Welcome to the new school year! I do hope that the start of the new year went smoothly for you! While the summer weather has lingered, we've also had some cool mornings, reminding us that quite soon, we will be deep into fall. Here is an update on what has been happening in our program.

During the summer a small group of dedicated students participated in the *Reach summer program*. The focus of the reading program, taught by Marc Lawrence, was *The Roaring Twenties*. Students learned about the colorful personalities of that era, gangsters and flappers, as well as about the Great Depression. A highlight was a trip to Thomas Edison's laboratory in West Orange and a tour of his home, Glenmont.

It has been over a year and a half since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. When this catastrophe happened, our Haitian students were shocked, anxious, and worried for the safety of their family members, friends, and countrymen. Since that terrible time in January 2010, their anxiety has abated, but there is still so much rebuilding that is necessary. Mindful of the great need to reach out to help in some way, Bloomfield College organized the “Help and Hope for Haiti” relief effort. A group of students, faculty, and staff members went to Les Cayes in late May. One of the students selected was **Sauvelson Auguste**, a student who was in our EAP program. Sauvelson is majoring in Allied Health. You can read his reflection on his experience on the second page.

As always, we are grateful for all of the EAP students who choose to study at Bloomfield College. We have students this year from Egypt, El Salvador, Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Peru, Brazil, Cape Verde, and Haiti. Such diversity of students tremendously enriches our program and the entire college community. Thank you for encouraging them to apply here!

Have a wonderful fall!

---

**Say Cheese, Reach 2011 Participants!**

*Emy & Reach students at Thomas Edison’s Lab*  
*Reach Students’ Presentation*  
*They did it! Reach Ending Ceremony*
Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, which had been affected by the horrific earthquake in January 2010. When that happened, many rich and poor countries focused efforts to help Haiti. As a result of the earthquake, Bloomfield College, a small institution but a great college, thought about joining these efforts. People took action; they collected money, clothes, and medical supplies to bring to the people in Haiti. The school didn’t want just to send the supplies; it wanted to physically go with a group of students and faculty members to Haiti.

The College had a slogan: “Help and Hope for Haiti.” This slogan meant a lot to me as a native Haitian who came to the United States three years ago, before the catastrophic earthquake happened.

After the earthquake, my advisor, Emy Kamihara, called me to ask about my family over there and if I could get in touch with them. That was a great outreach from the school, to think about getting in touch with those students who were from Haiti. At the end of the conversation, my advisor told me, “The College will take action to help people in Haiti.” I offered myself as a volunteer to go to help.

Bloomfield College went to “Les Cayes” in the south of Haiti to the village called Faugace, which is close to Laurent. Every morning I woke up at 6:30, took a shower, and ate breakfast. Our group walked to the clinic where we offered free medical diagnostic recording. We took people’s vital signs and filled out a medical form for each person to record their weight, height, blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and temperature. We then sent the persons to the nurse for medical supplies until they could meet with their doctors. Jemima, one of the students on the mission trip, and I were taking people’s pulses and respiration rate. Every morning there was a long line of people waiting outside the clinic. When the clinic closed in the early afternoon, we went back to our residence house to eat lunch.

In the afternoon, at 2:30, we went back to do activities at the school. The first day that we went to the school, the kids were crowding around with great happiness. We played games with them like Simon Sez, Twister, soccer, and jump rope.

We showed them how to brush their teeth and taught them some English too. Every day was busy for us. Even when it rained we walked in the rain to bring help to the people. On the last day of the mission trip, I did not want to leave. I would have liked to stay longer because I was enjoying the daily routine.

My experience in Haiti through Bloomfield College helped me to discover one reality which I never paid attention to while I was living in my country. I learned that there are many orphaned children and adults who did not know their age and did not know the year they were born in. In America, people know their age from very young because they celebrate their birthdays, but those people did not. But more importantly, this experience helped me to make plans for after my graduation. I would like to go back to my native country to help those people who need it. I am thinking about creating a foundation and through that, I can have more opportunities to help build hospitals and schools, to improve the medical care and education of Haiti.

I would like to say “thank you” to Bloomfield College and everyone who made that trip possible. Haiti is not the only poor country in the world that needs help but we can do the same for other poor countries. Let’s go, BC! We can do it!