



Berkeley City College

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News for the Board Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012

- **BCC build-out continues;
science, art classroom space to expand**

Construction of new BCC classrooms continues and the new facilities likely will be on line next spring. Core building projects include three new biology, organic chemistry and physical science labs on the 5th floor, as well as two new light-filled art studios in a former storage area on the 4th floor. When construction is finished, BCC will be completely built-out and will be able to accommodate the approximately 7,800 students per semester that 2050 Center St. originally was designed to serve.

- **President's Circle hosts Dec. 3 BCC fundraiser**

Berkeley developer Soheyl Modaressi and Dr. Debbie Budd, interim BCC president, hosted an invitation-only President's Circle fundraiser at Alborz Restaurant, 2142 Center St., between Shattuck Ave. and Oxford St., 7-9 p.m., Mon., Dec. 3. The group, founded in fall 2010 by a group of community philanthropists, is lead by business and civic leaders who support the college and its programs. The event has occurred annually since then, President's Circle donations have helped fund much-needed equipment and teaching assistants for the college's biotechnology, multimedia arts and basic skills programs.

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- **Buenos Aires' California/New York (CANY) exhibit features BCC artists Doyle, Rosenblum**

Works by multimedia arts instructors Joe Doyle and Diane Rosenblum are featured in CANY, an exhibit in Nora Fisch Contemporary Arts Galería in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Other internationally known exhibitors include Suzanne Anker, Krystina Borkowska, Frank Gillette, Rebecca Goldfarb, Judith Hudson, Paul Kos, Loren Madsen, Tom Marioni, and exhibit organizer Alan Scarritt.

CANY presents works on paper by artists from California and New York who develop their production in a conceptual vein. Among the artists selected are some true pioneers of the conceptual and multiple media experimentation of the '60s and '70s such as Frank Gillette, Paul Kos, Tom Marioni and Scarritt himself. These last three were included in the landmark exhibition "Under the Black Sun. California Art 1974-1981" at MOCA Los Angeles earlier in the year.

- **Dr. Fabian Banga to offer Peralta's 1st MOOC at BCC in spring 2013**

Dr. Fabian Banga, chair of Berkeley City College's Modern Languages Department, will offer a variant of Spanish 38: Contemporary Latin American Literature. It is the Peralta Community College District's first non-credit Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) and will be offered in Spring 2013.

MOOC variants, which are springing up in colleges and universities across the nation, make the materials and lectures of a regular class open to community members.

"This course will emphasize social interaction," Banga explained. "We will promote discussion outside the class in social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, BLOGs, and Google-Plus."

New social groups are expected to form around around the contemporary Latin American Literature course. The MOOC part of the activity, which carries no credit or fees, opens colleges to the community without the pressures of a regular class. Members of the Spanish-speaking community, as well as Spanish students, can access Banga's material, lectures, forums and comments online for free without having to register as a student.

People can choose among two ways to participate in the class: Students can enroll via the Peralta Community College District and can earn college credit while those who wish to participate in MOOC activities for no credit and no charge are not required to enroll in the formal course. Visit the MOOC site at <http://eberkeley.org/mooc>.

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- **East Bay Alternative Book Fair, Zine Fest, Spends 3rd Year at BCC**

Berkeley City College once again hosted the Annual East Bay Alternative Book Fair and Zine Fest, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., Dec. 8, in the college's atrium and auditorium at 2050 Center St. between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St. BCC has hosted the fest since it began in 2010.

Guest speakers included Adam Mansbach, author of *Rage is Back* and other works, as well as author and illustrator Eric Drooker. More than 60 local writers, publishers, artists and comic makers—Manic D Press, 1984 Printing, PM Press, Endless Canvas, Jen Oaks and many more—shared their works.

- **BCC's Roundtable for Planning and Budget approves 2012-13 goals**

Berkeley City College's Roundtable for Planning and Budget at their October meetings approved a set of college goals for FY 2012-13. The, goals, which integrate directly with the college's mission, vision and values, will guide BCC as faculty, staff, administrators and students work together to develop annual priorities and initiatives to ensure student success.

- **Berkeley Rep selects Cleavon Smith's "Homecoming" as part of annual "PlayGround" for new writing talent**

"Homecoming," a play by English instructor Cleavon Smith, was selected for a Mon., Nov. 19 performance at the Berkeley Repertory Theater as a part of its 19th Monday Night PlayGround season. Each month, from October through March, PlayGround announces a topic to a pre-selected writers pool of Bay Area emerging professional playwrights, inviting them to submit original 10-page plays. The best six give a script-in-hand performance before a live audience at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. The event features some of the Bay Area's best directors and actors. Monthly pre-show discussions also provide insight into the writers' process, the state of Bay Area theater and other topics.

- **Spanish Medical Interpreter graduation set for 5:30 p.m.,**

Thur., Dec. 13 in BCC auditorium

The inaugural class of BCC's Spanish Medical Interpreter Training Program will graduate at 5:30 p.m., Thur., Dec. 13, from BCC's auditorium. The program was established in 2011 by Jose Martin, program coordinator, and Dr. Gabriella Pisano, former Spanish Department chair. A reception follows the graduation in the 5th floor student lounge.

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- **BCC to host Workforce Summit on Regional Workforce Systems, Intermediaries, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Tue., Dec. 18**

BCC will host a Summit on Regional Workforce Systems and Workforce Intermediaries, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tue., Dec. 18 in the college's auditorium and atrium. "Best practices" representatives from workforce systems around the country and their industry partners will convene to discuss prospective partnerships and the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) grant that BCC recently received from the U.S. Department of Labor. If you are interested in Career Technical Education (CTE) and/or wish to connect your program with industry partners, then plan to attend this informative event. For details, contact Denise Jennings at djennings@peralta.edu.

- **BCC Poets' Club hosts open mic readings, 6:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 14**

BCC's Poets' Club will host an open mic poetry reading, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 14 in the college's auditorium. Current and aspiring poets are encouraged to attend and participate. *Milvia Street 2012*, BCC's award winning art and literary magazine, will be on sale, so you can present your poems and at the same time, support this outstanding publication. The event is free and open to the public.

- **Modular approach to math leads to higher student completion rates**

BCC's Mathematics Department has developed a modular approach to pre-transfer and transfer mathematics which makes it easier for students to succeed and complete courses focused on specific areas of study. Modules are organized into focused pre-transfer and transfer areas. For example, students who once were required to complete 14 units (or up to four semesters) to achieve transfer-level math skills, now can accomplish this with 10 units (or in one or two semesters). Mary Jennings, department chair, spent more than two years developing the new curriculum.

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- **ESL coordinators, faculty,
develop new core curriculum**

ESL program coordinators Laurie Brion and Gabrielle Winer have been hard at work with faculty to create a revised, more relevant ESL core curriculum. New ESL electives were added in U.S. government and history, American cultures, English for the workforce and English for business. The faculty also conducted a midterm assessment for ESL core classes. BCC's U.S. Department of Education Title III grant helped make possible their work.

- **Counselors, Faculty hold Dec. 1
Orientation for High School Students**

More than 70 high school students attended a Berkeley City College orientation on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They presented with information about how to enroll for college, financial aid, classes and programs. On Dec. 5, the college sponsored a breakfast for high school counselors to answer their questions about community college programs and services.