PHOTOJOURNAL
The Fall Semester in Photos

Photos by Simone Webb

Angel & Andy before their presentation.

Michelle & Elizabeth during lunch.

John, Math A Regents Instructor, teaches fractional exponents.

Students take notes in Math A Regents Prep Course.

Students, in the Science Bowl course, discuss current events in science with instructor Clarinda.

John instructing students during Physical Training.

Kyle, First Aid instructor, demonstrates the proper way to remove used gloves after a medical emergency.

Gissette, Business instructor, informs students of the rules for the business plan competition.

ICE table: Luis, Ashly, Chris & Jesenia at lunch.

Aaron discusses his business plan in front of a panel of judges.

Tanisha & Loveleen

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Beating the Odds
Fall Recap & Spring Agenda
Student Profiles
Teacher Profiles

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Studies continue to show that students who come from poor neighborhoods have the same college hopes as wealthier students. Along the way, low-income students drop enrollment, especially in high school. Their dreams change. Only 6 percent of low-income students earn a bachelor’s degree, compared to 40 percent of high-income students.

“Young people who are born and raised in a system of higher income go to better schools, have better experiences and opportunities outside the classroom, and have the support and encouragement to go to college and achieve their dreams. The gap refers to the vast differences between those experiences: kids attending colleges all the time, to the people who are less well socially positioned.

College continues to pay you back the rest of your life. College graduates will have more jobs to choose from and will be able to leave their neighborhood to better circumstances. Over a lifetime, a college graduate can expect to earn $1 million more than a high school graduate.

Having worked hard in high school won’t just get you in to college: it will help you be more receptive to learning, adapt to new situations, and take healthy risks your entire college career. It’s about challenging yourself: what will you have after obtaining your degree are the skills and the savvy that will help you get more out of life. Starting in the ninth grade, you begin to make decisions that will affect your future. Take control and guide your path. As you plan your courses, sign up for extracurricular, get information and support, you are developing the strengths that will show up on your college applications later. These strengths are deeper than a good GPA. They show leadership, resilience, and courage.

You decide where to apply, and you will be the one deciding where you will go. What excites you in high school, and what continues to excite you, as you become an adult, can suggest the type of career you want to pursue or studies you want to follow.

Most urban high schools don’t have enough college counselors to help all students, leaving many urban students not knowing where to turn for guidance. Figuring out if you want to attend a large or a small school, to stay where you live or to study elsewhere, are important decisions that you can think about long before you’ve started the application process, research the information yourself. Look up the biographies of people working in the field you are interested in. Then research the schools they attended.

If you need someone to help you complete the applications ask your guidance counselor, your mentor or a teacher for help. If no one can answer your questions, you can call the college itself. They are used to answering all sorts of questions.

Take advantage of what opportunities you do have. Attend free seminars or courses, look for test prep classes, and use every resource you can get your hands on. These things will not only familiarize you with parts of the application process, but will also be a valuable opportunity for you to meet and talk with people about college.

Even if you feel alone when you look at the challenge of getting into college, remember that others have gone before you. Look for support and inspiration. Others have beaten the odds. Remember that even if a Black male brain surgeon, or a Latina nuclear scientist, isn’t widely in the public view, they are there. You are participating in their struggle, and they are participants in yours.

To read more, you can find the complete unabridged article on http://groups.yahoo.com/group/baruch_step_academy/
WHAT STUDENTS DID:
FALL ’07 Recap

IN THE MORNING

I. Math A Regents Prep
   ✷ Received tutoring in preparation for the Math A Regents.
II. Math B Regents Prep
   ✷ Received tutoring in preparation for the Math B Regents.
III. Science Review
   ✷ Studied topics from all major sciences (primarily biology and chemistry).

IN THE AFTERNOON

I. CPR - Adult, Child and Infant/Anatomy
   ✷ Learned to recognize breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults, infants and children and to perform CPR with supervised hands on practice.
II. Physical Training
   ✷ Developed individual fitness routines.
III. Business
   ✷ Made business proposals for fictitious organizations.
   ✷ Discussed business ethics and current events.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL DO:
SPRING ’08 SCHEDULE

IN THE MORNING

Freshmen    STEP Up to College Now
   ✷ College awareness course
Sophomores
   ✷ Chemistry Regents Prep
   ✷ Current Events in Science
Juniors    Let’s Get Ready (LGR)
   ✷ Math SAT preparation

IN THE AFTERNOON

Freshmen    Career Development Activities
   ✷ Field trips, speakers & presentations
Sophomores
   ✷ Math tutoring
   ✷ Physical Education
Juniors    Let’s Get Ready (LGR)
   ✷ Verbal SAT preparation

SMILES BETWEEN BITES:

STEP Director, Brian Kane with Business instructor Gisette Forte.

Students fill out evaluation forms in First Aid course.

Photos by Simone Webb
Q: What are your thoughts on STEP?
A: The STEP academy is awesome. What a great set of kids! I can not believe how bright and focused they all are. I was blown away by the caliber of the students.

Q: Why do you teach?
A: For me it is a way to give back to kids. I have had a tough time in school and want to make it easier for others. I have also always wanted to work with kids in some aspect. (Because I watched "To Sir with Love" in the 60's)

Q: What should students walk away with knowing from your class?
A: They saw the connection between prior knowledge and current content. One of the main things was also the fact that they were able to solve problems in many ways, just like real life.

Q: What advice do you have for Steppers?
A: Keep up the excellent work. Stay true to yourself and what you want to accomplish in life. Start early and work hard, good things will happen.

Q: Any words of wisdom?
A: As I said to the kids almost every week; keep all your interests alive. Rise to challenges, don't be discouraged by difficulty.

Q & A with Teachers
Wayne Tobias & Clarinda Mac Low

Wayne Tobias, Math B Regents Teacher

Q: What's your educational background & work history?
A: I have a BBA from Baruch, a BS from NYU in Communication Technology (internet technologies), and a MSEd from Pace. I have three years teaching high school math and three years teaching ESL.

Clarinda Mac Low, Science Bowl Teacher

Q: What's your educational background & work history?
A: I have a BBA from Baruch, a BS from NYU in Communication Technology (internet technologies), and a MSEd from Pace. I have three years teaching high school math and three years teaching ESL.

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A: I have a BBA from Baruch, a BS from NYU in Communication Technology (internet technologies), and a MSEd from Pace. I have three years teaching high school math and three years teaching ESL.

I enjoy being a science writer because I am constantly challenged to learn new subjects and keep on top of cutting-edge research. I get to analyze and synthesize fascinating data and I like knowing that I'm getting important information out into the world.

Q: What was your most enjoyable experience in your science bowl course?
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Q: How do you manage to keep your cheerful, upbeat attitude, even on Saturday mornings?
A: Being a free-lancer, every day is a work day for me, or every day can be a leisure day, so Saturday isn't so much different from Wednesday! I try to keep an upbeat attitude and outlook in general when I'm in professional situations because I find that it makes the experience more fun and successful for everybody. Also, I really enjoyed being with the kids, so it was easy to be cheerful.

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Q: Why did you become a science writer?
A: I became a science writer so that I could have a more flexible schedule. Also, at the time, I was working in HIV research and it became clear to me at the time that one of most important ways of stemming the epidemic was through clear and widespread communication.

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**Student Profiles**

**Name:** Catherine Perez  
**Age:** 16  
**Grade:** 11th  
**High School:** Notre Dame School  
**Interests:** Basketball, soccer, softball and music  
**Activities:** Sports & tutoring  
**Goals:** Get into a good college and become a high school teacher  
**Favorite Movie:** Superbad  
**Favorite Book:** *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison  
**Favorite Quote:** “Live life to the fullest.”

**Name:** Melissa Chatoorang  
**Age:** 16  
**Grade:** 11th  
**High School:** Preston High School  
**Interests:** Business, physics, chemistry, basketball and tutoring  
**Activities:** Saturday school, working at Calvary Hospital  
**Goals:** Go to college and find a great job  
**Favorite Movie:** The DaVinci Code  
**Favorite Book:** *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
**Favorite Quote:** “Live, Laugh, Love.”

**Name:** Elizabeth Vargas  
**Age:** 16  
**Grade:** 11  
**High School:** The Mary Louis Academy  
**Interests:** Biology, English, dancing and drawing  
**Activities:** Salsa, ballroom dancing, school orchestra  
**Goals:** To attend SUNY Stony Brook University. She plans to become an obstetrician.gynecologist with a specialization in high-risk pregnancies.  
**Favorite Movie:** Anchorman  
**Favorite Book:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.  
**Favorite Quote:** “I love my life!”

**Name:** Lorenzo Santos  
**Age:** 15  
**Grade:** 10th  
**High School:** Cristo Rey High School  
**Interests:** Business, technology, Christianity  
**Activities:** Hang out with friends, working on a forum/website, a lot of after school activities  
**Goal:** My goal is to become the next Bill Gates.  
**Favorite Book:** *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.  
**Favorite Quote:** “Todo lo puedo en cristo que me fortaleza.” -Philippians 4:13.
**Student Profiles continued...**

**NAME:** Chelsea-Leigh Flucus  
**AGE:** 16  
**GRADE:** 11th  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** Preston High School  
**INTEREST:** Forensic Science & psychology  
**ACTIVITIES:** Algebra tutor, dancing and writing  
**GOALS:** To be the first in my family to go to college and complete it in four years without stopping  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Steel Magnolias, Finding Nemo and The Incredibles  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** *Oliver Twist & A Tale of Two Cities*  
Both by Charles Dickens  
**FAVORITE QUOTE:** “Intelligence plus character- that’s the goal of true education.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

**NAME:** Aaron Blum  
**AGE:** 15  
**GRADE:** 10th  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** Murry Bergtraum High School  
**INTERESTS:** Music & business  
**ACTIVITIES:** Singing, hanging out with friends, playing the guitar and education  
**GOALS:** To get a master’s degree in business management & becoming an entrepreneur  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** London  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

**NAME:** Tanisha Mehzabeen  
**AGE:** 16  
**GRADE:** 10th  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** St. Jean Baptiste  
**INTERESTS:** Biology & medicine  
**ACTIVITIES:** Violin, art, science club, ambassador, dancing & singing  
**GOALS:** To study medicine or architecture at a good college  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Vivah  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** *The Color of Water* by James McBride  
**FAVORITE QUOTE:** “Hard work pays off!”

**NAME:** Loveleen Saini  
**AGE:** 15  
**GRADE:** 10th  
**HIGH SCHOOL:** St. Agnes Academic High School  
**INTERESTS:** Biology, Medicine & Business  
**ACTIVITIES:** Music, dancing, singing, watching TV & browsing the internet.  
**GOALS:** Graduate from a good college with high honors & have her own successful international business  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Kuch Kuch Hota Hai & Jab Pyar Kisise Hota Hai  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyers  
**FAVORITE QUOTE:** “Live, Laugh, Love”