MONROE COLLEGE

MARCH, 2013

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MONTHLY OBSERVER

"What you need to know...at Monroe"

2013 Job and Internship Career Fair

2013 Job and Internship Career Fair
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20,
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
King Hall, Bronx Campus

The Office of Career Advancement (OCA) has a goal of registering 90 or more employers to exhibit at the Winter 2013 Job and Internship Fair, says Executive Director **Walter Eddie**.

Twenty-six employers, with paying part-time jobs or internships, attended the Winter Semester Part-time Job Fair held at the Radisson Hotel in New Rochelle, in February. According to **Shenique Rojas**, Assistant Director of the Office of Career Advancement (OCA), New Rochelle campus, "This was an excellent turn-out for our Winter Semester which typically attracts far fewer employers than the Fall Semester Part-time Job Fair."

Based on responses to questions posed by a *Monroe Observer* inquiring reporter to company representatives participating in the Part-time Job Fair, employers are feeling better about the economy now that the Presidential election is behind us. Although, at least one employer representative, **Ben Robles, Jr.**, said his entertainment cruise company has seen steady growth over the past several years and even added a new vessel this past year. Entertainment Cruises, Inc. operates various dinner and party cruise ships that sail around and about Metropolitan New York. Wait staff can earn upwards to $30 an hour during peak season which starts around the end of April and runs through the summer. Not bad pay – at all – for a college student or even a recent graduate and not a bad way to spend the summer traveling the "high seas" of New York.

When checked in with a few weeks later, Mr. Robles told the *Observer* that he had just interviewed a Monroe student – who he met at the Part-time Job Fair – and he was prepared to make him an offer! However, it didn't take that long for Tim Potocki, general manager of the Nordstrom Café at The Westchester, to realize that he had found a gem of a job applicant at the same event. "I met one student today who alone made it worthwhile for me to participate in today's job fair."

According to Mr. Eddie, "Employers consistently tell us they can spot which job candidates took advantage of the preparation services that OCA offers Monroe students and alumni, versus job seekers who just show up without ever having shown their faces at OCA."

OCA regularly offers workshops on resume writing, mock interviews, and dressing for success. With respect to attire, this means focusing on the essentials that assure the right presentation; at its simplest it's about recognizing the distinct difference between fashion and style. Students that attend our workshop come away understanding that it is far better to error on the side of being overly conservative, then to embrace a style that detracts from your intended goal, and that is to land the job.

If your wardrobe is limited, don't let that stop you from attending the March 20th Full-time Job Fair. OCA has thought of everything. Through the generosity of your professors and college administrators, a wardrobe of clean, ready-to-go business attire for both men and women awaits you at OCA at West Hall, 4th Floor (2467 Jerome Ave., the Bronx) and Main Hall (434 Main St., New Rochelle). The very helpful Career Advisors and support staff will find something that fits your size and even your style and make you look like a million bucks – for free!

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Long Jumper Leads the Way at Great Dane Meet

The Monroe Mustangs 2012–13 indoor track team is writing an amazing story.

The latest chapter was composed at the Great Dane Classic hosted by the University at Albany at the NYC Armory. It opened with jumper **Mamadou Gueye** from Senegal, who went airborne on a long jump that set a meet record and earned him a meet MVP award, and concluded with a number of other Mustangs turning in nationals-qualifying performances.

"We're getting to the point now where we expect to run faster and jump higher and longer each time we compete," said head track and field coach **Mark Goodman**. "While those expectations are good, we have to remember the hard work that makes it all possible. So there's no sitting back for the Mustangs if we want the sky to be our the limit."

Already ranked as the nation's leader in the triple jump, Gueye took off on an astounding long jump of 25' 8.25" (7.83m), which planted him as the NJCAA leader and second among all collegiate jumpers, including NCAA, four-year athletes. At the conclusion of the Classic, Gueye was awarded the MVP Field Event Athlete of the Meet, which is given for the most impressive performance of the day. He's the first Mustang to ever win that award.

Gueye's jump also set the meet record, breaking the mark of 7.64m that stood for six years.

But Gueye wasn't the only Mustang who impressed at the Armory. Athletes on both the men's and women's teams competed extremely well, posting their best performances to date and adding to the long list of Monroe athletes who will be competing in the national track meet at Texas Tech in March.

Model UN Competition

For the first time in Monroe College history, six School of Criminal Justice students from the Amnesty International group participated in a Model UN Competition at Pennsylvania State University. These students researched and debated complex topics ranging from a possible war with Iran, the colonization of space with humans, Department of Homeland Security issues, a secret terrorist cell trying to overthrow the U.S. government, the Iron Throne and the planning for the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. The competition was fierce as our students participated in six intense committee sessions over the course of four days totaling over 16 hours with students from Cornell University, Washington and Lee University, Dawson College, Drexel University, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Plattsburg, and many others.

During these sessions our students participated in rigorous debate, negotiation, crisis intervention, human assessment and alliance building. They also wrote directives and resolutions. Their performance was outstanding. The participating students are **Magaly Cosme**, **Afariwa Dickson**, **Fernando Gonzalez**, **Ashley Guzman**, **Shantilly Ortiz**, and **Sherolyn Thompson**.

Sherolyn Thompson, the President of Amnesty International and also our Head Delegate, also participated in Head Delegate meetings which included an additional 90 minutes. Shantilly Ortiz received a verbal commendation award for her work as the "Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance for Iran." The faculty advisor for the Amnesty International group is **Guylaine Harrison**.

New Rochelle Academic Center Holds Successful Open House

On February 21st, the Academic Center Open House attracted over 150 members of the Monroe community for a memorable afternoon. A festive atmosphere delighted attendees who snacked on popcorn and hotdogs. In addition, several students now have a bit more money for books this semester since they were the lucky winners of gift certificates to Barnes and Noble.

The special event was designed for the college community to become better acquainted with the Academic Center staff, faculty and tutors. The Academic Team, including Dean **Carol Genese**, **Tanya Hodges**, **Jill Jemmott**, and **Ayanna Henry** spent time getting to know students who came to the Open House. It was also an opportune time to chat with English and Social Science faculty who have offices in the AC.

Those who stopped by learned that the AC has highly skilled tutors as well as faculty members who are available to work with students. There is no need for an appointment; however, students do have the option to schedule an appointment if they desire a longer session.

The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday it is open until 4:00 p.m. Hours are extended during final exams to accommodate increased student need. Whether you need focused support with coursework, a place to study, or a computer to print an assignment, come in to the Academic Center to see what is has to offer you!

Dean Costantino Reports…

Once again, our faculty and students shone brightly as we hosted the Societe Culinaire Philanthropique awards reception, held recently in the Dining Lab at the Culinary Arts Center. More than 75 guests descended on campus to attend this annual awards presentation for the Culinary Salon. Many old friends were greeted and many new ones were exposed to our school and our students. Everyone left in awe of what we do here at the college.

The food, coordinated by **Chef Pellizzari** and **Chef Molloy**, was exceptional, the service, coordinated by **Prof. Gellman** and delivered by **Prof. Hayes** was top notch, oversight of the event by our indispensable chairperson, **Chef Tracy Zimmermann** and behind the scenes help from **Chef Moon** and **Chef Vignapiano** made for an outstanding evening…the best part of which was seeing our army of student volunteers—from freshmen to seniors—exhibiting their pride, passion, and professionalism for all to see. Oh, and it was nice to receive the gold medal of the salon as well!

Student Activities Office Hosts Black History Month Open Mic

The Student Activities Office celebrated Black History Month with an event in the King Hall Gym that gave Monroe students the opportunity to showcase their talents in honor of Black History Month.

The Monroe College Music Club opened the show with their rendition of "Lift every voice and Sing." With their advisor, **Markeisha Ensley**, playing the keyboard, they sang the song with passion. **William Santos**, a member of the Music Club and a Public Health major, fascinated the audience with his inspirational Black History speech. Santos made mention that Black History should not only be celebrated during the month of February but throughout the year. He stressed the importance of knowing the history of individuals such as **Shirley Chisholm**, **Ida B. Wells**, **Fannie lou Hamer** and many others. Santos received a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

Next on stage was **Darrlyn Kimble,** a Criminal Justice major in the associate program. He sang Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come."

A trivia game was played so that the students could win prizes and have fun and also increase their knowledge. **Ahtreb David Rhoden**, a Criminal Justice major, who is also a member of the Music Club, sang acapela to **Bill Wither**s, "Lean on Me". He did an amazing job. The show was closed by Travis Greaves. He gave an outstanding performance as he sang a song entitled "Let there be Peace." The Student Activities Office thanks the participants and everyone who made the show possible.

Monroe College Toastmasters Club

On February 7th, 2013 Monroe College's Toastmaster Club hosted its first annual International Speech Contest and it was a smashing success.

The Toastmaster Chapter is sponsored by the Monroe College Alumni Association and is a wonderful addition to the many outstanding programs available at the College. As the Club approaches its first anniversary, it is a true testament to its leadership that it was able to hit this milestone in such a magnificent way.

"Speech contests are an exciting part of the Toastmasters communication and leadership program," says **John Lau**, President of Toastmasters International. "They challenge members to fine-tune their skills in front of a larger audience.

For the past 75 years, the International Speech Contest has been a dramatic part of the Toastmasters experience, capped off annually by the championship round held at the organization's International Convention. Judging criteria include speech content, originality, organization, gestures, style and timing.

The evening was well attended and ran flawlessly thanks to the efforts of Contest Chair **Richard Harris-**VP Education, along with Co-Contest Chair **Roxanne Shannon**-PR, Chief Judge **Gregory Scotland** and all other contest participants. The contestants **Jerome Rice** (Club President), **Natasha Neysmith** (Club Secretary) and **Tanesha Poyser** (Club's Sergeant of Arms) delivered three dynamic and impassioned speeches and in the end Tanesha emerged victorious. Tanesha and Richard will go on to represent the Club at the Area Speech and Evaluation Competition to be held March 30th at the Yonkers Riverfront Library.

The Monroe College Toastmasters Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, in Milavac Hall, Room 112 on the New Rochelle campus. All are encouraged to attend.

Honors Classes on the Move

The Monroe College Honors Program has been on a variety of exciting field trips this semester.

The HN150: The Honors Experience class visited the United Nations. The HN240: Art and Culture of World Dance class attended a performance at the New York City Ballet and met one of the dancers from the ballet's company, Georgina Pazcoguin. The EN110: Composition and Literature class traveled to Broadway to see a production of Cinderella. Finally, the HN314: Science and Technology class visited the Thomas Edison Museum.

All of the trips, while fun, were also informative and educational, expanding upon what the students have learned in the classroom.

Marching to the Playoffs – the Sky's the Limit

The Monroe Mustangs men's and women's basketball teams have completed their regular seasons on winning notes and are readying for the playoffs.

Coach **James Robinson Jr.**'s two-time defending NJCAA Division II National Champion women are looking for a three-peat and Coach **Jeff Brustad**'s men's team is aiming for its fifth straight Region title and fourth consecutive District title and national tournament appearance. Last year they finished fifth in the nation. Both Monroe teams are the #2-seeds in their upcoming Region tournaments.

"This is what you play for, to try to get to the big dance and then show the world who you are," said Coach Robinson, who saw his women come in to the national tournament as low seeds the past two years, only to come away with national titles. "We've had some ups and downs through this regular season," he said, "but the objective is to be ready right now to do our thing and I think we are set to do just that."

Monroe's road to the nationals will begin in Warwick, Rhode Island as the Regionals will be hosted at CCRI. The (#2-seeded) 19–6 Mustangs' semi-final opponent will be (#3) Dean College, who Monroe defeated twice this year, remarkably, by the same score, 64–61. Neither game was a cake walk.

If they can prevail in that one, then it's on to the finals on Sunday at 1:00pm against the winner of the (#1)CCRI, (#4) Orange semifinal. After that it's the District tournament and, hopefully, their tenth consecutive national tournament.

The Monroe men will have the benefit of hosting their Regional tournament. It will be played at the MAC (Monroe Athletic Complex) from March 1–3. The (#2-seeded) 23–7 Mustangs will have their hands full with (#3) Harcum on Saturday, March 2 at 7:00pm. Monroe split their season series with Harcum this year, winning at home, but losing on the road. If they do win, then it will be on to the finals on Sunday at 5:00pm against the winner of the other semifinal that features (#1) ASA and the winner of Wednesday's (#4) Globe and (#5) Westchester out-bracket game.

"There are no secrets in our region," said Coach Brustad. "We know who they are and they know who we are. So our objective is to play better with more passion and execute the things we know we can do. With focus and hard work, we can make our goals come true."

If the Mustangs get past the Regions, it'll be on to the one-game winner take all District final on March 9, with an NJCAA Division I national tournament berth at stake.

Four Monroe players were honored wtih post-season awards. Sophomore **Stephanie Manga** was named a First-team All-Region player and **AJ West**, **Maurice Ndour**, and **Isaiah Epps** were named to the Second-team.

Soccer Star to Play NCAA Division 1 Ball At UTSA

Monroe College soccer star, **Happy Orere-Amadu**, will join the women's Division 1 soccer program at the University of Texas at San Antonio after two years of dominating the midfield at Monroe.

"She is a very strong personality," said **Jonathan Garbar**, Happy's coach for the past year. "I am really, really proud of her for working as hard as she has. She will be missed by everyone that has known her, but she deserves it."

The Nigerian born 19-year-old says she can't wait to make the move from the Bronx to the Lone Star State, but credits Monroe with providing her the boost that she needed to stay focused on her goals. "The happiest two years of my life were at Monroe," Happy said. "In Nigeria, they don't have programs where you can get an education and play soccer at the same time."

Happy was raised in Walli, Nigeria, but moved to Co-op City when she was fifteen.

"I just felt at home here," Happy said, "Everyone has been wonderful and I really have become a better person having lived and played here."

Happy plans on pursuing a degree in athletic coaching at UTSA. "I want to pass on the desire I have to play soccer to the younger generation," Happy said. "I want to teach other people and let them know if they follow their dreams it can happen."