Monroe President Stephen Jerome confers degrees on 2,800 graduates

In two festive commencement ceremonies held at the Javits Convention Center on Sunday, June 8, 2014, Monroe College President Stephen Jerome conferred Associate, Bachelor’s, and Graduate degrees on more than 2,800 students. It was Monroe’s 81st commencement exercises in a year where the college was recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its “214 Best Colleges Rankings” for high graduation rates.

In his remarks to the graduates, President Jerome spoke about how Monroe’s unique approach to higher education fosters student achievement.

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“What has never changed and never will,” he said, “is our formula for student success. We have a culture of caring and personalized service. We have a mission of providing access and opportunity. We serve students who are motivated to work hard to enrich their lives.”

The keynote speakers were Richard Harris, a real estate executive and alum of Monroe’s King Graduate School, and prominent defense attorney and former adjunct professor at the College, Joey Jackson, Esq.

Three Generations Graduate

Three generations of one family, including a mother, a son, and a granddaughter, all graduated from Monroe College at commencement ceremonies held at the Jacob Javitz Center on Sunday, June 8th.

The granddaughter, Ayanna Hogg, studied at Monroe’s New Rochelle campus for the past two years, earning her AAS degree in Culinary Arts through the college’s School of Hospitality Management & the Culinary Arts. The mother, Makeda Sabree, came to Monroe in 2010 and has now earned her MBA, with a minor in Health Management. The son, Mwalimu Sabree, came to Monroe in 2009 and graduated with a BBA in Business Management. Congratulations to all three!
School of Education expands enrollment for fall

To meet the increased demand for educators created by the introduction of New York City's universal pre-kindergarten program, Monroe College’s School of Education is expanding enrollment for its Bachelor of Science degree program in Early Childhood Education for the fall semester.

The initiative is expected to provide free, high-quality, full-day pre-K to over 73,000 children in New York City by the 2015-2016 school year, beginning with some 33,000 in the fall of 2014. Monroe prepares students to meet the qualifications for becoming a pre-kindergarten teacher by offering the required Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and assisting with thorough preparation for New York State’s new Teacher Certification Exams. Students also gain double the amount of student teaching experience required by the state, completing more than 500 hours of real-world instruction by working with children at local nursery schools, daycare facilities, and primary schools throughout the course of their studies.

The School of Education also maintains a partnership with the AmeriCorps Jumpstart Program, an early childhood education organization that trains college students to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods, providing students with the opportunity to complete over 300 hours of teaching experience in pre-kindergarten classes in exchange for tuition support or a direct salary. Monroe is one of 17 schools in the tri-state area to partner with Jumpstart.

“Students enrolled in our early childhood education program are in a position to capitalize on their real-world teaching experience and enter a field that is undergoing rapid expansion as the city implements its universal pre-kindergarten initiative,” said Stephen Jerome, president of Monroe College. “Our bachelor’s degree program prepares students for meaningful jobs as future educators by equipping them with the requisite knowledge, skills and experience to become successful, impactful teachers that can make a difference in the lives of others.”

Alumni Association Creates Fine Dining Event at the Salvation Army

When one thinks of a soup kitchen, one imagines a long waiting line and buffet service. In contrast to that image, on a recent Sunday a group of Monroe College alumni and student volunteers offered a “Fine Dining” experience to New Rochelle residents at the Salvation Army.

The dinner was composed of a three course meal, which the guests raved about. Although our volunteers were not all Hospitality majors, they displayed excellent customer service skills. The guests were all delighted and were not shy about expressing their gratitude for how attentive and hospitable the volunteers were.

Not only were the guests waited on, they were entertained by a live band led by Darnell Whyte, a Monroe Alum. They sang along with the band and submitted requests for their favorite songs.

Lieutenant Charlotte, manager of the Salvation Army said, “No one has ever done this for us. I was excited when I got the call from Monroe College offering their services for the day.” The event was a major success and attracted generous donations provided by many New Rochelle businesses. Over 100 guests enjoyed the feast.

Law, Social Science, and Comedy

The “Academic Comedy Team” of Professors Geoffrey Smith and Harvey Gilmore recently had an article they co-wrote accepted for law review publication. Their piece, called “The Joy of Passion – Finding Your Calling”, will be published in the Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Practical and Clinical Law. Thomas M. Cooley is an American Bar Association accredited law school located in Lansing, Michigan.

Their article deals with the issues of work-life balance, and enjoying what one does for a living. They take the position that when one enjoys one's vocation, it really is not work, and that one is a much happier and productive person as a result. Consequently, one can have an excellent quality of life without being a slave to one's job.

Professor Smith, who teaches social science, and Professor Gilmore, who teaches law, had the idea to write their article based on their academic and professional experiences. They have applied their passion for learning in their classes by incorporating knowledge and humor. In doing so, they have developed a reputation over nearly two decades for having classes where learning and laughter are inseparable. That reputation is confirmed by their students and colleagues alike. May they both have many more years of fun, learning, and laughter.

Accreditation Granted to School of Business and Accounting

"Congratulations! The Board of Commissioners of the Associate Degree and Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Commission met May 1-2, 2014, and granted initial accreditation to Monroe College." With those words in a letter to Monroe President Stephen Jerome dated May 16, the director of accreditation of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) announced that the College’s business and accounting programs were now accredited.

Programmatic accreditation for the business and accounting programs at the Bronx and New Rochelle campuses is in addition to the institutional accreditation the College has been granted since 1990 by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Dean Linda Silva Thompson noted, “The ACBSP recognition will make it easier for graduates of Monroe’s programs to transfer to other academic programs and to obtain employment with top firms.” This is the culmination of a two-year effort by members of the School of Business and Accounting as well as many College officials. Dean Silva-Thompson commented that granting of accreditation, “marks not the end, but the beginning of a process of continuing improvement that will result in ever stronger offerings by the College.”
Senator Recognizes Monroe

Kudos to Monroe College! The College was recognized by U.S. News & World Report, compelling state Senator Gustavo Rivera to honor the school himself. Monroe, which was established in the Bronx in 1933, was honored for surpassing the number of expected graduates, its graduation rate, and other important measures of its effectiveness. A Legislative Resolution was adopted by the New York State Senate recognizing and honoring Monroe College for its academic excellence.

Following Senator Rivera’s remarks and introduction of the guests from Monroe, other members of the Senate rose to pay tribute to the College, including senators Ruth Hassell-Thompson, George Latimer, Toby Ann Stavisky, Adriano Espaillat, and Kenneth P. Lavalle.

Honors Conference

On Friday, July 18th, the Honors Program hosted Honors Conference Morning. The event was very well attended. The HP430 Event Planning and Management class helped organize the elegant conference morning, with a lovely breakfast catered by the Pastry Kiosk.

The presentations were outstanding with many of HN450 capstone posters and sessions that ranged from topics about the American Presidency to Film and Literature to Global Human Rights and Manifest Destiny in Literature. However, the standout presentation was by the students in EN118: The Art of Poetry. Their original works were magnificent.

After all that hard work, the students and guests retreated to the Franklin Courtyard for a laid back luau. Delicious food was enjoyed and games were played (from Karaoke to Taboo to Limbo). It was truly a great day for Honors.

Business & Accounting Students hosted by American Express and Google

Can you image visiting two companies at which most graduates want to work on the same day? That is exactly what 25 undergraduate and graduate business and accounting students representing both the Bronx and New Rochelle campuses along with many faculty members did. The visit was part of the School of Business and Accounting and the College’s Small Business Center’s “Networking with the Professionals” monthly outing. According to Dean Linda Silva Thompson, “It’s important to both our students and faculty to get out and interact directly with the array of innovative business professionals who are displaying their entrepreneurial energy every day in our own backyard.”

The first stop was at American Express located in the World Financial Center. Senior Vice President Susan Chapman-Hughes, Account Development, Global Corporate Payments-Americas, shared precious nuggets of wisdom including the importance of networking, goal setting, mentors, and the value of giving back to the community. According to Ms. Chapman-Hughes, “Use your inside contacts to get you out and your outside contacts to get you in … and you get your current one.” The visit to American Express concluded with a tour of some of the Annex floors and offices- several of which had been reconfigured to promote the new “open space” corporate environment. Deputy Chairperson of New Rochelle, Prof. Stacy Crawford, advised students to “never sell an opportunity.”

Next was a quick hop to Google Inc. where students had the opportunity to tour the offices of several departments and personally experience a creative and dynamic work environment. Thanks to the School of Business & Accountings iPad Pilot, the faculty transported its 30 iPads that were used for a hands-on demonstration of the functions of various Google apps by Google managers and developers.

The visit to Google was an instant hit for faculty and students alike especially after learning about the interesting perks employees receive ranging from free food available every 150 feet (yes, that was actually tested) to pool tables, massage chairs, and scooters, just to name a few. Anthony Hernandez and Garrett Auzenore presented Google+ and Google apps explaining productivity. “Google Docs is a very useful tool for collaboration when working on term projects”, said Prof. Esbra, Deputy Chairperson.
Monroe Team Achieves First-Place Finish in GLO-BUS Business Simulation Competition

“Congratulations on your first-place finish as the overall best-performing company in your global digital camera industry.” With that message, Pratima Bhattarai, Yufeng Hu, and Arosha Kharel, were informed they were the victors in the GLO-BUS business simulation. The three MBA students were enrolled in Professor Roberta Harris’ Strategic Management course where they participated in the simulated business competition.

Teams are assigned to run a digital camera “company” that produces and markets entry-level and upscale, multi-featured cameras in head-to-head competition against camera companies run by other students. The “companies” compete in a global market arena, selling to camera retailers in four geographic regions: Europe-Africa, North America, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America. There are 600 teams from 53 colleges/universities participating in the simulation worldwide.

The managers of each company are responsible for assessing market conditions, determining how to respond to the actions of competitors and forging a long-term direction and strategy for their company. Each time managers make a decision entry, an assortment of on-screen calculations instantly shows the projected effects, enabling them to evaluate the relative merits of one decision entry versus another. Company managers can experiment with many different decision combinations in arriving at a decision combination and set of actions that seem likely to yield good company performance.

Each week, the 50 best-performing GLO-BUS companies are honored. The team of Pratima, Yufeng, and Arosha were top performers four weeks in a row tying for first place for the category of “Best Overall Game-to-Date Score. As Industry Champions, in addition to receiving a certificate, each student in the “company” will have the opportunity to compete in the next “Best-Strategy Invitational” where they will be paired with and compete against other first place students from all over the world.

Professor Harris commented on the success of the students, noting how they “worked together as a well-organized team – committed to the success of their venture. Clearly their dedication and effort paid off,” she said.

MONROE’S ONLINE BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS RANKED AMONG BEST IN THE NATION

Monroe College has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as having one of the best online bachelor's degree programs for veterans in the nation. Monroe ranked number one out of the two colleges in New York State included on the list.

Each college included in U.S. News & World Report’s online programs for veterans list was recognized in the publication’s 2014 overall best online program rankings, released earlier this year. Monroe ranked third out of the five programs in New York State that made the list, with a tuition that is one-quarter the cost of colleges with higher rankings.

“We recognize the unique needs and strengths of our veterans, and are dedicated to ensuring they receive the necessary support to succeed as they transition into higher education and a civilian career,” said Stephen Jerome, president of Monroe College. “Our large veteran population is highly reflective of our commitment to providing an interactive and engaged learning experience for all of our students, regardless of their physical location.”

Monroe College, which has been offering graduate courses in Flushing since 2012, will introduce undergraduate classes this fall.

Undergraduate classes in psychology and communications are scheduled to begin in the fall semester. Students will have access to Monroe’s shuttle that provides free daily transportation from Flushing and Jamaica to its New Rochelle campus. Access to the main Bronx campus is through the No. 7 subway line.

The Flushing satellite, at 135-16 Roosevelt Ave., now offers MBA courses and ESL classes and begins classes in the Master of Criminal Justice and Master of Public Health programs this fall.

“The undergraduate program is designed to increase access to a quality education and make it easier for people who are limited by various other commitments and time restraints, to obtain a degree,” said Senior Vice President, Evan Jerome.

Jerome added that students will be able to benefit from the convenient class schedules, easy access to the other campuses and academic and personal support from the Flushing staff.

The undergraduate program will allow students to take two courses a week in Flushing and three classes at one of the College’s other campuses. Online classes are also available.
The Monroe College baseball team and head coach Luis Melendez have announced that ten sophomores and a freshman from the talented and heavily-scouted class of 2014-15 will continue their college careers at four-year institutions this fall.

"This is a lot of what our program is about," said Coach Melendez. "The young men get a quality education and an opportunity to play ball and perfect their skills. Then when they graduate, the whole world is opened up for them. I'm sure they will show off their Mustang pride wherever they go."

Among the eleven are the trio of Anthony Martinez, Michael Calimeno, and David Glade who will be heading to MIAA conference powerhouse Missouri Western State University (Division II).

Pitchers Martinez and Calimeno both had outstanding two-year careers at Monroe. Martinez, the Mustangs ace this past season, finished his Monroe career with a record of 11-4 (2.67 ERA). In his freshman season he won the team's Pitcher of the Year award and also set the team record for most wins in a season (7). Calimeno went 6-3 overall and recorded six saves. In his one year at Monroe, Glade hit .278 and led the team in both home runs (3) and doubles (7).

Reynaldo Echenique, Edwin Rodriguez, Christian Sanchez, and Leudy Betancourt will go to the NAIA. Echenique, the 2014 recipient of the Mustangs Gold Glove award, will be the backstop for Central Christian College. Centerfielder Rodriguez, who hit .321 as a sophomore and led the team in stolen bases, is headed to #14 Bellevue University. Joining him at Bellevue is fellow Puerto Rican Sanchez, who had a bounce back season in 2014, posting an impressive 1.00 ERA in ten appearances. Infielder Betancourt will attend Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Monroe Mustangs baseball has now sent more than 100 student-athletes to four-year schools.

Former Monroe Mustang great Maurice N'Dour takes on the world. The 6'9" senior who now attends Ohio University and starred for the Bobcats in 2013-14 after playing for two years at Monroe, was expected to represent his native Senegal in the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup in Spain. N'Dour competed with and against NBA players.

In his junior season as a Bobcat, N'Dour led the team in rebounding with 7.0 rpg and was second in scoring with 13.8 ppg. He shot 51.1% from the field.

Outfielder Rafael Balado and pitcher Brian Paulino will be staying in the Empire State. Speedster Balado, (296 career BA) will be manning the outfield for Dominican College (Division II). Paulino will play Division I baseball next season, as he is set to join the University of Albany.

The 6-1 New York City native went 1-2 as a sophomore with a 3.80 ERA.

Southpaw Angel Morales (183 bavg – lowest on the team) will play in the Great American conference as a member of the East Central University Tigers, and outfielder Jeremy Rodriguez will be attending Southern Connecticut State University.

Monroe star Ana Carol to play for U-20 Brazil

Ana Rodrigues, Monroe's most prolific scorer and maybe the team's most dynamic player when they were District champions a year ago, will spend part of her preseason playing for the U-20 Brazilian National Team in the World Cup competition in Canada.

The 5'10" sophomore, whose full name is Ana Carol Rodrigues, hails from Juazeiro, Brazil. She displayed incredible power and skill with the Mustangs in 2013, leading Monroe with nineteen goals and seven assists in sixteen games.

"We are proud of Carol, but it is not a surprise," said head coach Jonathan Garbar. "Since arriving at Monroe, her goal has been to progress and reach another level from both an athletic and a personal perspective. The talent and ambition has always been evident; however it is her level of intelligence on the field, the manner in which she attacks her training, and her commitment to becoming a multi-dimensional threat, that has most impacted her shift from being an impact player, to a full-fledged match-changer."

The Canadian Press has already taken to Ana Carol, as the Edmonton Sun published a story about her background.

Also, Coach Garbar is not concerned with Rodrigues competing at the high-speed, high-level World Cup games against highly-touted China, USA, and Germany. In fact, he expects her to excel.

"As long as Brazil has Carol, their chances to not only score goals, but to play intelligent, intense, and committed futbol will dramatically increase," he said, "and she'll have the entire Monroe Mustang family rooting for her."

Former Mustang N'Dour takes on the world! 'Mo' to play in the basketball World Cup

As a freshman for Monroe, 'Mo' averaged 9.4 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game as the Mustangs finished fifth in the country. In his sophomore year, he upped those numbers, averaging 15.9 points and 10.5 rebounds per game, with 82 blocked shots, and a 52% field goal percentage. Remarkably, he was 41.7% percent from 3-point range and 81.1 percent from the foul line.

One of Monroe's all-time great players, N'Dour remains a fan favorite.