Named in honor of Dr. Jeff Wallis, former Vice President of Academics at Monroe College, the Faculty of Distinction Award annually recognizes faculty for teaching excellence. The nominees are expected to demonstrate a passion for changing students’ lives through education.

At a reception in New Rochelle’s Gaddy Hall, the College celebrated Monroe’s exceptional faculty, and announced the recipients of the W. Jeff Wallis Faculty of Distinction Award.

The Winners — In the words of their students:

Patrick Hayes (New Rochelle) – A showman, professional, passionate; never says no to a student who asks for guidance; never says no to the department if called upon to help; pushes you to achieve more than what you thought you were capable of; provides animated feedback; leader; mentor; tremendous impact on my education, life, and career; identifies students who have the passion and grooms them into professionals; an exceptional educator!

Geoffrey Smith (Bronx) – Great storyteller; has high expectations; makes your early morning’s exciting; challenges you; his pedagogy ensures participation and laughter; great mentor; my eyes were opened to a lot of things I was just trying to make excuses for; honest and willing to help everyone; he creates a bond in class where no one feels left out; has graceful dance steps … Fred Flintstone or Fred Astaire (you decide); one of the most sought after professors; an amazing teacher!

Congratulations to Professors Hayes and Smith!! Special Thank You to all our Monroe College Faculty … Well Done!!
Over the past few weeks, the faculty, administrators, and students of the School of Business & Accounting have been busy attending graduation, conferences, seminars, conventions, and being inducted to a new Honor Society! It all started with the Delta Mu Delta Induction Ceremony where 43 undergraduate business and accounting students, 23 MBA students, and 6 faculty members were inducted into the honor society by board member, Dr. Curtis Abel. The new prestigious honor society is available to Accrediting Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) accredited institutions.

Following graduation, Dr. Ahmed Eshra and Dr. Anthony Abongwa represented Monroe at the ACBSP annual conference in Philadelphia where they were able to meet with representatives from business schools all over the world. During the conference, it was revealed how valuable ACBSP accreditation is through the rigorous process of applying for and attaining accreditation. ACBSP represents the seal of quality in business education. Both Dr. Eshra and Dr. Abongwa came back with lots of ideas to help enhance the experience of our students and to continue moving the School of Business and Accounting forward.

Las Vegas was the next stop for the School of Business and Accounting where Monroe College’s National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) chapter, which was founded in 1996 and is one of 150 student chapters across the country, was recognized as the Eastern Region’s “Top Chapter” during NABA’s Annual National Conference & Expo. Along with Prof. Michael Blattman, 13 of Monroe’s students were in attendance to receive the honor. In addition to their collective recognition as Top Chapter, attending members from the Monroe College chapter were equally successful on an individual level during the conference. All 13 students secured interviews for career opportunities and internships with the “Big Four” and other major national accounting firms, as well as many of the Fortune 500 companies, recruiting at the conference.

Finally, back in New York, Professors Johanna Espinosa and Taren Mitchell danced to the beat of The New Music Seminar (NMS) conference and festival. The NMS featured over 150 CEOs, presidents, executives, and leaders in the emerging music business. This year’s themes focused on an optimistic look at the digital reinvention of the business of music. Panels included discussions from representatives of digital giants such as Spotify, where the analytics of sound share and methodologies of capturing data that help them predict alternative platforms for consumers were discussed.

Homecoming 2015: October 16-18
Celebrating our Graduates from Around the World

There will be a lot of surprises at this year’s annual Homecoming Weekend. We will be welcoming graduates from many different countries and states, and honoring those who have been recognized as Alumni of Distinction in their native locations.

This is the 20th Anniversary Year of the arrival of the first Jamaican students to the New Rochelle Campus. We are looking forward to seeing them and showing them how residence life has changed; from a group of houses that were the temporary lodging for the international students to a large campus incorporating two new dorms with many of the latest amenities.

There will be events held on both the New Rochelle and Bronx campuses showcasing the international flavor of our college community.
2nd Annual Oxfam Hunger Banquet

On June 23, the Human Service Club hosted the second annual Oxfam America Hunger Banquet in the Mintz Auditorium. Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of hunger, poverty, and injustice. The Human Service Club presented the issue of global poverty and gender inequality in a compassionate and empathetic way. The Oxfam America Hunger Banquet is experiential learning at its best.

As students walked into the Mintz Auditorium they drew their lot at random, choosing a social class and complying with the requirement of each class. The high income group sat at tables with linen table cloths, plates, utensils, and a full meal, while the lower class sat on the floor and only had rice to eat.

This event is a metaphor for how food and other resources are inequitably distributed in the world. Students reported feeling sympathy for the students sitting on the floor, while they sat at tables. The event was successful in bringing awareness to the students. The greater hope is that events like this will ignite passion and action in our students.

Honors Central Park Scavenger Hunt

On June 19, the Monroe College Honors Program and English Language Learning Institute (ELLI) joined forces in a fun and educational way—they trekked into New York City to explore the oasis of Central Park. The students were tasked with learning about various historical and cultural sites within the park, like the Egyptian Obelisk (commonly called “Cleopatra’s Needle”) and the Belvedere Castle. They learned important history about the park. For instance, there are 57 hand-carved horses on the Carousel in the park. When the amusement first opened in 1871, it was powered by horses or mules that were kept underground.

This was a great match, enabling the Honors and ELLI students to network, learn from each other, and have lots of fun. This Central Park Scavenger Hunt adventure is sure not to be the last Honors/ELLI partnership!

Criminal Justice Club Wins 2015 Club Olympics

On Friday, June 19, club members departed King Hall for Glen Island Park in New Rochelle for what would be an afternoon of fun and friendly competition. Every year the Student Activities Office hosts its Club Olympics event. The main purpose of this event is to bring together club members to socialize and engage in enjoyable activities. The students were pumped and everyone was confident that their club would be victorious. The weather was perfect and they were ready to compete. Club members and their advisors competed in games such as Sac Race, Hula Thon, Steal the Bacon, Crab Walk etc.

An afternoon away from their studies and club duties was most welcome. Everyone agreed that they needed this break. After lunch the competition got even more intense as the event was quickly coming to a close. In the end, the Criminal Justice club advised by Professor Keith Singer was announced as the 2015 Club Olympics winner. Club members are already looking forward to the 2016 Club Olympics.

Union Community Health Center Visit

The Office of Career Services took a group of first semester Allied Health students on a tour of Union Community Health Center. Anne Spellman, CEO of the Center spoke to them about her experiences as an administrator, her career path, and her suggestions about how our students could break into the healthcare field in the area of administration.

Later, she gave our students a very thorough tour of all the different departments. They saw medical practitioners and patients in action and she spoke about the history of the organization, its structure and changes that have been implemented recently.
Amnesty International Club Hosts Foreign Policy Expert on Campus

Amnesty International at Monroe College proudly hosted Asha Castleberry and Paola Garcia in the Mintz Auditorium on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Ms. Castleberry, a foreign policy expert, U.S. Army Veteran, and co-founder of the International Youth Council, introduced Monroe College students to interesting career opportunities in the fields of Foreign Service and U.S Media. She also talked about employment opportunities in think tank groups and in the legislative and executive branches of government. Her presentation theme, “How to Make a Difference in U.S. Foreign Policy,” focused on important global issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, counterterrorism, climate change, border security, and reducing poverty and increasing economic opportunities worldwide through trade agreements.

The second speaker at this event, Ms. Paola Garcia, is the co-founder of TGAL, the “Think Global Act Local Initiative.” She is also an interpreter for the United Nations (UN). Ms. Garcia discussed her work on the Planning Committee for five Youth Assemblies at the UN. She also spoke about her work with think tanks on issues ranging from promoting gender equality to the eradication of poverty and hunger. During her presentation, she proudly displayed pictures of former Monroe students and Amnesty International members she mentored at the United Nations during the Youth Assemblies.

At the conclusion of the presentations the speakers opened the forum for a question and answer session. Many students inquired about involvement with International Youth Council and signed up to become members.