David Burgoa arrived from La Paz, Bolivia in 2009 with nothing but his mother and his dreams. “We decided to risk it all; we left everything behind,” says the determined Liberal Arts student. His transition to the States has been anything but easy. He had to learn the language and at one point worked three jobs to help make ends meet, but he hasn’t let the battle wilt his aspirations. “I fight for what I want. I’m going to do my best, and I’m trying to contribute at the same time,” says David about his goal of becoming an immigration lawyer.

In just a few years, with his fierce eye-on-the-prize attitude, David has become an avid community servant and excellent student. David has been proactive in LaGuardia’s Student News...
Craig Ford, a fulltime missionary in Papua, New Guinea created a list of 10 characteristics to help one succeed. I have revised them a bit to fit the context of the community college student experience and I hope that you will find some value in the list as you make meaning in your own lives.

1. Integrity. Integrity is doing the right thing regardless of the outcome. There are some core values that each of us must develop and defend so that we can live with ourselves.

2. Work Ethic. Your effort will impact the places you will be able to go in life. You must be able to work without someone watching over your shoulder.

3. Self-Care. You must take care of yourself and your home life because when there are crises at home, they often overflow into everything else you do.

4. Confidence. Believe in yourself, but also, know yourself, your limitations and areas in which you need improvement. Pursue confidence too far and it quickly becomes a turn off – ego.

5. Commitment. Make a habit of doing what you say you will do.

6. Savings. In order to be successful, you need to learn how to save. Money in the bank opens doors – it creates options.

7. Negotiation. All of life is a negotiation. Unless you learn to get what you deserve in transactions, it will be hard to be successful.

8. Self Marketing. To be clear – this is not bragging – blahhhh. This is the ability to say to other people, “I do good work. Let me show you,” highlighting what you do well and the contributions you can make.

9. People Skills. In an increasingly digital era, some people think people skills are less important. If people get to know you and are comfortable around you it may lead to having doors to opportunity open up unexpectedly. Learn to confidently shake hands, look people in the eye, and carry a conversation and you’ll reap the rewards.

10. Instinct. This one is hard to develop and even hard to measure. However, some people have good instincts. They know the right timing, the right thing to say, the right pitch, and they execute. Trust yourself, be yourself and value your integrity and you will develop instincts that give you the winning edge in life.

In summary, trust yourself, be yourself and value your integrity and you will develop instincts that give you the winning edge at school and in life. Have a wonderful holiday season and Fall II semester.

Michael Baston, Acting Vice President

“A happy life is one spent in learning, earning, and yearning”
– Lillian Gish

Watch for the next issue of Student News in Spring 2012!
Student Government Association
A Message from the SGA President

Greetings LaGuardians,

Time sure does fly when you're having fun!

This past month, LaGuardia Community College students had many opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The LaGuardia Student Government Association was one of two CUNY colleges that attended The National Center for Student Leadership Conference (NCSL) in Miami, Florida. The SGA spent a weekend attending workshops in which we learned how to become effective leaders in our community. At these workshops the governors had the chance to network with fellow student leaders from across the country to discuss ways of solving issues that College students are facing not only in America, but also across the world. After attending all the workshops, the governors had to take an exit exam to become National Certified Student Leaders.

On November 12 LaGuardia held its annual Leadership Conference titled “Superbetter: Taking the Lead on Health” and hosted by the Office of Student Life. It was wonderful to see so many people from the LaGuardia community at the conference as well as students from other CUNY schools. Joshua Fredenberg, author of the book Re-Discover your Life in 100 Days! was the keynote speaker. He held two amazing workshops that had LaGuardia Students on the edge of their seats.

For many, the month of November was about developing leadership, something that LaGuardia encourages through its programs and services. It is an honor to be a part of an extraordinary institution that provides students with so many opportunities to become the leaders of tomorrow.

“Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.” – John D. Rockefeller

Happy Holidays!
Sincerely,
Donavan Borton
SGA President

In this downward economy and with ever-changing technology, life - especially for students - can become confusing, hectic and expensive. We all face challenges like juggling our time between going to classes and taking care of our families, and paying for school, food, bills and more. While spending all this time and money just to get by, saving money might seem impossible! However, saving is easier than you think. If you’re asking yourself, “How can I get started?” Single Stop USA has a few easy tips we’d like to share to help you develop saving habits and start saving now:

1. When you budget, make yourself a part of that budget and PAY YOURSELF FIRST.
2. Set up automatic payroll deductions so that funds go directly into your savings account.
3. Save all unexpected monetary extras like gifts, tax refunds, money rebates, bonuses, etc.
4. Make sure you set up a savings account with your bank that earns interest. You should be able to find a savings account that will give you up to 5 percent interest on your savings.
5. Take advantage of pre-tax payroll deductions from your paycheck, so that money goes into a fund like a 401K.
6. Force the government to pay you up front for the Earned Income Tax Credit.
7. Try to control your impulse purchases. Do you really need that item you want to buy?
Profile from p. 1

Government Association, the Sustainability Committee, and he is part of the New York State Youth Leadership Council whose mission is to push for the passing of the DREAM Act. He is also the Vice President for Recruitment and Retention for the College's honor society.

His desire to give back to the community goes even further; he still returns as a volunteer to Newtown High School’s Key Club International, a leadership program that gives students the opportunity to participate in service learning and develop academically. David has also been a youth soccer coach and a Spanish tutor.

His hard work has already begun to pay off. He is the recipient of two America Rising Foundation scholarships. “I don’t qualify for many scholarships, so when I saw that I got this one, I was really excited,” he said.

David’s long-term goals include entering Queens College in the spring of 2012 to study English and then transferring to law school. In the mean time, he’s continuing his service to the College and the community. “I love my professors at LaGuardia,” he states as a reason for wanting to give back. “I’m still in touch with my first semester professors. And anytime I need something, they’re very helpful.”

New Family/Unisex Restroom in the E-Building

LaGuardia has completed construction on its first Family/Unisex restroom facility located on the 2nd floor of the E-building, room E-246A.

This bathroom is the first step towards the College’s goal of opening additional family or unisex facilities on campus as funding permits. While we are mindful of the need to have these facilities wheelchair accessible, this one is not as it is a modification of a small washroom. However, the College’s plan for additional restrooms includes this accommodation.
Financial Aid Awareness Day 2012
Thursday, January 26, 2012
E-Building Atrium
from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Explore the benefits of financial literacy!
Learn about all the resources offered by Student Financial Services:

- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-the-spot by linking to the IRS database. Bring your parents’ (if required) income documents.
- Get information on LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships and how you can apply.
- Find out if you have a Federal Work-study award and how to start earning it.
- Inquire about your financial aid status.
- Speak to a Student Financial Services specialist one-on-one.
- Single Stop USA will be providing information on services such as free legal services, tax preparation, financial coaching, and benefits screening.

Renew Your Financial Aid Beginning January 1, 2012!

You must re-apply for financial aid every academic year. The Department of Education will automatically send you an email or postcard in January reminding you to use your FAFSA PIN # to re-apply for federal student aid by completing a new FAFSA on the web application. When you re-apply, you will be given the option to have your FAFSA partially completed for you using information that has been carried over from last year’s application. Use the “Link to IRS” option on the FAFSA application to complete income information questions. Using the “Link to IRS” option prevents errors as the required information will be extracted from taxes filed with the IRS. Apply-on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The Office of Student Financial Services encourages all students to use the Internet to file, re-apply or make corrections on their FAFSAs as it guarantees speed as well as accuracy. Our Resource Center in C-109 is available to help you reapply. If you wish to obtain a PIN # to access and sign your FAFSA on the web application, go to www.pin.ed.gov.

Be sure to submit your FAFSA by April 15th for Fall 2012 – Spring 2013.

Pell Grant Book Advance

Students who have a Pell balance on record and have been processed for financial aid by January 19th, 2012 will be eligible to receive a book advance check during the first weeks of classes. Students are eligible to receive a maximum of $573.00 as an advance payment from their Pell grant to cover the cost of books.

Book Advance Payment Schedule:
February 29th & March 7th

Students receive the book advance payment as they prefer: In a paper check, direct deposit, or on a CUNY Scholar Support prepaid card.

CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Cards
Get your financial aid faster and easier!

Students eligible to receive financial aid may receive payments on a CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Card. This is not a credit card; it is a prepaid “MasterCard” card accepted at any store or ATM where MasterCard debit is accepted. Student payments will be automatically deposited to the card and can be used immediately. Sign up for the CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Card at www.cuny.edu/scholarsupport.

Direct Deposit Through Any Bank

With direct deposit, your money will be available to you immediately! Direct deposit of your financial aid checks into your bank account can be arranged by completing and submitting the Student Financial Assistance. Direct Deposit Request/Authorization form which is available at the Bursar’s window in the M building basement lobby.

Check your Financial Aid Status via The CUNY Portal - eSIMS
Be a proactive manager of your education at LaGuardia.

The CUNY Portal is a gateway to CUNY applications, services and CUNY resources. With a single sign-on, you can access many CUNY applications. Now you can check your student information; check financial aid application status (both Federal FAFSA and State TAP); view financial aid awards; fix errors; link to the Education Department’s Online Entrance Interview for Direct Loans; and link to the interactive loan request page, all through the CUNY Portal.

- Go to www.cuny.edu.
- Click "Log-in" at bottom left of navigation bar.
- Type in your Username and Password.
- Click the “Log In” button. (If you do not have an account, click “Register Now” to get a username and password.)
- Click the link to CUNY’s Online Center for Admissions and Financial Aid under the “Apply to CUNY” section.
- Click Financial Aid on the left of the navigation bar.
- Click on Application Status – this will lead you to FAFSA and TAP applications.
- Click on Award Summary to view a display of Pell, TAP, campus-based aid and direct loans.
- You will also find links to:
  - Guide to Financial Aid
  - FAFSA on the web
  - Higher Ed. Services Corporation (HESC)

- Summary of Financial Aid Programs
- Federal Tax Benefits for Tuition and Fees
- Preventing Financial Aid Scams
- Identity Theft Prevention

Federal Work Study Grant - Use It or Lose It!
Use your Federal Work Study award for 2011-12. Why pass up the opportunity to obtain great work experience?

As soon as you get your award letter for FWS for 2011-12:
- Come to Student Financial Services (C-107).
- Sign up for a FWS orientation/placement workshop.
- Be sure to bring your award letter to the workshop.

Perkins Loan - Entrance Interview

All students who have been awarded a Federal Perkins Loan for 2011-12 must take the online Pre-Loan Entrance Interview before a check can be issued. Follow these four simple steps:

- Log on to www.lagcc.cuny.edu/financialaid.
- Take the Entrance Interview.
- Print the confirmation page upon completion of the Entrance Interview.
- Bring the confirmation page to Mr. Stanley Rumph, in C-107, for final approval of your Perkins Loan. We will accept only electronically signed Promissory Notes.

Direct Loan - Entrance Counseling

All students applying for a Federal Direct Loan must complete the Department of Education’s online “Entrance Counseling for Borrowers’ Quiz.” Just follow these five simple steps:

- Log on to www.dlservicered.gov.
- Take the quiz.
- Print out the rights and responsibilities page, and sign it.
- Bring the signed rights and responsibilities page, within 30 days, to Student Financial Services (C-107), where you will complete your loan application.
- E-sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) at http://deagnote.ed.gov using your PIN. If you do not have a PIN, you can request one at www.pin.ed.gov.

Once the MPN is completed, you will receive a disclosure notice from the Department of Education approximately 10 days before the scheduled disbursement date. The Disclosure Notice will indicate the approved gross loan amount(s), fees, net loan amounts, and anticipated disbursement dates. All loans are disbursed in at least two disbursements.

Attention Student Borrowers!
If you are graduating, drop below six credits, or are leaving LaGuardia Community College, and you have an outstanding Perkins or Direct Loan, Federal regulations require you to complete an exit counseling/interview. The exit counseling/interview serves to remind you of your rights and responsibilities.

Dollars & Sense
Financial Aid Academic Program Appeal
Academic Year 2011 - 2012

Financial aid academic program appeal will only be approved by the Appeals Committee within the current academic year. Documents supporting the appeal must be attached to the appeal form for review. The dates for supporting documentation must be within the current academic year the appeal is being requested. The decision of the committee is final.

The Financial Aid Appeal Waiver Form is available online; click “Download Forms” on our website http://web.laguardia.edu/sfs/df.aspx

Appeals must be requested within 30 days of notification. Students can only apply for a one-time waiver for TAP.
The Division of Student Affairs Newsletter for Students

“Long Island City Works” Student Photography Exhibition

November 17 kicked off the “Long Island City Works” Exhibition, a show of over 100 faces of Long Island City’s small business community captured by LaGuardia Community College commercial photography students.

Armed with digital, film, and view cameras, 29 aspiring photographers knocked on the doors of small businesses offering to take portraits of their workers. Visit the exhibition of riveting portraits celebrating the working men and women of small businesses in Long Island City.

The photographs can be viewed through February in the College’s B-building (3rd floor), Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Get Help With Final Exams With Online Tutoring

LaGuardia Community College Students have access to free live on-line tutoring!

To get started:
1) Go to www.etutoring.org
2) Click on Log in now! (red triangle)
3) Click on Northeast eTutoring Consortium (3rd link).
4) Select LaGuardia Community College from the list of colleges and universities.
5) Your username and password are the same. Use your first name dot last name followed by your date of birth. Ex: Bill.Smith021783
6) On the next screen enter your student ID # or your 14 digit bar code and check the terms and conditions box. You may also put in your cell phone number to receive a text message when your question or paper has been reviewed.

If you have any difficulty logging on or using on-line tutoring, please see Dr. McCormack (office in lab E-214) or call (718) 482-5733.

This Month in LaGuardia History

LaGuardia Community College 1971 - 2011

LaGuardia History

ePortfolio

In December 2001...

...LaGuardia Community College began its ePortfolio initiative with research on the electronic academic portfolio and a pilot program. The program took off, becoming a national model and pushing LaGuardia students in all areas of study to create innovative electronic portfolios of their work.

Today

LaGuardia is one of the nation’s largest and most successful campus-based ePortfolio implementation programs, helping colleges across the nation incorporate ePortfolio into their curricula with the Making Connections National Resource Center. LaGuardia students regularly meet with students from other colleges to share their ideas, experiment and push the boundaries of the ePortfolio program.
The Division of Student Affairs Newsletter for Students

Keep New York Warm

’Tis the Season

The College community has already helped the Catholic Student Association and HSAC donate holiday greeting cards to a women’s prison so the women may send cards to their families.

The College Catholic Student Association also collected and donated canned food to St. Raphael’s Food Pantry before Thanksgiving.

A warm thank you to all of those who have donated and who continue to help those in need during the holiday season!

Exciting News from the Student Math Society

This fall, the Student Math Society recruited 17 students to compete in the national Student Math League contest offered by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Our LaGuardia team received second place in the round one contest for the North East region. Not bad for our newly assembled group!

The aim of the Student Math Society is to promote interest in math. We have a monthly contest with fun problems, and the winner receives $50. Please note that the Student Math Society is open for ALL LaGuardia students. Students who have majors in areas other than math and science have submitted solutions.

Check out our website: http://www.laguardia.edu/mathematics/mathsociety/

CUNY Alert provides a secure, web-based emergency alert system for all CUNY colleges.

CUNY Alert is an opt-in system which means you choose to participate. You select the way you want to be notified. Messages can be received via cell phone (text and/or voice), landline telephone and e-mail. Visit www.cuny.edu/alert for simple step-by-step instructions.

How to Sign Up


CUNY’s new emergency notification system enables LaGuardia Community College to immediately advise students, faculty and staff of an emergency with text message, email and more. You must “opt in” to receive alerts.

Be Prepared! Be Informed!

SIGN UP NOW FOR CUNY ALERT

Use eCareer Plan & eCareer Central to plan your future!

“I always thought my ideal career would just come to me. I’ve realized there’s a lot of exploring involved. eCareer Plan and eCareer Central guided me through that process.”

www.lagcc.cuny.edu/ecareer

Keep New York Warm

The LaGuardia Community College Catholic Student Association and The Honors Student Advisory Committee are joining forces to collect winter gear for NYC residents in need.

Please help by donating gently used winter coats, scarves, gloves, hats and sweaters.

Donation boxes are located near E and C building entrances, and the coat drive will continue through January 4, 2012.

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Check out our website: http://www.laguardia.edu/mathematics/mathsociety/