Dear City College,

Welcome to the 1st Edition of ‘Students First!’ an e-newsletter produced by the Division of Student Affairs. It contains information on services and resources offered by our Division, and news about the work of our outstanding staff and student teams. ‘Students First!’ is the motto that guides our work.

Student Affairs has six Big Ideas. Our Big Ideas are: a year-long orientation program for incoming freshmen; the expansion of career services to include the professional development of the whole student; programs for parents and families; one-stop support for students and; a paperless initiative.

The Division Office of Student Affairs is located in the Wille Administration Building, Room 204.

Our telephone number is 212-650-5426. You may also reach us through the Student Email Hotline at studenthelp@ccny.cuny.edu or through the College’s website, www.ccny.cuny.edu.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the ‘Students First!’ newsletter.

Juana Reina
Vice President of Student Affairs

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The Clusters

The Division of Student Affairs is organized into three parts that we call Clusters, each designed around a specific theme to help us accomplish our big ideas and to make it easy for the College community to understand what we do and how to access our resources. Highly skilled and hard working student teams support each Cluster.

The Professional Student Development Cluster (PSD) expands the function of career services to include the professional development of the whole student. This cluster includes the Professional Development Institute (PDI), a four-year sequential plan, which provides support from the student’s first day on campus to graduate study and career. The program begins with self exploration that helps students affirm and/or develop career goals and use strategic planning concepts to guide academic achievement. PDI also provides skill-building workshops on professional behaviors and critical skills, from Social Media Etiquette to Golf. The PSD cluster includes the Professional Development Institute (PDI), the Office of International Students and Scholar Services, and the Office of Student Conduct and Judicial Affairs. Ms. Wendy Thornton, Dean of Student Development, heads the PSD Cluster.

Student Campus Involvement Cluster (SCI) coordinates and offers programs that strengthen engagement among students, their families, alumni, faculty and staff. The Cluster includes the GPS program, a peer mentoring program for incoming freshmen piloted in Spring 2013. SCI is currently developing a Parents and Families Program, designed to involve parents and families more fully in campus life. A Facebook group, Parents and Families@ City College, has already been formed to help parents and families connect with each other and to provide information about College events. Also being developed are a City College Parent and Family Association and a parent and family website. In late summer, City College will host a series of Parent and Family Orientations, day-long programs that encourage positive parental attachment to the campus, and provide the tools they can use to support student success.

Our First Annual college-wide Family Day will be held on Saturday October 5, 2013. The Family Day is an intergenerational event featuring games, music, dance, art, academic lectures, food, as well as information and services geared towards health and wellness. The Division deeply appreciates the partnerships we have formed with students, faculty and staff in planning this day. We welcome ideas on how to make this event enjoyable and informative.

SCI encompasses the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development, Athletics, Recreation and Campus Fitness, the Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation and the Office of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the Graduate Student Council and the Undergraduate Student Government are important partners to the SCI Cluster, as both organizations provide guidance for the development of programs and events aimed at increasing engagement among our students. Dr. Heidi Holder, Interim Executive Director of Student Campus Involvement, spearheads this initiative.

A recent college-wide initiative, spearheaded by Student Health Services, part of the SSR Cluster, is College Connections. College Connections is a fitness walking trail that connects all sections of the campus. It is anticipated that features of the trail will grow to include art and historical markers. The Student Support Resources cluster also includes the Counseling Center, the Office of AccessAbility, Housing, Emergency Loans and Grants and Campus Ministry. Dr. Sarah Hahn guides this initiative.

Complementing the work of the Division’s three clusters is the Child Development and Family Services Center. It provides daily childcare and educational services to children and families of City College students. Ms. LaTrella Thornton is our director. In addition, the Division has established a Student Affairs Office at the Center for Worker Education (CWE), located in downtown Manhattan. Dr. Sophia Demetriou is the Executive Director of the CWE Student Affairs office.

Did You Know?

Student Conduct is now called Community Standards. The goal of Community Standards is to help students become facilitators of their own behavior. This new approach is a holistic model in which civility, taking responsibility for one’s actions, respect and tolerance for the differences within our community are key factors in working towards a common goal of access to excellence.
News About Division Staff

The Division of Student Affairs is delighted to announce two important changes in staff responsibilities.

O’Lanso Gabbidon, an alumnus of City College, started out at CCNY a few years ago as a Front Desk Assistant in the Office for Student Life and Leadership Development (OSLLD). After graduation, he went into publishing, as a graphic designer, at both Simon & Schuster and Random House. O’Lanso returned to City College to be the Assistant Director of OSLLD.

O’Lanso is a staunch student advocate, and promotes quality professional training for City College students. His recent appointment to Associate Director for the OSLLD blends all his experiences in technology, leadership development and planning.

In this position, O’Lanso is responsible for day-to-day operations of the OSLLD, and is charged with transforming Student Affairs into a paperless Division that leverages technology in every aspect of its operations. O’Lanso is also the Student Affairs Liaison to both the Office of the Chief Information Officer and Office of the Vice President for Communications and Marketing.

Fresh out of a graduate program at Binghamton University, Wendy Thornton started her career as the Assistant Educational Director for the Urban League. She went on to SUNY New Paltz, first as the Education Opportunity Program Academic Advisor, then as the Assistant Director of The Educational Opportunity Program.

After five years at SUNY New Paltz, Wendy came to City College as the Director of the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development (then called the Finley Student Center). Over the past twenty years, Wendy has amassed a wealth of administrative and managerial experience in Student Affairs, specifically in strategic planning, program development, staff and budget management, project management, and in effective collaborations with key academic and student support programs that impact student retention and success.

Since, 2010, her expertise and value to the College has resulted in a series of well-deserved promotions, from Executive Manager of Student Services & Conduct in the Office of Student Affairs to Executive Director of Student Services & Conduct. Wendy currently serves as the Dean for Student Development and oversees the Professional Student Development Cluster.

CityONECard use continues to expand as it provides convenience and ease of use at dining, bookstore, vending and other service locations around campus. Using your CCNY ID card also offers bonus bucks, with minimum deposits of $50 and $500 respectively for Dining & Flex accounts.

Coming Soon! The CityONECard will be moving off campus as we work with BBOne to attract local merchants, eateries and shops to accept our CityONECard as a form of payment just like on campus. Watch your CCNY email for more about this!

The Towers has listened to its student residents and in the past year has revised its building policies and made a number of facility enhancements and upgrades to drive increased satisfaction.

Enhancements and upgrades include new seminar room furniture & carpeting, new recreation area soft seating, new resident floor common area soft and study seating, a new onsite convenience store, new barbecue grills and picnic tables, and a new ping pong table.

Revised policies aimed at improving resident life include the installation of on-site printing stations, a resident-friendly lock-out policy, a free laundry program (no more cards, no more coins!), more resident programming and events, and a birthday card program in which residents receive a card during their birthday month.
New Staff

The Division is delighted to welcome new staff

Dr. Heidi Holder, our Interim Executive Director of Student Campus Involvement, holds a doctorate in education with a focus on policy implementation in developing countries from the Graduate Center, CUNY. She has more than ten years experience in strategic planning, fundraising, program development and curriculum planning and development in cultural and educational organizations.

Heidi recently joined City College from Brooklyn College, where she wrote grants and directed STEM collaborations between the College and K-12 schools. Heidi is the former Director of Education at the Museum for African Art where she developed academic, art and cultural programs and curriculum materials for teachers, students and the public. Heidi’s role in the Division of Student Affairs is to leverage technology to increase positive engagement from students, parent and families at City College.

Ikenna Okpala graduated from City College with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Business. In June 2011, he began his career as the Off-Campus Housing Coordinator for City College and was recently appointed as the Veterans Affairs Coordinator.

As Coordinator, Ikenna assists our student veterans with various educational needs, from registration to Veteran Certification, which allows veterans to receive financial assistance through the G.I. Bill. Ikenna has also established a variety of programs meant to aid student veterans and service members in their college career, including a peer tutoring program in which veterans tutor other veterans to improve their chances of academic success.

Did You Know?

In March 2013, the City College Dining program achieved a milestone of ‘Straight A’s’ at all its dining venues from the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. Let’s all congratulate the staff and leadership of our dining program for its recent high marks and excellent food and service all year round!

Sandy Kim, Internship Manager

With a B.B.A. from the University of Georgia and a J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Sandy Kim started her career as a corporate lawyer, specializing in private equity financing of emerging technology companies and venture capital fund formation. Changing tracks to the nonprofit sector, Sandy received her M.Ed. from Harvard University and became a Foundation and Corporate Relations Officer at Boston Medical Center, a nonprofit geared towards the provision of consistently accessible health services to all, regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

Sandy’s first appointment at City College was as a part-time Adjunct Internship Coordinator, a position she held while still serving as Executive Director of the Korean American League for Civic Action, a New York-based nonprofit, whose mission is to develop the next generation of public service leaders. In October 2012, Sandy was appointed the Internship Manager at the City College Professional Development Institute. Her duties include counseling both undergraduate and graduate students on searching for and preparing for internships, and on methods of developing sustainable relationships with internship opportunities and employers.

Erica Stephen, Student Affairs Executive Assistant, comes to us from the Newark Museum in New Jersey. At the Museum, Erica served as Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer/Human Affairs. Erica holds a M.P.A, Public Administration from Long Island University, and a Certificate in Human Resources Practices from Cornell University.

Ikenna Okpala, Intern: Veterans Affairs Coordinator

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City College Family Day is Saturday 5 October, 2013

Save the Date!
Featured Article

Serving Millennials at City

Student Affairs is evolving. In fact, the Student Affairs discipline has been evolving for almost 70 years. The main goal of this evolution is to meet the needs of the whole student. Commitment to the whole student, envisioned as a joint effort between faculty and Student Affairs, is even more poignant today as we enroll the Millennial generation, students born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s. The Millennial generation faces the same challenges as other generations, but they were raised in a society that is markedly different from that of Boomers and Generation X. In high school, many Millennials had busy, scheduled lives with a slew of academic and recreational activities geared towards getting into the ‘right’ college. A striking characteristic of this generation is the close relationship many Millennials share with their parents, so much so that this generation expects and welcomes parental involvement in their lives. Unlike previous generations, Millennials have a high level of technological expertise, and are accustomed to and expect technology in almost every facet of life. Technological expertise and a generally optimistic disposition about chances for success in college, and in life as a whole, make Millennials one of the most confident generations so far. At City College, the characteristics of Millennials, coupled with the demographics of our student body and a review of their needs, helped shape the new, clustered structure of the Division.

Millennials view their parents as role-models and, expect and welcome parental involvement in their lives. This involvement is particularly visible in the college recruitment and admission process and often continues throughout the college experience. Parental and family involvement is one of the Division’s Big Ideas. This spring, through outreach led by the Campus involvement Cluster, over 300 families of incoming freshmen have signed up to receive information about parents and family programs, such as Parent and Family Orientation and the Family Day. The challenge in increasing parental involvement on campus is to strike a balance between creating opportunities for parents and families to be involved in students’ education, and letting college be a place where students can learn to become independent adults.

As the locus of society’s attention about their wellbeing and welfare, Millennials have grown up in a society that aims to protect them from every kind of harm. On college campuses around the country, and at City College, this has manifested as an increased interest in campus safety. Also, Millennials are arguably one of the healthiest generations so far. However, this generation has shown an increase in obesity, ADHD, sports-related injuries as well as psychiatric problems. Add this to the fact that Millennials have been brought up to seek help from adults to solve problems and we may account for the increased demand that Millennials are placing on counseling centers, campus health centers and on Student Affairs staff. The SSR cluster, through its Counseling Center, has responded by offering student-centered, and culturally informed psychological services. Services are not limited to counseling but aim to serve the whole student by providing a
comprehensive social service network that links students to services on and off campus.

For many Millennial college students, high school was a time of extra tutoring, sports, and community service to round out academics, all in preparation for getting into college. The college preparation process and anxieties about the ballooning cost of college tuition place a tremendous amount of pressure on Millennials, and most expect to work to help pay college costs. The Professional Development Institute, within the PSD cluster, offers workshops and trainings to help students develop skills such as time management and financial planning, while the Counseling Center helps students develop skills to deal with the stress of college life.

As a confident generation, many Millennials expect to be successful in college. However, these ambitions are not often supported by strong homework and study habits, leading to unrealistic expectations about grades and performance. As such these students are often disheartened when they receive any grade below an A. In this regard, the Counseling Center offers various avenues for support, including workshops, training sessions and group and individual counseling sessions. The Professional Development Institute goes beyond academics, since though confident and knowledgeable in their area of study, our students often lack the professionalism required to land high paying jobs in competitive industries. To help City College students and alumni achieve their professional goals in a global marketplace, the Professional Development Institute is now offering Professional Development PREP, workshops intended to prepare students to be the best they can be. Professional Development Prep was piloted during Lavender Week on May 1 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm in Hoffman Lounge Atrium. Workshops included:

- What Fork Should I Use?
- Social Media 101
- The Do’s and Don’ts of Networking Dressing for Success
- In these workshops, students received relevant information and hands on experiences about how to be a professional.

Millennial students grew up in a world of instant gratification, where technology has reduced the time it takes to complete most activities. The Division of Student Affairs has responded by offering services through a ‘One-Stop Shopping’ model, where students can access various services through a single outlet and where Student Affairs staff members are trained to provide information, and sometimes assistance, in multiple related areas. Since students expect efficient services that can be accessed 24 hours a day, we offer a student email hotline at support@ccny.cuny.edu.

Further, as a Division we seek the assistance of students themselves to provide guidance on improving campus life, particularly in the area of campus engagement. We frequently partner with Undergraduate Student Government, the Graduate Student Council and various clubs and organizations on campus to brainstorm about programs, events and services appropriate for our student body. Here there is great potential to use social media and web-based technologies in meaningful and efficient ways to improve the lives of our Millennial students, their family and parents, staff and faculty.
Meet Our Student Partners

Partnering with USG and GSC

Student Affairs works with its student partners in three main ways. Student staff supports our day-to-day operations throughout the Division. Members of our student body, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) help identify problems within our campus community and help us develop policies to solve those problems. The GSC, the USG and other members of our student body also provide feedback about the work we do, helping us to design services that meet student needs and to improve the services we offer.

Founded in 1864, the Undergraduate Student Government of the City College of New York works to improve the quality of student life on campus. USG is comprised of nine executives and thirty senators, representing different divisions. USG representatives serve one year terms, beginning in July, and sit on college-wide and university-wide committees. USG provides free services to students such as printing, faxing, copying, and phone calls. USG also supports student clubs and organizations and the wider community. USG is located in NAC 1/111.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is elected from and by the graduate student population, and represents the interests of all graduate students at City College. The other main responsibilities of the GSC are: to seek, maintain and enhance reciprocal channels of communication among graduate students, faculty, and administration; to secure meaningful participation in the decision-making organs within the academic community; and to engage in all other activities necessary to represent graduate students on campus. The GSC office is located in NAC/113, and the telephone number is (212) 650-5319.

The Student Teams of Student Affairs

Our work within Student Affairs is supported by student teams that are integral to the successful running of our Division. Student teams are made up of highly skilled individuals who work in various capacities, such as administrative assistants, graphic designers, social media developers, and photographers. Student team members receive on-going professional training from Division staff and many have gone on to successful careers, based on the experiences and training they gained while working within the Division.

AccessAbility College Assistants

AccessAbility College Assistants share responsibilities for greeting students and faculty at the front desk, scheduling appointments, managing exam accommodations for students with disabilities, payroll, and staffing the assistive technology lab.

Resident Assistants work together to build a vibrant living and learning community at the Towers. They do this by planning a variety of events, responding to emergencies, and serving as role models to residents.

Wellness Tip

Train Your Brain: Managing Procrastination through Positive Self-Talk

Self-talk is how we talk about ourselves, either in our heads, or in our conversations with others. We make statements to ourselves, sometimes without even thinking about it. I always start my homework too late! No one procrastinates like I do!

What we say to ourselves can affect how we feel about a situation, and how we think about ourselves. What we say to ourselves can turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Negative self-talk is often irrational but can sound like the truth! These negative beliefs about a situation can make an already stressful situation worse. Try to catch yourself and instead, substitute negative self-talk with positive phrases. Example:

Negative: “I always have a hard time starting papers” vs.
Positive: “Today, I put off this paper but yesterday I studied for another class, and tomorrow I have the chance to make some progress!”

See, you can change negative self-talk into positive self-talk!
Laura Fernandez: Student Striver

A senior here at City College, Laura Fernandez has always been a standout student and a staunch advocate of education. Born in the Dominican Republic, Laura came to New York when she was three years old. She attended the A. Phillip Randolph Magnet School in Harlem, and after graduating, enrolled at City College to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Laura works in the City College Health and Wellness Center where, through the distribution of grants and loans, she provides financial assistance to students with difficulties related to loss of housing, unemployment, and unpaid medical bills. Laura also interned at the Northern Manhattan Community Corp., a non-profit community based organization, where she provides a helping hand and a listening ear to victims of domestic violence. This spring, Laura Fernandez will graduate from City College with a BA in Psychology and plans to pursue a Masters in Social Work.

Paul Dedewo: Scholar Athlete of the Year!

A City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) All-star, a former CUNYAC Athlete of the Year and a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Participant, Paul Dedewo is well-known for his work on and off the field. On the field, he is one of the most dominant athletes to ever wear a City College athletic uniform. Off the field, Paul is a dedicated student and volunteer.

A 3.559 GPA holder, majoring in Advertising and Public Relations, Paul was a member of CCNY's Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and in 2012, he was named to the Dean's list and awarded the Group Multicultural Advertising Scholarship.

Paul is a member of Cru-Athletes in Action, a group of athlete volunteers that helps low income kids and the homeless find food and shelter in New York City. He also volunteers with Here's Life Inner City, Don't Walk By, NYC Relief Bus, Randall's Island Run the River 5K, the 2012 NYC Marathon, and with organizations that distribute food and supplies to families in need.

On the field, Paul is a sprint runner. However, during the 2012/13 Winter Indoor Track season, he had a severe pelvic injury so he switched to the high jump just so that he could compete. He finished 2nd in the high jump at the Men's CUNYAC Championships with a distance of 1.82 meters. Paul's distinctions in academics and athletics have not gone unnoticed. Paul Dedewo has been named 2013 CUNYAC Scholar Athlete of the Year in the men's category. The CUNYAC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award is the culmination of Paul's academic and athletic achievements in his four years at City College. Join us as we congratulate Paul on this honor.

Did You Know?

The GPS Program was piloted in Spring 2013 and will be implemented in Fall 2013. The GPS or Growth and Professional Success Program, is a year-long peer/professional guidance system for incoming freshmen that helps students hone achieving behaviors, acclimate to college life and prepare for experiential learning opportunities in their second year. Peer mentors, called GPS Navigators, are City College students, specially selected and trained by the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. To guide their mentees, GPS Navigators partner with a professional mentor, who is a Career Coach from the PDI. GPS Navigators developed the GPS approach based on Student Development theory, their own experiences as students, and experiences gained while they served as Orientation Leaders, a trained cadre of students who facilitate student and parent/family orientation. To become a GPS Navigator or to learn more about the program, contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development at 212 650 5002.
Gallery

Meet the Beaver!

Black Male Initiative Award Breakfast

Welcome Back!

Dancing in the NAC Plaza

V.C. Frank Sanchez of Sigma Lambda Beta

SWAG Volleyball Classic

Cancer Awareness Walk

Kathleen Siapno winner of CCNY'S Got Talent 2013

Sigma Lambda Beta Shoozin' an Hoppin' during Lavender Finner Week 2013
Under the direction of head coach Hugh Reid, the City College of New York has set new records throughout the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) as the men’s indoor track and field team earned its third consecutive CUNYAC Championship with eight first-place finishes, totaling 193 points.

Thierry Diessongo and Samuel Nkama earned Co-Most Valuable Player honors after taking gold in the men’s long jump (6.90m), the 60-meter dash (6.77s), the 200m dash (21.93s) and the triple jump (14.23m). For his efforts, Diessongo was named the CUNYAC Athlete of the Year and the USTFCCCA Atlantic Region Division III Athlete of the Year while Nkama was one of seven Beavers named CUNYAC all-stars. After placing second in the 60m dash preliminaries at the 2012-13 NCAA Division III Men’s Indoor Track and Field Championship, Diessongo finished fourth overall in the finals and was named an NCAA All-American. Reid was named CUNYAC Coach of the Year and Garnet Vanterpool earned CUNYAC Rookie of the Year honors.

The 400m dash featured Donald DiBari who finished second at 51.14s, good for eight points. DiBari’s mark was a career-mark for City College freshman. In the one-mile run, Oubida finished at 4:41.71s, shattering his own record and setting a new season-mark for City College.

City’s 2012-13 Track and Field Champions!

The City College of New York returned to the top of the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) as the Beavers earned its second CUNYAC title in three seasons after picking up 160 points. City College saw two first-place finishes as the 4x400m relay team of Asha Brown, Jennifer Doumas, Stephanie Ravello and Leandra Haynes finished at 4:26.83s, and Shakeema Mckie won the weight throw after her 11.89m finish. Ramatulai Bah was outstanding, finishing second in the high jump at 1.47m – a season-high – second in the shot put at 10.16m, second in the 60m hurdles at 10.43, fourth in the triple jump (10.42m) and fifth in the long jump (4.54m). All in all, seven athletes earned CUNYAC All-Star nods with head coach Hugh Reid earning the CUNYAC/U.S. Army Coach of the Year award.

Early Childhood Math and Science Learning Center Opens with 10th Annual Children’s Art Sale!


The art sale featured artwork created by students, ages two through six, over the past school year. Parents, students and visitors attending the sale, visited classrooms and spoke to the artists, most leaving the venue with bags full of artwork. The art sale served as a backdrop to the opening of the Early Childhood Math and Science Learning Center, a space dedicated to teaching math and science to young children. Equipped with water and a sound geoboard, animals, plants, musical instruments, math and science manipulatives, rocks, shells, clay, a computer, children’s literature and informational text concerning math and science, the Learning Center has a wealth of open-ended math and science activities in which young children can engage or create as they explore the environment. In the future, the Early Childhood Math and Science Learning Center hopes to collaborate with the City College School of Education to provide training and support for pre-service and in-service educators who teach math and science to young children.

City College Men’s Track and Field Team