

**Hispanic Career Fair Sponsored by
SU GUIA**

Friday, June 1st from
9:30 am - 3:30 p.m.
Ciarco Learning Center

Service Recognition Ceremony

Tuesday, June 5th at 2:00 p.m.
Ciccone Theatre

**Bergen County High School Writing
Contest**

Wednesday, June 6th from
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (noon)
C-211

**Public Forum "On the Record"
Chief Justice NJ Supreme Court
James Zazzali**

Thursday, June 7th from
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Ciccone Theatre

2007 Staff Day

Friday, June 15th from
11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cafeteria

**The Changing Face of Suburbia
Public Forum**

Friday, June 15th from
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Moses Family Meeting &
Training Center

Connections

From the President

This will be the last message that I write for Connections. I think it is fitting that my last issue be the one following Commencement. If you heard my Commencement address, you will know how much Commencement means to me.

I commented in my keynote speech that I was hooked on community college education from the day I attended my first commencement at Community College of Philadelphia in May of 1973. I was moved, as I have been at every subsequent commencement I have attended, by the diversity of the graduates and the fact that they are so different from the image of the traditional college student. There was a particular incident at that 1973 commencement that really struck me as to the importance of the community college mission. I was sitting in the seat next to the aisle and there suddenly appeared next to me an elderly man wearing work overalls. A young man came off the platform after receiving his diploma, and the elderly man handed him a bunch of flowers and said, "These are for your wife, son." I never forgot that moment, because it drove home the importance of open admissions. We are the only opportunity for higher education for so many!

In many ways, working at a community college is more difficult than working in other sectors of higher education.

Teaching community college students is more difficult than teaching students who begin in a four-year college, because our students are a more heterogeneous group. Not only do you have to teach them the subject matter, you have to teach them how to learn. Serving as a counselor to our students is probably a lot more difficult than serving in a counseling capacity at a four-year college, because the range of problems our students bring with them is so much greater. The same is true for librarians; our students arrive here with fewer skills for library research. All of our offices face challenges serving our student



Valedictorian Margaret Maria Roidi (left) and Salutatorian Sebastian Arangundy (right) pictured with Dr. Winn.

population, because frequently our students don't "know the ropes" in regard to negotiating the college environment.

During my 12 years at Bergen, I have never ceased to be impressed by the patience and dedication shown to our students by all employee groups. You have incredible talent and skills, and it has been most rewarding for me to have had the opportunity to get to know so many fine people. No one can move an institution alone, and I thank all of you for your support and willingness to make significant changes over the years.

You will shortly have a new President who will come with a new set of ideas. While the direction of the College may be different, the important work to continually achieve the core mission of the College will go on. I thank you for the great opportunity I have had to serve as your President and wish you the best for the future.

Judith A. Winn

Tribute to Ron Mazurek; Music Visionary & Outstanding Educator



Professor Ron Mazurek, a gifted composer and talented teacher passed away on Thursday evening April 26th of a heart attack. Professor Mazurek began teaching at Bergen in 1991 and became a full professor in 2000. He was instrumental in the development of the electronic music laboratory and directed an interactive music performance series involving dance, video, computer animation and drama.

Last year, Professor Mazurek received the ASCAPLUS Award; concert Music Division, from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. As one of his many achievements under a Fulbright Senior Fellowship he recently created a multimedia representation of the plight of Columbian villagers displaced by leftist rebels and the right-wing paramilitary. This project was in partnership with Pontifica Universidad Javeriana and was completed in Columbia.

“Ron brought to our music program a wealth of knowledge,” said Amparo Coddling, Bergen Interim Dean of Arts and Humanities. “He was always looking for a way to make a difference in students’ lives.” Dr. Mazurek earned a B.A. from Montclair State University, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from New York University.

Recently, President Winn reflected on Ron’s significant contributions to Bergen. “Dr. Mazurk was very involved in planning the instructional spaces in West Hall and was looking forward to teaching classes there,” said President Judith K. Winn. “It is hard to imagine West Hall without Ron as part of it,” she said.

Senator Frank Lautenberg, Delivers Keynote Address At Domestic Violence Conference

The Center for Suburban Criminal Justice offered a Domestic Violence Conference on Friday, April 13th featuring Senator Frank Lautenberg, the author of the most significant federal legislation on gun control for convicted felons. Specifically, Senator Lautenberg introduced legislation that prohibits the intended sale or use of weapons to any person convicted of domestic violence. Domestic violence experts from Mexico, Canada, and Massachusetts presented specific strategies and tactics to Bergen criminal justice, law enforcement, and correctional studies students and to law enforcement professionals and agency professionals from across the state.

Dr. Judith K. Winn introduced Senator Lautenberg saying, “the role of a community college stretches far beyond the walls of its classrooms and buildings.” “Domestic violence must be eliminated because the consequence is the end of innocent lives,” said Dr. Winn. “The training of all of the police officers, social service agencies, municipal workers, and our students is a fundamental part of the mission of Bergen Community College.” Dr. Winn presented Senator Lautenberg with a special plaque honoring him for the leadership and protection of the most vulnerable members of domestic violence.

Senator Lautenberg delivered the keynote address to more than 250 police officers and criminal justice, law enforcement, and correctional studies students from the college and police officers from Bergen County as well as Bergen County agency workers. In the ten years since the

federal legislation became law, statistics collected by the Department of Justice and analyzed by the Congressional Research Service reveal that by the end of 2006, the Lautenberg Amendment will have blocked the sale of more than 150,000 attempted weapons purchases by convicted felons of domestic violence. “The most vulnerable members of our society are now protected and domestic violence threatens thousands of victims. No longer can innocent children, mothers, and fathers be killed by such senseless acts of violence. I applaud your efforts to stop these criminals. Most importantly, I want to say to the students attending this conference that I applaud your decision to enter the law enforcement field.

You will play a very important role in continuing the mission to end domestic violence,” said Senator Lautenberg.



(L-R): Dr. Phil Dolce, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Dr. Judith K. Winn and Asst. Professor Richard Kuiters



West Hall Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Held May 10th

More than 250 members of the college community and other guests attended the West Hall Ribbon-Cutting ceremony. Dr. Winn opened the program with a tribute to Dr. Ronald Mazurek by observing a moment of silence. Dr. Mazurek played a primary role in planning the instructional spaces in West Hall and was looking forward to teaching classes there. "It is hard to imagine this building without Ron as part of West Hall," said Dr. Winn. "West Hall was constructed with Chapter 12 funds for which the State of New Jersey and the County of Bergen each contributed 50%. I want to acknowledge and to thank Governor Jon Corzine for his strong support of community colleges. I also thank our County Executive Dennis McNerney, and all of our County freeholders," said Dr. Winn.

Stephen J. Moses, Board of Trustees Chair said, "This is the beginning of an elevated focus on the arts at Bergen Community College. As you look around this facility today, you can imagine what our students will experience as they attend classes here, and their excitement at studying in this state-of-the-art building." President Winn acknowledged the significant contribution made by David Kasparian, Vice Chair of Bergen's Board of Trustees. David Kasparian acknowledged Architects Ronald Schmidt and Walter Levy, and general contractor De Vita and Sons for their efforts that resulted in the exceptional new facility.



Dr. Winn, Stephen J. Moses, and David Kasparian cut the ribbons opening West Hall



Music Major Kevin Madden gives Bergen County Executive, Dennis McNerney a lesson on piano composition.

The ceremony began with the beat of African drummers, followed by a host of musical performances ranging from a vocal performance by Rosemarie Serrano-Sanger to Cuban Percussion Ensemble by faculty member Scott Simpson and student drummers. Student Ambassadors led tours of the building and in nine of the classrooms a wide array of student works were shown. Professor Francis Schmidt showed examples of student animation. Professor Paul Mindel provided a compelling collection of student artwork.

There are 14 Smart Classrooms in this 60,000 square foot building. The first floor houses the TV and Radio broadcast studios. The second floor offers Music programs and the third floor features Art, Animation, and Graphics facilities which offer computer systems that are used by industry leaders. West Hall is equipped with a new safety feature, Special Blue Light Emergency Stations on each of the three floors. At the touch of a button, Public Safety Officers are alerted immediately to offer assistance.

Bergen Community College Faculty and Staff Honored At Annual President's Recognition Luncheon

Dr. Judith K. Winn, President of Bergen Community College, honored four faculty and staff members for their outstanding service to the College at a luncheon ceremony held on May 21 at the College in Paramus, N.J.

"Today's luncheon is a celebration of the sustained leadership demonstrated by today's recipients—who represent Bergen at its very best," said Dr. Winn. "You have set the standard for excellence on this campus, and once again we thank you."

Those honored were Hugh Knowlton, Old Tappan, of the Buildings and Grounds Department; Carolyn Lyons, Dumont, of the Enrollment Services Department; Imogene Papp, New Milford, of the Sidney Silverman Library, and Baila Zheutlin, Paramus, of the Counseling Department.



Pictured with Dr. Winn (center) are the 2007 Presidential Recognition Award honorees, (left to right) Carolyn Lyons, Baila Zheutlin, Imogene Papp, and Hugh Knowlton.

New Financial Aid Offices

The Bergen community welcomes the new Financial Aid office to better serve our students. This provides a much needed improvement in facilities dedicated to meeting the needs of Bergen Community College students. The Financial Aid Office is responsible for processing in excess of \$14,000,000.00 in federal and state aid funds to assist students with their financial needs while enrolled at the College. More than 55% of the student body received financial aid in 2006-7 at the College. The new office has a bank of 6 computers dedicated to assisting our students complete their federal application for student aid online (www.fafsa.ed.gov). The key advantage of the online application is that students receive a faster response from the federal government and the financial aid office is able to service the students faster. At the end of the 2005-2006, the online application represented 67.5% of all applications received at the College. The goal is to achieve a higher percentage of online applications and improve our ability to service students effectively.



(Back L-R): Director of Financial Aid, Caroline Ofodile, Bonnie Rodriguez, Lynnette Mandel, Toni Dailey, Rita Blanco, Magali Muniz
(Front L-R): Charlmaine Dunbar, Tabatha Jones, Meghan Verile



At the beginning of the academic year, the Federal Government initiated a new grant that is intended to assist our most needy students. The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) is available to students who graduated after January 01, 2005 and meet the prescribed eligibility requirements. Detailed information is available in the Financial Aid Office. Students may be able to receive up to a maximum of \$750.00 for the first year and \$1300.00 for the second year. A copy of their final high school transcript must be received by the Registrar's office in order to certify student eligibility to participate in the program. During this academic year, the Financial Aid office worked closely with Follett's Bergen Bookstore to provide financial aid students with sufficient refunds and the ability to purchase books at the beginning of the semester, before receipt of their aid checks. Based on response from students, this has been well received and extremely helpful to those students who were

eligible and were able to use this program. The Bergen Community is invited to tour the new facilities at L-123.

American Language Program Graduates 75 on May 8th

The American Language Program graduated 75 students on Tuesday, May 8th at the Moses Family Meeting & Training Center. Family members and friends brought flowers, cameras, and congratulated the American Language Program graduates on the successful completion of their program. "Many of our foreign students are making heroic sacrifices," said Carol Miele, head of the English Department. "I think people don't understand how much immigrants want to learn English and how hard they work at it. About a third of our students come at night, and they are coming after a whole day of work."

Kong-Hei-Koh, a virtuoso pianist played the piano, Student Government President Francisco Marin performed a Mexican dance and Acting Dean Amparo Coddling joined him. Many of the American Language Program graduates have already enrolled in Associate degree programs at Bergen.

Acting Dean Amparo Coddling addressed the graduates, "Now that you have achieved this goal, there is nothing that can stop you from reaching your highest career potential. I encourage you to go on to earn your associates and bachelors degrees."



Acting Dean Amparo Coddling gives Kong-Hei-Koh her certificate