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## Monroe College: Home of Champions

This has been a reaffirming few weeks for the Monroe College culture of success!

- On Saturday, March 11, the **Monroe College Lady Mustangs** women's basketball team won the NJCAA, Division III National championship! In what was a perfectly played game by Monroe, the Lady Mustangs soundly beat Mohawk Valley of Utica, NY 100 – 70, in the national finals to complete an incredible 36 – 0 undefeated championship season.
- The **Monroe Mustangs** men's basketball team also completed a championship season, winning their fourth consecutive Region XV championship, second District III championship, and playing in the NJCAA, Division I National Tournament, held in Hutchinson, Kansas. At the tournament, Monroe



*Monroe Mustangs celebrate*

went 2 -2, good for eighth place, and securing 33 wins on the season, the most ever for the men's basketball program.

## MONROE FOUR-YEAR SIFE TEAM WINS REGIONAL COMPETITION Up Next - The Nationals!



The Monroe College four-year SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) Team was named Champion of the League 3 Regional Competition, held on Tuesday, March 29, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a result, the twenty-two member team, which is based on the college's New Rochelle campus, will participate in the National SIFE Competition in Kansas City, Missouri to be held May 21-23.

The Monroe four-year team had been named runners-up at the competition in the previous two years. For Co-president Ayanna Henry, winning the championship this year was something special. "We worked tirelessly, not only on our projects, but also at making a strong, entertaining, and cogent presentation," she said. "As good as it was, though, we think we can do better. And there's no doubt that this experience will help us when we get to the nationals next month."

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## ANOTHER MONROE SIFE TEAM WINS REGIONAL COMPETITION!



### The Two-Year Team Makes the Nationals

For the second time in just two weeks, Monroe College can boast of a Regional SIFE Champion. On Tuesday, April 11, the thirty-six member Monroe College two-year SIFE team, which is based on the college's Bronx campus, won the League 4 Regional Competition held in Tarrytown, NY, thereby qualifying for the May 21-23 National SIFE Competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

On March 29, Monroe's four-year team won their Regional Competition and also qualified for the National Exposition. In addition to the overall championship, the Monroe two-year SIFE team also swept the Individual Topic Competition, which rewards achievement in financial literacy, market economics, success skills, business ethics, program sustainability, and entrepreneurship.

Last year this two-year SIFE team was a National SIFE Champion and was featured on FOX 5, New York 1, News 12, and the Kellogg's Corn Flakes box. For SIFE President Tishma Donastorg, getting a chance to compete in the national competition for the second year in a row has great meaning. "We put a lot of work into it and so we're very happy," she said. "But, more importantly, I think of all the people we've helped and that means more to us than anything."

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*If your company would be  
interested in hiring a Monroe  
Intern, please call Co-op  
Coordinators*

*Jennifer Friary at (718)933-7065*

*or*

*Sharon Teta at (914) 632-5400*



Many in attendance at the Regional Competition were impressed with the Monroe presentation. One judge said, "Not only were their projects incredibly well-conceived, but their presentation was impeccable." A few of this year's projects were continuations of last year's work and some were new. For example, Cupid in Business is now in its third year. This project supports women from the Concourse House homeless shelter in the Bronx, teaching them entrepreneurial and computer skills. In fact, using what she had learned from SIFE, one woman started her own business, which gave her enough income to eventually move out of the Concourse House.

One new project is Takes the Cake, which deals with a Bronx bakery. Monroe SIFE worked with the small business owner to create a marketing plan and help her expand from a consumer based operation to include wholesale distribution.

In SIFE competitions, teams are evaluated on creativity and innovation, results of educational programs, and application of principles of free enterprise. SIFE is a non-profit organization that encourages the skills of leadership and teamwork by way of a cooperative relationship between higher education and business. SIFE has chapters at more than 800 colleges in the United States, and more than 1400 colleges in 33 countries. It makes connections between what is learned in the college classroom and real-world situations.

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## Interning at Pepperidge Farm



We are happy to announce that Ms. Sirita Muse, a Bronx BBA student majoring in Business Management, has recently been offered an outstanding paid internship opportunity with Pepperidge Farm Company. Ms. Muse will intern at the company's corporate headquarters in Norwalk, CT in one of their brand management marketing departments. She will quickly become exposed to

*Monroe currently offers the following majors:*

- *Accounting*
- *Business Administration*
- *Business Management*
- *Business Technology*
- *Computer Information Systems*
- *Criminal Justice*
- *Culinary Arts*
- *Health Services Administration*
- *Hospitality Management*
- *Medical Administration*
- *Medical Assisting*

*We congratulate Mr. Scott, and wish him the best in his pursuit of his Masters degree!*

If you are aware of similar scholarship opportunities given by your employer, please contact your alumni relations department with the names of individuals we can contact to discuss our college, our diverse student population, and the many programs we offer for undergraduate and graduate programs.

all aspects of sales and product development for this huge company. Pepperidge Farm, a division of Campbell's Soup Corporation, has annual sales exceeding \$1 billion, with eight manufacturing facilities across the country, and 5,000 employees.

Sirita stated she is very excited about working there. "I feel like this is my dream job, doing marketing with a food company of this size. I have always been interested in a career within the food / culinary industry, so this kind of internship should really help me in my career goals." She also mentioned that she was excited to learn how at Pepperidge Farm "they treat interns like employees; your opinion counts from the start." Sirita was told during the interview process that at Pepperidge Farm "management will sit with you, and interns are encouraged to participate as part of the team. The entire process is very performance driven." When asked why she thought she was selected from all of the other candidates, she smiled and said, "I told them during the interview that I viewed this not as an internship, but as the beginning of my career."

We completely agree with you, Sirita, and wish you the best of luck!

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## Stephen Jerome/Monroe College Scholarship Given to Recent Grad

As you may be aware, President Jerome's undergraduate degree is from Pace University, and several years ago he established a scholarship instituted in memory of his mentor, Professor Emanuel Heller. At the inception of the award, it was originally a general scholarship. In 1997, it was increased



*Hamilton Scott '05*

*Please share the highlights of your life with us!*

*Have you been promoted, started your own business or foundation, written a book, been honored by your company or fraternal organization, traveled to exotic destination, recently married or engaged, added a new member to the family?*

*We would love to hear the good news and share it with your classmates!*

**SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO:**

*Alumni Relations*

*Monroe College*

*434 Main Street*

*New Rochelle, NY 10801*

**OR:**

*e-mail:*

*[nralumni@monroecollege.edu](mailto:nralumni@monroecollege.edu)*

*If you are living in another part of the country and are aware of other Monroe alums also living nearby, please let us know.*



*Orlando Reunion 2006  
at the  
The Portofino Hotel*

and earmarked specifically for Monroe graduates who continue on at Pace for their graduate studies.

This year's recipient for the award is Mr. Hamilton Scott. Mr. Hamilton completed his Baccalaureate Degree, December 2005 at Monroe College. His major area of study was Computer Information Systems. Hamilton was an excellent student who consistently earned Academic Honors and graduated with an impressive 3.75 G.P.A. He has been employed with the Board of Education for almost ten years. He spent seven years working with the GED Department and three years teaching and assisting in the Special Education Department. Hamilton received a graduate scholarship and is currently pursuing his Master's Degree at Pace University. He also plans to begin his own computer consulting business in the near future.

Monroe alumni need to apply for the scholarship at Pace's financial aid office specifically for the Stephen Jerome/Monroe College scholarship. The criteria for who is selected is determined by Pace. The scholarship is currently funded at \$20,000 per year (\$10,000 per semester.)

## Florida Alumni Reunions

During the months of February and March, President Stephen Jerome and Leslie Jerome, Director of Alumni Relations, visited the Florida area to get together with some of our

graduates. After the enormous response to Harris regarding our alumni directory and after becoming aware of the number of graduates who reside in Florida, President and Mrs. Jerome arranged to host two champagne brunches, one on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Lauderdale and the second on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Orlando.



*Alicia Concepcion '84 & Jose Santiago*

# MONROE COLLEGE

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## Alumni Board members:

- Michael Altamirano '95
- Catherine Barreto '02
- Lisandra Bonilla '96
- David Dawson '03
- Rosaline Nieves '03
- Keija Seemungal '03
- Ameil Sloley '03

The events gave everyone a chance to reunite with classmates and friends, as well as become updated on the latest news at Monroe College.

While the Northeast was being battered by a blizzard, Monroe alumni gathered for the first champagne brunch in Ft. Lauderdale.

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## Monroe Milestones: Alumni Happenings

### Marriages:

At our Florida Reunion we had the pleasure of meeting some of our married graduates who met at the college.



From left to right:

Bill (William) McMillan '94 & Erica McGinnis '94, Ismael Rivera '98 & Zusanette Torres '96, Ramon Rosario '02 & Diana Cruz '96, Richard Torres '85 & Daisy Diodonet '85

**Diana Cruz '96**, - "I met the love of my life in the line at the Monroe College bookstore" – married 12 years

**Richard Torres '85** – "I met my wife at Monroe. This year will make 18 years of marriage Thank you M-O-N-R-O-E."

### Births:

Congratulations to **Kathie Swanson-Sacarello '95** and her husband, on the birth of their new son Michael Angel Sacarello. Born March 8, 2006.

## Monroe Professor Elected to City Council!



*Adjunct Professor Jimmy Vacca was elected to the New York City Council! Councilman-elect Vacca, a Democrat from the East Bronx, won in a competitive race against Republican Philip Foglia.*

*Mr. Vacca, who is married with a daughter, had been the District Manager in Bronx Community Board 10 and a leading voice for his community for the last quarter-century.*

*He currently teaches the Social Sciences on Saturday mornings in New Rochelle, something he hopes to continue even now that he's a New York City Councilman.*

***Congratulations Jimmy,  
and good luck.  
You've made Monroe proud!***

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**Arthur Rippy '94** recently wrote:

*"After obtaining my GED degree and getting my Associates degree at Monroe. I moved to Baltimore, MD and began to work for Verizon. I got my BA degree there, and for the next ten years worked in the security division of Verizon. I have just received a job offer for SR Networking Engineer at a salary substantially higher than before. My advice to grads is: "Always do what you love! Don't let other people tell you what to do!"*

**Thalia Wilson Palmer '03** is a Manager at Walgreens. As a former member of SIFE, she returned to the annual SIFE competition to recruit for many of the Walgreens across the area.

**Joyce James '02** is a Senior Consulting IT Specialist at IBM. We would like to thank her for her participation as a guest speaker at the Hospitality Department's ***Road to Success*** seminar. Thanks again to Joyce!

**Betzaida Aponte '04**, an IBM Software Enablement Manager, has developed a new



experience."

product for IBM that has recently been released. It's an "Advanced Encryption Software" designed to help organizations protect data and adhere to the compliance laws. Betzaida says it's been a "challenging and rewarding

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## Alumni Events:

### **Upcoming Events**

Save the date! On Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, meet and greet current grads and their family. Come and join us on a tour of NYC. Afterwards, enjoy appetizers and wine tasting hosted at Monroe.

For further details, please contact Kia Carrier at 914-632-5400 ext.6471 or [kcarrier@monroecollege.edu](mailto:kcarrier@monroecollege.edu)

*Only with your active help and assistance can we continue to grow. We welcome your input!*

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So stay connected to the Alumni Webpage, speak to each other, and attend alumni events.

If you have any suggestions about alumni events, please e-mail us at: [nralumni@monroecollege.edu](mailto:nralumni@monroecollege.edu)

We are in the process of organizing events for the Spring and Fall season. Please, give us your feedback...we would love to hear your ideas.

Here are some possible upcoming events we would like to suggest:

- **“Meet as Strangers, Leave as Friends Dinner”**

We wish to begin a new Monroe College Alumni tradition with the new **12 Strangers program**. We need volunteers to host dinners at local restaurants for current Monroe students. The meals will give students the chance to relax and connect with fellow students, alumni and faculty members on an informal basis.

- **Form local alumni chapters** – If you are located in another state and wish to form a local alumni chapter, let us know. We would be thrilled to assist you in helping to reconnect with fellow Monroe alumni.

- **Host a group of prospective students** – What better way to spread the word about Monroe than to participate in our recruitment of new students. Our Admissions Department welcomes your assistance. Can you host a small, informal meeting of prospective students in your home? Please contact us to discuss.

**Social Events** – Have you heard about a great new show or restaurant that you have been dying to go to? Why not get a group of alums together to join you. Please give us your thoughts on interesting places we can visit as a group.