

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! A very special welcome to the new F-1 students. We hope you have a wonderful experience here. The International Student Center is located in the Pitkin Education Center, Room A-126 and is here to provide you with support for your immigration and academic questions, as well as enrich your college experience with academic and social programs. Stop by to see us with any questions or to say hello. We are here for you.

There are many exciting programs and events coming up this semester. For some of you, perhaps you'll be graduating in May. We have workshops for you if you would like to transfer to a four-year school or apply for OPT. Perhaps you're new to BCC and would like to know more about working on and/or off campus, check out more information listed below! Will you be graduating from ALP level III at the end of this semester and wondering "what to do next", what major to choose, and what

classes to register for? Or, maybe you're a continuing student, and would like to know more about how to achieve academic success. We've got you covered too! Check out the many exciting and helpful workshops we're offering this semester.



## WORKSHOPS

### February

Wed, February 9<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm (C-325)

**Navigating Academic Resources at BCC**

Thurs, February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 12:20 pm (L-146)

**OPT & Working After Graduation**

Wed, February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm

**OPT & Working After Graduation**

Thurs, February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm (C-325)

**Intercultural communication & miscommunication**

Mon, February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 3:30 pm

**The ABCs of Note taking**

Thurs, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm (L-146)

**OPT & Working After Graduation**

Mon, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm

**Transferring to Four Year Schools as an F-1**

Sign – up required! If you would like to attend a workshop, call 201-689-7601, Email [isc@bergen.edu](mailto:isc@bergen.edu) or stop by the International Student Center to sign up. 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.**

### **Director's Note**



Welcome new students - and welcome back to all of our returning students! Whether this is your first or final semester at Bergen, I am so pleased that you have decided to study at Bergen Community College.

I hope that you will consider the International Student Center your "home away from home". The staff in the ISC is here to help you with everything from academic advisement and immigration counseling to adjusting to life in the USA. The ISC staff can also help better connect you to the College by referring you to different offices on campus like the Transfer and Career Center, the Tutoring Center, Personal Counseling and Student Life. All you have to do is stop by the ISC or attend one of the great workshops we have coming up.

Bergen is a great place to be- there is so much to experience here and I hope that you will take advantage of it all. If you have a suggestion for the office or an idea you'd like to share, please feel free to let me know. The ISC is here to help you succeed and we are eager to hear your thoughts. Remember, this is your time, make the most of it! Enjoy the semester. Spring is just around the corner!

Best,  
Kate Plessing



HACKENSACK | PARAMUS | MEADOWLANDS  
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## Immigration News

Working Illegally, DON'T DO IT!  
Unless you have permission from an International Student Advisor to either: work on campus, work off campus doing an internship (permission appears on your I-20), or work off campus on OPT or Economic Hardship (you need to have a working card from USCIS to do this) then YOU ARE WORKING ILLEGALLY!!! If you have a social security card, this does NOT give you permission to work. This card is only LEGAL to use if you have permission from an international counselor or the government, as mentioned above, to work. Additionally, it is ILLEGAL to use another person's social security card. Though you may think that you will not get caught, if an immigration officer were to ask you for your legal working papers and you could not provide them, this is grounds for immediate termination of your F-1 status. Additionally, this could seriously hurt any chances you may have at changing your status in the future, if you choose to do this.

### Attend Your Classes!

If, for any reason, you're not able to attend your classes, the International Student Center is the first place that you should be contacting! Every professor has his/her own attendance policy. For most, if you miss more than three classes, you're at risk of getting a E grade or an "unofficial withdrawal." Do you have a medical reason for not going to class? Come and see us immediately! And DON'T let a teacher tell you not to attend a class for any reason, according to immigration, you MUST register for 12 credits, and attend your classes, or you could lose your status!

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)).

### Address and Email Changes:

Moving or have a new Email address? USCIS/DHS (United States Customs & Immigration Service/Department of Homeland Security) requires all F-1 students to notify BCC of any home address changes within 10 DAYS of the move. In fact, if you have ANY contact information changes, like change of email, or phone number, let us know! To notify BCC, simply go to the International Student Center in A-126, fill out the F-1 Change of Data Form, and we will change the information. This form is also available online at [www.bergen.edu/isc/forms](http://www.bergen.edu/isc/forms).

## Academic Reminders

**Online & Hybrid Courses:** According to the federal regulations, F-1 students are only allowed to take one online OR up to two hybrid courses if they choose. You cannot take an online and hybrids at the same time!!! 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.

## Need to see an advisor?

Walk-in hours are available every day of the week for immigration and academic counseling

### Monday – Friday

10:00 am – 11:00 am (immigration + academic walk-ins)  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (academic walk-ins)  
2:00 – 4:00 pm (immigration walk-ins)

Planning on traveling for Spring Break? Bring in your I-20 for a signature early. Prof. Nestmann will be out of the office on March 18<sup>th</sup> and during the week of Spring Break.

### Get Involved! Join a club or attend an event.

There are many opportunities to get involved at BCC; there is a life outside of your classes.

### International Student Association (ISA)

Meetings this semester will be on Tuesdays in Room L-146 from 12:30-1:30 pm. The ISA is also happy to announce that in addition to ISA Advisor Prof. Nestmann, Ms. Natalie Williams will also be advising the ISA. Join us!

### Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow

The beginning of the spring semester may bring snow. If the weather is very bad (a lot of snow), 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.



## Health News

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.



## One-To-World

Bergen Community College is a member of One-to-World! This is an organization that provides activities and information for international students in the New York City Metropolitan area. Take advantage of all sorts of wonderful activities like trips to different places, and helpful workshops at a reduced, membership rate!

Check out their activities calendar at: [http://www.one-to-world.org/component/option,com\\_events/Itemid,108/](http://www.one-to-world.org/component/option,com_events/Itemid,108/) and their general website at <http://www.one-to-world.org/>

## International Student Spotlight



My name is **Stefani Gjorgievska**. I grew up in **Macedonia** and spent my junior year of high school as an exchange student in Virginia. For those ten months that I spent in the States I gained enormous experience and improved myself in many ways. As a result of that I decided to continue my higher education here in the States.

I didn't have the option of visiting schools, so I had to base my college decision on what I learned from a website. What set BCC apart from all the other colleges that I contacted was how friendly the people were – I could just sense it in the e-mails I received. The international admissions staff was really nice about handling all my questions, and I figured that if the school's staff gave off this kind of vibe, then the school must be a friendly, nice place, and I was right.

This year I started my second semester here at BCC and the majority of the students that I met here are international students. Inspired from all this diversity here at BCC, this semester I became the President of International Student Association (ISA). Our main focus in ISA is to help international students with cultural differences, and show them how to take advantage of the rich intellectual development that is possible here; explore the broad curriculum and the many extracurricular activities that are available. Be involved in the College's community life. We know that the first months of your stay in the States isn't always easy, but making new friends will make things easier. Join ISA and enjoy your time here in the States.

Bonjour! I'm **Regine Beauchard** a transfer student from Liberal, Kansas and originally from **Haiti**. I'm currently majoring in Biology and I hope to enroll in the Nursing program. It was always my parent's dreams for their kids to be part of the American Dream. They wanted a better future for us as other parents do. That dream later on becomes our dream also due to the many choices and opportunity offered when studying abroad.

My parents are still in Haiti with the chaotic situation that every other Haitian is enduring since the earthquake. The devastating earth quake that happened did lots of damages and I found it very generous and humane for the Americans and the International allies to help out my country through several organizations; but it really saddens me to see nothing much has been done to this present time. However, I'm very thankful for the lives of my parents and the generosity of others. "It's a blessing." Hopefully, my Journey at BCC will be very successful.



## Save the Date

BCC's Annual Graduation Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the IZOD Center in East Rutherford, New Jersey.



Get the latest news on what's happening at Bergen Community College.

"Like" BCC on Facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/bergencommunitycollege>



Check out information for BCC F-1 International Students online, at the following web addresses:

General F-1 Information: <http://www.bergen.edu/internationalcounseling>

- F-1 Working Information (including OPT): <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2954.asp>
- F-1 Traveling Information: <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2955.asp>
- Extensions on I-20's: <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2956.asp>
- For Immigration Forms, and to check on an OPT application: <http://www.bergen.edu/forms>
- USCIS: (United States Customs and Immigration Services): [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)
- DHS: (US Department of Homeland Security) [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)
- ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement): <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm>

## Diversity Programs

### February

Black History Month

Advanced Diversity Weekend: 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Advanced Leadership Weekend: 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

### March

Women's History Month

### April

European Heritage Week: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

Diversity Weekend: 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

World Week: 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

Leadership Weekend: 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

Africa Week: 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Earth Week: 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

Check out the attached Spring 2011 Student Activities Guide and list of Keynote Speakers that will be at BCC this semester: American Playwright Ntozake Shange during Black History Month, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in February, Gloria Steinem, co-founder of New York Magazine during Women's History Month, and two-time Pulitzer Prize Winner Nicholas Kristof in April!

**Off Campus Events:** There are a few off campus events planned for all students this month by the office of Student Life. For example, sign up today in room A-115 to go to the Museum of Modern Art on February 19<sup>th</sup>. All events are listed in the attached Student Activities Guide.

## Meet the I&C Staff



Annique Nestmann



Patricia Aguilar



Natalie Williams



Mine Ugurlu



Irene Smith

If you would like to make an appointment with an International Advisor or get additional information on the programs listed in the E-globe, please call the International Student Center at 201-689-7601 or visit us in Room A-126.