

# CONNECTIONS

The quick details on what's happening at the Bergen County Academies.

Visit our web site: [www.academyppo.com](http://www.academyppo.com)



## President's Message

Just as the colors of fall started rolling in, we held our annual International Dinner on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Over the past eight years, this has always been one of my favorite events, and one that I will probably miss the most. Each time I've had the pleasure of seeing old friends and making new ones. This year we definitely made history with a record number of people attending – nearly 800 parents, students, siblings, and teachers. The gym was filled with seats and tables, with another 100 seats overflowing into the adjacent hallway. My sincere thanks to all the PPO families who brought wonderful homemade appetizers, entrees, and desserts representing the many different cultures and cuisines of our vibrant and diverse community. It was amazing to see how many parents volunteered to take care of all the logistics to make this evening such a great success. Thank you all so much. I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did. Special recognition and thanks to Alyson Cohn, Lalitha Ramakrishnan, Wendy Wang, and Mary Wang for their tireless efforts to actually make this event possible.

In September, the PPO Board began a new three-part format for PPO General Meetings. Following brief news and updates, presentations will be offered by faculty and administrators on various topics, followed by a Town Hall style open discussion and Q & A. If you have any topics you would like to share with other parents, please bring them with you to the next meeting. At the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Strum, Mr. Lang, Dr. Finley, and Mr. Lemma talked about the great range of visual and performing arts opportunities at BCA. Mr. Weems and Dr. Bath talked about the importance and role of English and Writing as core components of the curriculum. Mr. Lynch spoke about studying History as a means to develop higher order thinking skills. Thanks to all of them for taking their personal time to talk about what makes them excited about teaching at BCA.

Our next PPO General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that your participation helps strengthen the entire BCA parent community. Hope to see you there.

All the best,  
Shiaoling Paxson

Our next issue will be published on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Please submit all December and January calendar entries and all articles to Amrita Singh at [AmritaS2@aol.com](mailto:AmritaS2@aol.com) by November 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## Calendar Highlights

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 2-3   | <b>Twelfth Night</b> , Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  |
| November 4     | <b>BCA Open House - Senior Bake Sale</b><br>AAST, AEDT & ABF<br>11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.         |
| November 7     | <b>JV &amp; Freshmen Awards Night</b><br>Teterboro Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.                        |
| November 8-9   | <b>No School - NJEA Convention</b>  |
| November 10    | <b>Craft/Vendor Show</b><br>10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.   |
| November 14    | <b>PPO General Meeting</b><br>Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.   |
| November 15    | <b>Half Day</b>   |
| November 16    | <b>Autumn Instrumental Concert</b><br>Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.                                     |
| November 16    | <b>Class of 2008 Art Auction</b><br>Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.  |
| November 17    | <b>Bingo</b><br>Gymnasium, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  |
| November 18    | <b>BCA Open House - Junior Bake Sale</b><br>AMST, ACAHA, AVPA & ATCS<br>11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. |
| November 19    | <b>PPO Newsletter Copying</b>   |
| November 20    | <b>PPO Newsletter Mailing</b>   |
| November 21    | <b>Half Day</b>   |
| November 22-23 | <b>No School - Happy Thanksgiving</b>   |
| November 27    | <b>Half Day</b>   |
| November 30    | <b>Last Day of Trimester 1</b>  |

**Check our monthly calendar  
For more times and events!**

The upcoming Autumn Concert on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. will be something special! We are happy to have a featured guest artist, Break of Reality ([www.breakofreality.com](http://www.breakofreality.com)) a cello/percussion quartet that takes music to a whole new level. They will perform two brief sets within the diverse program the students have been preparing: Concert Band, Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Jazz Band, Guitar & Mandolin Orchestra, String Quartet, and more! Looking forward to seeing you all at the concert.

Michael Lemma, CCA

**Focus on a Faculty Member:  
Dr. Rebecca Strum, Performing Arts**

Dr. Rebecca Strum is a force of creation. A wearer of many hats, Dr. Strum is accustomed to switching them on and off as the need arises. One minute she is coordinating the arrival of a guest artist for a Wednesday Project in the Academy for the Performing Arts – an academy which Dr. Strum dreamed of, designed, planned for, founded, and now coordinates, teaches in and advocates for with a passion, a focus, and a love of craft that comes along once in a lifetime – and the next she is putting out an APB for a couple of 1920's silent era movie cameras for her latest theatrical production. Her range of skill is wider than the widest river and her talent is deeper than.....well, you get the idea.

Dr. Strum is the Queen of Performing Arts here at BCA, not only because she coordinates and teaches life-changing core classes to performing artists, but because she also creates performing arts opportunities for the entire building. If you're in the Medical Academy and you like to perform, Dr. Strum will find a way for you. If you're a budding biologist who fancies song and dance, Dr. Strum will lead you to the stage.

What sets Dr. Strum apart is her tireless advocacy for the arts in all its forms. Her unwillingness to accept the status quo where perception of the arts in education is concerned is a testament to her passion for the role that the arts play in a well-rounded, quality education.

Although Dr. Strum is a giving tree of time, tenacity and talent, she receives gracefully as well. Recently, Dr. Strum was granted a Fellowship from the Surdna Foundation which sponsored her work this past summer at International School of Physical Theatre in California. There Dr. Strum participated in a month-long intensive on Commedia Dell' Arte, a style of theatre involving masks. Of course her training in California was not lost on the BCA community. Dr. Strum has infused her latest production, Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, with elements of the Commedia Dell'Arte tradition. When I heard Dr. Strum was awarded the Surdna Fellowship, I knew our community would somehow reap the benefits of her continued exploration, but I had no idea how soon.

What can we give to Dr. Strum in exchange for all that she has given and continues to give to the BCA community? The next time you see her, please follow my lead and give her what she deserves: *applause*.

Daniel Jaye, Principal and Director  
Bergen County Academies

**The College and Career Center**

The new College and Career Center is now your one stop resource for college and career exploration and planning. Under the direction of coordinator Heather Lawler, the College and Career Center will encompass both College Advisement and the Senior Experience Program. These two programs were already closely intertwined and combining them enables each area to support the other and offer better services to our students.

Keep in mind that college application deadlines are fast-approaching! For application deadlines of December 15<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, all forms must be turned in to the College and Career Center by November 13<sup>th</sup>. For all January 15<sup>th</sup> application deadlines there is a December 14<sup>th</sup> due date. During the months of September and October, the College and Career Center hosted over 50 colleges on campus for individual visits with our students!

The Senior Experience program is off to a great start as we have over 200 participating companies this year. Every Wednesday our seniors report to work for a full day in place of coming to the Academies. Their experience follows a student learning plan in which they are given 9 academic credits for participating. We have many exciting placements this year including Mercedes-Benz, Rolex, Merrill Lynch, and Unilever. If you or someone you know might be interested in mentoring a BCA student, please contact us at [senexp@bergen.org](mailto:senexp@bergen.org) or 201-343-600 ext. 2024.

The Office of College and Career Advisement also welcomes two new staff members; Paul Kaser as a College and Career Specialist, and Mara Patti as a College and Career Counselor. Both have extensive experience in college and career planning and are very excited to be a part of BCA. We also welcome back returning staff members Ronda Marshall-Drakeford and Silvana Forne-Neves.

Encourage your students to use the resources available to them from the College and Career Center!

**Math Booster Club**

The Fifth Annual BCA Math Competition was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. More than 550 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended the competition. The event was organized by BCA Math Team students. Writing the questions and answers, ushering, proctoring, grading, and conducting the award ceremony were all done by the students. Congratulations to the BCA Math Team students! Job well done!

We would like to thank all the student volunteers and our Booster Club parent volunteers for their exceptional efforts to make this such a successful event. They have done a phenomenal job. It wouldn't have happened without their help. Congratulations to everyone!

Rama & Lalitha Ramakrishnan

## ***Class of 2008:***

There are a number of events coming up for which we could use your help. \*\*\* **Bake Sale - Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>:** We need baked goods, bottled water/drinks, and your help during Open House. \*\*\* **Graduation Cap and Gown Measuring - Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>:** If you have not yet sent in payment to Mrs. Anderson, please do so. We need a few parents to assist on measuring day. Shifts are 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-12:30p.m., and 12:30p.m.-2:00 p.m. \*\*\* **Coupon Books** - If you opted not to purchase the Kid's Stuff Coupon Book, please have your student return it to Mrs. Anderson. We must return all unsold books to the company, and we are already overdue. \*\*\* **Art Auction - Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>:** Please join us for this fun event. See flyer for details.

Donna Gormley: [djgorms@aol.com](mailto:djgorms@aol.com), (201) 847-0351  
Mary Wright: [malarky@optonline.net](mailto:malarky@optonline.net), (201) 848-8982

## ***Class of 2009:***

Greetings to our fellow Class of 2009 families! We welcome two new advisors, Mr. Dave Wilson and Mrs. Carla Heitzman, to our winning team! \*\*\* Junior year is regarded as our biggest fundraising year but is, unfortunately, also considered our children's most academically challenging year. To that end, please support our kids and our Class by participating in our various activities and events. \*\*\* **BCA black and gold top quality flannel PJs** are on sale now through December, while supplies last. A recent article cited flannel PJs as the first choice in study wear among college students. \*\*\* The hugely popular **got sleep? T-shirts** are also on sale through the fall or while supplies last. These make perfect gifts and are great "theme" wear during midterms and finals. \*\*\* We will be running our Schwan's Foods fundraiser again. **Schwan's** has created a new "Wellness" catalogue to order from and the food looks absolutely delicious. To order, simply go online to [www.schwansfundraising.com](http://www.schwansfundraising.com), click on "start shopping" (near the truck on the left side of the screen) and you will be asked to enter our campaign ID# **#1004525**. Friends and relatives in other states can order food, too, and bear no delivery charges while supporting you and our Class! \*\*\* Our Class will host the **Bake Sale** for BCA's Open House on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact us to volunteer to work and/or bake something! \*\*\* A special thanks to all volunteers who have already stepped forward to help out!

Sharon Pierson: [SPcreates@aol.com](mailto:SPcreates@aol.com)  
Carol Blakeslee: [Bbester8@optonline.net](mailto:Bbester8@optonline.net).

## ***Class of 2010:***

**Thank you!!** Thanks to the families who supported our Sally Foster fundraiser by making a purchase or a donation in lieu of purchases. Please continue to support "our" fundraisers so that our children will have an unforgettable senior year. \*\*\* The first Annual **BCA Halloween Dance** will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup> in the gym from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Costumes are recommended, but not required; prizes will be given for the best and scariest costumes. \*\*\* **Cheese Cake Sale** - Order your cheese cakes by Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and they will be delivered on November 13<sup>th</sup> -- just in time for Thanksgiving. \*\*\* **Craft Vendor Show** - Stop by the BCA Craft /Vendor Show on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to shop for the holidays. We are also looking for volunteers to help the day of the fair. \*\*\* **Fleece** -- If you have not yet purchased your BCA fleece jacket and scarf, please complete the enclosed order form and return it to our class advisor, Mr. Gene Walsh, in room MC04 by Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. We have a new supplier, so delays are a thing of the past! Holiday delivery guaranteed. \*\*\* **BCA International Cookbook** - Please submit your fabulous family recipes to [bcarecipes@yahoo.com](mailto:bcarecipes@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the cookbook. Thank to those who have already done so. \*\*\* **Card Party/Trick Tray** - We need volunteers and donations for our Tricky Tray. If you would like to help or donate for this event, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact:

Angella McKenzie: [gatchair@optonline.net](mailto:gatchair@optonline.net) or  
Sarah Lucinese: [sb0618@excite.com](mailto:sb0618@excite.com).

## ***Class of 2011***

The Class of 2011 is sponsoring its first fundraiser at **Crate and Barrel (Route 17 North in Paramus) on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.-.** PLEASE tell family and friends to shop with us on this special night; a portion of all sales will be donated to our Class. Snacks and desserts will be served; free gift with all purchases! Please send us an email (see address below) if you are planning to attend. \*\*\* We are also selling the very smart looking Bergen Academies **coffee mugs** for only \$8.00. They are glossy black with the BCA gold metallic logo. These make PERFECT gifts for parents, grandparents, alumni, teachers, etc. You can purchase yours by emailing us or looking for our display at the next PPO meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have plenty for you to purchase AND we will have mugs filled with a variety of surprises that are ready for gift-giving!!! (Prices will vary according to contents.) \*\*\* If you have any questions, please email us at:

Rita Wollner: [Rita4mom@verizon.net](mailto:Rita4mom@verizon.net) or  
Monica Rome: [romemonica@hotmail.com](mailto:romemonica@hotmail.com).

## Healthy Thinking

“The soul becomes dyed with the color of its thoughts.” These historic words of Marcus Aurelius still resonate boldly in today’s society. As school non-violence week is underway, it is interesting to ponder how closely our thoughts are connected to this theme. The way we think often becomes the way we behave. As we promote tranquility in our schools, it is important to remember how critical positive attitudes are to the mental health of our children. As they get older and journey on, their autonomous ability to maintain optimism can reduce the stress that leads to distress and, ultimately, happiness ensues.

Students fail to realize how potent their thoughts can be. As adults we often do the same, miring in unnecessary, avoidable negativity before emerging from our melancholy. Introspectively we come to realize our thoughts have played a vital role in prolonging the pain we experience. Cognitive-Behavioral Psychology infers that thoughts are the primary influence in our behavior, changing the way we think has an automatic, almost reflexive effect on our perception of problems and how we deal with them. Identify irrational and rational thoughts, replac-

ing the ‘I have to’ ideas with ‘I’d like to’. When young adults begin thinking dogmatically, they lose the flexibility that makes personal problem-solving more manageable. Encouraging our children to think in rational terms, stay positive and remain open to change, is a service that will help them flourish in their independence.

As college looms near for many families, the fears of parents are much the same, “please let them make the right decisions!” Well, kids don’t always do so. The difference is what they learn from, and how they respond to, these situations. Children’s thoughts are mainly in the moment, something many adults have lost the essence of. Stay there! Leave only to peek into the future and purposefully recall lessons past. When hurdles arise, it is their thoughts in the moment that will determine peace of mind. Referring again to the great emperor-philosopher Aurelius, “the quality of a person’s life is dependent upon the quality of their thoughts.”

Stuart Clutterbuck  
Guidance Department

## A Passion for Reading

I have one of the best jobs because I get to read books and discuss them for a living. The value of reading was made clear to me when I was able to sympathize with a friend whose parents were getting a divorce after having read a novel in which the protagonist went through a similar situation.

While I enjoy reading as both a hobby and a vocation, I know that not all of my students would agree. I do not know how to create passion about reading besides sharing my enthusiasm, but there are a few things that students can do to improve their reading and writing skills. Like most everything in life, the more you do it, the easier it gets. Avoidance will not help. Instead, students who want to do well should take advantage of the opportunity to meet with their teachers. It is so much easier to discuss strengths and weaknesses of a student in a one-on-one environment than in a class. When students get back their papers, they need to find a time to discuss comments and see how to improve their writing. It is not a bad idea to use the rubrics that come back with essays and track what is done well and what needs improvement. This can give a student some direction for the next essay.

When it comes to reading, I urge my students that most every book needs to be read twice. The first time one is caught up in “What will happen next?” However, upon a second reading, one is able to notice details of word choice, imagery and language. This is what makes the stories engaging, and what makes great content for essays. To do this clearly takes time. To read a story twice and to produce a high quality essay requires that one not plan on doing this the night before. Leave time to edit, revise and share your essay with a friend. Feedback from others is valuable but only if you have time to make alterations.

Being passionate about reading is hard to teach. Moreover, in our test-driven culture where reading gets reduced to answering comprehension questions the passion may easily be stifled. I am not sure how to fight this besides making available to our students any book that interests them and encouraging them to discuss the ideas and try to learn of themselves and others in what they read.

Bill Mendelsohn  
English Department

# Titanium Knights Robotics

Engineering competition teams are forming and we have begun our after school open labs. Just released is the return of the Panasonic Creative Design Challenge. For those who do not know, BCA was the First Place Winner in 2004, plus we had many other wins over the years, including "Best Documentation." Here's a blurb about it from the Panasonic site:

*"To win the Challenge, a team of 3 students must work together not only to design a winning robotics device, but also to document their work in a professional engineering logbook, write a detailed report and make an oral presentation. This program is much more than a science competition aimed at building a mechanical device. The Creative Design Challenge format has been structured to encourage group problem solving and teamwork; to help students apply critical thinking; to understand the impact of trade-offs on design and development; to encourage students to demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills, and most importantly demonstrate that science can be fun!"*

Another new opportunity "Rumble at the Rock," is a regional BotsIQ 15-pound robot competition scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> in Plymouth, Mass. Any student who wishes to form a team for this or other engineering competitions should see me ASAP. Only two teams can represent BCA at Panasonic, so we will hold an in-school elimination match.

**Current Events and Fundraisers Include: Engineering T-Shirt Clearance** - Room 166 - any shirt \$10; **Titanium Knights Bake Sale:** November 2<sup>nd</sup>; **Coming Soon!!! Laser Engraving Services** for iPods, cell phones, calculators; **Annual Corporate Sponsorship drive** is underway to help pay for this year's competitions and events. Promotional packs can be picked up in Room 166.

**Engineering Boosters Meeting** in Room 166 on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Parents interested in helping out with engineering events, competitions, and trips are encouraged to attend.

Visit <http://sites.bergen.org/battlebots> for more information.

Joe DeFalco, Technology Department

\* \* \* \* \*

## BT KNIGHTS BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

On Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Booster Club hosted the first annual **Black & Gold Tailgate Party** in the lower parking lot at the Academy. The party was attended by 65 students who were treated to barbecue and live music by The Academy Blues Project. A great time was had by all. A special Thank You goes out to all of the people who either donated to the party or volunteered to work the party and to The Academy Blues Project for playing 2 hours of live music.

The Booster Club will be hosting a **BINGO Night** Fundraiser on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Academies Gym. Come join us for a really fun evening! Adults only, please.

**Freshmen/JV Awards Night:** Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Teterboro Campus auditorium. Refreshments will be

served in the Commons immediately following the awards. Please join us as we honor your student-athlete!

**Varsity Awards Dinner:** Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cotillion in Garfield. Watch your mail. Invitations will be mailed home shortly.

It's not too late to join the Booster Club. New members are always welcome. For more information, go to [www.bergen.org](http://www.bergen.org) (select BCTS and click on Athletics, Join the Boosters). You can join now by completing the 2007/2008 Membership Form today which is located on the web-site.

The next meeting of the Booster Club will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. at the Hackensack Campus. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ira Goldklang,  
President, BT Knights

## Cultural Connections...

Theatre Arts News — October 2007

With the 2007 school year in full swing BCA students are engaged in a host of exciting and meaningful Theatre Arts activities inside and outside the classrooms and rehearsal halls. On stage, lighting, sound equipment and scenery is being “loaded-in” for our fall production of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*. Last weekend cast members and student cinematographers went ‘on location’ to a park in Westwood to shoot the final film clip that will be included in the production set in Hollywood during the silent film era. There are still good seats available for this innovative and hilarious production. **Send in your ticket form or call our ticket hot-line (201) 343-6000 (ext. 2300).**

Students from several academies are working together to create original dance pieces in the new choreography elective taught by Ms.Pero. This elective has been extremely successful and will be offered each trimester this year.

In AVPA Theatre classes Freshmen have just presented the culmination of their mask projects for Theatre History, are deep into ballet technique in dance and are about to ‘don’ their first masks in Acting class. Sophomores are studying Moliere’s *Tartuffe* in Theatre History with a project, an essay and an array of class activities while learning the basics of the Stanislavsky technique in their



contemporary scene study class. Juniors are breathing deeply and articulating crisply in Voice and Speech, honing jazz technique in Dance, preparing to write their first play and experiencing ‘Perobics’ as they prepare their bodies for monologue work in Acting class. Shakespeare veterans, seniors are interpreting *Loves Labors Lost* in acting classes, increasing breath support and refining diction in Voice and Speech, polishing jazz technique in Dance as they prepare for their college auditions, representing their first steps away from BCA. They have each directed two scenes in directing class and are gaining real-world experience at internships, which include Rattlestick Theatre, York Theatre, Broadway Dance, The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Young Playwrights, Abington Theatre, and The Metropolitan Opera Guild, among others.

Theatre Council is planning our annual **Theatre Games Night** for Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we will take our first Theatre field trip this year to The McCarter Theatre to see Moliere’s *Tartuffe*, studied by all AVPA: Theatre students, sophomore year in Theatre History II.

We all hope you will join us for *Twelfth Night* and all of our other productions this year.

Rebecca Strum, CCA

*Transport yourself to Hollywood circa 1927 for our first play of the 2007-08 season*

### ***William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night***

***Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.***

... and please be sure to visit the Parents and Patrons of the Arts refreshment tables each evening where you may also purchase *Kisses for the Cast and Crew* as well as individual carnations, orchids or roses. Custom floral bouquets may be ordered in advance through Julianne Boden at (201) 857-4295.

*PAPA's profits support BCA's choral, instrumental, theatre and visual programs.*

If you have not already joined PAPA and have a child in choir, orchestra, one of the many music ensembles, theatre or visual arts, become a member! For details, please contact Leila Moore at [moorepsych70@aol.com](mailto:moorepsych70@aol.com) or (201)488-5043. Thank you!

# **PPO INTERNATIONAL DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!**

I sit here in the early morning hours reflecting everything that was the PPO International Dinner. Although I am exhausted, I am also honored to have been a part of something that has become such a lovely and meaningful BCA tradition. The International Dinner reflects and celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity that are uniquely BCA. I can think of no other suburban high school where an event like this could take place.

It is hard to imagine the humble beginnings of the International Dinner (Dr. Ostfeld tells us that it began with 28 attendees) when you think of the record breaking number of participants we had this year. We had close to 800 attendees representing more than 30 countries!

An event such as this could never take place without enormous assistance from a great many people. Thank you all around to everyone who brought in the delicious food that we enjoyed throughout the evening. I don't know anyone who left school on Saturday night who wasn't stuffed with good food and fond memories to last a lifetime. In talking to parents and students, I also couldn't find anyone who hadn't sampled at least a dish or two that they'd never tried before.

Thank you to all the table coordinators who contacted all the volunteers and made sure that each table had enough food and that a wide assortment was available all night long! Thanks to everyone who came in Saturday morning and afternoon to set up and decorate the gym. Everything looked magnificent! Thank you to Ruth Walsh who made all the beautiful signage for the event. Thank you to Mr. Lemma and our student musicians for adding to the enjoyment of the evening for all in attendance. Thank you to Chef J for the loan of the culinary carts. Thank you to the faculty members in attendance for joining us for the evening. Thank you to all the food servers and to the clean up crew. The gym was cleaned and cleared in record breaking time!

If any of you ever pass Jimmy and the rest of the custodial crew in the halls, please thank them. I know I certainly will each and every time I see them. They worked ceaselessly preparing for the International Dinner and throughout the evening as well. As hard as the PPO members worked, it seemed that the custodial crew worked twice as hard. We could never have had such an enormous event without all of them at our sides. Can you imagine that after we finished cleaning up (with much work put in by them), the custodial crew stayed behind to set the gym up for the Math Competition that was being held the next morning?! I hope everyone appreciates their efforts as much as I do.

I'm sure that I am forgetting to thank someone. I am a bit bleary eyed at this point, so if I forgot to mention a specific job that you did, please forgive me. Please know that all of your efforts did not go unnoticed and were greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of you!

Huge hugs and "thank you's" to my co-chairs, Lalitha Ramakrishnan and Wendy Wang. Also thanks to my unofficial co-chairs Mary Wang and Shiaoling Paxson. It seems that every time I wished for something these women were there to make sure that it was granted!

If you enjoyed yourself on Saturday, please remember to volunteer for next year's International Dinner. We need as many volunteers as possible. Also, if you have any suggestions for next year, please let me know.

I'd like to wrap this up by thanking the PPO and administration of BCA for making events such as the International Dinner possible. I look forward to next year and yet another delicious and memorable weekend!

Alyson Cohn  
Co-Chair, International Dinner