Maria De Abreu: CLAC Tutor Named BCC Valedictorian

On May 22nd, Maria De Abreu became the latest CLAC Peer Tutor to be named BCC’s Valedictorian.

With a perfect 4.0 GPA, Maria received the good news at the 14th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony where she was named recipient of the 2014 Judith K. Winn Valedictorian Award.

Maria joins an impressive list of former CLAC Peer Tutors and Valedictorians: Dea Ho Moon (’10), Carolina Espin (’12), Sunny Glottman (’13), and current CLAC Manager Margaret Roidi (’07).

Beginning in September 2014, Maria will be double-majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Pre-Med at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, where she received a full scholarship.

The CLAC Presents at the NTA Conference

Managing Director of Learning Assistance Services Khairia Fazal, CLAC Manager Margaret Roidi, and Writing Center Supervisor John Findura took part in the 21st Annual National Tutor Association’s Conference in Tampa, Florida, during April of 2014.

The trio delivered two presentations to standing room-only crowds over the four day conference: “Satisfaction Guaranteed: Comprehensive Assessment Techniques for Learning Assistance Centers” and “Collaborating with Faculty: Effective Techniques that Foster Productive Relationships Between Learning Assistance Centers and Faculty.”

Along with attending numerous presentations and workshops led by other Tutoring Professionals from around the country, the CLAC representatives had the opportunity to hear the keynote speech by actor and activist George Takei. Mr. Takei spoke at length about the importance of education, especially during his time spent in an internment camp in Alabama as a child during World War II.
At the 14th Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony, held on April 22, 2014, 9 current CLAC tutors received 10 separate scholarships worth $13,000, including Maria De-Abreu, recipient of the Judith K. Winn Valedictorian Award.

The CLAC is extremely proud to have tutors who not only excel at helping out their fellow students, but are also able to excel themselves.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Anthony Ricciardi
Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey Scholarship

Permpoon Intanam
Dr. Audrey Stephan Evening Nursing Scholarship

Binah Ezra
BCC General Scholarship

Ju Yeon Gang
BCC General Scholarship

Christina Natoli
BCC General Scholarship

Arielle Patrice
The R2D2 Scholarship

Pavel Sokolov
R. Neil Ender Memorial Scholarship &
OritaniBank Charitable Foundation Scholarship

Bernard Mbock
Ciarco Family Scholarship
23rd Annual Tutoring Awards Ceremony

The 23rd Annual Tutoring Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, May 16th in the Technology Building.

This year’s ceremony was attended by over 160 guests, including tutors, faculty, administration, Board members, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cerullo and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cerullo.

The afternoon began with a welcome from Managing Director of Learning Assistance Services Khairia Fazal and remarks from BCC President Dr. B. Kaye Walter.

Students Alvin Garcia, Francine Heisler, and Shereeda English, all spoke about how their powerful experiences in the Cerullo Learning Assistance Center have impacted not only their education, but their entire lives.

Several awards were also handed out, including awards voted on by the students themselves to honor the tutors they have learned from.

The Best Newcomer Tutor Award went to Anthony DeFranco and the Students’ Choice Award went to Maria De Abreu. The ELRC’s Students’ Choice Award winner was Herbert Renderos.

The first Adam Feigenbaum Awards were given to Maria De Abreu and John Scheibe.

The CLAC will miss Maria and Ana as they move on to their new opportunities, but is incredibly proud to have supported these scholars in their journey.

Maria De Abreu & Ana Parra Vera: Winners of Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships

The Cerullo Learning Assistance Center is fortunate to employ a significant number of high-achieving tutors, both peer (student) and professional (degree holder).

This spring, in particular, two exceptional peer tutors became proud BCC graduates: Ms. Maria De Abreu, 2014 Class Valedictorian, and Ms. Ana Parra Vera.

Both tutors are the recipients of Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships, which provide up to $30,000 each year for up to three years to a community college student transferring to a four-year institution. Nationally, only 85 students have earned this award and the CLAC is proud that two of them are BCC tutors.

Both Maria and Ana emigrated to the U.S. from Caracas, Venezuela and chose to attend BCC. Even though they did not know each other prior to enrolling, through their work together in class and while tutoring, they became good friends; both have decided to continue their academic studies at Stevens Institute of Technology. Maria plans to double-major in Biomedical Engineering and Pre-Med while Ana has selected Computer Science.

As tutors at the CLAC, they respectively served as Supplemental Instruction leader and study group facilitator. Maria was also the recipient of multiple awards at the CLAC’s 23rd Annual Tutoring Awards ceremony, including the Students’ Choice Award.

Sam Aldaher and Nieves Vima were awarded 1st and 2nd place, respectively, for the RAS Technology Mentor Service Award.
MISSION STATEMENT

The Cerullo Learning Assistance Center (CLAC) is committed to providing quality academic support accessible to all Bergen Community College (BCC) students. The CLAC comprises the Tutoring Center, Math Walk-In Center, Writing Center, English Language Resource Center, and the Tutoring Center at the Meadowlands Campus; all centers offer various avenues of tutorial assistance to address the diverse needs of our student population. A dedicated and trained staff of Peer and Professional Tutors work together in a nurturing environment to foster independent learning while guiding students through their educational journey at BCC.

SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION:

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The Learning Assistance Center operates under the leadership of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Mullaney

Tutors Accepted to (insert name of prestigious school here)!

Like so many tutors that came before, our current peer and professional tutors continue to excel academically. During this past year, the following peer and professional tutors have been accepted to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country.

Chase Morgan—peer—Columbia U.
Giselle Medina—peer—Columbia U.
Carolina Montes—professional—Columbia U.
Julia Lang—peer—Columbia U.
Ailene Espiritu—professional—Columbia U. (Ed.M., Psychological Counseling)
Ana Parra Vera—peer—Stevens Institute
Maria de Abreu—peer—Stevens Institute
Tara Keegan—professional—U. of Oregon (Ph.D., History)
Katie Lennon—professional—Rutgers U. (D.P.T., Physical Therapy)
Elizaveta Kulko—peer—Columbia U.
Alyssa Shaw—peer—Pratt Institute

Volunteering at the BCC Foundation Golf Classic

On Tuesday, June 17th, 14 tutors from the CLAC volunteered at the BCC Foundation Gold Classic, which raises money for scholarships.

The annual event, headed by BCC Board of Trustees member and member of the BCC Foundation Phil Ciarco, offers participants a fun and relaxing way to donate money to the Foundation and in turn BCC students.

The tutors served as “witnesses” at specially designated holes, where a hole-in-one could net the lucky golfer a lucrative cash prize.

Unfortunately this year, no one managed to score an elusive “ace” at the Upper Montclair Country Club.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please forward your comments to jfindura@bergen.edu