There was something special in the air and on the ground on November 21st as the Monroe College Information Technology Student Association (ITSA) toured the behind-the-scenes facilities of American Airlines at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Once through security, the first stop was the Admiral’s Club, where the hostess showed the students how the airline tracks celebrities. We learned about SABRE (Semi-Automated Business Research Environment), a computer reservation system which was developed to automate the way reservations are booked. SABRE enables the airline (and other companies) to search, price, book, and ticket travel services.

Next we headed to the Kennedy Airport Control Tower. Climbing the steps to the tower required several stages of security. We needed special personnel to come and swipe their keycards to get us through. Once inside, we were treated to a view of the airport that most people never get. Our tower host walked us through how the planes are tracked on the computer screen and how they still maintain a manual log of the flights. “Right now, we still use paper forms to log all this flight information”, our host said. “Soon, the paper will go away and we will be fully automated.” Students immediately realized that this could be a chance to land a job and write a computerized log system. The monitors in the tower featured color-coded icons representing each flight. Several times our guide had to pause to attend to the suddenly-red icons that needed his attention. We learned that the runway system at JFK consists of two pairs of parallel runways aligned at right angles. The total length is nearly nine miles and all runways have high-intensity runway center lights and taxiway leadoff lights, and the surfaces are grooved to enhance safety.

Next on our tour was the baggage control room where we didn’t see a single piece of luggage! A new system conveyor encompasses an 80-bag-a-minute pusher called the Camsort, which performs a sliding action resulting in a more gentle diversion of bags from a sort line to the sort destination. In the control room, our host explained how the system tells them everything they need to know and how the bags are tagged with bar codes and scanned to determine where they are headed. The bags are also screened by the TSA (a high-speed version of the carry-on screener) and any bags that are deemed suspicious are opened by the TSA and hand-searched. All through the process, the computer knows where every bag is. The technology behind the system is the Programming Logic Control (PLC) software doing the automated sorting of baggage using laser scanner arrays to read bar-coded bag tags.

At the final stop we were treated to an up-close look at the IT infra-structure of American Airlines, the networking room. Students saw the CISCO routers and switches, fiber-optic cables and got to speak with the Local Area Network (LAN) Administrator. He answered questions about how the network was built and what his job entailed, including making sure the wireless connections at the curbside terminals were fully functioning, despite being subjected to all different kinds of weather elements.

It was an exciting glimpse at one of the country’s most sophisticated airline terminals – with places and equipment most passengers never imagine exist!
Takeisha Bowens Wins Business Plan Competition

The Club for Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) proudly hosted its third annual Business Plan Competition in the Mintz Auditorium on November 25. Competitors Dashawn Spencer, Takeisha Bowens, Sunghoon Park, and Jason Peri had the opportunity to present their business plans to fellow students and a panel of judges.

Prior to the competition, the competitors attended several workshops, which were presented by Dr. Ahmed Eshra, the advisor of the CEO club. The competitors were then encouraged to use what they learned in the workshops to prepare and present their business plans. Dashawn Spencer, a business management major, passionately presented “4bit Coin,” a nonprofit business that creates learning centers for students who struggle with learning. Next, Sunghoon Park and Jason Peri, MBA students, presented their digital start-up company, “KEEPCOMM,” which offers a digital screen menu that increases the quality of e-menus at hospitality facilities. Finally, Takeisha Bowens, a business administration major, presented her fashion company, DeLuXe Designer Collections. DeLuXe is a luxury handbag collection, in which each handbag expands into a tote bag for extra storage. She supported her plan by explaining her target market and financial projections; she also confidently responded to the judges questions. At the end of the competition, the judges and audience voted; then Dr. Eshra announced Takeisha Bowens as the winner of CEO’s third annual Business Plan Competition. Takeisha will be awarded $500.00.

Dr. Eshra extended special thanks to the Student Activities Office, the judges and CEO’s executive board. He also thanked the students for their participation in the competition; finally he encouraged the students to follow their dreams.

Cheneise Carey Awarded Scholarship from the National Society of Leadership and Success

This past September, when Cheneise Carey received a letter from the Student Activities Office to join the Monroe College Chapter for the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), she immediately began her research. Honored to be invited, she took advantage of this great opportunity and immediately became a member of the NSLS executive board.

The NSLS organization was founded in 2001 and was introduced to the Monroe College Bronx Campus in 2012. Students are invited based on their high grade point average and they must fulfill various requirements to officially become inducted members. The society’s mission is: “We build leaders who make a better world.”

During the NSLS orientation, the students were informed about the numerous membership benefits including scholarships and awards. Cheneise immediately took action and applied for the Financial Aid Tuition Scholarship by providing the necessary documents in addition to an essay. This grant is intended to support those in need of financial assistance for tuition and fees toward undergraduate or graduate degrees.

On November 24, Cheneise received the exciting news that her essay, recommendation letter, and accompanying documentation strongly exhibited the merit of her application! This was exciting news for Cheneise and Monroe College. The Society currently has 416,160 members at 471 colleges nationwide, but Cheneise is the first Monroe NSLS member to receive a scholarship from the organization. The Student Activities Office would like to congratulate Cheneise Carey, and encourages other Monroe College NSLS members to take advantage of the society’s scholarship opportunities.

Honors

On October 17 and 18, the Honors Program celebrated its 2nd Annual Community Service Weekend. Students participated in eight service activities, ranging from Veterans’ Greeting Card and Craft Campaigns for kids, serving the Business Improvement District in New Rochelle, Father’s Heart Ministries Soup Kitchen, The Sharing Shelf, and the Wartburg Adult Day Care Program. Over 100 Honors students participated, led by Professors MacDonald, Girardi, Troshanoff, Negrin, Meminger, and Cassiere.

To all Fall 2014 Graduates: Federal Loan Exit Counseling

Hearty congratulations on your upcoming graduation!

Federal regulations mandate Student Loan borrowers to complete Exit Counseling shortly before leaving school. Please visit the Office of Loan Management (no appointment necessary) to complete this important requirement located at:

- Bronx Campus: King Hall Room 219
- New Rochelle Campus: Financial Aid Department—Milavec Hall

Please note that Student Loan Exit Counseling consists of a two-part session: online counseling at www.studentloans.gov followed by a one-to-one meeting with an OLM counselor. Average completion time is 20 minutes. To expedite the process please have your Federal PIN and contact information of three references handy.
Monroe College Recognized as Leader In Graduating Ethnic Minorities

Monroe College is ranked among the top higher education schools in the country for graduating minority students, according to data released by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Magazine.

Virtually all of Monroe’s associate degree programs, and two of its bachelor’s degree programs, rank among the Top 10 in the nation for graduating minority students. This includes degree programs in its School of Allied Health, School of Business and Accounting, School of Criminal Justice and School of Information Technology.

Also recognized was Monroe’s School of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts, which has garnered more than 500 awards since its launch in 2009 and ranked seventh in the nation for the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to minority students.

“We take great pride that a college of our relatively small size continually ranks among the top in the nation for graduating minority students,” said Stephen Jerome, President of Monroe College. “We believe in the power of education to change lives, and are strongly committed to providing our diverse student population with the resources they need to excel academically and professionally. We promote an inclusive, supportive culture at Monroe and this reflects in our high completion rates.”

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education, which focuses on diversity in U.S. higher education, annually releases its list of the Top 100 Minority Degree Producers. These rankings, now in their fifth year, utilize the most recent available Department of Education data to identify the U.S. higher education institutions that confer the most degrees to African-American and Hispanic students each year.

International Students Feed Homeless

On October 25, the Monroe van pulled up to the home of Angelyn and George Forbes-Freeze and 11 international students got out, eager to begin their day of community service. After a breakfast meeting to discuss the intricacies of menu, division of labor, assignment of preparation space, and the objective — to create a delicious meal for the occupants of the Jan Peek House, a homeless shelter in Peekskill, NY — the chopping, washing, mixing, spicing and cooking began.

It was a day of sharing not only cultures and ideals, but also questions about how people can become homeless and what the community can do to support their recovery. Along the way, we learned how to prepare Moroccan couscous, cooked Chinese vegetable soup, listened to lovely music played on the piano, found the right space for our Muslim students to pray, and learned phrases in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. The weather cooperated, so we could eat outside before delivering the meal. The recipients were very grateful, and said they could tell it was made with “love.” Their obvious pleasure and thanks made all of the hours of work worth every minute. We all felt wonderful!

Student Veterans of America

Once again, the Monroe College chapter of the Student Veterans of America participated in the Veterans Day Parade in New York City.

The parade featured thousands of marchers, 600,000 spectators, and many parade-related events throughout the city. The parade route on Fifth Avenue began following a wreath-laying ceremony at the Eternal Light Monument in Madison Square Park.

The theme for this year was Land of the Free / Home of the Brave, in honor of the 200th Anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner (1814–2014). The Parade honors all eras and branches of service, with the U.S. Marine Corps as this year’s Featured Service Branch. In addition, the Parade is a partner of the ongoing United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

America’s Parade plays a critical role in raising awareness of the issues faced by all veterans – especially our most recent generation of veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other Post–9/11 operations. By telling their story on the nation’s largest stage, the Parade reminds Americans everywhere of the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedoms, and mobilizes the public to support those organizations that are working tirelessly to serve their needs. The College’s student veterans were proud to be a part of this celebration.
Monroe Culinary captures third Marc Sarrazin Cup at the International Salon of Culinary Arts

The Monroe culinary team won the grand prize for buffet presentation at the 146th annual salon of culinary arts, sponsored by the Societe Culinaire Philanthropique during this year’s International, Hotel, Motel and Restaurant show at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City.

For Monroe, it was the third victory in four years and the second consecutive victory. The team was required to display confectionary pieces ranging from chocolate sculptures, sugar showpieces, petit gateaux, chocolates, an occasion cake and a wedding cake. On the savory side, the team was required to display decorative platters of meat, seafood, and poultry, a decorated festive “poularde” as well as a tallow sculpture.

This year’s table was captivating, led by confectionary coach and instructor, Chef Ebow Dadzie, voted one of the top ten pastry chefs in the US. “My motto for this team this year was ‘teamwork makes the dream work!’ and I couldn’t be prouder of the effort they put in,” said Chef Dadzie.

The savory team was led by Chef Eric Pellizzari and, in addition to the victory, the team won individual honors, earning the Prosper Montagne Medallion for the best poularde presentation. The confectionary team also won individual honors for “best of show” for their sugar sculpture. “This took tremendous effort from our coaches, faculty and students; what’s most gratifying for me is seeing all of our graduates and former Monroe culinary team members come back to support the effort,” said Dr. Frank Costantino, Dean for the School of Hospitality Management and the Culinary Arts.

There were several felicitations from the jury who deliberated over the entries in the salon, and Marc Jean Sarrazin, was extremely complimentary as he and his mother presented the cup in his father’s honor “What an outstanding job your team did! That was a truly spectacular presentation—congratulations on a job well done!” Monroe Culinary is preparing for the American Culinary Federation regionals, held in Buffalo, NY in January where they will compete as the New York State champions.

**SOCCER: Two Championship Seasons**

This year, Monroe’s two soccer teams were as good as can be. The Monroe women were national champions and the men were national finalists and both teams made their mark in dramatic fashion through the playoffs right into the final matches. Both teams were also regional and district champions as they navigated their way into their respective NJCAA Division I National Tournaments.

“This was a special year for our soccer teams,” said Athletic Director Bert Shillingford, “and winning championships is not only about what’s happening on the field. Monroe’s administrative, academic, and training staffs also get a lot of credit because they operate in a championship fashion, too,” he said.

“On the field, our coaches are superb as are our student athletes, who wear the ‘Monroe’ across their chests with great pride and clearly, with great success,” he added.

Ironically, in their national semifinals, within a space of 24 hours in different cities — the men in Prescott, Arizona and the women in Melbourne, Florida — both Monroe soccer teams were faced with scoreless, sudden-death overtime games. They eventually came down to the penalty kick phase, where anything can happen.

But each of Monroe’s two goalkeepers were equal to the challenge, both stopping two opposing kicks to send their teams to the finals.

Then in the women’s final, number 2-seeded Monroe faced the top-seed, Iowa Western, the team that gave the 18–1–1 Mustangs their only loss in the second game of the season and the same team that ousted Monroe from the nationals a year before. That game was tied 1–1 and it, too, went to sudden death. Monroe’s brilliant Brazilian sophomore, Ana Carol Rodrigues, scored the title-winner on a penalty kick.

In the men’s final, the number 10-seeded Mustangs drew some difficult luck as one of their players was called for a red card on a controversial play in the 40th minute, forcing them to play the number 4-seeded Tyler (Texas) shorthanded for almost 50 minutes.