

**Spring is in the air!** On March 17th, those that come from Irish descent celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Since it is such a fun celebration, many that are not of Irish descent celebrate too! To find out more about St. Patty's Day, visit <http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day>. Everyone tries to get some "luck of the Irish" on that day and they eat corned beef and cabbage. To find out how to make it visit <http://allrecipes.com//Recipe/corned-beef-and-cabbage-i/Detail.aspx> and give it a try!

\* **Safety Alert:** Please be aware that there is a thief on campus that has been stealing laptop computers. Be sure to keep your laptop safe, and never leave it unattended, even for a few moments. Laptops have been stolen in the library in particular when students step away for a few moments to pick up a printed document. Even when walking around keep your laptops close and secure. Be aware and be careful!!!\*

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday named after Saint Patrick, a patron Saint of Ireland. It is celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. You will usually see people wearing green and other popular symbols including shamrock and leprechaun stickers and pins.



## Welcome Spring Time

As we "spring forward" into March we have warmer weather, beautiful blooming flowers and longer hours of daylight. It can also bring seasonal allergies that make you sneeze and your eyes get watery.

If you are not feeling well, and you need medical attention, be sure that you have your insurance card with you from the school, and go to a **Valley Health Medical Group Office**. If it is an emergency, always go to the emergency room at the nearest hospital, but if you're simply not feeling well, and would like to see a medical professional, the BCC Nurses' Office suggests that you go to one of the offices with the Valley Health Medical Group.

If the weather is very bad, the school will close. To find out if BCC is closed, visit: [www.bergen.edu](http://www.bergen.edu), call (201) 447-7100, or visit: <http://www.1010wins.com> to sign up for e-mail notification of college closings. You can also listen to WCBS/880, WOR/710, and WVNJ1160 on the radio or tune in to channel 12NJ on Cablevision TV.



### Spring Walk-in Hours for Immigration & Academic Counseling

Monday – Friday

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**  
Immigration + Academic

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
Academic

**2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
Immigration

If you would like to make an appointment with an International Advisor, please call the International Student Center at 201-689-7601 or visit us in room A-126.

Please note that Professor Nestmann will be out of the office from Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you need travel signatures, get them early before March 18<sup>th</sup>.



HACKENSACK | PARAMUS | MEADOWLANDS  
International Student Center, Room A-126  
400 Paramus Road | Paramus, NJ 07652  
Telephone: 201-689-7601 | Fax: 201-251-0353

If you would like to submit information for F-1 students to be included in the E-Globe newsletter, e-mail Prof. Nestmann ([anestmann@bergen.edu](mailto:anestmann@bergen.edu))



**Changes in OPT:** Please note that if you intend to apply for OPT the fee has changed from \$340 to \$380.

**Are you planning on returning to your home country and not return to BCC?** Before you leave, make sure that you let us know! We can adjust your immigration record so that you will not have a problem re-entering the USA in the future.

### Taxes and Form 8843:

It's Tax Season! Are you wondering if you have to file your taxes as an international student? All international students, whether you worked in 2010 or not, need to file some sort of form with the IRS every year. If you worked in 2010 for pay, this includes students currently on OPT, CPT, or Severe Economic Hardship, **AND** those that worked on campus, you will need to file your taxes. If you did not work, you need only file one form. Please note that the International Student Center does not file taxes or forms 8843 for students, nor give out tax advice.

### Please see below:

If you **DID NOT WORK** for pay in 2010, you and your dependents need to file only the 8843 (fill out parts one and three of the form only, sign it, and send it in to the address on the form): <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf> by June 15th, 2011.

If you **DID WORK FOR PAY IN 2010** you need to file taxes; you would file the Form 8843 <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf> (form) **AND EITHER** the Form 1040-NR-EZ <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf> (form) <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nre.pdf> (instructions) if you are alone here in the USA and do not have dependents, **OR** Form 1040-NR <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nr.pdf> (form) <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nr.pdf> (instructions) if you **DO** have dependents (spouse or children with you in the USA) by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Fill out the forms and send them to: The Internal Revenue Service Center, Austin, TX 73301-0215.

Also, you can file your taxes by seeing a tax specialist, or by using an online service for international students called **CINTAX**: **CINTAX** is a web-based tax return preparation system designed exclusively for foreign students, scholars, teachers, researchers, trainees, and their dependents who are nonresident aliens to aid in preparing U.S. federal income tax Forms 1040NR and 1040NR-EZ. **CINTAX** is designed to take the time and confusion out of filing a U.S. tax return - it takes only about 20 minutes to complete and print a tax return! For more information on CINTAX visit: [http://www.arcticintl.com/cintax\\_usage.asp](http://www.arcticintl.com/cintax_usage.asp)

## Japan

In light of the recent tragic earthquake and tsunami that took place in Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the International Student Center would like to send out our heartfelt concern and condolences to those that have family and/or friends that are in crisis at this time. Please know that if you are having a difficult time emotionally dealing with this situation, please come in to see us immediately. The International Student Association is currently brainstorming ways to raise funds to aid Japan. Please come to our next ISA meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in room L-146 if you have ideas to contribute. The Office of Student Life will be announcing a college-wide fundraising initiative very shortly in response to Japan relief efforts. For more information please see Nestor Melendez in Room S-153.

If you would like to try to contact friends and/or relatives in Japan, please note that you can call Japan for free if you use any of the phone service providers listed on this site: <http://www.engadget.com/2011/03/14/atandt-makes-calling-japan-free-until-the-end-of-march/>



## WORKSHOPS

### Early April

- Mon, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 pm  
**Critical Thinking & Academic Research Skills**
- Wed, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am  
**Critical Thinking & Academic Research Skills**
- Weds, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm  
**CPT& COOP, Internships & Working Off Campus as an F-1**
- Wed, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm  
**Critical Thinking & Academic Research Skills**
- Tues, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm  
**Navigating Academic Resources at BCC (C-325)**
- Weds, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm  
**Academics & You: How to Choose a Major**
- Fri, April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm  
**Critical Thinking & Academic Research Skills**

If you have questions about a workshop, call 201-689-7601, Email [isc@bergen.edu](mailto:isc@bergen.edu) or stop by the International Student Center. The workshops will be held in the Resource Room outside of A-126 (ISC) unless a Room number is noted above. **All workshops will be approximately 1 hour. A full list of workshops for the remainder of this semester is attached.**

## Focus on Academics

**Graduating and planning to transfer?** Did you know that the Career & Transfer Center runs workshops every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 – 1:30 on how to transfer to a four year school? Check it out! Visit Room A-123 for more information.

**Graduating and planning or interested in learning about OPT?** Be sure to come to one of Prof Nestmann's OPT workshops, taking place March 16<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup> (at the International Center) at 12:30. You will receive all of the information, and forms that you need to apply for OPT! You need to apply SOON!!!

**Online & Hybrid Courses:** According to the federal regulations, F-1 students are only allowed to take 3 credits out of their required 12, every fall and spring semester as an online course, OR F-1's can take two hybrid courses. No more than this is allowed, unless you are taking more than 12 credits. Please be careful with online courses, we have had many F-1 students who do poorly with online classes, and you CAN get an E grade in an online course, and put your immigration status in danger! Only choose an online course if you are very confident that you can do well in that class.

**Registration & Advisement:** Priority Registration for the Summer 2011 semester will start March 28<sup>th</sup>, and for the Fall 2011 semester, priority registration will start April 18<sup>th</sup>. To find out when you can register, and what classes you need to take for your degree, simply print out your program evaluation from WebAdvisor. Please note that all students will need to be registered for classes for the Fall 2011 semester by the start of classes (September 7<sup>th</sup>) REGARDLESS of which campus you plan to attend. If you are not registered full time by that date, your SEVIS record will be terminated.

Want to check out requirements for your major? Print off your Program Evaluation from your WebAdvisor account. Want to check out class descriptions and the school catalogue? Visit <http://www.bergen.edu/apps/ecatalog/index.asp>. Want a list of all of the degrees available at BCC? Visit <http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/2923.aspx>.

**Dropping Classes:** If you would like to drop a class because you're not doing well in that class, if it will bring you below your 12 credit requirement, you cannot drop that class. Students may not substitute a course in the Summer and go below 12 credits in the Fall or Spring semester, you MUST be registered for 12 credits in the Fall and Spring. The time to get ANY money back for dropped classes is well passed. Always pay attention to these dates online at <http://www2.bergen.edu/documents/registration/pdf/RegCal-Winter&spring11.pdf>.

## Important Student Information

**Scholarship Opportunity:** There is a scholarship available for F-1's funded by the Research and Development Council of New Jersey. The Council's Merit Scholarship application's deadline is April 15, 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship is awarded based on four main criteria:

- 1) Merit (at least a 3.5 GPA)
- 2) Financial Need
- 3) Application
- 4) Interview

As you will see upon reviewing the application, the scholarship recipient must be pursuing a STEM - related field and have completed at least 12 credits and have at least 24 credits left to finish their degree and must enroll for the Fall and Spring 2011 Semesters, which is when the scholarship will be applied to the student's tuition and fees. The Council may distribute as many as ten scholarship awards. Also, all scholarship recipients will be required to attend Merit Scholar Luncheon this summer as well as the Council's Annual Dinner in November where they will be recognized as merit scholars.

**All Questions should be emailed to [kwozniak@rdnj.org](mailto:kwozniak@rdnj.org).**



### **Looking for information about International Student Life @BCC?**

Visit our blog and follow us at [bergeninternational.blogspot.com](http://bergeninternational.blogspot.com).

### **Traveling for Spring Break? Need Immigration forms for I-20 Extensions or OPT Applications?**

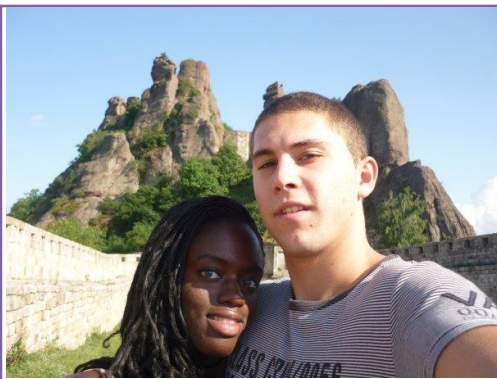
Visit the Forms and Link Page on the ISC website at <http://www.bergen.edu/isc/forms>.

### **International Student Association (ISA) Upcoming Events**

- Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 – Meet with an admissions representative from **Felician College**. Learn about transfer tips and international student life @ Felician. \* Free Pizza \*
- **“Around The World Fair”** in celebration of World Week will take place on April 12. Sign up today to reserve your table and represent your country. E-mail [nwilliams@bergen.edu](mailto:nwilliams@bergen.edu).
- Join us for an **Easter Celebration**. April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm – Dyeing Easter Eggs in Room L-146.

Meetings are held on Tuesdays @ 12:30 pm in Room L-146. Come and join us! All are welcome.

petar radev



**Petar Radev** is from **Bulgaria**. He is an Engineering Science major and is working towards a degree in Civil Engineering. He states "my goal is to become a successful engineer as both of my parents are. They lifted the bar high for me so I will try to do my best to reach or even surpass their level."

**Q: What are two main differences between Bulgaria and the United States?**

**A:** The main difference between Bulgaria and USA is the culture and life style of both countries. USA offers a lot of opportunities which is very good but the way of life is a bit too fast. In contrast Bulgaria has a very relaxed way of living, where people enjoy every second of life, but the opportunities for a person to succeed with his goals are much more limited. Another difference is the food. Here in America the food is a mixture of dishes coming from all over the world and I cannot say with certainty what is traditional food for USA but in Bulgaria you are not going to find that many dishes that do not have meat in them. Vegetarians won't have a great time.

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

**A:** My favorite dish is "Tarator" it is a typical Bulgarian summer soup made out of Bulgarian yogurt and cucumbers seasoned with garlic, black paper and "Chubritsa"(summer savory). It is a cold, refreshing, summer soup.

**Q: Please tell us something significant about your country.**

**A:** Bulgaria is famous for a lot of inventors in many different fields of science. However, one of the most notable is the invention of the computer by John Vincent Atanasoff. In 1936 he created the Atanasoff-Berry computer which was the first computing machine ever created.

**Q: Tell us something about Baba Marta.**

**A:** On March 1 Bulgarians pay tribute to Grandma March, also known as Baba Marta, by tying red and white strings called martenitsa around their wrists. The bracelet serves as reminder of the coming change of season. The white color symbolizes first man, the power light solar zone. Later, under the influence of Christian mythology indicates the integrity and virginity – the white is the color of Christ. Red is the woman and health: it is a sign of blood, conception and birth. In ancient times women's wedding dresses were red. Matenitsi is kind of amulet against evil forces and wearing a martenitsa is a magical ritual act: the twisted red and white wool threads protect people through the mechanisms of black magic.

**Q: What is the most important (or most celebrated) holiday in your culture?**

**A:** The most celebrated day in Bulgaria is 24<sup>th</sup> of May, the day of Kiril and Metodii (Saint Cyril and Methodius). This is a celebration of the Bulgarian culture. The saint brothers created the Bulgarian alphabet known in English as Cyrillic alphabet which later on spread almost throughout the entire Slavic world. Those were the golden ages of my country when knowledge and culture were thriving. It is the most important celebration in my country because education is the highest priority.

**Q: What is considered to be most respectful or disrespectful in your culture?**

**A:** In my culture doing a favor for a friend is considered one of the most respectful acts. Showing respect for your closest friends is very important. Thus the most disrespectful thing is to take advantage of your friends for personal gains. If you respect people they will respect you.

**Q: What is the best tourist spot in your country?**

**A:** The best tourist destination in my country is Nessebar which is one of the oldest cities on the black sea. Founded by the Thracian people more than 2500 years ago, it is situated 30 km away from my home city Burgas. On a small island in the city there are more than 100 hundred churches built since the times when the city was part of the Roman Empire. Its antiquity attracts tourists from all over the world.



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