Greetings! May is here already. We would like to extend warm congratulations to those of you graduating this spring and summer. If you are graduating, and haven’t yet made a decision on “what to do next” please read on, and if necessary, see Prof Nestmann immediately, as your choices are limited and time is running out for you to keep your F-1 status. For those of you that will be with us next year, have a wonderful summer. Remember that you do not need to take classes during the summer to maintain your status; however, you must be full time for the fall and spring semesters. Best of luck with your final exams, and note that BCC will be closed on Fridays during the summer.

International Student Spotlight
Class of 2011 Graduate – Eglid Dashi

My name is Eglid Dashi. I am originally from Albania. I came to the United States after graduating high school to obtain a good quality education. BCC was my first choice not only because it is one of the top community colleges but it is affordable and welcoming to international students from all over the world. My experience at BCC has been incredible and I will forever cherish it. In order to make the most out of any school a student needs to get involved. I made the most out of my time at BCC by joining the International Student Association and later the Student Government Association as a Senator. I became a major contributor in starting the Albanian Club of which I am currently president. At BCC I met many inspiring people, faculty and student alike. Nestor Melendez, the head of student life, is one of these people. At BCC I had the opportunity to learn leadership skills and become acquainted with many different cultures. This semester I will be earning my Associates degree in International Business and transferring to Bloomfield College. My ultimate goal is to move back to Albania and use the experience to help improve the economic and political condition in my home country.

International Student Upcoming Events
Graduation Fun Shop for Class of 2011 - come and decorate your graduation cap. Art supplies will be provided free of cost, just don’t forget your graduation hat!

E-mail Natalie at nwilliams@bergen.edu to reserve your spot. Monday, May 16th @ 4:00-6:00 pm, Room C-211

Looking for information about International Student Life @BCC? Visit our blog at http://bergeninternational.blogspot.com;
Korean: http://bcckrstudentlife.blogspot.com/
Turkish: http://bccaktiviteleri.blogspot.com/.

Traveling soon? Need Immigration forms? Visit the Forms and Link Page on the ISC website at: http://www.bergen.edu/isc/forms. Don’t forget to have your I-20 signed before you leave if you plan to go home for the summer.
Scholarship Opportunity

The Wells Foundation Need Based Scholarship:
The Wells Mountain Foundation is a public charitable foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is primarily to support programs and individuals in third world countries, or other situations of extreme poverty and need.

Are you involved with community service and need a scholarship? If yes, the Wells Foundation Scholarship is an opportunity to tell us about the community service you have done in your country or at BCC. Visit the International Student Center today to pick up an application for the scholarship.

Each year the Foundation provides support to a number of students as they pursue various educational objectives. Typically support is provided for post-secondary school (college, university, polytechnic, trade school). Financial support is primarily to cover the costs of the education itself, and directly related expenses including books, and supplies at the educational institution. In some limited cases the support can be extended to cover other personal expenses while pursuing the educational objective including food and lodging, travel to and from the educational institution, and other personal needs.

Scholarships will generally be granted for the full period of study, however, recipients must provide copies of all progress reports and grades as they are received and the scholarship can be discontinued at any time in the event of unsatisfactory performance.

The scholarship awards are determined by the Scholarship Committee at the International Student Center. Scholarship applications must be submitted to the ISC by May 27, 2011 by 5pm. If you are interested in applying for the Wells Foundation scholarship please contact Mine Ugurlu or Natalie Williams in the International Student Center (Room A-126).

Looking for housing that is clean, safe, affordable and close to campus?

BCC is excited to announce that we are now affiliated with Aunt Elsie’s Homestays. If you are looking for housing for next semester or the next academic year and would like to live with an American family while you study, this program would be right for you.

Homestays provide a furnished room, utilities are included in the rent, and you share meals provided by the family. Taking advantage of this housing option allows you to take part in a cultural exchange, build personal relationships, and improve your English in daily communication with your American family. You will not have to worry about buying furniture, paying broker fees or the hassle of finding an apartment. It will also save you on the cost of supporting yourself once you arrive in the USA. Aunt Elsie’s Homestays provides both short-term and long-term options for housing in a clean and safe environment. Please visit http://www.elsiehomestay.com/ for additional information on this housing opportunity.

Would You Like to be an International Student or Alumni Ambassador?

Would you like to help students from YOUR HOME COUNTRY study at BCC? Get involved with the International Student and Alumni Ambassador program!

What is it? The International Student and Alumni Ambassador program involves current BCC students and alumni in the recruitment of new international students.

How does it work? On your next trip home, (or in your local community here in NJ!) we would like you to visit your former High School or College, the Education USA Advising Center in your area, a community center, newspaper, etc. - We will give you some BCC brochures, business cards, and a few BCC gifts to give to guidance counselors or teachers. You will be provided with a BCC t-shirt, hat or backpack to wear at home. We want you to help market and promote BCC! Student Ambassadors and alumni will be featured on the International Student Ambassador page of the ISC website. There will be a photo or video of each Ambassador along with a testimonial about the College in both English and your native language. The page features ambassadors who have transferred from a language school to BCC, those who came directly from overseas, as well as alumni who have graduated from BCC and have transferred to 4 year colleges.

What’s in it for you? You will be able to promote your college overseas, and you can help others in your country attend BCC! You may also build your presentation and public speaking skills. This would look great on your resume!

If you are interested in this program, please contact Ms. Kate Plessing at kplessing@bergen.edu or visit her in the International Student Center! We hope you will consider joining this unique program.
**Immigration Bulletin**

Check your I-20! Typically, BCC I-20s expire on January 1st or September 1st, three years after you started studying at BCC. If your I-20 expires this September, you need to make an appointment with Prof. Nestmann sometime this Summer to extend it. For more information visit: [http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/2956.aspx](http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/2956.aspx). If you do not extend your I-20 you will lose your status.

Are you planning to return to your home country and not return to BCC for the Fall 2011 semester? Simply e-mail Prof. Nestmann once you are home and she will adjust your immigration record so that you will not have a problem re-entering the USA in the future. You do not need a signature on your I-20. The signatures are for re-entry to the USA.

Taxes and Form 8843:
It’s Tax Season! If you worked for pay in 2010, it is too late to file your taxes. If you did not work for pay, you, and your dependents, need to file only the 8843 (fill out parts one and three of the form only, sign it, and send it in to the address on the form): [http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf) by June 15th, 2011.

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**Focus on Academics**

Graduating? What Are Your Plans After Finishing your Degree?
As an F-1 Student, you have three choices:

1. **OPT (Optional Practical Training)**: If you plan to work for one year after you graduate by doing your Optional Practical Training, the last day to have all of your paperwork in to an international counselor is 60 days after the last day of the spring 2011 classes (May 13th), which would be July 13th. However, please note that you should be applying for OPT 60-90 days BEFORE classes end, as it can take up to 3 months to receive your work authorization card from USCIS! This was February 13th! For all of the OPT application forms and information, please visit [www.bergen.edu/isb/forms](http://www.bergen.edu/isb/forms). Be sure to come to an OPT workshop! Prof Nestmann added one more OPT workshop for those graduating this summer! Check it out on April 18th from 11-12 in room L-146.

2. **Transfer**: Students that do not plan to do OPT must transfer to a 4 year university, and must start at the new school in the Fall 2011 semester. Once you have been accepted to schools, and have decided where you want to attend, THEN see an international counselor so that she can transfer your SEVIS immigration record to your new school. We can only transfer your record to ONE school, so be sure that you decide on the one school that you’d like to attend. You must bring us a copy of the acceptance letter from your school of choice, and any DSO (Designated School Official) paperwork that the new school has given you for a BCC International Advisor to fill out. You can leave this paperwork with the receptionist, and Prof Nestmann will automatically transfer out your record, or you can make an appointment, or see her on a walk-in to transfer out your record. We can transfer your record only once your grades are in for the spring 2011 semester. Please note that if you plan to transfer, and you will be leaving the USA before you begin your new degree, you must re-enter the USA with the I-20 from your new school. Did you know that the Office of Transfer and Career Development runs workshops every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 – 1:30 on how to transfer to a four year school? Check it out!

3. **Returning Home After Finishing Degree**: If you plan to simply return home after graduation, you have a 60 day grace period to remain in the United States before you are required to return to your home country. Perhaps you could use this time to travel around the USA and “see the sites”.

**Registration & Advisement**: To find out when you can register, and what classes you need to take for your degree, simply print out your program evaluation from your WebAdvisor Account. Please note that all students will need to be registered for classes for the Fall 2011 semester by the start of classes, September 7th, REGARDLESS of which campus they plan to attend. If you’re not registered full time by that date, your SEVIS record will be terminated. Want to check out class descriptions and the school catalogue? Visit [http://www.bergen.edu/apps/ecatalog/index.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/apps/ecatalog/index.asp). Want a list of all of the degrees available at BCC? Visit [http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/2923.aspx](http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/2923.aspx).

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**Working Over the Summer?**

**On Campus**: If you have an on-campus job, you can work up to 30 hours per week over the summer, but only if you plan to continue to be a student at BCC in the Fall 2011 semester! If you are graduating, you can no longer work on the BCC campus, you’ll have to find an on-campus job at the university to which you plan to transfer (unless you’re on OPT, then you can continue to work on the BCC campus, if you are hired.)

**Off Campus**: Interested in working off-campus this summer? We encourage you to do an internship over the summer off-campus, or a “CO-OP.” To learn more, visit a CO-OP counselor in room A-123. Please note that you must have a CO-OP major, thus check with A-123 to see if your major qualifies for an internship experience, visit [http://www.bergen.edu/pages2/2137.asp](http://www.bergen.edu/pages2/2137.asp). If you would like to work on-campus, you can work full time during the summer break. Go to room A-123 to learn more.

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).