

Learning to Learn & McNair Newsletter



Fall 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome From the Director



Dear BC Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends,

Welcome to the 2004-2005 academic year! Once again, the doors of Learning to Learn are open and our staff is pleased to offer advising to all BC students—whether academic, financial, and personal concerns. Please stop by our office at 50 College Road or call 617-552-4551 to make an appointment. We also hold evening study hours every Monday night from 6-8 pm; no appointment is necessary.

In this issue, we welcome new staff members and celebrate the national accomplishment of a recent LTL alum. Our office is here to serve you; please do not hesitate to contact me at bunch@bc.edu with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Many Backgrounds, Two Weeks, One Community: CTP

On Sunday, July 18, 2004, a group of first-year students and their families gathered in the expansive 7th floor lounge of Walsh Hall for the second year of the **College Transition Program (CTP)**. These sixteen young men and women, most of them the first in their families to attend college, had traveled by train from Queens and the Bronx, by mini-van from Maryland and Pennsylvania, by air from Florida and California (a few tired souls had taken the red-eye)—even by the trusty old T from neighboring Allston and Dorchester.

They were a nervous, travel-weary, but nevertheless enthusiastic bunch of, well, strangers. What were they doing here at the College

learning. We chose not to barrage CTP students with unread brochures, passive lectures and PowerPoint

they'd made with previously-intimidating deans, respected faculty in their own departments, and student services

staff in departments from Residential Life to AHANA Student Programs. **Nari Chun, Meg Larsen, Hana Lee, Dan Pritchard, Eric Rodriguez, Chantal Tate, and Anica Joseph** provided guidance to the CTP'ers and



Say Cheese! CTP students gather in June on the steps of the LTL office at 50 College Road

presentations about every office, academic class, and student activity they would encounter at B.C. (well, maybe a few of these work-

shared success stories about everything from the extracurricular activities to choosing courses.

At the culmination of the pro-

“Our students came back to 50 College Road talking about the connections they'd made with previously intimidating deans, respected faculty, and student services staff...”

Transition Program? Did they second-guess their decision to spend two weeks living at B.C. during their last summer at home? How would this so-called “transition” program benefit them during their first-year at Boston College and through the next four years?

In planning CTP, our staff focused on *active*

shops, too). Instead, we asked our students to get out and about campus, to interview academic deans in their offices, to visit upperclassmen and women of student organizations like the Undergraduate Government at B.C. (UGBC)—even to take a tour of the B.C. Police Department. Our students came back to 50 College Road talking about the connections

program, students created a comprehensive 63-page *Boston College Survival Guide* to help all B.C. students understand the array of resources, academic programs, and student life available.

If you would like more information about CTP—or to obtain copies of the survival guide—please email **Ricco Siasoco** (siasoco@bc.edu).

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McNair Summer Session A Success

The **Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholars Program** had a busy summer as its first summer session took place on campus. This 6-week session featured McNair scholars who had been paired with faculty mentors working on guided research projects. Topics ranged from elevated calcium levels in Albino Mice Retinas to HIV/AIDS in Dorchester in a “Sociocultural” context. The student scholars not only completed research projects, but presented their scholarly work in a symposium held in July. McNair Scholars also attended workshops on such topics as writing graduate ad-

missions essays and research ethics. The July symposium featured powerpoint presentations, a welcome by Assistant Director of the McNair Program **Rossanna Contreras, Gaelle Gourgues, and Vice President for Student Affairs Cheryl Presley**. In attendance were faculty mentors as well as students from the CTP program from the Learning to Learn office and LTL staff members. For more information about the McNair Scholars Program, please contact Gaelle Gourgues at gourgues@bc.edu.

McNair Scholars 2004

Tanisha Barnes

Christine Crawford

Andrew Grillo

Martsyl Joseph

Veronica Joseph

Meg Larsen

Vienna Mbagaya

Jonathan Rose

Helina Teklehaimanot

New Faces: Kathy Moise & Meaghan Sullivan

Kathleen Moise, Lynch School of Education '06, joins the LTL staff as a Teaching Assistant. Kathy



Kathleen Moise

is currently majoring in Elementary Education and Human Development. She grew up in Long Island, NY, and would like to teach elementary school. She is a member of L'Association Haitienne and enjoys volunteer work at BC.

Meaghan Sullivan, College of Arts & Sciences '06, joins the LTL staff this year as a



Meaghan Sullivan

Teaching Assistant. Meaghan is majoring in communications with a concentration in journalism. She is a member of the pre-law program and the Irish Society at BC. Hailing from Cambridge, Massachusetts, Meaghan plans to study abroad in Madrid, Spain.

Student Resources at Learning to Learn & McNair Scholars Program

- **TEXT FROM ADALINE**

LTL: The Course (Explained)

LTL's academic component, **Applications of Learning Theory** (PS005—offered both in the fall and spring), is a three-credit elective course within the Psychology Department.

Designed to improve students' critical thinking abilities, Applications of Learning Theory introduces undergraduate students to the learning skills necessary for college success and asks them to apply these skills to all of their course-

work.

Whether a student hopes to improve upon time management skills, ease the burden of perfectionism, or integrate left- and right-brain thinking, Applications of Learning Theory is a course designed for students interested in academic and personal success.

If you'd like to register or learn more about Applications of Learning Theory, please drop by our office at 50 College Road or call (617) 552-4551.



LTL's new Assistant Director Adaline Mirabal (right) with Urban Scholar Robert Saunders.

Learning to Learn is pleased to welcome **Adaline Mirabal** as the new Assistant Director. Adaline comes to us from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she was the Director of the Urban Scholars Program. Prior to this, she worked in the University Advising Center. Adaline holds a degree in Management with concentrations in Accounting and Management Information Systems from the University of Massachusetts Boston. In addition to her advising role, Adaline is also Past-President of the New England Educational Opportunity Association. She served on the Board of Directors of the Council for Opportunity in Education. Adaline lives by the values of integrity, loyalty, compassion, and fairness and she strives to empower others. She enjoys crocheting, needlepoint, listening to soft music, and traveling to the Dominican Republic.

BC Alum Receives National TRIO Award

On September 13, 2004, BC alumna **Cecilia Altagracia Gutierrez** (Class of '94) was one of six honorees at the 23rd Annual TRIO Conference in San Antonio, Texas. During her BC career, Cecilia participated in Learning to Learn and Options Through Education. Following is an excerpt from Cecilia's acceptance speech.

My mother taught me so many things, especially the values I hold dear today — honesty, humility, respect for others and myself, kindness and generosity. Even during our most difficult times, my mother continued to send money to her family in the Dominican Republic because she knew they had less than we did. Honoring me today is honoring her and my family.

Upward Bound complemented my mother's work. I can say categorically that my independent spirit, love of travel

and exploration, my insatiable appetite for literature, theatre and politics is a result of being around the well-read and worldly people in Upward Bound and TRIO programs across this country.

They saw a smart young woman with a desire to learn. They not only offered me a place to grow and learn but a place to develop as a young woman, a place to begin to find my voice and to explore my talents and aspirations. They allowed me to dream. And challenged me to dream bigger, to want more, to do more, to be more.

All I needed was someone to believe in me until I could learn to believe in myself. Indeed, that's what every child deserves. My family is a reflection of the persistent problems facing the poor

and uneducated. While my sister is incredibly accomplished, my brothers have encountered nothing but challenges. Both have been in and out of jail and rehabilitation programs for most of their lives.

I think the best years of my life—personal and professional—await me. In part because of Upward Bound and TRIO, I have dedicated my life to service and giving back to society. I define accomplishments and successes by the impact I've made in the lives of others.



Learning to Learn participant **Cecilia Altagracia Gutierrez** (left) receives the 2004 National TRIO Achievers Award in September.

What's New with DIOP

In the spring of 2000, **Dr. Donald Brown, Dan Bunch, and Martin Pierre** fostered a character-building group for Black men on the campus of Boston College. **Dedicated Intellectuals of the People**, or DIOP as it's better known, is a synergistic group of AHANA men who gather every Monday evening at the Learning to Learn house to discuss common is-

sues that affect their social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

The first meeting of DIOP will be on Wednesday, October 6, at 5:30 p.m. and continues weekly through the fall semester. All meetings are held at 50 College Road. For more information, contact LTL at 617-552-4551.

Dates to Remember

- **TEXT FROM ADALINE**



Learning to Learn

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Need Help with Classes?

Learning to Learn

Contact: (617) 552-4551

Web: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ltl/>

Hours: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Need writing help? Tips for time management? Just looking for a quiet place to study? The Learning to Learn Program offers open study hours every Monday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at our office at 50 College Road. Teaching Assistants are available to help you with study skills, academic coursework, and time management. Instructor Ricco Villanueva Siasoco is also available to discuss your writing drafts. Please call 617-552-4551 in advance to schedule a writing, math, or science conference.

Connors Family Learning Center

<http://www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/connors/>

Contact: (617) 552-0611

Hours: M-Th 10-9; F 10-3; Sat closed; Sun 12-8

The CFLC provides tutoring for more than 60 courses, including calculus, statistics, biology, chemistry, nursing, accounting, and classical and foreign languages. In addition, graduate students in English serve as writing tutors in OWL, **The Online Writing Lab**. OWL is on the web at:

<http://www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/connors/online/>

Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ahana/programs/tutorial/>

Contact: 617-552-4803

The Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program assists students in successfully completing their course work. In many cases, tutors have had previous involvement with the office, and are continuing the Office of AHANA Student Programs' tradition of service by assisting others. The program hopes to transform good students into even better ones. Academic tutoring is free and available to all students. Tutoring sessions take place at the Thea Bowman AHANA Center (72 College Road). As long as classes are in session, tutoring is available and no appointments are needed.

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