Alumni Board Celebrates at the New Dining Lab Restaurant

On Wednesday night, December 4th, members of the Monroe College Alumni Board gathered for a festive holiday dinner hosted at the Dining Lab, a new student-run restaurant at Monroe’s New Rochelle Campus. The attendees were amazed by the changes they saw around campus, from the ongoing construction of a new, state-of-the-art dorm building to the transformation of the college cafeteria into an upscale gourmet restaurant and pastry café.

The Dining Lab is popular among members of the Monroe College community and neighborhood patrons alike. As Ameil Sloley, local resident and Monroe alumsna said, “I can’t believe we have this restaurant so close to my area! The Dining Lab is a great place to bring my family and friends.”

The Alumni Board meets several times a year and is actively involved in all of the Alumni Association’s activities. In addition, its members have established a successful chapter of Toastmasters International, which meets at Milavec Hall on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

Gaddy Hall, a New Residence Hall

Addition to the New Rochelle Campus

Monroe College’s New Rochelle Campus is getting an update this year with the construction of a six-story, mixed-use building on Main Street. According to Stephen Jerome, President of Monroe College, “the new hall is one of Monroe’s most exciting and ambitious mixed-use projects yet and will contribute to the revitalization of New Rochelle’s downtown area.”

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The new building will be called Gaddy Hall to honor a preeminent educator and administrator, Dr. James R. Gaddy, who recently retired from his illustrious career as a great mentor, teacher, principal and the educator and administrator, Dr. James R. Gaddy, who recently retired from his illustrious career as a great mentor, teacher, principal and the superintendent of schools of New Rochelle. The building will provide housing for 300 students, enabling the college to consolidate students currently living in other buildings around the downtown area into one central location nearer to the campus’s academic buildings. In addition to being a dormitory, Gaddy Hall will also feature a 250-seat cafeteria, seven classrooms, and offices for faculty and administrators.

The building’s construction, which began following a groundbreaking ceremony on October 31st, is scheduled for completion in August of this year. Students will begin taking up residence for the Fall 2014 semester.

Alumni Spotlight: Mark Cruz, ’06, Fling Design

Mark Cruz has always had an entrepreneurial spirit. By the time he was ten years old, he already aspired to start his own business. Only two years ago, at 26, the Bronx native launched Fling Design, a successful creative design firm that has served clients such as Nielsen and FedEx. The company specializes in web design, video, and commercials as well as print media. Fling Design is known for the variety of quality work it produces in-house, as well as the individualized attention it gives to each client.

Mark has a long history with Monroe College. He began taking classes at Monroe as part of a high school enrichment program, and then returned after graduation to earn a degree in business management. “Monroe taught me what I needed to know about the flexibility necessary to run a successful business. Monroe was alone among the local schools in accommodating my busy schedule with night and online classes.”

As a professional, Mark continues to work closely with Monroe. Fling Design was recently hired to contribute their photography skills to the Monroe Alumni Association News. In addition, Mark has been a member of the Monroe Alumni Association for several years and has provided valuable advice to the board.

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