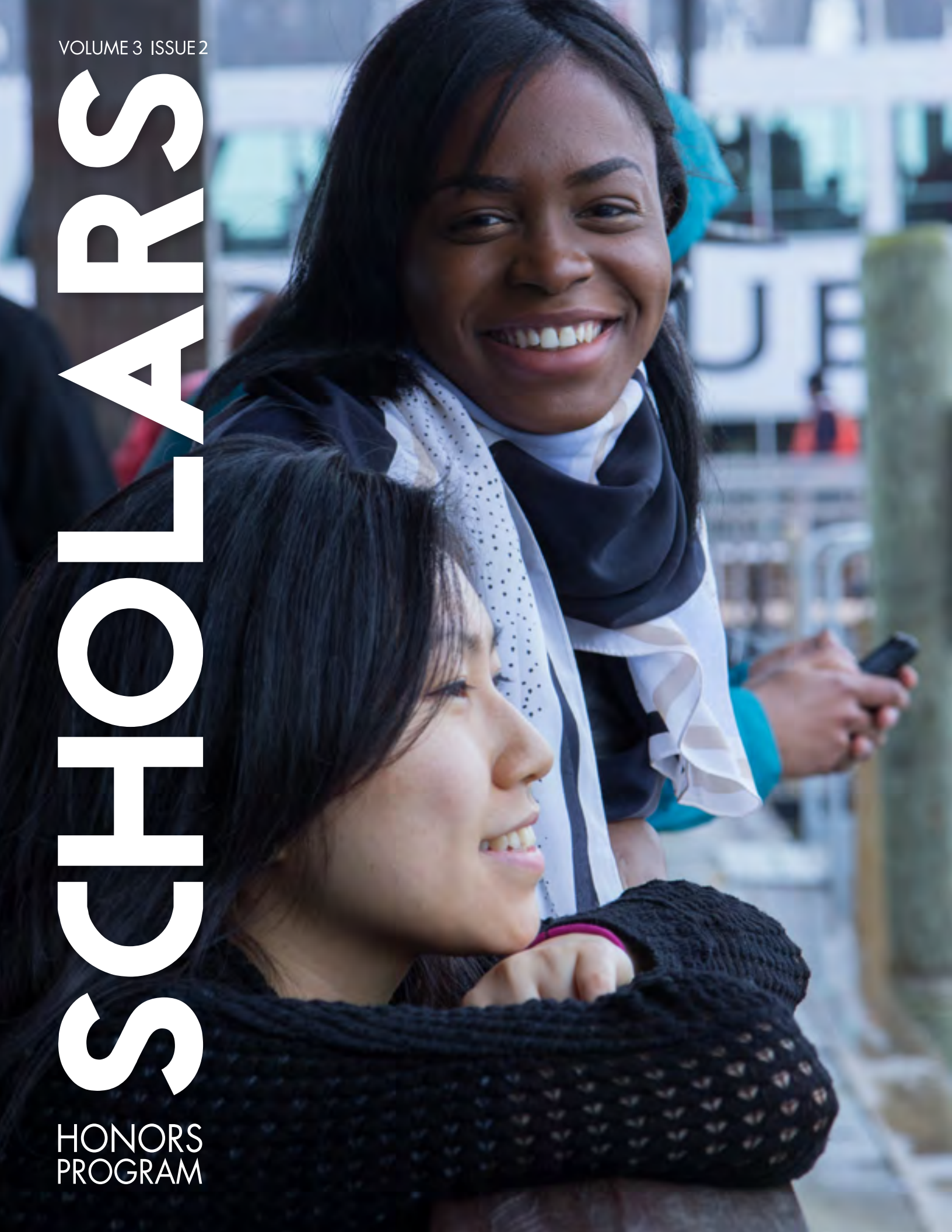


VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

SCHOLARS

HONORS
PROGRAM





NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
of The City University of New York

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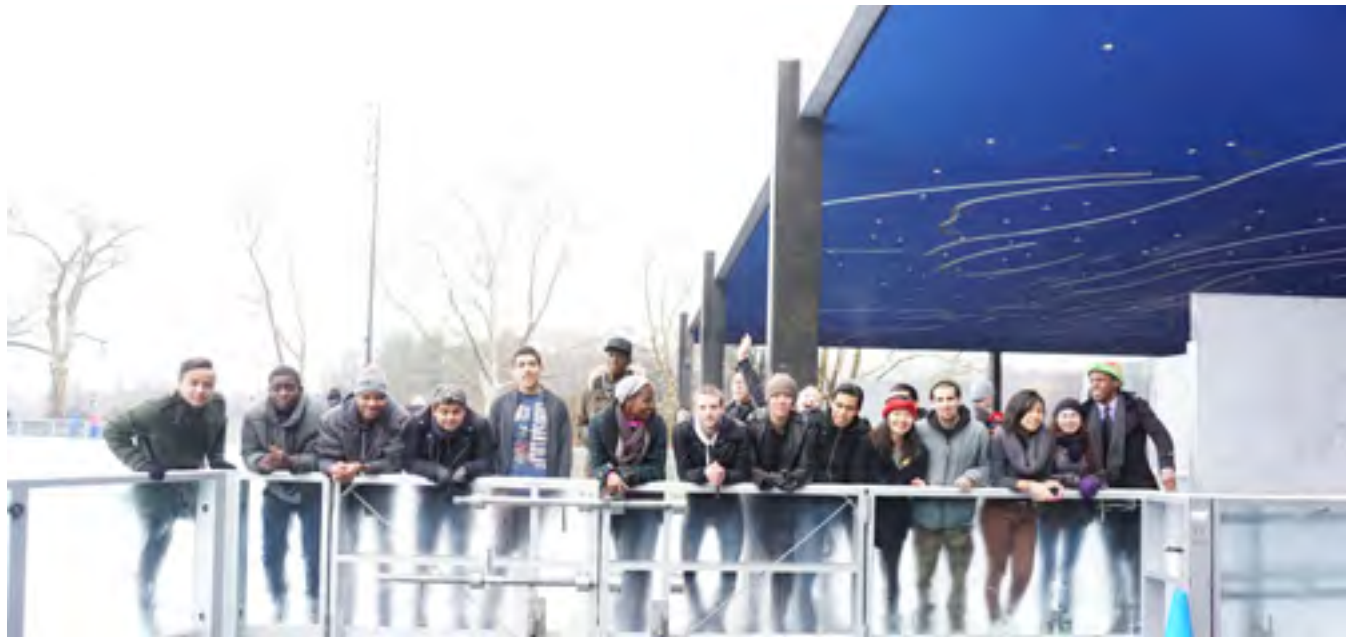


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STUDENT CON

A FROZEN ASSET

Zianne Cuff



On December 18, 2014, LeFrak Center at Lakeside Prospect Park opened its rink to welcome the Honors Scholars Program. Located against the scenic backdrop of Prospect Park Lake and the newly reconstructed beauty of Chaim Baier Music Island and the Shelby White and Leon Levy Esplanade, the new LeFrak Center was designed to flow through the topography of the park. The renovation of this 26-acre plot is one of the largest and most ambitious capital projects in Prospect Park area since the nineteenth century, and two of the most influential partners in seeing the \$74 million dollar restoration and redesign come to fruition are Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak. The rink consists of two 16,000 sq. ft. spaces (one covered and one open-air) joined together by a functional ice bridge.

With the inclusion of the recreational center comes an assortment of other perks that are integrated into the preservation of the park. The open-air design of the rinks and the installation of a high-efficiency ammonia refrigeration system aid in energy conservation of energy needs, and the 15,000-gallon cistern ensures that all storm water within the 26-acre area is captured and re-used for parkland irrigation. The creation of the two lakeside green roof areas reduce energy use through insulating the building's interior, saving on both construction costs and future operating expenses.

In addition to being environmentally conscious, LeFrak Center offers a range of daily skating activities that cater to all age groups throughout the course of the seasons. In the winter months, LeFrak Center offers a variety of learn-to-skate classes

for anyone eager to enhance their ice skills. During the off-season, the space serves as a roller rink and event space, bringing roller skating back to the Brooklyn Community for the first time since 2007. The rinks are also available for rental to hockey leagues and private events.

For a family or group of friends in search of a fulfilling day out on a budget, entry into the complex is free. However, there is an admission fee for skating and skating-related services. Hours of admission, skating prices, educational opportunities, and other information can be found on the park's website.

The LeFrak Center at Lakeside is well on its way to becoming a borough icon as it serves as an important community staple and recreational resource that New Yorkers will enjoy for years to come.

FINDING THE WORDS

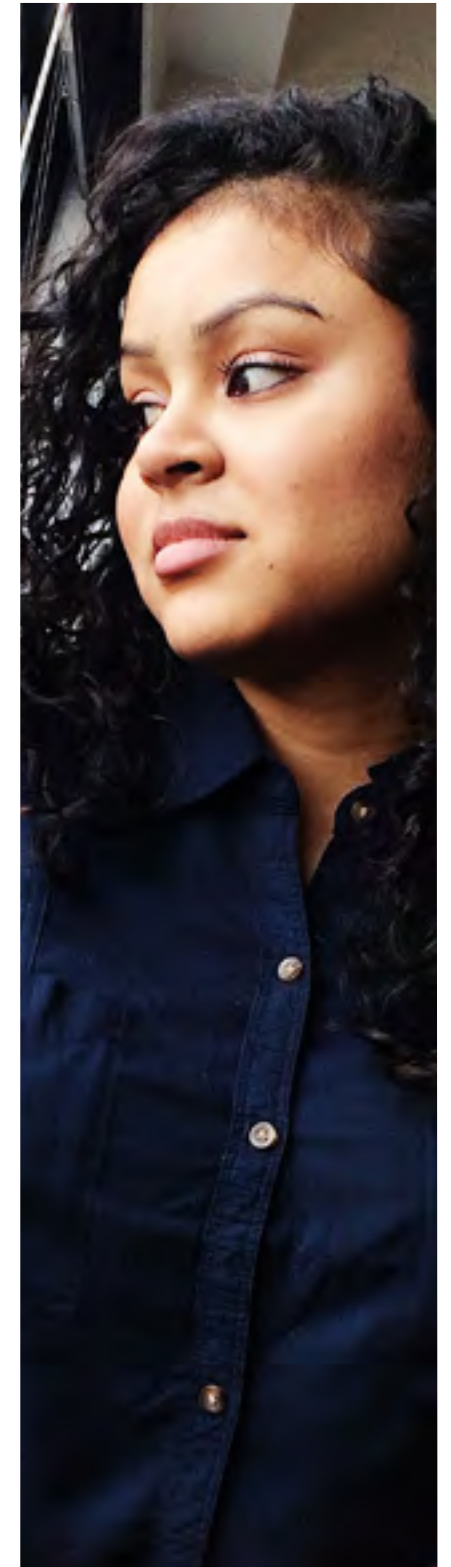
Mariah Rajah

It has always been a challenge for me to introduce myself. I do not consider myself anybody special. I am a common woman with rather common thoughts. There are no monuments dedicated to me. I have led a simple life and until now, I have always thought my name would be forgotten. My name is Mariah Annastacia Rajah and I grew up in a small village on the western coast of the South American country Guyana. I am an only child, and due to the loneliness that accompanies being an only child, I developed a deep interest in books and writing at a very young age. I enjoyed reading how one idea or image can be portrayed in various ways, and how within the pages of books I could find solace. I have always had a passion for working with writers from an early age. I always knew that reading others' ideas and working within the writing field would be a mere job for me, but a career that I could enjoy.

I bounced around from major to major with the hopes of somehow convincing my parents that writing was much more than a hobby; it was a field in which I would flourish. When I saw that City Tech was offering a Professional and Technical Writing Bachelor's Degree, the first ever in the history of CUNY, I was instantly on board before I was even able to sign up for the program. I was thrilled that I could merge my love for psychology and writing and eventually use the degree to accomplish my life goal of being an editor.

Speaking of life goals, I hope to live a life that is filled with happiness, love, and success. I hope one-day I am able to achieve financial stability, settle down, have children, and live a rewarding life. Living here in New York has completely exceeded my expectations. New York, with all it has to offer, never ceases to amaze me. I am most proud of how far I have come. Coming from a small village, my parents knew there was only so much I could accomplish there and so they sacrificed everything to bring me here. I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without my father, as he has been my mentor and biggest motivator, and my mother, as she has provided me with confidence and strength. I have been fortunate to meet a special someone along the way. He has been able to bring out the best in me and daily challenges me to become ever better. With my parents and him by my side, I know I can accomplish anything. Whenever I travel home to Guyana, I try to visit schools and talk to children, advising them with the hope that they will utilize every opportunity no matter how small. One day I hope to inspire someone to keep trying because failure is not certain, as it is only through trials that we learn and hone our abilities.

I am a person of kindness and cheer. I will never forget my humble origins and I will never lose sight of where I am going. There is much ahead of me and I am working hard to make my dreams come true.



GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR OFFERS EXCITING NEW GAMES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Jodieann Stephenson

The second annual New York City College of Technology (City Tech) Annual Graduate Fair was held on December 4, 2014 from 10AM–1PM along with the 21st Semi-Annual Honors & Emerging Scholars Poster Presentation. Undergraduates who attended the session learned more about applying to graduate schools from the graduate admissions recruiters from various universities onsite. More than 100 Master's and Doctoral degree programs were introduced, including recruiters from Baruch College, Columbia University, CUNY Graduate Center, Long Island University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New York University (NYU) Tisch School of the Arts, NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering, Pace University, Queens College, Rhode Island School of Design, St. Johns University, Steven Institute of Technology, Touro College, University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Representatives from City Tech LSAMP, CUNY Service Corps and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation were present. The hallways of the college were completely transformed with tables that displayed information for curious undergraduates to inquire about the programs.

I had a chance to stop by the NYU Tisch School of the Arts table, which offered information on their Bachelors of Fine Arts and Masters of Fine Arts in Game Design. The program promotes an intense study of design and development of games, game production from board games to today's digital games. Their stands were adorned with two flat screen TVs, iPads, and game controls that created an interactive approach to a new perspective towards videogames. One of the games on display was Field-1 which is described as feeling "like playing hockey inside a

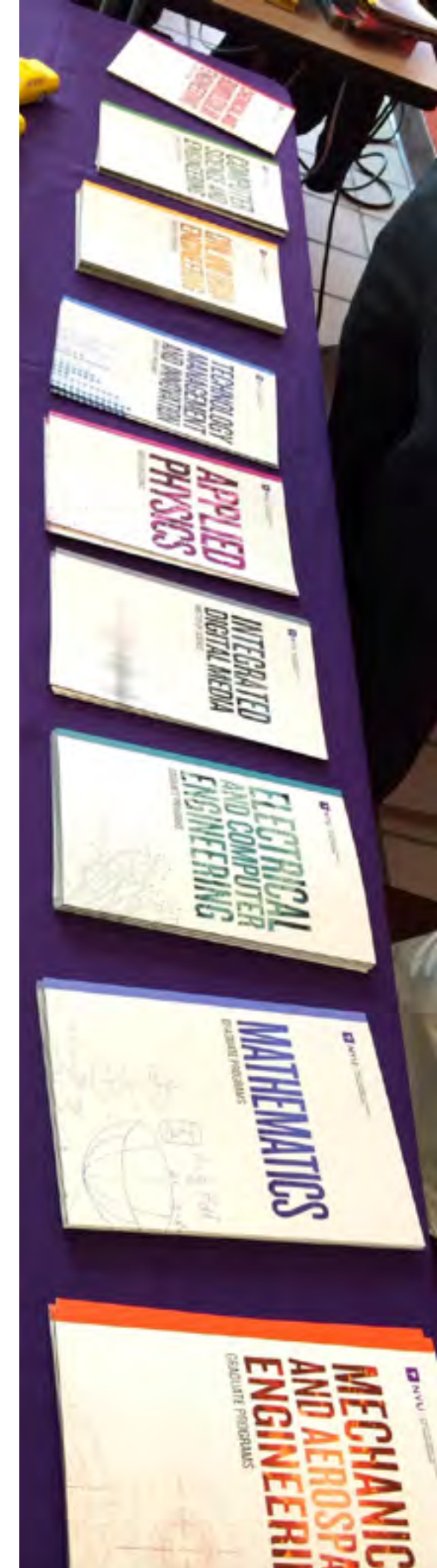
pinball machine." The game can be downloaded from their website (www.field1game.com). NYU students Aaron Freedman, Dylan McKenzie, Maxim Frampton, and Shervin Ghazazani created Field 1, which provides a unique and exciting way to learn about energy and fields. It offers a new perspective on the way society views video games that counters the stigmatized idea of violence.

Another game that was introduced with a "Fun in the Sun" idea is Sunburn. The game is available on the Apple Store for \$2.99. The storyline of the game is based around astronauts becoming stranded in space without a ship, with crewmembers scattered. The only option is to find your crewmembers and head for the sun. It is a whimsical approach to introducing players to the solar system while stressing the importance of teamwork.

Next to the NYU Game Center's table was the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering, where I spoke with Andrew Rapin, Assistant Director of Admissions & Graduate Enrollment Management. Andrew warmly encouraged students to apply to graduate programs and "not be discouraged on applying because of the fear of the finances."

City Tech's Graduate Fair embodied a meaningful approach for students to start familiarizing themselves with graduate programs from early on. There was an immense amount of information available, along with freebies such as pens, key chains, chocolates, and stress balls.

In all, the fair provided students with a glimpse at the exciting future of digital games as well as plentiful information about how they can help shape their future.



CITY TECH STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS IN THE 21ST SEMI-ANNUAL POSTER PRESENTATION

Walter Rada



The Semi-Annual Poster Presentation has become a major City Tech tradition, during which students display their research projects and creative works. This event has steadily grown to include more than 400 student participants from programs such as Honors Scholars, Emerging Scholars, Black Male Initiative Scholars, Research Scholars, Learning Communities, Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Independent Study, and a variety of other special projects.

Every semester, winners of the Poster Contest are selected from those whose posters emphasize the best that City Tech has to offer. Students from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors, as well as non-STEM majors, present their work and are judged separately. The group projects in the STEM fields are also judged separately from the non-STEM ones. Due to this distinction, there were 10 winning posters in December's Poster Session!

We reached out to the winners and asked them to comment on their work and how it has affected them. One of the members of the first-place STEM group, Ms. Edrouine Gabriel, remarked on her eye-opening research project entitled "How Does Temperature Affect the Conductivity of Brooklyn's East River Water?" and how this project has further educated her on how human actions affect sea life. Victor O. Adedara, another member of this group, stated that his research has opened a potential avenue for him should he choose to pursue a career in environmental science. Returning Emerging Scholar Ricky Santana, whose project was entitled "Transition to College: Why Do Incoming Freshmen Not Attend a Free Summer Bridge Program?" discussed how his research improved his understanding of how students should be more adequately prepared for college.

For the non-STEM groups, there was actually a four-way tie for second place. All these groups were associated with the Solar Decathlon, an international two-year competition with the overall goal of designing and building an energy-efficient solar-powered house.



One of the members of a group, Chantal Manning from "Team and Community Outreach [DURA Solar Decathlon 2015]," said that her goal was simply to bring more awareness to her entry in this amazing event. Manning stated, "We want to get the student body involved. We want the community of DUMBO, Brooklyn Heights, and downtown Brooklyn to know about this great project and the amazing benefits of a DURA home for the future growing urban residential population."

Professor Janet Liou-Mark, Director of the Honors Scholars Program and coordinator of the poster contest, commented on the judging criteria, stating that STEM

posters were judged based on the hypothesis, logic, results, conclusions, and the poster design itself and non-STEM posters are judged by the scholarly knowledge and presentation. This would require a perfect poster to display months' worth of research, results, and conclusions as well as articulate all this information in a presentable and understandable manner. Though this sounds daunting, students accomplish it semester after semester. Professor Liou-Mark noted that she never ceases to be astounded by the hard work of the students and eagerly awaits new findings at the next Poster Presentation, which is held on the ground and first floors of the Atrium on May 6-7.



RCR

LEARNING TO CONDUCT RESEARCH RESPONSIBLY

MARIAH RAJAH

One of the biggest fears and concerns for college students, aside from failing a class, is conducting research in a way that could potentially lead to penalization. Here at City Tech, in every syllabus distributed has a section titled, “New York City of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity” that briefly informs students that it is their responsibility to practice academic honesty, and the consequences that could follow if they failed to adhere to this policy. However, although included in both the course syllabus and College Catalog, it might be safe to say that few students truly understand what responsible academic honesty is; this is where the “Responsible Conduct of Research Training Program for Undergraduates Researchers” comes into fruition.

On March 4 of this year, Honors and Emerging Scholars Program students were able to receive a better understanding of the responsible way to conduct research firsthand. The purpose of the “RCR” program is to train both students and CUNY faculty who are engaged in research to become fully knowledgeable of the policies and procedures with which they are to comply when conducting responsible research. This training program is a requirement for all CUNY faculty members as well as students involved in research, as stated by the facilitator of the workshop and Director of the Honors Scholars Program, Professor Janet Liou-Mark. Before students begin with the certification process, which is valid for three years, Professor Liou-Mark briefly explained what counts as ethical dilemmas that could lead to misconduct of research. She stated that audience privacy and integrity, conflict of interest, the order of authorship, collaborative efforts on research, data management, false advertising, and mentors not crediting individuals for their intellectual property are all areas that could contribute to the misconduct of research.

After explaining these key points, Professor Liou-Mark continued to explain the CITI Program or the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program itself. The program is run by the University of Miami and is a leading provider of research education content, as stated by the CITI Program website. Their website also states that their “mission is to provide educational content that promotes the quality of and public trust in the research enterprise.” After this introduction, Professor Liou-Mark continued to guide students through the website, systematically showing them how to set up a personal account, which, thanks to CUNY Administration, the course is completely free.

Shortly after the fifteen to twenty minute set up time, Honors students embarked on the actual certification process. On the CITI website, they were instructed to take a series of quizzes for each module based on the various key concepts that Professor Liou-Mark discussed. These modules are sections that display detailed information that participants must read carefully in order to grasp the concepts of responsible research conduct and to pass the quizzes. For each module, a passing grade of 80 percent or higher is required for becoming fully certified. Students are allowed to take each quiz as many times as needed to obtain a passing grade. However, the questions are never the same, and it is important to note that after taking the last quiz, they cannot return to any previous quizzes.

The Responsible Conduct of Research Training Program helps undergraduate researchers understand the importance of being responsible when conducting research. This program is useful and offers benefits beyond the certification.

TRAINS, BUSES, AND NEW YORK CITY

Jane Tan



On the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street is a subway entrance like no other. From the street level, one can fondly observe a steady stream of people climbing up and down the narrow steps; most notable are the children in high spirits. And who can blame them? This is, perhaps, the only subway station where they are permitted to run around, talk loudly and touch anything that they like.

Curious? Welcome to the New York Transit Museum!

Only a five-minute walk from City Tech, the New York Transit Museum was once a functioning subway platform before being decommissioned in 1946 after a decade-long run. On July 4, 1976, it was reopened as a part of the

country’s bicentennial celebration, housing the present two-floor showcase, which sustained its popularity all these years. Here, the Honors Scholars were engaged in a more than an hour long tour of the museum, beginning with the remarkable history of the New York Transit System, from the horse-drawn “omnibuses” to our present-day, engine-powered buses and trains. The exhibit also boasts a timeline of turnstiles utilized over the years; a collection of subway fare media from paper to MetroCards; an old yet semi-functioning signal tower; and “Railroad Landscapes,” a photographic exhibition of railroads in the tri-state area by photographer John Sanderson. Also, let’s not forget the crowd’s favorite exhibits in the basement—the parallel rails of walk-in vintage trains! Polly, our

tour guide, was kind enough to regale our group with hard facts and stories about the individual cars while we all sat in and had a feel of them; it felt as if we were all actually there, transported back to their golden days.

The New York Transit Museum is an enduring treasure. Although not as grand as the MET or as avant-garde as the MOMA, it tells a unique story, a part of New York’s roots that molded it to what it is right now. As Polly had noted, our transit system became a motivation to expand: the expansion of the train lines enabled people to explore and find new dwellings, establishing new neighborhoods. Truly, it was eye opener for us straphangers to see how far our transit system has come after all these years.



HONORING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

Zianne Cuff

The opening of the National September 11th Memorial Museum in New York was a process that was 13 years in the making. After facing a multitude of years at almost a standstill in construction due to controversy and funding, the complex opened its doors to the public on May 21 of last year. Walking on the grounds of The Memorial Plaza gives visitors a chance to follow the linear rhythms that lay within the rows of well-groomed trees. Through the annual cycle of rebirth, the plaza is one of the most environmentally friendly spaces constructed to date, with its space for loose soil promoting healthy tree growth and its underground reservoirs, below the plaza surface, that collect rainwater in storage tanks.

Lead architect Davis Brody Bond designed the 9/11 Memorial Museum with the aid of the Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta; it rests between the two massive water features adorned with the names of families affected by the 9/11 attacks 14 years ago as well as the World Trade Center attacks of '93. Erected in the graveyard of the fallen victims of these tragedies, a majority of the building lies submerged in the earth with an entrance ramp that leads beyond the security check in and descends 70 feet down into the structure. The Foundation Hall lies past the entrance ramp within the footprint of the North Tower. It is a wide, lofty space armed with a "slurry wall" that once served as a retaining barrier around the trade center foundation built in the 1960s. The wall is now a key feature in this massive room and stands as a testament for the unbroken spirits of those who aided and survived this tragedy.

Memorabilia from ground zero has resurfaced within the halls of the exhibits occupying the space beneath where the Twin Towers once stood. Among them are an estimated

12,500 artifacts, including emergency vehicles that have been liquefied by the heat from the blasts, audio recordings of 911 phone calls and responses, photographs of victims, and media coverage of the entire event from its unfolding to cleanup. A great deal of items have come directly from the survivors and families of the deceased who took part in the cleanup and reconstruction of the city desecrated by these attacks.

The Memorial Exhibition, In Memoriam, houses interactive tables that display information about victims, testimonies by family and friends, and the location of individual names that are set in the Memorial Plaza above ground. This space stands in memory of those whose lives were taken in the attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 and performs the noble duty of continuing their legacies behind the safe enclosure of plexiglass. By preserving these articles of everyday livelihood, they are educating millions of people who have passed through the doors, and thus far, have yet to make their journey through this place of loss and recollection.





BETWEEN TWO WORLDS AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY

Jodieann Stephenson

On April 3rd, the first day of Spring Break, Honors Scholars ventured to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Immigration Museum to learn about the history of Immigrants even despite of the bleak weather. We met in the famous Battery Park where Ms. Laura Yuen-Lau, Coordinator of the Honors Scholars Program, greeted us and gave us a brief history of Battery Park. The park is located on the southern tip of Manhattan and received its name from the artillery batteries that were positioned there many years ago.

We waited for the rest of the Scholars to join us. At a little after 9 AM and we were ready to go! We entered through security and then proceeded on the Ferry. On the ferry, Honor Scholars ran to the top and took photos of the New York City skyline which was masked by the clouds. The first stop was the Statue of Liberty! We exited the ferry and made

our way across the boardwalk in the rain. After entering the boardwalk, we were greeted by National Park Service Ranger John, who educated us about the Statue's history and current island operations. The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States in 1886. It was designed by Frederic

Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor and is well recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty, also known as "The New Colossus" or "The Mother of Exiles," holds the torch which has the date of the American Declaration of Independence on it. The park ranger informed us that Lady Liberty's seven spikes represent the

seven oceans and the seven continents, thus indicating liberty's reach around the world. The statue, which is made from copper, has turned green due to oxidation and has an iron infrastructure. As we climbed the stairs in the pedestal, we still could not believe this massive statue existed. With each step, we wondered the excruciating efforts it took to build and the amount of people who died while constructing Lady Liberty.

The second stop on the tour was the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island served as the world's largest immigration station, where more than 12 million immigrants were processed from countries like Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia just to name a few. For incoming immigrants, it was the first stop on their way to discover new opportunities, and the island was a symbol of hope. The museum is divided into four sections. First is "PEOPLE," where you are introduced to the immigrants who came to the island as well as the workers, such as the inspectors, clerks, interpreters, aid workers, nurses, and doctor who aided the immigrants when they arrived. Second was "PLACES" which showed how immigrants were able to utilize the simplicity of the island. Immigrants tried to preserve their ethnic identity by creating small communities that shared cultural values. Third is "STORIES"; the museum captures the untold stories

of those immigrants who were denied citizenships. And lastly, "COLLECTIONS" is where we learned about the history of both Ellis Island and Liberty Island through objects displayed throughout the museum. As we walked around the museum, there was a strong sense of melancholy. Throughout the museum, there were plaques with quotes from immigrant's stories and pictures depicting the horrors of the suffering of immigrants during that time.

In the hallways, the bathrooms, the hospital, the rooms, the staircases, you could not escape the impending sense of loneliness and oppression one must have faced during that time. In every place you went, it followed you. With many of us being immigrants from Africa, China, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Jamaica, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Ukraine and many more countries, we resonated with the hope one has of coming to America for opportunities, or to reunite with your loved one and friends. One of the many plaques contained an old Italian story: "Well I came to America because I heard the streets were paved with gold. When I got here, I found out three things: first the streets weren't paved with gold; second they're not paved at all; and third I was expected to pave them."

As I stood in the hallways of the museum I tried to imagine the museum

completely empty, without any elevators or escalators, completely rid of all artifacts and filled with incoming immigrants with hundreds of languages filling the air. I tried to picture immigrants entering through the "Registry Room" or the "Great Hall" where families would go under medical and legal examinations. After being examined, they would walk down the "Stairs of Separation" where the few who were lucky boarded New York or New Jersey-bound ferries and went elsewhere.

As I am an immigrant, I am even more appreciative of their journey to acquire citizenship. Today, America is still perceived as the land of the free. When asked about her experience at the museum, Nitasha Rizvi said, "I feel overwhelmed and blessed because if I lived in an earlier time, becoming a citizen would have been a lot more difficult. Back then they had to present in front of a judge and jury and now all you have to do is take a test."

The Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island Museum is a colossal reminder of the people who came to find a new home in America. As the ferry pulled away, I looked at Lady Liberty and smiled, for I understood why she is forever seen as a symbol of hope. She is a friend to all around the world and the ideas, values and hopes she inspires are retained in the torch.





Celebrating Native American Culture

Jane Tan

On March 13, 2015, the Honors Scholars Program of City Tech explored the halls of the National Museum of the American Indian on One Bowling Green, New York. Its current location was once the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House, which used to be the center for tax collections on shipments arriving at the port of New York. A seven story building, it also houses the current United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York and the New York City National Archives. Constructed between the years of 1900 to 1907, it exhibits the Beaux-Arts

style of architecture, which is the same approach to neoclassical architectural found in the Grand Central Terminal and the New York Public Library. As a whole, the National Museum of American Indian (NMAI) is a three satellite institution dedicated to the life and culture of Native Americans. Established as a single entity in 1916, it began as the Museum of the American Indian in New York City. The Smithsonian Institution later acquired it in 1990, which was also when the collections were divided among the three facilities in

New York (George Gustav Heye Center), Washington D.C. (the National Mall), and Maryland (Cultural Resources Center). The current New York installation accommodates three exhibitions: (1) a showcase of craftsmanship called “Glittering World: Navajo Jewelry by the Yazzie Family”; (2) “Circle of Dance,” which focuses on ten different social and ceremonial dances chosen from all over the America; (3) and “Infinity of Nations,” the permanent exhibition encompassing everyday equipment and art ranging from obsidian hand tools to elaborate textiles, basketry, and metal sculptures.

Besides this overflowing amount of visuals, our tour guide, Kerry, went the extra mile and entertained our group with more facts about trade during the height of the customs house. Birch bark tree was the traditional material Native Americans used to build their canoes and kayaks, which were allowed passage into the port where beaver pelts and beads (from Quahog shells) were some of the products traded, eventually finding their way to European countries such as Russia and Italy. Other Mesoamerican products that

became popular for trading include corn, tomatoes, gum, strawberries, and the so-called “food of the Gods”: cacao. The significance of the NMAI could not be more fitting, standing along the welcoming shores of New York City, the world-renowned melting pot of cultures. More than a tribute to the tribes of Native Americans, it serves as the fort that oversaw the turning point in the

history of New York in which native and foreign transactions were stimulated, contributing to the vibrancy and diversity of the ‘New World’ till this day. This is actually memorialized within the rotunda of the customs house, where paintings of maritime nature abundantly decorate its ceilings.

COMPUTER INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING FOR STUDENTS WHILE SOLVING REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS AND CREATING PATHWAYS TO FUTURE CAREERS

Md Arefin and Nolan Hu

The City Tech Computer Club, now known as Computer Information Association (CIA), has been an integral part of the College. This club provides students in the Computer Systems Technology (CST) department with many opportunities, helping them to take more active roles in their future careers both in and out of the school. The club has taken trips to places such as IBM, and it is not only looking to do more, but also to expand its influence. The club's president, Komoliddin Fazliddin, and vice presidents, Nolan Hu and Md Arefin, are constantly working to make the club an integral part of the College.

The club leaders are trying to make the club more dynamic. Their objective is to encourage collaboration, learning, and sharing, while creating and promoting inspiration. They empower and help City Tech students become more involved in various competitions, such as IBM Watson, NYU Poly Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW), and CUNY Hackathon.

The club members also work on projects to teach collaboration. Collaboration is the most important driver of today's advances in

open sources products. The club loves and supports open source projects. All the solutions they develop are published on GitHub under open source licenses, and members are trying to create an industrial environment to learn software development. They work as a group to develop their own website (citytechcia.com), which is also on GitHub for other students to look at. In addition, they are working on a project to create a registration and payment interface for the CUNY system as well as a CST department app. At CIA, they apply the theories that professors teach in the classroom and work on solutions for real-world problems.

Networking can be your ticket to your dream job. The club has many events with guest speakers and professionals from industry that create great networking opportunities. This semester, the club invited Pedro Peralta from GoldmanSachs, Kevin Form from NYU Poly CSAW, Olufemi Akinbode, the past vice president from The NPD Group, Omar from Etsy, and even professors from City Tech. The guests share their experiences, their knowledge, and they inspire you to be successful. The Computer Information Association is not only a club but also a pathway to careers.

One of the vice presidents of the club, Nolan Hu, joined after

working with his mentors Professor Siegel and Pedro Peralta. Professor Siegel pushed Nolan to work outside of his classes on his Honors Scholars project, *Wi-Fi Protected Setup Exploit*, and he provided him with letters of recommendation. Pedro introduced Nolan to the club, and has since motivated and encouraged him to accomplish more while trying new things that he would have never done before. Through Pedro, he learned about scholarships opportunities to different cyber security conferences. With that knowledge, he won a scholarship to attend ShmooCon, his first conference in Washington and another one to attend Blackhat USA, held in Las Vegas. This resulted in him attending many other conferences such as HOPE X, DEFCON, and CSAW.

Aside from conferences, he also went to cyber security meet ups like OWASP and NYU Poly Hack Nights. Pedro also encouraged him to compete at the NYU Poly CSAW Department of Homeland Security Quiz. November 2013 was the first time he competed, and as a result, he made it to the final round. After a year of practicing, his team, Catbug, won third place. He had also won other competitions, such as the Beamly challenge at the NBC Universal Comcast Hackathon. In addition to winning competitions, he was also a recipient of the NSF S-STEM scholarship.

Nolan stated, "I am very proud of all these achievements, but they do come with a cost. It took countless hours of time, motivation, and dedication; nevertheless it has been worth it. Many of the great opportunities that were presented to me began while I was a member of the computer club. Unfortunately, there were very few students in the club during that time, and not many of them took advantage of what there was to offer. I wanted to change all that."

In fall of 2014, Nolan became the Vice President of the City Tech CIA. During this time, he made sure to attract as many curious students as possible to help them succeed as much as he has. The CIA officers and he have attracted over a hundred inquisitive minds, which

was ten times the number from last semester. Along with recruiting new members, he made sure that there were resources that the students were able to take advantage of. In addition to inviting people from the industry to speak, he even created a small security module within the club to focus solely on computer security. He wanted to share his knowledge with other students in hopes that he will ignite a flame that will burn brighter and stronger in them. "Hopefully, one day these students will reach a point where they will be sharing their knowledge and success to other like-minded students."

The CIA officers have worked hard to make the club successful. From congregating industry speakers and coordinating significant projects,

they have tried their best to brand themselves as one of City Tech's best and most useful club. In November 2014, they strive to come home as winners from Lehman College's NSBE Hackathon. Although they didn't win, the officers tried their best. Hopefully in the near future, City Tech CIA will be able to win other hackathons to make City Tech proud.

It is our hope the City Tech's CIA has inspired countless members to do incredible things!



