

BARD EARLY COLLEGES

June Newsletter

A note from John: Happy summer break to all! This month's newsletter includes some year-end celebrations and notes for students and faculty across the network.

Cleveland Commencement: The Founding 9th Graders Graduate

BHSEC Cleveland West held their commencement on June 5th for their first graduating class of students who attended the school all 4 years. The commencement speaker was **Charles S. Johnson, III**, a trustee and alumnus of Bard College, and a partner at the law firm of Holland and Knight. Click [here](#) to read more from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Congratulations Cleveland!



Correction from May Newsletter

BHSEC Manhattan [Queens originally stated] students **Rosemary Wang** and **Hadja Diallo**, under the mentorship of faculty member **Ayse Aydemir**, presented their research in the Urban Barcode Research Program at the American Museum of Natural History on May 23

Cross-Campus Exchange: "Battle of the BHSECs" Basketball Tournament is a Slam Dunk



Duane Robinson brought girls and boys basketball teams all the way from **BHSEC Cleveland** to compete against **BHSEC Manhattan** at Basketball City in NYC. Thank you to all of the participants and organizers at both campuses!

**Cross-Campus Exchange:
Daisy Bates Civic Engagement Summit at BHSEC Baltimore**



To celebrate the first full year of the **BHSEC Network Civic Engagement Initiatives**, students from **BHSEC Queens** and **Harlem Children's Zone** traveled to **BHSEC Baltimore** to participate in the first ever **Daisy Bates Civic Engagement Summit**. All students involved had the opportunity to share their social action projects alongside community members and participate in a

workshop lead by local changemakers Dr. Lawrence Brown and Dr. Tahira Mahdi. Dr. Lawrence Brown is an associate professor at Morgan State University whose work focuses on the impact of historical trauma on community health, including racial segregation, forced residential displacement, and economic disinvestment. Dr. Tahira Mahdi is a community psychologist who regularly gives workshops on service-learning and community engagement. The student and community members in attendance shared projects on a wide variety of topics including immigration reform, water access and privatization, student rights and advocacy, mental health initiatives for queer black girls, lead testing and abatement, and working family advocacy and rights. Thank you **Madalena Henning** of **BHSEC Baltimore**, **Katharina Kempf** of **BHSEC Queens**, and **Brian Mateo** of the **BEC Network** for your coordination and contributions!

Cleveland Student Achievements

Ten **BHSEC Cleveland West** students participated in the Cleveland Marathon's Half Marathon and 10K races. After training for several months, they woke up early and represented both the school and the We Run This City program extremely well.

- 1.) **Aaliyah Durr**: 10K completed in an hour and forty-five minutes.
- 2.) **Mario Escobar**: Half-Marathon completed in just under two hours!
- 3.) **Esperanza Garcia**: 10K completed in an hour and forty minutes.
- 4.) **Rob Gross**: 10K completed in just over an hour.
- 5.) **Angelina Homick**: 10K completed in just over an hour and twenty minutes.
- 6.) **Andres Luna**: 10K completed in just over an hour.
- 7.) **Kristina Pikakos**: 10K completed in just over an hour and twenty minutes.
- 8.) **Crystal Ruiz**: 10K completed in just under an hour and twenty minutes.
- 9.) **Liliana Trejo**: 10K completed in an hour and forty minutes.
- 10.) **Kristalyn Yankovic**: 10K completed in an hour and forty minutes.

A super, special thank you to **Mr. Baisch** for helping out at this race, as well as all the earlier practice races, by running with the students.

Three **BHSEC Cleveland West** Senior Baseball players, **Dwayne "DJ" Stowers**, **Dillon Somodji**, and **Jose Correa**, represented Bard Cleveland in the *Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game* on Saturday, May 26. Dillon was also selected as a member of the *GCBCA All-Academic Baseball Team* (3.5 GPA or better).

New York/New Jersey Student Achievements

Bard Early College Hudson held its commencement ceremony on June 14 at the Hudson Area Library, with 11 students receiving at least 13 credits over the course of their year of study. See more [here](#)— congratulations Hudson!

BHSEC Manhattan Year 2 **Grace Wan** has won a First Place \$10,000 Penguin Books Scholarship for her graphic novel, "Smile"! A link to the full list of winners can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to **BHSEC Queens** student **Grayce Walker** for receiving a Certificate of Accomplishment from the Princeton Prize in Race Relations Association.

Also from **BHSEC Queens**, **Sami Islam**'s artwork was selected for the 2018 Queens

Borough Arts Festival, exhibited at the Queens Museum.

Five students from **BHSEC Newark** were selected to participate in the PHocus summer program at Rutgers University. This program will enable high school students to explore and learn fundamentals of public health and the science of epidemiology. The students are **Fumni Fadipe, Anjali Panchu, Dorothy Barnieh, Senei Underdue,** and **Veronica Campoverde**.

Work by **BHSEC Manhattan** students **Ellis Shapiro-Barnum** and **Lola Lafia** was featured in an exhibition at the International Center of Photography. **Saide Singh's** images were included in an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as part of winning the Gold Key in this year's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

BEC at the Harlem Children's Zone is delighted to announce that two of our graduates, **Christina Whittingham** and **Fatoumata Diallo**, have been accepted into Ivy League schools. Christina was valedictorian, and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. Fatoumata earned the highest number of college credits among all our students, and has just been accepted into Brown University.

Pride Month got off to a fabulous start at **BHSEC Manhattan** with the inaugural CaberGay. Students performing music or poetry included **Declan, Sofie, Nate, Michelle, Jesse, Olivia, Maree, Kisura, Cole, Theo, Leah, Loren,** and **Eli**. Faculty and staff also participated, both on stage and behind the scenes: **Zack Holbrook, Matt Zimbelmann, Christian Skelley,** and GSA advisor **David Clark**. Mark your calendars for CaberGay 2 next year!

Big Wins for BHSEC Teams

Congratulations to the following **BHSEC Queens** students on their hard work at the 17th Annual Queens College Math Competition on May 25th!

- **Doris Chen** (Captain)
- **Phillip Schlesinger**
- **Henry Sailer**
- **Stella Mahler**
- **Harmit Singh**
- **Nafis Yasar**

After five grueling pairs of individual questions, they moved on to the even more challenging team round, with five questions to be solved between them in only 25 minutes. Even with a buzzer-beater correction by Nafis Yasar, our team only scored two out of five. Despite their efforts at optimism, this was a little demoralizing, but the clouds parted as 2nd place was announced--with a score of one! **Thus for the first time BHSEC Queens beat out all schools on the hardest team round in the history of the competition.** A further victory: Henry Sailer, urged by his teammates to enter Division I of the individual round (usually for juniors and seniors), took home first place, with a score of 8 out of 10!

After winning the B conference championship in the Baltimore City Chess League last month, the **BHSEC Baltimore chess team went on to win the citywide championship tournament**, becoming city champs in their first year!

Faculty and Staff Updates

Joanne P. Baron (Newark) published her article, "Making money in Mesoamerica: Currency production and procurement in the Classic Maya financial system" in *Economic Anthropology's* 2018 "Financialization" issue.

Jennifer Merdjan (Queens) exhibited her artwork in a group show at the [The Plaxall Gallery](#). The show ran from May 16 through June 10th.

Keisha Scarville (Manhattan) participated in the following events and exhibitions:

Carry Over: New Voices from the Global African Diaspora
Africa's Out Celebration 2018 - June 1st Smack Mellon
June 2nd - June 30th
Curated by: Kalia Brooks Nelson

BRICworkspace Open Studios
505 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217
June 1st

Placelessness of Echoes (and kinship of shadows)
Baxter Street CCNY
June 7th - July 7th

Elisabeth Gambino (Baltimore) has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant from the Department of State for research on ecological and cultural conservation practices in Ecuador this July-August. Elizabeth will be conducting research with in-country experts in ecology, biodiversity, Andean and Amazonian culture, and may be able to visit the Galapagos as well as schools, small towns and nature reserves in the region. Elizabeth's research will focus on developing curricular materials building on her digital storytelling platform for teachers in the United States, Ecuador, and beyond, and she will also be designing and facilitating professional development for educators through the Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms at Coppin State University in August. Some materials and travel blogs will be available at www.landandstory.wordpress.com

Alan Mintz (Cleveland) will be part of a group show at the Mansfield Art Center: *City Artists at Work, City Artists at Rest: A Final Retrospective 1997 – 2018*. It brings together over eighty works, in a variety of mediums, by forty of the artists who were involved in the City Artists at Work (CAAW) group over its twenty-year span. The show will also mark the official disbandment of CAAW, a grassroots organization of artists whose primary mission was to educate the public by demystifying art in the intimacy of the artist's studio.

David Guba (Baltimore) and **Clara Haskell Botstein** (Network) presented at a webinar event on June 19th to a group of approximately 200 audience members affiliated with the Grad Nation campaign. The webinar was entitled "Achieving a 90 percent Graduation Rate: What's Working to Connect the High School Experience with Pathways to Postsecondary Education." Guba and Botstein were invited by the team at America's Promise Alliance.

Ringling the Burmese Gong



BHSEC Queens Principal Valeri Thomson and **BHSEC Manhattan student speaker Maya Rubin** ring the Burmese gong at the A.A. Commencement for BHSECs Manhattan, Newark, and Queens, held on June 19th.



A PLACE TO

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