Monroe Culinary wins the 2015 NYS Championship!

The student team is the American Culinary Federation NYS champions for 2015, earning 5 gold medals and topping competing schools from Niagara Culinary Institute, SUNY Delhi, and Schenectady County Community College.

The team, led by captain Courtney Boyle, showed poise and outstanding expertise in both the culinary skills and menu production phases of the competition. “I’ve judged numerous state championships and this is the first time that all of the team’s medaled in the competition,” said Chef David J. Turcotte, the lead judge from Virginia. Chef Tom Recinella, the floor judge for the menu round, praised the Monroe team, “Your teamwork was exceptional, you worked so well together and you displayed outstanding cooking skills.” First time member Jorge Mendoza kept the team on pace during the menu phase where the students produced a four course menu in 75 minutes. The third time proved the charm for returning seniors Carmen Albino, Yocary Luna, and Rossella Cangialosi.

“I am so proud of the way this team performed and kept its focus; these are tremendous young culinarians with an outstanding chance to win the region in January” said Dean Frank Costantino, the team’s coach, referring to the regionals to be held in Buffalo, NY in January. “My coaching staff of Chefs Eric Pellizzi and Shamel Donigan were instrumental in the team’s result as was our first year student and team assistant pastry coach Eyrricka Prescott.” Team member Carmen Albino reflected, “We are so happy to be able to bring the first state championship to Monroe College and to Dean Costantino who reminded us that we competed for all of those who came before us on Team Monroe, and we were so fortunate to have many of them on hand to support us along with our fellow Monroe Culinary teammates… Now, off to Buffalo!”

Monroe College celebrated its 2014 Homecoming Week during October 20–25 and the week was packed with exciting events. The celebration began with a Door Decorating contest with over fifty offices participating. On Wednesday, students and staff showed their Monroe pride by wearing Monroe school colors, blue and gold.

On Thursday, a game of Human Scrabble was held in the Mintz Auditorium. The students had a great time meeting other students while connecting various letters to form words. Later, that night over 400 students gathered at the Eastwood Manor for the Homecoming dance. Friday was the annual Alumni Cocktail reception in Gaddy Hall on the New Rochelle Campus.

The final Homecoming events held on Saturday included the 3rd Annual Monroe Miles, a Mini Carnival and later in the day, our football team won a great victory. That evening, the Monroe College Honors Program celebrated ten years of honors education and paid tribute to the originator of Monroe Honors, Vice President for Academics, Karenann Carty. It was truly a wonderful week, and everyone at the College had a great time. Homecoming 2014 was a grand success.
The AIMHigh Revolution Has Begun by Andre Samuels

The AIMHigh Empowerment Institute had its first induction ceremony on October 23, 2014. AIMHigh has taken fifty young men from various backgrounds to be the first to be inducted into the program. The purpose of AIMHigh is to build the “Competence, Confidence and Character” of the young men, getting them “Engaged, Educated and Empowered.” These young men, as part of the program, are indeed men of “persistence and intelligence.”

The event was attended by President Stephen Jerome, deans, faculty, staff, business professionals, parents and well-wishers. Senator Gustavo Rivera, Councilman Andy King and Assemblymen Carl Heastie and Victor Pichardo were also in attendance. The young men sat attentively, in their bright orange ties symbolizing energy and enthusiasm, as they listened to Senator Rivera encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity that is before them, and challenged them to ‘stick to it’. He urged them to be committed to their success, and echoed President Jerome’s earlier comment that he wanted to see them all graduate.

AIMHigh was founded and is being directed by Professor Sherman Browne and Admissions Director Dr. Cecil Wright. Several professors and staff members of Monroe College have stepped up to be coaches for these young men over the next year. These students are poised for success, as they keep up their “Ambition, Inspiration and Motivation” and AIM-high.

Active Shooter Symposium

Monroe College’s School of Criminal Justice hosted a symposium entitled, “Keeping Safe and Alert: Responding to Active Shooter Incidents,” held at the College’s Bronx campus. Law enforcement officials from around the tri-state area met to discuss the issue.

Leading the discussion were several distinguished public figures who have experience and expertise to provide valuable knowledge and insights on the issue at hand, including Michael Kehoe, Chief of the Newtown Police Dept., who was present during the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. He was joined by officials from the NYPD, including John Miller, Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Counterterrorism; Deputy Chief Vincent Giordano, Commanding Officer of the Emergency Service Unit; and Daniel Oleks, Intelligence Research Specialist.

“As active shooter incidents are becoming increasingly widespread, posing a serious threat to individuals and communities alike, it is of the utmost importance to be on guard and prepared in the event that such an incident occurs,” said Michele Rodney, Dean of Monroe’s School of Criminal Justice. “This symposium brought together top officials and leading experts who have experienced the devastating impact of active shooter violence first-hand, and helped foster a discussion on preparedness and response and how to develop prevention methods and tactics going forward.” Law enforcement professionals from police agencies in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut attended, along with public safety officers for hospitals, movie theaters, and shopping malls.

St. Lucia Campus holds Seventh Graduation Ceremony

Senior Vice President, Dr. Alex Ephrem, told the graduating class at the Saint Lucia Campus that each student represents a “beacon of hope” for the future, for their families, and for their countries at the seventh Graduation ceremony on October 19. A total of 115 students graduated, including seven in the MBA degree program.

Dr. Ephrem stated in his address: “Think how your family changes as you are now a degree holder; think of how your country can be transformed; think what the ripple effect of our collective education can achieve in eradicating some of the problems that plague us, locally and globally. Simply put: your family needs you; your various countries need you, and the world needs you. So nothing should stop you… Go for it! Make it happen, you have made everyone proud!”

He also read remarks from New York, on behalf of President, Stephen Jerome, who noted: “We are immensely proud of what you have accomplished. You are now well prepared to either enter upon your careers or to continue towards expanded educational horizons. You have attained a sense of personal confidence rooted in academic competence that will sustain you for the future.”

Graduation Speaker, Dr. Stephen King, a senator in the St. Lucia Parliament and a pathologist by profession, focused on the need for a different type of leadership to take us into new directions in the future.

He called on Monroe College graduates not to be awe-struck by the paper their diplomas are printed on, but to instead make their time and learning at Monroe count by being “compassionate leaders” whom he described as “…People, who can think incisively, using evidence, will not be persuaded by half-truths, propaganda and prejudice. People who will have the courage to speak and stand for what is right, regardless of the fear. It is then that we can say you have achieved higher education. It is not the paper, it is not the degree, it is the person – you – and what you do.”

The head of state of Saint Lucia, Governor-General, Dame Pearlette Louisy and Acting Prime Minister, Hon. Phillip J. Pierre, as well as other government ministers attended the ceremony.
M. Chief Academic Officer

President of Academics in higher education management from the Columbia University, and a doctoral degree and adult education from Teachers College, of New Rochelle, a master’s degree in higher mathematics and education from the College undoubtedly continue to excel in this role.”

She is extremely deserving of her new position as head of academics and will continue to promote academic and personal growth of students. Programs that are greatly beneficial to the organization, and continues to develop the College become recognized by a national transformative initiatives at Monroe, helping to Monroe over the years, and is incredibly adept at identifying opportunities to further minimize student loan debt. Dr. Carty is also responsible for adding two new graduate degree programs at Monroe – a Master of Public Health and an Executive Leadership Master’s Degree in Hospitality Management.

“Karenann has been an extraordinary asset to Monroe over the years, and is incredibly adept at identifying opportunities to further bolster the College’s academic credentials,” said Stephen Jerome, President of Monroe College. “She has taken the lead on some transformative initiatives at Monroe, helping the College become recognized by a national organization, and continues to develop programs that are greatly beneficial to the academic and personal growth of students. She is extremely deserving of her new position as head of academics and will undoubtedly continue to excel in this role.”

Dr. Carty holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and education from the College of New Rochelle, a master’s degree in higher and adult education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a doctoral degree in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

News and Notes:

- **Bicycle Raffle** Last month, Kellogg’s came to the JAG Café for a day of sampling their new products. As an incentive, Kellogg’s donated a Polaris bicycle for a raffle. The winner is Mercy Castillo, a member of the Bronx Campus Facilities department. Congratulations Mercy!

- **Amnesty International** On October 25, eight Monroe College students attended the fall 2014 Amnesty International Northeast Regional Conference held at Boston University. The main theme was transforming the cycle of violence in our communities and the world to one of tolerance and respect. Our students engaged in interactive workshops designed to promote critical debate on how they can make a difference. Monroe students, Vivian Son, Zuleysa Julien Redford, Jennifer Hendricks, Djegnale Dioubate, Franklin Peralta, Christian Nunez, Ashley Ellick and Yamilette Alvarez, were inspired and empowered to continue their activism.

- **Zumba Party in Pink** The Student Activities Office in collaboration with certified Zumba instructor Melissa Bowman hosted its second annual Zumba in Pink Party. Over 120 individuals, including some breast cancer survivors, gathered ready to stomp out Breast Cancer. About ten children opened the event with their energetic Zumba routine followed by the introduction of the four Zumba instructors. It was time for 90 minutes of nonstop Zumba. The Student Activities Office thanks everyone who volunteered and contributed. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. We are looking forward to an even bigger Party in Pink next October.

- **Breast Cancer Walk** Monroe College was represented well at the 2014 Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach. Fifty-five students and staff from the New Rochelle Campus walked together in the highly successful event.

- **The Alumni Reunion and Gala** was an evening of fun, food, and festivities celebrated in our new Gaddy Hall dormitory and business building in New Rochelle. Leslie Jerome, the Alumni Director, awarded Alumni of Distinction awards to the following graduates who have received special distinction or achievement in their professional fields: Betzaide Aponte ’04, Ann Marie Ferguson ’99, Nadia Noel ’02 and the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award to Dalvin Hill, Ph.D. ’03.

- **BronxTalk Celebrates 20 Years** Monroe’s Sports Development and Information Director, Gary Axelbank, has a second life as host of the politically-minded cable access show BronxTalk. The program celebrated its 20th year with a special on October 22. “I never stopped to look back and count,” Axelbank said of his 951 shows. “But looking back at some of the archival footage, I know every show that’s aired is the show that I thought we should do that week.” Over the years, Axelbank has hosted political debates and interviewed borough presidents, lawmakers, mayors, artists, and fellow journalists about pretty much anything Brorx related. The show airs weekly on BronxNet, a public access cable channel based on the campus of Lehman College. It is successful, according to Axelbank, “because it combines public service, education, and community engagement, which appeals to a broad audience.”
**Honors Gala**

The Honors Program celebrated its 10th Anniversary Gala on October 25 during Homecoming. The function was well attended by current Honors students, who dressed in their best and took photos in front of an Honors Program backdrop. There were also a number of Honors alumni in the audience as well as members of the College’s administration, faculty, and staff. President Jerome gave a lovely welcome address. The audience also heard from three alumni (Selina Suarez, Class of ‘05; Omar Newell, Class of ‘07; and Camille Forde Class of ‘09). Dr. Karenann Carty was honored for founding the program. The evening ended with dancing. A splendid time was had by all.

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**Happy Homecoming: Mustangs Romp Over Stevens, 41–14**

The Monroe Mustangs scored early and often in a 41–14 Homecoming victory over the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. The victory was their first home win of the season. “Whenever you come off the field with a win it’s a great feeling,” said head coach Terry Karg. “With what you put in during the week to prepare for three hours on Saturday, it’s always nice to get that ‘W’.

After the Bulldogs fumbled their first play from scrimmage, Monroe capitalized with a six-yard TD burst from Devonta Barnfield-Raple. “We took advantage of mistakes they made,” Coach Karg said. “We got the good field position and were able to capitalize with a couple of early touchdowns.”

Freshman QB Darius Taylor was 10 for 23 with 2 TD’s and one interception for Monroe. Devauntey Ellis was Monroe’s best rusher in the game. The freshman running back had 103 of the Mustangs’ 231 yards on the day.

Nonetheless, Coach Karg wanted to see a bit more consistency. “We sputtered at times on offense,” he said. “I’d like to see our execution a little bit better over the course of the entirety of the game, but we did have a couple of drives where we marched on them and were able to finish with scores.”

As part of the Homecoming festivities, the Monroe Maniacs put together a halftime pass and kick contest for fans with $25 Modell’s gift certificates as prizes. It was all part of a feel-good day for Monroe. “Our program appreciates the support from the student body, administrators, and parents. We had a very good turnout for Homecoming and it was great to get the win on our home turf,” Coach Karg said.

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**Edith Banks: Monroe’s “Fun Aunt” Makes Things Happen**

It’s quite easy to feel at home while in the Student Activities Office. It is a welcoming environment, with candies and snacks, a warm hug, and zealous staff with bright smiles who meet you at the door. The enthusiastic and passionate, Edith Banks, affectionately known as the “the fun aunt on campus” has been the director of the Student Activities Office at the Bronx Campus for the past five years. She believes in bringing out the best in people, pushing them to be all they can be, and getting them to go beyond what they think. She wants them to achieve more than just what a limited imagination offers.

The Student Activities Office is a place where there is something for everyone, with 26 clubs on the Bronx and New Rochelle campuses. The office seeks to connect students to various clubs or activities that may interest them. There is much to learn at college outside the class room setting and that’s where the Student Activities Office plays a pivotal role. Whether it is organizing the Homecoming dance, freshman orientation, bingo night, leadership training, or just a trip to Six Flags, the office is always busy.

What drives Ms. Banks is seeing the growth and maturation of students from freshman orientation to graduation, seeing them develop their confidence, administrative skills, and leadership abilities. Ms. Banks observed that while an internship is necessary, one thing that makes a student stand out is participation and leadership in clubs and activities. She stated that, “ultimately students who are connected to something are those who are generally successful.”

The Student Activities Office is not your normal nine to five place. The office is being “manned” by two women, Ms. Banks and her assistant Ms. Joane Birmingham, who do exceptional things. Kudos to them.

So the next time you’re in King Hall stop by the Student Activities Office for a candy, a hug, or just a word of encouragement from Ms. Banks and her team.