

# impact

ONE COLLEGE.  
ONE COMMUNITY.

PREMIER ISSUE FALL 2009

## Home Sweet Home

College buys 'interim' facility in Meadowlands region



Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands will continue to be located at 1280 Wall Street West in Lyndhurst.

**B**ergen Community College at the Meadowlands has found a permanent home — and it won't even have to move.

The College has purchased the five-story building in Lyndhurst that it has been leasing since it launched its satellite operation in the Meadowlands region last year. The 125,000-square-foot building, located at 1280 Wall Street West, was supposed to serve as an interim facility until the College could construct a new building in the area. The plan changed when the College realized it could buy the building, accelerate expansion and save money all at the same time.

"By buying an existing building, the College is saving more than \$33 million on its South Bergen expansion project and is in a position to fully serve the residents of Bergen County two years ahead of the projected vision of 2012," said Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President of Bergen Community College.

The building, which is being purchased from the Mack-Cali Realty Corp. in conjunction with the Bergen County Improvement Authority, will cost \$13.8 million. The College plans to spend another \$7.5 million on improvements, equipment and furnishings, resulting in a total investment of \$21.4 million.

The College currently occupies the third floor of the building and will add five new classrooms to this space in October. The College will begin improvements on two floors in spring 2010, one floor in 2011, and the final floor in 2012. The new location is expected to eventually serve 8,000 students.

"The purchase makes fiscal sense for taxpayers, and places the College in a Class A facility strategically located to expand educational opportunities for students as well as workforce development resources for employers," said Dennis McNerney, Bergen County Executive. ■

## Bergen Intern and CNBC Are a Perfect Match

**F**or the first time ever, a student from Bergen Community College has been named the state's top college intern.



That honor went to Andrew Stanish (below) of Elmwood Park, who last semester completed an internship with CNBC, one of the television industry's most-watched networks. He received the award from the New Jersey Cooperative Education & Internship Association.

Stanish was placed in the internship by Bergen's Cooperative Education and Career Development Center (CECD). "We are very proud of Andrew," CECD counselor Margaret McLaughlin said. "Our department's ability to pair the right student with the right organization is crucial to our mission. With Andrew, we had a very special student with an excellent skill set — the CNBC opportunity was perfect for him."

Stanish, a network administration major, worked as a technical producer for CNBC's Web site. Stanish's supervisor, senior producer Brian Beers, said the Bergen student distinguished himself as a "true standout" and a "great addition to the team," in recommending him for the award.

With one year left at Bergen, Stanish plans to transfer to a four-year university such as the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He hopes to open a Web-based business after completing his education. ■



# 8%

### Soaring enrollment

As of September 22, 16,492 students had registered for the Fall 2009 semester at Bergen Community College, an 8% increase over last year.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Making an impact in a challenging era

Welcome to the first edition of Bergen Community College's quarterly newsletter, where we will share with you the many accomplishments of the students, faculty and staff. We chose the name Impact for our publication to show the positive effect the College is having in the community and in the lives of our students.

As we start a new school year, the nation's focus on community colleges has never been greater. Many experts believe that we hold the key to helping people succeed in these trying times by providing training for new jobs that will fuel the economy of tomorrow.

In a major address this summer, President Barack Obama demonstrated his commitment to community colleges by pledging \$12 billion in federal aid to help the nation's two-year schools provide the education and training that will move our nation forward in the years to come. We applaud his efforts, and we have invited the President to our campus to talk about his vision for community colleges.

Because of the progress we have made in the past two years, Bergen Community College is well-positioned to meet the needs of its students by preparing them for relevant careers and helping them take the first steps toward four-year degrees. As of September 22, 16,462 students had registered for classes this fall, an 8 percent increase over last year.

To satisfy the demands of the evolving labor market, we have added several new programs of study this semester, including cutting-edge subjects such as Fire Science, Homeland Security and Sports Management. We have hired 37 new faculty members to teach these and other courses and to accommodate our rising enrollment. We are also working smarter, forging regional agreements with other northern New Jersey community colleges that will give our students access to even more programs of study. We now offer more than 120 academic programs leading to either an associate's degree or certificate of achievement.

We have reached another milestone in the short history of the Meadowlands facility, designed to serve residents in the southern part of the county. In conjunction with the Bergen County Improvement Authority and the County of Bergen, the College is buying the office building in Lyndhurst that we have been leasing for the past year. This will be the permanent home of Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands. On the main campus, plans proceed for our new \$15 million science wing.

As important as these bricks-and-mortar projects are, we have to remind ourselves that they are not an end in themselves, but a means to help us fulfill our mission of providing lifelong learning opportunities for all members of our diverse community.



G. Jeremiah Ryan,  
President, Bergen Community College



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If you have comments or want to send us information for our next newsletter, e-mail us at [impactnews@bergen.edu](mailto:impactnews@bergen.edu).



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# College expands faculty to meet growing demand

## Enrollment rises; new courses added

Bergen Community College hung out the "Help Wanted" sign this summer. With a double-digit rise in enrollment and a number of new academic offerings, the College added 37 new full-time tenure-track faculty members to its roster of teaching professionals. The new appointments bring Bergen's total full-time faculty to more than 350.

"While other institutions are cutting back, Bergen is investing in the future," Bergen President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan said. "People are our biggest asset. We were presented with a unique opportunity to hire many of the best and brightest. This talented group, along with our existing accomplished faculty, will educate Bergen students for years to come."

**37** Number of new full-time faculty hired.

The new faculty includes the former chief executive officer of a chemical/pharmaceutical company, published authors and Ivy League graduates.

Some of the recently hired faculty will teach courses in the College's nine new degree programs, which include Nonprofit Management, Network Security and Sports Management. The new programs represent growing employment sectors, according to Gary Porter, Bergen's Academic Vice President.

*'These appointments remain an investment in the College's future.'*

— Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President

"To remain a leader in higher education, we must evolve with employment trends and provide areas of study that are relevant in today's workforce," he said. "The nine new programs give our students over 90 degree options."

New programs such as Fire Science and Homeland Security, which will be taught at Bergen at the

Meadowlands this semester, place a comprehensive curriculum behind a commonly chosen career path for many community college graduates: public service. According to an American Association of Community Colleges study, nearly 80 percent of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians graduate from a community college.

Other new programs being introduced this semester include Culinary Science, Event Planning and Management and Landscape Design.

To see a list of new faculty members, go to [www.bergen.edu/pages/4943.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/pages/4943.asp) ■

# Art Professor's Work to be Exhibited at Smithsonian

Bergen Community College Associate Professor Paul Mindell (below) is one of 49 artists from around the country whose work was selected for the Smithsonian Institution's "Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2009."

His 45-inch wide photo collage, "Align Through Time: The Painted Muse, The Pixelated Views" will be exhibited in Washington at the National Portrait Gallery from October 23 through August 22, 2010. Professor Mindell will attend the exhibit's private opening reception on October 22.

This national competition, held once every three years, received 3,300 entries in a variety of visual arts media, from digital animation and video, to large-scale drawings, prints and photographs, and painted and sculpted portraits. The competition was open to artists working in



the United States who had created portraits after January 1, 2007, in any visual art form.

Once the exhibit opens, National Portrait Gallery and Web site visitors will be able to vote for their favorite works of art as part of the "People's Choice Award." (Google: Smithsonian OBPC 2009). Winners will be announced on January 24, 2010.

A full-time faculty member in the College's Art Department since 1988, Professor Mindell received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from the Rhode Island School of Design. At Bergen, he is the senior member of the art faculty and teaches painting, drawing and life drawing. ■



# Board of Trustees names new chairman

David J. Kasparian was recently named chairman of the Bergen Community College Board of Trustees, succeeding the late Stephen J. Moses.

A Bergen County real estate developer, the new chairman is the co-founder of S. Hekemian Kasparian Troast, LLC and MDK Development, LLC. Mr. Kasparian joined the board in 2004 and served as vice chairman for five years.

Mr. Moses died on March 7 after a long battle with heart disease. He was appointed to the board in 2002 and became chairman in 2004.

In other board news, Gov. Jon Corzine selected existing board member Richard Dressel to serve as a governor's appointee on the panel. Mr. Dressel works as the business manager of Local Union No. 164 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the largest IBEW construction local in New Jersey. He joined the board in 2004.

Finally, Malcolm J. Curtis earned an appointment to the board from the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Curtis joins the



David J. Kasparian



Richard Dressel



Malcolm J. Curtis

panel with executive experience in the healthcare industry and academic degrees from Princeton University and the Harvard School of Public Health. ■

# Commencement 2009



◀ 2009 valedictorian Rory D'Lasnow used Bergen as a stepping stone to the University of Michigan.



◀ Seton Hall School of Law Professor Paula Franzese provided the keynote address, urging students to follow their dreams.

## By the Numbers

**1,542**

The number of graduates, a nearly 8 percent increase from last year.

**81**

Percentage of graduates who reside in Bergen County.

**70**

The number of countries represented by graduates, either by citizenship or country of origin.

**61**

The number of graduates who were members of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society of two-year colleges.

**59**

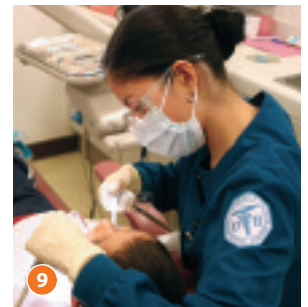
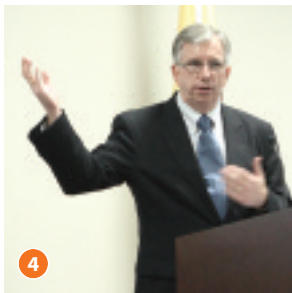
Percentage of females in graduating class.

**27**

Number of graduates who earned a GPA of 4.0.

Source: Bergen Community College Center for Institutional Effectiveness

# Student Life and Civic Engagement



1. Alternate Transportation Day highlighted Bergen's Earth Week in April. Students, faculty – including Professor **Rachel Wieland** (right) – and staff participated in environmentally sustainable activities and events. 2. Literary icon **Maya Angelou** spoke to a packed College gymnasium in April. 3. NJ Secretary of State **Nina Mitchell Wells** served as the keynote speaker at the May Fifth Friday Forum. 4. Verizon NJ President **Dennis M. Bone** discussed education and the global economy at the "Think Smart Communities" survey event in June. 5. Bergen's April Festival of Cultures brought students and faculty together to celebrate ethnic and cultural customs, clothing and food. 6. Students (from left) **Ron Subramaniam**, **Brittney Wright** and **Yoel Weisshaus** were elected to serve on the state's 2009-10 Student Advisory Committee for the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. Subramaniam was named chair. 7. **Jonathan and Jennifer Moses** commemorated the life of their father, Bergen's Board of Trustees Chairman **Stephen J. Moses**, at a May memorial. 8. At the GED graduation ceremony in February, (from left) College Vice President **Peter Dlugos** recognized the accomplishments of blind student **Myles Williams** and former student and keynote speaker **Mike Oliveri**. 9. In April, students in Bergen's dental hygiene program provided free cleanings to local children. 10. U.S. Senator **Frank Lautenberg** visited Bergen in April for a small business seminar.

## Survey Seeks Feedback From Community Leaders

Nearly 100 regional business and government leaders recently had the chance to give officials at Bergen Community College their thoughts on the College's performance.

At an event jointly sponsored this summer by the College's Center for Institutional Effectiveness and its Strategic Planning Committee, Peter Dlugos, Bergen's Vice President of Research, Planning, Assessment and Quality, conducted an electronic poll. Called the "Think Smart Communities" survey, it asked respondents about their hiring practices, level of connection with the College, and interest in becoming mentors to Bergen students.

Results ranged from the expected (92 percent believe it is very important for the College to continue its outreach and collaboration with local high schools), to the encouraging (81 percent were interested in working with the College's Career Development Center to obtain interns and employees) and the surprising (29 percent already employ Bergen graduates).

### And the survey says...

Some results from the first "Think Smart Communities" survey:

**92%** believe it is very important for the College to continue its outreach and collaboration with local high schools.

**81%** were interested in working with the College's Career Development Center.

**29%** employ Bergen graduates.

to obtain interns and employees) and the surprising (29 percent already employ Bergen graduates).

The event also featured a keynote address by Dennis M. Bone, the president of Verizon New Jersey, who discussed education's role in the global economy. "People need to know what kinds of jobs are out there and where they can get the skills needed in order to compete," Mr. Bone said. "That is the role of the community college."

College officials will hold "Think Smart" surveys with Bergen students during the fall semester. Additional surveys with members of the community are planned as well. ■

## Sowing the seeds of success

College sets up training program for Whole Foods



Attending the presentation of the Corporate Partnership Award to Whole Foods were: (left to right) Bergen Community College Vice President of Continuing Education and Community Outreach **Sue Johnson**; One Stop – Career Center, Bergen Workforce Center Director **Sal Mastroeni**; Bergen County Workforce Investment Board Executive Director **Tammy Molinelli**; Bergen Community College Dean of Continuing Education, Corporate and Public Sector Training **Walter Hecht**; Whole Foods Manager **Paula DiMeglio**; Bergen County Executive **Dennis Mc Nerney**; Bergen County Freeholder **Julie O'Brien**; Assemblywoman **Connie Wagner**; Freeholder **Bernadette McPherson**; and Executive Director of the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation **Joanne Cimiluca**.

Call it organically grown talent. When supermarket retailer Whole Foods needed to train more than 300 employees at its Paramus and Edgewater locations, company executives turned to Bergen Community College's Division of Continuing Education, Corporate and Public Sector Training – the region's leader in customized training services for businesses. The partnership was arranged by the Bergen County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), which linked the retailer with the College and a \$1 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to finance training courses.



As part of the training project, members of Bergen's Division of Continuing Education developed budgets and schedules, and located instructors for computer training (Excel), customer service, basic supervision and English-as-a-Second-Language courses. Training began during the summer and will continue through the fall.

In recognition of the collaboration — and the organizations' roles in job creation, training efforts and support of the region's economy — Whole Foods earned the Corporate Partnership Award from the Garden State Employment and Training Association during a July ceremony at its recently opened Paramus store.

Bergen County WIB Board Executive Director Tammy Molinelli called the partnership "quite revolutionary. It is a change in the way the [public sector] does business with business." ■

## College Expanding Autism Services

Former NY Giants Star Carl Banks to Appear at Fundraiser

Bergen Community College is expanding the Office of Specialized Services to address the higher education and employment needs of students with autism.



Carl Banks

The College has created a task force to assess the needs of students with autism and to design

an autism center that will serve as a resource to students and the community. An autism counselor will be hired this semester to ensure the development and growth of the center, which will also support faculty research aimed at helping those with autism develop life and work skills.

"The autism center will seek to partner with employers who want to hire people on the autism spectrum and people who want to develop businesses that will be partially owned

and operated by people with autism," said Dorothy Blakeslee, Treasurer of the Bergen Community College Board of Trustees, who serves as the board liaison to the autism task force.

To support the development of the College's autism services, Mariner's Bank is sponsoring a golf tournament on Tuesday, September 22, featuring Carl Banks, former New York Giants linebacker and radio personality. The fundraiser will be held at the Montammy Golf Club in Alpine, N.J. For more information, please visit the College's Web site [www.bergen.edu/pages/3938.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/pages/3938.asp) ■

## PHILIP J. CIARCO JR. LEARNING CENTER

# More basic skills help

Coming this semester, the Philip J. Ciarco Jr. Learning Center in Hackensack will provide students with more basic skills support.

The new Learning Assistance Center that will be added will have 12 computer work stations and will be accessible to students with disabilities. It will feature advanced literacy programs, including IBM Reading Companion. Students will be able to work individually or with an English-as-a-Second-Language/Basic Skills tutor. The center has been modeled after the College's English Language Resource Center and the Free Time Technology Labs. ■



Artist Cristina Hoyos' artwork "Witness."

## Colombian Artists Showcase Their Creative Diversity

Bergen Community College and Club Colombia USA celebrated "Colombian Culture Week" with an art exhibit that reflected different aspects of Colombian culture. "Expo-Arte 2009" was held from July 14 to July 27 at the Philip J. Ciarco Jr. Learning Center. Seven local Colombian artists exhibited a wide range of works, in a variety of media including painting, drawing, pen and ink, photographs and jewelry. ■

# Basketball team to take another shot at title

Last season, the underdog Bergen Bulldogs nearly became best in show. With at least three starters returning this season, they hope to do just as well — if not better.

Days after winning Bergen's first-ever Region 19 Division III men's basketball title, the Bulldogs capped their Cinderella season by finishing third in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III championship tournament — an impressive feat for the tournament's No. 6 seed comprised of nine underclassmen.

Those young stars — now returning starters — include Region 19 tournament MVP Elgin Brown, Jayvon Beaty and Derrick Ross. Coupled with a promising incoming class — two top-50 recruits — coach Sean Kelly believes Bergen will once again compete for a national title.

"We were able to get to the nationals with a young team," he said. "That experience is going to translate into a very successful season."

Coach Kelly does not believe the Bulldogs will become complacent after last season's unexpected success. "The team has a carrot hanging in front of them — to win the national title," he said. "That helps as a motivating factor."

The Bulldogs will hit the hardwood for their first practice in October. Regular season games begin November 10. ■



## Bergen Launches Aviation Degree Program With \$2 Million Grant



The Buehler Challenger & Science Center is located on the College's main campus in Paramus.

The sky is the limit for Bergen Community College's aviation program.

The College has been awarded a \$2 million grant for the development of an aviation degree track from the Emil Buehler Trust. Half the grant will be used to buy flight simulators, a wind tunnel, modeling software and instruments for an aeronautics laboratory. The balance of the grant will be used to buy other scientific equipment for the College's new science wing.

The College's aviation degree program will start in September 2010. Students will be able to earn an associate's degree at Bergen and then transfer their credits to Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in Flushing, N.Y., where they will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in aviation, avionics and airport management. Another partner, Cessna Aircraft, in Newburgh, N.Y., is providing internship and career opportunities to Bergen students.

"The grant allows the College to expand the selection of science courses it offers, while providing a more technologically advanced learning environment for students," said Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President of Bergen. "The College has been entrusted with continuing Emil Buehler's legacy of flight innovation and education."

Bergen has a longstanding relationship with the Emil Buehler Trust. Emil Buehler was an aviation visionary, architect and engineer, who immigrated to the U.S. from Germany after a career as a World War I fighter pilot. Buehler operated his own school of aeronautics at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport, ran a seaplane base on the Hudson River, built airports and skyscrapers, and advanced the science of aviation, including the early years of NASA's shuttle program before his death in 1983 at the age of 84. Earlier donations totaling \$400,000 allowed the College to establish the Emil Buehler Trust Observatory. ■



# Lights, Camera, Action...

The Stephen J. Moses Center for Civic Engagement will kick off the second season of its cable TV show, *In the Public Interest*, starting in October.

Bergen Community College President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan is the host of the public affairs show. Scheduled guests include Dennis Robinson, chief executive officer and president of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, and Kathleen Donovan, Bergen County clerk.

The show is broadcast on Torch TV, Channel 26 on the Verizon FIOS cable system. It is jointly produced by the center and the Department of Media Technologies.

Established in 2007 as the public affairs arm of the College, the center facilitates Bergen's interaction with civic, government and business officials. The center's name celebrates the legacy of the College's former Board of Trustees Chairman, Stephen J. Moses. Mr. Moses, a political adviser, attorney and supporter of many civic causes, died in March. ■



President Ryan (left) spoke with Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce President Jim Kirkos during the debut season of *In the Public Interest*.

## Center Seeks Justice Through Dialogue

The Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation has scheduled its first speaker for the fall semester.

The center will present the poet and author Peter Balakian, talking about his latest book, *Armenian Golgotha*, on Thursday, October 8 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Moses Family Meeting and Training Center, Technology Education Center, Room 128.

Mr. Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of Humanities at Colgate University, is the author of five books of poems and is the co-founder and co-editor of the poetry magazine *Graham House Review*. His newest book is about the Armenian struggle during World War I.



Peter Balakian

The center was recently established in recognition of Bergen Community College's ethnically diverse student body, many of whom have first-hand experience or knowledge of war, political unrest or injustice.

"The College believes in the importance of promoting peace through teaching, scholarship and community outreach," said Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President of the College. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Major Events for Fall 2009 Semester

- Citizen's Police Academy (co-sponsored by the College and the Hackensack Police Department) – **September 10 to November 12**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Ciarco Learning Center
- 2nd Annual NonProfit Symposium "Succeeding Despite Today's Difficult Economic Times" – **September 23**, 8 a.m., Technology Education Center, Room 128
- Veterans Re-Entering the Workforce – **September 24**, 9 a.m., Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands
- Volunteer Fair (co-sponsored with the Bergen County Volunteer Center) – **September 30**, 10 a.m., Student Cafeteria
- Women's Conference – **October 2**, 8 a.m., Technology Education Center, Room 128
- Rolligang Concert (young German musicians with disabilities) – **October 6**, 7 p.m., Anna Maria Ciccone Theatre
- Job Fair 2009 – **October 7**, 9 a.m., Gymnasium
- Disability Awareness/Deborah Lipsky talks about autism and Asperger's – **October 8**, 11 a.m., Gymnasium
- Meet the County Executive (co-sponsored with Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey) – **October 15**, 8 a.m., Room C-211
- Fifth Friday Forum with former Gov. Jim Florio – **October 30**, 12 p.m., Stony Hill Inn
- Think Green Conference – **November 4**, 8:30 a.m., Technology Education Center, Room 128
- College to Career Week – **November 16 to 20**
- Major Madness Day – **November 18**, 10 a.m., Student Center



Former New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio is scheduled to appear at the College's Fifth Friday Forum.

### Fall 2009 Diversity Celebrations



Dominican-American Writer Junot Diaz will discuss creative writing during Latino Heritage Week.

- Native American Heritage Week – **September 21 to 25**
- Disability Understanding/Awareness Week – **October 5 to 9**
- Leadership Weekend – **October 16 to 18**
- Latino Heritage Week – **October 19 to 23**
- Diversity Weekend – **November 6 to 8**
- Asian Heritage Week – **November 9 to 13**
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Awareness Week – **November 16 to 20**
- Interfaith Understanding/Awareness Month – **December**

For more events, go to [www.bergen.edu/events](http://www.bergen.edu/events)



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