



INVEST IN A FUTURE



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



**Antonio Pérez**, President  
Borough of Manhattan  
Community College

## A Message From **the President**

BMCC is creating a community of giving through partnerships. The 2015-2016 Annual Report of the BMCC Foundation Board is a testament to the depth and range of support that continues to make us strong as a college.

Throughout its history, the BMCC Foundation has raised funds to strengthen programs at the college and provide scholarships for our brightest and most determined students—many of whom could not have continued their education without this crucial support.

BMCC Foundation Scholars include Alex Guarino, our 2016 Valedictorian who grew up in a small village in Italy and worked as an au pair in New York before enrolling as a Business Administration major at BMCC. He volunteered with Meals on Wheels, participated in our Study Abroad program in Shanghai, China, and was accepted at Columbia University. Another BMCC Foundation Scholar, Aurela Dragani, conducted research with Science Professor Mario Benavides into the role of proteins in fighting diseases such as muscular dystrophy, and was awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship to continue her education at a four-year school.

We are grateful to the BMCC Foundation Board Members who have dedicated themselves to raising funds for the scholarships that keep Aurela, Alex and all our Scholars on track. The Board also plays an integral role in creating partnerships that strengthen our college, and worked very hard this year to make our 2016 Scholarship Gala, which honored Don Callahan, Garrett Moran and Special Guest Star Honoree Edie Falco, a success. That event raised close to \$1.2 million dollars thanks to our honorees, board members, their associates and our special friend Stephen Meringoff.

Thanks to generous support from American Express, we have extended our Leadership Fellows Program. Citi Foundation has funded our Save for Success program, which raises student financial literacy, and MetLife has supported our MoneyWorks classes. We are deeply thankful to *Goldman Sachs Gives* for their substantial contribution to BMCC, and we are proud to be the first CUNY college in partnership with Year Up, which provides internships for our students.

The support of these forward-thinking corporations and organizations is joined by the generosity of individual donors such as Leslie Siegel, who has pledged funds toward the naming of the Art and Rita Siegel Piano Lab in Fiterman Hall, in honor of her parents, and Loretta Lee, who funded a student scholarship and international internships.

Our community of giving is as diverse as our students themselves. I want to personally thank you, for your gifts and for being an integral part of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio Pérez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

## A Message From the Chair of the BMCC Foundation Board

Welcome to the 2015-16 Annual Report of the BMCC Foundation, marking a year filled with unprecedented support for the college's hard-working students, most of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

Every year, the BMCC Foundation Board works tirelessly to support these students by raising funds through endeavors such as our annual Scholarship Gala. In last year's annual report, we announced that the Gala was the most successful in the college's history. I am delighted to report that our 2016 *Invest in a Future* Gala raised another record \$1,184,468 to benefit the BMCC Scholarship Fund.

We reached this milestone thanks to the generosity of our Gala Honorees Don Callahan, Head of Operations & Technology, Citi, and Garrett Moran, President, Year Up, as well as our Special Guest Star Honoree, Emmy Award winning actress Edie Falco. Special friends in attendance, including Stephen Meringoff, helped us reach this impressive goal.

I want to recognize the dedication and hard work of our board members who worked tirelessly to make our 2016 *Invest in a Future* Gala a success. Gala Co-Chairs Claudia McNamee and Anthony J. Portannese worked closely with members of the Gala committee to shape this exciting event. The entire Board worked behind the scenes in countless ways to ensure the evening's success; generous not only with their donations, but with their time, effort and immeasurable expertise. I am proud to be part of this team.

My office at First Data Corporation, on the 29th floor of Brookfield Place, looks out over BMCC and the rapidly growing Lower Manhattan community. I have watched that skyline change over the years, and I am struck by the spirit of opportunity and transformation it represents. Our students contribute to the growth of our city and nation as they earn their degrees and raise the bar for a new generation of entrepreneurs, teachers, nurses, scientists and other professionals.

To date, the BMCC Foundation has awarded close to \$10 million in scholarships for 3,500 students. Our students are off to a good start, thanks to the generosity of the BMCC Foundation and our loyal and growing community of friends and supporters.

On behalf of the BMCC Foundation Board, I thank all of you for your vital support. I invite you to join us at our celebrations this year, to meet our students and learn more about BMCC and the incredible work going on in its classrooms.

Thank you again, for your friendship and support.



**Christine Larsen**, Chair  
BMCC Foundation Board

## BMCC FOUNDATION 2016 GALA RAISES MORE THAN \$1.18 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND



(L-R) President Antonio Pérez, Edie Falco, Don Callahan and Garrett Moran

The BMCC Foundation 2016 *Invest in a Future* Gala, held at Cipriani in Lower Manhattan, raised \$1,184,468 to benefit the BMCC Scholarship Fund. This year's Honorees were Don Callahan, Head of Operations & Technology at Citi, and Garrett Moran, President of Year Up.

Special Guest Star Honoree was Edie Falco; Four-Time Emmy Award Winner, Golden Globe Award Winner and Tony Award-Nominated Actress and Philanthropist. Film and television producer Paula Weinstein introduced Ms. Falco, who said she was inspired by BMCC scholars who spoke at the event, and by the generous support in the room for BMCC and its students. "Events like this help balance out the bad news in the world," she said.

Cindy Hsu, Emmy award-winning CBS 2 News anchor was MC for the evening. "The annual BMCC Foundation Scholarship Gala is an important tradition at our college that brings together members of the BMCC community, business leaders and others who share a commitment to providing scholarships to our deserving students, most of whom are the first in their families to attend college," said Doris Holz, BMCC's Vice President of Development. "These scholarship recipients then go on to create careers and contribute to the growth of our City and nation."



Edie Falco



Don Callahan



Garrett Moran and President Pérez



BMCC Foundation Board



BMCC Cabinet

# BMCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARS INSPIRE DONORS AND GUESTS WITH THEIR HEARTFELT STORIES

BMCC Foundation Scholars circulated at the Gala, helping to seat guests and coordinate the event. These accomplished and hard-working students have come to BMCC from as far away as Spain, Albania and Sierra Leone—and as close by as Brooklyn. Three students who have received BMCC Foundation Scholarships spoke as part of the evening program. Shannon Kidd spoke of having been accepted on a scholarship at Cornell University, where she will study mechanical engineering. Claudia Charles told how losing her mother to cancer galvanized her determination to become a nurse practitioner in the field of oncology. Human Services major Alex Guarino, who worked as a childcare provider and soccer coach before enrolling at BMCC, announced his acceptance at Columbia University and thanked the donors who have enabled him and the other scholars to pursue their dreams.

Stephen Meringoff, a guest at the Gala as well as recipient of the Presidential Medal at BMCC's 2015 commencement in Madison Square Garden, was inspired by the students' talks to make a significant pledge during the President's Scholarship Auction and encouraged other guests to match his gift.

Also moved by the students' stories were the two Gala Honorees, Don Callahan and Garrett Moran, who announced their commitment to work together and provide internships at Citi for BMCC Year Up students.

Thanks to funds raised at our Gala and through other efforts, the BMCC Foundation awards approximately 350 scholarships each year. These scholarships helps students succeed in achieving their associate degrees.





(L-R) Steven and Susan Fiterman; Chong OK and Raymond O'Keefe, and President Pérez



Stephen Meringoff



(L-R) Wendy Van Patten, Edie Falco, President Pérez, Tim Van Patten and Aida Turturro



(L-R) Alex Guarino, Shannon Kidd and Claudia Charles



(L-R) Claudia McNamee and Anthony Portannese



## CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### **BMCC AMONG BENEFICIARIES OF THE *GOLDMAN SACHS GIVES* COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUND**

Goldman Sachs, in collaboration with the American Association of Community Colleges, has selected nine community colleges, including BMCC, to receive grants from the *Goldman Sachs Gives* Community College Fund.

The \$1 million donation from *Goldman Sachs Gives* will be distributed to community colleges throughout the country and will be matched 1:1 by donors in their respective communities. “Grants from *Goldman Sachs Gives* reinforce our belief that community colleges serve a unique need by providing educational opportunities to individuals who may not otherwise be able to pursue or complete a degree,” said Lloyd C. Blankfein, Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs. Blankfein was awarded the President’s Medal of Honor—accepted by Dina Powell, head of Goldman Sachs’ Impact Investing business and President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation—at the 2016 BMCC Commencement.



Dina Powell accepting the President’s Medal of Honor on behalf of Lloyd Blankfein, Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs

## AMERICAN EXPRESS AWARDS \$100,000 GRANT TO LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM

In Spring 2016, American Express awarded \$100,000 to continue training emerging staff and faculty leaders through the BMCC Leadership Fellows Program. The program provides trainings and hands-on exercises to a broad cross-section of the college community. “American Express has long-recognized the importance of strong leadership in the nonprofit and social purpose sectors,” said Timothy J. McClimon, President of American Express Foundation. “We are inspired by BMCC’s commitment to employee development and are excited to support the growth of talented leaders in higher education.” American Express received the President’s Medal of Honor at BMCC’s 2016 Commencement, accepted by Richard A. Brown, Vice President, American Express Philanthropy.



Richard Brown, Vice President of American Express Philanthropy, accepting the President’s Medal of Honor

## CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### CITI FOUNDATION AND METLIFE FOUNDATION PROVIDE FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY

The BMCC Foundation received two grants this past year to build students' financial literacy, strengthen their understanding of financial planning and assist them in effectively dealing with everyday financial concerns.

A \$75,000 grant from the Citi Foundation supported the BMCC Save for Success program, which guides 70 students to save enough from their financial aid to cover the cost of one course. Regularly scheduled academic advising and meetings with a financial counselor helped students achieve this goal. Those who successfully did so, were given an additional course, tuition free, by the college.

A second grant of \$25,000 from the MetLife Foundation supports the college's successful MoneyWorks financial literacy program. MoneyWorks provides a complete financial literacy curriculum over the course of the academic year during Club Hours on Wednesdays, and is open to the entire college community. The grant will fund MoneyWorks Scholarships in 2016-17 for students selected to be MoneyWorks Financial Ambassadors.

### GENEROUS SUPPORTER LORETTA LEE FUNDS SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP

BMCC supporter Loretta Lee, founder of the Merchant House International Group, donated \$75,000 to the BMCC Foundation in Spring 2016 to fund a scholarship, an international internship and an upcoming art exhibit at BMCC.

Nathanael Alexander, who just graduated from BMCC, received the Loretta Lee award of up to \$25,000 a year, for two years, to complete a bachelor's degree in art, and BMCC students Fiona Stone and Xue Meng Wang took part in a Summer 2016 internship at Lee's factories in Mainland China and Hong Kong. "We are excited about this generous scholarship, and this unique opportunity for our students to learn first-hand, the practical aspects of textile design, printing, manufacturing and merchandising," said BMCC President Antonio Pérez. "We are grateful to Loretta Lee for enabling our students to continue their education and apply their art and design skills in a global setting."



Loretta Lee

## CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### **BENEFACTOR PLEDGES CONTRIBUTION TOWARD NAMING OF PIANO LAB**

Leslie Siegel, long-time friend and benefactor of BMCC, has pledged \$50,000 toward the naming of the Art and Rita Siegel Piano Lab on the third floor of Miles and Shirley Fiterman Hall, in honor of her parents. In recognition of this generous gift, a naming ceremony and reception will be held in November 2016 and a plaque placed at the entrance to the lab.

“We are very grateful to Leslie for her generosity and caring for our students, and for her thoughtfulness in honoring the memory of her parents in such a meaningful way,” said Doris Holz, Vice President of Development and Chief Operating Officer of the BMCC Foundation.



Leslie Siegel

### **BNY MELLON AWARDS \$50,000 GRANT IN SUPPORT OF OUT IN TWO PROGRAM**

In Summer 2016, BNY Mellon provided \$50,000 in grant funding for the BMCC Out in Two Program. Founded in 1999 by BMCC President Antonio Pérez, the Out in Two scholarship program helps students graduate within two consecutive years. The BNY Mellon grant will enable BMCC to admit 10 additional students to the program, increasing the Fall 2016 cohort to 70 students. Each participant will receive scholarships for three semesters, meet with a dedicated advisor and join community service activities.



BMCC Out in Two Scholars

### **TIME WARNER FOUNDATION FUNDS FELLOWSHIP**

The BMCC Foundation has received a \$20,000 grant from Time Warner Foundation to provide a new screenwriting fellowship program in Fall 2016. Ten BMCC students or recent graduates were selected for the program and met for 14 Saturdays in Fall 2016 to develop a feature screenplay or television pilot. In January 2017, there will be a gala presentation of their scripts, read by professional actors.

## EVENTS

### RECEPTION HONORS BMCC LEGACY SOCIETY

The BMCC Legacy Society was honored at a special reception in the Fiterman Hall Conference Center on October 22, 2015. More than 35 guests attended, including BMCC President Antonio Pérez, who presented certificates of recognition to BMCC Legacy Society Members Daisy Alverio, Gay Brookes, Elizabeth Margaritis Butson and Fred Peskoff.

Guest speaker Steve Imperato, President of Future Funds LLC and Planned Giving Consultant to CUNY, emphasized the importance of estate planning. He explained that some donors choose to name BMCC as the recipient of a bequest in their Will or Living Trust, while others designate BMCC as a benefactor of their retirement plan, insurance policy or Charitable Gift Annuity.

“I would like to thank the members of the BMCC Legacy Society who have made a provision for BMCC in their estate plans,” said President Pérez. “We could not be more appreciative, because these gifts enable us to offer opportunities that our students would not otherwise have, like scholarships and other extra chances to succeed.”



Elizabeth Butson



Fred Peskoff



Gay Brookes

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE INTRODUCED AT VETERANS DAY EVENT

A reception on November 11, 2015 in the Shirley Fiterman Art Center honored donors to the President's Circle for Educational Excellence. This prestigious group is comprised of BMCC supporters who contribute gifts of \$1,000 and more to the Annual Fund each year to provide scholarships and other programs at the college. The event also provided the opportunity to thank BMCC student veterans for their service.

BMCC President Antonio Pérez, along with Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Karrin E. Wilks and Dean for Student Affairs Michael Hutmaker, welcomed the BMCC community into the Art Center's North Gallery where U.S., New York and other flags framed the podium. Special guests included BMCC Foundation Board Members Elizabeth Butson, Sheldon Cohen, Bill Fisse, Jonathan Resnick and Judith Volkmann. Also present were donors and friends of the college including Fred Peskoff, founder of the Lila and Simon Peskoff Scholarship fund; Carolyn Holden-Semple and Ian Semple, and former BMCC Business Department Chair Carmen Martinez-Lopez and Ivan Lopez. Alumni at the event included Jiang (Jay) Yu, Earl Cabbell and Ruben Rivera.

Angela Williams, a U.S. Army veteran and BMCC student, opened the event with a solo performance of "The Star Spangled Banner." Wilfred Cotto, BMCC's Veterans Services Coordinator, highlighted campus services that link student veterans to tuition and housing assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as providing counseling and peer mentoring. President Pérez thanked members of the President's Circle for their continuing generosity to the college. "You are essential partners in transforming the lives of BMCC students," he said. "Your generosity provides critical support for the BMCC Foundation's life-changing work, year after year."



BMCC President Antonio Pérez



BMCC Foundation Board Member Bill Fisse, a generous member of the President's Circle for Educational Excellence, speaks with student veterans.

## EVENTS

### **BNY MELLON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST**

In November 2015, Lee B. Stephens III, Executive Vice President at Bank of New York Mellon (BNY Mellon), spoke in the BMCC Leadership Breakfast series held in the Fiterman Hall Conference Center. Over a hundred students, faculty and staff filled the audience as BMCC President Antonio Pérez introduced Stephens, who leads BNY Mellon’s strategic business development efforts with U.S. public sector clients, and is a member of its U.S. Client Management team.

When Stephens took the stage, he shared his personal journey; growing up in Southern California, being the oldest of three boys and attending Morehouse College, an all-male, historically black institution in Atlanta, Georgia. “I majored in pre-med, something my parents wanted me to do and I thought I wanted to do,” he said, adding that after three and a half years in college, “I went through my adolescent rebellion a little late and changed my major to accounting, with a minor in finance.”

That experience touched a chord with BMCC students who asked questions about Stephens’ career decisions. “If you’re going to be successful you have to expect things to change,” he told them. “You have to keep your mind’s eye on your long-term goal, but also keep an eye on the curves that are coming up.” He advised the students, “Be yourself. Be authentic. Fortunately, in this country we have a culture that continually evolves. At BNY Mellon we talk about that all the time; how we are going to best serve our constituents and clients by leveraging the vast diversity within our own company.” After the talk, students lined up to meet Stephens personally, and to continue their conversation.



(L-R) BMCC students with Lee B. Stephens III

# ALUMNI

## BMCC LAUNCHES ALUMNI COUNCIL

In December 2015, the BMCC Alumni Council was launched with a meeting led by Theresa Clark Messer ('81, Accounting), Chair of the BMCC Foundation Board Alumni Committee. More than 45 alumni attended and discussed how to strengthen alumni communications and connect with BMCC students.

An Alumni Council Leadership Group emerged from that launch meeting and has met several times since. That group's focus is to provide benefits and services to alumni, and involve them in the promotion, advancement and support of BMCC.

"Alumni are among BMCC's greatest assets," says Joy Cooper, BMCC Director of Development. "The 60,000 graduates of BMCC are vital stakeholders in both the past and future of the college. Annual gifts from BMCC alumni and friends provide much-needed support for scholarships and essential educational initiatives each year."

To be placed on the alumni email list and learn of upcoming events, contact [alumni@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@bmcc.cuny.edu). Join other BMCC Alumni on Facebook and LinkedIn by visiting [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/alumni](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/alumni).



BMCC Alumni Council

# ALUMNI

## RECEPTION PUTS THEATRE ALUMNI CENTER STAGE

A reception honoring alumni from the BMCC Theatre program was held April 14, 2016 in the Shirley Fiterman Art Center. Karrin Wilks, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Doris Holz, Vice President of Development, welcomed the evening's guests. Theatre Professors Diane Dowling and Katherine Kavanaugh spoke about the BMCC theatre community of students and alumni who work together on productions throughout New York City.

Special guest speakers included BMCC Theatre alumni Tiho Andonov of the non-profit theatre, Whitelisted, and David Givens of the I Act, You Act! Harlem Theater. The event also celebrated the BMCC theatre production *Measure for Measure*, which was directed and adapted by Professor Dowling and ran April 13 through April 17 in BMCC's Theatre Two.



BMCC Theatre Alumni Reception

# PROFESSIONALISM AND GROWTH OF THE COLLEGE

## NEW ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS BUILD STUDENT RETENTION

Thanks to the efforts of faculty and staff at BMCC, the college now offers associate degree programs in Psychology, and Science for Health Professions.

Janice Walters, a Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Teacher Education department, authored the proposal for BMCC's new Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Psychology. "Students will have the opportunity to develop research projects with professors who have a broad spectrum of interests within the field," she says. "In addition, psychology is part of STEM, so that opens up opportunities for students in terms of funded research. Graduates of the psychology program will be well prepared to continue the study of psychology at a senior college."

Professor of Science Charles Kosky wrote the proposal for BMCC's new Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Science for Health Professions. Students will complete courses in general, organic and biological chemistry, as well as general physics and other areas such as microbiology and nutrition. "It's the kind of science-based program that students need for many health professions," says Kosky. "We articulated the program so that it would fit into nutrition and also exercise-science bachelor's degree programs. Graduates of the program will also be able to transfer into accelerated bachelor's degree nursing programs."

These and other new associate degree programs at BMCC—Sociology, Modern Languages, Animation and Motion Graphics, History, Gerontology, Art History and Studio Art—are part of a strategic plan to build retention at the college, says Erwin Wong, Dean of Academic Programs and Instruction. He points out the high-retention rates of students in the BMCC Learning Academy, which originally placed students in cohorts organized by subject areas not reflected at that time, by degree offerings at the college. Those students showed much higher persistence and success than their Liberal Arts peers. As a result, Wong says, "The college has made it a priority to create niche Liberal Arts degree programs that allow students to engage with faculty on a consistent basis in their areas of interest."



# PROFESSIONALISM AND GROWTH OF THE COLLEGE

## BMCC AMONG NATION'S TOP COMMUNITY COLLEGES

BMCC ranks as one of the nation's top community colleges for awarding associate degrees, according to the 2016 *Community College Week* Top 100 report and based on data from the U.S. Department of Education.

BMCC ranks #11 among all community colleges nationwide, in the total number of associate degrees it confers—up five places from its 2016 ranking. Among all U.S. community colleges that award associate degrees, BMCC earned the following rankings:



Among community colleges that award Top 50 Associate Degrees, BMCC ranks:



## MIDDLE STATES LIAISON GIVES TIPS FOR SELF-STUDY PROCESS

Dr. Ellie Fogarty, Vice President of Institutional Field Relations at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) visited the college on April 18, 2016 and delivered a presentation to shed light on the Middle States Self-Study process that BMCC has begun.

BMCC faculty, students and staff filled the tiered rows of lecture room N452 for the event, hosted by BMCC President Antonio Pérez. Dr. Fogarty opened her talk with a question: “Are we who we say we are, to our students?” and stressed the importance, in a self-assessment process, of providing evidence that the college delivers on what it promises to its constituencies. In addition, the college must follow the Middle States Commission’s Standards for Accreditation.

The BMCC decennial self-study process for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education was launched in February 2016, when over 100 faculty and staff came together in seven working groups led by the BMCC Middle States Steering Committee. The two-year self-study process will culminate in the submission of BMCC’s Self-Study report to the MSCHE in Fall 2017, followed by a peer-reviewed visit from the Middle States Evaluation Team in Spring 2018.

## BMCC EXPANDS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Reflecting a commitment to enhance opportunity for faculty, students and staff, BMCC has expanded its leadership team to include Diane K. Walleser, the college’s first Vice President for Enrollment Management; Christopher Shults, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning; Jim Berg, the college’s first Associate Dean of Faculty, and Janice Zummo, the college’s first Assistant Dean of Academic Support Services.



Diane Walleser



Christopher Shults



Janice Zummo



Jim Berg

# FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## FACULTY CREATE FORUMS FOR NATIONAL AUDIENCES

At BMCC, faculty and staff have founded conferences that are gaining a national audience and establish BMCC as a hub for scholarly inquiry and growth.

The launch of *An Interdisciplinary Conference on Inequality & Social Justice*, held in October 2016, addressed the theme, “Transcending Punishment.” This series, founded by BMCC Professors Benjamin Haas and Michelle Ronda, featured speakers including Baz Dreisinger, Director of the Prison-to-College Pipeline at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY; Daniel McGowan, a prison reform activist and subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary film *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*, and Joshua Allen, whose analyses of race and gender have been featured on CNN, MSNBC, BBC and ABC news outlets.

The BMCC conference series *Transitions and Transactions* “is dedicated to helping community college teachers flourish and excel as we envision, invent and expand our ideas of teaching,” say its founders, Professors of English Margaret Barrow and Manya Steinkoler, in their call for submissions to present at *Transitions and Transactions III*, held April 2016. Over the years, guest speakers in the series have included acclaimed poet Billy Collins, NY1 journalist Errol Louis, and pre-eminent scholar on the teaching of writing, Sheldon Blau.

Also in April 2016, the nineteenth Colloquium of the Modern Languages Department presented *Music of the World: A World of Music*. “The colloquium was devoted to issues that impact the music industry across the globe, and how languages and cultures are intimately involved in this topic,” said event organizer and Modern Languages Professor Alejandro Varderi.



BMCC faculty are creating national conferences such as (L) *Music of the World: A World of Music* and (R) *Transitions and Transactions*.

## STUDENTS AWARDED KAPLAN SCHOLARSHIP

Three BMCC students, Science majors Norbesida Bagablia and Melanie Poggi, and Animation and Motion Graphics major Jasmine Brathwaite, have been named this year's Kaplan Scholars.

"The Kaplan Educational Foundation provides scholarships as well as tutoring, career counseling and workshops in communication skills," says Sussie Gyamfi, BMCC Scholarship Coordinator. "They give the scholars a stipend, and help them with the cost of books and application fees to their next college or university. We select students who will thrive academically, and give back to their respective communities. If you look at the Kaplan alumni profiled on their website, you will see that BMCC has had a long and productive relationship with this important organization."

"We'll be meeting with the Kaplan staff once a week," says Kaplan Scholar Jasmine Brathwaite. "They mentor us to become really good candidates for top schools in the country, and they help us apply for private scholarships to transfer to those schools once we graduate from BMCC."

Kaplan scholar Melanie Poggi grew up on Manhattan's Lower East Side and has the goal of becoming a reconstructive surgeon. "Many of the young people in my neighborhood aren't being guided into becoming doctors or lawyers," she says. "I want to be a role model for them." Fellow scholar Norbesida Bagablia moved to New York from Burkina-Fosa, West Africa. "I want young people in my home country to not be afraid of taking big steps like I did," said Bagablia, who plans to study to become a cardiac surgeon.



(L-R) Jasmine Brathwaite, Melanie Poggi and Norbesida Bagablia

# FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## BMCC ANNOUNCES LARGEST NUMBER OF GUTTMAN SCHOLARS WITHIN CUNY



Renata Gumkowska



Gina Mitchell



Joel Picon



Jason Kang



Crystal Leonard

“BMCC has the largest number of Fall 2016 Guttman scholars among all CUNY colleges,” says Allana Hankey-Thomas, Associate Director of the BMCC Academic Advisement and Transfer Center, and Co-Coordinator of the BMCC Guttman Scholarship Program.

Among the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Guttman scholars are: Emily Ally, Abd-Manaaf Bakare, Hrvoje Budimir Bekkan, Arlette Butcher, Znobia Dixon, Christina Escobar, Renata Gumkowska, JianMing Kang, Crystal Leonard, Mansha Liu, Benjamin Margulies, Ariel Mazor, Desiree Mendez, Sultan Mirzhalilov, Gina Mitchell, Joel Picon, Sara Singh, Chris Tejada and Lin Yang.

Guttman Transfer Scholarships provide students with up to \$4,000 over two years to attend Brooklyn, City, Hunter, Lehman or Queens College. They must be recent graduates of a CUNY community college, and have at least a 3.5 GPA. Priority is given to applicants who are eligible for financial aid, as evidenced by their FAFSA filing.

Lucy Coodley was a Spring 2016 Guttman Scholar who earned an Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts at BMCC and is now majoring in Economics at Hunter College. “I just finished a semester focusing on microeconomics, the economic situations of individuals,” she says, “and now we’re moving into macroeconomics, which looks at how individuals connect to each other, economically.” Coodley’s first language is Chinese, and “when native speakers spend one hour studying, I need to spend five hours,” she says. “The Guttman Scholarship makes it possible for me not to work, so I can spend more time studying and reading. It has made a big difference for me.”



Mansha Liu



Ariel Mazor



Lin Yang



Christina Escobar



Chris Tejada

## SECOND-LARGEST COHORT NATIONWIDE RECEIVES GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Seven BMCC students—the second-largest number among community colleges nationwide—received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad in Summer 2016. Sociology major Daisy Crispin and Liberal Arts major Miriam El traveled to Greece; Liberal Arts major James Perez and Speech, Communications and Theater Arts major Rafael Gell traveled to Italy; Science major Michelle Murillo traveled to Argentina, and Liberal Arts major Jessica Bravo-Martinez and Business Management major Jane Wu traveled to China.



BMCC Gilman Scholars

## AURELA DRAGANI EARNS JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

BMCC President Antonio Pérez and members of the BMCC Administration surprised Science Major Aurela Dragani on May 19 with the news that she had received the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Aurela was not expecting to hear she had received the scholarship until President Pérez personally delivered the news.



(L-R) President Pérez, Sussie Gyamfi, Aurela Dragani, VP Marva Craig and Provost Karrin Wilks

“I’m very happy to have been given this opportunity, and I’m very thankful and grateful that I received this award,” Aurela said. “This means so much to me. This is definitely the best thing that has ever happened to me up to this point in my life.” Only about 85 students won the scholarship, out of thousands that applied. Winners receive up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelor’s degrees at a four-year college or university; Aurela entered Columbia University in Fall 2016, and is majoring in Biology.

Aurela also won the BMCC Foundation Loretta Lee scholarship and took part in BMCC’s Alternative Spring Break, travelling with a group of students to New Orleans and helping build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

# YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## WAYS OF GIVING

DONATIONS FROM GENEROUS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF BMCC STUDENTS.

This support allows us to provide critically needed scholarships and emergency grants that enable our students to stay on track to graduation to achieve their dreams and goals. These philanthropic gifts also allow us to enhance special academic programs and offerings throughout the college. We are deeply grateful for contributions of all types and at all levels. Here are some special ways that you can make a difference:

### **Named, Permanently Endowed Scholarship Funds**

These scholarships, which can bear the name of the donor or be named in honor of a special family member or friend, provide on-going support for students well into the future since only the interest earned can be awarded to students. A minimum gift of \$25,000 is required to establish an endowed scholarship fund.

### **Named, Non-Endowed Scholarships**

A donor can name a scholarship that will be used to support one or more students over a designated period of time. A minimum of \$5,000 is requested.

### **President's Circle for Academic Excellence**

Enhanced annual support through the President's Circle for Academic Excellence allows us to assist where it is most needed and timely. The President's Circle provides special benefits for donors who contribute \$1,000 or more each year.

### **Major Gift Naming Opportunities**

Naming opportunities are found throughout the College, and range from physical spaces such as classrooms, laboratories, computer centers and performance halls, to special academic, student life and faculty development programs.

### **Planned Gifts**

Planned gifts – such as bequests and gifts of charitable annuities, life insurance, charitable remainder and lead trusts and other retirement assets—are a wonderful way to support the College in the future, while benefitting your family and leaving a legacy through your estate.

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*Herbert Rosenfield, long-time friend of BMCC and  
founding member of the BMCC Foundation Board  
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ally of the College and its students.*

**Borough of Manhattan  
Community College  
Foundation, Inc.  
Statement of  
Financial Position**

	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,600,045	\$ 1,512,044
Agency funds	6,603	6,603
Investments, at fair value	5,721,006	5,941,771
Contributions receivable, net	1,025,687	1,147,534
Other receivables, net	16,741	10,105
Prepaid expenses	1,170	20,902
Works of Art	85,360	50,760
Due from the Borough of Manhattan Community College	-	420
Total assets	<u>\$ 8,456,612</u>	<u>\$ 8,690,139</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 440	\$ 3,219
Funds held for Developmental Skills program	6,603	6,603
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 7,043</u>	<u>\$ 9,822</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 5,801,782	\$ 5,994,726
Temporarily restricted	1,649,542	1,857,163
Permanently restricted	998,245	828,428
Total net assets	<u>\$ 8,449,569</u>	<u>\$ 8,680,317</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 8,456,612</u>	<u>\$ 8,690,139</u>

**Borough of Manhattan  
Community College  
Foundation, Inc.**

**Statement of Activities**

*Year ended June 30, 2016*

<b>Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Public support</b>				
Annual fundraising gala, net of direct donor benefits of \$210,375	\$ 879,971	\$ 6,649	\$ -	\$ 886,620
Annual fund	55,267	-	-	55,267
Donated space and services	1,231,625	-	-	1,231,625
In-Kind Contributions	34,768	-	-	34,768
Contributions	159,917	775,904	169,817	1,105,638
Other	2,114	-	-	2,114
<b>Total public support</b>	<u>2,363,662</u>	<u>782,553</u>	<u>169,817</u>	<u>3,316,032</u>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Interest and dividends, net of fees	145,542	24,503	-	170,045
Net realized loss on sales of investments	(358,188)	(70,140)	-	(428,328)
Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments	12,784	(3,049)	-	9,735
Other	-	11,310	-	11,310
Net assets released from restrictions	952,798	(952,798)	-	-
<b>Total public support and revenue</b>	<u>3,116,598</u>	<u>(207,621)</u>	<u>169,817</u>	<u>3,078,794</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Program services</b>				
Salaries and fringe benefits	615,558	-	-	615,558
Rent	40,371	-	-	40,371
College Programs	240,236	-	-	240,236
<b>Scholarships</b>				
Scholarships	1,590,311	-	-	1,590,311
<b>Total program services</b>	<u>2,486,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,486,477</u>
<b>Supporting services</b>				
Management and general	777,265	-	-	777,265
Fundraising				
Annual Fund	25,555	-	-	25,555
Other	20,245	-	-	20,245
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<u>823,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>823,065</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>3,309,542</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,309,542</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	<u>(192,944)</u>	<u>(207,621)</u>	<u>169,817</u>	<u>(230,748)</u>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<u>5,994,726</u>	<u>1,857,163</u>	<u>828,428</u>	<u>8,680,317</u>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 5,801,782</u>	<u>\$1,649,542</u>	<u>\$ 998,245</u>	<u>\$ 8,449,569</u>



**BMCC Foundation, Inc.**

199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007-1097

## OUR MISSION

The BMCC Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to support the college. The Foundation Board provides leadership to BMCC by acquiring and stewarding financial resources to fund student scholarships and other college initiatives that help our students succeed. We develop and strengthen relationships with alumni, business, government and community organizations to provide individual, corporate and foundation support for our mission.

**CONTACT THE BMCC FOUNDATION** (212) 220-8020 [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/foundation](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/foundation)

