

The Buzz

SUNY Broome News

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SUNY Broome Students Interact with Cornell Professor via Teleconference

March 31, 2014

Categories: Buzz



It was a first for SUNY Broome Community College students — an ethics class had the opportunity to participate in a teleconference with an Ivy League professor to discuss the ethical questions surrounding transnational companies and corporate social responsibility.

Dr. Irene Byrnes, a philosophy professor at SUNY Broome, used a grant she received for her Cultural Ethical Relativism course to arrange for Cornell anthropologist Dr. Marina A. Welker to meet with her students via teleconference.

To prepare, students read the 26-page paper Dr. Welker wrote during the two years she spent in Indonesia studying how a rural village coped with the arrival of Newmont, a transnational mining company. Students also researched Indonesia to learn about how that culture's values would influence their behavior and actions toward Newmont.

"This was a perfect opportunity for my students to discuss complex issues with an accomplished anthropologist such as: How did the company treat locals? What were the cultural and ethical implications? What is a corporation's responsibility to the environment? Is your only responsibility to shareholders?" said Byrnes.

"Students got the complexity of the situation. I didn't moderate or control dialogue. Students were front and center to interview someone who is an expert in her field and whose research greatly applies to my ethics course," she said.

SUNY Broome student Chris Krawczyk said the experience pushed him to want to pursue further studies and a career in the social sciences.

"After reading Dr. Welker's paper, I appreciated hearing her in person too. She put a lot of time into her research and it was inspiring."

It was also a confidence builder for Krawczyk. "I know this will definitely help me down the road in my future job searches because it taught me how to carry myself and hold my own in a conversation with a distinguished person who I had never met before," he said.

To commend her students on their efforts, Byrnes created certificates upon completion of the teleconference.

"This is something they can add to their resumes or four year applications. A lot of my students may not be overseas any time soon but they have steeped themselves in studying Indonesia and this was a valuable cross cultural experience. I don't think they're going to forget this. This was an aspirational and inspirational experience, and I appreciate Cornell's vote of confidence that our students could handle it."

Art of Science Students Experience Magical Realism

March 26, 2014

Categories: Featured News



Ithaca based natural science illustrator and artist, Frances Fawcett visited students in the new interdisciplinary “Art of Science” studio lab last week. Fawcett specializes in the “magical realism” of carbon dust technique for natural science illustration.

After Fawcett presented a slide lecture and carbon dust demonstration, the students tried the technique themselves. Students learned about the materials and techniques unique to this medium, including making their own carbon dust with a carbon pencil and fine grit #600 sandpaper. The technique is particularly suited for creating drawings of insects. The dust is painted on mylar film with a sable brush and erasures are used to add highlights.

Carbon dust is a popular technique in scientific illustration that was originally developed by Max Broedel, a medical illustrator at Johns Hopkins University in 1911. Broedel presided over the creation of the first academic department of medical illustration; located at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, it continues to train medical illustrators to this day. Carbon dust is a medium that can be applied to any subject matter including natural landscapes and portraits.

Frances Fawcett has worked for the Cornell Department of Entomology and her illustrations of insects have appeared in numerous entomological journals and other

publications. Fawcett is presently engaged in illustrating the insect fauna of milkweed. She is an artist member of the State of the Art Gallery in Ithaca, and has exhibited both regionally and nationally, most recently in the Focus on Nature IX Show at the NYS Museum in Albany.

Fawcett's visit was arranged by "Art of Science" instructors Peg Nocciolino from the Art Department, and Jen Musa from the Biology Department. The lecture was supported by the Department of Biology.

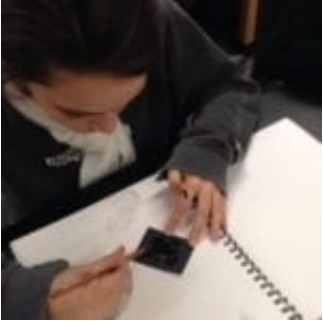
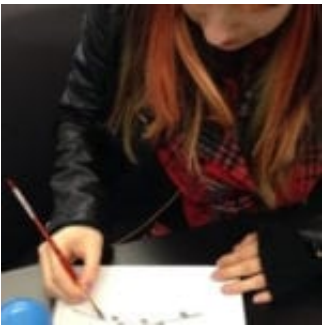


Illustrator Frances Fawcett



Cerylonid beetle © Frances Fawcett, Carbon Dust





Congratulations Public Relations Practicum!

March 26, 2014

Categories: Buzz



The SUNY Broome Communications Department wishes to congratulate the Public Relations Practicum class, recipients of the 2013-2014 Mom's House "Golden Grandparent" award for service to the community.

Seats are still available for this Summer's PR Practicum class (COM 284). Sign up today!



Three SUNY Broome Community College Adjunct Faculty Receive State Honors

March 24, 2014

Categories: Featured News



Christine Duffy-Webb, Karyn Lyn Moyer Zapach, and Timothy Skinner are SUNY Broome Community College's first recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. The annual award is being inaugurated in 2014 to recognize the demonstrated expertise, dedication, and commitment of adjunct faculty members teaching at the graduate, undergraduate, and professional levels in the SUNY system.

"SUNY Broome is fortunate to have so many faculty and staff who go the extra mile to serve our students and our entire academic community," said Kevin E. Drumm, president of SUNY Broome. "It is an honor for these faculty members to be recognized among the dozens and dozens of exceptional adjunct faculty who grace our classrooms and online networks every semester."

Christine Duffy-Webb

After failing out twice at SUNY Broome, Duffy-Webb graduated in 1995 with an associate's degree concentrating in art and went on to earn a bachelor's in science and a master's in curriculum development at SUNY Cortland. Currently an instructor in SUNY Broome's Department of Teacher Education/Early Childhood Education, Duffy-Webb has taught in elementary schools, provided instruction in ESL, and led adult education courses at Broome-Tioga BOCES. A co-advisor to the Broome Educators of

Children Association and a programs co-chairwoman for the Binghamton Association for the Education of Young Children, Duffy-Webb is also a member of the Early Childhood Coalition, where she plays an active role supporting that organization's Early Childhood Community program.

Her early difficulties as a student, said Duffy-Webb, have strengthened her as a teacher.

"My GPA was .6 before I got my act together," she said. "Maybe that's why I invest so much now: I had a teacher who really invested in me. The last time she failed me—or rather, the last time I failed myself—she wrote me a letter telling me that when I was ready, I would be amazing. I have that letter to this day."

Teacher and early childhood education programs are her passion, Duffy-Webb said. Having discovered that in herself, she wants to nurture that same process of self-discovery in her classrooms.

"My SUNY Broome department leaders and colleagues have given me the professional autonomy to customize my learning environment to meet the needs of the students through the course standards and outcomes," she said. "My hope is that through field work experiences and honest discussions on engaging topics, I'm exposing my students to diverse classroom and educational settings. No two semesters are alike, and I love that, because my teaching philosophy is student centered."

Karyn Lyn Moyer Zapach

An instructor in the Department of English, Zapach holds bachelor's degrees in English and economics from Hartwick College and a master's in English from Binghamton University. She began teaching at SUNY Broome in 2003. Her motivation to be an excellent teacher, she said, comes from her students.

"I've always loved asking 'What if?' so I challenge my students to not only push for the answer to 'Why?' but also to find the more interesting 'what-if' connections among multiple topics," Zapach said.

One of her classroom projects is based on the Game of Life board game.

“I have the students examine and play five different versions: the original one from 1960, a 1982 version, a 2002 version, a partially-computerized 2007 version, and one from 2010. After a week of working with the games themselves, we have numerous discussions about how the different versions reflect the culture of the time period they came from.”

Students are able to make connections between game playing, advertisements, society’s expectations for individuals, and their own observations of life.

“Their work reveals amazing insights into our culture, including the role that game-playing has in learning and how marketing strategies have changed over time. Most importantly, though, they are given the opportunity to examine and express their own life through a creative and unique perspective. The personal awareness that students gain from this experience proves valuable no matter what path their lives take.”

Maintaining a strong interest in interdisciplinary studies, Zapach looks for ways to connect her studies in Incan culture, Buddhism, science, music, wilderness survival skills, and pop culture into her English courses.

“I’m grateful to my students for their insights. They help me grow as a teacher. I’m also grateful to this institution for supporting the academic freedom of its professors.”

Timothy Skinner

A SUNY Broome alumnus with an associate’s degree in communications and media arts, Timothy Skinner is now an instructor in that same department. His credentials also include a bachelor’s in communications from SUNY Cortland and a master’s in education from the University of Phoenix.

“Having the freedom to use my creativity in the classroom helps me to be a better teacher,” Skinner said. “So does the way SUNY Broome challenges its faculty to find new ways to reach and inspire our students.”

One way to challenge his students, Skinner said, is to present them with real-life scenarios.

“In our Public Relations Practicum, for example, students are faced with planning and implementing an entire PR campaign and event for a local not-for-profit. The students write press releases, create videos and public service announcements for radio, and design a website.”

The payoff is not only valuable experience. All proceeds from the event benefit the local non-profit.

“The class helps students to go beyond the textbooks and theories presented in the introductory levels and pushes our students to think creatively and critically,” Skinner said. “The class also provides a way for the students to give back to the local community. My department chairman consistently challenges our team to go the extra mile, and making better teachers and better students is one of the rewards.”

Get to Know Stinger the Hornet!

March 10, 2014

Categories: Featured News



Stinger the Hornet

[Click here to vote for Stinger in SUNY Mascot Madness!](#)

Profile Questions

1. *Where are you from?*

I was born in Binghamton, NY, at SUNY Broome Community College. This is the perfect nesting ground for one of the great community college athletic programs...The Hornets! They picked me as their representative because i'm a hard working, diligent, insect that dominates my prey with lightning fast movements and the deadly accuracy of my sting!

2. *How many teams do you represent?*

15 varsity Sports and cheerleading.

Men – Soccer, Cross Country, Ice Hockey, Basketball, Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, and Golf

Women – Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Lacrosse, and Tennis.

<http://www.bcchornets.com>

3. How were you chosen to be school mascot?

When instituted, the original nickname for the SUNY Broome Athletics program was "Technicats". Just two years later in 1949, the student body would forever leave its mark on the college by voting to replace the team nickname with "Hornets". That's where I come in!

4. Do you have any friends that are mascots?

The Binghamton University Bearcat is a buddy of mine. He lives across the Susquehanna river from me. And, I have tons of friends from the local high schools – Patrick the Patriot from Binghamton High School, The Vestal Golden Bear, the Owego Indian and his cousin the Candor Indian, the Johnson City Wildcat, the Union-Endicott Tiger, the Chenango Forks Blue Devil, the Chenango Valley Warrior...and many more. We all like to get together once in a while and sing acappella tunes at the Oakdale Mall.

5. What is your favorite campus event?

Our annual Athletics and Student Activities Picnic.

I can also be found "buzzing around" the community, giving out temporary tattoos at our community Spiedi Fest and at The Dick's Gold Open.

6. What do you consider the ideal fan?

Its all about loyalty. Teams have ups and downs. We have good seasons and bad seasons. But, the ideal fan sticks with you through it all. They are up there in the stands cheering you on no matter what!

7. What's it like to be a mascot?

I'm constantly learning news things. When our college's Ice Center was built I had to learn to ice skate! Of course, this is easier for a Hornet than a human. When I mess up, and it looks like i'm gonna wreck... I just hover for a few seconds instead.

8. *What do you like to do for fun?*

During the most stressful days of the year I like to stand in our Student Center Quad with a giant foam sword and a big sign that says... "Wanna fight somebody? Fight me!"

9. *What is your favorite Broadway play?*

Pippin!

*"Oh give me my chance, and give me my wings
And don't make me think about everyday things
They're unnecessary
To someone who is very
Extraordinary like me!"*

10. *What is your favorite New York State destination?*

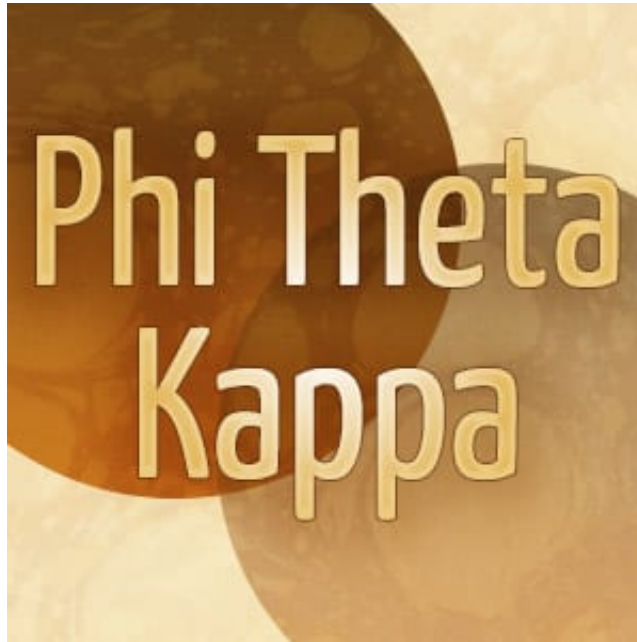
Binghamton New York!

Follow the Hornet @broomehornet

Phi Theta Kappa Presents Workshop at NYS Regional Conference

March 10, 2014

Categories: Buzz



Professor I.J. Byrnes, Vice-President of Media Relations, Nathan Dean and Chapter President Ali Krowiak, collaborated on a workshop presentation at the Phi Theta Kappa NYS Regional Conference in Corning, NY on March 1, 2014.

Vice-President Nathan Dean created a powerpoint slide show explaining the new international honors study topic: *Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration*, including an examination of all 9 sub-topics.

Professor I.J. Byrnes passed out a manual of games, questions and exercises related to the honors study topic and encouraged regional faculty and students to participate in them and use them on their home campuses. These exercises included samples of recent job interview questions in various companies, lateral thinking puzzles, a how-to-guide to Russian patronymics and cross cultural quizzes on Canadian and Asian cultures.

Chapter President Ali Krowiak took charge of an activity related to the reading list for the honors study topic. This segment involved several books on science, economics and

the arts that were recommended by Phi Theta Kappa International for their relevance to *Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration*.

In their evaluations of this regional workshop, participants noted that what was most helpful about the workshop was, "...really broke the topic down to make it easy to bring back to my campus"; "motivating students to keep pursuing their goals"; "the hand-out provided deeper insight into the presentation"; "Realizing that no matter the job, the interview questions may be out of the ordinary"; "fun exercises to apply our new information to"; "the blend of questions from organizations"; "I enjoyed the interactive games and discussion, as well as the well-organized sheets"; "the examples and ideas given for each theme"; "learning how to think critically about things and what to do with an idea you might have".

The Mu Eta chapter at SUNY Broome is pleased to note that students from Kingsborough Community College, Suffolk County Community College, Westchester Community College and Mohawk Valley Community College, were awarded copies of books featured in the *Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration* honors study topic guide suggested reading section.