

# THE CROSSING

## Roxbury Community College

### Monthly Bulletin

Volume 1 | Issue 1

July 2011

#### ❖ *Talent Search Program Funding*

Roxbury Community College has been selected to receive \$230,000 in funding, in the first of a five-year grant cycle, from the United States Department of Education under the Talent Search Program. This exciting grant opportunity will allow RCC to provide creative and engaging educational services, programs, and experiences to 500 students through its Graduate, Perform, Succeed (GPS) Project. The selected schools, all of which serve low-income students from some of Boston's poorest communities, are the Lila G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, Boston Adult Technical Academy, New Mission High School, Brighton High School, and English High School. Proposed RCC services include on-site workshops, social and cultural programming, job and college fairs, and field trips.

#### ❖ *Commencement 2011*

The RCC Commencement of 2011 featured the largest graduating class in the College's history. Some 342 students were awarded Associate of Arts degrees, Associate of Science degrees, and Certificates. Suffolk County Sheriff, Andrea J. Cabral, the first female sheriff in the Commonwealth's history, gave an inspiring Commencement address. Dr. Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, gave greetings to the graduates and their guests. Class Valedictorian, Ms. Brooke Tyree Lynch, inspired the graduates with her speech. For his outstanding service to RCC and other institutions, Keith D. Crawford, Ph.D., M.D., was awarded a Community Service Award.

#### ❖ *Student Success*

RCC student, Maxwell Opara, was selected as one of the 2011 "29 Who Shine." The 29 were graduating seniors representing the very best from each of the 29 state universities and community colleges. Opara was selected for his outstanding academic performance, his GPA is 3.51, and for his volunteer and community service work. Maxwell is a member of RCC's Student Government Association. He also mentors high school students through the Boston chapter of Leaders of Tomorrow sponsored by the National Black MBA Association. The students, honored at a State House ceremony, were met by many dignitaries. The list includes Charles F. Desmond, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education; Therese Murray, President of the Massachusetts State Senate; and Governor Deval L. Patrick, who delivered closing remarks.

#### ❖ *Athletics*

This past season was another great year for Roxbury Community College athletics. The College was featured in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Magazine as the College of the Month for February. Four RCC student-athletes were named All-Americans for their accomplishments on the field. Finally, the women's basketball team finished second at the Nationals, and the RCC baseball team qualified for the Regional for the first time since 1996.

#### ❖ *Faculty Publishing*

Ken Tangvik, a professor of English literature at RCC has published a collection of his short stories in a book titled "*Don't Mess with Tanya: Stories Emerging from Boston's Barrios.*" According to one reviewer, Professor Tangvik's stories, gleaned from his "decades of street work" pack "a power punch." A Dorchester native, Professor Tangvik established the Hyde Park Task Force, which helped youth and displaced people in Jamaica Plain. "The lives that Tangvik has shown us", the reviewer says, "are an amalgam of incidents on the streets and behind closed doors. They are tethered to the wisdom of a man who has walked those streets and lived in those apartments." Professor Tangvik discussed his book as a guest on WGBH's The Callie Crossley Show on June 8th.

### ❖ ***Corporate & Community Education Certificates Presentation***

The Community Education Training Programs hosted a Presentation of Certificates Ceremony on Thursday, June 16, 2011. The ceremony was held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury, MA. Thirty-nine students were awarded certificates in the areas of Social & Human Services Assistant, Customer Services Representative, Phlebotomy, and Small Drinking Water Systems Operator. More than 100 people attended the ceremony.

### ❖ ***The Greening of RCC***

RCC's Gardens and Orchard program was awarded \$50,000 from the Department of Neighborhood Development for the further expansion of the College's gardens. Nasreen Latif, a professor of Economics at RCC, supervises the College's gardens and orchard. The gardens are in three different locations and feature four kinds of herbs, cucumbers, squash, Asian greens, watermelons, strawberries, and a host of flowering plants. There are also four peach and two apple trees. Professor Latif hopes to add two mango trees to RCC's greenhouse. The Boston Nature Areas Network presented RCC's gardens with the Rookie Garden of the Year Award for 2011.

### ❖ ***One Book, One Campus Selection***

The One Book, One Campus Committee has selected *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* as the book the entire campus will be invited to read. The book tells the story of Henrietta Lacks who died of cervical cancer in 1951. Without her knowledge or consent, Henrietta's doctor removed a sample of the cancerous tumor cells. These cells, which never died, came to be known as HeLa cells and were used in scientific research leading to a cure for polio and other scientific discoveries. The book raises a host of ethical, legal, and racial issues. The One Book, One Campus Committee will be sending out curriculum ideas on ways for faculty to use the book in class.

### ❖ ***Walter D. Clark***

The Roxbury Community College was saddened by the passing of Walter D. Clark, JD, Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Judicial Affairs on June 29, 2011. A memorial service will be held for Dean Clark at the College in September. Additional information about the service will be forthcoming.

### ❖ ***Alane K. Shanks***

Alane K. Shanks, Ed.D., former Vice President of Administration and Finance, became the 10th president of Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA, on July 15, 2011. During her five and a half year tenure as RCC's CFO, from 2006 to 2011, the College achieved financial stability, implemented budget management linked to the strategic plan, improved science labs, made the campus greener, and improved customer service delivery in the Business Office, Facilities, and Human Resources. On July 14, the Cabinet hosted a congratulatory party for Dr. Shanks, where she was thanked by the College community for her service. In her remarks, Dr. Shanks expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the College within President Gomes' administration.