

BC receives NCICU grant for student success program

Brevard College was recently awarded a mini-grant from the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) to implement an academic Student Success Program.

The \$9,120 Independent College Access (ICAN) Network mini-grant will allow the College to implement a program that will provide students with the skills necessary to help them achieve their academic goals and ultimately graduate.

“We’re excited about the opportunity to further enhance Brevard College’s commitment to

student success,” said Shirley Arnold, associate dean for student success and director of the College’s Academic Enrichment Center. “While success in the classroom is the primary goal of the program, we hope to provide opportunities to help these students form personal goals, to take fuller advantage of campus resources and to become more fully engaged in the life of the campus.”

The Student Success Program will include two interlocking components: a one-credit Student Success Course as well as an accompanying

Peer Mentoring Program. Students will learn a variety of skills to be successful, including time management, basic study skills and how to take notes in class. Peer mentors will help provide one-on-one direction and academic support to students in need.

ICAN mini grants, which are administered by N.C. Independent Colleges and Universities, fund programs around the state aimed at expanding access to college and improving college students’ success. The NCICU represents the state’s 36 private colleges and universities.

An Egyptian’s perspective on revolution

By Patrick Veilleux
Staff Writer

President Hosni Mubarak originally took office in 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar El Sadat. Mubarak’s actions as president have been frowned upon by the people of Egypt; notable among these actions was the implementation of the Emergency Law.

Through the Emergency Law, the power of law enforcement was extended, constitutional rights were suspended and censorship was legalized. The law has been in action throughout Mubarak’s rule, and has brought about the revolution Egypt is currently undergoing.

“It started on April 6, 2008; there was a national strike throughout Egypt,” said Raghda Mahmoud, an Egyptian citizen and pro-revolutionist. “People became enraged when Khaled Saeed, a young man from Alexandria, was tortured to death because he refused that two police officers investigated him with good reason.”

The police claimed that Saeed died when he swallowed a packet of hashish, however forensic evidence suggested severe blunt trauma due to a fractured skull. Following Saeed’s death, Egyptian Facebook protest groups were formed. On Jan. 25, youth protesters attended an Egyptian National Holiday called Police Day, advocating Saeed, and protesting against the Egyptian police.

“Many people thought it’d be something trivial. But the Egyptian youth showed great spirit and perseverance that day. The demonstrations were totally peaceful. The police started to use violence against the armless protesters. They shot people and there were 300 martyrs in the first 3 days,” said Mahmoud.

Jan. 25 became known as the Day of Anger, what Mahmoud would call “the best day ever for Egypt, and the Egyptian people.” But it is only the beginning of a revolution to bring

down Mubarak. Mahmoud would become an active participant on Feb. 1, during the March of Millions.

Raghda Mahmoud answered some questions via Skype about the Egyptian revolution and her experience with it:

What was it like being in the March of Millions? What was the attitude?

It was awesome; there were about two million people there. All united regardless of the differences between social class, gender, or religion. It was the first day I really felt Egyptian, and I love Egypt. It belongs to us, not Mubarak. There was a mixture of enthusiasm, anger, unity, love for Egypt, insistence, and strength.

Did the police try and suppress the movement?

The police withdrew.... The Egyptian Army was there and it replaced the police; they were very respectable though. They didn’t use any violence and they treated people very well.

Have there been records of other instances of violence? Was there violence from Mubarak supporters?

After Mubarak’s second speech, thousands of paid thugs began attacking people, not really supporters.... They even confessed to that and the protesters took photos of their IDs with the job written in them as police.

Some people in the United States believe that events in the Middle East are motivated by religious purposes. What would you say motivates the people in Egypt?

Freedom and dignity, as you see, everyone protests. All Muslims and Christians, they now have a stronger bond between them. I guess you heard about the church bombing in Alexandria; it was hinted that the Muslims did that, which is absolutely not true. The Egyptian Muslims, at the time of the bombing, showed their refusal and anger to what happened. They visited the churches and accompanied Christians in their

ceremonies later on Jan. 7—a very important point to mention here. After the police withdrew, and before the army showed up, nobody was protecting the mosques or churches, and as you can see, absolutely nothing happened to them. Whoever bombed the church will never be able to separate us.

How do people feel about the Emergency Law?

It’s awful, everyone feels insecure. I often wonder why a country would have an Emergency Law for over 30 years. Uncountable people have been taken advantage of throughout the years; and hundreds of the protesters in the current revolution. The admin of the protest page I told you about was mysteriously taken by police. He disappeared for 12 days and was just released this Monday. His family knew nothing about him. Now he is back and has joined the protesters again. He has awakened people again. Anyone can go through that as long as the Emergency Law is there. It must be removed.

President Mubarak said that he plans to step down this year. What do the Egyptian people make of that?

People do not believe him. We cannot stand one more day under his ruling. He already showed violence with the protesters after that speech. Imagine what he would do in seven or eight months; moreover, he’d be acting out of revenge of the people. We will never accept that, and we want him to leave right now—30 years has been more than enough.

Is there any message in particular you want to give the United States college students who will read this?

I just want them to wish us luck and success in our revolution. Stay updated with its events and don’t believe anything you hear from the media. Just listen to the people. Only then you can hear the truth.