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PROGRAM





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

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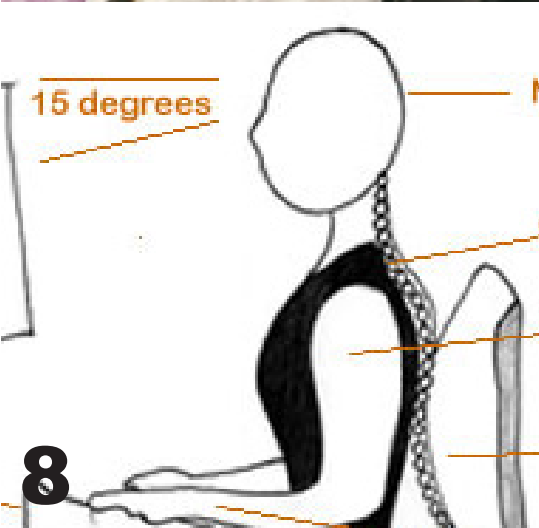
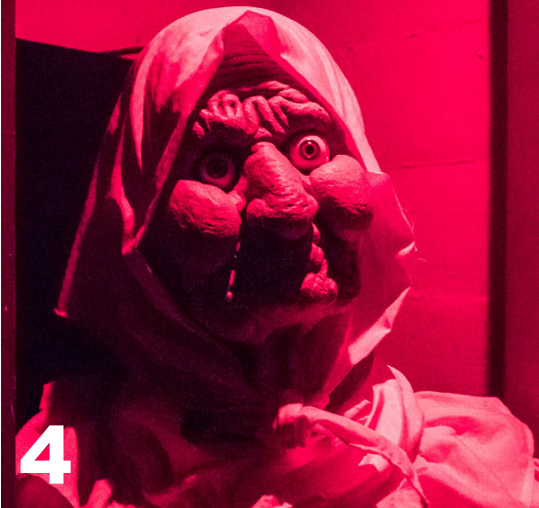
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STUDENT ZOO

City Tech's Theatreworks Presents The Gravesend Inn, A Haunted Hotel

Pamela Drake



Every Halloween, a variety of bone-chilling haunted attractions sweeps the United States as everyone gets into the spirit. However, there is one that stands out as a community tradition: the production of The Gravesend Inn, A Haunted Hotel, which is a walk-through attraction built and produced by Theatreworks, City Tech's resident theatrical ensemble of students and faculty from its Entertainment Technology Department. Specifically focused on creating a child-friendly experience, the attraction has become a community favorite since it was established in 1999. Although it has seen an increasing number of visitors—this year over 4,800—this immersive and interactive experience fulfills another purpose by showcasing its state-of-the-art technology to prospective students.

The story behind the hotel is that it was built by a businessman from England, Lord Jasper de Gore. De Gore and his wife, Lady Virginia Ghostly de Gore, opened the hotel in 1878 and it became a thriving seaside hotel. A tragic accident occurred in 1932,

directly in front of the hotel. Although it was rumored to be an accident, a murder, or a double suicide, no one truly knows what happened. Over subsequent years, the hotel changed ownership and successfully continued until the later depression years began to take their toll. It never really regained its popularity and later was converted into an amusement attraction. Its owners struggled to keep the hotel in business until they finally closed it in 1953. It is said that the local Ladies Auxiliary Historical Club discovered that the hotel had been built on a cemetery inhabited by Brooklyn's very first settlers.

Groups of visitors are greeted by the hotel's doorman, and as they make their way down a small stairway, a skeleton pirate awaits to tell the tale of treasures aboard his ship and how terrible the deaths were for all the pirates. Although they may not know the hotel's full history, what drives this attraction's success is the quality of scare-acting and the intricate set designs. Full of good old-fashioned scares and surprises, the

production uses a sophisticated network infrastructure. Each room has a story behind it and the characters—employees, skeletons, gypsies, pirates, and ghosts—fit perfectly within the context scenes and rooms. Fueled by dozens of atmospheric lighting devices, sound effects, and carefully placed sensors, the audience, although unaware, actually runs the entire attraction.

For the people who love a good scare, the haunted hotel provides a thrilling Halloween attraction. But the primary goal is not to scare the audience. "We wanted to pick one kind of event where we could network everything we teach into one event," said Associate Professor Susan Brandt, General Manager, recently interviewed by CNN Money. "The haunted hotel is also a recruitment path for inviting high-school students to learn about careers in the entertainment industry."

The department offers two bachelor-level degree programs in Entertainment Technology and Emerging Media. It is designed to provide students with the necessary skills, knowledge, and competence to



enter a variety of different careers in the planning and performance of entertainment productions successfully. Its faculty is comprised of a number of experts in the entertainment industry with professional credentials, such as Professor Norma Lee Chartoff, credited for the concept, research, and design of the production; the department's Chair Charles Scott, Prop and Special Effects Designer; and Professor John Huntington, Show Control Designer and Audio Visual Technical Director.

This year, about a hundred students participated in the production. The goal is to ensure that student technicians receive training in lighting, sound, costume, publicity, video, and scenery. With cutting-edge technology in sound, display, music technology, video production, lighting, and props, students are equipped to embark on exciting careers, and industry veterans can find opportunities to update their technical skills. Many Theatreworks alumni have moved on to work in professional theater, film, television, and concert venues.

As each successive generation of students adds to the efforts of the production, The Gravesend Inn, A Haunted Hotel will not only entertain the community for years to come, but will also continue to put City Tech at the forefront of state-of-the-art technology.



Finding Purpose through Personal Hardship

Malika Ikramovaa

My name is Malika, and I am currently a junior at City Tech. At the age of nineteen, I never thought I would embark on this journey of fighting for my life. During the summer of 2016, I started to develop abdominal pain around the upper left corner of my stomach, coinciding with gas, bloating, and frequent belching. However, since the pain and other symptoms were not very serious, I did not pay attention to the warning signs and focused on my schoolwork. Near the end of my semester, my symptoms started to become more serious. I noticed that I began to have blood in my stool, high fevers, fatigue and sharp pain in my stomach.

My symptoms were starting to get worse, and it was at this point that I realized something serious was happening to me. Doctors and nurses did everything that they could possibly do to figure out why I was experiencing these symptoms. They performed various medical exams like MRI, CT-Scan, Ultrasound, and GI-Endoscopy with hopes of discovering the reason for my discomfort. It was around the end of December 2016 that I was told there was a tumor in my stomach, and surgery must be performed immediately. The specific tumor that the doctors discovered is called Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST), which usually occurs in people older than 50, which is why my case was so rare. Laparoscopic surgery was performed before 2017, and luckily the tumor was not cancerous.

I was so happy with the news that not only was the tumor benign, but also that I would recover quickly, and be able to continue my spring 2017 semester. I took the month of January off so that I could gain back my strength, and rest as much as necessary to get ready for the new semester. It was of course not an easy decision for my family to let me go back to school after what I had gone through. However, I was very persistent with my decision, thinking that going back to school would keep me distracted from negative thoughts. So, after getting a sufficient amount of rest, I returned to school thinking that I could handle the semester, but I was wrong. I was very exhausted on my first day of school and was very tired when I got home. It scared me how drained I was feeling, but I refused to give up. Thanks to the support and kindness of my mentors, professors, and friends in college, I was able to attend classes three times a week. In addition to my classes, I also had an opportunity to continue working on a research project with my mentor, which kept me busy enough not to think of the past, and instead focus on the future. Unbelievably, in the midst of all that was happening to me, being able to go to school helped me to feel normal and happy again.

Three months had passed and I was not showing any signs that I would fully recover. I was losing weight rapidly, and it was difficult for me to consume or digest food. My stomach was also bloated and gassy whenever I tried to eat. My gastroenterologist, and other doctors decided to conduct more medical exams, including a Gastric Emptying Study, Video Capsule Endoscopy, Colonoscopy, and GI upper Endoscopy so they could narrow down the reasons for these new complications I was experiencing. However, all the test results came back fine, which was suspicious to me. Around the end of May 2017, we went to a specialist who had more experience with this type of tumor, for a second opinion. Once again, I was subjected to examinations and tests to find out what was the real cause of my symptoms. This time I was informed that there was an infection found in the small intestines of my stomach, which required immediate surgery. Hearing this shocking news once again was very hard to cope with, and I struggled a lot mentally and emotionally. However, everything went well, and the surgery was successful. Having put my faith in God and knowing that everything would be fine, I started my six weeks of treatments, where I was under observation and was required to consume 1,500 calories per day. These were very challenging times for me, but I must say that it saved my life. My health has improved a lot ever since, and I am happy and able to eat and digest well. However, knowing the fact that the tumor might come back, and there might be a high probability of having stomach cancer in the future, I decided not to look back—to “keep moving forward!”

I am very thankful for my supportive family, my mentors, professors and all the friends who were there for me throughout this journey of fighting for my life. I could not have stayed strong throughout my sickness without their support. During the previous semesters that I was ill, I was working towards my Bachelor's degree in hospitality management. Upon degree completion, I planned to become a pastry chef and turn my passion for baking into a profession. However, my recent experiences in life have taught me that all the unexpected challenges are the opportunities for us to learn and grow. After everything that I have been through, my goal for the future is to become a nutritionist/registered dietitian. These serious health concerns required me to seek a new study focus; therefore, I decided to continue my education in studies of dietary needs and nutrition, so that one day I could help individuals to make better choices about their nutritional health. In doing so, I will be able to help others with their dietary needs, while also promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Workshop Teaches Chemical Lab Safety and Computer Safety *Pamela Drake*

Safety is always the primary concern when participating in lab work. Whether a chemical lab, or a computer lab, the most important precaution anyone can take is to follow the safety rules and regulations. To ensure that safe working conditions are met, Congress created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Its mission is to “assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance.” Therefore, they have set in place a chemical hygiene plan specific to the College.

In compliance with OSHA, on October 13, 2016, students were given the opportunity to attend NYC Fire Department Workshop II—Lab Safety—Chemical and Computer Safety. The workshop was taught by Associate Provost Pamela Brown, and students participated from various degree programs, such as Biomedical Informatics, Applied Chemistry, Chemical Technology Programs, and Mechanical Engineering. The purpose was to teach students that safety in the science classroom and computer lab is as important as going to work in the industry.

Associate Provost Brown began the workshop by explaining that lab safety is governed by mandatory federal regulations, and to aid in this effort, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), located on campus, provides services to the City Tech community in areas of environmental compliance, laboratory safety, accident prevention, workplace safety, training services, and hazardous waste management. The students also learned that federal law requires that all manufacturers and distributors produce and distribute a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), a document that contains information on the potential hazards of chemicals, along with each chemical they provide. She explained that working with hazardous material in a lab requires a great deal of caution and knowledge as to how to work safely with a chemical product, how to recognize symptoms of overexposure, and what to do

if an accident occurs. This knowledge not only reduces the chance of injury but can also save lives.

After explaining the purpose of the MSDS, Associate Provost Brown gave the students tips for following lab safety. They were told to always wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) —lab coat, goggles, and gloves—and to inspect them for damage before using them. Even if they are not actually performing the experiment, it is still important for students to wear the appropriate gloves for the chemicals being used. Gloves will offer protection from incidental splashes or contact, and each type of glove has specific appropriate uses. Wearing the wrong gloves could result in burns, and if certain chemicals are absorbed through the skin, they may even be fatal.

When working in a lab, it is crucial to know the location of the eyewash and safety shower. It is also important to have proper names on the bottles, including the common name and the full chemical name. There should be no abbreviations, chemical notations, deteriorated or unreadable labels, and no smudged or blurry labels. Any damaged labels should be replaced.

In addition, the lab should have adequate ventilation and working fume hoods. Chemicals that are not compatible should be not stored together or placed in flammable cabinets. Refrigerators should be explosion-proof. Routine inspections to remove expired or unusable chemicals for disposal should be conducted. In the case of a spilled chemical causing imminent danger, Associate Provost Brown advised students to evacuate the area and pull a fire alarm to alert others. They should also immediately call the College’s Public Safety from a safe location. If the spill is small and proposes no imminent danger, it should be contained with a barrier of absorbent.

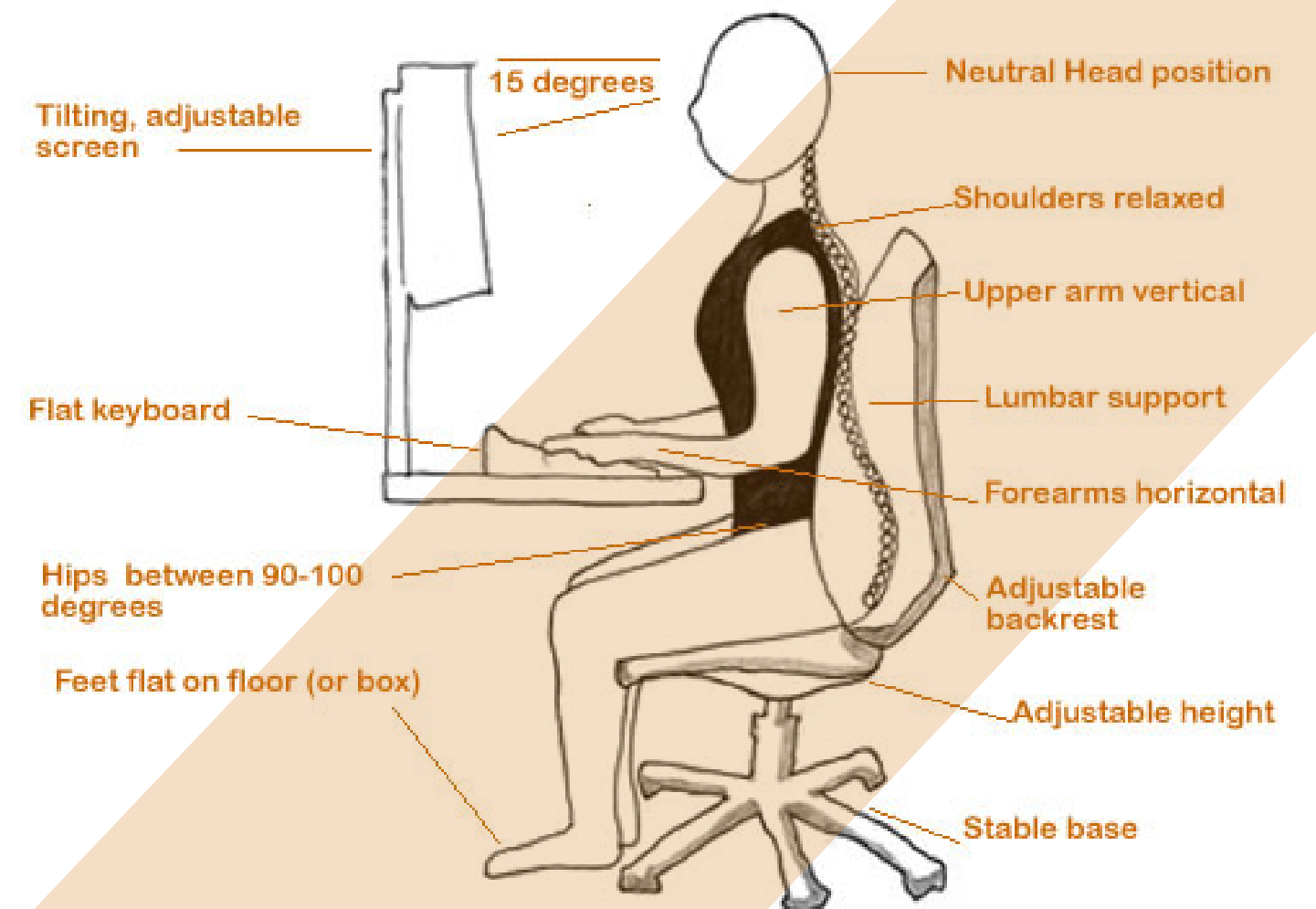
Waste containers must be labeled either Non-Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Waste (e.g., labeling a container “Acetone Waste” is incorrect). Always write on

the label whatever waste has been added to a waste container. Before adding any additional substances to a waste container, check their compatibility with any waste already in the container, since certain substances should not be combined and could react vigorously with each other.

Since technology plays such an important role, the students were also encouraged to use automatic updates to protect against software vulnerabilities, install protective software, choose strong passwords, back up and save work often, use discretion when using email and the internet, and use secure connections.

Another aspect of the workshop discussion was the importance of having ergonomically correct computer workstations. Associate Provost Brown strongly recommended that students following the guidelines, as depicted below, to create a safe and comfortable computer workstation.

Associate Provost Brown concluded the workshop by giving the class a quiz and going through the answers. The workshop was quite successful, and the students came away having learned that safety is always important and that they, too, have a responsibility to follow the guidelines and regulations of lab and computer safety.



Source: http://www.gridgit.com/post_personal-safety-diagram_230011/

Nurturing Successful Students

How First-Year Learning Communities and Peer Mentors are changing the learning dynamic at City Tech

Mariah Rajah

High school students receive an unwritten warning that college is a terrifying place where students are left on their own with no assistance, resources, or even emotional support. However, here, at City Tech, in a small welcoming office on the Namm fifth floor, resides the First-Year Learning Communities (FLYC). These communities are composed of the students from two or more courses linked with an interdisciplinary theme, such as English and Psychology, providing an innovative way for students to learn and form bonds with the college. The FYLC provides students in these communities specific benefits to aid them in the transition to college life. In the communities, students are able to share coursework, workshops, class trips, events, and a Peer Mentor.

As a part of FYLC, one of the biggest and most beneficial resources for new students is the addition of a Peer Mentor to the classroom dynamic. A Peer Mentor serves as a role model, counselor, information and experience source, and a partner who works as a go-between for professor and students. Peer Mentors are trained before the semester begins and supported and supervised throughout the semester. Program coordinator Ilia Silva meets with Peer Mentors monthly to check in on progress and the possible struggles they are facing with students. Ms. Silva stated, “The First Year Programs office has high expectations of peer mentor work and provides consistent and varied support for students so that they will have a positive mentoring experience.” This support not only strengthens Peer Mentors’ working experience but also the relationship between mentors and the FYLC office.

I became a Peer Mentor about four semesters ago, and it has been a wonderful and fruitful experience. As a Peer Mentor, I have worked to create a working relationship with students and professors in the learning community for the semester. Once the foundations of a relationship have been created, I establish myself as a role model in the classroom whose purpose is to help students coping with the workload of college, advise on methods of studying which are proven effective, job

placement, network around campus, problem solving (whether academic or personal issues), or provide a support system.

The job is 10 hours a week, but Peer Mentors are always on call. We all try to provide our mentees with the information that they need in order to keep them motivated in their academic career by sending weekly emails that address various aspects of college life, such as reminders of schedule changes and assignments, as well as events to get them involved in and around City Tech. As a community, we go all out in trying to get students to feel a sense of belonging in not just their learning community, but in the diverse environment of City Tech itself. Peer Mentors from both past and present take on the task of creating informative content for students, ranging from academic guides to monthly calendars, as well as reaching students through the First Year Learning Programs’ updated social media platforms. Moreover, FYLC also has a group of Peer Mentors who come together during the semester to facilitate and create “Students Success Seminars” for new students. The focus of these seminars is to provide new students with specific information that targets issues they may be facing, such as time management or test-taking.

FYLC provides new City Tech students with the stepping stones to become successful college students. Peer Mentors work hard to build a relationship that does not intimidate the students but invigorates them with the lessons and tools to possibly become future Peer Mentors. As a community, we hope to give students every opportunity to recognize their academic potential and capabilities, and to address their personal challenges with strategies to overcome them. Together, both FYLC and Peer Mentors are vigorously working together to develop and improve the learning experience of students here at City Tech, as well as seeking to eliminate the myth that students are alone in college without any form of support. To find out more on how to become more involved with FYLC, visit our office at Namm 512.

Fashion and Textiles at the Smithsonian Museum of Design

Hilda Jara

Entering the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum of Design from its beautiful Arthur Ross Garden was inspirational. It was not my first time at the Cooper Hewitt, but it was my first experience of the garden and its design. The housing of the museum, Andrew Carnegie’s mansion, adds to the integral part of the museum’s design perspective. The architecture of the mansion makes it more welcoming and interactive, as if it were your own home. The Cooper Hewitt is one of the most inclusive museums, including design in all media and eras from designers worldwide. The curation of the work is phenomenal, and it offers an example to all designers.



*Bag with Zip, Square Basket, 2013; silk threads, polyurethane
24 × 19 × 19 cm (9 7/16 × 7 1/2 × 7 1/2 in.).
Courtesy of Luisa Cevese Riedizioni; Photo by Matt Flynn. © Smithsonian Institution*

The museum was holding an exhibition called SCRAPs: Fashion, Textiles, and Creative Reuse. The particular item in the exhibition that caught my eye was the Bag with Zip, Square Basket, 2013, shown above. The story behind the exhibition was truly awakening. This exhibition features fashion made out of reused and recycled materials from around the world. Luisa Cevese designed the bag; its medium is silk threads and polyurethane. The design of the bag, although minimal, resembles a tote bag, but the design is very functional. Also, the way the thread is placed on the bag provides a sense of pattern, although the pieces of silk come from different parts of the world.



Print, Plate 28, from Neüw Grotteßken Buch (New Grotesque Book), 1610.

This second piece is from the Exhibition, Gentle Beasts: Print, Plate 28, from Neüw Grotteßken Buch (New Grotesque Book). It contains ornamental prints and drawings from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These small forms of design were the crucial details of furniture from the 1600s. This piece is an engraving on laid paper by Christoph Jamnitzer from 1610. It is a representation of an ornamental design that is very detailed and whimsical. The print’s size is not provided, but I recall seeing it in person, and it was no bigger than 4 x 6 inches, since magnifying glasses were also provided. The scale of these prints is mind-boggling, because such intricate design and illustration is used as detail in furnishings, locks, ewers, rings, tapestries, stained glass, and anything of use. These prints are historical pieces of design, because they demonstrate the attention to detail.



3920 Vanity, 1939

This piece is a perfect example of furniture design. It is complex and modern for a vanity in the late 1930s. This vanity was designed Gilbert Rohde for Herman Miller. This piece is from Energizing the Everyday: Gifts from the George R. Kravis II Collection. This piece is interesting because of the thought process the designer had to put into the piece: making it functional but still fashionable and appealing to women cannot have been easy. Another reason is that it speaks to an aspect in design that is sometimes overlooked, namely science. The use of round mirrors was common, but the science behind how Rhode designed their positioning was different for that time. The mirror allows or you to see yourself three times in three different angles, definitely appealing to the “modern” woman.

Decisions

Luke Domond

I have lived in approximately seven homes, one in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and another in the cramped basement of a house in Brooklyn, New York. However, the move to East Elmhurst, Queens when I was seven had the greatest impact on me. On my first night there, my mother and father left for their regular night shifts in an elderly care center and as a taxi driver, respectively. I went to sleep with my

two older brothers that night, but I had trouble sleeping because of the winter air filling the unheated apartment. Just as I was on the edge of falling asleep, I was awakened by two cockroaches climbing up my legs and several others crawling in my bed and on the floor. I shot up, immediately calling my mother at work to tell her that I could not live there. Weeping, I continually asked why we had to move so often. That night, beyond witnessing the stark reality of my living situation, I heard the sorrow, strength, and compassion in my mother's voice. She told me, "This is all that we can afford; I am doing my best. Just focus on school

so that you have a better life than this. Education will be your way out."

Growing up in a working-class family, my parents, who immigrated to the United States from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, instilled in my brothers and me a commitment to education and the mindset to take advantage of opportunities. Hence, my determination to succeed was born. As an underprivileged family, we could not afford certain amenities that were readily accessible to children with means. This led my eldest sister to commit larceny to obtain those items. She went into juvenile detention because of her crime. Upon hearing this, I was determined to not make the same mistakes as her, and I worked to obtain those same amenities, but the right way. Seeing the adversities my sister faced after she got into

trouble pushed me harder to seek success in life. I learned from my sister's mistake, and I used that knowledge to keep me on the right track. My sister's detention motivated me to pursue my dreams so that I would never end up in a situation like hers.

Witnessing my sister's encounter with the juvenile justice system sparked my interest in psychology. In my pursuit of this new-found interest, I went to the nearest library. After doing my research, I realized that psychology was a field that I really wanted to pursue. I believed that psychology has a connection with everything in this world because it is the study of behavior. Each person has his or her own unique behavioral traits, and I feel that knowing why a person behaves, thinks, and functions in a certain way plays a major role in understanding life.

As I kept on learning psychology at the library, I was approached by a librarian who insisted I join an afterschool program that included a psychology class. I gladly accepted

her offer. Upon acceptance in this program, I gained a deeper understanding of the field and the way psychology is used in the real world. In the years that followed, I decided to change my major from psychology to computer engineering because of my high-school teacher, Mr. Chester. During my years in high school, Mr. Chester had a major impact on my life. He encouraged me to do my best, while also playing major roles in my life such as being my mentor, my physics teacher, my robotics teacher, and my support system. He believed in my ability to excel in any subject I put my mind to, and he also wanted me to prove other students wrong, and to show them that a young, black male can be successful regardless of the negative stereotypes associated with his race.

Currently, I am a student at New York City College of Technology, majoring in computer engineering because my goal is to work as an engineer at Con Edison. This change of major occurred after passing my physics and robotics classes in high school. With the help of Mr. Chester, I narrowed down my real interests and realized that my passion for computer engineering outweighed my passion for psychology. I know that my change of major from psychology

to computer engineering may seem drastic, but I do not see it that way.

In retrospect, I have learned that the quality of life is based on the decisions we make and how these decisions help to push us to our goals. Working as a computer engineer is all about making decisions, about connecting wires and circuits to reach a goal so that the computer functions at its maximum capacity. Engineering, much like psychology, observes how different aspects of life work, so that the best outcome results. I have used my experiences, and the haunting memories of my sister being in detention, to push me towards the best outcome for my personal/academic life. I am determined to pursue a higher education, as well as getting a job in computer engineering because my mother's advice that "education will be your way out" has stayed with me. In light of this, I have earned a 3.6 GPA, and I have interned at Con Edison so that it will be easier for me to get a job there after I graduate. While I reflect on the circumstances that have led me this far, I am grateful and more fortunate than most to have learned the value of hard work and the results of cheating. As a black, male immigrant, I understand the struggles of growing up not having everything I need or want, and I am dedicated to helping those who are struggling so that they do not make the same mistakes as my eldest sister and that they can generate the best outcomes in their lives.

