More Student Choices: Three New Clubs

Clubs, clubs, clubs. Three new student clubs have been formed to enhance students’ social and educational experiences at Professional Business College: ESL, Poetry, and International Clubs. All have posted flyers informing students of their meetings.

Back by popular demand, PBC’s ESL Club offers a casual forum for English language learners (ELLs) to practice English through fun, interactive games, field trips, role playing, themed parties, and more. According to Ms. Julie Sheikh, Faculty Coordinator, “The activities will revolve around a central theme such as ‘A Night Out in NYC’; ‘Finding an Apartment’; and ‘Eating around the World in NYC’.”

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On my Mind… Mr. Leon Lee, PBC President

Our Mission is to provide students with an opportunity to obtain a quality education in office and business skills. At the same time we want to increase each student’s awareness of their self-worth.

PBC is really unique when it comes to realizing our Mission. Our student body represents one of the most diverse college student populations in New York City. Our students hail from different provinces in China, from Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, the Caribbean, Central and South America, not to mention different parts of the Tri-State area (NY/NJ/CT).

Interestingly, this diversity reflects what 21st Century global business enterprises are requiring: a diverse and highly talented workforce. Time and again we have seen our graduates launch careers in a variety of industries while others have continued their studies at four-year, degree-granting institutions. When I ask graduates what advice they can give to current PBC students, they reply, “Show up, study hard, and keep your dreams in mind always.”
Students Identify Sustainability Opportunities

Students in Mr. Salvatore’s recent Environmental Sciences class recently brainstormed ways to contribute to the environment’s sustainability—a fancy word that simply means ensuring earth’s resources are not depleted prematurely.

The lesson began with a simple statement, “Sustainability is key to a better planet for our children and their children.” The ideas that four small groups of six people each generated include the following:

Community Service (not just on Earth Day)/
Car pools/Less use of electricity/
solar lights (Rite-Aid sells them)/
Donate clothing/Use less aerosol sprays/
Smoke less/Eat less meat/
Expand recycling to things we don’t recycle/
Establish Community gardens/
Read more books online/Ride bicycles/
Boil Water to use less heating fuel/
Wash hands more/Use fewer cups/
Take shorter showers/Turn off TV (a night without it)

COOL STUFF

Did you know you can calculate your own “Ecological Footprint?” A footprint is the amount of land and water, and energy required to provide the raw materials a person or population consumes and to dispose of or recycle the waste that is produced. To find out yours, go to:

http://myfootprint.org/en/

You will be asked a series of questions about things like how often you drive, whether or not your home uses electric or oil heat...It takes about seven minutes to complete and at the end it tells you how many earth planets would be required to satisfy your footprint.

By the way, Mr. Salvatore racked up six planets based on his ecological footprint. “I need to change many things to contribute to a more sustainable world,” he says. Indeed.
Field Trips Popular

PBC students and instructors are taking advantage of New York’s rich cultural and historical sites to expand their knowledge and experiences. Some of the sites visited include:

Apple Store, SoHo
Gowanus Canal (Brooklyn)
The High Line (Chelsea)
Central Park Zoo
East River Park
The Brooklyn Bridge
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
The American Museum of Natural History
WTC Fountains
The African – American Burial Ground (lower Manhattan)

Museum of Modern Art
SoHo Iron District

Hard at Work—PBC’s Career Office recently re-located to the third floor. Patrick Tam (foreground) and Judy Rodriguez scour the business community for PBC student jobs.

Clubs Debut (Cont’d from page 1)

The objective of the club, she adds, is “to give ELLs a chance to practice English as well as make new friends and learn more about the great city we live in as well as our American culture.” The ESL Club meets Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-5 pm in Room 208. The International Club had its first meeting October 10 to which about 12 students attended. Club Coordinators Fei Chen and Vilva Warthan said the purpose of the club is to “have PBC students become further aware of the riches of other cultures, to have fun, and make students more comfortable in a multicultural college in a very diverse city.” Participating students introduced themselves, including Anjuno, who was raised in New York yet her grandmother came from Raleigh, North Carolina. Several students are from China and expressed their delight and dissatisfaction in living here. Then there’s the Poetry Club….Ms. Grace Hinds, Director of the Student Advising Center, welcomed the students to the first meeting of The PBC Poetry Club. “We want to create a forum where students can read their poetry,” she said. Referencing this and other Clubs, Ms. Hinds stated that PBC is interested “in preparing you to be world citizens.” Guest speaker Robert Moulthrop was introduced by Arts & Sciences Acting Chairperson, Eugene Ritchie. “Robert is a playwright, poet, and prose writer,” he said. Mr. Moulthrop said he has “been in love with words since I was 12 years old.” He opened his reading with a striking poem about autumn. Other readers included Tyesha Johnson, Manda Zhong (See pg. 4) and Jian Cong Chan.
Daylight

Left uninspired by the bleeding daylight,
As I lay beneath the fabric, out of sight.
Autumn chills creep through my skin,
Testing my conviction- my discipline.

Burdened by my perpetual commitments,
The moment I face this day—is imminent.
Stirring, groaning, whining, discontent—
Must daylight greet me with such torment?

Wishing to remain here with my lucid dream,
Conceived by the complexity of my conscious stream.

Life’s notions dictate my own notions
To leave this place and set this day in motion.

I bathe, dress, pack, and run out the door.
For once, in such a rare occurrence—my spirit may actually soar.
Embraced in the arms of the late morning sun
Who knows? I may experience a concept known by most as “fun.”

Boarding the late morning Q-train—with the voice of Ben Gibbard in my head
He sings the sad song of love and death, “What Sarah Said”.
At the Canal Street station, I leave the train
Greeted by the familiar stench of vomit with great disdain.

I am here on this Thursday, sharing these words
Sorry to say—my song isn’t the song of songbirds
This is the consequence of ten years of silence
I had forgotten—prose is an art AND science.

I’ve come here on this day, just for all of you
So I can share these words—hope they don’t sound like goo
Lack of grace apparent in my diction
I said “goo” for Crissakes, this is such poor conviction.

Nevertheless, I’m glad I faced the cursed daylight
To do what I love best—which is, in fact, to write
Just for the record, I almost never rhyme
But I’d figured it was appropriate at the time.

Hope you enjoyed these words—despite the gracelessness, vomit, and the “goo”
Good afternoon! I am known as Manda, nice to meet you!

- Manda Zhong