



## Five New ATTAIN Labs

### 1 W.E.B. Du Bois High School

402 Eastern Parkway  
Brooklyn, New York 11213

### 2 Farragut Community Center

NYC Housing Authority  
228 York Street, Room 101  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

### 3 Dr. Betty Shabazz Complex

700 Gates Avenue  
Apartment 1F  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

### 4 J-CAP

231-35 Merrick Boulevard  
Laurelton, New York 11413

### 5 Long Island EOC-Brentwood

1090-A Suffolk Avenue  
Brentwood, NY 11717

*\* See our next issue for exciting news about the Long Island EOC - Brentwood ATTAIN Lab opening and a related success story.*

## “Creating Pathways Through Partnerships”

was the theme of the W.E.B. Du Bois High School's ATTAIN Lab opening ceremony. The high school, located in Brooklyn, celebrated the installation of its brand new lab on January 29, 2004.

Catherine Hartnett, the principal of W.E.B Du Bois High School, acknowledged the numerous partners involved in this endeavor and expressed her gratitude on behalf of the three hundred students, as well as teachers and staff for whom the ATTAIN Lab will be a tremendous resource.



ATTAIN Lab artwork by local artist, William Fares

The students of W.E.B. High School have all had difficulty succeeding in prior high schools. The mission of the high school is to transform the academic and social lives of their students by helping them meet standards of excellence in a supportive and caring environment. Through a strong partnership with students, their families, and the community, W.E.B. Du Bois High School strives to empower and motivate students to become productive members of society and to lead fulfilling lives.

Students, Jarrett Brookins and Shareetha Pena, expressed their excitement about the ATTAIN Lab. Jarrett Brookins stressed the importance of being able to keep up with the advancement of technology “in an ever-changing world where technology is taking over.”

Caroline Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Strategic Partnerships, New York City Department of Education, was also in attendance and spoke about the importance of young people having access to technology. She called the establishment of the ATTAIN Lab “a great example of working together and partnership” and regarded it as “really a great symbol for what we want to achieve.”

W.E.B. Du Bois students will use the lab for academic preparation, career exploration, and computer literacy. In addition, an after-school program led by Crown Heights Service Center has already begun using the lab and ISI courseware for their Regents prep and life skills programs. Once a lab facilitator is hired, efforts will be made to make the lab available for use by the greater community in the evenings, weekends and during the summers.

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P2

P3

P4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Software Enhancements

Tributes Page

ATTAIN Lab Openings

# Items

## to Remember...

The more you can keep dust and dirt away from your computers, the better they will run. For an on-line Computer Cleaning Course, see: <http://www.computerbits.com/archive/1999/1100/clean9911.html>

In order to accurately track software usage in the ATTAIN Lab, it is important for students to access all third party software (e.g., ELLIS, Milady's, Mavis Beacon, and Barron's GED) through the ISI curriculum icon on the desktop.

**PLEASE keep CPUs "ON" at all times.** The ISI Development Team is constantly updating the Management System and Courseware. The transfer of data and the repair of system errors can only occur if the CPUs are on.

One way to avoid having your sunyeoc email account flooded with SPAM is to use caution when entering your email address on websites that ask for your email information.

Swap E-mail with Ray Bramucci, President of ISI. Ray, the former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, will challenge you to think creatively and to help others gain ready access to better jobs, technology and quality education. Ray's email address is [ray@ISINJ.com](mailto:ray@ISINJ.com). He is eager to hear from you.

## Software Enhancements

### ISI Management System

The ISI Development Team has worked diligently to enhance the management system with features that will make the product more efficient and easier to use. Effort has been made to detect, correct, and eliminate instances of database corruption leading to error messages. There has also been continual review of the reports for accuracy, reliability, ease of use and understanding. The current version of the management system incorporates new features requested by practitioners.

#### *Group Page Breaks*

The reports now contain a page break after each group, which is especially helpful for lab managers who need to run data for numerous classes and distribute the results to different teachers.

#### *Report Output to Excel & Word*

This feature is useful for attaching Manager reports to an email. For training on this feature, please contact your ISI Trainer.

#### COMING SOON:

#### *Certificates of Achievement*

Soon teachers and lab managers will be able to generate Certificates directly from the Management System. A routine will be established to allow printing of certificates for all students who have completed set criteria (e.g., 80% course completion with a score above 70%) as determined by each site.

#### *"Completion Report" by Groups*

Developers are working to enable the groups feature of the completion report. This will allow running the report for an entire class, which will be more efficient for practitioners. Look for this enhancement in the Spring.

### ISI Courseware

The ISI Development Team is continually updating and revising the current courseware as well as developing new courses. Minor fixes have been made on courseware problems reported by practitioners.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The Child Care and Developmental Series are available to you under a "pilot license" and are still in development. We encourage you to utilize these courses and, as always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.*

#### *Third Party Software*

Developers are looking closely at configuration issues related to third party software installation. The end result will be a quicker and easier process of installing third party software. We will keep you posted on new developments and systems in place.

#### *Readability*

To ensure greater accuracy, the reading levels of ISI reading courses are currently being reassessed using nine readability formulas. For a list of these formulas, please contact your ISI Trainer.



## In Memory

**Laura L. Higgins  
1936 - 2003  
Dean/Director  
Manhattan EOC**

On January 9, 2004, friends, relatives and colleagues gathered in the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building to celebrate the life of Laura LaBon Higgins. "I'm here because I loved Laura," said Mr. Bill Harper, Vice President of the Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center. He went on to say that Mrs. Higgins stood steadfastly behind those she cared about.

Laura LaBon Higgins, the sixth of eleven children, was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. At the time of her passing, she had been a resident of Harlem for 46 years. Those who knew her delivered testimonies on her deep commitment to the Harlem community. Mrs. Higgins was presented with many honors and awards for leadership and scholarship, including one from the New York State Assembly for Outstanding Service to both the Harlem community and the State of New York.

Mrs. Higgins became the director of the Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) in 1980. At the MEOC, recently promoted to Dean, she supervised a staff of more than 100 employees, serving approximately 2,700 students. Mr. William Chalmers, University Center for Academic and Workforce Development, Assistant Provost/Director, EOC Operations, described Mrs. Higgins as "a lady of grace, dignity, passion and commitment." He went on to say that she left behind a legacy of 50,000 students who passed through the EOC and 12,000 students who graduated from the EOC.

One alumna, Esther Anokye, now a registered nurse, spoke fondly of Mrs. Higgins and described how through Mrs. Higgins' encouragement, she was able to earn her GED in less than four months at the EOC. Veronica Knight, an EOC graduate, now on the deans list at BMCC, is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing and spoke of her time at the EOC, "Mrs. Higgins listened, stretched out her hand, and offered words of encouragement."

Dr. Lois Blades-Rosado, Assistant Dean/Executive Director of Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center, described Mrs. Higgins as "an educational leader, a woman of substance, and a generous human being."

Mrs. Higgins touched many lives in profound ways. She will be deeply missed by all.

### **Excerpt from a poem written and dedicated to Mrs. Higgins by John Weldon Evans, Manhattan EOC**

*O Captain! O Captain!  
How pale and still you lie!  
When shall there be another  
Like you to guide our ship!  
You knew this ocean like a book:  
This city, this town, the people in it, great and small!  
You knew the who, where, when, what and how  
To pave the way and get things done!  
And how you loved this Harlem and the people in it!  
And how you loved this school, this ship The EOC!*

*O Captain! O Captain!  
How pale and still you lie!  
Thanks to the keel you helped to build,  
This ship shall still sail on...  
But what of you, my Captain, what of you!  
I pray, throughout the years to come,  
May we never forget you!  
O well that we should honor you,  
Your life was like a light  
That shall shine through eternity!*

### **A NEW ADDITION . . . .**

We are happy to introduce you to our new ISI staff member, Jose Chico. Jose started with us as an intern in May 2003 and was hired in January 2004 as a Jr. Field Engineer.



Jose is a graduate of the EOC system. He initially attended the Brooklyn EOC and later went on to the Manhattan EOC, where he studied A+ and Network Plus. When asked how he found out about these programs, he replied, "In 2002, I was looking for work during the recession and decided to return to my computer studies to upgrade my skills. I saw an ad in a newspaper for free computer classes at the Manhattan EOC."

After finishing his classes at the EOC, Jose saw another ad in a newspaper that led to a \$4000 grant to further advance his computer studies. He used the grant to attend Orion Technology, where he studied MCSE, CCNA, and Checkpoint Firewall.

While studying at Orion Technology, Jose stayed in contact with staff and instructors at the Manhattan EOC. In fact, it was an instructor at the Manhattan EOC who recommended Jose to ISI as "one of his best students."

We are delighted to have Jose on our team! Please join us in congratulating him on his perseverance and accomplishments.

## **First ATTAIN Lab in Brooklyn Housing**

On October 28, 2003, over two hundred people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) Lab located in the Farragut community center in Fort Green, Brooklyn. Farragut is a 10-building complex built in 1951 and home to more than 1,300 families.



Though Internet access has risen steadily throughout the nation, urban households are the least likely to afford the service resulting in the "digital divide." In a continuing initiative to bridge the city's digital divide and increase access to academic and job training programs, the ATTAIN Project, through a partnership between SUNY's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development, the New York City Housing Authority and Instructional Systems Inc., worked to establish this 24-station computer lab.

The ATTAIN lab is the first of its kind in Brooklyn housing and will serve to combat Farragut's 68% unemployment rate. Assemblyman Roger Green was instrumental in identifying Farragut as a community setting that would benefit greatly from the wealth of information and resources available in the ATTAIN Lab and helped shape its programs.

Residents of the Farragut housing complex have already begun using the ATTAIN Lab for gaining basic computer skills, academic enrichment and

## **Revitalization Efforts Continue in Bedford-Stuyvesant**

The Dr. Betty Shabazz Community ATTAIN Lab in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn celebrated its grand opening on November 10, 2003. This lab was established through a partnership between the State University of New York, Dr. Betty Shabazz Community Complex, the Community Service Society (CSS) and Instructional Systems Inc. (ISI).

Over the past seven years, residents of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Complex and their neighbors from the Medgar Evers Houses have been engaged in a comprehensive community revitalization initiative with the assistance of their nonprofit partners, the Community Service Society of New York (CSS) and Long Life Information and Referral



Network (Long Life). The opening of the ATTAIN lab represents another achievement in the revitalization of this neighborhood.

"In the very near future, approximately 80 percent of all newly created jobs will require a sound understanding of technology. By placing the computer labs in the community, we are creating parity for those without computer access," said Mr. Vijay Macwan, Director of SUNY University Center for Academic and Workforce Development.

This lab will greatly benefit the residents of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Complex as well as the surrounding community. It will enable residents to foster their academic skills and gain economic self-sufficiency. The lab also has the potential to promote economic development in the larger community by linking residents with businesses, institutions and services.

## **J-CAP's New ATTAIN Lab**

Jamaica Community Adolescent Program, Inc. (J-CAP) is a community based non-profit organization providing a broad range of substance abuse prevention, treatment and related health and social services to the residents of southern Queens and New York City. Established in the late 1960's, the organization promotes the idea, "You alone can do it... but you cannot do it alone."



On November 19, 2003, J-CAP celebrated the grand opening of its new ATTAIN Lab. Through the ATTAIN Project, ISI has joined J-CAP in its efforts to strengthen existing programs, expand others and improve program efficiency. G.E.D. preparation, parenting, nutrition education, life skills, and group and individual counseling are provided to residential and outpatient groups, as well as to teen mothers participating in an in-house teen pregnancy program. Overall, agency programs address both the physical and

emotional needs of the individual, with emphasis placed on achieving a balanced, healthy lifestyle.

J-CAP counselors are using the ATTAIN Lab and ISI courseware to integrate personal development, goal setting and decision-making modules into their clinical and counseling components. Job developers and vocational coordinators plan to use the courseware to enhance their employment preparation programs. Additionally, the ISI Management System makes case management tasks more efficient and reliable, while providing for increased confidentiality and integrity.