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Enter Special Contests-Watch For BCC Updates Community Happenings Plays, Club Events, List Concerts, Art Galleries, Express Opinions

Inventors' Story Inspires Writer

BY BRITTANY BRODEUR

Staff Writer

Benjamin Banneker said, "The color of the skin is in no way connected with the strength of the mind or intellectual powers."

We have been taught since elementary school that in the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month.

Shouldn't we show our appreciation for those valiant leaders that have come before us all year, instead of just one month?

There are other people that feel the same way, and they directed those feelings into a multimedia presentation, a traveling museum, which pays tribute to the world's unsung heroes, the Black inventor and scientist.

The Museum of Black Inventions and Innovations was founded in 1995, with a mission to "develop racial pride, promote racial understanding and provide a motivation for learning." As students in a time where education seems to be the only tool to propel us to great places in life, we can learn a lesson or two from these prolific minds who have come before us.

The Black Inventors Exhibit (BIE) was founded in Massachusetts, and over the years has traveled out of New England, and will even travel internationally to Japan and Europe. The real "Cinderella Story" here is that these creators of this sensational project started with an idea and a dream, and created something monumental.

Many of the things we now take for granted in our society have come from

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Above: One of the several donation boxes positioned around campus (Photo: Ryan Pease)

BCC's Intimate Approach to Quake Relief

BY BLIGH MACDONALD

Editor-in-Chief

When our faculty advisor first proposed we cover BCC's Haitian relief efforts in a feature story, we routinely lauded the school for doing something for that, and happily offered the obligatory front-page space for information on how to contribute.

Big print, we offered. It's great that BCC is doing something too.

After callously casting the meat of the story aside and preparing to move on, our venerable advisor halted us.

He asked us if we even know what BCC is doing for Haitian relief. It hadn't occurred to this reporter that BCC may be doing something different for Haiti, something other than simply collecting money and writing checks.

Of course, the catalyst for popular support of the people of Haiti was the devastating January 12th earthquake which left roughly 230,000 dead, 300,000 injured, and nearly 1,000,000 homeless. Indeed, support from the US has been highly admirable, with donations from American charities alone eclipsing 774 million dollars - this estimate doesn't even include donations from private citizens and non-charitable organizations.

Here at BCC - one of the aforementioned "non-charitable organizations" - VP of Students Steven Ozug has been tasked with heading Haitian relief efforts. "When we launched the program," says Ozug, "we started by brainstorming ideas for what the best approach would be, but when we sat down with

Continued on page 6



BCC BASKETBALL ADVANCE IN TOURNEY – Watch for complete coverage in April issue.

Editor-in-Chief.....Bligh MacDonald
 New Bedford Campus Editor.....Chris Wilbur
 Fall River Campus Editor.....Estrella Fitton
 Attleboro Campus Editor.....Sean Wilcoxson
 Faculty Senior Copy Editor.....Harvey Ussach
 A&E Editor.....Alla Dorogopulko
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Half Page 10x8 (4 column x 8 inches)		\$200.00
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The Observer, the student newspaper of Bristol Community College, is published monthly to serve the BCC Fall River, New Bedford and Attleboro campuses with a circulation of 2,000 copies.

The paper is scheduled for publication once a month. The Observer staff will make every effort to ensure that publication deadlines are met, but is not responsible for delays due to technical and/or printing problems. Camera-ready ads are due one week before the next scheduled issue. Ads which require additional design work and/or typesetting should be submitted at least two weeks before the issue date. You may email digital ad files to observer@bristolcc.edu as a photograph (at least 300 dpi) in either .tif or .jpg format. You may also submit high resolution PDF files (at least 300 dpi, color or black and white). For more information, or to place an ad in The Observer, please contact us at 508.678.2811, ext. 2989. Tear sheets and invoices will be mailed after first ad insertion is published.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the New Observer

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

When it comes to words, I'm one in favor of quality over quantity, so I'll give you a couple of heartfelt paragraphs, and then some doodles. Please read the paragraph; feel free to disregard the doodles.

Students Share Scholarships

BY LAURA BANVILLE
 BCC Alum

The Bristol Community College Follett Bookstore has awarded 26 full- and part-time students from all three campuses gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$500 for their volunteering and community service.

This year's recipients were student ambassadors, tutors, service learning students, and various BCC club members.

Kim Kushner, a student ambassador was one of the award recipients. Kushner said that the Follett Award gives her incentive for continuing to volunteer.

"Just as a good grade in class is a reward for hard work, so too is this scholarship a reward for community service," she said.

Pagna Eam, a student ambassador from the Attleboro campus was another award winner.

"Serving the BCC community is important to me because I have a wonderful time serving and learning from people around me," Eam said.

Follett funds between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in scholarships each year.

The gift cards can be used to purchase books, school supplies, computer software, or materials from the Follett Bookstore.

"This program supports students who give their time to help the College or the community," said Linda Danzell, Associate Vice President of Administration at BCC.

"Encouraging students to participate in their committee is important to the College, and we wanted to recognize those who make that effort," she said.

This will be my first and only semester as E-i-C of The Observer, as I'm transferring to BCC, but I see it as a wonderful opportunity to usher the paper into a new era of student participation and entertaining, informative content. Each addition during my tenure will be better than the last, because as this paper gets closer to what it can and should be, more students will take notice and want to participate -- to make it even better.

When it is time for me to move on,

I would like to have a team in place that will carry the torch. Will this team include you, reader? It should. Share your thoughts with us. Come to a staff meeting. Take ownership of your paper any way you see fit. At least, enjoy.

Bligh MacDonald


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TRANSFORM YOURSELF. TRANSFORM SOCIETY.

IT SHOULD ALL ADD UP Open Mathematics Competition

BCC NEWS BRIEF

An Open Mathematics Competition sponsored by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) was held on campus in early March.

BCC students with knowledge of pre-calculus algebra, trigonometry, synthetic and analytic geometry and probability were eligible to participate. Any student at a two-year college who has not earned a two-year college or higher degree was eligible to compete as well as part-time students.

The competition consisted of short-answer and multiple choice questions. Students were given 60

minutes to complete the written examination.

National and regional prizes will be given by the AMATYC. Monetary prizes will be donated by the Mathematics Department through the BCC Foundation to the top competitors.

Due to deadline constraints, we are unable to list participants and winners of the competition at this time but hope to follow up this story in our next edition.

For more information, please contact: Susan Hoy in Building L, Room 215 or Cecilia Medeiros in Building L, Room 214.

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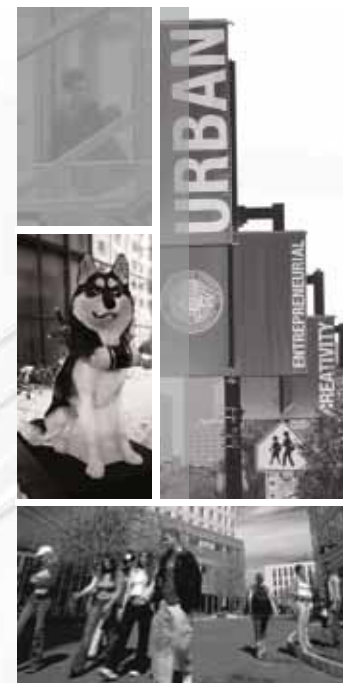
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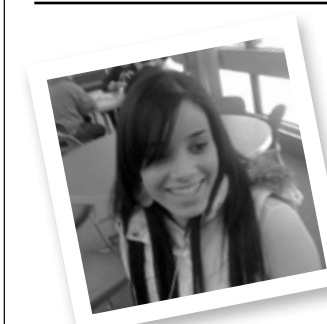
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THE BIG QUESTION

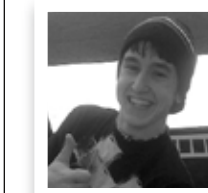
WELCOME TO TBQ -- a new feature in which our reporters hit the field and ask the same question to ten-or-so students. Now, it's no secret that the US economy is going through a rough patch. Well, they say that every dark cloud has a silver lining. (And every silver lining has a touch of gray, but we digress.) That is, even when something bad happens, there is something positive to be gained from it. Thus, we give you this edition's big question:

What silver lining have you found in this bad economy?



Crystal Macedo:

"Because there are less jobs, more people are going back to college."



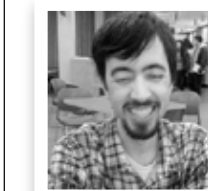
Kyle Ducharme:

"Since the economy's been bad, it seems like they've had more free samples at Shaw's."



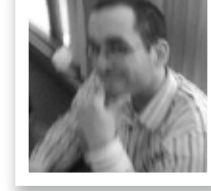
Jaqueline Pereira:

"People are learning to save money better."



James Edwards:

"The stores are having more sales."



Ryan Beaudette:

"The fact that I still get a paycheck is a silver lining."



Kristen Lachance:

"My parents know the job market is bad, so they stopped harassing me to get a job."



Trevor Tessia:

"If I had found a silver lining, I would have sold it for money."



Eric Hoestery:

"Stupid people are making sure I still have a job. I'm an EMT."

You could be next...

BCC Artists Explore the Azores

BY ALLA DOROGOPULKO
A&E Editor

In the summer of 2009 nine artists from Bristol Community College set off to the beautiful islands of the Azores to explore, research and find inspiration to take back to the USA and to put on an Art Exhibit reflecting their personal experiences.

The opening reception of the Exhibit titled “Travelers Not Tourists: Nine Artists in the Azores,” was held in February at the at the Narrows Center for the Arts in Fall River MA.

Erik Durant, the BCC instructor who conceived and implemented the trip said, “We were artists doing research — doing sketches, taking photographs, just taking in the culture.”

Travelers included eight BCC students (Jennifer Cawley, Angela Dispirito, Monique Dupre, Neal Fitzgerald, Kenneth Fontaine, Chris Masse, Jessica Rapoza and Matt Willett). They were chosen from 30 artists in a juried portfolio competition for the trip.

Even though they traveled as a group, each artist was inspired by different things and created art that meant something to him or her.

Angela Dispirito, who graduated from BCC last year and is currently studying at UMass, Dartmouth, was inspired by a jellyfish that stung her when she swam out into the ocean for the first time.

“A week later I got the idea” Dispirito said of (The Portuguese Man Of War) “Physalia Physalis”.

The jellyfish sting inspired her so much that she created two jellyfish sculptures, each with its own personality; as well as three paintings, which she made with string and paint.

Dispirito created her sculptures using stuffed fabric and other materials. She started the BCC program as a painter and while here she was inspired by instructors to try to create sculptures.

As she started exploring this new concept, she found herself to be drawn to it.

Matt Willett took a different approach to his art and created a variety of tea packages. Inspiration came from a tea company that is based in the Azores. The company currently supplies three

TRAVELERS NOT TOURISTS: NINE ARTISTS IN THE AZORES

MONIQUE DUPRE
KENNETH FONTAINE
ANGELA DISPIRITO
NEAL FITZGERALD
CHRIS MASSE
MATT WILLETT
JESSICA RAPOZA
JENNIFER CAWLEY
ERIK DURANT

varieties of tea: green, black and white.

In Willett’s design, he added three more flavors: chai, herbal and pearl tea. With these six varieties of tea he created clever packaging which when placed together creates a hexagon box (see picture).

Jessica Rapoza’s said her experience was important to her progression as an artist. She bonded with the other seven artists.

While in the Azores, Rapoza experienced a death in the family and being so far away she felt alone but she made it through with the support of the “travel gang”.

Her experience helped her grow and figure herself out as a person. Rapoza’s work includes many still scenes which represented important memories from her experience in the Azores.

Erik Durant, found inspiration in a bullfight. He created a life size cast sculpture bull. The progression of the sculpture is posted in Durant’s photos on Facebook.

Each experience was personal to the artist and each artist showed in a creative and clever way their experiences.



Check out [Team Azores!](#) on Facebook.

Pictured (Clockwise): Team Azores, Monique Dupre, Jennifer Cawley and paintings, Matt Willett with sculpture, Erik Durant sculpture, gallery entrance (Middle) Angela Dispirito with sculpture, Jessica Rapoza with sculpture (Photos: Alla Dorogopulko)



College and Legislators Look for Ways to Increase Funding Enrollment Up, Funding Down

BY ESTRELLA FITTON
Fall River Campus Editor

Bristol Community College ranks third in enrollment for all Massachusetts community colleges with 5,545 students enrolled, based on Fall 2009 enrollment figures.

But it ranks 8th in overall state funding at approximately \$12.5 million and 14th in state funding per student at \$2,246.

According to a November 2009 survey conducted by *Community College Week*, a national publication covering community, technical and junior colleges throughout the country, Bristol Community College ranked 37th out of 50 of the fastest growing colleges in the nation with a 9.6 percent growth rate between 2007 and 2008 based on its overall enrollment.

BCC President John Sbrega told the college's legislative delegation and all those in attendance at the college's re-



Above: BCC President John Sbrega addresses the Annual Legislative Breakfast held in February. (Photo: Estrella Fitton)

cent annual Legislative Breakfast that he wants to increase all the numbers both enrollment and funding, and keep them rising.

"With the full support of our legislators our goal is to increase the funding available for all our full-time students," President Sbrega said.

Area legislators, students, alumni, staff, and members of the AFSCME faculty union and the MCC-MTA Union attended the Friday, February 5, 2010, annual Legislators' breakfast meeting in G building cafeteria.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

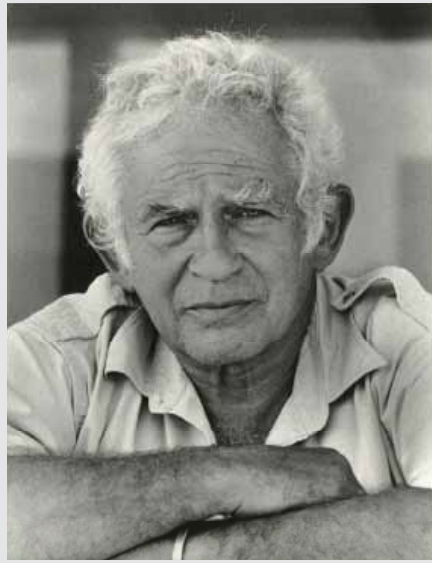
The Norman Mailer Cape and Islands Community College Writing Awards

Contest Rules: This contest is open to all registered students at BCC

This Year's Category: Nonfiction

Deadline: March 22, 2010

Entries must be no more than 10 single-spaced pages and must be emailed as attachments to: molendze@cape-cod.edu



The winner will receive a **\$1,000 cash prize**, along with a scholarship for a one-week stay at the Norman Mailer Writers Colony in Provincetown and runner-ups will receive a **\$250 cash prize**.

Submissions will be reviewed by members of the CONNECT Writing Group, who will select five finalists. These finalists will be submitted to the Norman Mailer Writers Colony, who will choose the winner. Awards will be made at a graduation-related ceremony. Sponsored by the Norman Mailer Writers Colony and the Fine Arts Work Center. www.nmwcolony.org

►Quake

Continued from page 1

some of our Haitian students and asked them, the one thing they kept saying was, "We just want to go home."

So Ozug took a novel approach -- he decided that the money raised by the school to help mitigate such expansive destruction should go to a relative handful of people, to our Haitian students, to send them home. The concept is a simple one; the value of having a loved one home is immeasurably greater than an equivalent amount of cash (minus "handling fees"). On top of that, the program benefits the people of Haiti while directly benefitting a portion of the student body.

According to Ozug, at least twenty Haitian students enrolled at BCC have come forward to participate, eight of which are "ready to go" in terms of having all the logistics of their trip worked out. There is no official tally of how many Haitian students there are at BCC; there may indeed be several more who have yet to come forward, unable to face the grief or having withdrawn from daily

life altogether.

In late February, I was able to speak with one of our "ready to go" students, Rose Bazile. She was verbally jubilant when she said, "I did not expect that," of BCC's program. Reluctant to share details on how the tragedy has affected her personally, Rose prefers to look on the bright side. She delights in the fact that the tragedy has led her to discover that there are numerous fellow Haitians in this area. "Now, I can't wait to go home," she said, "to see what I can do to help."

One student BCC student lost nine family members in the quake. The girl's mother, a diabetic, survived the quake, but the medical facility she had counted on for daily care and medication was destroyed. The Haiti earthquake was this, times one-million.

"We need to raise about ten-thousand dollars," Ozug says, "and it just happens that there are about ten-thousand people in the extended BCC community. So, it doesn't take much on an individual basis."

This reporter is skipping Starbucks today.

►Inventors

Continued from page 1

the innermost workings of the Black inventor. Take for instance the super soaker,

or for more practical purposes, the cell phone or the traffic light. In a country in which over 6 million patents have been issued since the nation's birth, it often defers a person from following their dreams of creating something the world has never seen before. As Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently put it "By the time we leave for work we have been dependant on half the world. Modern America is created by dependencies on the inventions from the minds of Black Folks."

"The Awakening: Black Inventors Worldwide" is the 2010 theme of this year's Black inventors Exhibit. This traveling museum will travel to over 100 schools in cities and towns all over the United States and Canada, and will even travel overseas to Europe and Asia. The creators of the BIE had a mission and a goal, and that is not only to give credit

to the inventors, but to inspire others to believe that anything is possible. As the youth of this country, and an integral part of this community, we have all been faced with some kind of adversity in our lives. The BIE strives 365 days a year to inspire this country's future leaders to become a part of something bigger than they are.

Throughout the history of the United States, too little attention and recognition has been given to the Black inventors of our time. It is our role as students to question what we are told, push the envelope, and always ask why. So while we all still have the Black History Month fever, push your selves a little further, and dig a little deeper into a culture so greatly deprived of appreciation. And this is also a message to the students, and for the students, for us to become worthy someday of having exhibits shown about us, because "whatever the mind can conceive, the mind can achieve."

Sing, Sing, Sing Chorus/Choral Club on Campus

BCC NEWS BRIEF

Ron Lister, Chairman of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, announced that students, faculty and staff are invited to join the BCC Chorus Club. The chorus will be under the leadership of Dr. Alan Pearlmuter of Brookline, Mass.

The first club meeting was held recently. Future club meetings will be held every Thursday in H129 during the regularly scheduled activities period 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

No auditions are necessary, and

both beginning and experienced singers are welcome.

For more information, please contact: Ron Lister at ron.lister@bristolcc.edu, or at telephone extension, 2256 or Joanne Petrasso at Joanne.Petrasso@bristolcc.edu, or at telephone extension, 2242.



BCC Spring Job Fair

BCC NEWS BRIEF

The BCC Career Center will hold its Spring Job Fair on Thursday, April 22nd, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Commonwealth College Center, G Building Lobby.

All BCC students are welcome to come and learn about job opportunities and career paths in a variety of fields: retail, management, public safety, criminal justice, early childhood educations, financial services, and more.

The Career Center will also hold

a series of preliminary workshops on what to expect at the fair. For more information on the job fair and associated workshops please contact: Career Center at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2231 or email careercenter@bristolcc.edu.

The Career Center website is located from the BCC Home Page by clicking on Current Students and then on Career Services under the Student Support Services heading.

New Bedford Campus Library Offers Students Help

BY CHRIS WILBUR
New Bedford Campus Editor

The BCC New Bedford Campus Library, where students first pick up their ID, is a one-stop center for all college needs.

The Library offers academic support, tech support, internet ready com-

puters with printers and a supportive staff. Librarians Jenna Burns or Lillian Desrosiers are available to answer questions.

What subject is taking so much time and is so stressful for you? Worry

no more! Tutors are free, just book an appointment at the Library front desk and a tutor will soon assist you. Your tutor will show you how to work more efficiently, to put in less effort and get better grades. It's a no brainer.

In the very same place, the Writing Center Center will give you personal, one on one access to experienced professors like Margot Green or Nancy Benson, free. Work your writing into a

masterpiece.

If you need a computer, take a seat and enjoy high-speed internet access with printing to boot.

Research a report with the all new E-Library, scan 40,000 full texts. The all new E-Library has an estimated 40,000 texts available in the time it takes to click, take your time, get all the materials you need to write your winning paper.

If APA and MLA styles are confusing and complicated, take a workshop at the library and become an expert.

Need to update your resume?

Workshops are available at the library to make

you into an impressive prospect to your future employer.

With the support of the BCC New Bedford campus library, you can rest in a powerful web of experience where willing people will guide you to your academic dreams. Take advantage of all it offers.

It's there for you!

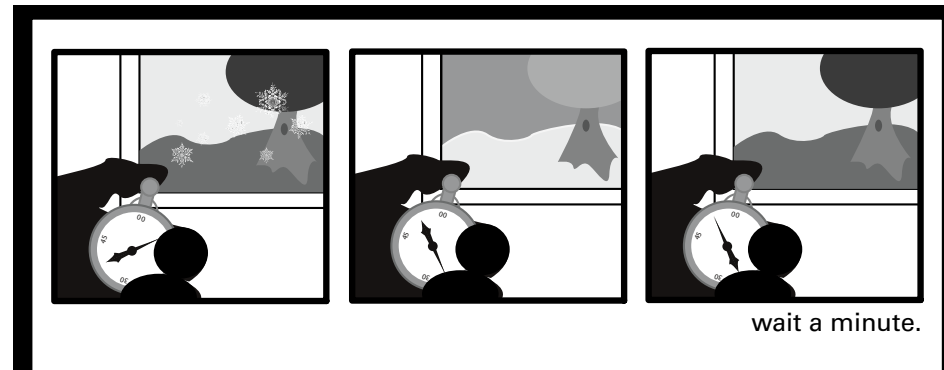


Top: BCC New Bedford students busy at the campus library. (Photo: Chris Wilbur)

ART/ HUMOUR CONTEST

WELCOME TO OUR AWKWARDLY-NAMED "ART/HUMOR CONTEST".

For every edition, we will ask you how you deal with something, and we will offer you the opportunity to express yourself visually. We want you to participate, so the one who does the best job gets twenty-five bucks cash! The top five runners-up will each receive a gift certificate for twenty-five bucks off your next yacht cleaning* and will be published in The Observer! The topic for this edition's contest wasn't published, so we only had three entries. Below are the entries for the contest: "How you deal with the weather."



\$25 WINNER

Think you could do better?

Participate in our next contest:

How you deal with traffic?

- Submissions must be made in 4" x 6" format
- Send digital submissions to observer@bristolcc.edu or inquire at Observer HQ
- Pdf, jpeg, psd, and gif formats acceptable
- All entries must be received by **March 20th** to be considered



RUNNER UP: Anonymous

Attleboro Writing Center Helps Students Become Better Writers

BY SEAN WILCOXSON

Attleboro Campus Editor

Stressing out over that paper due tomorrow and don't know where to turn?

Have no fear; the Writing Center is here!

The main goal of the Center is to guide students along the requirements for the assignment as well as see what they are writing and understand it.

Farah Habib, a tutor who has professional experience in writing composition, said "A common misconception is that students think they have to be a bad writer to come here. The truth is even professional writers need help with writing too." The Writing Center is run by the students' need for improvement in their writing skills.

Dr. Keith Carriero, Attleboro Advisor and Adjunct Instructor in English, is excited about the potential of the Center has for affecting the community. "We help people see what they say, and say what they see," said Dr. Carriero.

The Writing Center is open to anyone who needs help, from GED to business letters to essays to online research, the Center's tutors are there with their expertise and support.

The tutors are Dr. Keith Carriero,



Above: Dr. Keith Carriero (standing) Erin Scialdone and Bryce Lipscomb (Photo: Sean Wilcoxson)

“A common misconception is that students think they have to be a bad writer to come here. ;

Farah Habib, and Tracy Amaral, a part-time evening instructor for the Writing Center.

The Writing Center is not just a place for writing; it is a lab where the tutor and the learner experiment to create a concoction of knowledge that is put into more than just words.

The Center is open Monday through Friday at 9 am by appointment only. Ask the front desk for more information.



SPORTS



(Photo: Bert Lane)

BCC BASKETBALL BCC Advances in Tourney

BCC NEWS BRIEF

In an action-filled game, BCC defeated Bunker Hill Community College 100-97 in the NJCAA New England Regional Tournament quarter-finals in front of a packed home crowd.

The game was decided in the final minutes of the game, with key points for both teams often coming from the free throw line.

With this win, the Bees advanced to the semi-finals in Springfield to face Gateway Community College on March 5, marking BCC first tourney trip.

The team, coached by Rob Delaleu, was ranked #2 in Division III, Region 21 of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and

ended the regular season with a 16-5 record.

The Bees compete against other junior colleges in Massachusetts, as well as throughout the rest of New England.

At the time the Observer went to press, the team was scheduled to play in the Region 21 playoffs at Bishop Connelly High School.

In individual accomplishments, Frank Stephenson, a 6-foot guard hailing from Fall River and a former Durfee High School player, was named Division III Player of the Week by the NCJAA on February 3.

In a nail-biting 92-90 win over Roxbury, Stephenson scored 22 points and went 7 for 7 from the free throw line. He also had ten rebounds.

In the week leading up to his recognition by the NJCAA Stephenson averaged 13 points per game.

Stephenson is in his second year at BCC and enrolled in a Liberal Arts – Professional program.

The Observer

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Prevailing Wind

SUBMIT

prevailing.wind@bristolcc.edu

Prevailing Wind is a semi-annual online publication of Bristol Community College student-authored prose, poetry, photography, artwork, reviews, and non-fiction. We are open to all types of works from conventional to highly experimental.

All enrolled students at any BCC Campus are welcome to submit their work for consideration. Works submitted for publication are subject to review by the editorial staff. *Be sure to provide your name and contact information, including your phone number and BCC email address.

Poetry

Submit up to five poems of any style or length.

Prose

Submit no more than two works of fiction, creative non-fiction, or memoir—up to 3000 words, or no more than two art, film, or music reviews—up to 1500 words.

Art & Photography

Please send no more than six of your works as attachments of scans or photographs. Each file should be sent as a JPEG the size of which should not exceed one MB. Please include the title, date, dimensions, and medium of each work submitted. If you would like us to consider your work but cannot meet these requirements, please contact us for further assistance. While we welcome artist statements, they are not required.

Prevailing Wind is not responsible for misdirected or lost submissions. If you have any questions about your submission, please contact us at prevailing.wind@bristolcc.edu, using the subject header "submission status."

Visit us at www.bristolcc.edu/prevailingwind/