

THE RESILIENCE ISSUE

Stories of Perseverance by BCC students, past and present



Photo by Denisse Pumagualle

by Denisse Pumagualle
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 Editor-in-Chief

On a rainy Tuesday morning this past November, BCC students, faculty and staff—and some locals—congregated at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, to discover the story of the late Abraham W. Landau as told in *Branded on My Arm and in My Soul: A Holocaust Memoir*, published by Spinner Publications (www.spinner-pub.com).

BCC's Holocaust Center and Spinner Publications co-sponsored the lecture and shared information about

the book, the author, and the importance of learning and remembering the Holocaust, so that history does not repeat itself.

"It is a great story of human survival, but it is also a great historical lesson and documentation of the events that were the Holocaust," said Joseph Thomas, the book's publisher and co-editor (with Marsha L. McCabe and Jay Avila).

Landau lived his last 50 years in New Bedford, after surviving 13 camps. Landau was born in Poland on 1922. By 1939, the German army invaded Poland. Landau was only 17-years-old when he started his un-

fortunate path through concentration camps.

"I thought Abe's story was unusually profound because of all the camps he survived [13 in total] and because of the stories of the Death Marches, the camps, and the ghettos in Poland... He [Landau] talked about being on the train cars for days, standing up. People were dropping dead. The tall guys one started to rise because they were standing on top of the dead bodies," Thomas recounted.

To survive the Holocaust, Landau pretended to be a much younger boy,

which everyone believed him due to his small frame. He used his knowledge of the German language to befriend some of the soldiers. His father was a tailor and Landau, an orphan while in the camps, had learned the basics of that trade, and put it to good use in order to stay alive.

Landau had done a series of interviews before going to Thomas in 1993 for assistance editing his transcripts. "He spoke broken English and he wanted to share his story. He wanted help to make it as clear as possible," said Thomas. The project wasn't started until the early 2000s. The book was published almost 12 years later.

Landau recounted his return home in his Holocaust memoir: "*We walked around Warsaw for a couple of days and went to see the ruin of the Warsaw Ghetto. In the cemetery, the ground was still fresh from the blood of the thousands who had lost their lives. Nothing had healed; everything was still new and raw. People were crying and looking for relatives.*"

For more information about The Holocaust Center's upcoming events contact Ron Weisberger at ron.weisberger@bristolcc.edu or at 508-678-2811 ext. 2444.

The Observer

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Telephone: (617) 565-3200 or 1-800-669-4000

TTY: (877) 521-2172
TTY: (617) 565-3204 or 1-800-669-6820

Inquiries regarding state laws may be directed to: Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, 800 Purchase Street, Room 501, New Bedford, MA 02740. Telephone: (508)990-2390 Fax: (508)990-4260.

Revised 2012

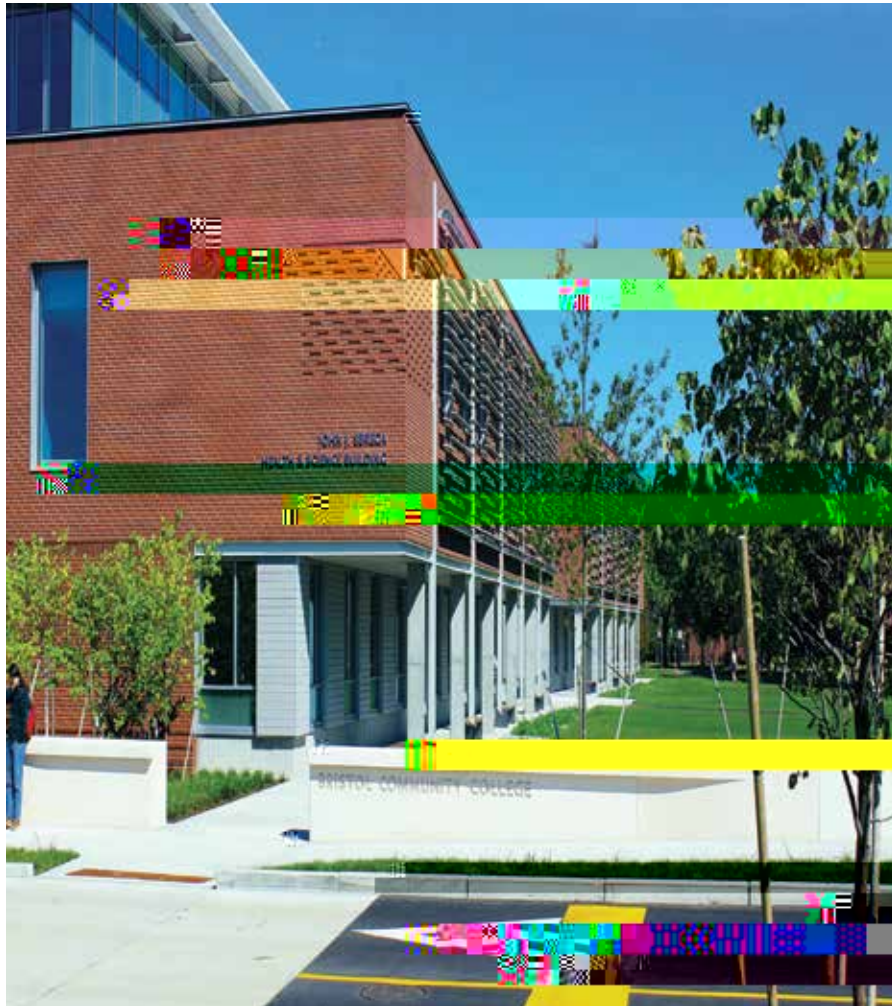
Opinion: 2016 Recount. A Year of Lessons and Acceptance.

ing. Also, we cover an event about a Holocaust survivor, who lived his last years in New Bedford. All of these stories capture the spirit of resilience, and I hope you connect with them as much as I did.

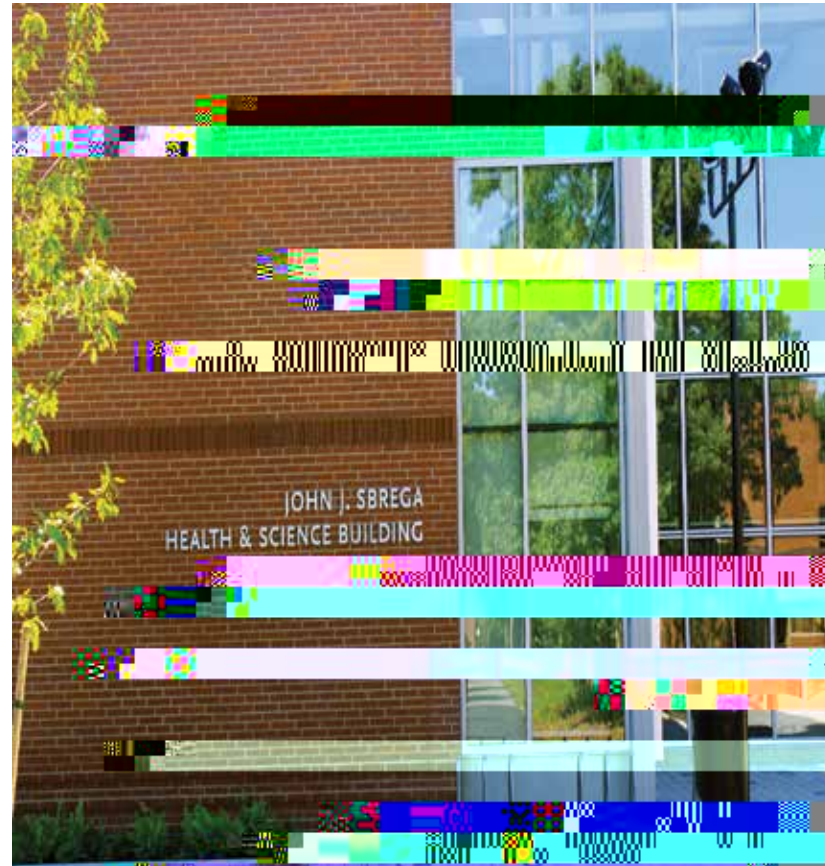
We apologize to our readers that we were absent last semester in print, but we hope you got to read some of our content on Facebook. We've been trying to overcome technology and u c h L p i " k u u w g u . " y j k n g " v t { k p i " v q " i c k p " c "

Bristol Community College: John J.

BCC Opens Zero Net Energy Building



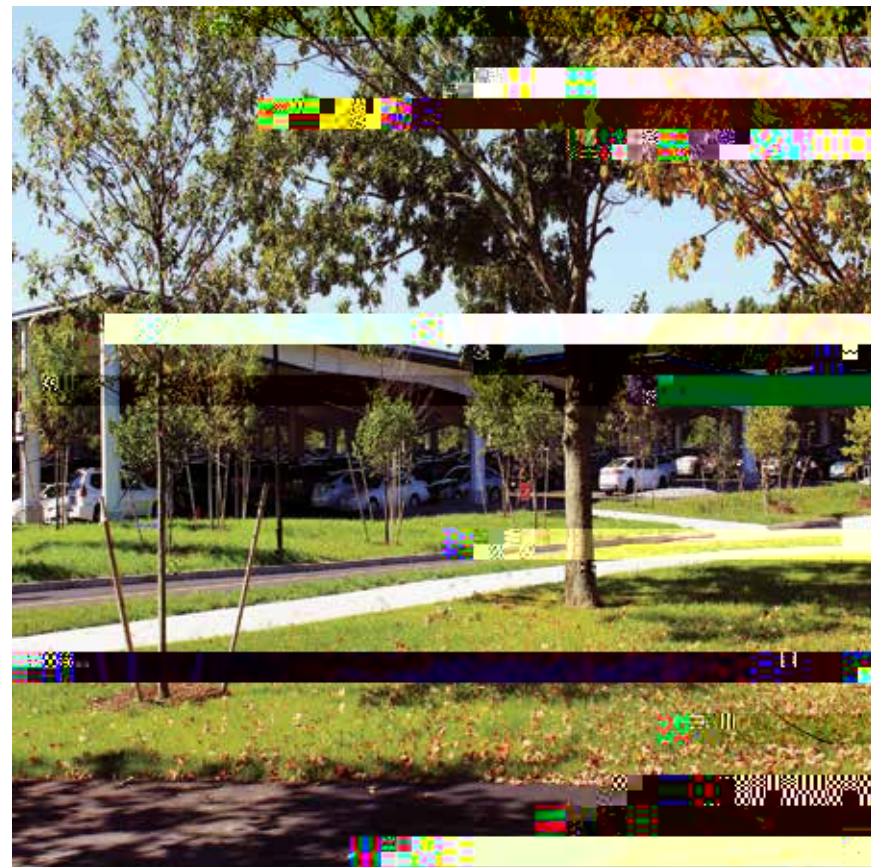
Side view of John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building.



Front view of John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building.



Back view of John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building.



Solar canopy over lots 6-10.

Sbrega Health & Science Building

Photo Essay by Brian Casey



Students using the new micro lab.

by Brian Casey
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On July 2016 Bristol Community College opened the John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building. The Sbrega building is a zero net energy building which provides savings for the college, and will allow for clean energy.

The building is 100 percent powered by the solar canopy built over parking lots 6 to 10. The solar canopy generates 3.2 megawatts of power and covers 800 parking spots.

The building houses the dental hygiene program, nursing program and science micro labs. Throughout the building there are multiple study areas and lounge areas for students to study or mingle with other students. The state of the art labs allow students to learn in today's work standards.

The building is named after the current president of the college John J. Sbrega, who will be retiring later this summer.



Student lounge in the John J. Sbrega Health & Science Building.



Photo by Denisse Pamagualle

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(Editor's note: Essay reprinted from Professor Amy Allen's English 101 class. Essay has not been edited by editorial staff, other than minor copyedits.)

Brooklyn in the early 90s, the crime rate was high, the cost of living was low, and my quest for words began. I remember being a kid walking home from school, looking at different signs unable to comprehend the meaning of them. I saw familiar letters that I've been learning in the recent months. When I learned to read, it was a very long time ago. I don't remember the exact moment I remember that I knew how to read. I wanted to learn how to read different things, like the street signs or the advertisements in front of the comic book store. I always wondered who would write those things and how did they do it. I do recall certain events that happened, very few of

them, but there enough to give me an idea of what I know today.

Looking deep into my memory, I see a blurry image and hear voices from ent deep into26, and my qoices from me crossyonaeraCIt//TT1 ut f-4 445Ming deep iT It//TT0 ut f(mom)TD teJcapitaleñ #MC

