

Pipeline to a Teaching Career

BMCC students thrive as they complete fieldwork in a partnership program at P.S. 125, benefiting the children as well as their teachers.



BMCC teacher education majors Yeilyn Grullon (third from left) and Nicole Garcia (second from right) with P.S. 125 second-grade students.

BMCC early childhood education major **Yeilyn Grullon** says her ultimate goal is to become a teacher in a neighborhood similar to the one in which she now lives. “I want to be able to connect with my students and tell them, ‘I live down the block, I can relate,’” says Grullon, who attended a number of New York City public schools herself, and remembers the second-grade teacher who left the most lasting impression.

She had short hair and bangs, and even though I was really young, she helped me believe I was a capable person and encouraged me to research dolphins,” says Grullon, who explains that as an elementary school student, she loved aquatic mammals. “I want a child to grow up and say something like that about me, some day.”

Thanks to a three-year, \$409,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Grullon’s wish could become a reality. In Fall 2016, BMCC Teacher Education Professors **Cara Kronen** and **Rebecca Garte** secured the funding for a Comprehensive Educator Empowerment Program at P.S. 125, an elementary school in Central Harlem.

The project’s goal has been to serve Harlem’s children by enriching the staff development of their teachers, who attend best-practices workshops led by Kronen and Garte. It also benefits underserved teacher education majors at BMCC, by providing them with a unique level of field experience and inspiring them to become New York City public school teachers.

Continued on page 2

Inside:

- 5 **Vanguard Winners Break Down Barriers**
- 6 **Panther Station Serves as One Stop for Students**
- 7 **Lobby Ceremony Honors Rosenfield Legacy**
- 8 **Then and Now**

Pipeline to a Teaching Career

Continued from page 1



BMCC teacher education major Nicole Garcia (center) works on a lesson with P.S. 125 students.

Another benefit of the project, now in its third year, is that it is building the engagement of BMCC students who complete their field work requirement at P.S. 125. Preliminary numbers show that their four-year retention, or ability to continue working toward their associate degree has been almost ten percent higher than that of students who are not part of the project.

Supporting P.S. 125's focus on more progressive instruction

A couple of years before BMCC formed a relationship with P.S. 125 in 2014, the school's principal, **Reggie Higgins**, assumed his position.

For years, low enrollment had taken a toll on the school's budget and despite a pedagogical style that taught to standardized tests, student performance scores were low—as was morale. Some parents were even seeking charter schools to which they could transfer their children.

In response, Higgins set out to transform the school's teaching focus from a direct instructional model, which he explains as being characterized by rote memorization and lecture-format

instruction, to a more progressive model, one that develops children's critical thinking and problem-solving skills. He also points out that progressive models of instruction are common in elementary schools in more wealthy school districts.

At the same time, Higgins made it a priority to increase enrollment and diversity among the students and their

“We wanted to change the conversation at P.S. 125...re-evaluate what we need to do from the teaching side and develop best practices that would allow children to show the mastering of course materials.”

**REGGIE HIGGINS,
PRINCIPAL, P.S. 125**

families in the school's rapidly changing neighborhood.

“We wanted to change the conversation at P.S. 125,” says Higgins. “We thought if we could stabilize the ship, we could re-evaluate what we need to do from the teaching side and develop best practices that would allow children to show the mastering of course materials.”

In 2014, after a series of meetings with community stakeholders, neighborhood activists and the New York City Department of Education, an agreement to refocus P.S. 125's pedagogy to a progressive model was forged.

“I became involved with the school as a community member in Fall 2014,” says Professor Garte. “BMCC students, through NYC Men Teach, became involved in Spring 2015, and more involvement followed.”

In Spring 2015, with funding from the Kellogg grant, Professors Kronen and Garte began working on a project that would intensify the partnership between the BMCC teacher education department and P.S. 125. They recruited BMCC faculty to provide professional development workshops introducing aspects of progressive

education to P.S. 125 teachers and staff. They also provided structured support for teachers as they implemented the new approach in their classrooms.

Joyce Dye, a kindergarten teacher in her third year at P.S. 125, said the involvement and mentorship of BMCC early childhood educators was invaluable.

“The BMCC faculty provided assistance with teacher-to-child interaction strategies, room arrangement, age-appropriate materials for the classroom and other areas,” said Dye. “The activities presented to teachers during the professional development workshops created a time for self-reflection on how children's needs and their developmental levels were being met.”

The importance of field work for future teachers

The BMCC teacher education department offers programs in childcare/early childhood education, childhood education, bilingual childhood education, and secondary education. BMCC students involved

Continued on page 3

BMCC Commons

Please address any queries or information about the BMCC Commons to:
publicaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu

Manny Romero
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lynn McGee
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

Cody Lyon
STAFF WRITER

Louis Chan
DIGITAL
MARKETING
COORDINATOR

Rob Gizis
GRAPHIC AND
MULTIMEDIA
DESIGNER

David Pangburn
VIDEOGRAPHER

Cynthia G. Blayer
WEB CONTENT
MANAGER

Thomas Volpe
DIRECTOR OF
PUBLICATIONS

Roslynn Pieters
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF MARKETING

Sharmela Bhagwant
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jamal Jones
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jeff Wong
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Annette Maccarone
OFFICE MANAGER

Mike Fabian
MEDIA INTERN

Continued from page 2

in the project at P.S. 125 are early childhood education majors required to complete two consecutive semesters of fieldwork in the pre-kindergarten through second-grade classroom.

For many years, those field placements took place at schools near the BMCC campus on Chambers Street in Tribeca, where there is limited diversity among the elementary school students. By shifting fieldwork placements to P.S. 125 in Harlem, Garte and Kronen have been able to provide a more diverse setting for BMCC early childhood majors, one that appears to have impacted their engagement as well as their academic performance in a positive way.

“Both aspects of the Kellogg grant support the primary goal of BMCC students completing the pipeline from community college associate degree students to becoming teachers in New York City public schools,” says Garte.

Amy Scoufaras, a second-grade teacher at P.S. 125, says fieldwork experience is important for the BMCC students because it gives them an opportunity to apply what they learned in college to the early childhood classroom.

“You can only learn so much from a book, while coming into the classroom and working with the P.S. 125 students one-on-one gives the BMCC education majors a true classroom experience,” says Scoufaras. “A teacher education program like the one at BMCC helps train future teachers in areas where we need them most. In order to change the conversation and make teaching a better career, we first have to honor the role of teachers as human beings. The human connection is invaluable.”

BMCC students play a central role in the classroom

“The Kellogg grant provided funds for BMCC students to make small improvements to their fieldwork classrooms with mini-grants in collaboration with their classroom teacher,” says Garte. “In this way, the funding directly impacted their fieldwork.”



BMCC teacher education major Yeilyn Grullon works with P.S. 125 student on an assignment.

“It’s important for the BMCC students to feel as if they are playing a central role in the classroom. If they feel engaged, they are more likely to commit to completing the academic journey to becoming a teacher.”

**REBECCA GARTE,
TEACHER EDUCATION
PROFESSOR, BMCC**

On a typical day at P.S. 125, Grullon and the other BMCC early childhood majors join the children in class at their stations, where they focus on interactive play, drawing or science concepts.

“Right now, we’re learning about snails,” says Grullon. “We took the children to the park across the street, where we dug through mud and looked for snails and worms.”

The pre-kindergarten class is also learning about the science behind decomposition. “I’m amazed by how much a child can absorb in a short period of time,” says Grullon. “What takes us a week to learn and retain, they can learn in a day.”

BMCC’s partnership with P.S. 125, which also includes the professional development or in-service training of public school teachers, is unique, according to Garte. Those teachers, in turn, have an impact on the BMCC early childhood majors assigned to their classrooms, and who collaborate with them on action research plans, ordering books and classroom materials.

“It’s important for the BMCC students to feel as if they are playing a central role and are an important part of the classroom,” says Garte. “If they feel engaged, they are more likely to commit to completing the academic journey to becoming a teacher.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Creating the Conditions Under Which All Students Can Thrive

Dramatically improving student success is the driving goal of BMCC’s strategic planning process, Designing for Success. Now in Phase II, this college-wide effort is committed to advancing equity and building a community in which all members can thrive. We intend to double the rate at which students graduate, increase their successful transfer and baccalaureate attainment, and expand their opportunities to enter meaningful careers with family-sustaining wages.



Improving learning is at the heart of these efforts, as is creating equity and the conditions under which all students can learn, both inside and outside the classroom. We are proud of the opportunities provided at BMCC for students to integrate theory and practice, to strengthen their learning through experience and reflective practice.

BMCC’s partnership with P.S. 125, an elementary school in Central Harlem, exemplifies these goals. Committed to supporting the progressive pedagogy of its teachers, P.S. 125 is a vibrant learning lab for early childhood majors who complete their fieldwork alongside experienced classroom teachers who are, in turn, mentored by BMCC faculty. Immersed in this rich environment, our early childhood majors are showing increased graduation rates. They also are creating a significant career development network.

Other opportunities for students include grant-funded, faculty-led research at BMCC and the opportunity to present at national conferences as well as study abroad in Brazil, China, Mexico and Spain.

Another highlight was last spring’s Re-Entry/Entry Symposium that hosted more than 100 CUNY professionals and community-based organizations. BMCC’s ongoing focus on justice-involved or formerly incarcerated students includes our new Project Impact, which builds on the strengths of students with a history of criminal justice involvement to improve their success.

As we move forward with Phase II of Designing for Success, we will focus on taking what works to scale. We have ample evidence of the kinds of experiences that contribute to student success, and we need to make those available to all students.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions in our collective work to fully realize BMCC’s vital mission. Thank you for your contributions and commitment.

Sincerely,

Karrin E. Wilks, Interim President
Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York

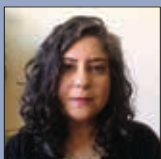
Milestones



Professors **Christine Jacknick** (left), Academic Literacy and Linguistics; **Carla Macchiavello**,

Music and Art and **Angeles Donoso Macaya**, Modern Languages, have received the CUNY Office of Research Book Completion Award.

.....◆.....



Professor of Sociology **Soniya Munshi** has been awarded the Mellon/ American Council

of Learned Societies Community College Faculty Fellowship.

.....◆.....

Modern Languages Professor **Maria Enrico** received the CUNY Council on World Language Study Advocacy and Leadership award on May 3 at Baruch College for promoting CUNY-wide articulation among foreign language programs.

.....◆.....

BMCC Assistant Professors in Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice **Henry Bulley** (Lead PI) and **Brenda Vollman** (CoPI) and **Laxmi Ramasubramanian**, Associate Professor from Hunter College (CoPI) received a \$38,900 CUNY Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IRG) for their research titled, “Experiences, Attitudes, and Policy Drivers Shaping Bottled Water Use in New York City.”

.....◆.....



Christopher Medellin, Director of E-Learning, is one of 24 higher education

professionals selected nationwide for the National Community College Hispanic Council Fellows program.

.....◆.....

English Professor **Leigh Claire La Berge** has been named a Distinguished CUNY Fellow by the Advanced Research Collaborative CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

.....◆.....

Mathematics Professor **Claire Wladis** has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate whether online courses provide increased access to STEM college degrees.

Professor Named Staten Island’s First Poet Laureate

On June 26, English Professor **Marguerite Maria Rivas** was appointed Staten Island poet laureate by Borough President **James Oddo** in a ceremony at Staten Island Borough Hall. Rivas will lead community outreach and projects promoting



poetry and literacy on Staten Island. “This is a wonderful testament to Marguerite’s accomplishments as a poet and her valued standing in the Staten Island and broader community,” said BMCC Interim President **Karrin E. Wilks**. “She exemplifies the academic excellence and commitment to service that is a hallmark of BMCC faculty.”

BMCC Professor Among Team Members Honored



Science Professor **Chiaki Yanagisawa** is part of the former D0 Collaboration team awarded the 2019 High Energy

and Particle Physics Prize at the European Physical Society Conference on High Energy Physics in Ghent, Belgium for their discovery, in the 1990s, of a top quark, or subatomic particle.



Buildings and Grounds staff, winner of Team Achievement Award.

Winners of the 2019 Employee Recognition Awards held June 7 at BMCC’s Theatre 1 include **Thierry Thesatus** (Leadership Award), **Buildings and Grounds** (Team Achievement Award), **Rahana Belle-Jerome** (Inspiration Award), **Miguel Castro**, **Robert Gizis** and **Brian Henley** (Innovation/ Technology Award) and **Kayla Maryles** (Rookie of the Year Award).

Study Abroad Scholars Spend Summer Exploring Other Cultures

Scholarships to study abroad in Brazil, China, Mexico and Spain in Summer 2019 were awarded to **Yetunde Adesunloro** and **Assel Frolova** (CUNY Chancellor Award and a Gilman Scholarship); **Eric Day**, **Deysy De La Cruz** and **Sara El** (Gilman Scholarship); **Mario Altamirano, Jr.** (Critical Language Scholarship Program); **Man Huang Ho** (Fund for Education Abroad);

Sinaia Jones (CUNY Chancellor Scholarship); **Brandon Morales** (Hostel International Explore the World Scholarship), and **Maria Rivera** and **Elizabeth Taylor** (CUNY Chancellor Scholarship). “We are very proud of our students, who clearly demonstrate their skills and abilities to compete for these scholarships,” said **Jessica A. Levin**, Experiential Learning and Study Abroad Manager.

BMCC Nursing Program Ranked Six Statewide

The BMCC nursing program is one of seven college nursing programs statewide to have earned a Best-Value ranking of six, based on a review of 105 colleges by the online resource Nursing Explorer. Factors taken into account are the net cost of the program and the rate at which graduates pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

In Memoriam: G. Scott Anderson

Granville Scott

Anderson, who started his career at CUNY in 1971 and joined BMCC in 1994, passed away in June 13, 2019. Anderson served as director of Human Resources and labor designee at BMCC. He then assumed the role of vice president for administration, planning and finance. He led BMCC through facilities and budgeting challenges resulting after 9/11, including the loss of the original and rebuilding of the Miles and Shirley Fiterman Hall, which opened in August 2012. Another highlight was Anderson’s work with the New York City Power Authority to install the largest public solar panel facility in Manhattan on the BMCC’s 199 Chambers Street rooftop. “Scott’s concern for the well-being of all BMCC students and determination to make BMCC a great institution will be greatly missed,” said BMCC Vice President **Robert Diaz** in his commemorative piece in BMCC News.



BMCC Named Top Fulbright Producer

BMCC is one of two colleges nationwide named the top Fulbright Scholar producers for the 2018–2019 academic year among associate degree granting institutions. BMCC was also one of four CUNY colleges named top producers of Fulbright schools and students, according to the United States Department of State’s Fulbright Program.

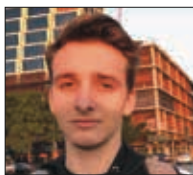
Commencement Firsts



BMCC’s 54th Commencement ceremony on May 31 featured the college’s first Honors Program Scholar. Liberal arts major **Yosef Friedman** (*above*) credits the ten years he spent in a yeshiva, or religious boarding school in Chicago, with the critical thinking skills to excel at his Honors courses at BMCC. “I think it taught me self-reliance, independence and how to budget my time,” he says.

The 54th Commencement also featured the college’s first Manhattan

Early College School for Advertising (MECA) graduate. **Sebastian Miezigiel** (*below*), who earned an associate degree in Multimedia Programming and Design, began taking college classes at MECA, taught by BMCC professors, when he was in the tenth grade. In his junior year, he began attending courses on the BMCC campus. “The program helped us learn how to be college students before we became college students,” he says.



Valedictorians Inspire Record-Size Class of 2019



Early childhood education major **Dequan Gambrell** (*left*) attended six high schools before hitting his academic stride at BMCC. Liberal arts major **Dorotea Levy de Szekely** (*right*) was born in Argentina to parents who escaped Nazi Germany, and earned her associate degree at age 68. Selected as morning and afternoon valedictorians in BMCC’s 54th commencement ceremonies in the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden, these two extraordinary students—who each earned a 4.0

GPA—inspired more than 4,000 graduates, the college’s largest class.

“No one ever asked, ‘What are you doing here? How old are you?’ I found empathy in so many people at BMCC at every level,” said Levy de Szekely in her address. Gambrell, who was taught to read and write by his grandmother, said, “Her time with me is an important memory, especially in regards to my academic and professional paths. Now I’m pursuing writing and I tutor high school kids every week.”



Students Earn Kaplan Educational Foundation Scholarship

Two BMCC students have been named 2019 Kaplan Scholars by the Kaplan Educational Foundation. The Kaplan program helps underrepresented low-income students complete associate degree programs then transfer and earn bachelor’s degrees from the nation’s top four-year institutions. BMCC psychology major **Christina Persona** (*above*) and engineering science major **Abubakar Yussif** (*right*), join the 21 other CUNY community college students selected for this year’s cohort.

Persona, from Queens, says after graduating from BMCC, she hopes



to attend either the University of North Carolina, Syracuse University or Brown University. She plans to one day open a mental health clinic or start a charity.

Yussif, from Ghana, plans to major in civil engineering at either Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brown University or Stanford. His eventual goal is to build homes, schools and hospitals in underserved communities in Ghana.

BMCC has had a productive relationship with the Kaplan Foundation for 13 years.



Vanguard Winners Break Down Barriers



Animation and motion graphics major **Jan Iverson** (*above*) and human services major **Nico Tyndale** (*below*) were among eight Vanguard award winners across New York State. The award recognizes individuals for excelling in a career or degree program in which one gender represents fewer than 25 percent of those engaged in that area. The Vanguard Award is administered by the New York State Nontraditional Employment & Training (NET) Program, and sponsored by the New York State Education Department through a Carl D. Perkins grant. “By recognizing students and their needs, we’re able to break down some of the barriers they might face in the industries they’ve chosen,” said **Antonette McKain**, director of evening, weekend and off-site programs at BMCC.



Milestones



Led by Music Professor **Quentin Angus** (*left*), the BMCC Jazz Ensemble performed April 18 on WBGO, 88.3 FM with **Milai Taguchi** and **Daniel Camposi**, vocals; **Raymond Raymos**, trumpet; **Luke Bester**, alto saxophone; **Alexandria Flores**, tenor saxophone; **Jacob Vega**, trombone; **Jung Jae Shin**, guitar; **Seth Hershman**, piano; **David Milkis**, cello; **David Pino**, bass and **Whanho Oh**, drums.

Science majors **Tammy Enice Velasquez**, **Rosemary Perdomo** and **Fadel Yerima** were awarded National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates internships, Summer 2019.

Phi Theta Kappa winners: **Matthew Roman** is a 2019 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar with a \$1,250 scholarship. **Roland Sosa** is a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar with a \$1,000 scholarship, and **Abdoul-Hanane Gbadamassi** is a 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Global Leaders of Promise Scholar with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The James Tolan Awards, April 16, celebrated awardees **Jayshawn Lee**, poetry; **Alexander Hiller**, fiction; **Olivia Diallo**, critical essay; **Zeus Eugene**, critical essay; **Jonathan Hernandez**, fiction and **Kelly Otterness**, critical essay.

The 2019 BMCC Student Film Festival recognized **Liza Fedorovskaya**, Best Narrative; **Isaiah Black**, Best Documentary; **Szymon Dybowski**, Best Director; **Sherouk Morsi**, Best Public Service, Client-Based, Experimental or Music Video; **Kevin Jalo**, Best Cinematography; **Andrew Davenport**, Best Performer; **Shani Shields**, Best Animation; **Kooyar Hosseini Golkou**, Best Editing; **Kennedy Freeman**, Best Screenplay and Best Sound; and **Devin Kendall Ward**, The Michael Vincent Rosen-Pipitone Award.



The BMCC Sustainability Fair, on April 17, featured information booths and activities.

Conferences Enhance Student Learning, Success

BMCC is not only a center of learning for students, but for higher education professionals across CUNY and beyond. On February 6, Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Day highlighted faculty and student experience in Writing Intensive courses that span every major at the college. The XXII Modern Languages Department Colloquium, *Who Is the Monster? Human Monstrosity in Fiction and Film*, was held March 11 and 12. The Vision and Peace Women's Conference, March 18, featured speakers from anti-trafficking organizations, UN Women and more. BMCC's first Hackathon, April 6, invited students to problem solve with feedback from tech

industry experts. The April 12 faculty symposium, *Black Lives Matter, Six Years Later*, featured **Patrisse Cullors**, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement. An annual Sustainability Fair on April 17 highlighted sustainable research and locally sourced food.

"The breadth and scope of conferences generated at BMCC reflects the diversity of expertise in our faculty," says Associate Dean of Faculty **Jim Berg**. "It also shows the range of opportunities we afford students, as our professors share their passion for their subject area, and open doors to academic and professional communities beyond the classroom."

Panther Station Serves as One Stop for Students



The Panther Station—a one-stop hub to assist newly admitted students with admissions, registration, testing and financial aid—has been established next to the information center at

the entrance lobby of BMCC's 199 Chambers Street campus. "Our students have told us how confusing the college process is and how frustrated they are with the runaround they receive when trying to resolve issues," says Vice President for Enrollment Management **Diane K. Walleser**. "The Panther Station will provide a central location for students to get all of their enrollment needs met. While the unit will be primarily handling admissions, registrar and financial aid issues it will also serve as a referral center for other college services. We are excited to offer this new service to our students and are confident it will help improve the student experience along with positively impacting enrollment and retention."

BMCC Earns National Recognition for Commitment to First-Generation Students



BMCC is one of three two-year institutions among 80 colleges and universities nationwide selected to join the inaugural cohort of the First Forward Institutions, an initiative of the Center for First-Generation Student Success. At BMCC, more than 53 percent of students are the first in their family to attend college, and the BMCC Panther Partners program matches those students with staff and faculty mentors, as well as providing career workshops and other resources. More than 115 students participated in the Panther Partners program during

the Spring 2019 semester, and they were paired with 75 coaches.

"The Center is so pleased to welcome BMCC into our inaugural cohort of First Forward institutions" said **Dr. Sarah E. Whitley**, senior director of the Center for First-Generation Student Success. "Through the application process, it was evident that BMCC is not only taking steps to serve first-generation students but is prepared to make a long-term commitment and employ strategies for significant scaling and important advances in the future."

Remembering Professor Olivia Cousins, Champion of Social Justice



Olivia Cousins, a BMCC Health Education Professor since 1987, passed away on June 6, 2019 in Brooklyn. Integral in founding the BMCC Women's Resource Center and Women's Studies program, Cousins held a master's degree in education/social policy from Harvard University, and both a master's degree in African American studies and Ph.D.

in medical/community sociology from Boston University. A champion of students at BMCC, she also advocated for women of color in the Daughters of American Revolution (D.A.R.), whose members must be related to someone who fought in the war. In 2012, Cousins was named an officer in a Queens, New York chapter of the D.A.R. which included an unprecedented five (out of 13) black members. "We're part of history," she said, "and the truth of history heals."

Lobby Ceremony Honors Rosenfield Legacy

On May 20, a lobby-naming ceremony in the Miles and Shirley Fiterman Hall honored a landmark gift of \$1 million for the BMCC Out in Two program, from the Herbert and Audrey Rosenfield Fund. Speakers included **Tom Rosenfield** and **Patricia Rosenfield**, who along with their brother **Nelson Rosenfield** continue to keep their parents' legacy alive. "We are all celebrating Borough of Manhattan Community College and its enduring contributions to New York City and far beyond," said Patricia Rosenfield.



Out in Two Alumni Join 20-Year Celebration

An alumni reunion at Fiterman Hall on June 13 marked the 20th Anniversary of the BMCC Out in Two scholarship program, which provides tuition assistance and other support to help students graduate within two years. The event featured the BMCC Jazz Ensemble; **Seth Hershman** on keyboard, **David Milkis** on cello and **Nova Luz**, vocals. During the program, **Orville Ingram** (Communication and Media Studies, '03) and **Leslie Ann-Reid Bacchus** (Liberal Arts, '08), were presented with "Out"standing Alumni Awards for their support of the program. "Out in Two is based on the highly successful cohort model," said BMCC Interim President Karrin E. Wilks. "The program has shown an unprecedented rate of graduation—almost 90 percent within three years—both at BMCC and at the national level."

Guardian Funds Financial Management Courses

To help students make sound financial decisions, BMCC offers workshops and programs that will be supported by a \$210,587 grant from the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America in the 2019-2020 academic year. The funding will also support college financing workshops for high school students and parents at the Manhattan Early College School for Advertising (MECA), where students earn both a high school Regents diploma and associate degree from BMCC.

Gala Raises More Than \$900,000 for Scholarships



The BMCC Foundation board of directors hosted the 2019 Gala, Invest in a Future, Celebrate Success at Cipriani in lower Manhattan on May 16, raising \$922,000 for scholarships. Gala Honorees were **Tim Gokey**, CEO of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. and the Herbert and Audrey Rosenfield Fund. Special

Guest Artist Honoree was **Ashley Boudier**, Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet. **Antonio Pérez**, former president of BMCC, was recognized for founding the Out in Two scholarship program, unique to BMCC, and the event was emceed by Fox 5 News personality **Baruch Shemtov**.

Petrie Foundation Supports Tuition Waivers and Food Pantry

In Spring 2019, the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation provided BMCC with a \$200,000 grant for the college's Finish Line Tuition Waiver Program. Another Petrie Foundation grant of \$20,000 helps support the Panther Food Pantry which addresses food insecurity at BMCC.

Funders Support Justice-Involved Students

On May 3, more than 100 professionals across CUNY and community-based organizations gathered at BMCC's Fiterman Hall for a day-long symposium made possible by a \$25,000 grant from Trinity Church Wall Street. Participants explored pedagogy, programs and policies for justice-involved individuals seeking a college education.

Degree-seeking, formerly incarcerated students at BMCC, and those completing a

High School Equivalency (HSE), are able to access peer mentoring, tutoring, career development and other supports through BMCC's Project Impact, which received a grant of \$115,000 in Spring 2019 from the Pinkerton Foundation. Additional support totaling \$60,000 came from the BMCC Foundation, including two personal gifts from Foundation board members **Elizabeth Butson** and **John Sutter**.

Milestones



Alexander Hiller (Writing and Literature '19), received a \$25,000-per-year scholarship to

Columbia University through the GS CUNY Scholarship for New Students. Hiller will major in creative writing in the Columbia School of General Studies.

.....◆.....

Kiara de la Cruz (Human Services, '18) was selected for the Summer 2019 HCOP Northeast Regional Alliance (NERA) Behavioral Health Undergraduate Social Work Fellowship Program at Mount Sinai Hospital, where she will be working at the OB/GYN clinic and Child Protective Services. Also, through the Social Change Agents Institute, de la Cruz traveled to Johannesburg and Mafekeng, South Africa to facilitate mental health workshops.

.....◆.....



Marina Salazar (left) (Liberal Arts, '19) and **Hamna Ihtesham** (History, '19)

completed the Pre-law Advisement model at BMCC and were accepted into the Fordham Law School Legal Education and Access Program (LEAP) at Fordham University.

.....◆.....

Osinachi Muoka (Health Information Technology, '09) is the first HIT alumni to earn a Ph.D. (Public Policy and Administration, Walden University, '16). Today Muoka holds the position of Manager of Health Information Management at Mount Sinai College.

.....◆.....

Kelly Otterness (Writing and Literature, '09) was awarded a full scholarship to Smith College.

Stay in Touch with BMCC!

BMCC alumni, share your recent achievements with the Office of Alumni Relations to be featured in the next BMCC Commons. Reach out to Yaritza Gonzalez, Manager of Alumni Relations, (212) 346-8455 or send an email to ygonzalez@bmcc.cuny.edu



What is your role at BMCC?

My role at BMCC as Assistant Vice President of Campus Planning and Facilities is to oversee the operations, planning, space administration and implementation of improvements during design and construction for the entire campus. This includes supervising the functions of Buildings and Grounds, Facilities Management and Public Safety.

What do you really do at BMCC?

I am responsible for providing our students, faculty and staff a safe, clean and welcoming campus that is conducive to the college's mission and strategic goals.

This includes maintaining and continuously improving our physical space, so students, faculty and staff can thrive and be proud of being part of the BMCC community.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments in your current role?

In the seven months I've been at BMCC, I've been fortunate to have worked under the leadership of former Vice President of Administration and Planning, the late G. Scott Anderson, who was a pivotal component of BMCC's success. I'm also proud of the level of trust and responsibility bestowed on me by the current administration, and the team I get to work with.

What is one thing you've noticed about the BMCC community, as you have worked with faculty and staff in your current role?

One outstanding thing I've noticed is the community's sense of pride in being part of BMCC. From faculty members who inspire in the classroom to operational team members who keep the building comfortable, bathrooms clean and campus safe, we all have a critical role in supporting our students' intellectual and personal growth.

Tell us something about yourself we might not know, but has an impact on the good work you do, at BMCC.

I immigrated to this country as a teenager with my family, helping to fulfill my mother's dream to offer her child an education, something she never had. I attended a CUNY community college then senior college where I completed a five-year degree in architecture. Today as a registered architect with experience in the private and public sectors, I can clearly affirm that if CUNY as an institution did not exist, I would not have had the seminal experiences that shaped my professional and personal life. I strongly believe in the CUNY mission and that BMCC exemplifies what CUNY does best, affording students the opportunity to succeed.

Then and Now



1982



2019

Sculptor Roy Shifrin was commissioned in 1973 to create the 13-by-14-foot, bronze statue, *Icarus*, for permanent display in the BMCC plaza. The financial crisis of 1975 led to delays in construction, and the sculpture was not installed on its 18-foot pedestal until 1982. "BMCC exists to help each student soar for his own good and the good of all," a plaque at the foot of the pedestal reads.