Behind Campus Life

This year Berkeley City College welcomed Mostafa Ghous as the Director of Student Activities and Campus Life. In the past, Mostafa has worked extensively with community colleges in California to promote student involvement on campus. At Solano Community College, Mostafa worked with the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Program (MESA), mentoring and leading students to fulfill their academic endeavors, successfully. At Berkeley City College, Mostafa is looking forward to helping students build personal and professional skills in order to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in their own communities and in global matters. Shirley Fogarino, BCC Today, Fall, 2013.

Liliana Rojas is the new Interim Staff Assistant for the Office of Campus Life. She studied at the College of Alameda before transferring to UC Riverside and received her Associates Degree and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. Liliana is excited to play a role in shaping the life and activities on campus.

Rudrani Ghosh is a first year student at Berkeley City College and is a recent addition to the Campus Life team as the Student Assistant and Peer Resource Advisor. Rudrani is looking forward to working on campus, in order to engage the many talents and personalities at BCC and give the campus its own character.

Student Ambassadors of Berkeley College

By Rita Wilson, Brianna Bowers and Tenzin Kyizom

From the moment a student enters Berkeley City College, the individual is filled with purpose and determination. However, it may not always be easy or obvious to them as to how to utilize this drive to achieve academic and social success. The experiences of a student, including their failures and successes in their academic journey, are contributing factors to their cumulative success and are important aspects of their academic careers and performance at Berkeley City College. Being exposed to a new environment and the large amount of students can be intimidating. Berkeley City College’s Outreach and Ambassador Program was implemented in order to assist many such needs of new and continuing students at BCC.

The program works with students in the hopes of achieving a higher success rate of matriculating students from BCC. The students that work with the Ambassador Program are often the first faces that students see upon entering the college. We, the ambassadors, are the liaison between students and faculty members, and we attempt to provide students with the best resources so that they can be efficient and successful in their endeavors at Berkeley City College. The main priority of Student Ambassadors is making the journey of each student as simple yet enriching as possible, and by proudly accepting this role we have succeeded in providing a warm, loving and inspiring community here at Berkeley City College.

When we asked fellow Ambassadors—Brianna Bowers about her contributions as member of the program, she recalled, “I didn’t know the scale of impact we had on students’ lives until I reflected on the number of students who come back to thank us not only at the desk but also around campus. I know our purpose of course, and the extent of success we have in helping students, but I guess, our connections with the students, goes beyond just helping them as a peer. I look at the people I help out as my friends, friends who I would help succeed and I’d do anything for them to reach their goals, and if I know of the resources, why wouldn’t I do it?”

This kind of sincerity is what makes the Ambassador Program a success.

These Student Ambassadors are peers and classmates, but behind the desk they are more than that. Experienced and knowledgeable about the culture and community at Berkeley City College, these individuals use their work opportunity to positively affect people. Rita Wilson, lead Ambassador for nearly three semesters, states, “The Ambassador Program has changed my life drastically. I have learned to become more professional and committed to everything I do. And I, myself, have been able to focus my own aspirations so that I can someday become the woman I desire to be, in the professional world.”

One thing is certain: there would be no faculty, no staff and no Ambassador Program without the student body. The students at Berkeley City College are communicative and cooperative, and the Student Ambassadors are willing to work hard and go through great lengths to provide the student body with the resources they need to succeed in becoming what they aspire to be. The Ambassador Program welcomes outgoing and dedicated students, who are interested in becoming members and making a difference in the lives of students at Berkeley City College.

For more information, please contact: bccambassador@gmail.com
Dr. Tony DeRose, a senior scientist and research group leader at Pixar Studios, spoke at Berkeley City College, on September 11, 2013. In his lecture, he explains the significance of Mathematics in the animation world and in modern cinema. Dr. DeRose’s talk focuses on the usage of certain mathematical formulas to create the complex movements of characters, and demonstrates how a small change in the coefficient of a formula can alter the desired motion or image of the character. Through his involvement with science fairs for young students, Dr. DeRose encourages students to study Mathematics and the sciences in order to become successful in creative career paths.

MSRI Lecture Series

February 12, 2014
Music, Computing, People
Ge Wang, Stanford University

March 12, 2014
Science Denialism
Eugenie Scott, National Center for Science Education

April 9, 2014
Brain-Computer Interfaces
Krishna Shenoy, Stanford University

The Archimedes Society of the Mathematical Science Research Institute and Berkeley City College present:

“Not On the Test: The Pleasures and Uses of Mathematics”

This lecture series is free and is open to the public!
The lectures are held on Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M.—8:15 P.M. in the Auditorium.

SLIVER
2132 Center Street
(down the street from campus)
Open: 11:30 A.M.—10:00 P.M.,
Monday—Saturday
www.sliverpizzeria.com
A Close Reading of the Title of This Newsletter

By Adán Olmedo

The title of this newsletter literally reads, “Center of attention.”—a fragment, but it is not a fragment; it is a symbolic fragment, for symbolically it implies something along these lines: “________ is the center of attention.” That is, contributors and participants in campus life, through their written contributions and physical participation, define what becomes the “center of attention.” For instance, in this edition, Berkeley City College’s student-run clubs are the “center of attention.”

Become the center of attention by sending your contribution and campus life experiences to bcccampuslife@gmail.com.
The 2013 Fall Club Rush was a fun and informative event. Every day during College Hour from September 9th through September 13th, the clubs on campus were representing their members and shared interests. The Global Studies Club, the Latin American Club, the Business & Finance Club, and the International Students’ Association, amongst many others, were notable participants. Music was played throughout the event to create a sense of community and fellowship amongst the student body. Community events such as Club Rush are what the ASBCC really looks forward to and loves to promote. Here at BCC, clubs are a critical component to student life. The clubs joined in to prepare for the Inter-Club Council, (ICC). ICC allows clubs to participate in student government on campus. ICC meets Mondays at 12:15 P.M. in Room 51. Club Rush will happen again in the Spring 2014, and we hope to see more club involvement!

The purpose of Unity, BCC’s Gay Straight Alliance Club, is to promote positivity through community awareness, and encourage discussion about issues of sexuality. Together, students of all sexual and gender identities can build a place within our college’s community to support one and other with respect and pride. We will establish cultural strength in the Bay Area by coordinating events and activities to represent and support organizations to advance our mission for equality. We were fortunate to receive a $250 donation from Berkeley Law’s Queer Caucus and have their support. BLQC member Shayne Henry explains, “Berkeley Law’s Queer Caucus stands in solidarity with Berkeley City College’s GSA as an important ally in the effort to support and foster the inclusivity of communities of higher education in the Bay Area.”

GSA Officers
President: Shane McClure
Vice President: Maggie Miglio
Secretary: Willa K. Liang
Treasurer: Evan Schwalm
Project Coordinator: Melanie Burgarino
Latin American Club
By Jessica Zavala

This club was created to unite students and provide a place to come together to work and help each other pursue and achieve educational goals. We organize social and academic events where we share the richness and diversity of our culture.

Our Events
Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month
Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
Cinco de Mayo
Leadership, writing and academic workshop
Academic and social fieldtrips

Business & Finance Club
By Katarina Heidenfelder

The Business and Finance Club is looking for motivated people, interested in learning about the business and finance world. The club is open to students from every background and encourages interaction among members, faculty, and business executives through corporate presentations, workshops, field trips, and other unique opportunities. We’re in it together, for success!

Academic Calendar of Spring 2014
Jan 21  Day and Evening Classes Begin
Jan. 25  Saturday Classes Begin
Feb. 2   Last Day to Drop Regular Session Classes Without a “W” Appearing on Transcripts
Feb. 3   Census Day: Instructors Verify Enrollment
Feb. 7   Last Day to File for Pass/No Pass Grading Option for Regular Session Classes
Feb. 14  Lincoln’s Birthday: Holiday Observance
Feb 15-16 Saturday/Sunday Classes Do Not Meet
Feb. 17  Washington’s Birthday: Holiday Observance
March 21 Last Day to File Petitions for AA or AS degree/Certificate
April 14-20 Spring Recess
April 18  Cesar Chavez: Holiday Observance
April 21  Classes Resume
May 3     Last Day to Withdraw from Regular Session Classes and Receive a “W”
May 18-23 Final Examination
May 22   Graduation
The Tobacco-less Club
By Pauline Bondonno

The BCC Tobacco-Less Club, was founded in 2006 as a project of the Community Health Education Institute (CHEI). After the implementation of anti-tobacco legislation, members attended city council meetings and designed art pieces to exhibit in stores and on the street signs of downtown to inform people of the fine that can be imposed for smoking in commercial zones in the city of Berkeley. The club holds annual art contests and art shows at BCC. The club has converted the student artwork into no-smoking signage for public display, and expanded tobacco control activities to Laney College and Merritt College. In raising awareness about the dangers of smoking, the club hopes to address and alleviate the issue of secondhand smoke, which also has devastating impacts on the general public.

Contact: tobaccolessclub@gmail.com.

International Student Association
By Mangling Cho

The ISA assists international students with adjusting to the culture at BCC and in America. Our activities aim to promote a better understanding between international and U.S. students. We plan educational, social, recreational and cultural events for our members and the BCC community. Organizing such programs and special events introduce and raise awareness about culture diversity as well as international issues.

The ISA welcomes international and U.S. students to attend meetings on Thursdays, during college hour in Room 14.
Berkeley City College’s Office of Campus Life is a new and developing department. Campus Life is dedicated to promoting on-campus activities, student participation in shared governance and a campus that fosters innovation, community and learning. We hope to see BCC become a source of pride and success.

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