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College launches “President’s Circle” fund raising initiative to support BCC programs

Community leaders joined together to support Berkeley City College at an inaugural President’s Circle fund raising dinner Thur., Dec. 1, at downtown Berkeley’s Alborz Restaurant. The event raised approximately $26,750 for college programs.

Dinner organizers were Dr. Betty Inclan, BCC president; Laura McCrea of Berkeley’s Laura McCrea and Associates; advisory board members Gene Agress, chief executive officer, Berkeley Mills; John Caner, executive director of the Downtown Berkeley Association; Alan Davis, Starlight Investments entrepreneur; Jonathan DeYoe, president, DeYoe Wealth Management; Dave Kent, Berkeley Mills cofounder; Soheyl Modarressi, real estate developer and Alborz Restaurant proprietor; and Lan Shaw, financial advisor, Edward Jones Co.

Modarressi donated Alborz as an event venue and provided dinner for approximately 60 guests.

The President’s Circle supports four primary areas: Biotechnology and Bioscience; Multimedia Arts; Foundations (Basic Skills); and the Opportunity Fund (unrestricted use).

Donations are deposited into a “Friends of Berkeley City College” account of the Peralta Colleges Foundation.

“We hope to see the President’s Circle grow into a valuable fund raising resource for Berkeley City College,” said Dr. Inclan. “This year, we have earmarked several signature college programs for support; more will be included in the future.”

Other event coordinators included Hannah Chauvet, who produced “Building Community Through Student Success,” a pre-dinner film which guests enjoyed at Berkeley City College; Victor Flint, student ambassador coordinator; Shirley Fogarino, public information officer; Bryan Gibbs, audiovisual services supervisor; Cynthia Reese, assistant to the president; Shirley Slaughter, business officer; and business office staff Dwayne Cain, chief custodian; Javier Lopez, storekeeper; and John Pang, business services supervisor.

To donate to the President’s Circle or to Friends of Berkeley City College, go to www.berkeleycitycollege.edu and click on “Support Berkeley City College” on the right hand side of BCC’s home page.

A complete donor list will be published on the President’s Circle web site and in the next issue of BCC Today.
Did you know?

Winter Break takes place Dec. 22 thru Jan. 3?

Professional Days take place Jan. 19-21?

Spring classes begin Mon., Jan. 24?

The last day to add full-term classes is Sat., Feb. 5?

Tue., Feb. 8, is the last day to drop classes and receive a refund?

Census Day is Mon., Feb. 14?

President’s Day holiday is Thur., Feb. 18 thru Mon., Feb. 21?

President’s Message

by Dr. Betty Inclan

Berkeley City College can take great pride in its achievements this year. The college continues to provide quality instruction and services, even with diminishing resources. Here are several examples of memorable accomplishments in 2010.

• The college’s retention rate moved from 63.5% to 74.2%, a significant upward trend.
• BCC collaborated with PCCD to address District accreditation recommendations.
• All program reviews were completed, and budget requests were linked to plans identified through program review.
• BCC successfully illustrated the disparity in the number of full-time faculty employed at our college. A faculty prioritization process completed by the college was endorsed by Peralta’s Education Committee and Planning and the Budget Integration Council (PBIC).

• BCC completed the first year of a $2 million, five-year Title III grant. Grant coordinators organized and conducted workshops on learning outcomes assessment with SLO-expert Mary Allen, and trained 40 instructors; a Faculty Inquiry Network surveyed students about how to improve teaching and learning; Global Awareness Week events were linked to global awareness learning outcomes; and peer-to-peer student mentorship was strengthened. These are only a few examples of how Title III has strengthened BCC and fostered student success.
• BCC received its first federal TRIO grant to support a 140-student cohort and to provide integrated student services for the group.
• BCC strengthened its partnership with Emery High School by offering on-site classes there; BCC also expanded its contract education program with Aspire Charter Schools.
• The college further broadened its community links by staging art exhibits and creating public murals in its service area cities.
• BCC’s student ambassador program continued as the ambassadors assisted hundreds of students who visited BCC’s Welcome Center. The group also reached out to high schools and middle schools, and engaged in community service activities.
• The college’s university transfers continued to soar; BCC is fifth in the state in the number of transfers to the University of California system.
• BCC inaugurated its President’s Circle, hosting a Dec. 1 fund raising dinner for business and community leaders; the effort generated $26,750 for college programs.

All of our accomplishments were the result of an exemplary commitment to excellence by faculty, staff, students and administrators. BCC’s indomitable spirit, resourcefulness at a time of financial challenge and unwavering dedication to students, make possible our success.

The President’s Circle

BCC continues its tradition of service and community involvement. This fall, the college launched the President’s Circle. This endeavor will help sustain the college in an era of economic challenges, will support the college’s signature programs, and will showcase BCC as an engine for economic vitality in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. I am fortunate to work with a group of dedicated community members who serve on the President’s Circle advisory committee. They are Gene Agress, John Caner, Alan Davis, Jonathan DeYoe, David Kent, Soheyl Modarressi, and Lan Shaw. Read about the President’s Circle inaugural dinner on p. 1 of this issue of BCC Today. A special thank you to Soheyl Modarressi for hosting the dinner at Alborz Restaurant. I shall keep you informed about President’s Circle activities.

Budget predictions.

There is not yet a clear picture of the impact of the current state deficit on the 2011-2012 budget. However, we realize that California’s budget deficit could exceed $28.1 billion. There also exists a threat of mid-year cuts. Peralta and its colleges, including Berkeley City College, have a lean 2010-11 budget, and mid-year cuts could be devastating. There also is speculation that promised growth funding for next year may evaporate. Approved by voters in 1988, Prop. 98 guaranteed a portion of the state’s general fund to K-12 and community colleges. In reality, Prop. 98 has been used as a maximum funding amount for these entities. Experts describe this phenomenon as “a (funding) ceiling rather than a floor”.

BCC will carefully review its expenditures and follow the guidelines outlined by Chancellor Wise Allen. Even with our rapid growth in the last four years, the college never has

(see p. 3, column 2)
SB1440 guarantees admission to CSUs from state’s community colleges

Community college students who graduate with a “C” average or better will be guaranteed admission to California State University as juniors beginning next fall under a bill signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The governor described SB1440, introduced by Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Pacoima (Los Angeles County), as a “monumental step forward for California’s higher education system.”

Under the new law, California’s public community colleges also will be required to offer associate degrees comprised only of courses acceptable for transfer. Currently, students at two-year schools often are confused about what classes are transferable. While they need only 60 units to transfer, studies show that the state’s community college students complete an average of 80 units, many of them nontransferable.

Oscar Grant’s Uncle Bobby tells of late nephew’s plight

“Speaking Out about Oscar Grant and the Fight for Justice,” sponsored by Berkeley City College’s Global Studies Club, featured the late Oscar Grant’s Uncle Bobby who addressed a diverse BCC audience about the family’s and community’s ordeal and their resulting quest for justice. The event took place at the college Thur., Oct. 21. Students, faculty, staff and community members listened to Grant’s uncle and viewed a digital film capture of the New Year’s Eve 2009 tragedy. They then discussed the strengths and weaknesses of America’s justice system and how incidents which took the life of Oscar Grant could be prevented in the future.

Grant’s uncle also spoke about the aftermath of his nephew’s death and of the effects that it had on their family. He told the audience that it was important to empower and educate people to understand and monitor law enforcement agencies and the courts.

A full presentation of “Speaking Out for Justice” can be viewed on p-span, part of peralta.tv, at http://pspanperalta.blogspot.com.

President’s Message
(from p. 2, column 2)

- received necessary funding to maintain essential student services. BCC staffing remains the lowest of all Peralta Colleges.
- Still, we meet our enrollment targets and diligently monitor and manage our budget to “live within our means.” Vice Chancellor Ron Gerhard has spent time with BCC stakeholders to explain the budget and District finances. He is committed to making the budget process more transparent and we truly appreciate those efforts.
- Holiday wishes.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you and to our community partners. When I meet with community members, they often describe our wonderful college as “the gem of downtown Berkeley.” All of you are the best of ambassadors and I am delighted to reassert my pride in serving BCC.

May you have a happy and restful holiday season. I look forward to seeing you when we return for the spring semester.

With deep appreciation and gratitude,

Dr. Betty Inclan, President

ASBCC’s officers assume new responsibilities

Officers of the Associated Students of Berkeley City College (ASBCC), elected for the 2010-11 academic year, are:

- Sharon Clegg, VP/Administration, who is responsible for ASBCC operations.
- Taheerah Mujahid, VP/Programs, who is responsible for Inter-Club Council activities.
- CeCe Villasenor, Secretary
- Reinaldi Guilder, Chief Communications Officer
- ASBCC Senators are Giovana Giscome, Taylor Jones, Edison Lin, Selam Mulatu, and Tania Smith

ASBCC officers will serve during the 2010-11 academic year.
CA Legislative Analyst’s Office forecasts community college funding thru 2016

A five year forecast by the state’s Legislative Analyst’s Office shows a difficult state budget situation ahead, the Community College League of California reports.

The state’s General Fund faces a $25+ billion deficit, which is made up of the impact of the current year imbalance ($6+ billion), drops in revenues from expiring temporary taxes, one-time transfers ($9.7 billion) and scheduled expenditure increases ($10.2 billion). As the “Test 1” guarantee takes over, the minimum Prop. 98 funding level will drop next year by $2.2 billion because of a state general fund decline.

For community colleges, 2011 will continue to present significant programmatic challenges. Assuming no new state revenues (which would call for a Prop. 98 increase), funding available for community colleges is likely to drop by $255 million. That alone is a large number, since community colleges already have spent $129 million via a next-year deferral. While that number can be offset by “rolling” the deferral ahead into 2012-13, it makes it that much more difficult to fix the hole next year.

For that reason, the Legislative Analyst’s Office has encouraged the state legislature to consider repealing Prop. 98 augmentations that were funded through a deferral into next year. This includes 2.2% enrollment growth funding provided to community colleges.

Mid-year changes also are likely. California has run out of creative accounting options. The latest news suggests that budget changes will occur before the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Even so, community college exposure may be reduced by political support behind enrollment growth.

A five-year community college funding forecast (assuming a consistent share of Prop. 98 and no significant new tax revenues) is:

• 2010-11: 50% likelihood of mid-year cuts (Prop. 98 suspended)
• 2011-12: -$254 million (-4.5%)
• 2012-13: +$79 million (+1.5%)
• 2013-14: +$278 million (+5%)
• 2014-15: +$303 million (+5.2%)
• 2015-16: +$317 million (+5.2%)

The figures above assume a community college share of Prop. 98: 11.5% in 2010-11 and 2011-12, declining to 11% for the remainder of the forecast period.

While this forecast suggests that community colleges may receive enough money for COLA and growth by 2013-14, this may not be possible if the state does not have funds to pay for it. The Legislative Analyst’s forecast shows a $20+ billion operating shortfall in four of the next five years, with it dropping to $19 billion by 2015-16. Without a surprise economic boom, it is difficult to see how California can generate additional taxes, program cuts or a combination of the two to fix this structural problem. The state could annually place the issue of Prop. 98 suspension on the legislative agenda, and nullify a formerly more optimistic projection for community colleges.
Students, faculty connect, collaborate at Jerry L. Adams Learning Resources Center and Gallery

Each day, dozens of students work with faculty, fellow students, instructional assistants, and tutors to master the intricacies of mathematics, English and science, core subjects whose mastery is necessary for college and occupational success. Their progress through this foundational knowledge and other more advanced subjects takes place in the Jerry L. Adams Learning Resources Center and Art Gallery, located on the first floor of Berkeley City College.

As they study, demonstrate, and discuss, students are surrounded by some of the most creative artistry in the Bay Area. Revolving exhibits from Berkeley City College’s Art and Multimedia Arts departments are displayed year round and also are appreciated by passersby who daily stroll down Center St.

It is one example of how creativity and collaboration mesh in a building which houses 7, 800+ students each semester.

The Adams Center would make its namesake proud. The late and much respected Vista Community College and East Bay Skills Center mathematics instructor was a Peralta faculty member for more than 35 years. He would delight in viewing the daily interactions among those who each day learn together, help each other and “keep their eyes on the prize,” which Adams regularly advised his students to do.

The center is connected to a network of integrated student resources. Assessment and testing offices and classrooms are conveniently close, as is the college’s student ambassador office. The Susan A. Duncan Library is immediately down the hall, and links with BCC’s Student Welcome Center, admissions office, transfer and career information center, and cashier’s office on the same level. Together, they form a convenient hub where students can easily progress through registration and Matriculation processes.

Inside the Adams Center, people continually work together to foster student success.

“My tutor helps me recall the topics my instructor is teaching in English 1A and English 5,” said Daria Pizziol, a PACE student who returned to college after more than 10 years. “Christian makes smart suggestions about how to improve my skills; it’s nice to have a writing coach to reinforce the fact that I can do it.”

BCC hosts 2010 East Bay Alternative Press fest

Berkeley City College hosted the 2010 East Bay Alternative Press Festival, Sat., Dec. 11, in the college’s atrium, auditorium and classrooms.

More than 40 alternative press representatives shared their wares and creativity at the event. The group also hosted panels, readings, workshops and other activities throughout the day.

Zinester and BCC English instructor Tom Moniz of Rad Dad Zine, M.K. Chavez of Cherry Bleeds Press and Berkeley City College’s own Milvia Street contributors, organized the one-day event to celebrate the amazing quality and diversity of the East Bay Area’s independent writers and publishers.

Want to know more about the East Bay’s alternative press? Contact Tom Moniz at tomas.moniz@gmail.com; M.K. Chavez at alittlebrownsparrow@yahoo.com; or East Bay Alternative Press at ebapbookfair@gmail.com.

BCC featured in Italian 150th nationhood anniversary fest

Berkeley City College is featured in a souvenir “bandanna” commemorating the 150th anniversary of Italy’s nationhood. Dr. Laura Ruberto, co-chair of BCC’s Arts and Cultural Studies Department, is working with the Italian Consulate and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco to organize a series of events for the commemoration. Events and celebrations are scheduled throughout 2011.

Civic Engagement Club shines in Nov. food drive

A huge round of applause, cheer, and congratulations to BCC’s Civic Engagement Club. The group hosted a November food/fund drive for Alameda County’s Community Food Bank. Volunteers raised $240 and received 250 food items!
BCC student ambassador Esteem Brumfield honored at Peralta Colleges Foundation dinner

A hot, humid, dimly lit classroom in India this summer was home for Berkeley City College sophomore Esteem Brumfield. He and BCC alumna Tenzin Seldon, a junior at Stanford University, spent nine weeks teaching critical thinking and leadership skills to 25 high school seniors.

In Tibetan Children’s Village School classrooms, paper peeled off mold-covered walls, windows stood broken, and the temperature daily pushed beyond 100° F. Still, students and teachers thrived.

“I chose India because I’m familiar with Eastern philosophy and culture,” Brumfield said.

It proved a good starting point. Within a few short weeks, 25 formerly very shy pupils were standing in front of the class, voicing their opinions on topics such as race, gender, religion, economics, and nationalism.

At the 7th Annual Peralta Colleges Foundation dinner, held Thur., Oct. 21, Brumfield told his story and thanked the foundation for supporting students who attend Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College, and Merritt College.

Focus and determination.

Brumfield’s experience in India was just one step on his path toward becoming a teacher and attorney. He first enrolled in BCC in 2008.

Determined to earn an associate degree in liberal arts, he plans a 2011 transfer to Harvard University.

Brumfield’s background was different from that of most California youth who start their higher education at a community college. He was home taught and never attended public school.

“I had studied math up to algebra and did lots of reading, but there was no emphasis placed on writing, so another reason I came to BCC was to learn to write,” he recalled.

Unique challenges.

Another factor that set him apart from college peers was that he had no social security number. It took four years, from the time he was 18 until he reached age 22, to procure one.

“I was trying to get established with an ID and a job, but without a social security number, it was impossible,” he said.

After leaving home at 18, Brumfield found himself living in a shelter. Still, no matter what the situation, he remained focused on school. “As Oprah says, whenever you run into an obstacle, you ask what is that situation here to teach me. College is a place you can learn to overcome challenges.”

Helping others.

Brumfield makes the most of his college experience and serves at BCC as a student ambassador.

“He can’t think of another instance where you impact so many people’s lives—from telling students where their classes are, to giving

(see p. 7, column 2)
Esteem Brumfield addresses PCF audience

presentations and talking to high school and middle school kids about the importance of college.

“I believe in helping others and want to do it every day; you can reach the top and pull people up or you can pull people up while you’re climbing,” he observed. “I want people to be beside me as I proceed on my journey. It is a journey that we all share. I do it every day in the best way I can.”

Reaching back.

Brumfield’s experience shows first-hand how determination and hard work, combined with the accessibility and affordability of community colleges, can enable a person to reach their goals.

“When I was living in the homeless shelter, the people I lived with said they wished they could go back to school,” he explained. “I kept telling them that they could go back, apply for financial aid and get a job. They saw me going to college and believed they could do it, too.”

A woman who lived in the shelter now attends BCC.

“Coming right out of assessment, students have a better understanding how BCC’s resources are closely connected,” Pendleton observed. “I encourage everyone to use the LRC. It’s quiet in here and people can always drop in for tutoring. They can get a lot done.”

Enriching challenges.

Brumfield’s community college experience has provided him with life-enriching challenges and has opened a world of new possibilities.

“BCC has given me so much. I am extremely grateful and I’m learning a lot about my capabilities,” he said. “College is challenging in a good way and allows you to go beyond any self-imposed limits.”
Peralta Flex Days:
Wed. thru Fri., Jan. 19-21

Peralta Flex (Professional Development) Days are slated for Wed., Jan. 19 thru Fri., Jan. 21. Location for the Jan. 19 District Flex Day is at Merritt College and begins at 8:30 a.m. Districtwide workshops and activities also take place Jan. 19, while college-centered activities are scheduled Thurs. and Fri., Jan. 20-21. The Peralta Colleges are open during regular business hours on all Flex Days.

A Flex Day schedule will be e-mailed to all Peralta employees. Contact Alexis Alexander (aalexander@peralta.edu) for details or to propose a workshop activity by Fri., Dec. 17.

BCC Dec.-Jan. Calendar

December
• Thur., Dec. 16—
  1:30-3:30 p.m., EOPS Staff, Rm. 451A
  Noon-1 p.m., BSU, Rm. 451A
  5-6 p.m., BSU, Rm. 451A
• Fri., Dec. 17—
  5-6 p.m., Digital Arts Club, Rm. 451A&B
  Fall 2010 Semester Ends
• Wed., Dec. 22—
  Furlough Day
• Thur., Dec. 23-Sun., Dec. 2
  Winter Break
• Mon., Jan. 3—
  Furlough Day
• Mon., Jan. 17—Holiday
  The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday Observance
• Wed., Jan. 19—
  Peralta Professional Day
• Thur., Jan. 20—
  College Professional Day
• Fri., Jan. 21—
  College Professional Day
• Wed., Jan. 26—
  Noon-1:30 p.m., Aca. Senate, Rm. 451A

A full, generous and gracious life: Friends bid farewell to BCC art instructor Rosalie Cassell

This article was written by Toni Mester, who taught with Ms. Cassell in Vista College’s Art Department. Read the full text in the Wed., Oct. 27 e-issue of the Berkeley Daily Planet (www.berkeleydailyplanet.com). Rosalie Cassell last taught at Berkeley City College in spring 2010.

Artist Rosalie Ann Cassell, a long-time resident of Berkeley and BCC instructor for more than 25 years, died Sept. 27 at age 63 after a courageous battle with cancer, her partner John McCord at her side.

“The local art world has lost one of its loveliest lights,” said McCord, a musician who lived with Cassell during the last twelve years, one of the most productive periods in her long career as a painter.

“She was a dedicated and inspirational teacher who first and foremost was committed to her students and to their art education,” wrote BCC Vice-President Krista Johns, “She influenced many lives using creativity, imagination, and an unshakable devotion to artistic expression.” She last taught at BCC in spring 2010.

Cassell also taught painting, drawing, color theory, and art appreciation for fifteen years at Pittsburg’s Los Medanos College, where she was director of the art gallery, and displayed her work in the college’s annual faculty show.

Over her long career, Cassell taught thousands of students and produced several hundred paintings.

“There are three aspects to being an artist,” she once said, “Doing the work, paying the rent, and engaging in the business of art. I only had time for the first two.”

Cassell’s widely exhibited acrylic paintings fell into two categories: the purely abstract, often flowing and fractal-like forms that she termed “cellular abstraction” and figurative studies, usually nudes taken from studio models set within an abstract landscape, which she said represented “us and the cosmos.”

Her signature style was forged in the the women’s movement of the 1970’s, when she collaborated with influential feminist artist and educator Diane Rusnak, also a former Vista and BCC instructor, and others in collectives and salons that not only raised the consciousness but also freed the creative energies of women artists who had been taught traditional male dominated methods and modalities.

Rusnak remained a close friend. She recalled Cassell’s contributions to the women’s art community.

“She introduced us to Emily Carr,” said Rusnak, remembering the Canadian painter and Cassell’s annual summer pilgrimages to Alert Bay in British Columbia, a source of inspiration for both artists.

As a student at Brooklyn College where she received her bachelor’s degree in art, her emphasis was sculpture and black and white photography. She spent several years traveling and residing in cities throughout the world and in the early 1970s moved to the East Bay where she later earned a master’s degree from JFK University.

Cassell pioneered women’s art courses in adult education and extension programs throughout the Bay Area. These endeavors led her to community college teaching, which became a life-long passion.