

# The Observer



THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

November 2014, ISSUE 28

## BCC Prepares to Celebrate 50 Years

By: CRYSTAL STONE

In December of 1965, the Massachusetts Board of Regional Community Colleges officially instituted Bristol Community College. The following September, the college opened its doors to eager learners. In April 2015, BCC will begin a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary. The celebration will commemorate BCC's past, present, and future, and will conclude in June 2016.

BCC President John Sbrega aimed to "launch a college-wide planning effort for celebrating the

college's 50th Anniversary," in Fiscal Year 2014, according to the Bristol Community College website. That's now becoming a reality with the help of a few of the college's dedicated team members.

Sally Cameron, Vice President for College Communications, and Shelly Murphy, a professor in the Communication program, are co-chairs for the celebration planning.

Cameron, who began her tenure with the college in 1985, has

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## Sbrega Building Amplifies Sustainability

By: ANGELA HILSMAN



FALL RIVER - Bristol Community College continues its sustainability efforts, with its latest project expected to be finished by the end of this year. SunEdison, a solar power and renewable energy company, is currently installing 20-foot-high canopy structures across lots six-10.

The construction, titled the Solar Canopy Project, will reach completion this December. Nearly 10,000 solar panels atop the canopies will supply energy for the new John J. Sbrega, Ph.D. Health and Science Building, which will also house innovative technology.

The college aims to construct the Sbrega building as a Net Zero Energy Building. This requires enough on-site energy creation to supply the building's heating, cooling, and electricity demands.

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Construction of new Sbrega Building (Photo by Brian Casey)

## The Observer

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## Editor-in-Chief Column

Journalists, like educators, have the power to give the American people objective, up-to-date, and meaningful information that will aid in understanding and improving their daily lives, as well as their futures.

Freedom of speech is often threatened today because of the effectiveness and speed of media (whether it be broadcast, print, online, or word-of-mouth). Consider WikiLeaks, a valuable tool for insiders to provide transparency to the public, but which had its creator, Julian Assange seeking asylum. There is the recent and well-known case of James Risen, a "New York Times" reporter, subpoenaed to reveal his sources after describing a failed C.I.A. operation in his book. More applicable to everyday Americans, in 2012, an anti-protest bill passed, "making it easier for the government to criminalize protest," according to slate.com.

At BCC's "The Observer," we provide experience not only exercising the first amendment, but advocating for it. Journalism is an important step in perceiving and protecting the world around us, and affectionately called the Fourth Branch of Government.

To me, journalism is a call for truth in a world so topsy-turvy with purposefully misleading claims. It is a chance to offer navigation and transparency.

We are looking forward to a productive and innovating year at "The Observer." We plan on producing a monthly publication, as well as eventually creating an online source to answer all your questions about our community. We welcome anyone passionate for story-telling, design, marketing, media, or learning. We offer resume-boosting experience, networking opportunities, and skills to start to your communications career.

I hope you enjoy this first publication of the 2014 school year! Email me with your thoughts, interests, and feedback!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Hilsman, Editor-in-Chief

The Observer

Theobserver.bcc2014@gmail.com

**The Observer welcomes  
 Letters to the Editor.**

**Please email as an  
 attachment to  
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 Include your name  
 and phone number.**

# Letters to the Editor

## BCC Makes Wise Decision

**BY: PAULO SALGUEIRO JR.**  
**ATTLEBORO, CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**P\_SALGUEIRO@AOL.COM**

School shootings have been in the news more often, and prevention isn't always possible. However, we can take measures to deter local terrorism.

I recently learned that Bristol Community College is changing its security policies. One policy that is being put in place is the campus police will now be armed. This policy is a good approach to student safety.

Armed campus police will be ready to protect while city police and safety personnel are on the way. This policy enforces gun

safety, as well as responsible training. Campus police will undergo psychological testing before being handed a gun.

The school will install call boxes as well, which is a great safety measure. It gives everyone the opportunity to contact campus police immediately if they spot something fishy. Lockdown drills and evacuation drills will improve response time in the event of an emergency.

Bristol Community College is making a wise decision in arming their campus police. It's important to have a secure school and all students should feel safe at all times.



*Campus Police Car (Photo by Brian Casey)*

## Times Are Changing at BCC

**BY: BRIAN CASEY**  
**OBSERVER STAFF MEMBER**  
**BCASEY13@BRISTOLCC.EDU**

Last December, the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees voted to allow armed campus police. That policy went into effect this semester, and we need to show our support for this change.

We don't need reminding of the dozen of school shootings that have happened in our lifetime alone, from the Columbine shooting (1999) to the incident in Newtown, Connecticut (2012), when Adam Lanza murdered 20 first-grade children, along with a handful of school faculty.

Every college campus could now be a target for such terrorism, including BCC. Campus police will be the first responders, if such an incident were to occur.

It is easy to support the new policy, as it is being

handled responsibly. At last year's meeting, Chief of Campus Police Wayne Wood promised staff, faculty, student, and public attendees that his department would undergo extra training, including psychological testing and 40 additional hours of gun training.

One officer called the training "well worth it." He explained he had learned new procedures and techniques that he had never encountered.

Currently, officers are not allowed to take their weapons home. They are secured in individual lockers with 24-hour surveillance.

Times are changing, and, thankfully, policy has changed to meet new demands. As a student body, we need to encourage training and allow campus police the power to protect us.

## October Employee of the Month



*Officer Job Wells, Fall River Campus Policeman (Photo by Brian Casey)*

# Top Ten Tips of Success

**BY: GRADY BRANAGAN**

My dear friends here at Bristol Community College, this fall, I embark on the second year of my BCC career. Recently, I stumbled upon a series of tips that helped me survive my first year. I connected each point to my own experiences, and would like to share my story in order to provide some evidence that these tips do indeed work!

Vice President of Students at BCC, Steve Ozug, compiled and revised the “Top Ten Tips for Student Success.” Every student wants to have ready a plan for success. I found myself following the recommendations offered by Ozug, and have received nothing but positivity from them.

**“Failure is not an Option.”** Ozug focused on an attitude of “I can do this.” A baby first trying to walk may tumble and fall numerous times, yet after each instance, the baby recovers and tries again until success is achieved. The same mentality helped me balance a part-time job with my education. I do not own a personal vehicle, yet I still find a way to be on time to class. The key here is that I did not quit my job, nor my education, to make time for the other. I found a compromise. I stood back up and tried to walk once more, with success.

**“Be there.”** Half of all success is merely showing up. Ozug urged not only to attend all classes physically, but to mentally prepare as well, in order to further guarantee the overall success of your college ventures. When class registration loomed, I considered this tip and focused on logical times that I could attend class. I discovered that many classes within my General Studies major overlapped and held time conflicts. However, that drive, to never miss a class, pushed me to schedule accordingly.

**“Take Responsibility.”** You, the student, are the only person who can ultimately decide what paths you will take. I, my friend, may offer some comforting sympathy with my personal examples; however, I may not fully decide how you carry on from here with this information. I spent a long time writing letters of appreciation to all those who sacrificed time in order to assist my success. This was ultimately my first choice college and I would not want it any other way.

**“Find Your Balance.”** Ozug reminds everyone that, we are symbolically employed here at BCC. Every student worked long and hard on applying, just like one would for a job outside the campus. College can be considered another job that should be high on your priority list, right up there with family obligations and other occupations. I work a part-time job as a customer service representative as well as being a student at BCC. The greatest benefit that each job offers is the constant opportunity to impress your bosses and yourself. Your future goal may be to enter a field of work related to your studies, and this BCC job is the starting position.

**“Maintain Integrity.”** Ozug emphasized that the multitude of support groups available to you is wonderful, yet dependent on the constant integrity of everyone involved. By behaving and participating with the upmost of integrity, giving 110 percent, doing the work honestly, and so forth, a two-way street of respect forms between yourself and the college. Take responsibility for all actions with the knowledge that you are in an environment in which everyone else would do the same. This includes avoiding the ever-tempting plagiarism, as to not diminish the school’s name.

**“Be a Savvy Shopper.”** Ozug offered the puzzling concept that education is one of the only, if not the only, commodity or thing that people pay for, but sometimes don’t want to get their money’s worth. Around midterms, it’s hard to care, but you should always demand your money’s worth from your institution. I paid for a full course load, and utilized office hours and other services to make my dollar stretch.

**“Promote and Practice Civility.”** Though misbehavior and incivility exists in many places, it doesn’t have to at BCC. Bristol Community College took the pledge to be the most civil environment that anyone could enter. Systems for civility are already set up and thriving. It takes the cooperation and support of our student body for BCC to continue producing a safe environment. Civility, from all members of our diverse community, can only further its success.

# A Successful College Experience

**“Reach for the Sun.”** As seeds germinate and undergo growth cycles, we as humans wish to do the same, to constantly strive to be bigger, better and stronger. By attending college, one gains new abilities to reach new heights that maybe you couldn’t even think of reaching before. I personally like to think of BCC as a toolbox, which tends to my mental sprouts and mends the wounds to ensure nothing but a successful harvest. Be sure to challenge yourself; do those activities or courses that you always wanted to no matter how difficult they seem to be. This seed wants to enter the world of Education and Literature, but after navigating BCC’s offerings, I sprouted interests in History and Science that I never would have found otherwise.

**“Learn to Navigate”** entrusts the student to learn the best mapping system for them. BCC has a GPS full of resources, but the voice has to come from you. You must motivate and guide yourself. On campus, make yourself aware of available resources, as you never know when certain ones can help you out of a roadblock. BCC is home to a grand journey that is just awaiting your input. You are in the driver’s seat.

**“Beware of the ‘Old Dude.’”** College administrators are serious about your success, but they aren’t robots. They have interests, hobbies, and lives separate from their work. Their positions in the school do not express their full knowledge or ability. Ozug stated anecdotally, “We might just know what we’re talking about... We’re all here for you.”



*“Over the years I have had countless students come up to me and tell me how these tips were a positive influence in their experience here. It is practical advice, presented with real life examples that seem to hit home with new students.” -- Steve Ozug, Vice President of Students (Photo by Brian Casey)*

# New Vice President at Helm of Workforce Educational Institute

BY: BRIAN CASEY

FALL RIVER - Paul Vigeant started as the new Vice President of Workforce Educational Institute (WEI) this past June. Vigeant, the former director of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center (ATMC), aims to "bridge the gap between the people at the center to the course credits that are offered here at BCC."

This is a solid objective for WEI, a three-tiered program that connects Bristol County with career opportunities. Situated on Davol Street in a factory-like building, WEI hosts the Green Center, the Workforce Center, and the Community Center.

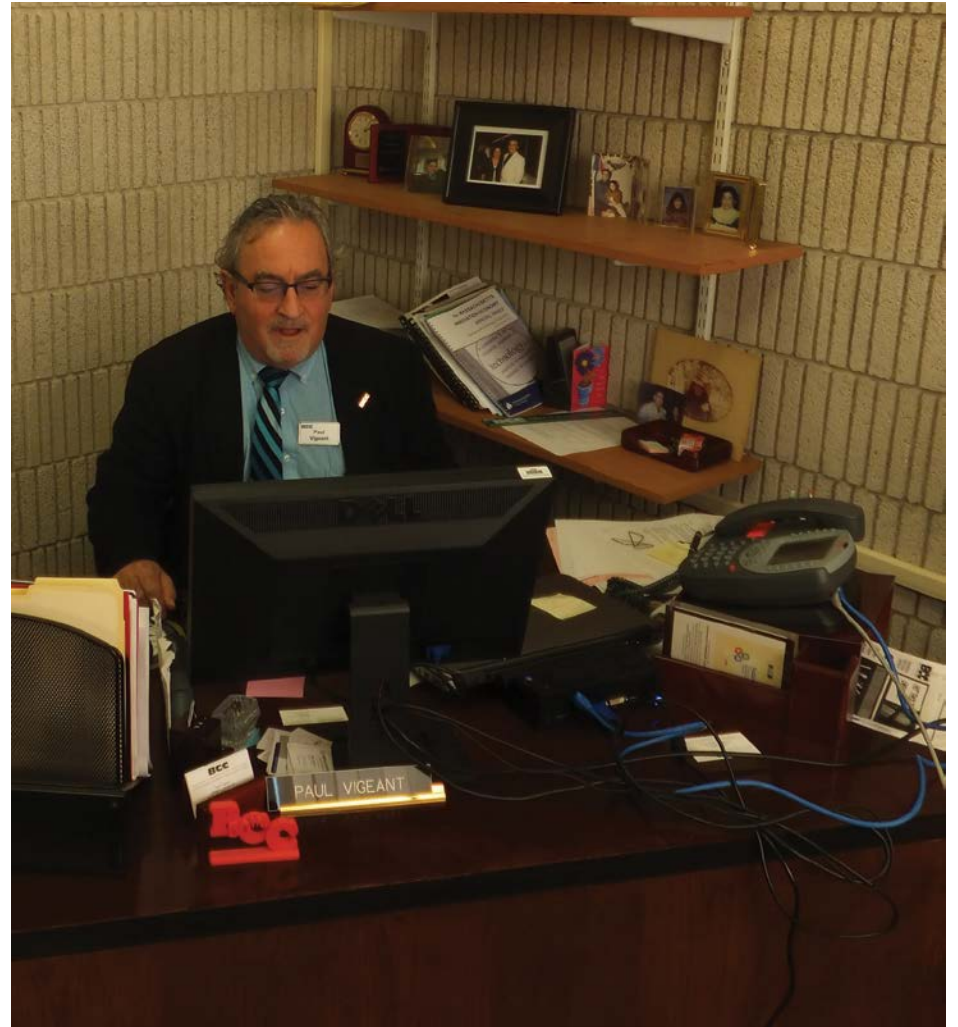
The Green Center (also known as the Energy and Sustainability Center) promotes sustainable practices through workforce training and community education. Programs through the Green Center focus on topics such as renewable energy technologies and weatherization. They aim to not only feed the growing job market in these areas, but also to make Southern Massachusetts healthier.

The Workforce Center offers employers customized programs to train workers. Classes are conducted either at the job site or at a local conference site on a BCC campus. Conversely, the Workforce Center also aids students and workers via the Dislocated Workers Program (DWP) or the Fast Track to Employment. These programs allow workers to upgrade their career and technical skills.

The Community Center offers non-credit courses that train students in specific career fields such as Health Care and Computer Literacy. Students can attend either online or in classroom settings.

WEI additionally offers Personal Enrichment Courses, such as yoga or language, and Kid College, which builds problem-solving, creative expression, and other skills in youth.

For more information about the Workforce Educational Institute, please visit: <http://www.bristolcc.edu/communityworkforce/workforceeducationinstitute/> or call 508.678.2811, ext. 4636.



Paul Vigeant at work in his office. (Photo by Brian Casey)



The back entrance of the WEI building. (Photo by Brian Casey)



(Left to Right) Bernadette Driscoll, the Dean of Adult Basic Education & Workplace Literacy; Theresa Romanovitch, the Associate Vice President for Workforce Development; Carmen Aguilar, the Dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Community Education. (Photo by Brian Casey)

# A WEI Success Story

BY: BRIAN CASEY

Nicola Machado received her GED in 2012 through the Bristol Community College Adult Basic Education Program after deciding to go to college. She started at Bristol Community College the same year due to her determination and help from the BCC Workforce Educational Institute (WEI). She then enrolled in the Medical Administrative Assistant Program and will graduate in 2015.

In addition to student life, Nicola volunteers at WEI. In 2013, she was awarded the Presidents Award for Service for volunteering 100 hours. The same year, she received a scholarship for excelling in school from the Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education. Nicola said the best part of working at WEI is the “uplifting and encouraging” staff.



*Nicola Machado (Photo by Brian Casey)*



*A WEI Classroom (Photo by Brian Casey)*



*The WEI Building on Davol Street in Fall River (Photos by Brian Casey)*

# Professors Go Beyond History with the Holocaust Course

BY: EVAN TOMASCIK

FALL RIVER - Most students learn about the Holocaust in a history class, explore an Elie Wiesel book in high school, and then quickly forget the tragedy that killed 11 million people in the 1940's. However, two Bristol Community College professors are working to not only teach about the Holocaust, but to share a timeless message.

"It's important to be aware of prejudice, and the things that can result from prejudice" said Ron Weisberger, Adjunct Professor of History and Coordinator of the Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC) here at BCC. "[Students] should also be more aware that the choices they make do have an impact."

In Fall 2003, Weisberger and his colleague, Dr. Howard Tinberg, decided to teach a course about the Holocaust as part of the honors program at BCC. The idea sprouted from a brainstorm session between the two men, and is now taught collaboratively by both.

The course combines Tinberg's specialty in English with Weisberger's historical expertise. The two aim to present the material as a way of coping with racism and anti-Semitism, and furthermore to instill relevant educational messages that will help people avoid similar issues in the future.

"There are many lessons to be learned about the Holocaust," said Weisberger.

Although the subject can be somewhat grave, it is an enjoyable class. BCC's "learning community" and the engaged honors students are Weisberger's favorite aspects of teaching the course. "I like teaching together with friends," added Weisberger. "Teaching with two professors is an interesting dynamic."

The two recently wrote a book, *Teaching, Learning, and the Holocaust*, about teaching courses about the Holocaust. Indiana University Press published their creation, and released it last December. The book highlights taped discussions about

their course, and features quotes from student papers as well as weekly journal reflections. The two educators are now focusing their efforts on establishing an official, expanded Holocaust Center on the BCC campus.

As of today, the Holocaust Center itself technically exists. However, it currently includes 450 books occupying a corner of the tutoring lab and various faculty members that have volunteered to provide information and resources. Their dream is to have an independent, stand-alone building, dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust, also known as the "shoah," or "catastrophe" in Hebrew.

The current center is relatively low-key in size, but very active. It sponsored three educational programs this year, including a lecture that featured survivors' stories from the Holocaust, speaker James Young (from the University of Massachusetts Amherst), who helped plan and construct a Holocaust memorial in Berlin, and Milton Teichman and Sharon Leder, authors of "Truth & Lamentation - Stories and Poems on the Holocaust."

The honors courses, the books, and the Holocaust Center itself are all personally meaningful to both Weisberger and Tinberg.

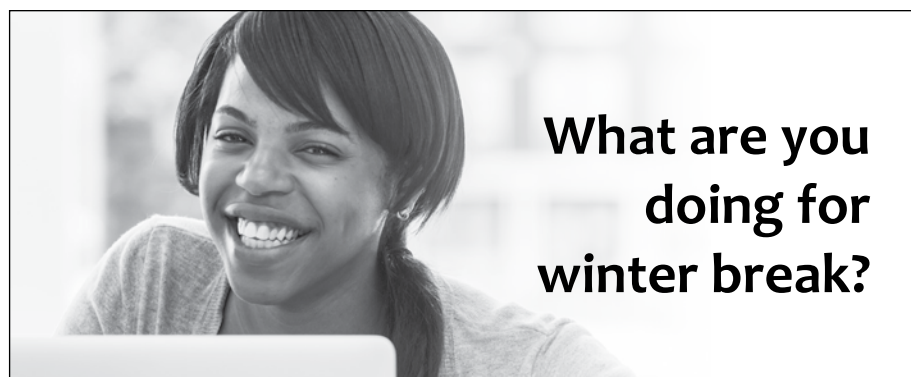
Weisberger's grandparents are individuals of Jewish descent hailing from Russia, the former Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Tinberg's parents were Holocaust survivors.

The Holocaust Center at BCC is a recognized charity organization and is currently accepting charitable donations.

Students interested in learning more about the Holocaust Center, the BCC Honors Program, or the Academic Tutoring Center should contact Ron Weisberger through the college staff directory.



Ron Weisberger, Adjunct Professor of History and Coordinator of the Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC) here at BCC. (Photo by Brian Casey)



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# Staff and Students at the Fall River Campus



*Child Abuse Month (Photos by Brian Casey)*



*Kick-off to College Celebration (Photo by Brian Casey)*

# Sbrega Building CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The building will also qualify for a green building certification, LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design).

"The LEED Platinum is the highest level of achievement in building and design," said Leo Racine, Director of Capital Projects at BCC. Some requirements for Platinum Certification include "on-site renewable energy, use of sustainable materials, optimization of energy performance, and minimization of storm water runoff," said Racine.

"There's a lot of technologies," he added, mentioning the solar panel array, solar hot water roof, and 30 wells, each extending 500 feet below ground, utilized to supply geothermal energy.

"Because it's a science building, there will be a lot of fume hoods," Racine continued. Twenty-two fume hoods will match the Green Solution Hoods used at the University of Rochester in New York, and use 96-percent less energy than traditional hoods.

The science building will contain 11 laboratories: dental hy-

giene, clinical lab sciences, nursing lab, medical assisting, general biology, general chemistry (two), microbiology (two), biotechnology, and field biology.

"There's really no general purpose classrooms or offices," said Racine. The science building can host 551 persons by code, and will include lounge areas in response to "a shortage of student space on campus." "It'll be a nice place for gathering," said Racine.

Governor Deval Patrick's Higher Education Bond Bill will fund the \$29 million construction cost. The BCC Foundation has launched a multi-million dollar campaign to furnish the building.

"Brand new dental chairs are \$30,000 a piece," said Racine, explaining the current ones are 30-40 years old.

Campaign organizer, Elizabeth McCarthy, estimated that the campaign would aim to raise about nine million dollars. "We're still in the quiet phase of our campaign," she added, explaining that she held no concrete numbers.

Another \$19 million from the Bond Bill will go to modernizing other buildings. The Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs will be moved from the Siegel Building (C) into the completed Sbrega building. Then, the C building will be repurposed into a fitness center. The budget will also be used to update labs and build more classrooms in the Science Building (E).

"We're going to modernize selected areas and bring the buildings up to code," said Racine.

The Sbrega, Ph.D. Health and Science Building is expected to reach completion in December 2015, and should open for classes the following Spring.

The recent construction projects are a continuation of sustainability efforts; in 2008, a 10-kilowatt solar system went onto the Engineering Building (B). In 2010, an 86-kilowatt system was installed onto buildings C, D, and F.



Thirty wells like this one, each extend 500 feet below ground, will supply the Sbrega building with geothermal energy. (Photo by BCC/Steven Rys)

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# Giving Back to the Community

BY: SHAHBAZ KHAN

## Tell me a little bit about yourself and your job here at Bristol Community College (BCC).

My name is Maurice Cyr. I recently graduated from BCC with my second associates degree, then attended the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth to do my undergraduate program. My job here at Bristol Community College has changed a little bit. I am the Acting Intern Coordinator. My program is the Mobile Market. Here, I oversee registration, direct volunteers on the day of the event, and set the facility with enough tables, and get left over food to the local food pantries.

## Tell me about the Mobile Market here at BCC.

The Mobile Market is a program that is sponsored by the Greater Boston Food Bank. BCC partnered

with the food bank to distribute fresh and frozen foods on a monthly basis to those that register with the Mobile Market. We distribute seasonal fruits and vegetables, milks, and juices.

A link to register is on the BCC website, and registration begins the first of every month. We ask people to register ahead of time, but we do take same day registration as well.

The Mobile Market usually runs on the second Friday of the month, allowing about 12 days for registration. We can also register people over the phone. We typically get about 20 phone calls a month for people who do not have access to a computer. We write their info onto our list. Contact us by calling 508-678-2811, ext 2459.

## What strategy do you use to make a food bank event successful?

I give volunteers as much respect as possible. I ask volunteers to get here by eight o'clock in the morning. Friday is like a day off, and they are using their personal time to get up and distribute food. Most of the staff and students that come out are just incredible. I try to give them as much respect as possible and appreciate their work. That applies to participants as well; you have to treat them with respect.

## How is your experience working with the volunteers and the participants at the Mobile Market?

I enjoy working with volunteers. The volunteers who come out are here because they want to be here. Some students volun-

teer for 10-hour service learning, but the majority that are using the Mobile Market as service learning go above and beyond their hours and try to donate as much time as they can. This just becomes something that they enjoy doing. They enjoy giving back to the community. We only ask for three hours of their time each month. Most are such willing participants. It's amazing. One specific volunteer comes to mind; one woman came out to see what the Mobile Market was all about, and she's returned every month since. She loves giving back and interacting with people. That is the kind of volunteer we need, and that is what we have. They are all dedicated to the Mobile Market.

## What have you accomplished so far?

With the Mobile Market, I have cut the number of paid BCC volunteers down to very minimum. This month, we only paid five volunteers. Last year, we paid about fifteen. The community members have been a big part of it. I greatly appreciate the community staff and student volunteers.

## Where do you see yourself within the next 10 years?

I see myself with my masters degree. I also hope to see myself here at BCC, changing the world, learner by learner, either through civic engagement or some other administration.

## How can one contact you?

Anyone can contact me either via my email [Maurice.cyr@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Maurice.cyr@bristolcc.edu), or dial my extension (X2459). I can also be found in my office at L-118 (Academic Affairs).



Maurice Cyr standing in front of the Mobile Market Bulletin Board. (Photo by Shabaz Khan)

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# BCC Celebrates 50 Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been a part of six of the college's major milestones, five of which she largely participated in planning. She enjoys watching how the times dictate and change the way each milestone is celebrated. "We had elephant rides during Community Day at the 25th anniversary. Of course now we wouldn't do something like that, because we are more aware of animal rights," said Cameron.

Cameron hopes to effectively illustrate the college's role in the development of the many communities it serves, as well as its alumni's roles. At one point, every police chief in the area had attended Bristol Community College, noted Cameron.

Cameron invited Murphy to join in the planning.

"I think she was looking for someone with a communication background," Murphy said.

Currently in the "planning to plan" stage, the duo hopes to lay the framework for an all-inclusive event that "celebrates the past, revels in the present, and shapes the future."

This is Murphy's first time playing such a key role in celebrating the college's success, but her eight years teaching at the college and a long history of hands-on public relations experience, have

provided her with the necessary expertise to take on a task of this magnitude.

One of the biggest challenges they will face while undergoing this task will be establishing that all-inclusive sentiment between the many campuses and communities that Bristol Community College serves.

"There are three campuses and one satellite campus in Taunton. That means (gathering) city officials, students, community members, and alumni from four communities...and making sure that each is well represented," said Murphy.

Currently, Murphy's public relations students are drafting up a plan to better get students involved. Additionally, there are talks of a focus group involving students.

Like Cameron, she seeks to plan events that are interesting, engaging, and have a purpose.

The 50th's "soft opening" will kick off with the ribbon cutting for the new John J. Sbraga, Ph.D Health and Science Building, scheduled to open December of 2015.

Other possible activities include "College for a Day," where prominent professors will give 10-15 minutes speeches that are open to the community, and potentially a float in the parade celebrating the Battle-ship's 50th anniversary celebration will be on site.

This will be a collaborative effort amongst administration, faculty, and students. Deborah Lawton, English Professor, is currently writing a historical book that will commemorate the college's growth throughout the years. Jill Carrico, Publications Specialist, has designed the 50th Anniversary logo.

"My job will be done well, if everyone feels included," says Cameron.

For more information on the 50th Anniversary Celebration, to offer input, and get involved, contact Sally Cameron at [Sally.Cameron@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Sally.Cameron@bristolcc.edu) or Shelly Murphy at [Shelly.Murphy@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Shelly.Murphy@bristolcc.edu).



Photos throughout the years at BCC.

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