Inventors’ Story Inspires Writer
BY BRITTANY BRODEUR
Staff Writer

Benjamin Banneker said, “The color of the skin is in no way connected with the strength of the mind or intellectual powers.”

We have been taught since elementary school that in the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month. Shouldn’t we show our appreciation for those valiant leaders that have come before us all year, instead of just one month?

There are other people that feel the same way, and they directed those feelings into a multimedia presentation, a traveling museum, which pays tribute to the world’s unsung heroes, the Black inventor and scientist.

The Museum of Black Inventions and Innovations was founded in 1995, with a mission to “develop racial pride, promote racial understanding and provide a motivation for learning.” As students in a time where education seems to be the only tool to propel us to great places in life, we can learn a lesson or two from these prolific minds who have come before us.

The Black Inventors Exhibit (BIE) was founded in Massachusetts, and over the years has traveled out of New England, and will even travel internationally to Japan and Europe. The real “Cinderella Story” here is that these creators of this sensational project started with an idea and a dream, and created something monumental.

Many of the things we now take for granted in our society have come from

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Welcome to the New Observer
FROM THE EDITOR
Dear Reader,

When it comes to words, I love you to the moon and back. You are my constant reminder of the beauty of language. You make me feel alive. You make me feel connected. You make me feel understood.

This is my first and only semester at BCC, and it has truly transformed me as a student. I have a whole new perspective on the role of education in society, and I believe it will be better for those who will come after us. I will work hard to maintain this perspective and to carry forward the legacy of the college.

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BCC Artists Explore the Azores

By Alla Dorogopulko

In the summer of 2009 nine artists from Bristol Community College set off to the beautiful islands of the Azores to explore, research and find inspiration to take back to the USA and to put on an Art Exhibit reflecting their personal experiences.

The opening reception of the Exhibit titled “Travelers Not Tourists: Nine Artists in the Azores,” was held in February at the Narrows Center for the Arts in Fall River MA.

Erik Durant, the BCC instructor who conceived and implemented the trip said, “We were artists doing research — doing sketches, taking photographs, just taking in the culture.”

Travelers included eight BCC students (Jennifer Cawley, Angela Dispirito, Monique Dupre, Neal Fitzgerald, Kenneth Fontaine, Chris Masse, Jessica Rapoza and Matt Willet). They were chosen from 30 artists in a juried portfolio competition for the trip.

Even though they traveled as a group, each artist was inspired by different things and created art that meant something to him or her.

Angela Dispirito, who graduated from BCC last year and is currently studying at UMass Dartmouth, was inspired by a jellyfish that stung her when she swam out into the ocean for the first time.

“Later I got the idea” Dispirito said of “Physalia Physalis”. The jellyfish sting inspired her so much that she created two jellyfish sculptures, each with its own personality, as well as three paintings, which she made with string and paint.

Dispirito created her sculptures using stuffed fabric and other materials. She started the BCC program as a painter, and when she was inspired by instructors to try to create sculptures. As she started exploring this new concept, she found herself to be drawn to it.

Matt Willet took a different approach to his art and created a variety of tea packages. Inspiration came from a tea company that is based in the Azores. The company currently supplies three varieties of tea: green, black and white.

In Willet’s design, he added three more flavors: chai, herbal and pearl tea. With these six varieties of tea he created clever packaging which when placed together creates a hexagon box (see picture).

Jessica Rapoza’s said her experience was important to her progression as an artist. She bonded with the other seven artists.

While in the Azores, Rapoza experienced a death in the family and being so far away she felt alone but she made it through with the support of the “travel gang”.

Her experience helped her grow and figure herself out as a person. Rapoza’s work includes many still scenes which represented important memories from her experiences in the Azores.

Erik Durant, found inspiration in a bullfight. He created a life size cast sculpture bull. The progression of the sculpture is posted in Durant’s photos on Facebook.

Each experience was personal to the artist and each artist showed in a creative and clever way their experiences.

Check out Team Azores on Facebook.

Pictured (Clockwise): Team Azores, Monique Dupre, Jennifer Cawley and paintings, Matt Willet with sculpture, Erik Durant sculpture, gallery entrance (Middle) Angela Dispirito with sculpture, Jessica Rapoza with sculpture (Photos: Alla Dorogopulko)
CALL FOR ENTRIES
The Norman Mailer Cape and Islands Community
College Writing Awards

Contest Rules: This contest is open to all registered students at BCC.
This Year's Category: Nonfiction
Deadlines: March 22, 2010
Take no more than 10 single-spaced pages and must be emailed as attachments to: mailer@popecoc.edu

The winner will receive a $1,000 cash prize, along with a scholarship for a one-week stay at the Norman Mailer Writers Colony in Provincetown and runner-ups will receive a $250 cash prize.

Submissions will be reviewed by members of the CONNECT Writing Group, and will be judged by those in attendance at the annual Legislative Breakfast held in February.

Inventor's Corner

In late February, I was able to speak with one of my “ready-to-go” students, Rose Bazile. She was verbally jubilant when she said, “I did not expect this to happen.” Rose is a full-time student and her story is an inspiration for our students.

The quest for a practical purpose, the roll of the telephone or the traffic light. In a country in which over 6 million patents have been issued, the Haitian hero, Dominique's heart, if it often defies a person from following through on his or her own purpose, one will have to go home and ask, “What is the world has never seen before? As Martin Luther King Jr. so frequently put it, “By the time we learn to work for our whole purpose, it may be too late.”

Desrosiers and Benson are...
The tutors are Dr. Keith Carriero, with their expertise and support. The Writing Center is open to say what they see, said Dr. Carriero. We help people see what they say, and say what they see, said Dr. Carriero.

Center has for affecting the community. Advisor and Adjunct Instructor in English, is excited about the potential of the Center for the assignment as well as see what they are writing and understand it.

Farah Habib, a tutor who has professional experience in writing composition, said “A common misconception is that students think they have to be a bad writer to come here. The truth is even professional writers need help with writing too.” The Writing Center is run by the students' need for improvement in their writing skills.

Dr. Keith Carriero, Attleboro Advisor and Adjunct Instructor in English, is excited about the potential of the Center has for affecting the community. “We help people see what they say, and say what they see,” said Dr. Carriero.

The Writing Center is open to anyone who needs help, from GED to business letters to essays to online research, the Center's tutors are there with their expertise and support.

The tutors are Dr. Keith Carriero, Farah Habib, and Tracy Amaral, a part-time evening instructor for the Writing Center.

The Writing Center is not just a place for writing; it is a lab where the tutor and the learner experiment to create a concoction of knowledge that is put into more than just words.

The Center is open Monday through Friday at 9 am by appointment only. Ask the front desk for more information.