

BMCC Commons

Fall 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Access to Opportunity



BMCC President Antonio Pérez presents diploma to Jessica Champagnie at 2017 BMCC Commencement.

BMCC students seize their goals as the college cuts the cost of textbooks, expedites developmental classes and increases accessibility.

At BMCC, multiple strategies are in place to improve equity and opportunity for all students. Making a measurable impact are initiatives including the College's Open Educational Resources (OER) project, Immersion programs and services provided by the Office of Accessibility.

These efforts address critical facets of student experience. For many community college students, the astronomical expense of textbooks can make the difference between dropping out and staying in school — and that is what sparked the OER movement at BMCC, says **Jean Amaral**, Assistant Professor and Outreach Librarian. As for what drives the BMCC Office of Accessibility, "It is our belief that students are not 'disabled' but instead possess 'insurmountable abilities,'" says that Office's Director, **Marcos Gonzalez**, while **Janice Zummo**, Assistant Dean for Academic Support Services, emphasizes that BMCC's successful Immersion Program aligns with the College's priority to help students complete their developmental requirements in a timely manner, "so they can move on to credit-bearing courses and move closer to graduation."

These responses to the diverse needs of BMCC's more than 27,000 students reflect the theme of the College's January 2017 Faculty Convocation, "Designing for Student Success." Opening the event, **Karrin E. Wilks**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs said, "Students can learn anything under the right

Continued on page 2



Borough of Manhattan
Community College
199 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Inside:

- 5 **The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship: A Dream Begins**
- 6 **BMCC Launches Three Academic Degree Programs**
- 7 **Time Warner Foundation Helps BMCC Screenwriters Bring Their Work to Life**
- 8 **Then and Now**

Access to Opportunity

Continued from page 1

conditions. We are deeply engaged in examining our own practices and developing theories and practice about the right conditions under which all students can learn.”

That process of building opportunities for academic success takes into account students’ own ideas about what constitutes a satisfying college experience. According to a 2017 survey of 499 BMCC students, “Getting a degree is their definition of success,” said Wilks, “and that includes successfully transferring to earn a baccalaureate degree,” while almost half “define success in terms of a good career.” Working toward the future they envision, BMCC students benefit from the offices, initiatives, classroom experiences and culture of student success that surrounds them.

“I don’t mind being an inspiration.”

The 2017 BMCC Commencement in the Theater at Madison Square Garden was charged with excitement. More than 3,800 associate degrees were conferred that day. Thousands of students in blue gowns and orange sashes filled the Theater’s front tiered seats and family and friends filled the seats behind them, shouting out the names of loved ones crossing the stage.

When three graduates in wheelchairs — including **Simone Taylor** and **Jessica Champagnie** — took their turn crossing the stage, one of the women raised her arms in victory fist pumps, and the roar from the audience was deafening. “When they cheered for us, I was so in awe,” says Taylor. “I don’t mind being an inspiration.”

Born with cerebral palsy, “I got my first wheelchair at the age of five or six,” says Taylor. “The doorways and ramps at BMCC were very accessible, and doing presentations in class was never a problem for me. I have a big personality.” Taylor, who

“I’m so used to fighting for things, then I realized it wasn’t necessary. They knew me in the Office of Accessibility.”

SIMONE TAYLOR, (HUMAN SERVICES, '17)

checked in with **Marcos Gonzalez**, Director of the BMCC Office of Accessibility, when she started at BMCC, says, “I’m so used to fighting for things, that at first I was very aggressive with what I needed. Then I realized it wasn’t necessary. They knew me in the Office of Accessibility.”

Champagnie — who lost the use of her legs at age 19 when she suffered, as an innocent bystander, a gunshot injury to her spine — also met with Gonzalez as soon as she enrolled at BMCC. “He and his staff gave me options, services to match what I needed. It relieved some of the anxiety I had about being a student in a wheelchair,” says Champagnie.

“We made sure both Jessica and Simone had a wheelchair-adjustable desk waiting for them in each class they took, every semester they attended BMCC,” says Gonzalez. “There are more than 1,100 students registered with our office, and we connect them to support services including tutoring and career development, or provide assistive technology, such as speech-recognition software. We also coordinate reasonable accommodations such as extended exam time that is twice the standard amount.”

Both Taylor and Champagnie earned an Associate in Human Services degree from BMCC, and are enrolled in the Bachelor’s in Social Work program at Hunter College, CUNY. “People with disabilities are the most misunderstood people out there,” says Taylor. “I need to be in that field so when people come to my office, they know I understand what they’re dealing with.” Champagnie says her goal is to work with a nonprofit organization that serves young people with disabilities, “whether it’s advocating for them or helping them find housing and educational programs. Having a disability doesn’t mean you can’t give back to society or have a career.”



Accessibility at BMCC is provided through online courses and assistive software.

A spike in success rates

One of the first challenges a BMCC student faces is taking the CUNY college placement tests that determine whether he or she will be required to complete developmental, non-credit courses before moving on to college-level work.

Only about 10 percent of incoming freshmen pass all three of the CUNY entrance exams, and are exempt from having to complete developmental requirements, according to **Janice Zummo**, Assistant Dean of Academic Support Services. Based on those test scores, about 75 percent of new students are required to take a developmental mathematics class, 45 percent place into developmental writing courses and 30 percent place into developmental reading. Other freshmen enroll in English for Speakers of

Other Languages (ESOL) courses — all designed to enable them to succeed with college-level work.

BMCC’s developmental offerings include the free Immersion Program, which has shown remarkable success. According to Zummo, the pass rate for ESOL students spiked at 71 percent in the 2017 Winter Immersion Program, a significant increase from the previous 49 percent pass rate. “One of the reasons for the increase in pass rate,” she says, “was that we extended the class sessions by one hour, so the students met for five instead of four hours for all 12 days of the program.” Not only that, she says, “The overall pass rate for all three programs — ESOL, reading and mathematics — was 86 percent.”

Students in the Immersion Program work with faculty in small

classroom settings. “It gives them a head start on their requirements to graduate,” says Zummo. “This builds retention, because once students get the developmental courses out of the way, they complete credit-bearing courses and move closer to graduation.”

Student savings approach \$1 million

Starting in Fall 2017, BMCC Criminal Justice majors will have an alternative to expensive textbooks by choosing zero-textbook-cost courses, or those offering Open Educational Resources (OER).

The cumulative savings for students, yielded by BMCC’s OER movement, is estimated to reach \$1 million by Fall 2017, according to figures compiled by the A. Philip Randolph Memorial Library at BMCC. Faculty across the college are now teaching close to 175 sections of zero-textbook-cost courses, with annual savings of about \$450,000 for more than 4,000 students.

BMCC’s efforts to tackle the pro-

hibitive cost of textbooks have been ongoing for several years. In Spring 2017, two things happened that accelerated BMCC’s course conversions to OER. CUNY received \$4 million from the State of New York and a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to pilot Waymaker, personalized OER learning courseware. Now the majority of zero-textbook-cost courses listed on CUNY’s online registration platform are with BMCC, and “BMCC is by far, the most shining example,” says CUNY Open

Education Librarian **Ann Fiddler**.

For BMCC students, whose median family income is \$28,400 — and 34% are in the \$20,000 or less range — the average \$1,200 each year for books and supplies can be prohibitive. “When students can’t buy textbooks because they

don’t have the money, it impacts their learning and ability to succeed,” says **Jean Amaral**, Assistant Professor and Outreach Librarian at BMCC who is spearheading the College’s efforts.

“BMCC is by far, the most shining example” of OER course conversion.

ANN FIDDLER,
CUNY OPEN
EDUCATION LIBRARIAN



Celebrating 50 Years of Building Hope and Opportunity

The Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) celebrated 50 years providing academic and vocational services to underserved residents of Harlem and throughout New York City with a fundraising gala, “Celebrating 50 Years,” held May 3 at Harlem’s legendary Alhambra Ballroom. The event raised more than \$39,000, with proceeds to benefit the MEOC Student Emergency and Scholarship Fund.

“I was humbled and appreciative of all the support MEOC received for our 50th Anniversary Celebration,” said **Anthony Watson**, Executive Director of MEOC. “The evening was filled with laughter, great stories and impactful speeches.” Gala Honorees were BMCC President **Antonio Pérez** and **Charles Rangel**, Retired U.S. Representative. The Gala’s Distinguished Guest was **H. Carl McCall**, Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Opportunity: The Unifying Thread Behind Student Success

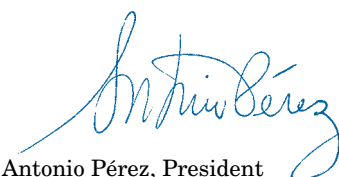
Opportunity exists in many forms at BMCC and is tailored to meet the disparate needs of our students — some who come to us equipped to excel academically, and others who undergo intensive academic support with us, before tackling college-level work.

We also provide opportunities for students to apply their classroom skills in internships or present their creative work in a public forum. There are student opportunities at the heart of our services and initiatives supporting a wide range of student goals. Our graduates aspire to be scientists, artists and social workers. They want to start their own businesses, join the ranks of our city’s nurses, do medical research and perform on Broadway.

As you will see in this issue, at BMCC, opportunity is part of the culture of success thriving in our classrooms and offices. Opportunity reveals itself as a student sits down with a counselor, meets with a tutor, chooses a degree program from our growing list and applies for a scholarship. We also provide opportunity for our faculty, and celebrate their scholarly research and innovative approaches through convocations and special events.

Of course it is important to note that any opportunity we provide at BMCC is in turn, made possible by our generous alumni, donors and funders. These include the Time Warner Foundation and Goldman Sachs College Collaborative Program, and individual gifts such as those made to the Miosotis Familia Public Service Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are grateful to this year’s BMCC Foundation Gala Honorees **Carol Britton**, Chief Operating Officer for Corporate Services at BNY Mellon, and **Jeffrey Gural**, Chairman of Newmark Knight Frank, as well as Special Guest Star Honorees, the Oscar®- and Grammy®-winning songwriters **Kristen Anderson-Lopez** and **Robert Lopez**. We appreciate the support of our 2017 Commencement Presidential Medalists U.S. Congressman **Adriano Espaillat** and **Jane Rosenthal**, film producer and co-founder of Tribeca Productions.

These individuals and institutions, along with the faculty and staff of BMCC, ensure that opportunities are in place to meet the goals and ambition of every student at our College.

Antonio Pérez, President
Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York

Milestones

Seventeen BMCC faculty have been awarded a total of \$78,338 in Faculty Development Grants to support their research and creative activity. These include **David Allen, Shoba Bandi-Rao, Elizabeth Fow, Matthew Geddis, Shirley Leyro (pictured), Sarah Madole, Sophie Marinez, Chris McCarthy, Michael McGee, Abel E. Navarro, Jose Fernandez Romero, Kibrewossen Tesfagiorgis, Kristina Varade, Nettie Christine Vinsonhaler, Elizabeth Whitney, Lina Wu and Meryam Zaman.**



Melissa Aponte, Assistant Director of Student Activities, and **Manuel Romero**, Executive Director of Public Affairs have been selected for the 2017 Class of the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) Leadership Fellows Program. Aponte and Romero have participated in the program's 2017 sessions; one held at the University of San Diego on June 7-10, and the second held in conjunction with the NCCHC Leadership Symposium in Miami, Florida, on September 21-23.



BMCC English Professor **Joyce Zonana** received the 2017 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant from PEN America for her translation of "This Land That Is Like You" by Tobie Nathan, a novel set in the Jewish quarter of Cairo in the early twentieth century.

BMCC's Phi Theta Kappa advisor, Social Sciences Professor **Alex d'Erizans**, was awarded the Regional Coordinator Distinguished Service Award at the Phi Theta Kappa annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee, April 6-8.



Faculty Share Positive Experiences with Melissa Riggio Students

A reception at BMCC's main campus on May 24 honored faculty who have participated in the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program of AHRC New York City. This organization engages young adults with disabilities in academic and social experiences, including the chance to audit classes at BMCC. Modern Languages Professor **Kristina Varade** said the Melissa Riggio student in her class "was one of the first to ask questions, and that often opened up the conversation." Other BMCC faculty involved in the project are **Michael Basile, Glenda Blakely, Philip Belcastro, Simon Carr, Margaret Carson, Patricia Genova, James Dennis Hoff, Chaumtoli Huq, John Johnson, Jacob Kramer, Michael Mazzeo, Michael Morford, Thaddeus Radell, Jessica Ramirez, Aimee Rexcord, Kerry Ruff and Karl Williams.**



BMCC Honors Distinguished Teaching Award Winners



L-R: Antonio Pérez, Brett Sims, Rosalie Gleicher, Geoffrey Klock, Matthew Marcus, Karrin Wilks

The BMCC community celebrated winners of the 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award at a reception in the Shirley Fiterman Art Center on May 4.

The winners, selected by the BMCC Academic Senate and Office of Academic Affairs, were **Rosalie Gleicher**, Adjunct Professor of Human Services in the Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department; **Matthew Marcus**, Lecturer in the Academic Literacy and Linguistics Department; **Geoffrey Klock**, Professor of English and **Brett Sims**, Professor of Mathematics.

"These distinguished teachers

inspire their students and their colleagues every day," said **Karrin E. Wilks**, Senior Vice President and Provost. "Nothing is more important to our students' success than pedagogical excellence."

More than 130 faculty members were nominated by students or colleagues this year. The committee was formed by the Academic Senate and chaired by Professor **Janice Walters**. Other members of the committee were Professors **John Beaumont, Jacob Kramer, Sarah Salm, Naida Zukic, Jill Richardson, Shirley Zaragoza** and Associate Dean of Faculty **Jim Berg**.



Creating a Culture of Inquiry and Shared Principles

The BMCC Office of Academic Affairs hosted the College's first annual Faculty Convocation on January 27 in Theatre 1 at 199 Chambers Street. BMCC President **Antonio Pérez** opened the event attended by hundreds of full-time and adjunct faculty. While acknowledging economic and social factors, "What happens in the classroom is at the heart of student success," he said.

Recipients of the 2016 BMCC Distinguished Teaching Awards were **Nicholas R. Marino**, Adjunct Lecturer, English; **Chamutal (Tali) Noimann**, Assistant Professor, English, and **John Beaumont**, Associate Professor, Academic Literacy and Linguistics.



L-R: Dean Michael Hutmaker, scholarship winner Norbesida Bagabila and Vice President Marva Craig

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship: A Dream Begins

BMCC Kaplan Scholar **Norbesida Bagabila** (Science, '17), became one of 55 community college students nationwide to win the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship, which provides up to \$40,000 a year for two to three years, toward the recipient's bachelor's degree.

"Our Undergraduate Transfer Scholars have a proven record of accomplishment at elite colleges and universities and have gone on to suc-

cessful careers in many professions," said Cooke Foundation Executive Director **Harold O. Levy**. "This is one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country and we are extremely proud of the talented students who have been selected."

The path to winning the scholarship, Bagabila says, wasn't easy. "After I left my family and moved here from Burkina Faso in West Africa, I spent two years learning

English. I worked as a dishwasher for 12-hour shifts, then at a pizza place, then as a security guard." Bagabila's goal is to be part of the global biomedical engineering community.

"I would like to help create a research institution that involves a partnership between college students from the United States and those in Burkina Faso," he says. "It's still a dream at this point, but this is how it starts."

Milestones

BMCC Computer Science major

Audie Sorelle Tchie has been selected to join 19 other New York City college students to take part in the Do School's Community Mobility Challenge. Together, they will design a ride-sharing community program that connects people as they travel from across NYC to the Brooklyn Navy Yard.



Nine BMCC students have been named to the 2017 America Needs You Fellows Program, an intensive two-year program that provides mentor support, free business attire, writing and ESL workshops and networking opportunities with leading industry professionals. The BMCC cohort includes **Etty Ausch** (Criminal Justice), **Michael Bey** (Computer Science), **Brittney Jackson** (Liberal Arts), **Mohammad Mansoori** (Computer Science), **Abdoul Nikiema** (Accounting), **Scott Oziros** (Business Administration), **Iana Serzutdinova** (Business Administration), **Dorian Thomas** (Computer Science) and **Alba Valerio** (Human Services).

BMCC June graduates **Gifty Blankson** (pictured), who received her Associate in



Science (A.S.) in Theatre Arts, and **Iva Porfirova**, who earned her Associate in Arts (A.A.) in Communication Studies, have each been awarded the New York University (NYU) Community College Transfer Opportunity Program (CCTOP) Scholarship — \$32,000 a year for two years, toward completion of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Media, Culture and Communications in the NYU Steinhardt program. **Bless Nyemikutse**, who earned her Associate in Arts (A.A.) in Liberal Arts will receive a CCTOP award of \$15,000 a year for two years to enter the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

Getting a Boost on the Income Ladder

A recent study by The Equality of Opportunity Project tracked 30 million college students born between 1980 and 1991, and found that BMCC ranks third out of 690 two-year colleges, when looking at the overall mobility index or rise in students' household income.

According to the project's "Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility," 41 percent of BMCC students move up two of the five quintiles used to assess U.S. household income — a significant rise for students whose median family income is \$28,400 and 34 percent are in the \$20,000 or less a year range.

Nursing Graduates Honored in Traditional Pinning Ceremony

The BMCC community cheered on graduates of the Nursing Department as they crossed the stage in Theatre 1 at 199 Chambers Street on May 31. The traditional Pinning Ceremony honors those who have completed the Nursing program at BMCC, including courses in medical-surgical care, psychiatric nursing care, anatomy and other areas. The students also complete clinical rotations, working alongside nurses, doctors and medical students at public and private hospitals through-



out New York City. Graduates earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing, and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (RNs).

Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs Meet Today's Business Leaders

BMCC hosted the college's eleventh annual Entrepreneurial Summit on May 2 in Richard Harris Terrace at 199 Chambers Street. Panels and discussions at the event engaged BMCC students in conversation with some of New York City's most successful entrepreneurs and business people.

"Students who dream of start-

ing their own businesses were able to ask questions about where to pitch innovative ideas and how to secure funding," said Business Management Professor **Shane Snipes** (pictured). "They also asked how to land a job at a startup."





Artwork by David Henderson in "text/ure" exhibition, Shirley Fiterman Art Center

BMCC Launches Three Academic Degree Programs

Starting Fall 2017, an Associate of Science in Public Health degree will be offered through the BMCC Health Education Department. "There is a great need today for a more diverse range of health professionals," says **Lesley Rennis**, Chair of the BMCC Health Education Department.

Another new offering is the Associate in Science program in Music, with specializations in Music Studies and Music Performance that articulate to the Bachelor of Science in Music program at Lehman College, and a specialization in Music Education. "Graduates will be prepared to enter a variety of majors at the baccalaureate level, as well as a range of careers in music," says BMCC Music and Art Chairperson **Eugenia Oi Yan Yau**.

A third new program offers an Associate in Arts in Gender and Women's Studies, and was created by two departments: Speech, Communications and Theatre Arts; and Social Sciences, Criminal Justice and Human Services. Graduates will be on track to earn a Bachelor's in Gender Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice or Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies at Brooklyn College. "Students will address the social constructs and realities gender presents today and throughout history," says Professor **Brianne Waychoff**, who co-led the proposal committee.

SFAC Makes Its Mark Downtown

The Shirley Fiterman Art Center (SFAC) in BMCC's Fiterman Hall is a rising art exhibition venue in New York City. Open to the public and a resource to the BMCC community, the SFAC showcases established and emerging artists in its spacious north and south galleries.

The past year's exhibitions have included "text/ure," an exhibition of drawings, sculpture and installations curated by **Kristen Frederickson** with assistant curator **Avery Curran**. On display May 30 through September 9, it featured the work of **Brenna Beirne, Colin Chase, Paul D'Agostino, Lisa Corinne Davis, Kelly Driscoll, Ula Einstein, Paul Gagner, David Henderson, Oliver Jones, Courtney Puckett, Christine Sciulli, Duston Spear** and **Kate**

Teale. An earlier exhibition, "Year in Review Student Art Show," presented April 26 through May 16, showcased the artwork of more than 200 BMCC students creating in a wide range of media and formats. "The focused study, the seriousness of our student artists on display is clear," said BMCC Professor of Art **Xico Greenwald**. "They will arrive at art school ready to succeed."

The exhibition "RE:SEARCH" was on display February 22 through April 1. It presented painting and sculpture that reflect techniques dating back hundreds of years, as well as pieces made with advanced

materials and cutting-edge technology. The artists included **Yevgeniya Baras, Aisha Tandiwe Bell, Tess Bilhartz, Lynn Braswell, Simon**

"The focused study, the seriousness of our student artists on display is clear."

XICO GREENWALD, PROFESSOR OF ART

Carr, Betty Copeland, Tim D'Agostino, Elisa Decker, Dikko Faust, Ana Garcés Kiley, Pat Genova, John Goodrich, Xico Greenwald, Sarah Haviland, Ann Hjelle, Sara Jimenez, Alessandro Keegan, Michael Leigh, Michael Paris

Mazzeo, Charles McGill, Thaddeus Radell, Jessica Ramirez, Kimberly Reinhardt, Judy Richardson, Erik Saxon, Adele Shtern, Rachelle Street, Joan Thorne, AC Towery and **Amy Westpfahl**.

Graduates Cross Stage at MSG

BMCC conferred Associate degrees to more than 3,800 graduates in morning and afternoon ceremonies during the College's 52nd Commencement at The Theater at Madison Square Garden on June 2.

The 2017 BMCC valedictorians were Computer Science major **Olasubomi Ayomide Efuniyi** and Psychology major **Paulina Malinowska**.

BMCC President **Antonio Pérez** presented the 2017 BMCC President's Medal to U.S. Congressman **Adriano Espaillat**, who represents New York's Thirteenth Congressional District, in the morning ceremony, and during the afternoon Commencement, President Pérez presented the President's Medal to **Jane Rosenthal**, co-founder of Tribeca Productions and film producer of critically acclaimed films including "Wag the Dog," "A Bronx Tale," "Rent" and "Meet the Parents."



Time Warner Foundation Helps BMCC Screenwriters Bring Their Work to Life

Professional actors read 10-minute scenes from scripts written by BMCC students at the BMCC Time Warner Screenwriting Fellowship program's Script Reading Gala March 2 in BMCC's Theater 2. The project, made possible by a \$25,000 grant from Time Warner Foundation, began as the burgeoning screenwriters — **Maty Dakar, Lilybeth Gonzales, Alfonso J. Henrique, Rondel King, Enrique Ortiz, Brian Relefor, Dymrna Roman, Marcelino Sorza** and **Chris Vanbrussel** — came together in Fall 2016 for 14 intensive sessions led by BMCC Professor **George Stevenson**.

“At Time Warner we believe in creating an artistic landscape where the best ideas and most talented creators can share their stories with global audiences,” said **Diahann Billings-Burford**, Executive Director, Cultural Investments, Time Warner Inc. “We recognize that meaningful support to organizations creates opportunity and access to diverse and emerging storytellers. A BMCC-Time Warner Fellowship is instrumental in removing the barriers to opportunity for the next generation of screenwriters in American film, and we are privileged to partner with them.”



Professor George Stevenson (right), with Script Reading Gala participant



L-R: BMCC Foundation Scholars Jihad Gadsden, Tesfamichael Demeke and Chandni Samlall with BMCC Foundation Board Members Anthony J. Portannese and David Steingard.

More Than \$1.1 Million Raised for Student Scholarships

The BMCC Foundation hosted the 2017 Gala, “Invest in a Future,” on May 18 at Cipriani, 25 Broadway, raising more than \$1.12 million to benefit the BMCC Scholarship Fund. The evening's Honorees were **Carol Britton**, Chief Operating Officer for Corporate Services at BNY Mellon, and **Jeffrey Gural**, Chairman of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank. Special Guest Star Honorees were Oscar®- and Grammy®-winning songwriters **Kristen Anderson-Lopez** and **Robert Lopez**.

BMCC Foundation Board Members

David Steingard and **Bill Fisse** served as Gala Co-Chairs. BMCC Foundation Chair **Anthony J. Portannese** opened the event. “The scholarship dollars we raise tonight are an investment that speeds the time to graduation for some of the hardest-working students in our city,” said Portannese. “Research shows that the BMCC Foundation Scholarship recipients are nearly four times more likely to graduate within three years than comparable non-recipients, and three times more likely to go on to earn second and third academic degrees.”

Invitation to Give in Honor of Miosotis Familia

Miosotis Familia (Liberal Arts, '09) served as a law enforcement officer in the New York Police Department for 12 years — a career which came to a tragic end on the night of July 4, when she was fatally shot in a command post vehicle parked in the Bronx neighborhood she was assigned to guard. To carry on her legacy, The Miosotis Familia Public Service Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to students in the BMCC Human Services and Criminal Justice programs. Please go to <http://bmcc.thankyou4caring.org/> to join BMCC's efforts to honor Miosotis Familia; a mother, law enforcement professional and alumna of BMCC.



Milestones

Ishrak Nasir (Business Administration and Management, '17), was selected for a summer internship at a midtown Manhattan branch of M&T Bank. A former BMCC Out in Two Scholar and member of Phi Theta Kappa, he will begin pursuit of a Bachelor's in Finance degree at Baruch College in Fall 2017.



Ellen Hoist (Nursing, '00) was the featured Guest Speaker at BMCC's 2017 Nursing Pinning Ceremony honoring graduates of the Nursing program. Hoist, a Registered Nurse and former Chairperson of the Council of Practical Nurse Programs of New York State, is Director of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Program and Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Bronx Community College, CUNY.

Randy Ramphal (Liberal Arts, '15), has received a merit scholarship toward a master's degree in Clinical Social Work, with a minor in Business Administration, at Columbia University starting Fall 2017. Ramphal was President of the BMCC Out in Two program. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at St. John's University.



Judith Volkmann, BMCC Foundation Board member, was awarded the Pro Bono Advisor award of \$5,000 from Financial Planning Magazine and the Foundation for Financial Planning. A gift of \$5,000 accompanied the award and will benefit the BMCC MoneyWorks program, which she co-founded.

BMCC Team Meets Goldman Sachs Final Challenge

A group of BMCC students who participated in this year's Goldman Sachs College Collaborative Program made their final presentations before a mock board of directors at the Goldman Sachs global headquarters on May 5. The BMCC Team,

along with student teams from three other colleges met from November 2016 through May 2017. Each team assumed roles such as CEO and Marketing Director of a hypothetical corporation to address a Business Case Challenge.

The BMCC team included **Diagna Camilo, Natalia Corletto, Tesfamichael Demeke, Olesia Hyka, Hyun-Shin Lee, Karol Malachowicz, Ching Hei Mok, Henry Noble, Babatunde Ogunniyi** and **Una Radakovic**.

Stay in touch with BMCC!

Share news about your recent achievements, learn about BMCC's Alumni Council and other activities: alumni@bmcc.cuny.edu.



Q&A

with Robin Mallard,
Custodial Supervisor

What is one thing you've noticed about the BMCC community, as you have worked with students, faculty and staff in your current role?

I've noticed over the last 10 years that BMCC students are getting more serious, and have been affected by the events and politics today. I tell them you must further your education, if you want to make a change. These conversations come up as I am inspecting the cafeteria, the women's restrooms, the public areas and doing my rounds all over Fiterman Hall.

Tell us something about yourself we might not know, but has an impact on the good work you do, at BMCC.

Being a parent, my priority is making sure my teenagers follow in the footsteps of their older brothers and sister. Social media can play a huge role now in how they develop, so I'm very strict on that. I enrolled them at the YMCA so they are learning to swim and play handball and basketball. A lot of teenagers learn all their social skills on the phone, but I want my children to learn them through other activities. When they were small, they took part in the Fresh Air Fund — an office at BMCC hooked me up with that opportunity. My children still go to Connecticut every summer, and they are friends with the kids in those families.

What is your role at BMCC?

I have been a custodial supervisor at BMCC in the Office of Buildings and Grounds for more than 10 years. I started at BMCC as a part-time worker and in six months was promoted to a full-time position. Then six months after that, I took the Civil Service Exam for Supervisor, and passed it.

What do you really do at BMCC?

I tell the students I meet that they must go further than a two-year degree. I tell them that getting an associate degree is a great start but it's really a stepping stone to more degrees and career choices in life.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments in your current role?

Through my supervisor role at BMCC, I show my children that there's always room for growth in whatever you're doing — and they have listened to me. My son is a senior usher at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center and majoring in Liberal Arts at BMCC. Another son graduated from Hunter College and is working as a computer analyst. I have a daughter who tutors in the BMCC Office of Accessibility, and three kids who are still in high school. My 16-year-old just took his SATs and is planning to attend Central Connecticut State University.

Then and Now



Renovations have been completed in the north side bathrooms at BMCC's Chambers Street building, and those in the south side will be finished in Spring 2018.

This capital project, led by the BMCC Office of Administration and Planning, will provide greater accessibility, ventilation and temperature control systems.

Upgrades include new stalls, floors, fixtures, ceilings and lighting.