Both literary journals are available through Amazon.com. Third Flatiron is available by subscription.

James H. Zorn is an assistant professor in the Department of Composition and Literature. He can be contacted at jzorn@bergen.edu or 201-493-3689.
To Be Teacher-Centered or To Be Student-Centered?

By Gang Zhou

I walked into the classroom to begin my first class at BCC, excited and a little bit nervous. I started lecturing confidently, but a few minutes later I was interrupted unexpectedly by a student. I thought something had gone wrong, but he just asked me a question to clarify something.

Later on, I found in each class I was often asked to answer questions or explain some points while I was lecturing, which made me feel somewhat uncomfortable, because this would be incredible in my class back in China.

As a researcher in intercultural communication, I was sensitive to such a cultural difference. I tried to explain the differences between two cultures and educational systems from a cross-cultural perspective. In the educational system in the US, the relationship between teachers and students tends to be equal. For example, students may address their professors by first names in class. Thus, the teaching and learning in the classroom tend to be informal.

In addition, students’ critical thinking skills are greatly valued, and students are encouraged to learn through questioning. Now I am used to being interrupted in class, though I sometimes have to resume my class struggling to recall where I was.

Back in China, Confucianism offers us a general guidance for our behaviors. In school, teachers should be respected in the way we respect our parents. In class students are not encouraged to question their teachers if they are not asked to. Otherwise, it is considered disrespect for their teachers.

Since the teaching is teacher-centered, a teacher’s authority should never be challenged. In addition, students do not ask their teacher questions in class, because they fear that their teacher may lose his/her face, if she/he fails to answer their questions, which is definitely not acceptable. This indirectly tells why Chinese or Asian students in Eastern cultures under the influence of Confucianism appear very quiet and disciplined in class.

To be teacher-centered or to be student-centered, that is really the question. What I expect to share with you is that everything has two sides; no educational system is perfect.

The author, an associate professor in the School of Foreign Languages, Dalian University of Technology in Liaoning Province, China, is a visiting Fulbright Scholar teaching English in the American Language Program and Intercultural Communication in the Communication Department of the School of Arts, Humanities and Wellness. He can be reached at 212-301-1704 or gzhou@bergen.edu.

Lyndhurst Launches Second Annual Best-Practices Conference

Bergen faculty also generously volunteered their time to moderate the program and all the panels are now filled.

Even if you were unable to present or moderate this year, we encourage all Bergen faculty to attend the event, which is free for all who attend. Those who register on the website can enjoy the complementary luncheon and keynote speaker at the midday session break. All conference information including the program is provided on the website http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/pages/Best-Practices-Conference.aspx, which will be updated soon with the registration form. We look forward to seeing all of you on March 9.

The author is an assistant professor in the Department of History and coordinator of the Tri-State Best Practices Conference. She can be reached at sshurts@bergen.edu or (201) 301-1261.
An Unusual Road – Part of it Under Water – Leads to Academe

By Skip (William) Huisking

The path that led me to the business department of Bergen Community College has been both rewarding and unorthodox.

I grew up on Long Island, N.Y., in a period of dramatic change in the United States and the world. One of my early passions was music – I attended the original Woodstock concert, and played bass guitar for Wilson Pickett in a few shows.

But recognizing that my chances of being a rock star were limited, I earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, and an MBA from the University of Connecticut.

I spent 30 years in the global pharmaceutical business, retiring as CEO of the $500 million Specialty Chemical Division of the Alusuisse/Lonza Corporation.

With my three children grown and out of college, I thought then that I was entering the “relaxing” stage of my life. Little did I know!

I began to devote more time to another passion of my youth, SCUBA diving. I obtained my license to teach diving, and was soon leading expeditions around the world for Blue Water Divers, the Northeast’s preeminent dive company.

My most interesting trip was to Papua New Guinea, where we located a ditched B-17 at a 145-foot depth. Later research determined it had crashed in July, 1943 after a bombing run. We were able to locate the last surviving crew member, a radio operator living in Belleville, N.J. He and I have become friends, and present programs to veterans and other groups.

In 2003, my life took another unexpected turn, when my wife and I and other family members traveled to China to meet our new daughter, Grace. Now about to turn 11, Grace has become an integral part of our family. An excellent dancer (a talent she clearly didn’t learn from me), she recently performed on Katie Couric’s talk show.

Believing that my experiences in my career and in life could benefit others, I started at BCC as an adjunct in 2006, and became a full-time member of the business department in 2009. It has been a great experience both learning and contributing.

While I didn’t have a teacher’s traditional background, my feeling is that running a successful business as I did demands that a leader know how to educate and motivate his or her staff. I truly believe that I was teaching during my entire business career – particularly in the last 10 years while responsible for a fast-growing global division at Alusuisse/Lonza.

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An Unusual Road – Part of it Under Water – Leads to Academe  

Being very technology-driven, I am enjoying helping to revamp some of BCC’s courses so they are more relevant to today’s business culture and to the changing needs of our students in an ever-evolving economy. I also hope to share a valuable personal lesson with my students: Setting goals is important, but growth also comes when you are open to the unexpected twists and turns that life presents you.

The author is an assistant professor of business in the School of Business, Social Sciences and Public Service. He can be reached at whuisking@bergen.edu or 201-493-3516.

Dinner Honoring Faculty Scholars and Artists Planned for April 11

By Suzaan Boettger

The faculty culture at Bergen is changing. Five years ago, in my keynote talk at the inaugural dinner honoring productive scholars and artists among BCC faculty I argued that the number of us holding research degrees—Ph.D.s— or the terminal fine arts M.F.A. degree challenged the old polarity between community colleges as teaching institutions and universities as places where knowledge is not just professed but generated.

Currently the institutions’ divergent emphases remain evident in the disparate class loads and faculty research support. But just as apparent, the number of both university-bound students studying with us their first two years and of university-qualified professors joining our faculty evince an evolving academic shift – as in so many areas of society – toward blended and fluid identities.

Since that dinner organized by Faculty Development, additional faculty with impressive degrees and sustained intellectual
Meadowlands Library Expands as Second Year Begins

By Michelle Strassberg

The BCC Library at the Meadowlands has grown roots and is spreading its wings. In concert with Tutoring and Testing and with student computing support, there is a library / learning environment growing to meet the needs of faculty, staff and students.

New staffing arrangements support the Meadowlands library to offer seamless service. Circulation staff is on hand during all open library hours, and a reference librarian is always available, whether in person or via virtual reference services.

The library houses an up-to-date classroom for library instruction, and textbooks for all classes offered at the Meadowlands campus are available from our Reserve collection for in-library use. Recently a collection of popular reading titles was made available for checkout.

These titles will change frequently and will reflect many current fiction, some non-fiction and popular biography titles. In addition, one silent- and three group-study rooms are available for use, featuring flat panel televisions that may be used for PowerPoint and other presentations. The spaces are designed to promote group study and group presentation work. Wireless Internet is available throughout the library for all current faculty, staff and students.

In the spirit of continuous service, there is now a fully-functional Inter-Library Loan delivery system between the Paramus and Meadowlands libraries. Any faculty, staff or student may fill out an online Meadowlands Library Delivery Request form to have materials sent directly to them at either campus. (Please note in the form if items need to be sent from the Meadowlands to Paramus.)

In addition, the Meadowlands Tutoring Center, which shares space with the library, is available for students every weekday for testing services and tutoring in Math, English, Writing and Humanities classes.


The author is a reference librarian at the Sidney Silverman Library. She can be contacted at mstrassberg@bergen.edu or 201-447-7436.

Congratulations to Professor Dan Salerno, Composition and Literature Department, and his wife Carey as they welcome a new addition to their family.

Isaiah Emanuel Salerno born on January 5, 2012
Department of Dental Hygiene Accreditation Affirmed

By Deborah Cook

The Department of Dental Hygiene underwent its accreditation site visit on December 4 and 5, 2012, rescheduled from October 30 and 31 thanks to Hurricane Sandy. Our site visitors were dental hygiene program directors from Lake Superior College in Minnesota and Kingwood College in Texas.

Prior to their visit, our department faculty prepared our self-study documents which consisted of six standards:

Standard One, Institutional Effectiveness, addressed items such as planning and assessment, financial support, institutional accreditation, and community resources.

Standard Two, Educational Program, evaluated instruction, admissions, and curriculum, which required an in-depth study of each course taught in the department.

Standard Three, Administration, Faculty, and Staff, looked at the program administrator, full time and part time faculty and staff, and faculty development / continuing education.

Standard Four, Educational Support Services, assessed our clinical, radiographic, laboratory, and classroom facilities, as well as our library / learning resources and student services.

Standard Five, Health and Safety Provisions, appraised policies and procedures related to infectious disease and blood-borne pathogens, radiation management, and medical and other emergencies.

Standard Six, Patient Care Services, examined the scope of dental hygiene care provided to our patients, including quality assurance mechanisms such as our chart audits and patient surveys.

Our two days consisted of meetings and interviews by our site visitors with administration, admissions, individual faculty, and our advisory board. In addition, they also spoke to our students collectively in a classroom setting and individually in the clinical setting. They toured the dental hygiene labs, the clinic, the sterilization facility, and the library.

Their final meeting with the faculty revealed that we did not receive any recommendations (which are items that must be addressed within a specific time frame) and only one suggestion, an item to be addressed before our next site visit in 2019!

The author is an assistant professor in and chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene. She can be contacted at dcook@bergen.edu or 201-612-5390.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING—FEBRUARY

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<td>February 25, Wednesday</td>
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<td>February 26, Tuesday</td>
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Honors Program Schedules Active Spring Semester

By Jessica Datema, Ph.D., Jennifer Lyden and Geoffrey Sadock, Ph.D.

The Bergen Community College Judith K. Winn School of Honors has many exciting events planned for Spring 2013.

Mark your calendars now for Honors Week, April 8-12, 2013. Acclaimed author Mary Karr will offer a public lecture in TEC 128 at 1:40 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2013. There will also be a special seminar with the writer for interested faculty and students in the same room at 11am. Mary Karr has multiple publications, including The Liar’s Club, Lit and Cherry. This event is co-sponsored by the Literary Arts Series; a research guide for the author can be found at http://bergen.libguides.com/las.

The following day, April 12th, students from Bergen and beyond will present their work at the Bergen Honors Conference. Students in any discipline are welcome to submit their work for potential inclusion in the conference. Details about conference submissions can be found on the Honors website: http://www.bergen.edu/honors. Honors Week will also include a panel discussion on Proto-Cinematic Investigations, an exhibit planned for the Spring at Gallery Bergen. All events are open to all and we invite you to bring your classes.

Finally, last fall the Honors Association student club conducted elections online and voter participation nearly doubled. The Spring 2013 Honors Association officers are: President - Sunny Glottmann, Vice President - Norman Shafto, Secretary - Elsina Lamcaj, Treasurer - Aidan Bazikian, Newsletter Editor - David (Dae Hyun) Ahn, Publicist - Nita Lim.

The Judith K. Winn School of Honors relies on faculty involvement and appreciates your continued support. FYI, any student with a 3.4 GPA or higher is eligible to enroll in Honors classes. Please encourage your outstanding students to visit the Honors Office in A-336 to obtain a registration waiver.

The authors are co-directors of the Judith K. Winn School of Honors and professors in the School of Arts, Humanities and Wellness. They can be contacted at jdatema@bergen.edu or 201-689-7039, jlyden@bergen.edu or 201-493-3540, and gsadock@bergen.edu or 201-447-9284.
and creative engagement have joined our ranks, exacerbating erosion of the old bifurcation of sites of higher education. Bergen, large, close to the vital cosmopolis of New York City, and a beneficiary of that proximity in its hiring, is distinctly not – if it ever was – solely a “teaching institution” where faculty do not engage in non-pedagogically-utilitarian, intellectually-driven and creative work.

For some, the research training, scholarly and creative curiosity and professional ambitiousness inherent in earning a substantial academic credential propel them beyond their achievement of the degree. Others may be academically en route or on a different path altogether. Whatever the process, some faculty, by dedication and grit, manage to teach classes, contribute to committees, have a life (somewhat), and produce analytical, intellectual, and/or creative work.

But beyond schmoozing at meetings, how would any of us know that about colleagues? The series of intellectual guest speakers that brought people together to discuss ideas, formerly presented by the Office of Student Life, has ceased. Faculty conferences have constricted to relentlessly parsing assessment. So this semester, our most productive colleagues will be selected to socialize together and be honored at the third Faculty Scholars & Artists Dinner April 11, and will be identified in a future issue of Faculty Focus.

All faculty members (any rank, fulltime or not) are invited to identify their publications, external lectures, compositions and exhibitions produced since the last Scholars Dinner cut off date March 2010. Also indicate your interest, if so, in delivering this year’s 20-minute keynote address and let us know how you would address the topic of “Faculty Scholarship at the Community College.” To encourage faculty doing such work to respond, we offer an adaptation of Milton’s adage, “True it is that covetousness sups, while modesty starves.”

Please identify your achievements by filling out the following form:

Submission Deadline is March 10, 2013

Questions or comments can be directed to Annemarie Roscello, Faculty Development Chair, at aroscello@bergen.edu or 201-612-5569

The author is an associate professor of art history in the Department of Visual Arts. During her sabbatical year 2011-12, she worked on a book in process on artists’ environmentalism. She can be contacted at sboettger@bergen.edu or 201-612-5280.
Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation’s New Initiatives

By Thomas La Pointe

Several innovative initiatives are in the works at the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation (CPJR) this semester.

CPJR is pleased to announce that Bergen Community College has been granted a license to host a TED event on April 26. Bergen is one of only 20 colleges and universities in the country to receive this honor. During a TED event, speakers talk for no more than 15 minutes, and are videotaped for inclusion in the award-winning TED Talks video site. In keeping with our mission, the talks will revolve around the theme of forgiveness.

CPJR will also launch a series of professional development workshops for Bergen County high school educators. The workshops are designed to help teachers fulfill the NJ state standard that mandates the teaching of genocide in secondary schools, with a particular focus on the genocide of Armenians.

Working with the Office of Student Life, CPJR will continue to host the “United Nations Ambassador Series: Dialogue, Discussion, and Debate,” with a special focus this semester on women representatives. As part of the series, ambassadors visit Bergen to offer insight into the challenges facing citizens of the global community.

CPJR will offer another round of grants to faculty interested in designing projects related to the mission of the center, sponsor the annual Peace Scholarship Challenge for students, and launch its internship program.

If you are interested in learning more about the Center, feel free to contact me or another member of the steering committee below, or stop by our new office in room S-132.

Charles Bordogna (extension 5246 or cbordogna@bergen.edu)
David Eichenholtz (extension 7617 or deichenholtz@bergen.edu)
Ellen Feig (extension 1243 or efeig@bergen.edu)
Cristina Haedo (extension 3554 or chaedo@bergen.edu)
Bonnie MacDougall (on leave)

The author is an assistant professor in the English Department and a member of the steering committee of the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. He can be contacted at tlapointe@bergen.edu or 201-674-2675.

Reminder Faculty Conference
Change of Date
February 26, 2013
3:30-5:50pm in TEC128