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The Observer

ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 2011, ISSUE 13

The BCC History of Hip-Hop event, held on February 24, brought a diverse range of students together for a fun afternoon of music, culture and performance art. It was an eye-opening experience that brought attention to the unique blend of talents and interests in our fellow students. HIP-HOP PAGE 5

SNOW! SNOW! GO AWAY!



Photo by RYAN PEASE

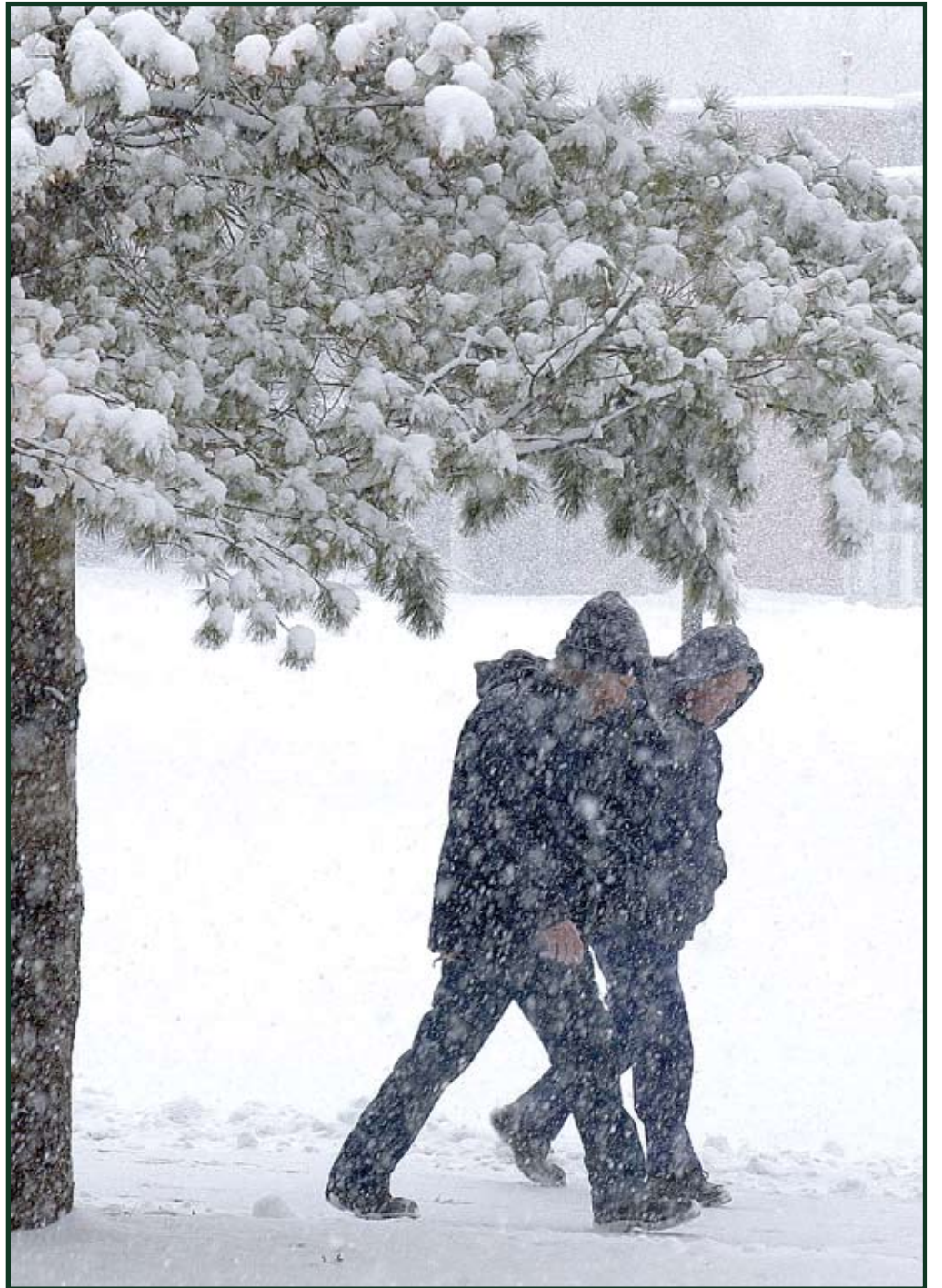


Photo courtesy of BCC

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With a very active winter season on its way out, BCC students are finally getting a well-deserved break! The record snowfall caused headaches for both students and administrators. However, our faculty and students persevered as all hearty New Englanders will, and are eagerly awaiting spring.

THE OBSERVER

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Life Sciences Internships

By SARAH MULVEY

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center in Waltham, MA has announced their 2011 Summer Internship Challenge Program. The program hopes to give up to 170 students the opportunity to participate in at various life science companies across the state.

Last year, 94 companies participate and provided 170 students with paid internships, with 33 interns receiving either full or part-time jobs at the end of the summer. Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, President and CEO of the LSC states that “companies that move here or expand here cite our talented workforce as one of the main reasons they choose Massachusetts.”

With so many growing companies looking for new talent, the internship program can provide many opportunities for our students. The “hands on” experience that students gain will prepare them to ‘step into the workforce’ with confidence upon the completion of their degree.

To be eligible for participation,

a student must be a college sophomore. Candidates also have to be MA residents or attend school in Massachusetts. The center has a

‘ Students who are selected to participate will be paid up to \$15 an hour for up to twelve weeks of work.’

hand in the entire selection process. It gets participant’s resumes out to companies and allows the company to select the best-fitting candidates. Students post their cover letters and resumes online, and companies browse through them to match skills with their needs. This certainly alleviates the stress of submitting resumes independently, amid the floods that companies receive each year. Most of

the companies that participate in the program are small starter companies that have multiple opportunities for growth and development, an exciting and rewarding experience for any student to participate in. The benefit to BCC students is that the Center is dedicated to contributing at least ten percent of the program to students from community colleges.

Students who are selected to participate will be paid up to \$15 an hour for up to twelve weeks of work. The Center requires participating companies to provide an internship opportunity that corresponds with the student’s academic focus and career goal. This ensures that the student is getting an experience that will directly affect their development in their professional career.

To learn more, please visit the Center’s website at www.masslifesciences.com/grants/challenge.html

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FRESH FACES FOR STUDENT SENATE

By CHRIS WILBUR



GLORIA RODRIGUEZ

Gloria, originally from Columbia, speaks three languages and is a strong advocate for international students.



TAMRA BRYANT

Tamra describes herself as a small town country girl. Originally from Wisconsin, she has expertise in agriculture and works in a program called Sharing the Harvest, where vegetable crops are raised and donated.



JILLIAN BZDULA

Jillian, known around campus as “speedy,” has muscular dystrophy and is often seen in her wheelchair advocating for accessibility.



NICOLE COLLINS

Nicole has been involved in many student leadership activities, from the Commonwealth Honors Program, to AmeriCorps, to being an Orientation Leader.



ANDREEA MARIN

Andreea is a straight A student originally from Romania. She was selected for an internship last year at Disney World and works as a tutor.

Photos by RYAN PEASE

RETURNING STUDENT SENATORS

JOE FRIAS

Joe’s leadership resume includes being the regional officer for Phi Theta Kappa, President of the Roderact Club, Treasurer of the GSA Club and a Student Ambassador.

JESSICA MENDES

Jessica is a returning senator and a big sports fan.

ALISHA SOUZA

Alisha is a returning senator who was the captain of BCC’s soccer team and is studying to become a dentist.

MELISSA PINA

Melissa is a returning senator hoping to enter the Nursing program. She was a member of Mentors in Violence Prevents and was the captain of the track team at Taunton High School.

HUNTER PARENT-WETMORE

Hunter is the returning Attleboro Center representative. Hunter entered BCC at age 15 in 2008 and is hoping to become a doctor.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By SARAH MULVEY

Need a break from cafeteria food and vending machine munchies? We've got the rundown of the best places close to campus to satisfy the appetite you've worked up during a long day of classes.

FOR NEW BEDFORD CAMPUS STUDENTS

Café Arpeggio



A big, beautiful "Parisian-style bistro" located directly across from No Problemo. The deli-style sandwiches are wonderfully prepared, and the coffee is exceptionally strong and well-brewed. They also offer a wide selection of freshly baked pastries, specialty coffee beverages and home-made ice cream. The seating is plentiful and the café provides free wi-fi for patrons.

The Green Bean



Located on the corner of Union and Purchase street, the Green Bean is in the prime spot to rush in for your quick fix of caffeine. Smoothies and specialty coffee beverages are the main attraction. The Green Bean also offers a wide selection of sandwiches, all very healthy and delicious. The café is bright and cheery and offers wi-fi. It's the perfect place to sit and study or to people watch until you notice your professor heading into the Star Store building

No Problemo



Located on the corner of Williams and Purchase street, No Problemo has become one of the prominent features of the blossoming Downtown district. They specialize in made-to-order Mexican cuisine grilled, stuffed and sautéed in a fast-paced short order kitchen. The staff is friendly and effi-

cient, and they'll give your name a boisterous shout when your food is ready. The restaurant also has a room reserved for guests who would rather sit down and be waited on, along with an extensive bar menu. Best feature: home-made salsa and festive red, green and white tortilla chips. All of their dishes are made with gener-

ous portions of meat, beans, and veggies along with whatever else you'd like to add. Perfect for a quick bite between classes or a big meal with friends to tide you over for your upcoming three-hour class.

FOR FALL RIVER CAMPUS STUDENTS

The Ugly American

Since its founding in 2007, The Ugly American on New Boston Road has gained some major recognition for its unique and deliciously diverse menu. The biggest claim to fame is "The Cheese," a cheeseburger that features a unique blanketing of provolone and cheddar cheese melted into a crispy circle all around the edge of your burger. The unique sandwich was featured on

the Phantom Gourmet, and earned the UA the title of being Fall River's "hidden jewel." They have other strange yet delightful items including fried pickles and banana peppers, and unorthodox "loaded" hot dogs. However, this is not a fast-food joint so give yourself some time between classes to sit and enjoy. Your patience will be rewarded.

Café Arpeggio

Yes, there's two! Fall River's café is located on South Main Street, and has all the same wonderful features. The wide storefront windows wrap around, providing a beautiful little alcove to sit and study for a few hours. This is also

where all that scrumptious home-made ice cream is created. The same lunch and coffee menu as the New Bedford location, but in a more spacious and open setting.

Photos by SARAH MULVEY

OPINION: YOUR STUDENT TRUSTEE

By CHRIS WILBUR

To round off the Student Government Association at BCC, I would like to introduce myself, the Student Trustee. Graciously elected by the student body, my role is to represent all students to the Board of Trustees.

If the Board were a crown, each point with a bulb perched atop, would be a Trustee. Each comes from a different sector of the "realm;" from banking, to law, to business, profit

and non-profit, each is a distinguished leader in the community.

The governor waves his wand and blesses the crown by appointing Trustees to the board.

There is a strange jewel inset in this crown. That's me, the Student Trustee. We are not appointed, we are elected by the student body, and we serve only for a year; other trustees serve a minimum of five.

But we have a vote, we have a say, and Trustees like us because we are fresh and energetic.

Crowns are made to be worn. The wearer of this crown is the president. Crowns represent the power of the kingdom; they give recognition to the wearer.

In this sense, the Trustees seek and hire a president, who with the blessing and guidance from time to time of the

Trustees, runs the kingdom.

It's a real honor to be riding high in the crown, kind of an Observer, watching the world go round.

I like talking about Student Government; it's my passion. If I can make something work for you, I am very pleased. I would probably just like to meet you. As always, here is the email cwilbur.trustee@gmail.com

HIP HOP EXTRAVAGANZA

History of Hip-Hop Extravaganza

By SARAH MULVEY



Hip-Hop dancers strut their stuff at the recent BCC History of Hip Hop show.

(Photo by RYAN PEASE)

Bristol Community College has a diverse, eclectic student body. It is very uncommon for students of all types to get together and participate in an event on campus. However, the enthusiastic and talented group of students who made up the History of Hip-Hop show were more than able to grab G-building's attention for a few hours.

The event was a collaboration among various groups of students and off-campus art and dance studios, all inspired and driven by a love of hip-hop music and culture. Graphic Design major Chelsea Arruda provided a

vibrant and interesting interpretation of style which she created to reflect the excitement and creativity she sees and hears in dance styles of hip-hop. The students who make up the dance group Urban Concept blended a medley of dubstep, R&B and modern hip-hop to showcase technical and jaw-dropping routines. A few brave volunteers participated in the Def Jam Rap Star contest for prizes and bragging rights. There were fashion segments, vocal and rap performances as well as a number of dance routines and celebrity tributes to 50 Cent, Niki Minaj and Drake.

Even coordinator William Saddler believes that the repeated success of the History of Hip-Hop show is due to the blending of many aspects of the genre's culture. He believes the show is a testament to how inclusive hip-hop is. The students involved come from all sorts of backgrounds and each has independent interests and styles. However, they are all affected and inspired by hip-hop expressed through fashion, music and art. The show is a way to build relationships between students as well as providing

entertainment and promoting creativity, cooperation and positivity.

Will also feels that the perseverance of the people involved was an important benefit to the students as well as his professional development. "I had never coordinated something like this before, so I had to bring my A-game, and the kids did too." The success of the event was a product of hard work, dedication and passion. To Mr. Saddler, it was an important lesson for our students to learn: "If you can think it, you can do it."



William Saddler, pictured here, coordinated the BCC Hip-Hop Extravaganza

(Photo by RYAN PEASE)

Adjusting From A Long Vacation

By REUBEN RAMAGLIA

Have you ever gone back to school wondering if a vacation's going to come though you just got back from it?

If you have, you're not alone. Here are some tips I've found that help me get through the after-vacation blues:

Step 1 : Get a good night's sleep.

Many people have come back from vacation tired and hating to be in school again. But

what you should do is to plan ahead before you go to bed. Then say to

yourself "Hey, I've got school at 8am. I've gotta get some good sleep. Things are gonna be great at school tomorrow. Then you wake up feeling refreshed in the morning and you'll notice your outlook will change from negative to positive.

Step 2: Before going back, change your outlook.

Outlooks on things are important if you want to get through school and especially college. It's important to

have a good outlook on life in general. I've always said that it's your outlook on things that will get you through whichever way you choose to look at it.

Ninety percent of people say something like "School's a major drag" or other negative things. But what people don't understand is that they have the power to get back from vacation in a manner where things tend to run a lot more smoothly than if they were to be negative.

Step 3: Have everything ready to go back.

One thing that also helps is to be more organized. That way you're more prepared for what's coming to you.

A great idea is to be ready with all supplies, books, and positive attitude.

These are just some of many steps you can take. Sleeping well, outlooks on things, and being organized are important for school and success.

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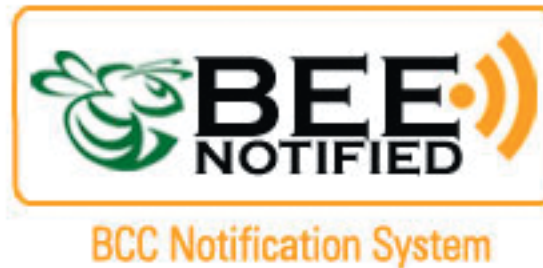
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BeeNotified or BeeFrustrated

By SARAH MULVEY



BeeNotified is Bristol CC's notification system, used to communicate important information during emergency situations. The program has been put in place to help spread word of emergency operations on campus, as well as a simpler way to alert students of weather-related cancellations. This winter has brought an onslaught of mid-commute snowstorms, causing major problems for students and administrators.

In a mass-distributed e-mail, President John Sbrega stated that the cancellation process is an "exercise of professional judgement rather than an exact science." The administration tries to meet its obligation to students' education while at the same time keeping its own safety in mind. Naturally, they can't predict how bad a storm is going to get before it begins at 7AM as students are making their way to campus. However, why wasn't the system able to keep up with the close calls that were made?

Some students feel that the service was a bit slow on the uptake. On February 2nd, the administration decided to cancel night classes about ten minutes before classes began, and the notification was sent out five minutes later. This was definitely a last-minute decision said Vice President Sally Cameron, who oversees the

department which sends out the notifications.

"Normally, we would make our decision to close much earlier, but frankly the flash freeze took us by surprise," said Cameron.

There were also some unexpected glitches in the system. Add this to the service lag for various types

of cell phone service providers, and we have a complicated mess of technical problems. Fortunately, the system has been ironed out according to the faculty working in the Information Technology Services department.

The reaction to BeeNotified's premiere season was hot and cold. Some felt that the system was a little slow on the uptake. Most were upset by the last-minute decisions and later notifications.

"Some people come from far away and it's not fair for them to have to drive all the way to BCC in a snow storm and have to turn around and go back," said New Bedford commuter student Mason Ribeiro. However, when cancellation decisions were made early, BeeNotified was a nice wake-up for some. Ashley Amaral, another New Bedford commuter student, was satisfied with her snow day when morning classes were cancelled.

"I love waking up to a text at 6a.m. saying campus is closed, then sleeping the rest of the morning," she said.

Perhaps this is one instance we need to look at as a tough call for both people and technology. New England weather answers to no one, least of all frustrated college students and their smartphones.

New BCC Debate Club

BCC NEWS BRIEF

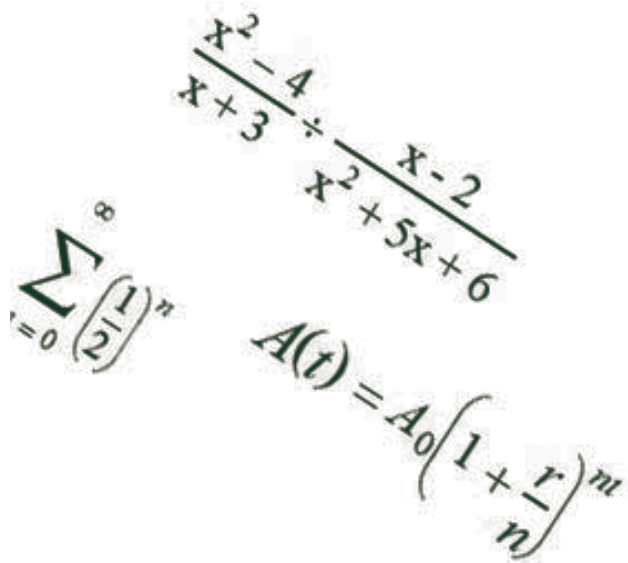
The new BCC Debate Club has been created to provide an opportunity for students to meet, discuss controversial topics and learn how to participate in formal and informal debates. The club will focus on developing student's skills in writing, researching and preparation. Participants will learn how to deliver convincing arguments based on researched and documented fact, and also how to speak persuasively. Students will have to choose a side on an issue – either Affirmative or Negative – and research and debate their topic. This is definitely an important skill for

any career, and now our students have to opportunity to acquire these skills while also expanding knowledge of current events and interacting with their peers. The club is open to all registered BCC students in any major. The group will meet each Wednesday at 2PM in room D-106. Advisor Harvey Ussach believes that the Debate Club can help prepare any student to compete in their chosen career by providing them with the communication tools needed to be an effective, persuasive and authoritative speaker.

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Junior High Math and Science Career Workshop

BCC NEWS BRIEF



on” learning experiences and allow the students to choose their curriculum for the day. As a community institution, BCC hopes to inspire young students to follow their interests and talents in the math and science fields and provide them with a quality education when they complete their high school education. Touring our facilities is the best way for these young people to get a first-hand look at the success of our current students and alumni, as well as providing opportunities for our students to ‘serve as positive role models and teachers’ to younger students. The Civic Engagement Program is being co-sponsored by the BCC Foundation and the Educational Talent Search Program and hoping to bring more than 400 students in to experience our school and its many opportunities to build the best future possible.

BCC’s Civic Engagement Program is hosting a career exploration event on the Fall River campus on March 11. Civic Engagement is reaching out to the surrounding community’s junior high school students to foster an interest in the fields of math and sciences. The students will tour the campus and experience

all that BCC has to offer in their programs. Students will learn how BCC can benefit them through diverse classes, selective degree programs and high-quality instruction at an affordable price. Twenty BCC service-learning students and twenty-eight faculty and staff will design and help conduct “hands-



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BCC Offers Brighter Smiles

By CHRIS PROCTOR

The Dental Hygiene program not only offers an education at Bristol Community College, but also a healthier smile.

Many students know the program exists, but don’t know they can schedule appointments for cleanings, x-rays and other oral health services.

To make an appointment, either walk in and speak with the receptionist, or call the clinic at extension 2139.

Sophomore Clinical Coordinator Mrs. Cloutier said, “Sometimes we can accommodate walk-ins if a patient cancels.”

One former patient, Anthony Cutillo, said “I like going to the clinic because I don’t have dental insurance and all I have to pay is a small donation.”

Besides brightening smiles, the program gives students hands on learning with good opportunities for job placement after graduating.

“I have finally found my calling after



other majors at BCC prior to enrolling in the Dental Hygiene Program,” said sophomore Jessica Botelho.

Freshman Heavenstone Mathieu and Wassim Lebbos both joined the program because they like working with patients and the hands on training the program offers. Mr. Mathieu also joined the program to one day become a dentist.

The clinic hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am to 4 pm and Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 9pm. It is located in room C100 in C building.

BCC Onebook Project

By SARAH MULVEY

The BCC Onebook Project has become a successful addition to the school's academic advancements. Onebook is a course supplement as well as an extracurricular reading assignment for BCC students and faculty. It focuses course material and experiences on the same subjects and themes contained in a book chosen by faculty. Professors who volunteer to be involved make the book a part of their curriculum and focus lessons on the themes of the novel chosen.

For their second semester, Onebook chose Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom. The book is a non-fiction account of the author's 'last lectures' with his beloved mentor, Morrie Schwartz, who is slowly dying

of ALS. The Project elaborated on the heavy themes discussed in the book by holding lectures with ALS advocates and patients, bringing the messages home to the students. The purpose of the Onebook Project is to create real-life experience that ties back to the lessons learned in the book. On a more light-hearted note, a final event hosted by the Project was a performance of Jewish folk music, a favorite of Morrie's, to highlight his spirit and allow the students to connect more deeply with the personality and background of the main character.

One of the project's founding members, Denise DiMarzio, believes that the Onebook Project is the best way to instill a love of reading in students.

"The incorporation of reading and discussion with fellow students fosters a more expansive learning experience," she says. "And I believe reading is still the key to being a well-educated person."

The ultimate objective of the Project for Ms. DiMarzio and other founding faculty members Sally Gabb and Gabrielle Adler was to bring BCC up to par with other colleges with similar programs and to help pass on their passion for literature to their students. By bringing books to life through experience, they hope to show students that books are not just cumbersome, flat pieces of text that are required reading, but glimpses into the minds and ideas of others.

The Onebook Project has proven to be successful and popular across many disciplines. Last semester, collaborations with the health and sciences departments enabled students in health majors to attend the ALS lecture and receive course credit. Ms. DiMarzio feels that this broadening of the scope of learning will benefit the BCC community as a whole. By studying alongside like-minded students, participants in the OneBook Project expand their mind and enrich their learning experience.

Want to get involved? Visit the Onebook Project Facebook page to find out ways to get involved!

Visit between March 21st and 31st to vote for next year's Onebook!

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Olivia transferred to Roger Williams University in her sophomore year after attending Accepted Students' Day with her little sister. She wasted no time getting involved as a captain of the equestrian team, a Peer Advisor Leader intern at the University Advising Center, a Spanish tutor, a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society and Alpha Chi (Honor Society for the academic top 5% of students). Olivia truly made the best of every opportunity presented to her. What will you do?

www.rwu.edu

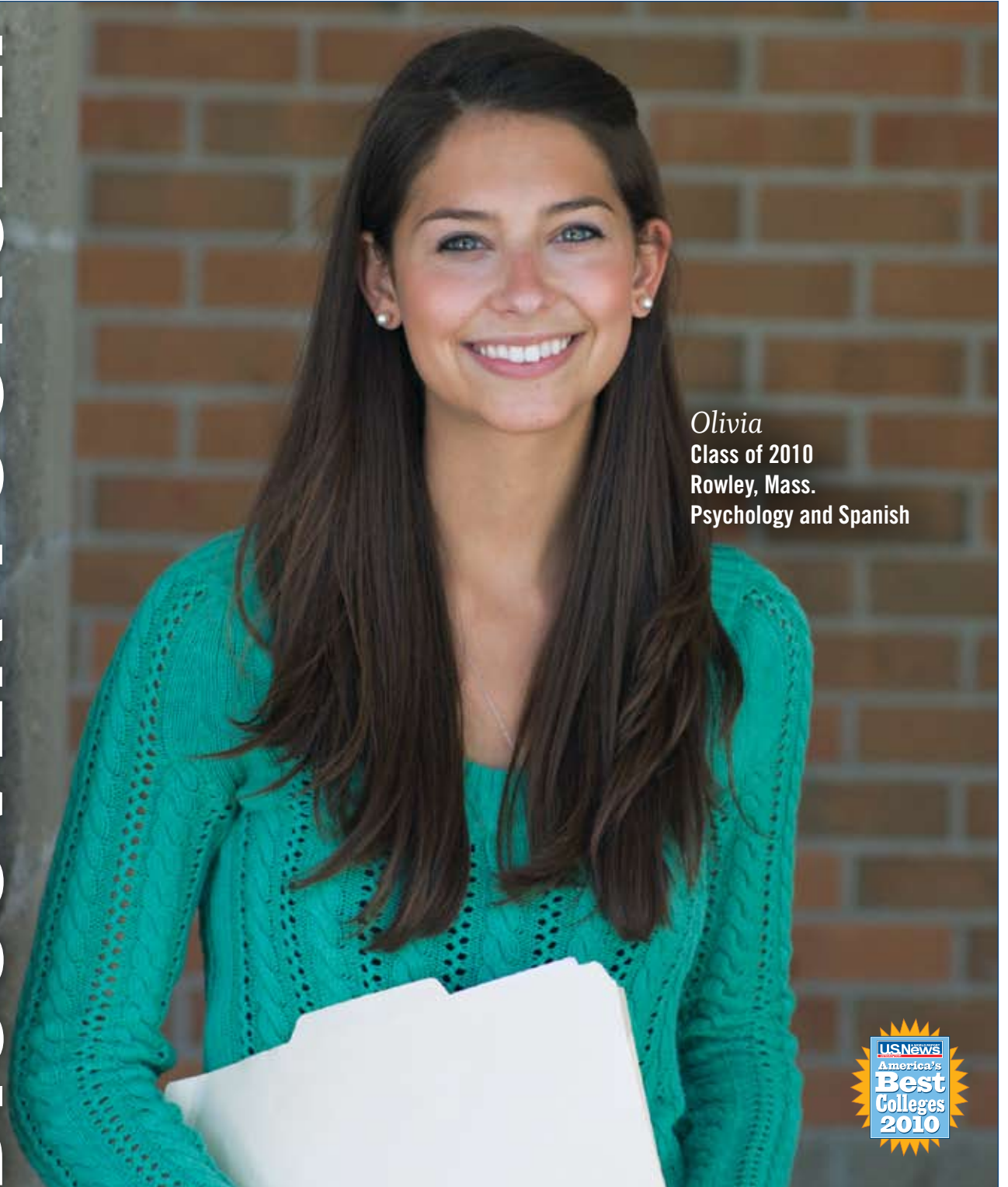


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