



## George Bugliarello Dies at 83

*Served as Poly's President for 21 Years*

*His Legacy Is MetroTech*

Dr. George Bugliarello, who served as president of Polytechnic for 21 years and was the visionary behind the MetroTech complex, died Feb. 18 after a brief illness. He was 83.

Bugliarello was named president in 1973 of what was then Polytechnic Institute of New York, just after Poly's takeover of NYU's School of Engineering and Science and at a time when both universities were going through a tough financial period.

He believed that a major obstacle to attracting faculty and students to Poly was the decrepit area in which the

school was situated. He resolved to improve the neighborhood, and the culmination of his effort was MetroTech—what has become one of the most successful academic-industrial research parks in the country.

Not only did the realization of Bugliarello's dream benefit Poly when the complex opened in 1990, but it also led to the revival of a decaying downtown Brooklyn and gave an economic boost to the city by attracting technology-based businesses to the borough.

Today, of course, some

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## Poly Faculty Voices 'Concerns' Over Proposed Takeover of Freshman Writing By NYU

*At Issue Is Not Necessarily the Decision But the Process by Which It Was Reached*

*Provost Will Appoint a Committee To Explore the Matter And Submit a Report*

A preliminary memorandum of understanding between the Polytechnic administration and NYU to transfer freshman writing to NYU's Liberal Studies program has been drafted but is now on hold, pending a review by an ad hoc faculty committee to be appointed by the provost, Dianne Rekow.

Concerns over this issue surfaced at a recent faculty meeting when the Educational and Admissions Policy Committee issued a statement questioning the decision to undertake this action without appropriate faculty approval.

The statement said, in part: "It was clearly understood at the time the agreement to join with NYU was approved that it was not going to be the Institute's policy to outsource Polytechnic programs to NYU. This was an assurance given by the administrations of both Polytechnic and NYU. It now seems that this policy has been revised without consultation with the Polytechnic faculty."

Provost Rekow met with the committee Feb. 16 to clarify the matter and reach an understanding with the faculty on how to resolve the issue. The upshot of the meeting was that she said she

*Continued on page 7*

## Interview With

# Ursula M. Burns, CEO, Xerox Corporation

Polytechnic graduate Ursula M. Burns ('80 ME) talked with reporter **Timilehin Balogun** by phone on Feb. 8.

Here she provides insight into what it's like to work in the corporate world, imparts valuable career advice, and reflects on her personal experience as a Poly student.

**Balogun:** Ms. Burns, why did you choose to attend Polytechnic Institute of New York for your undergraduate degree?

**Burns:** It's a great school, it was close to my home, and it was affordable. I was very fortunate to be accepted into the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at Poly. It gave students like me the opportunity to attend college when I otherwise would not have been able to. HEOP provided both educational and financial support.

**TB:** Why did you major in mechanical engineering?

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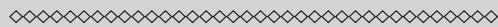
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# THE POLYTECHNIC REPORTER



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## Editorial

# George Bugliarello

Few of the student body knew Dr. George Bugliarello, even though he maintained an office here and taught a class until the time of his death. However, we all are indebted to him for his vision and his wherewithal to realize it.

He saw promise in downtown Brooklyn and was the driving force behind transforming what was a crime-ridden neighborhood rife with aging, broken-down tenements into the thriving academic-industrial complex it is today. If not for this turnaround, some of us might be NYU-Poly students, but we most likely would not call

Brooklyn our academic home.

Dr. Bugliarello was a man of action, not a day-dreamer. He saw that the school would be doomed if it continued to operate in what were nightmare environs. Instead of moaning and fretting over Poly's potential downward spiral, he devised a concrete plan, one that has benefited NYU-Poly, Brooklyn, and yes, the entire city. He was indeed the architect of MetroTech.

True, city officials, community leaders, and bankers like David Rockefeller contributed to and funded the venture, but it was George Bugliarello who brought them together and set the wheels

in motion.

So, while the Polytechnic community mourns his passing, we also celebrate his many achievements.

Many of us have dreams of grandeur that will never be fulfilled. Others attain their goals only to be disappointed in the end results.

George Bugliarello, on the other hand, was a teacher, administrator, and engineer who touched the lives of thousands of people during his lifetime. Add to this the tour de force of the MetroTech complex, and you get a man who has left an enduring legacy.

-YIT

To our readers:

The Reporter is recruiting. Join us for information sessions at 1 p.m. on March 3 and 4 in the BEST Center, in the basement of Rogers Hall. See page 5 for details.

## Letters

To the Editor:

Sometimes Asians have it rough.

I was just getting a meal from the cafeteria when, out of the blue, I was accused of stealing food.

What's dumber than eating cafeteria food? I suppose it would be stealing cafeteria food.

"Are you sure it was me?" I asked my accuser.

"What, you a clone?"

That's a strong statement to say the least.

Maybe it was a fair assumption that I looked like

the thief and like the other 500 Asian Americans who attend this school.

I tried to explain to her that I had a \$1,000 meal plan and that the third week of school had just ended. At least logically, my explanation was very sound. But the woman wouldn't have any of it.

Now what's dumber than stealing cafeteria food? Stealing cafeteria food with about \$900 on your card.

I asked her if she had any evidence. None.

On the other hand, she

did have a substantial description of the suspect.

The thief was a shady character of unknown height and weight wearing a black jacket. Not that any of those features mattered because her photographic memory had caught a glimpse of my supposed clone. Since both of us looked exactly the same, I might as well have been cuffed at that instant.

Clearly, any amount of arguing was fruitless, so I paid for my meal and moved away from the cash register.

Right on cue, she began

chatting with her coworkers about my unmistakable guilt.

My appetite was ruined, but I tried to salvage some calories to survive the day. Just as I began to chow down, the manager headed in my direction. I explained to him what had happened, and he eventually apologized and left me alone. Finally—someone reasonable.

One week later, the same manager told me the thief had been caught. This time he apologized in earnest. He even gave me a free meal.

To this day, I do not know the name of the cashier who, in her absolute fervor, tried to accuse me of thievery. She still doesn't have the guts to give me an apology, though it's obvious that we've exchanged looks on my cafeteria trips.

Fortunately, there are still some awesome cafeteria staff who make my unavoidable visits there slightly more tolerable.

- Vincent Siu



## Statement by President Jerry Hultin

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Trustees:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to share the sad news that Dr. George Bugliarello, President Emeritus of the Polytechnic Institute of NYU and an internationally acclaimed engineer, author, and visionary, passed away this morning.

George's passing is not only a great loss to his family—wife Virginia, sons Nicholas and David—but also to his entire extended family, including Polytechnic and all in the world who shared his passions.

George was a friend and a colleague to me and many of you. And like many of you, and indeed engineers and scientists around the world, I admired George's high ambitions, his unfaltering professionalism, and his endearing enthusiasm, energy, and vigor. In his leadership as President of Polytechnic from 1973 to 1994, his teaching and research throughout his life, and his grappling with some of the 21st century's greatest challenges and opportunities, he felt a compassion for the world and the conditions in which we live that is a worthy goal for each of us. In sum, George was truly a "gentleman and a scholar."

We are coordinating with George's family on a memorial service befitting the person Dr. George Bugliarello was, and the life he led. We will share the details with you as they are known.

programs and produce people who would be catalysts for new companies. This, he felt, would stimulate economic development in New York. The program is now the largest of its kind in the country.

Another of his successes was the establishment in 1982 of the Center of Advanced Technology in Telecommunications, whose mission is to stimulate economic development in information technology in this state.

Bugliarello was the recipient of many professional awards and several honorary degrees. He was a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Education, the American Association for the Advancement of Science,

the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. He was a founding fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Born in Trieste, Italy, in 1927, he studied engineering at the University of Padua, graduating summa cum laude in 1951. He earned a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota in 1954 and a doctorate in civil engineering and hydrodynamics at MIT in 1959. He taught at Carnegie Mellon University and was dean of engineering at the University of Illinois, before assuming the presidency of Polytechnic.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and sons Nicholas and David.

*Continued from page 1*

### Bugliarello

of the most valuable property in the country is situated right here at this site.

An innovative civil engineer as well as a distinguished and imaginative teacher, Bugliarello is credited with a number of scientific inventions, including Hydro, a computer language for water resources.

He was a prolific writer, and his contributions to the

scientific literature are enormous. He wrote reports on engineering and technology for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and consulted with international organizations on the design of sustainable cities.

One of his great interests was examining how natural, mechanical, information, and energy systems affect society. This intertwining of biological organisms, social institutions, and machines, which he called "biosoma," became

his lifelong investigation. In 2003, he published "The Biosoma Reflections on the Synthesis of Biology, Society, and Machines." He wrote numerous papers and gave talks on the subject throughout the world.

Bugliarello was also a farsighted thinker, as evidenced by his creation at Poly in 1996 of America's first graduate program in financial engineering. He believed the program, with its emphasis on mathematics, would fill a long-existing gap in MBA

Continued from page 1

## Xerox

**UMB:** I initially decided on chemical engineering, but I didn't like chemistry and quickly realized that it wasn't for me. I loved physics and math, so by my sophomore year I decided to focus on mechanical engineering.

**TB:** Do you recall any of your favorite Poly professors? If not, have you retained any special memories from your undergraduate years?

**UMB:** He is surely retired by now, but I have to say it was Dr. Frank Romano. He taught thermodynamics and I remember almost everything I learned from him. I received some great opportunities at Poly and they changed my life. The school gave me a sense of responsibility and allowed me to see a world bigger than Brooklyn and lower Manhattan. Now with the affiliation with NYU, there will be even greater opportunities available and Poly students should take advantage of them.

**TB:** How did it feel to be an undergraduate female student in an engineering school catering primarily to males? And how does the corporate world look upon women scientists and engineers today?

**UMB:** This really was never a problem while at school. There were very few women but we got by. Poly definitely prepared me well for my career in the predominately male corporate environment. I see opportunities for women scientists and engineers in the corporate world today. They are as welcome as men.

**TB:** As the first-ever African American woman CEO to head a Fortune 500 company, can you share with us some of the struggles at any point in your career and the approach you took to overcome them?

**UMB:** My early struggles were pretty typical of any engineering college graduate at the beginning of her career.

They ranged from not always having enough money to having a lot of work and not having enough time to balance work and home life. I certainly gained more self-confidence as my responsibilities grew.

**TB:** Any words of advice to women interested in going into an engineering field?

**UMB:** Yes. Opportunities today are much greater for women in engineering. If you have an interest in engineering, go for it.

**TB:** Based on your position on the committee working to improve students' skills in science, technology, engineering, and math, in what small way do you believe college students can contribute to and even enhance this effort?

**UMB:** We need great teachers to keep our edu-

cational system strong and vibrant. So I would urge science, technology, education, and math graduates to consider passing on their enthusiasm and knowledge to others by devoting a couple of years to teaching after they graduate. This would help contribute to our educational system.

**TB:** What were some of the factors that led you to join Xerox?

**UMB:** Xerox accepted me for who I was—an urban, smart, fast-talking young woman. Xerox appreciated what I brought to the company and not my differences. The company is still that way to this day.

**TB:** Turning to today's economy, has the recession very much adversely affected the hiring policy of companies like Xerox? If so, do you

see this situation improving soon?

**UMB:** Yes, definitely. During the height of the recession our hiring was curtailed, but the situation is improving and Xerox and other companies are now hiring.

**TB:** Besides engineering competence, of course, what are some of the key requirements top companies like Xerox look for in job applicants?

**UMB:** People with writing skills are in high demand. But you need enthusiasm and passion. In addition, it's very important for engineers and scientists to be able to communicate effectively.

**TB:** What advanced degree would you suggest those looking to climb the corporate ladder should pursue? Would a master's in a technical area be preferable to getting an

MBA?

**UMB:** If you got your undergraduate degree in engineering or the sciences, then I would recommend getting your master's in engineering or the sciences.

Ursula M. Burns was named chief executive of Xerox in 2009 and chairman last year. She joined Xerox in 1980 as a mechanical engineering intern and rose steadily in the company from that point on, working in product development and planning, heading up several business teams, becoming senior vice president of corporate strategic services, and assuming the presidency in 2007, two years before being named CEO.

# How to Maximize Your Experience At the Spring Career Fair

## *Tips From the Career Management Center Staff*

**Do your research:** Check <http://archive.poly.edu/career/careerfair/> for the list of companies attending on March 9 and read the summaries.

**Promote yourself:** Have a strong handshake, make good eye contact, and speak confidently about your skills and abilities. Have a few questions prepared for the companies you visit.

**Self-introduction:** Walk up to the recruiter and introduce yourself with your name, your area of study, and what kind of opportunity you are seeking (summer internship/full-time work) and why you want to work for this specific company.

**Networking:** This event is all about making connections with companies and even the people in line with

you. Each connection is an opportunity. If a company isn't hiring for a position that fits your skills, don't hesitate to ask for other contact information for different areas/departments; be curious.

**Open-mindedness:** Think outside the box. Just because you haven't done something doesn't mean you won't enjoy it. You might even excel at it.

**Positive attitude:** Do not assume there is nothing for you here, make sure to talk to at least a few recruiters.

**Engage in conversation:** Don't be shy about answering questions fully. There will be many other students waiting to speak with recruiters, so be aware of this, but remember you have waited in line to introduce yourself so make good use

of your time.

**Follow up:** Don't forget to send a thank-you email that expresses your appreciation for the interviewer's time spent speaking with you. Reiterate your interest in their organization and in the specific position.

**Top Questions You Should Be Prepared to Answer:**

Tell me about yourself. (Be sure to stay focused. Employers want to hear about your skills, education, and experiences, NOT about your childhood and events growing up.)

Why should we hire you? (This is where your 30 – 60 second personal commercial/elevator speech comes in handy. Summarize your skills and experiences, high-

light relevant accomplishments, speak confidently and don't forget to smile.)

Why do you want to work for us?

(Prepare for this question by educating yourself about the company, its culture, and open positions. Easy ways to do this: Look at the company's Web site, read about them in industry news, and see their company profile in Linked in.)

Do you have any questions for us?

(Use this opportunity to ask questions that give you a better idea of the job profile and responsibilities for this position. You can also ask about next steps in the process, and don't forget to ask for the interviewer's business card.)

## Needs Writers, Editors, and an Advertising–Sales Team

**News editors:** Responsible for producing informative, interesting and accurate articles for the sports, feature or entertainment sections. Each editor should generally contribute at least two stories to the newspaper per issue.

- The sports editor is responsible for all sports coverage within or outside of NYU-Poly. He or she is expected to be current on NYU-Poly sporting events and should have a working knowledge of all NYU-Poly sports teams and the athletics department.

- The feature editor is expected to be familiar with various campus organizations and events. He or she should have a good working knowledge of how the NYU-Poly administration and student government (the Student Council) function.

- The entertainment editor is expected to be familiar with upcoming events and the latest movies. The editor should be willing to attend these events and review newly released movies.

**Copy editors:** They are responsible for ensuring that all stories are error-free before publication. All grammar, punctuation, fact-checking and address verification must be done before the final copy is presented to the adviser and editor-in-chief.

**Staff writers/reporters:** Individuals are responsible for brainstorming and writing assigned stories. They must be able to write for a variety of sections. In addition, staff writers should be motivated to learn other aspects of newspaper production.

*Students majoring in digital media are urged to apply.*

**Photo editor:** This person is responsible for keeping track of all photographic elements, making sure captions are present for every photo and ensuring that all photos are of the highest quality possible before they are published in The Polytechnic Reporter. He or she should be able to work effectively with Photoshop or equivalent programs, have excellent technical photography skills and creative, artistic vision. Other major responsibilities include:

- Assigning photo requests received from news editors.
- Assuring that all assignments are shot and submitted by deadline.
- Enhancing photos in Adobe photoshop.

**Photographers:** They are responsible for shooting requested photographs and writing captions for each photo. They should also have a positive attitude and a flexible schedule. Photographers are responsible for bringing their own photo equipment to each assignment.

*Students majoring in business and technology management (BTM) and finance are urged to apply.*

**Managing Editor:** He or she serves as a liaison between the editor-in-chief (EIC), the newsroom staff, and the advertising team, sending out emails, making phone calls and assisting EIC in the preparation and management of the budget. The ME works with Bala Mulloth, senior manager at the BEST center, to reimburse journalists for events expenses. The ME is also responsible for keeping track of all submitted articles, organizing them into first, second and final drafts. Requirement: extensive knowledge of management principles and practices, as well as skill in budget preparation.

**Advertising Manager:** Should be a highly motivated individual who has the ability to become a leader in the business community through extensive networking and involvement. Responsibilities include managing a sales team with existing clients, marketing of new prospects, face-to-face sales, and closing contracts. He or she is also responsible for working with the EIC in creating an advertising rate card for the newspaper. This is a paid position, based on commissions.

**Advertising Sales Staff:** Responsible for continued increase in advertising revenues through new business development, as well as offering superior customer service with ongoing customers. Function as advertising consultants to help customers on and off campus grow their business through advertising media like the Polytechnic Reporter. You should be willing to contact local businesses to obtain advertising revenues. Advertising sales staff will work on a generous commission!

**Website Manager:** Organize and transfer all past issues onto the Polytechnic Reporter's website. The site will be updated after every issue. He or she will also create and manage a Facebook page for the Polytechnic Reporter. The Facebook page should contain a link to the Polytechnic Reporter page on Poly.edu.

Boost Your Communication Skills

## Join The Polytechnic Reporter

Write and edit articles for this newspaper to increase your value to future employers. Believe us: they're seeking college graduates who can write—and write well.

Contact:  
Yangzi Isabel Tian  
Editor-in-chief  
The Polytechnic Reporter  
at (626) 532-0348  
or ytian01@students.poly.edu



# NYU-Poly to Expand Into MetroTech Center; Jacobs Administration Building Facing the Ax

*Faculty offices, some academic departments, and staff will be relocated to other MetroTech buildings, probably this summer*

**By Waqas Saeed**

The executive offices on the fifth floor of the Jacobs Administration Building will be moved, probably this summer, to MetroTech Center along with other administrative offices currently housed in the building. Some faculty offices, small classrooms and dry labs will also be relocated.

“The plan will most likely entail moving two academic departments to leased space in MetroTech,” said Dennis Dintino, vice president of finance and business affairs. The school is looking to lease space in one of these three buildings: 2 MetroTech, 3 MetroTech, and 15 MetroTech.

Dintino said that it is important to view this relocation to MetroTech Center as a smaller component of the overall process of transforming the campus. “At its core, the campus transformation is about making significant enhancements and improvements to our campus that would better reflect our collective ambitions,” he said. These collective ambitions include representing the idea of i2e (which stands for invention, innovation and entrepreneurship), becoming more environmentally efficient and making NYU-Poly a collaborative physical environment.

The plan has been given the green light by the NYU-Poly board of trustees. It has also been reviewed by the school’s space planning committee and the steering committee. NYU-Poly is currently in the middle of lease negotiations and the relocation is expected to occur this summer, Dintino said.

If you’re wondering why

NYU-Poly is moving these facilities to MetroTech Center, the main reason is that the Jacobs Administration Building requires an investment of \$48 million in renovation to deal with safety issues in order to meet current codes and standards, Dintino said. The powers-that-be here determined that this would be an imprudent way of spending \$48 million. “An opportunity arose where we could lease space at MetroTech Center at lower rates,” Dintino explained. “We thought this would be a more prudent way of spending our money.”

NYU-Poly is also exploring ways to free up some space in Rogers Hall to accommodate 23 new faculty members who will be hired in the next few years. These people need both office and laboratory space, Dintino said. Therefore, he noted, classrooms will be vacated in Rogers Hall to create space for the new faculty. As to the ultimate fate of the old Jacobs Building, the current plan is to mothball it for the present, and eventually demolish it, and possibly construct a new building in five to 10 years on that site, Dintino said.

He also provided an update on other campus transformation initiatives. PolyPods is an initiative spearheaded by Bethany Jankunis, chief of staff to the provost. It calls for furniture groupings to be installed throughout the campus. These furniture groupings are collaborative spaces where students and faculty can discuss ideas in an informal setting.

The bathroom renovations on the first and fourth floors of Rogers Hall should be completed by the end of the month, Dintino said. The CITE gaming innovation lab

being constructed in the Diner Building is scheduled to open officially on March 11. This project was funded by a \$2-million state grant.

Dintino believes that these initiatives are critical to NYU-Poly’s future. “I think that these moves are really going to transform NYU-Poly. In order to compete with top schools like MIT, we need to be on an even playing field in terms of the facilities and services available to students. Faculty, facilities, and top students are the three keys to moving NYU-Poly to the next level,” he said.

## NYU-Poly Prof. Authors A Bio of Ed Koch

**By Michael Kelly**

About four months ago, Prof. Jonathan Soffer released his latest work, “Ed Koch and the Rebuilding of New York.” This biography of former New York City mayor Ed Koch is filled with facts and issues still relevant in today’s politics and economic climate. The book follows the life of the former mayor from the time he was just a child living in Crotona Park East to his rise as mayor.

The book does an excellent job of covering the biographical information a reader wants to know while, at the same time, giving the reader stimulating information on the different political aspects of Koch’s career. It covers a portion of Koch’s time as a U.S. congressman as well as some

clever political tactics he used to win the 1977 mayoral election. In addition to the politics, the book provides a detailed look at what New York City was like when Koch was running for mayor, giving a clear picture of some challenges his administration faced and, in some cases, overcame. These challenges included balancing the city’s budget, dealing with the AIDS epidemic, and facing the issues of the large homeless population.

Politics, policy, and the people behind them are all present in this comprehensive look at the life of a controversial, yet highly effective mayor. Laden with facts and quotes, the book almost reads like the narrative to a biographical documentary film. In fact, it reads like no other book I have ever read.



The writing style is completely unique and keeps the reader’s interest. However, because the book is loaded with tons of facts and statistical data, it can be a time-consuming read for a person not accustomed to reading such an in-depth biography. I would certainly recommend this book as an excellent resource for research. Overall, “Ed Koch and the Rebuilding of New York” is a great book.

Coming Soon

# Patient-Doctor Linkup Via Telecommunications

By **Vashista Amarjit**

The NYU-Poly BEST Center was a business incubator initiated in 2004 to facilitate the growth of start-up companies and, through their success, to bring economic growth to New York City in the long run. The center, located on the Brooklyn campus, was established with the purpose of helping clean-technology-oriented companies in particular achieve their full potential by providing business guidance, technological expertise, and other resources that fledgling businesses need.

Although the actual physical facility of the BEST Center has now been closed to start-up companies that were renting space there at quite reasonable cost, some companies continue to take advantage of the services it offers as so-called virtual tenants (the incubator continues in full on-site operation at Varick Street in Manhattan). Among these virtual companies is First Lightwave Inc. The vision-ary behind this company is

Neil Shabman, president and the only full-time employee; at present, he hires graduate students to assist him on an hourly basis.

First Lightwave is working on the use of wireless technologies in conjunction with social-networking applications to enhance the medical home experience, which entails cooperation among the patient, the physician, and even, when necessary, the patient's family in medical home care. First Lightwave will be launching the pilot program of its medical home "in the near future," Shabman says, with the assistance of Joe Stiles, a trustee of Community Hospital, a New York Presbyterian-affiliated hospital located in Brooklyn. Stiles is promoting the medical-home concept to health-care providers in this borough so that they can benefit from the Brooklyn-based technology emanating from NYU-Poly, Shabman says.

According to Shabman, First Lightwave is essentially a research and development company trying to improve a patient's medi-

cal home-care experience by implementing cutting-edge technology that is primarily communication-based. The company's main goal, says Shabman, is to make the patient's transition from office visits and procedures to a more preventive type of medicine, one that is achieved through monitoring. For example, people with chronic heart conditions have to visit their physician's office periodically for routine EKG's to make sure their heart's electrical activity is normal. Within the concept of preventive medicine, the office or hospital trip would be eliminated.

Through modern technology, Shabman says, the patient would have an EKG glove at home and put it on once a day to take a reading of the activity of his or her heart. The data would be collected automatically and would be analyzed by proprietary algorithms for any abnormalities. First Lightwave would let both physician and patient know if there were any problems, and, if so, the doctor and patient would have a video-conference meeting to discuss them. Shabman points out a

real benefit of this innovative idea is that it creates a virtual medical community where everything is more systematic and uniform across the board. Member physicians would be administering to patients using the "best practices," which will help prevent malpractice judgments against them, thereby leading to reduced insurance costs, Shabman says.

Shabman wasn't always in the medical field. He started off in the telecommunications industry, where he helped develop soft switches for telephone networks. In 2008, he began working at NYU-Poly's CATT facility (the Center for Advanced Technology and Telecommunications). It was there, he says, that he realized the potential benefit of providing medical care over a telecommunications network. The director of business development at the center recommended the BEST incubator to Shabman, and since then he's been working at both centers to achieve his goals.

When asked what the centers offer him, he had nothing but exuberant praise for the experience: "The CATT center is where I get my ideas and the BEST center is where I implement them." The CATT

center is where all the minds meet and try to come up with innovative ideas, he says. It's useful to him because he can take the knowledge he learns there and try to integrate it into his business model to develop a more complete design. The BEST center is where he puts his plans into action, he stressed.

Shabman emphasizes that the BEST Center has been a great asset also because its location at the school gives him access to NYU-Poly professors and allows him to put his ideas into effect using some of New York's "brightest young minds." Currently, he has one graduate student, Puneet Sharma, as an employee. He and Sharma are working on an algorithm to monitor wireless-communication devices like the EKG glove noted above. Sharma approached Shabman about the project and the entrepreneur brought him onboard because of his background working with Infosys Technologies Ltd. in India.

Another reason Shabman has benefited from his association with the BEST Center is that it has kept the cost of developing his ideas to a minimum. He lives only a few blocks from Poly so he doesn't have to physically rent space and he comes here frequently to receive guidance on legal issues from Bruce Niswander, the director of the entire incubator program, and from Bala Mulloth, the manager of the program.

Shabman says he plans to separate his medical company from the incubator program once the pilot program is launched and take it nationwide. He says that because of his international contacts within the telecom industry, he has been approached by several global companies that want to launch a First Lightwave medical home in their countries.

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## Freshman Writing

would appoint a committee composed of writing faculty and faculty members with expertise in issues like accreditation, curriculum, and graduation rates—in short, those having responsibilities for meeting ABET and Middle States standards. The committee will report its findings to the full faculty on why this

situation arose and suggest ways to avoid a recurrence.

As things stand now, the decision on the transfer of the program will not be finalized until after the committee presents its report and two faculty committees—the Educational and Admissions Policy Committee and the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee—have reviewed and discussed it, said Prof. Harold Sjurson of the humanities and so-

cial sciences department and a member of the Educational and Admissions Policy Committee. He noted that the provost was completely understanding and helpful throughout the meeting, agreeing that it would be desirable to have more thorough discourse pertaining to the standards and educational and curriculum issues involved before any final decision is made on this matter.

Rekow said she hoped

and expected that some form of affiliation would take effect between the Polytechnic writing program and NYU.

Prof. Kris Day, head of the humanities and social sciences department, said it was her expectation—and the provost said she agreed—that most, if not all, of Poly's writing faculty will continue to teach writing to Poly students in courses conducted at the Brooklyn campus.

# New York Winter Scenes:



# a Photo Essay

*Bone-chilling temperatures, record snowfall, punishing winds—what a bleak winter so far! But wait—we offer photographic consolation that celebrates the beautiful side of winter. Here's nature in all her glory, captured by our camera crew in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Putnam and Dutchess counties. Enjoy!*















# A Visit With the Queen Mother of Harlem

By Cindy Penn

Queen Mother, Dr. Delois Blakely, has been a notable worldwide figure advocating for aspiring women, children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds across the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and the world. She is also known as the Community Mayor of Harlem, Mama Africa, and the Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa because of her extensive human rights work.

Since economic inequality is one of the main causes of poverty and diminished quality of life in developing and developed nations as well, Queen Mother spends her time traveling the world, promoting solutions such as education, training, entrepreneurship, microfinance, and basic human care. "The world can come together and give a contribution to solve these problems, in partnership with each other," Queen Mother said during an interview at the United Nations.

Her story began with 10 years of work in education and prison counseling in New York State as a Roman Catholic nun. With a generous financial grant from NYU in 1969, she branched out to found the New Future Foundation, Inc. That was 42 years ago and New Future Foundation is still operating. The overall goal of NFF is to prepare youth for times when they will come across people of all backgrounds and will be able to interact without a sense of inferiority, arrogance, or loss of personal identity.

NFF is a great success story emanating from NYU and was one of the first non-profits to promote multicultural and multiethnic development across New York City communities, especially during a time when racial tensions were high. "We don't have

to be like a melting pot, but more like a flower garden, so beautiful with all the different flowers in it," she said. Queen Mother encourages community while maintaining a sense of roots.

NYU went beyond funding the development of New Future Foundation; it provide space for recreational activities and the original NFF of-

NYU students ran the various programs while getting paid and earning college credit. NFF programs still include education, recreation/sports, and cultural activities for school-age children in its effort to build relationships between the varying ethnic and economic groups in the city.

Queen Mother graduated

in 1965 from the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary College with a B.S. in religious studies. She received two master's in education degrees, one from Harvard in 1982 and the other from Teachers College, Columbia, in 1983. She was a Community Fellow at MIT, in 1981-82 and an Education Policy Fellow of International Education Leadership in

1982-1983. She was, in addition, a Fulbright Scholar to Tanzania and Nigeria in 1984-1985. Her doctorate is in education and was obtained from Columbia's Teachers College in 1990.

Queen Mother is a trailblazer as an educator and a humanitarian. She received



*Continued on page 17*

## Club News: NSBE

# Black History Month Celebration

By Michael C. Kelly II

Black History Month is a chance for America to reflect and learn about the contributions of African Americans to our country's history. Many times, however, in our attempt to reflect and learn about African American history, we fail to acknowledge the individuals who are contributing to that history today.

This Black History Month, The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) presents its annual Black History Month Cel-

bration. This event is titled, "Bridging the Past Present and Future." This year's theme is to honor the history and legacy so many African-Americans have left by showcasing how it has influenced the black community today. The event's entertainment will include a performance by the young ladies of Lady Dragon Step Team a group who has participated in many competitions and renowned throughout the tri-state area. Also performing an interpretive dance will be Polytechnic's Dwayne Patterson the second place winner in the tal-

ent show Poly's Got Talent (PGT). Also in the lineup of talented performers, master of the spoken word Kevin Bishop. Bishop performed at this same event two years ago and was a crowd pleaser. This year is expected to be no different.

In addition to the evening's fine entertainment there will be a portion of the program dedicated to a thought provoking discussion regarding issues facing African American professionals as well as their successes and accomplishments.

The event will be held on February 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Pfizer Auditorium located at 5 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Following the event, will be a reception for guests to mingle. The post event reception will be held

in room 116 of the Roger's Hall building. For more information visit the NSBE website at [polynsbe.org](http://polynsbe.org) or email me the NSBE public relations/ publications chair person at [poly\\_pubrel-chair@yahoo.com](mailto:poly_pubrel-chair@yahoo.com)

## Speaking Out

# Some Thoughts On King's Birthday

By Kwadwo Sarpong-Faried

Every year all across the United States, Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday is observed on the third Monday of January. For many, there has never been a time when one questioned the fundamental need for such a day. On Jan. 17, 2011, I found myself attempting to understand the importance of this day.

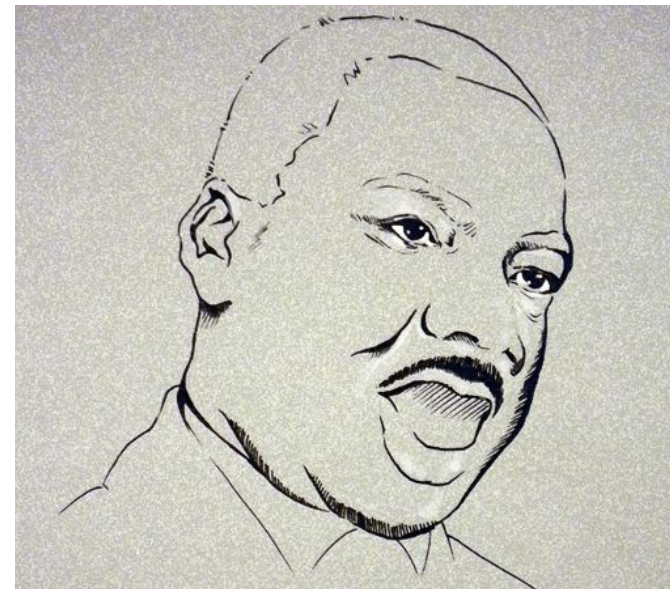
It is one thing to know why we celebrate Dr. King's birthday and it is equally imperative for us to understand the ideals of the man whose life we are celebrating. Last Jan. 17, when my six-year-old brother was relating to

me the historical background as to why we honor that day,



I began to wonder what this day means to me. My young brother clearly sees the worth in celebrating the day for two reasons: On the one hand, he gets a day off from school and, on the other hand, he says, "Because of Dr. King, I can go to school with white people." When this conversation with my brother ended, I, too, needed to discover why I celebrate King's birthday. There is no doubt that he was a great leader and a man with strong ideals who could deliver galvanizing speeches deep-rooted in the principles of nonviolence and equality.

I think this day is one that we should spend remembering the ideals of Dr. King. It is a day to remember what the man stood for, what he fought for, and, most important of all, how



we can continue to fight for those ideals, which are as relevant today as they were during his lifetime. For instance, what would he have thought about the vicious partisan politics dividing the nation today? What would he have thought about those who continue to neglect the weak and the poor? Those are not, sadly, what most people think of on King's birthday; well, perhaps they should. I think that as individuals, as a community, and especially as a nation, Jan. 17 should be a day when introspection is called for in order to bring about changes based on where we have been and where we are trying to go.

As a minister, Dr. King

educated his parishioners in terms of what was going on around the nation and around the world. He instilled in them a yearning for truth. He rejected the politics of hate and division that pervades our society today. He was a champion of justice for all. He was clearly a visionary who saw the importance of education. As a nation, we need to return to those ideals. So, what do I believe? I believe King's birthday should be a day where I teach my little brother about the importance of equality, justice, and altruism. It should be a day of positive thinking and a day of learning about this wonderful man's "dream" for all Americans.

## Queen Mother

*Continued from page 16*

the distinction of being named Queen Mother in legacy of Queen Mother Audley Moore (1898-1997), meaning she's the Queen Mother of All African Descendants. One of her key roles, she points out,

was to memorialize the millions of Africans who did not survive the Middle Passage during the infamous years of the slave trade. The Middle Passage is a historic term that refers back to when millions of Africans were stolen from their homeland, forced to go on a transatlantic voyage under horrific and inhumane

conditions, and ended with their slavery in the Americas. It is considered to be a grim chapter of human history.

During the interview, Dr. Blakely spoke highly of the recent World Festival of Black Arts and Culture in Dakar, Senegal, last December. The original fes-

tival was held in Dakar in 1966 and a second was held in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1977. The 1966 festival was organized in response to a time when the world was largely unaware of the struggle of black people during African colonization. At that time, too, America was struggling to end racial segregation.

The 2010 event was held in the spirit of a new vision of Africa: optimistic, proud, creative and free. "We must help cultivate each other based on our strengths," she says, expressing pride in the involvement of young people during last December's World Festival of Black Arts and Culture.

## Theater

## 'Lost in the Stars'

By Kwadwo Sarpong-Faried

As I left my house on a recent Saturday night to see "Lost in the Stars," I didn't know what to expect from a Broadway musical based on Alan Paton's classic novel "Cry, the Beloved Country."

I had read the tragedy involving Stephen Kumalo and James Jarvis many times during my high school and undergraduate careers, and nothing could have moved me more than a play that featured great acting, melodious music, and brilliant lighting. I certainly wasn't disappointed in the Encores! revival of this masterful work by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson,

which ran Feb. 3-6 at New York City Center.

For those who are not familiar with Paton's novel, I recommend that you read it. Depicting social unrest and its consequences, it is one of the most moving, politically provocative, and powerfully impassioned literary works of the 20th century.

Both the novel and play are set in apartheid South Africa and open in a small village in Ixopo, or Ndotsheni. After receiving a letter from Johannesburg, Zulu priest Stephen Kumalo (played by Chuck Cooper) decides to go to the big city to help his sister and



also to find his son, Absalom (played by Daniel Breaker).

In the big city, this simple black minister from the countryside discovers that his son has become involved with thieves and murdered

a wealthy white man named Arthur Jarvis (played by Kieran Campion). Absalom's girlfriend, Irina (played by Sherry Boone), is expecting Absalom's child. As the story unfolds, the murdered man's father, James Jarvis (played by Daniel Gerroll), comes to question his convictions, while Kumalo is forced to question his faith.

"Lost in the Stars" is presented in two acts. The music was composed by Weill, the words written by Anderson.

I would be remiss not to praise Paul Tazewell for his lighting and Rob Berman for his musical direction. Quentin Earl Darrington made an admirable chorus leader.


Now for the plot: Act I

opens with a dramatic and enticing choral composition titled "The Hills of Ixopo," beautifully led by Darrington. In this fabulous opening scene, the audience sees a sharp contrast between the homes of Stephen Kumalo and James Jarvis. The dynamics of apartheid South Africa are illustrated effectively throughout the musical.

Another sensational number is sung by Absalom's pregnant girlfriend, Irina. In this ballad, "Trouble Man," the audience is made to feel the pain of this pregnant young woman as she attempts passionately to persuade Absalom not to participate in a

*Continued on page 21*

## Advertisement



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# Poly SHRM Workshops

By Jessica Bertschy

Many students at NYU-Poly consider their math, science, and engineering skills the most vital skills they possess, but these skills will not get students far without proper interviewing and communication abilities. The Society of Human Resource Management, also known as SHRM, held a mock interview event on Friday, Feb. 18 to help students with crucial interview preparation.

Merit Award Chair member Tamara Levinton said at the event, "What we eventually want is for our organizational behavior program students to volunteer and actually conduct the mock interview for engineering students or graduate students." Levinton later went on to say,

"We have the tools, and we are available to provide assistance. It is a good experience in terms of the volunteering for us, and it is a great experience for them."

SHRM works with the human resources department to bring human resource professionals to meet with students and help them enhance their interviewing skills and to guide them. Speakers at the event were human resource professionals from various industries, and students were expected to present themselves in a professional manner. Students at the event were required to be dressed professionally and bring two copies of their resume for review. Prof. Harold G. Kaufman commented on Friday's event, saying, "A function like this really introduces students to skills



*PolySHRM officers*

they will need in their job." At the event, students were given a list of questions so as to familiarize them with typical interview questions. Students were then broken up into small groups and had their mock interviews.

Tammy Vaughn,

president of NYU-Poly's SHRM chapter, commented on the skills students were learning: "In the workplace, we spend eight hours a day around coworkers; we spend more time with them, sometimes, than we do with our families. So we need to figure

out a way to get along, make work flow, and get our point across effectively." SHRM hopes that more students will take advantage of the wonderful opportunities offered to them and come out and join them at the workshops scheduled for Feb. 24 and 25.

## Advertisement



Deirdre Cash Simmons, PHR

February 24, 2011

**What's in U  
Keeping You  
From Success?**

**Deirdre Cash Simmons, PHR** holds a B.A. degree from Purdue University and various industry specific coursework from Cornell. She is the current President of the SHRM Gateway Chapter, chairs the Workforce Readiness Committee, works as a volunteer & speaker for Streetwise Partners and has worked on the board of NAAHR. As an HR Consultant utilizing her various experiences in the industries including construction management/engineering, beverage, education automotive, retail, healthcare, construction and retail.

**Gregory Bradley**, holds a B.A. degree from Long Island University and a J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He is the Vice President of Human Resources for MTA Metro-North Railroad where he is responsible for all aspects of Human Resources Management. Greg has provided career advice and counseling to thousands of students and professionals over the years. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at New York University's SCPS where he has been on the faculty for the past 21 years.



Gregory Bradley

February 25, 2011

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[tvaugh01@students.poly.edu](mailto:tvaugh01@students.poly.edu)

## Museum Review

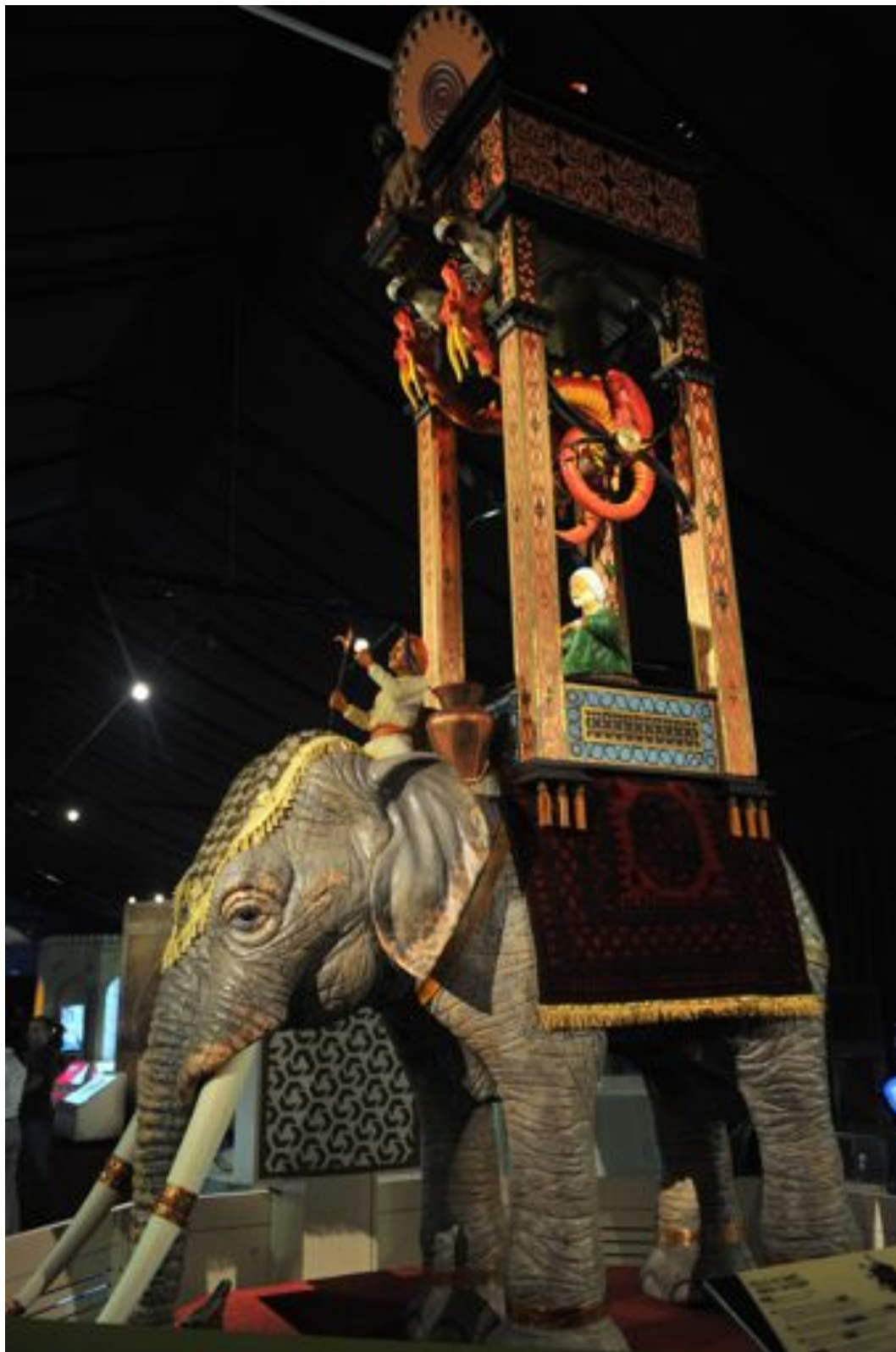
# Take a Trip to the New York Hall of Science -And Don't Leave Young Siblings at Home

By **Vashista Amarjit**

The New York Hall of Science occupies one of the few remaining structures of the 1964 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadow, Corona Park, in Queens. Today, it stands as New York City's only hands-on science and technology center with more than 400 hands-on exhibits that explore biology, chemistry, and physics. With an appeal to children and adults alike, its presence as an educational establishment in Queens is definitely a mainstay of educational learning.

The tone is set right from the start. When walking into the museum, one finds it hard to miss the huge, floor-to-ceiling cellulose display. Upon closer inspection, visitors learn that this one structure is composed of thousands of units of glucose molecules. In another display sits a skein of wool, a crab shell, silk thread and fragments of bone. The displays explain how molecular arrangements allow silk and wool to be flexible (molecules slide past each other) and how bone and shell are hard and able to last long periods of time past the death of the organism (their molecular structure is rigid and geometric).

When walking through the set of physics exhibits, one finds that one in particular, the Feedback exhibit, stands out. There, you encounter a sculpture that demonstrates force distribution. It's like dropping a pebble into a puddle and watching the ripples that emanate from it. Similarly, when one taps the chain suspended overhead, the resulting force that is redistributed depends on how you tap the chain. In another section of the same exhibit there is a bicycle connected to the propeller of a 60's-era plane. As the visitor pedals, weights on the propeller angle the blades differently, thus making it harder for the



person to pedal faster. This example of feedback demonstrates how it can affect performance. These displays explain the concept of feedback simply, which is perfectly designed for the target demographic: elementary-school children.

Moving away from physics, I ventured into the biological science section. There, the molecules exhibit and its components caught my attention. In this exhibit, visitors encounter a display and activity station that explains

the role molecules play in creating defense mechanisms for different animals. Children are able to choose an organism and walk through a tunnel-like activity display that demonstrates the organism's defense-mechanism makeup, such as porcupine quills, rhinoceros armor or cactus needles.

Aside from learning about microorganisms, children can actually watch them in the microbial zoo. In this exhibit, children can use light microscopes to view various differ-

ent single-celled organisms such as the paramecium and the stentor, a trumpet-shaped protozoan. The sea of microbes takes this even further, showing how microbes are used for things that you would never think of like making beer and bread.

The Hall of Science also provides a more hands-on learning experience in what the curators call sports challenges. These challenges provide unique and fun ways to comprehend the most elementary concepts. Balance

is created by constantly changing factors like width of stance, allowing for more control and improving one's center of gravity. The center of gravity is the point around which the weight of an object is evenly distributed and can be balanced. Our center of gravity, which is near the waist, can shift to help us keep our balance. The balance challenge allows visitors to realize, by stepping onto a surfboard, where they have to balance themselves just as a surfer does to ride the waves.

My favorite experience at the museum was the climbing challenge. Here visitors are given the chance to climb a real eight-foot rock-climbing wall, which teaches that it isn't always the strongest one who climbs the fastest. While arm and leg strength plays a part, physics is actually a climber's best friend. Understanding how to use one's arms and legs as levers to smoothly shift one's center of gravity near one's belly button helps conserve energy for long climbs. Where feet are positioned, where hands are positioned, and how far a climber is from the wall all impact how weight is distributed and how smoothly a climber moves.

The Hall of Science endeavors to add new exhibits frequently to further improve its overall goal to disseminate education; One such exhibit emphasizes the Middle Eastern contribution to modern science. One of this exhibit's features concerns what it calls the 1001 inventions. The exhibit begins with a short film that provides background on this civilization. After viewing the film, you wander through the exhibit, which gives vivid descriptions of inventors and provides details on the lives of the Middle Eastern scientists who have made huge contributions to scientific progress.

The exhibit also contains a display of Muslim art and cultural pieces. It offers a wonderful image of the Dark Ages, de-

*Continued on page 21*

## Lost in the Stars

*Continued from page 18*

planned robbery.

Act I ends with the memorable title song, “Lost in the Stars,” performed by Cooper and the chorus. It portrays a man’s emotional breakdown and a pastor’s questioning of his faith.

Act II opens with “The Wild Justice,” which describes the injustice in apartheid South Africa. It’s not surprising that Boone vows us again with the number “Stay Well.” She soulfully and mournfully reassures Absalom that she will stay by his side no matter what. He is fated to be executed for the murder he committed and for which he is now remorseful. Other Weill favorites in Act II are “Big Mole” and “Cry, the Beloved Country.”

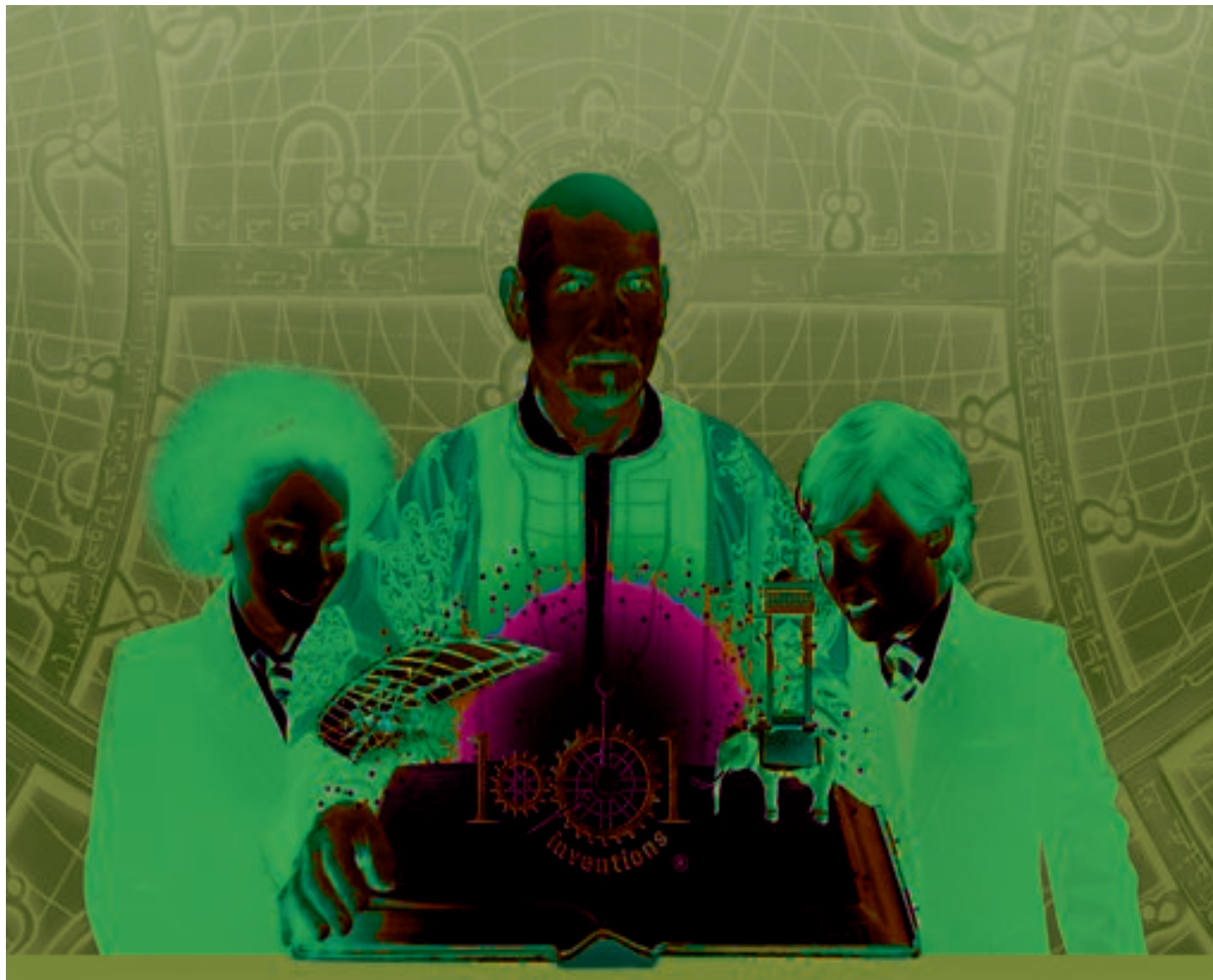
As I left the theater, I couldn’t help but reflect on the moving theme of the novel—so poignantly

expressed throughout the play—and the novel’s impact. Clearly this great literary work focused the world’s attention on the horrors of apartheid. Would conditions in

today’s South Africa be different if it hadn’t been written?

I lament the limited run of this production of “Lost in the Stars.” It was perfectly timed to coincide with

the start of Black History Month, a decision for which Encores! and City Center should be commended. I can only hope the play moves to Broadway next season.



*Children and adults will be fascinated by the eye-opening displays*

*Continued from page 20*

## Hall of Science

depicting the unique colors and different monuments of the

period. In this exhibit stands an elephant with two men on top, one serving as a “driver” and the other representing a

person of importance, such as a prince. The statue is a combination of several cultures, including Chinese, Muslim,

and Indian.

Many people are unaware of the Eastern civilization’s contributions to

mathematics. For example, Muslims invented the concept of zero, and we would not have modern math without it. Also, Al-Jazari, an inventor whose life spanned parts of the 12th and 13th centuries, created a system for converting circular motion to linear motion that has been used in machines for hundreds of years. An example of Al-Jazari’s work, a rod and camshaft, sits under the hood of almost every single car in the world. It should be emphasized that the Hall of Science is a fun-filled and educational experience that should not be missed. Parents and kids will both enjoy visiting this award-winning museum. It offers everyone in the family the chance to explore live science demonstrations that make learning about science an enjoyable event for everyone.

The Hall of Science is located at 47-01 111th Street, Queens, N.Y. The visiting hours vary from week to week so be sure to check the Web site. The price of admission is \$11 for adults and \$8 for children.

## Video Game Review

# ‘Kingdom Hearts: Birth by Sleep’

*The strangest amalgam on the RPG scene comes to your Sony handheld. Is it a slam dunk or a miss?*



By **Jessia Leonard**

Japanese anime, martial arts-type combat, serious firepower...and Mickey Mouse? Welcome to Kingdom Hearts, feasibly the weirdest action role-playing game (RPG) series ever to hit the video game market. Here spiky-haired, fast-moving, weapon-wielding fighters interact with fairytale and original Disney characters, and well-known Disney movie landscapes are the setting for long, violent battle sequences.

For nearly a decade, developer and publisher Square Enix has been making magic with this unlikely hybrid, and “Birth by Sleep,” a recent installment in

the Kingdom Hearts series, is no exception. Both series fans and the uninitiated will enjoy playing this PlayStation Portable (PSP) -exclusive title, which is by all accounts an engrossing and visually stunning game.

(PSP Go owners will be sorry to hear there’s no version designed for the Go; the game was released only in universal media disc (UMD) format. As of press time, however, there were reports on the Web that the Go had been hacked, and you could find online video showing “Birth by Sleep” running on a Go. Mum’s the word.)

“Birth by Sleep” is a prequel set 10 years prior to the events in the original Kingdom Hearts game. It uses themes such as

friendship, dreams, truth, and identity to propel its three young protagonists—Terra, Ventus, and Aqua—on an epic quest to safeguard the balance of light and darkness in the universe.

Along the way, the trio visit numerous worlds, including those home to Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Peter Pan, Hercules, and a Stitch-like alien; battle hordes of the evil Unversed, identified as crude creatures who subsist on negative energy; rescue some princesses; and locate a missing keyblade master, or teacher.

Keyblades feature prominently in the Kingdom Hearts series. They are, as the name implies, sword-size weapons in the shape of a key. Not only can they

be used in hand-to-hand combat, but they also are powerful tools for casting spells and unlocking and locking any physical lock and the portals between worlds. Only those characters with an especially strong heart can wield a keyblade.

The narrative structure of “Birth by Sleep” is unusual and promises many hours of quality play. Keyblade wielders Terra, Ventus, and Aqua each has his or her own customized storyline, so the big picture emerges as a composite of their adventures. It evolves from their individual points of view—perhaps in a nod to Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa’s groundbreaking “Rashomon.”

At the start of play, you assume the role of one of the heroes and play from start to finish that character’s campaign, then move on to the next. You may explore a given environment or battle a particular enemy more than once, but because each protagonist has a different personality and fighting style, the experience will vary.

Terra is tall, dark, handsome, and preoccupied, susceptible to evil’s seduction. He “relies on brute force in combat,” according to a Square Enix blurb. Ventus, or Ven, the youngest of the three, comes across as an eager-to-please kid brother, with a mean backhand and quick moves. And Aqua is a sensitive, even-keeled young woman, somewhat maternal toward her friends. Her fortes are agility and magic.

Combat in “Birth by Sleep” is satisfying and very complex. Newcomers to the series will want to take advantage of the hands-on tutorial, set in a world called Land of Departure, and practice, practice, practice.

Covering new and old features, the tutorial:

- teaches you how to use the PSP’s buttons and analog stick to walk and run, rotate the camera, lock onto targets, attack, and more;
- identifies the colorful on-screen gauges, which provide crucial status information during play;
- acquaints you with the customizable command deck, which stores your attack, magic, and item commands;
- illustrates dimension linking, or D-linking, which allows you to borrow other characters’ powers; and
- introduces the shotlock command, which lets you lock onto and simultaneously strike multiple enemy targets.

You’ll quickly learn that both sheer pummeling and thoughtful strategy are rewarded. Success-

fully landing repeated blows on an opponent builds up the command gauge, which enables a decisive finishing move. Selectively employing commands likewise affects the gauge, and can temporarily alter and strengthen your command style.

Experienced players will be familiar with the pattern of leveling up existing abilities—increasing their potency—and unlocking new ones. As you vanquish enemies, you gain experience and munny (Kingdom Hearts currency), with which you can buy commands. When you complete a world, in most cases you’ll win a new keyblade.

Of course, boss fights are back too. “Birth by Sleep” includes robust adversaries such as Spirit of the Magic Mirror, Symphony Master, Experiment 221, and even two secret bosses, who make for challenging and inventive battle.

Also returning, unfortunately, are the game’s camera and platforming idiosyncrasies. The camera behaves erratically in tight spaces; occasionally the lock-on system doesn’t target what you want it to; and leaping vertically—scaling a rock face by jumping from one ledge to another, for example—can be awkward. Another letdown is that the environments feel empty, populated only by characters and objects essential to the action.

Most annoying of all are the long load times. To make them bearable, be sure to fully install the game and set the CPU speed to accelerated.

Such small nuisances are just that, however—minor irritants that don’t prevent The Reporter from awarding “Birth by Sleep” an impressive 4½ out of 5 stars.

It’s a beautifully rendered game with fun combat and a compelling story. As a prequel, it can serve as a good entry point to the series, and devotees will be delighted that it sheds light on other Kingdom Hearts titles. If that weren’t enough, the soundtrack is top-notch; veteran actors Leonard Nimoy and Mark Hamill voice keyblade masters Xehanort and Eraqus respectively; and the mini-games and multiplayer options are worthwhile diversions.

“Kingdom Hearts: Birth by Sleep” packs a powerful punch in a very small package.

Format: PSP  
 Developer: Square Enix  
 Publisher: Square Enix  
 Release date: Sept. 7, 2010  
 MSRP: \$39.99  
 Rated: E10+  
 Score: 4½ out of 5

## Restaurant Review

# Negril

By Gilbert Aning

Negril is a well-appointed restaurant that offers fresh Caribbean food in a pleasant modern setting, including a full bar. One is definitely glad the restaurant chooses to maintain its elegant atmosphere instead of opting for the kind of disjointed environment we see too often in other restaurants that convey a similar theme.

Negril, located across the street from NYU's Jack H. Skirball Centre for the Performing Arts at 70 W. 3rd Street, can be crowded during the hours 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., which is the so-called happy hour there. A casual typical

bar-like atmosphere prevails on the first floor, while the cellar floor has a dress code for those wanting to dine in this sophisticated yet cozy environs.

The dinner menu -- no surprise here -- is rife with Caribbean-themed meals ranging from jerk chicken ribettes to sides like boiled dumplings. Tasty entrees such as curry goat stew and (my personal favorite) rasta pasta are also available. I enjoyed dinner for a fairly reasonable price of \$25.98. I had rasta pasta, fruit punch, bread pudding and jerk chicken--all this while listening to music from Sizzla, Capleton, and various reggae and dancehall artists.

It took a while to get served but, the waiter said, that was the result of the long preparation required for the rasta

pasta. But it was well worth the wait. The rasta pasta was delicious. It required no fine-tuning. It consisted of penne pasta, hearty vegetables, oven-dried tomatoes, light tomato-basil sauce, parmesan cheese; these ingredients make it possible for vegetarians to be able to enjoy this taste-bud-teasing dish. Let me add, however, that I, being a chicken-loving individual, added the tasty jerk breast to my dish.

Bottom line: If you are a fan of both Italian and Caribbean food and desire to see them magnificently combined, this is the perfect dish for you.

Unfortunately, the bread pudding did not meet my expectations. In fact, I hated it. My advice: Order the red velvet cupcake--manna food, instead. Equally enjoyable was the fruit punch

(\$3.67 a glass) that I drank to wash down my meal and help affirm my belief that Negril is a top choice for highly creative, sumptuous Caribbean dishes in New York.

Dinner is served from 4 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Lunch is served on Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 3:30 p.m.



By Jessie Leonard

One night last week I was hanging out at a friend's house while he was making dinner for us: an excellent and elaborate Tex-Mex concoction, which I'd be hard pressed to re-create exactly.

All the defrosting, washing, dicing, mincing, grating, sautéing, simmering, layering, and eventual baking—he had it covered, as he usually does. (This guy's a natural in the kitchen, and handily chops wood too. Gender stereotypes be damned.)

Wanting to ward off a feeling of uselessness, I decided to make dessert.

Forget the Oreos, peanut M&M's, Ferrero chocolates, frosted strawberry toaster pastries, chocolate-covered popcorn, Fig Newtons, graham crackers, and store-bought, half-eaten, but plastic-wrapped and still perfectly edible muffin, all sitting in plain sight. They simply wouldn't do. (Did I mention my friend also has an, um, robust sweet tooth? In fairness, though, some of the snacks he stocks are organic and made without corn syrup.)

No, what we needed was a cake. But what kind of cake?

I consulted a couple of cookbooks for inspiration and surveyed the island counter-top.

Overripe bananas are always a good starting point. A can of pumpkin puree, left over from Thanksgiving, looked promising too. And I knew there were flour, eggs, and butter to be found in the fridge.

About an hour and 40 minutes later (including prep time), right after we put our dinner plates in the sink, what came out of the oven was this rustic quick bread, which we dubbed Variation No. 143, or 144 or 145.... You get the idea.

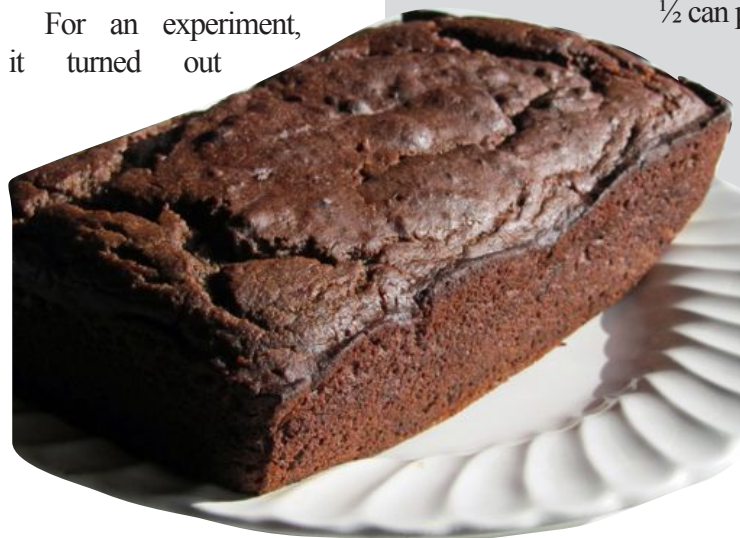
For an experiment, it turned out

pretty well. Moist, rich, and nourishing-tasting. The most exotic ingredient is the evaporated palm sugar, also called coconut sugar, which you can pick up at a natural foods store. Or you can opt for brown sugar instead.

Here's hoping the recipe will elicit a similar ad-lib culinary urge in you, even in the face of the culinary paradise that is New York.

½ cup (one 4-ounce stick) unsalted butter softened to room temperature  
 ½ cup evaporated palm sugar  
 1 egg  
 1 cup buckwheat flour  
 ½ cup unbleached white flour  
 ¾ teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 2 very ripe bananas, mashed

½ can pumpkin puree (not pie filling)  
 ½ cup nonfat plain yogurt



## Recipe: Cake Unscripted

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and palm sugar until well blended. An electric hand mixer is a good tool for this.
3. Beat the egg into the butter mixture until well blended too.
4. In another bowl, sift together the dry ingredients (the flours, salt, and baking soda).

5. In a third bowl, combine the bananas, pumpkin, and yogurt until well blended.
6. Using a wooden spoon or rubber spatula, alternately add the dry mixture and wet mixture to the butter mixture, stirring after each ad-

dition just enough to make a uniform batter. Avoid over-mixing, which develops too much gluten and toughens the batter.

7. Use some additional butter to generously grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan, and pour the batter into the pan.
8. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until a knife or toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean.
9. Cool the cake thoroughly before removing it from the pan.

Yield: one loaf

This recipe is one in an occasional series appearing in The Reporter. We welcome recipe submissions from NYU-Poly students, graduates, faculty, and staff. So, if you have a recipe you want to share with the community—whether it's a nostalgic favorite, a weeknight mainstay, or something new and delicious you just whipped up—let us know. Contact Yangzi Isabel Tian, editor-in-chief, at 626-532-0348 or ytian01@students.poly.edu.

# Men's Basketball Team Disappoints Again; Suffers 25 Straight Losses

By Gilbert Aning

Here is a question for the athletics department,

student body, and faculty: When was the last time the men's basketball team had a winning record? For those

who don't remember, don't be ashamed. Nobody does. I think it was before I came to this country (which was in 2006) and my friend thinks it was before he was born.

The basketball season started with a lot of promise with energetic young coach Joshua Washington at the helm. However, that has not been the story at all far this season. The team finished the season with a disappointing 0-25 record overall (0-20 in conference play). They were 0-10 at home and 0-15 in away



Anthony Mottola

games.

The only bright spot on the team was Anthony Mottola, who averaged 13.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per game and also managed to reach 1000 points this season for his college career.



Team in action in an 85-65 loss to Old Westbury.

# Softball Preview

By Elizabeth Schrandt

After becoming Skyline Conference Champions and being the first team at NYU Poly to ever win an NCAA playoff game, the women's softball team has a lot of work ahead of them in order to defend their title. However, it is not a challenge they cannot stand up to. Coach Jimmy Barrett states, "Do I expect the softball team to win the conference and go to the NCAAs? Yes. Does that mean they necessarily will? No. Farmingdale is just as tough. They have not lost any players since last year." The NYU Poly team has a tough season ahead of them, but it is still one they can win.

In the team's tournament in the fall, the team did well. Even with seven freshmen, the team looks promising. Barrett explains that he is surprised how well the freshmen are adjusting. Considering all of them are from the Midwest or West Coast, it is surprising how seldom they get homesick.

However, even with this immense amount of fresh talent, they will not be able to replace last year's seniors. Coach Barrett says, "All of last year's seniors did very well and are irreplaceable, but Ryan Graybill will be especially hard to do without." Graybill was First-Team All-Conference for four years and set numerous hitting records. "She was like having a coach on the field."

The softball team starts their season March 12 with a tournament in California. Barrett explains that this tournament will be run a lot like the team's tournament in Florida the previous year in which all players will be moved around a lot and get lots of playing time. He just wants to see which players do best at what positions and which combinations of players work.

Regardless of how well the team played last year, Barrett states that this year's team is even better than last year's. They have more than enough talent and can go all the way. In all of Barrett's nine years of coaching, he has never had a nicer group of kids. He just hopes that everyone does well in school and gets everything they want out of the season.

# Women's Hoops Team Makes Conference Playoffs; Ends Season with a Sterling 19-6 Record



Lady jays defeated Sage, 58-43, on their way to the Skyline Conference playoffs.

By Gilbert Aning

The women's basketball team, under coach Jimmy Barrett, has been improving every year since the inception of the program in 2002 and this year is no exception. Unlike their male counterparts, who have lost all of their 25 games, the Lady

Jays had a great season, finishing second in the conference behind Mount St. Mary. Their overall record was 19-6 (14-4 in conference play) with a 0.760 winning percentage. The team was 10-2 in home games and 9-4 in away games.

With a win in their last game against Purchase, the women secured a first-round

bye in the initial round of the playoffs. This will



Margaux Pickell

mark the second time the Lady Jays will make a playoff appearance.

One of the exciting moments of the season was when junior Megan Bosi's last-second shot secured a 48-47 win for the Lady Jays against Farmingdale in their next to last game, which secured the team's berth in the playoffs.

The team was led by star player Margaux Pickell, who is currently a junior. She dropped in 41 points in a game against Yeshiva University, the most points an NYU-Poly player has scored in a single contest since 2007. She averaged 18.9 points and 14.5 rebounds a game in regular-season play and also reached 1000 points this season for her college career. Also reaching 1000 points this season was senior Kristin Leitheuser, who has been a great help to the team. The president, and in fact the entire student body, must commend Pickell—and for that matter the entire team—for their outstanding play this year.