



manhattan commons

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Isaac Winston gets hands-on theater experience, lighting Chekhov's classic, *The Seagull*. (Story on **page 4**)

Looking Beyond Year 2

What is the mission of community colleges in the 21st Century?

For one thing, community colleges are tasked with equipping individuals with the academic and professional skills to thrive in a fast-changing world. And, in a constrained economy, the role of two-year colleges in making post-secondary education affordable is more vital than ever.

But the original mission of community colleges remains unchanged—to prepare graduates to move on to four-year colleges and pursue bachelor's degrees.

To be sure, an associate's degree impacts both the level at which one enters the workforce, and prospects for professional growth. According to a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, jobs requiring at least an associate's degree will outpace qualified applicants by at least three million, in 2018.

That said, preparing students to advance beyond their two-year degree remains paramount, and to that end, community colleges are forging partnerships with four-year institutions to ensure full credit transferability and enable graduates to transition to the next stage of their education.

BMCC is in the forefront of this movement.

We have initiated several unique collaborations with four-year colleges. Qualified BMCC graduates automatically enter the John Jay College of Criminal Justice for a Bachelor degree in Economics/Forensic Financial Analysis, Forensic Science or Criminal Justice. Our childhood and bilingual education graduates go on to earn a Bachelor in Education at City College, and our Health Information Technology graduates are on track to enter the CUNY Center's School of Professional Studies, for a Bachelor degree in Health Information Management.

These dual degree programs help BMCC carry out a crucial mandate—to equip students to further their education at the baccalaureate level and achieve professional fulfillment in a changing world.

In the truest sense, they embody our motto: "Start here. Go anywhere."

ANTONIO PÉREZ, PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



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ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE BMCC COMMUNITY



BMCC and SUNY MEOC Receive \$3 Million for Health Care Training

BMCC and The State University of New York (SUNY) Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) received a \$3 million U.S. Department of Labor, Community-Based Job Training Grant (CBJTG) to prepare individuals for employment as a Certified Nursing or

Medical Assistant Specialist, or to work in health information technology with electronic health records—areas projected to have among the greatest job growth through 2016. This 3-year training project will serve and place in jobs over 650 unemployed, dislocated or incumbent workers, or veterans (and their spouses)—groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the current recession.

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“Individuals who complete the training will acquire competitive skills to build better lives, economically,” said BMCC President Antonio Pérez, “and pursue meaningful careers that improve the quality of care people receive in hospitals, clinics and other medical settings.”

Dr. Sadie Bragg Wins Prestigious Mathematics Award

BMCC Provost/SVP Dr. Sadie Bragg was just awarded the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Mathematics Excellence Award for 2010.

Dr. Bragg has served on national boards and committees including the Advisory Board to the Education and Human Resources Directorate of the National Science Foundation (NSF), where she co-wrote the NSF document, *Shaping the Future*. She also chaired the NSF report, *The Integral Role of Two-Year Colleges in the Science and Mathematics Preparation of Prospective Teachers*.

“I wasn’t really representing me; I was representing two-year colleges,” Bragg says of her considerable work on behalf of community college mathematics instruction, which also includes having served as a president of AMATYC, and being key in putting together AMATYC’s strategic documents, *Crossroads* and *Beyond Crossroads*.

Dr. Bragg shares the Mathematics Excellence Award,



BMCC’s Provost and Sr. VP, Sadie Bragg

which was presented at AMATYC’s annual meeting in Boston this past fall, with her math colleague at Ohio State University, Edward Laughbaum.

EMMY Awarded to BMCC Professor Sandra Poster

BMCC Speech Professor Sandra Poster and four colleagues on the writing team for *We Are New York*, an English as a Second Language (ESL) TV series, each received an Emmy in the Best Writer category from The New York

Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The award ceremony of the 53rd Annual New York Emmy Awards was held at the Times Square Marriott Marquis, last spring. *We Are New York*, sponsored by the Mayor’s Office of Adult

Education and The City University of New York, airs on NYC-TV. Episodes feature English

subtitles, and touch on issues such as how to access help for domestic violence or quit smoking. Viewers practice their English afterwards in conversation groups led by volunteers, including BMCC students and alumni.

“So many of our students are immigrants and, as a speech professor, I have had the privilege of listening to their stories for years,” says Poster. “I know that without that experience I could never have written the stories I wrote.”

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5154>



Speech Professor Sandra Poster

FOUNDATION NEWS: Scholarship Donor Honored

Patient Simulation Lab Named After Lanza Family

Patricia Lanza understands the significant role education plays, on the quality of health care today. Since 1999, the Lanza Family Foundation has donated over a quarter of a million dollars to BMCC for Nursing and Allied Health scholarships, and in honor of that generosity, BMCC recently named its simulation lab, “The Lanza Family Medical Simulation Laboratory.” ♦ At this state-of-the-art facility, students practice diagnostic and treatment techniques by interacting with life-like mannequins, including an infant. BMCC President Antonio Pérez presented to Patricia Lanza a plaque in honor of the lab’s re-naming, and aspiring nurse Arti Jagjit spoke at the ceremony. “For many recipients,” she said, “an academic scholarship can mean the difference between achieving their dreams and having to defer them indefinitely.”

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5336>



Patricia Lanza, BMCC Scholarship donor (inset, above)



Bringing
a Student's
Vision to

Light



The Seagull at BMCC/TPAC

Some stars shine, some stars make others shine. Isaac Winston, a second-year theatre major who served as lighting designer for BMCC's production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* is quick to note, stage lighting is more than simple illumination.

"Basically, my job was to integrate lighting with all the elements of production—the set, the flats, the actors' skin tones and the costumes," says Winston. Like any skilled visual artist, he drew upon a full palette of colors, adding visual interest and emotional nuance to his canvas.

The opportunity to design lighting for a play that staged at the prestigious BMCC/Tribeca Performing Arts Center was an honor for Winston, who wants to work on Broadway, someday. "Usually, we'll bring in a professional," says Elizabeth Chaney, an assistant professor in the Department of Speech, Communications and Theatre Arts, and set designer for *The Seagull*.

"But Isaac had definitely shown the interest, talent, dedication and artistic sensibility to handle a main stage design."

In Chaney's courses, students learn theory but also complete a practicum in scenic lighting, costume and sound design. "We feel it's important that they understand the

field isn't only about acting and directing," she says.

The practicum "is a totally hands-on experience," adds adjunct professor Chad Yarborough. "We'll get the tools out and get them into the students' hands, so they can take things apart and see how they work. Then, when they read a play, they get to design projects that realize their creative vision."

Winston applied his creative vision to Chekhov's classic by shining a flashlight through translucent color chips, and onto a diorama of the set. "Since *The Seagull* is set in Russia in the 1890s, illumination was provided by gas lamps, lanterns and the flickering light of fireplaces, so we needed to find ways to simulate them realistically," he says. "We also had to know the time of day each scene takes place, in order to create the effects of sunlight or moonlight coming through the window."

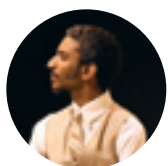
Winston's conversation about lighting is peppered with talk of pastels, color saturation, backlights, front lights, and gels. "Depending on the effect you're looking for, you go with harsh light or soft lights," he says. "The idea is to get everything to blend together—and to make a scene."

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5142>



Isaac Winston, theatre major

"My job was to integrate lighting with the set, the flats, the actors' skin tones and the costumes."



This Championship Season

*BMCC's soccer team
compiles the best record in
the College's history.*



The BMCC soccer team just went into the semifinals—their first in five years—with a near-perfect 11-1 record on the season. It was the most extraordinary season in the team's history. BMCC was ranked ninth in community colleges nationwide and fielded two NJCAA All-American candidates: Co-captain Mubarak Sani and Albanian-born teammate Klaudio Shala.

As team captain Manuel Paulino notes, making All-American is an honor conferred on the nation's best community-college players. "What's remarkable is that we had only seven returning sophomores and a bunch of freshman players," says Paulino. "It was a privilege to play with them."

No less remarkable was the players' academic achievements. Paulino, a Liberal Arts major, has maintained a 3.14 GPA and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree

and a career in physical education. Co-captain Sani dropped out of high school in his native Ghana, but completed a GED after emigrating to New York and then enrolled in BMCC, "partly because I knew the school had a great soccer program, but also because the coach at the time, Kenichi Yatsuhashi, was well-known for helping his players go on to a four-year college."

Sani, a science major, likewise hopes to continue his education after graduating from BMCC. "Balancing athletics and academics is key," he says.

Coach Afrim Lajqi—a former BMCC soccer star who also played professionally in the Albanian Premier League—couldn't be more pleased. "These are guys who come from places where soc-

cer is everything, but their philosophy is school first, soccer second," he says.

The coach's satisfaction also comes from watching his players gel as a team. "Underneath everything, this is about guys from diverse backgrounds getting to know each other, building character, building relationships and learning about the meaning and importance of respect," Lajqi says. "They bring tremendous skill and discipline to everything they do. As a coach, the best thing I can do is provide them with the guidance they need to

get to the next level."

 <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5456>

“
These are guys
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”





The Tainted Crab

In a unique collaboration, BMCC and John Jay College offer a career in forensic science

After a few bites of dressed crab, restaurant diner Dr. Actin's throat closed up, and she was wracked with abdominal pains—symptoms of anaphylactic shock. The good news is, the doctor recovered—but nagging questions remain: Since she isn't allergic to crab, why had she gotten sick? Had someone tried to poison her?

As it turns out, the incident was a fictitious case study presented to BMCC students in a recent forensic science workshop coordinated by Science Professor Nanette Van Loon, part of a collaboration between BMCC and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in which students first earn

an Associate degree in Science for Forensics at BMCC, then transfer to John Jay's Bachelor of Science program in Forensic Science.

“What the workshop does is give them a head start—practical exposure to forensics while they're still at BMCC,” says Professor Lalitha Jayant, Coordinator of the Forensic Science Program. “You're the forensics team,” Professor Christine Priano told the students, and as she and Professor Sarah Salm reviewed the Actin case, students broke into small groups to chemically analyze the crabmeat in question. “The process we use is called ‘protein gel

electrophoresis’ and involves isolating, purifying and analyzing protein from the restaurant food,” explains student Shaneka Whittick.

“Initially, we were provided with gel for the analysis,” says her classmate Ysleni Leger. “But we've since learned how to make the gel from scratch, as well as to amplify DNA.” In fact, the students learn a wide range of forensic techniques, from blood typing to fingerprint analysis.

“A lot of people base their impressions of what forensic scientists do on TV shows like *Law and Order* and *CSI*,” says student Janet Olivia Hicks. “But the reality is different. Forensics involves hard work and hard-core science. It's not all glamour and glitz. But it's incredibly interesting.”

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5116>



Professor Christine Priano

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: Professor Bil Wright

Reaching Out

Through his playwriting, English Professor Bil Wright encourages students to be their true selves.

This One Girl's Story is a new musical inspired by the life of Sakia Gunn, a 15-year-old African American and openly gay youth murdered in a hate crime at a Newark, New Jersey bus stop in 2003. Over 2,500 people attended Gunn's funeral, despite limited media



coverage of the murder—but that isn't what *This One Girl's Story* is about.

◆ Through music, movement and dialogue, this is a play about life—friendship, forgiveness, and the excitement of being one's true self. ◆ Bil Wright, a BMCC

English professor who teaches creative writing, playwriting and literature wrote the play, and composer Dionne McClain-Freeney wrote the music. “We all have stories to tell,” said Wright. “Some are more hopeful, and yet all of them, I believe, are inspirational, if we can learn from them.” ◆ Presented off-Broadway at the Abingdon Theater Complex on West 36th Street in Manhattan, *This One Girl's Story* was selected from an international pool of submissions, to be part of the Gayfest NYC 2010 festival. ◆ “I particularly wanted to reach out to young people with a piece like this,” said Wright. “Part of my mission for being in the classroom is to tell students not to be afraid of communicating who they are, and what they bring to the world. I know it sounds corny, but it is such a gift to be loved. If anyone loves you, and you want to talk about it, you absolutely should be able to say who that person is.”

<http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5098>



Bed and Breakfast, Brooklyn Style

Entrepreneur and BMCC alum Adrienne Kennick's business education continues, as she manages the Escape Guesthouse in Brooklyn.

Like most BMCC students, Adrienne Kennick ('08) balanced work with her education, amassing up to 40 hours a week at the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) she helped her mother open in 2006, in the historic brownstone neighborhood of Boerum Hill, Brooklyn.

"I wanted to learn more about entrepreneurship and how to keep a small business running," says the former Business Management major. "BMCC was very accommodating with its day and night courses. The college was there for me when I needed to go back to school."

Despite her heavy schedule, Kennick completed her studies at BMCC in just a year and a half. She graduated with Honors, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a tutor in the Learning Resource Center, and received an Excellence in Travel and Tourism Award from the Business Management department.

Her advice for aspiring entrepreneurs is "to make sure you love what you do, because starting a business is day-in and day-out. Know accounting: how money works, where it's going — and be able to forecast what your cash flow is going to be."

Amid the financial responsibilities of running a B&B, she also enjoys the perks—such as living vicariously through the artists, student interns, musicians and other visitors who pass through on their travels. "When guests return from a day out," says Kennick, "I like to find out what they did, or at breakfast I'll ask what their plans are."

Her own plan is to continue working toward a bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management at New York City College of Technology, applying what she's learning on the job, and what she discovered about business—and herself—at BMCC.

"I remember Business Professor David Lang told me, 'If you try to make something for everyone, you will wind up pleasing no one'," she says. "By working at Escape Guesthouse, I've learned it's okay to be in charge of other people and to help others learn on the job. I've also learned I'm not as shy as I thought I was. I have a level of responsibility and outgoingness that's been real fun for me."

📄 <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5180>

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: Anthony Nesturi



"Ever since I was a kid," says BMCC alum Anthony Nesturi, "I used to play around with colorful substances, mixing them to see if there were chemical reactions." Now a research and development chemist at a cosmetic company in Queens, Nesturi uses chemistry to make products better. "A moisturizer might separate, and we try to figure out why," he says. "We also do color matching—lipstick, eyeliner, foundation." ♦ Nesturi moved from Albany to the Bronx, when he was a teenager. He earned an Associate in Science degree from BMCC in 2005, a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from City College in 2010, and applies his education every day at work. "We had this lip gloss," he says, "and the flavor kept going away. I did 20 samples with one variable before I found the problem—oil binding to the sweetener. So, we changed the oil, and fixed it." ♦ Eventually, he says, "I want to do my Ph.D. in organic chemistry, because I always thought, 'Who's the best chemist? Nature's the best chemist'.

Nature synthesizes molecules effortlessly, and chemistry is a way of mimicking nature. I'd like to improve the ways we synthesize compounds to create fuel, energy, or plastics."

Request for Success

BMCC Alumni – send us your success stories! Write Barry Rosen, Executive Director of Public Affairs, at brosen@bmcc.cuny.edu

Keep in Touch

with the BMCC alumni office at
www.bmcc.cuny.edu/alumni
or 212-220-1251

Life Through a Different Lens

Photojournalist Malcolm Linton puts down his camera to pursue a career in nursing.



As a photojournalist and filmmaker, Malcolm Linton documented the break-up of the Soviet Union, guerilla wars in Central America, and the plight of refugees in Africa. His work has appeared in publications including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Match* and *Der Stern*. ♦ Now Linton is laying down his camera and at age 53, embarking on a new path. Since last fall, he has been enrolled at BMCC, taking courses for a career in nursing. Linton, who once believed that documenting conflicts would lessen their likelihood for recurring, now says, “I’m not sure that’s the case.” Nursing, he thinks, will have a more immediate impact. ♦ Born and raised in England, Linton began his career as a photographer for Reuters in the midst of El Salvador’s civil war. “I was about to head back to Latin America when the first Gulf War broke out,” he says, “so I flew to Jordan instead, and spent some time in the Middle East, then four years covering internal conflicts throughout the former Soviet Union.” Linton also lived amid the struggle of Sudan’s Nuba people, modern-day slavery in Mauritania and war victims in Sierra Leone. ♦ “If you’re going to spend time in places where people are having a rough time,” he says, “you need a good reason to be there. For me, journalism was a good reason to be there. Nursing should provide an even better reason.”

📄 <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/news.jsp?id=5065>

CommonsCalendar

Events and performances for the coming months

Jazz at BMCC TPAC

● **Lost Jazz Shrines: 52nd Street in the Modern Mode, Parts 1, 2 & 3.** Celebrate urban jazz haunts of yesteryear on May 20, May 27 and June 3: Panel @ 7 p.m., concert 8:30 p.m. \$25; students and seniors \$15. Package Price: 2 shows \$50, third show free. Stay tuned for performer lineup: www.tribecapac.org.

Tribeca Spotlight

● **The New York Underground Comedy Festival 2011.** Comics from around the world kick off the Festival. May 21 @ 8 p.m., \$15.

● **Rebecca Pronsky & Band.** ▶ One of New York’s finest songwriters,



Rebecca Pronsky’s songs are “literate, passionate and wry” (*Time Out NY*). March 18 @ 8 p.m., \$15.

● **BR and Timebomb.** BR (Beyond Recognition), a Brooklyn hip-hop artist, leads Timebomb, a 7-piece band: Olivia Martine, violin/viola; Jibrail Nor, drums; Shanelle Jenkins, trumpet; Karnage, lead guitar; Stacy Beatty, Jr., bass. April 8 @ 8 p.m., \$15.

Family Series

● **Charlotte’s Web.** E.B. White’s childhood classic story of Wilbur, a pig, and Charlotte, the spider, is told on



▲ **Room on the Broom**

stage. Ages 5 & up. March 6 @ 3 p.m., \$25; 10 Club Members \$14.

● **Room on the Broom.** A witch’s broom breaks, setting off adventures for a dog, bird, frog and hungry dragon. Ages 3 & up. April 16 @ 1:30 p.m., \$25; 10 Club Members \$14.



Borough of Manhattan
Community College
199 Chambers Street
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BR & Timebomb



CommonsCalendar: All events are presented by the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center (www.tribecapac.org). For tickets call: 212-220-1460.