

BPC Bits and Bytes

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News and updates for international students at Brewton-Parker College

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Spotlight on: Jose Vera



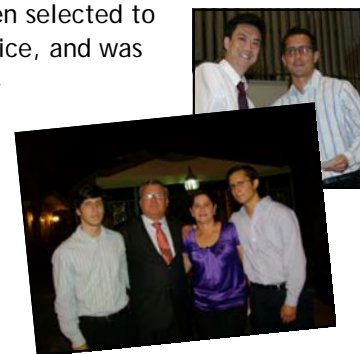
Meet Jose. A business major. A soccer player. A May graduate. A quiet guy with a good sense of humor. A guy you like to be around.

A native of Ecuador, Jose came to Brewton-Parker as a freshman in the fall of 2006. He left being him his parents and a younger brother. His father is lawyer and his mother has a

business selling home furnishings. His brother is an engineering major in Ecuador.

While at Brewton-Parker, Jose has earned recognition in the classroom and on the playing field. He has been on the Dean's List 3 times, has been selected to the SSAC All-Academic team twice, and was chosen as the International Student of the Year last year.

After graduation, he hopes to work a year and then go to graduate school. Ultimately, he plans to own his own business and to have a family.





International Culture Day



March 25th, 11:00–2:00, Phillips Student Center

It's BRAG TIME on your country – so do it right !!



Did you know. . . ?

- All Int'ls have to file a US tax form; not all have to pay. See story on page 2.
- Early registration for next fall in late March.
- Special event for I-20 signing in April
- Info next month on Graduation Dinner!

Changes in Business Office Practices *What it means for you.*

You've heard a lot of speculation about the changes in business office practices for next year. So what does it mean for YOU?

First, it means that things are going to be handled more professionally. Instead of waiting until the

last minute to make everything work, you'll be getting your payment plans set up ahead of time and know exactly what you need to do.

Second, it means that each semester stands alone, financially. You won't be

still paying for this term when you start next fall.

Finally, when you graduate, you won't owe money, and you can make a fresh start on your career.

For questions, see Ms. Clay in Newton Building.

Immigration Notes: Signing I-20s for travel

I-20s should be signed for travel before you leave for summer if you're going outside the US. Even if you aren't, it's a good idea to do it—just in case something comes up quickly and you need to go.

- * For me to sign, you have to be in good standing with the school and eligible to return in fall.
- * That means in-status with no holds on your accounts. If you have a payment plan, it needs to be up to date.

Briscoe Center is reserved for lunch that day, so bring your I-20, eat with each other, and get business taken care of at the same time.

Sign up for the DOOR PRIZES and see what you win!

MAKE IT A PARTY!

Where: Briscoe Center

When: April 23rd, 11:00–2:00

What: Prizes and food

Who: ALL international students

US Income Tax – Who must file?

Do you ever plan to file for permanent residence in the US? Part of the paperwork you must turn in with your application for permanent residence is tax forms for all past years.

Come to the Tax Workshop in March and get help with your non-resident income tax forms. For most of you, it will take about 30 minutes and cost you nothing. For a few, the

forms will take longer. The only students who ever owe are those with really big athletic scholarships AND work study and who come from countries without a US tax treaty.

Tax Workshop

March 24th

6:30–8:30, Newton Bldg

WHAT TO BRING

- ⇒ W-2 form
- ⇒ 1098-S form
- ⇒ All immigration documents
- ⇒ Last year's tax return (if you were here last year)

Where in the World is . . . ?

Continent: Africa

Language(s): French, English, and 24 native languages

Date of nationhood: 1961

Geography: coastline, plains, and mountains; has an active volcano

Be the first to send me an email with the correct country, and you become the student in the Spotlight next month.

sclay@bpc.edu



International Graduates, AY 2009–2010

All 4 of this year's international graduates are earning the BBA degree.

Jose Vera, Ecuador—2010 Spring graduate in Management. He enrolled at BPC as freshman in Fall 06 and played on the soccer team all 4 years. He has made the Dean's List 3 times.

Alpha Diallo, France—2010 Spring graduate in Accounting. Transferred from GA Perimeter & played on the soccer team for 2 years. He hopes to do an accounting internship after graduation.

Karel "Alex" Ruiz, Guatemala—2010 Spring graduate in Management. Transferred from GA Perimeter in Fall 08. On the soccer team the last 2 years and RA this year.

Brice Mbili, Cameroon—2010 Spring graduate in Management. He transferred from Peninsula College in Washington in Fall 08 and has been on the Dean's List once.

Guys, I hope you take good memories of Brewton-Parker with you: of friends and moments and mentors. Wherever



life takes you, you'll be a credit to Brewton-Parker and a blessing to others. Vaya con Dios. Que Dieu soit avec vous. Go with God!

Spotlight on alumnus Alexandru Panico, Moldova

Graduating from high school in Chisinau, Moldova, studying English and leading tour groups put Alex Panico in the path of a visitor from Swainsboro who took to heart this young man's dream of studying in America.



Arriving in January 2005, Alex quickly settled into classes, dividing his time between campus during the week and his host family on weekends. In December 2008, he completed his goal, receiving his BBA in Management.

Even sending out resumes and making personal contacts, finding the kind of job he wanted in New York City was difficult. Hearing of a job possibility during a call home, he made a quick decision to return for a face to face interview, and four days later, he had a job as product/brand manager with Daac Hermes, a major auto company. He attributes his people-oriented personality and fluency in 3 languages for giving him this opportunity.

In September 2009, he married Tanya, "the nicest person in this world for me." All the best, Alex!

*... even in the time
where I cannot see
the end of the tunnel,
I know that in God's
hands the tunnel is
lighted and there is
no darkness.*

...CATCHING UP

Who's where and doing what?

Let's catch up on our alumni scattered around the US and the world to see what's happened since they left BPC!

Jacynth Corneille Blandin, Trinidad (1999) - Working in Trinidad

for an academic publisher, 9-year old daughter Terah

Rajishwari Ghosh, India (2001) - Masters in Finance from Webster University (2004), founder of UGTI creating growth initiatives for underdeveloped countries.

Shaun O'Toole, Canada (2008) engaged to BPC alumna Megan McManious. Woo Hoo!

Where are you? Want to be in the spotlight? Let us know. sclay@bpc.edu

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We Have a Place for You

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Dates to Know ~

- February 22–26: OPT filing!!
- March 6–14: Spring Break
- March 24 Tax night in Newton
- March 25 International Culture Day in the Phillips Student Center lobby
- April 2 Good Friday, school holiday
- April 16–17 Alumni Week-end
- April 18 Spring Grill @ Ms. Clay's
- April 23 I-20 signing w/door prizes!
- May 7 Graduation Dinner
- May 13 Airport return
- May 15 Graduation!!
- May 14 Reception for graduates' families

Snow in South Georgia? Oh, yeah!!



When it snows in South Georgia, kids of all ages come out to play, even college kids—and their President! About dark on Friday, February 12th, the biggest snow most Brewton-Parker students had ever seen started falling. With no classes the next day, they spilled out of the dorms to make snowmen, engage in spirited snowball fights, and just stand in wonder. Alto-

gether, the campus got about 2" of fresh snowfall in a few hours. Because it was a wet snow, it made good snowmen and even better snowballs.

Cameras captured the excitement, showing faces wreathed in big smiles or full of laughter as well as moments of quiet wonder as students and adults alike surrendered to the child in their hearts.



Pres & Mrs Smith rise to students' challenge.

