

# The Observer



THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2012, ISSUE 21

## BCC Civic Engagement Gives Students Real Life Experiences

By AMANDA MACDONALD



Jennifer Boulay provides help to a BCC student

The Civic Engagement office at BCC seeks to integrate the college experience with community service opportunities, giving students the chance to gain real world experience through volunteer work.

It works with students to accomplish their goals in a variety of programs, including the Global Leadership Certificate, Service Learning, Presidential Volunteers Program, and Community Service and Community Service Leader Program.

The program is flexible to fit with the busy schedules of community college students, and there are

hundreds of non-profit organizations to choose from when considering Civic. These opportunities could count toward the Presidential Volunteers Program, which requires a minimum of 100 volunteer hours from now until next March.

Though the program can be started at any time, the hours must be documented and submitted by March 2014.

As for the programs offered directly by Civic Engagement, the Global Leadership Certificate is an achievement recognized at graduation.

To complete this program,

students must take a leadership course and a government course (as well as three electives relevant to your major).

More information regarding the program is available on the Civic Engagement website or at the Civic Engagement office in L118 where they have hand-outs and forms about the various programs.

Service Learning is commonly done in concurrence with a class with a minimum of 10 hours of work with a non-profit organization. This is offered by many professors and is sometimes mentioned in the syllabus; if not, don't be afraid to ask your professor!

When a Service Learning project is completed the student receives credit for that class on both an academic and volunteering basis.

Scholarships and awards are given out at graduation for outstanding participation in the Civic Engagement program, and many times there is some sort of volunteer work that is required upon entering into a competitive four year school.

"Taking part in Civic Engagement illustrates that you can maintain your course load and take part in community service," Boulay said. "This gives you a competitive edge when applying to

four year schools and jobs in the 'real world.'"

Professors encourage Service Learning and involvement in the Civic Engagement. "I offer five points extra credit in my classes if the students participate in a Service Learning project," said Professor Mary Cass. "It rewards them academically and teaches them the value of helping others."

Additional information can be found on the Civic Engagement website (<http://www.bristolcc.edu/Academics/civicingagement/>)

For additional information regarding volunteering opportunities and Civic Engagement, contact Jennifer Boulay at 508.678.2811 ext. 2459 or at [jennifer.boulay@bristolcc.edu](mailto:jennifer.boulay@bristolcc.edu).

For upcoming events and frequent updates, like the Civic Engagement Facebook page.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local Author .....Page 3

Transfer Schedules.....Page 4

Athletic Venues Get Facelift ..Page 6

Learning Resource Center .....Page 7



# THE OBSERVER

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The newspaper serves the BCC Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro and Taunton campuses. All expressed opinions do not necessarily represent those of The Observer, its staff, its advertisers or the college. The Observer office is located in the BCC Writing Center, B-117, office: 508-678-2811, ext. 2989, email: Observer@bristolcc.edu

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 TTY: (877) 521-2172  
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Inquiries regarding state laws may be directed to: Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, 800 Purchase Street, Room 501, New Bedford, MA 02740. Telephone: (508)990-2390 Fax: (508)990-4260. Revised 2012

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you need accommodations to access any program of events, please contact the BCC Office of Disability Services at (508) 678-2811 ext. 2955. If you need an ASL interpreter, CART or ALD, please contact julie.jodoin@bristolcc.edu at ext. 2568 or VP (508) 689-7616.

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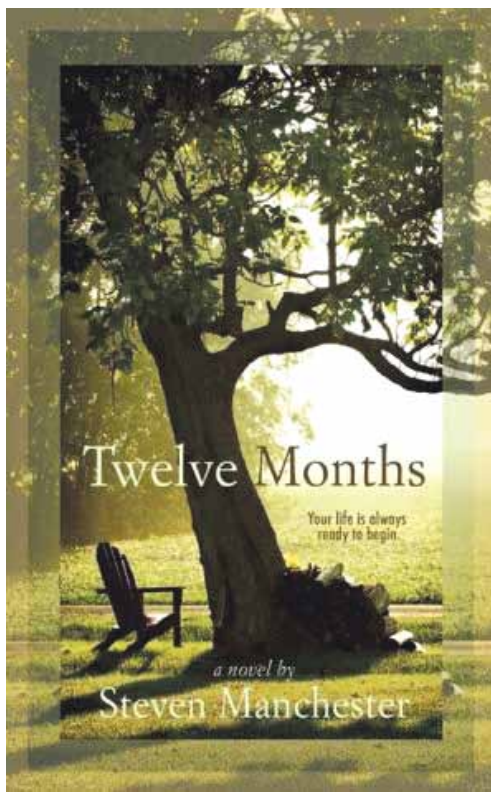
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# BCC ALUMNUS

## STEVE MANCHESTER

### TALKS ABOUT HIS BOOKS

BY ZACHARY CARON

If you are looking for a wholesome, thoughtful, and enjoyable book to read, pick up any of Somerset resident Steve Manchester's books. His most recent novel, *Twelve Months*, is receiving critical acclaim and very positive reviews among readers.

Manchester graduated from Westport High in 1986 and continued his education at Bristol Community College, pursuing an associates' degree in criminal justice. He then worked in law enforcement for the Department of Corrections as a prison investigator. He served with the US Army in Operation Desert Storm (Iraq, 1991), as a Military Police squad leader.

It was these experiences that sparked his writing career. "It was always a dream of mine to pursue writing," remarked Steve, looking back at his past.

He attributes his first real inspiration for writing to his fourth grade teacher Mrs. Parsons, but his real push to write is attributed to his BCC professor, Barry McKee.

He wanted to write non-fiction at his time at BCC with an emphasis on the correctional system. His professor simply told him, "Why don't you just write it?" Manchester did just that.

He published *The Unexpected Storm: The Gulf War Legacy* when he came home from the war. After he put his life on the page, he tried his hand at writing fiction, which he primarily does now.

"Once I wrote everything I knew, I was hooked on writing."

Before that, he was writing non-fiction - focusing on war and prison. Today, he is writing "inspirational fiction," targeting mostly a female audience. He says that this drastic switch to a more emotional writing style is because "I wanted to go after the heart with my writing. A good writer makes readers think, a great writer makes a reader feel."

He considers his four-book deal with The Story Plant his big break. *Goodnight Brian* (January 2013 release), *The Rockin' Chair* (June 2013 release), an untitled work, and his newly released *Twelve Months* are all released under this publishing company.

"Sometimes, my titles come before the book, while others come during the project—like a punch in the face. *Twelve Months* was titled as such because the protagonist receives news from his doctor that he has twelve months to live."

According to Manchester, the hardest part of writing is finding the time. As a family man, he recognizes that family must come first. He lives at home with his wife Paula and their four kids.

"Sometimes, I'll be outside playing with them while thinking that I could be inside writing. But they won't always be kids. Instead, I'd rather lose out on sleep, and write late at night."

For him, writing is therapeutic, especially *The Unexpected Storm*.

"It helped heal my soul, and since then I've put my heart and soul into my writing."

To all aspiring writers, he says, "Writing is not something you wish and wait for. It takes perseverance and hard work. It can take several years to develop your own voice and style." For his first book, it took him three years to be published.

He also doesn't believe in writer's block. He doesn't generally write from A-Z. He can even have up to two projects going at once. "Sometimes, it's best to walk a way for a while. The answers will come."

Authors that Manchester uses for models are Stephen King for his discipline, dedication, time and effort he puts into writing, and Nicholas Sparks, Mitch Albom, and Robert Parker in terms of style.

He is also a poet, and feels as though it is "the purest version of the craft." He has six collections of poetry published, and has recently written a play for local children's community theatre company, Little Folks Theatre, called *Monster Bash*, which was performed on BCC's stage October 19-21.

To round out his portfolio, he has also written some independent screenplays and short stories, as well as articles, which have been published across the country in literary journals and other publications.

He wants his readers to connect with his characters and realize that "we are not alone and all face the same struggles." He says, "We only have one life, so we should do everything in our power to make it a great one."

Steve Manchester's work can be purchased online at Amazon.com, and Barnes&Noble.com. He has an author page on Facebook. His website is [www.stevenmanchester.com](http://www.stevenmanchester.com). Be sure to pick up a copy of his newest book *Twelve Months*, and keep a look out for his new books in January and June of next year.



Former BCC student and author Steve Manchester



# TRANSFER SCHEDULES FOR STUDENTS ONGOING

BY SARA PEREIRA

Representatives from a multitude of colleges and universities will meet with students for questions and information regarding transfers. Dates, times and locations are listed below. Students with further questions can contact the Transfer Affairs office at 508-678-2811, ext. 2234. Students can also contact Eileen Shea (eileen.shea@bristolcc.edu), Annie Ibara (ann.ibara@bristolcc.edu) or Beth Vezina (beth.vezina@bristolcc.edu) by email.

Attleboro Campus-Transfer Appointments -- December 3. Contact Laurie Pieroni for an appointment at 508-226-2484 or laurie.pieroni@bristolcc.edu

Bay State College Admissions Representative -- November 15, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Bryant University Admissions Representative -- November 15, 19, 27, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Bellevue University Admissions Representative -- December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Cambridge College Admissions Representative -- November 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Eastern Nazarene College Admissions Representative -- November 15, 19, 27, and December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby. Dawn Campbell is the Adult and Graduate Studies Advisor at Eastern Nazarene with information on BA and MA programs in Management. All classes are held at BCC's Fall River campus. Dawn is available on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the K building lobby.

Johnson and Wales University Admissions Representative -- November 15, 19, 27, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Lesley University Admissions Representative -- December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

New Bedford BCC Campus Transfer Appointments -- November 7, December 14 at BCC's New Bedford Campus. Contact Renee Dumas

at ext. 4000 for an appointment.

Pine Manor College Admissions Representative -- November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Roger Williams University Admissions Representative -- November 15, 19, 27, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Salve Regina University Admissions Representative -- November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Salve Regina Continuing Education Representative -- November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Transfer College Day -- November 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

Transfer College Night Appointments (Bryant University and UMass Dartmouth) -- November 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Faculty and Staff Lounge. Contact Susan Raposo at ext. 2234 or stop by G211

to make an appointment.

Transfer Evening College Fair (Bridgewater State University, Eastern Nazarene College, Johnson and Wales University, Salve Regina University and more) -- November 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Siegel Health Technologies (C Bldg) Lobby

UMass Amherst Four Year College Interviews -- November 5 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) G211. Contact Susan Raposo at ext. 2234 or stop by G211 to make an appointment.

UMass Dartmouth Admissions Representative -- November 15, 19, 27, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

UMass Lowell Admissions Representative -- November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

University of Rhode Island Admissions Representative -- November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth College Center (G Bldg) Lobby

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**NICKY BOY!**

## Hello Again!

I hope you guys have enjoyed this first half of the semester! I know I have! And especially since we are moving into the month of November, so many new movies are opening! We got the obvious fan favorite Wreck-it Ralph by Walt Disney Pictures, and the new James Bond movie, Skyfall! And now that we have moved on from Halloween, we can focus on something more important that really hits the heart... and stomach. **THANKSGIVING!** Next to Christmas, Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year! Why? Well... I think all of us can agree on **THE FOOD**. Just don't go overboard this year guys! Like Nicky in the first comic of this months, The Comic Bucket!





# BCC ATHLETIC VENUES GET FACELIFT

BY KYLE WALMSLEY

You may have noticed some changes at the beginning of this year if you've had the displeasure of parking in the parking lot farthest from the school in Fall River.

However, for those of you who haven't had to venture that way, you probably haven't noticed many changes at all. Towards the end of the summer though, workers renovated the existing tennis courts, street basketball court, and soccer field on the far end of the Fall River campus.

"It's been twelve years since the courts were put out there, and by the appearance of them there hadn't been much maintenance until now," Athletic Director Derek Viveiros said. "It was a priority of the president to do something out there, and when conversations came up about fixing the courts, it was a pretty easy process."

The courts had cracks, mostly on the outside, that got filled in, and they got repainted as well. However, the soccer field needed a revamp too.

"The surface of the field wasn't playable, it wasn't safe to have student athletes running around on it," Viveiros said.

Along with their field being renovated, both soccer teams get to experience an actual on campus home game as this is both teams first seasons playing home games at BCC due to a misinterpretation of the Region XXI rules regarding the size of the playing field.

"The size of our field would not allow us to host a postseason tournament but does allow us to host in-season competition," explained Viveiros.

The renovations on the soccer field began last spring and concluded in late August while the renovations

on the courts began August 30th and concluded on September 17th. The venues were reopened to much praise Viveiros said.

"There have been a lot of compliments from students, faculty, and the general community in Fall River that comes out and uses the courts," he said. "The field, before all the competition out there, was in great shape, much better than it has been in the past so we're really proud of it."

The Men's and Women's soccer teams were started in 2008 and helped bring college athletic competition to Fall River. Due to the aforementioned misinterpretation of the playing field rule, however, the teams played their home games down the street from the Fall River campus at Bishop Connolly High School, where the two Basketball programs play during their winter

seasons. The co-ed tennis team had its inaugural season last school year and play alongside CCRI as Region XXI's only representatives.

Viveiros believes that these renovations will help improve not only the athletic programs, but the energy on campus as well.

"[The renovations] are bringing college competition to campus, so just bringing that energy here is a huge help," he explained. "Students, faculty, and staff will be able to see that competition when walking to their cars and maybe stop over and cheer on the teams to create a little more support for the entire college," he said.

Both soccer teams continue their seasons through the end of October with regular season games and playoff tournaments. The tennis team doesn't begin their season until the end of March 2013.

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## DONALD KILGUSS ON VOTING RIGHTS

BY ZACHARY CARON

BCC professor Donald Kilguss prepared an informative presentation on the history of voting titled "Winning the Vote: A Brief History of Voting Rights", as part of the college's multi-cultural program.

"The committee contacted me about doing a presentation to bring attention to the issue of voting rights and the hard-fought battle the women and African-Americans endured to exercise that right" said Professor Kilguss.

He dedicated a brief segment to the Electoral College, what it is and how it was formed as it helped the audience come to an even clearer understanding of the election process.

Kilguss discussed the "history behind voting rights and including issues that are being discussed today to show the link between the past and the present.

He put this method to action by linking the topics of his presentation together by use of the theme: "one vote matters."

He discussed three elections past and present that's result elected the victors to office by just one vote.

"I don't think there are good reasons for not voting," Professor Kilguss said, "this is our chance to affect the future of the nation/state/local community and we should exercise our right to participate even if we're not thrilled with every candidate or issue."

The presentation included political maps, a video, and pictures. It will be posted on BCC's Face book.

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER HELPS STUDENTS

BY AMANDA MACDONALD

The Eileen T. Farley Learning Resource Center (A building) houses hundreds of books, reference encyclopedias, and friendly librarians to help you navigate through the expansive databases and call numbers.

Reference librarians are always ready to help students with papers and find information for the many projects assigned throughout the school year.

They are also willing to help students learn how to use these databases and eventually find articles online for themselves.

With a BCC ID card the entire library and more is available to students. Up to ten books can be taken out at one time and are available for up to eight weeks. Music and videos are available for two, leaving the student open to limitless options and abundant resources.

"Many resources of the LRC are not taken advantage of," head librarian Robert Rezendes said. "When anyone hears the word 'library' they immediately think 'books, but libraries are no longer about the traditional books."

He advises students to take advantage to the growing pool of resources they have. The library is growing more expansive and importing more and more e-resources.

The library has about 23,000 e-books to be read on browser, as well as 7,000 full length documentaries and scholarly videos available! Every year, more and more of the LRC budget goes toward expanding their e-resources.

"Many students are taking online classes now," he said. "They could take all of their classes without stepping foot in the library." Because of this growing population of students the LRC has paid for all of the databases, making these resources available to students free of cost.

Many students turn to Google and other search engines when faced with a research project.

An alternative to the mixed bag of results that comes from your search is the Library Services on the BCC website. Under this tab there are thousands of resources at your fingertips.

"Just by searching through this medium," Rezendes said "all of your finds have gone through a filter to ensure trusted scholarly information."

With e-resources available on a 24/7 basis and to unlimited users, students can rest assured they will always have the books they need.

Some people prefer the actual feel of a book, sifting through the pages as you acquire information. For students like that, nation-wide requests can be made by circulation libraries specifi-

cally for you.

Although books are the main purpose of libraries, the most used resource at the LRC is the research databases.

"Another useful part of these databases are the citations," he said. "So often students will be stumbling over different formats, but now citations are available at the click of a button."

The LRC also has laptops, music, graphing calculators, and digital recorders that students can rent with the flash of their BCC ID card!

This, however, is just a shadow of what the LRC really offers.

In addition to numerous book stacks that cover a wide variety of topics (ranging from Harry Potter to the history of gypsies), the library offers study group rooms that can be used by three or more students studying the same subject.

There are also desk cubicles for students located at the back of the stacks, which are always available with plug outlets and a view of campus life.

The cyber café allows students to surf the web on their laptops or the computers provided with wireless connection and electrical outlets while grabbing a snack.

"Still" Rezendes said, "many students do not take advantage of our resources, but librarians are always willing to help."

Librarians, as well as work studies, are available at the Fall River, New Bedford, and Attleboro campuses and be contacted online through chat, e-mail, or phone call.

"Librarians are always willing to help," Professor Mary Cass said. "I advise all my students to use the library. It's a wonderful resource."

Generally, students use the LRC for the bare minimum. "I go for my English class on Mondays and Wednesdays," General Studies transfer student Jonathan Connon said, "that's it."

Some students use the library for multiple reasons.

"On Mondays I have a study group for my Trigonometry class," Engineering Transfer student Bolivar Rubiano said. "I've also used to it to take out books I want to read and spend a lot of my free time there."

The Learning Resource Center hours are from Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-9:00pm, Friday from 8:00am-6:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am-6:00, and Sunday from 11:00am-6:00pm.

Robert Rezendes can be contacted at [robert.rezendes@bristolcc.edu](mailto:robert.rezendes@bristolcc.edu) for further questions or called at 508.678.2811 ext. 2105.

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### RSVP by 11/13

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UMass Dartmouth Online RN - BS Program is accepting students for Spring 2013. For more information go to [umassd.edu/nursing](http://umassd.edu/nursing) or call 508.999.8591.

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Call the Observer at  
508-678-2811 x 2989

## LIFE SCIENCES ACCEPTING STUDENT APPLICATIONS

BY AMANDA MACDONALD

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center in Waltham is now accepting applications for the Fall/Spring semester, offering paid internships to students enrolled in Massachusetts colleges majoring in biotechnology, bioengineering, and bioscience. The internships will take place in prospective businesses throughout Massachusetts.

The application forms can be found online at <http://www.masslifesciences.com> <<http://www.masslifesciences.com/grants/challenge.html>> and submitted to the Life Sciences Center via fax at 781-622-1530.

Part time and full time internships pay \$15/hr. with a stipend offered at the end of the internship. Stipends are available on a first come, first serve basis, so it is encouraged that students apply as soon as possible.

Internships begin on May 1 and end on April 30. Three hundred will be chosen.

"The program has opened a great opportunity for us to offer interns some practical scientific experience while they make some significant contributions to our programs," Walter Lunsman, Chief Operating Officer, VivoPath, LLC said.

"I am very happy the program is achieving its goal to develop the Life Science resources of Massachusetts with these internship opportunities to our future scientists."

The internships are meant to open students up to career opportunities while training them in their primary field.

Students are able to form a peer network with young scientists and those whom have had the privilege to be a

part of the program have been pleased with the outcome, further progressing in their career.

"This summer internship has been much more than I expected," Babson College student Juan Betanzo said.

"Working at a biotech start-up has opened my eyes to the great potential there is in the life sciences industry right here in Massachusetts."

"The Internship Challenge has given me an excellent opportunity to work with the most welcoming, knowledgeable, and team-oriented group of scientists," Bridgewater State University student Crystal Smith said.

"I feel that I have been given a chance to be part of something bigger than myself and I appreciate every minute of it."

The faculty of the participating businesses and the Life Science Center

are also impressed by the level of commitment and professionalism among the interns.

"We were fortunate to have two interns this past summer, [and one] has proven to be a great addition to our team and was recently promoted to a project engineer" Albright Technologies president David Comeau said.

"All four of our engineers started as interns, two of them as part of the Internship Challenge. Their hard work and dedication contributed to a 30% growth in 2011."

All students interested should apply promptly. For any other questions, contact Danica Medeiros, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist at [dmedeiros@masslifesciences.com](mailto:dmedeiros@masslifesciences.com) or call 781-373-7777. General office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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