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MONROE OBSERVER

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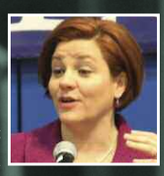

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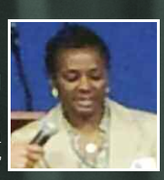

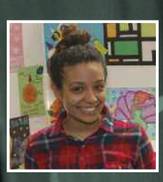

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MONROE COLLEGE

FOURTH ANNUAL MALE EMPOWERMENT AT MONROE COLLEGE A HUGE SUCCESS

Judging by the spirited conversations between dozens of mentors and hundreds of urban high school boys on Thursday, April 18 in the Monroe College King Hall gym, the College's fourth annual Male Empowerment Event was a huge success. More than four hundred students from seventeen high schools (nine from the Bronx, seven from Brooklyn, and one from Manhattan) sat at tables with more than sixty mentors to talk about attending college, setting goals and priorities, time management, and balancing personal, academic, and professional lives. The mentors were college professors, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, business people, doctors, etc.

"We're trying to instill in them the importance of finishing what you start," said Project Manager Garvin Reid, a Monroe admissions counselor. "We want them to leave here knowing that there is no other option but to finish high school and start college." The idea of working hard to achieve a goal may seem like a cliche, but for many black and Latino males, the idea of professional success is hard to grasp. Hearing stories from someone like themselves was welcome encouragement.

In addition to the intimate conversations between youngsters and professionals, there were keynote speeches by Ryan Mack, President and CEO of Optimum Capital Management, LLC and Cedric Perry, a producer and author who did a live taping of one of his programs during the event.

"Sometimes they have no hope," said Sherman Browne, founder of Global Integrated Strategies and one of last year's keynote speakers. "But by being part of a program like this and joining this mentoring program they get the opportunity to realize that there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Monroe expects to expand the program next year, possibly hosting a two-day conference. "This is our way of making a difference," Mr. Reid said. The College is also toying with the idea of reaching out to more people through video conferencing, all in the hopes of changing the stereotypes that plague urban communities, one young man at a time.

Students and Faculty on Health Mission to Jamaica

During the semester break, Monroe students and faculty brought medical care, health education, and supplies to people living in a community on the outskirts of Montego Bay on the island of Jamaica. The Mustard Seed Community houses kids and young adults with HIV, pregnant teens and their babies, and the disabled.

The students, with majors including Pharmacy Tech, Criminal Justice, Nursing, and Public Health, spent a week administering medical screenings, and helped out milking cows and feeding chickens. They were chosen based on their grades, professor recommendations, a personal essay, and an interview.

It will be Public Health major Sabrina Smith's second humanitarian trip with the College. Last year she helped treat the sick who live on the outskirts of Santo Domingo, where the elderly and very young were ravaged by parasites and cholera. "To actually see people with these ailments pulls on your heartstrings," Smith recalled. "We basically triaged, diagnosed, and medicated."

Dr. Jerry Kostroff, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, said the mission trip is part of the College's goal of immersing students in the real world. "They can see it in the classroom," Kostroff said, "but now, they'll see it in real life."

Samantha Vega, 25, a Criminal Justice major, said the trip would mark her first time on a plane. "It's a very new experience, and I'm happy that the first stamp on my passport will be something meaningful," she said.

Samantha Alvarado, 28, a Registered Nursing student, is bringing supplies like diapers, baby wipes, coloring books and crayons for the Mustard Seed residents. Alvarado said she didn't mind that she wouldn't have time off for Spring Break this year. "Everyone needs a break," she said, "but what we gain from this is so much more."

Jacob Lamar

In Memoriam

The College Community mourns the passing of Jacob V. Lamar, Professor Emeritus and Chair of the Accounting Department. Professor Lamar joined Monroe 25 years ago and became known for his dedication to student success. With him it was a seven-day a week commitment. If a student needed assistance, Professor Lamar was ready to schedule an appointment – even if it was on a Sunday.

A classic example of Professor Lamar's willingness to go "above and beyond" occurred when a graduate spoke to him after a job interview and told him that the only thing between her being hired and not was her learning a specific accounting software package. This was on the eve of the Christmas vacation. Professor Lamar called the publisher of the software and convinced them to send a copy of the package to him. During the holiday break the two of them met every day. In the end, the happy but weary graduate returned to the firm to announce she had mastered the software. After an intensive examination in the nuances of the package, she was not only offered the position, she was given a salary higher than originally quoted.

Professor Lamar with President Stephen Jerome

Jacob Lamar – always known as "Jake" – was a constant advocate for the college and for its Accounting programs. He was quick to tell anyone who would listen that at Monroe students learn both computerized accounting and the more traditional methods. They complete their education with a total command of the material and its application.

A memorial was held on Wednesday, March 12th at which Executive Vice President Marc Jerome and Vice President for Academics W. Jeff Wallis cited examples of "Jake's" contributions to the college. In all it was a celebration of a wonderful person who will be missed by all who knew him.

MONROE'S 80th ANNIVERSARY

In 1933, when Monroe College was founded, millions of people were out of work. Banks and businesses were failing across the country. The Great Depression was at its worst. Yet American innovation and ingenuity continued to move forward.

That same year, in four small classrooms in the Bronx, a business school opened with seven young women as its students. They came to the Monroe School of Business, as it was then called, to learn stenography and become speedy, accurate typists. Eventually, they would obtain good jobs and help support their families despite hard economic times.

What would those seven women think if they could fast-forward to the Monroe College of the twenty-first century? Would they recognize digital technology as descendants of their manual Underwood typewriters? If they wandered into an Information Technology class today, would they grasp the importance of spreadsheets and business models? Would they wonder how their small school evolved to offer classes not only in Information Technology but also in Business and Accounting, the Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice, Hospitality Management, Education, Allied Health, Medical Administration, and Nursing? Would they be amazed by the fact that their classrooms expanded to become a three-campus, degree-granting college enrolling over 7,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs, with thousands of successful alumni?

Despite the dramatic change and growth that has occurred, the first graduates might still recognize their school because over the span of eight decades, Monroe has remained true to its mission and core values. Led by Stephen J. Jerome, President of the College since 1978, Monroe has evolved and developed. Today Monroe is recognized by the New York State Education Department for granting the largest number of undergraduate diplomas to minority students of all colleges and universities in the state.

This year marks Monroe's 80th anniversary. The College will celebrate this milestone with many special events recognizing the accomplishments of the College and its students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Speaker Quinn helps Monroe celebrate Women's History Month

Monroe recently held a riveting panel discussion about women and leadership in celebration of Women's History Month. While New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn made a headline appearance at the event, the dialogue was centered around a panel of Monroe's top administrators who talked realistically about the prospects for women in leadership positions.

"It was really exciting because the audience was very engaged and we received as many questions from the men as we did the women," said Kathy Murphy, the event's moderator, who is the Executive Assistant to Monroe's President. "The feedback from students, faculty and staff has been wonderful."

The panel consisted of a number of Monroe's high-powered women: Erin Bernstein, CPA, Controller; Karenann Carty, Ed.D., Associate Vice President of Academics; Johanna Espinosa, J.D., Professor, School of Business & Accounting and Executive Director of the Small Business Development Center; Carol Genese, Associate Vice President of Academics; and Michele Rodney, Esq., Dean of the School of Criminal Justice.

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Mayoral Candidates' Debate

"Cops resemble slave catchers," said mayoral candidate Randy Credico. Sal Albanese never smoked a joint. The Bloomberg Administration has locked the men of God out of City Hall. These were all arguments presented at a mayoral forum, moderated by clergymen in the Bronx.

Yes, the campaign to become the next mayor of New York City is in full swing. Candidates are speaking at meetings across the city to varied audiences. Recently, a forum was held at Monroe. The candidates were from varying backgrounds and had different approaches to what it means to campaign for office.

The event in the College's King Hall Gym drew a mix of leading Democrats and second-stringers, allowing discussions to veer from boilerplate campaign rhetoric to pot-smoking habits, exactly how much church should be separated from state, and a slavery analogy that immediately shocked the auditorium. The bizarre star of the forum may have been Randy Credico, a self-described "political comedian" who, along with Rev. Erick Salgado, ex-Democrat Adolfo Carrión and Mr. Albanese joined front-running candidates like Bill Thompson, Comptroller John Liu and Public Advocate Bill de Blasio on the stage. Not in attendance was the leader in all polls thus far, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. However, Speaker Quinn had recently visited Monroe for a discussion about women and leadership in celebration of Women's History Month.

In addition to the usual inquiries about the police department's controversial stop-and-frisk policy and the city's struggling educational system, candidates were also asked about their stance on sex education in public schools, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's attempt to prohibit religious groups from holding services in public schools, and whether "religious pregnancy crisis centers" should be able to operate without signage stating that they do not perform abortions.

The leading Democrats did not pass up the opportunity to bash Mr. Bloomberg, but they appeared caught off guard by the other questions from the panel of clergymen. Several candidates, including Mr. Liu, did not voice an opinion on the role of sex education in public schools. And they quickly – before jumping to pile on Mr. Bloomberg – said they believed in "full disclosure" for health clinics.

Bill de Blasio *Randy Credico* *Bill Thompson* *Rev. Erick Salgado* *Adolfo Carrión* *Sal Albanese* *John Liu*

Faced with a more socially conservative audience than they were accustomed to, the Democrats sought to downplay the role of government and extol the potency of religious organizations. For example, Mr. Thompson blasted the city's attempt last year to keep religious services out of public schools. Mr. de Blasio cited the experience following Hurricane Sandy where the faith community provided victims of the storm with assistance well before the government got there.

"I believe we should continue to allow houses of worship to rent space from the City of New York. It is not a question of separation of powers," Mr. Thompson said, proposing a "mayor's office of faith-based development" in his theoretical administration. "Why would we change that now based on the whims of one individual?"

The debate swerved again when Mr. Albanese, explaining why he would legalize marijuana and tax it, paused to emphasize that he's "never smoked pot." Mr. Credico wasn't so discreet.

"I would cut back on the money for the prosecution of pot. I'm an ex-pot smoker and I'm a part-time pot smoker, but the mayor can't raise taxes on it; it is the governor that has to do that," Mr. Credico said. "Maybe you have been smoking pot, Sal."

Plans for new mixed-use residence hall approved

The City of New Rochelle approved plans for construction of West Hall, a 67,000 square-foot mixed-use building. The site of the building is on Main Street. Construction is scheduled to start this spring, with an anticipated opening in August 2014.

The 300-bed residence hall, is envisioned as a complementary building to the nearby Allison Hall, which opened in 2004. The project is part of a larger vision for Monroe's downtown campus. On the ground level, it will house a 250-seat cafeteria and an adjoining courtyard in addition to storefronts that will add to the street life of Main Street. Classrooms and offices on the lower levels will make it the future heart of the campus.

Executive Vice President Marc Jerome said, "We're excited to move forward with this project, which will not only create a new campus hub but also become a vibrant element of downtown New Rochelle."

Susan Doban, principal of Doban Architecture, is responsible for the design of Allison Hall and the adaptive reuse of a former hardware store that is now Milavec Hall, the administrative center of the New Rochelle campus. Doban has been the driving architectural design force for the College, with a master plan that has been transforming the formerly dispersed campus into a centralized college community.

The firm is also responsible for several award-winning projects, including the College's Academic Center and Culinary Arts Center. The recently completed Pastry Lab is also slotted to become part of a larger "Culinary Court" at the school that will ultimately include a dining lab and restaurant that will help bring the surrounding community onto the campus. The comprehensive design approach gives the College a setting that is conducive to better living, learning, and community.

MONROE COLLEGE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Monroe College's Toastmasters Club recently hosted its first annual International Speech Contest and it was a smashing success.

The Toastmasters 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's Monroe Chapter 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. In a club, members are evaluated; in a contest, they are judged against their peers."

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 went on to represent the Club at the Area Speech and Evaluation Competition which was held on Saturday, March 30th at the Yonkers Riverfront Library.

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

Motivational Speaker Inspires Students

"From Friendship, To Foreplay, To Forever." This was the topic of Andrea Mosby's presentation to Monroe students on the Bronx Campus. Students and their professors gathered in King Hall Gym to listen to Ms. Mosby. The students had no idea how exciting and interesting this presentation was going to be.

Every semester, the Student Activities Office has made it a priority to invite a motivational speaker on campus. At this point of the semester many students need to be encouraged and reminded to keep following their dreams despite life's obstacles. Ms. Mosby is no stranger to Monroe College and the students always look forward to her words of wisdom. Some feel renewed at the end of her presentations. For over 20 years Ms. Mosby has been speaking to students, businesses, and community groups about the challenges we all face and the decisions we make in response to these challenges.

Fifteen minutes into her presentation, it was evident that everyone in attendance had Ms. Mosby's attention. She explained the importance of having healthy relationships in our lives. Ms. Mosby explained that the relationships we accept in our life can either make us or break us. She pleaded with the students to choose healthy relationships in their lives because unhealthy relationships often come with negative labels which often times prevent individuals from achieving their goals.

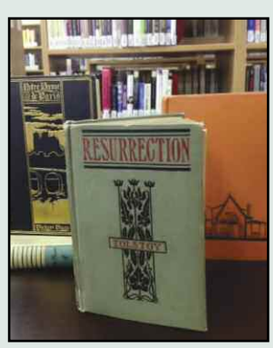
MONROE COLLEGE LIBRARY BOOK HOSPITAL

Librarians Preserve Old Books

The Monroe College Library has been collecting and lending books since Monroe first opened its doors. Many of their early volumes remain in the collection and are easily spotted on the shelves by their elaborate Art Deco bindings and vintage "Monroe Business Institute" stamp. After years of frequent use, books may need some special attention. Book repair techniques include resewing or gluing covers back on or simply creating a protective jacket made of Mylar.

Some of the tools the library uses include:

- **Bone folder: used for folding or creasing paper and made from cow bone.**
- **Mylar: strong, thin polyester film used to create a protective cover.**
- **Cutting tool: to cut long strips of paper, cloth or board. X-acto or Olfa knives work well.**
- **Cutting mat: a smooth rubber or cardboard mat to prevent scratching the tabletop or other surface.**



Above: the book repair "hospital" set up in the Bronx library

Left: a few of the library's old books

www.monroecollege.edu/libraries

C-CAP Awards $450K in Culinary Scholarships

The Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) recently hosted its New York Awards Breakfast with C-CAP Founder Richard Grausman and C-CAP President Susan Robbins

awarding over $450,000 in scholarships and cash awards to 24 high school seniors. Scholarships presented at the event, which was hosted by The Pierre Hotel, ranged in value from $3,000 to $104,000 to attend local culinary schools as well as some of the most prestigious culinary schools in the country including: Culinary Institute of America (CIA), Johnson & Wales University, Monroe College, The International Culinary Center (ICC), and SUNY Cobleskill. Some students also received cash awards to help defray the costs of books, supplies, housing, and other expenses while at a community college or other culinary school.

Students from New York City's five boroughs were among the winners at the event, including Antonio Meyers from Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, who received a Monroe College Scholarship valued at $48,192.

Education Students' Art Show

Professor Sally Hembach of the School of Education notes that this semester she has had the pleasure of teaching ED 385, Teaching the Creative Arts in Diverse Early Childhood. "It has been a joy watching my students not only live up to their potential but exceed my expectations with their creativity and enthusiasm," she said. "They were eager to learn about all aspects of the early childhood environment and teaching process. In addition, they embraced the fine and creative arts component of the program. To date they have created works in the artistic style of Piet Mondrian, Van Gogh, Seurat, Jackson Pollack, and Picasso. Their enthusiasm is contagious and it has been rewarding watching them transform a blank canvas into a work of art."

The final project was an Art Show at 145 Huguenot Street on the New Rochelle campus. Pictures of their work are available on the Monroe College Facebook page.

Monroe reaches out and brings in international stars

The Monroe Mustangs women's soccer team is using a broad reach to bolster its 2013 squad. Coach Jonathan Garbar is adding three impressive stars to the roster for the fall and he expects each to have a significant impact on the Mustangs in their second year of Division I play. Gemma Craine and Taylor O'Leary, two British midfielders with a world of soccer-playing experience, and Ana Caroline Rodrigues, a forward from Brazil with national team credentials, have the always-enthusiastic coach bursting with optimism for the coming season.

"Building a program that integrates international athletes with New York City and out-of-staters is fundamental to our program and its identity," Coach Garbar said. "We're located just outside the most diverse, cultured, and dynamic city in the world and our program should - and does - reflect that."

The Monroe Mustangs women's soccer team

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