

OUR VOICE

IMAGINE, INTEGRATE, EDUCATE

"The great leaders are like the best conductors - they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players."
--Blaine Lee

FEATURED STUDENT: GAIL LOCKHART

Gail Lockhart recently began pursuing her master's degree at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. She expressed that while it is a challenging experience, it is still one that she is humbly grateful for. With the help of her "family" at College Initiative, Gail made the leap for her master's after earning her bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle 20 years ago. Gail has been part of CI since 2016 and also participates in the CI Peer Mentoring Program. Through the mentoring program, Gail has met many inspiring people. Because of her positive experience in the mentoring program, Gail hopes to become a mentor herself so that she can give back to her peers and inspire others. Despite her demanding schedule, Gail manages to find the time to care for her elderly parents and often spends time with her niece and niece's child. Through her managerial work at Youth Opportunity Harlem, Gail's passion for youth rights and youth empowerment intensified. Her goals for the future include maintaining good health, a positive attitude, and obtaining her Master's in Social Work. Gail wants to encourage individuals looking to pursue their education with this message: "Know that the time is now, make good use of that time. You are better than the worst thing you have done."

#DACADREAMERS

In September 2017, the Trump administration announced that it will take action to rescind or repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), putting many undocumented youth at serious risk of deportation. DACA was an executive immigration policy created by President Barack Obama in June 2012 that allowed undocumented immigrant youth who entered the U.S. as children a two-year period of sanctuary from deportation and eligibility for work permits. The goal of this policy was to give undocumented youth opportunities to attend school and work in the U.S., as well as time to work on a path towards citizenship. The policy itself was extremely controversial. Those critical of DACA argue that the legislation is unconstitutional and that President Obama overstepped his boundaries by creating such a policy through executive order. Recent arguments against DACA, by the Trump administration, claim that DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants were responsible for increasing rates of criminal activity in the U.S. It has been proven that DACA recipients are not singularly responsible for criminal activities in the U.S. Additionally, in order to be eligible for DACA status, youth must not have a criminal record. The Trump administration's announcements in favour of repealing DACA were met with fierce resistance and backlash by activists, organizations, lawyers, businesses, and the DACA "Dreamers" themselves. Currently, Dreamers have six months to renew their immigration status in the U.S. The Trump administration has left it to Congress to make a definite decision on the future of DACA.



BREAKING BARRIERS TO COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

On Friday September 29, College Initiative participated in an event called "Breaking Barriers to College & Career Success" at Hostos Community College. At the event, a variety of organizations worked together to inform participants about the different services and resources our communities can provide students. The event was a community collaboration where representatives from CI got the opportunity to talk to potential new students about our work. It was also an opportunity for the CI team to learn about different programs and services that could benefit our students. Carlos Quintana, Director of College Access at CI, moderated a community workshop during the event, and Devon Simmons, a CI student currently enrolled at John Jay College, was one of the organizers of the event.

Some of the organizations that participated and work with justice involved students are: Bronx Defenders, STRIVE International, College & Community Fellowship, Osborne Association, and JustLeadershipUSA.

STAY CONNECTED!



@JohnJayPRI



@PrisonerReentryInstitute



@PrisonerReentryJJ

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Featured Students 1, 2
Students Contributions 2, 3
Announcements 4

Event Highlights 1
Calendar Events 4
Staff Introductions 3
Puzzles 4

FEATURED STUDENT: DEVON SIMMONS



Devon Simmons has been part of College Initiative for three years and part of Prison-to-College Pipeline for five years. At Hostos Community College, Devon was part of the Justice Academy Program where he earned his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He is now working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in English at John Jay College. At John Jay, Devon had the opportunity to study abroad on two occasions. His first experience was in Cape Town, South Africa, and his second experience was in Havana, Cuba. These short-term courses abroad were two eye-opening for him. Devon experienced and critically analyzed the cultural and racial interactions that took place in both countries. As part of his analysis, Devon reflected on the way that Cape Town's criminal justice system works, and the principles that guide the system. The South African correctional system is designed to teach morals to individuals convicted of a crime, instead of serving simply as a form of punishment. The most surprising observation that Devon shared was how South Africa's criminal justice system is unlike the U.S.; victims sometimes have a say in the prosecution process. The public

prosecutor is obligated to ask the victim of a crime whether there could be some form of compensation from the perpetrator instead of going through criminal court procedural process.

During his time abroad, Devon critically observed how race plays a role in these countries, particularly in Cuba. He mentions that he was surprised to see the lack of Black Cuban representation in Havana. He later learned that most of the Afro-Cuban descendants live on the east side of the island, which he would prefer to visit if he has another opportunity to return. Devon talked about the oppression he noticed while he interacted with locals. He said that "it felt like Cubans were trapped in time, and the revolution never ended." Many people are still scared to talk about the ways in which the government is functioning which he deems a form of oppression. "Witnessing the ways in which socialism impacts individuality there, particularly freedom of speech is disheartening." After comparing Cuba's criminal justice system to the system in the U.S., Devon concluded by saying that he believes that Cubans are intellectually incarcerated as a result of the restrictions that they deal with in their daily lives.



Education
is most
powerful weapon
which you can use
to change the world.

- Nelson
Mandela

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION



Illustration by a Brookwood Student

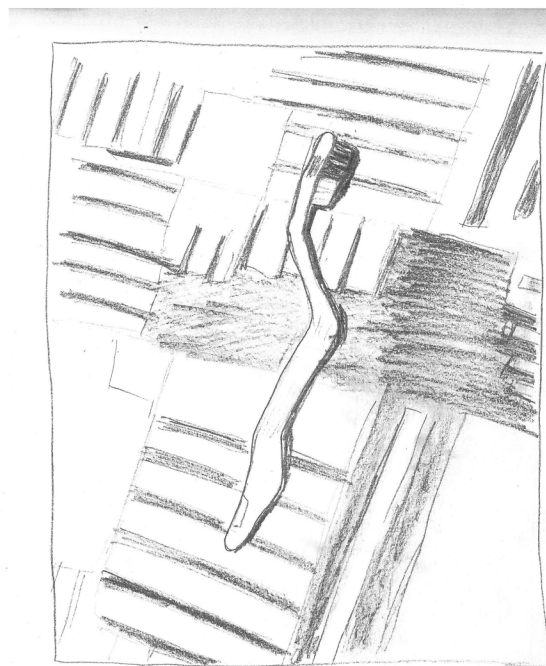


Illustration by Eric Bright

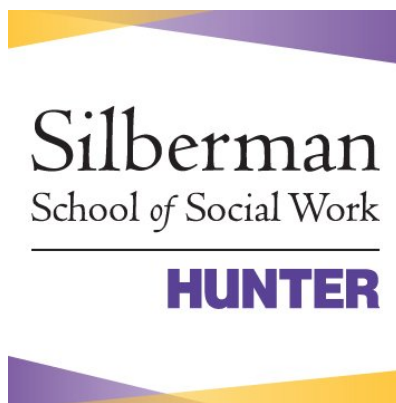
MEET THIS YEAR'S SOCIAL WORK INTERNS

For the past few years, CI has collaborated with student interns to create pathways from criminal justice involvement to college and beyond. Maciel Lantigua, Rich Nyguen, and Lourdes Medina are in their second year of their Master's of Social Work at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. They are completing the required internship component of the degree through their work at CI. All three students will complete their internships by the end of the spring semester and will then move on towards graduation. Meet Maciel, Rich, and Lourdes below!

Maciel Lantigua is originally from the Dominican Republic and moved to the Bronx nine years ago. During high school, Maciel completed internships related to social justice which inspired her to major in sociology and obtain a Master's of Social Work. Maciel is passionate about education and enjoys helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds to enroll in college. One of her responsibilities at CI involves assisting students with academic and financial aid appeals, getting students' loans out of default, and offering support with college and financial aid applications.

Rich Nguyen wishes to work with marginalized youth of color in low-income communities to advocate for their needs, greater access opportunities and resources, and to ensure their educational success. Rich is responsible for creating CI's weekly bulletin (sent to CI students via email) and is also a co-creator of Our Voice. Rich is also planning some CI community events that will take place in the spring semester.

Lourdes Medina is passionate about working with at-risk youth and combating injustices faced by incarcerated individuals. Lourdes works with graduate students applying for master's programs in NYC. She supports CI's academic counseling efforts at Brookwood Secure Center, and is currently creating a calendar of workshops for students who are incarcerated there. Lourdes has also designed a research project in which she will study the resources available and accessible to family members of incarcerated individual aimed at ensuring their successful reentry to society.



MEET ALEJO RODRIGUEZ THE MENTORING AND ALUMNI COORDINATOR



Meet Alejo Rodriguez, the new College Initiative Mentoring and Alumni Coordinator. When Alejo was released in July 2017, he knew that he wanted to continue his work with justice-involved students. His appreciation for higher education motivated him to work with justice-involved individuals on their transition to college.

He was determined to support students as a program administrator, so that he could have a greater impact on student success. At CI, Alejo will be developing and supervising the Peer Mentoring Program, community events, workshops, and opportunities for alumni involvement. Alejo is not planning to stop there. His goal is to impact criminal justice education curriculum at colleges and universities. He wants to integrate the voices of justice-involved individuals into the classroom experience. He knows the power of education and how it can liberate people from institutionalized oppression. If you are in school and would like a Peer Mentor, please contact Alejo at 212-292- 6435 and at alerodriguez@jjay.cuny.edu.

MEET THE PINKERTON FELLOW: MARLEN MARTINEZ



This year, Marlen Martinez is completing part of her Pinkerton Community Fellowship at CI. Marlen is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, with a minor in Dispute Resolution at John Jay College. At CI, Marlen is an

Academic Counselor who helps students enroll in college, get their loans out of default, and submit academic and financial aid appeals. Marlen facilitates workshops and is a mentor at Brookwood Secure Center, where CI supports a college program for incarcerated youth. Marlen began her involvement with youth justice in 2016 and is the Vice President of Youth Justice Club, a club that educates John Jay students about the issues impacting youth populations. Marlen's passion for youth justice began when she began at John Jay and learned more about the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. Marlen is currently working on a legacy project for CI, for which she will conduct research about ways students can get involved with social action school campuses and assist a CI student with creating their own club at John Jay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (For more inform, please visit: <https://scholars.apply.org/barrygoldwater/>)
Application Deadline: January 26, 2018

Fund for Education Abroad Scholarships: (For more inform, please visit: <http://fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/>)
Application Deadline: January 10, 2018

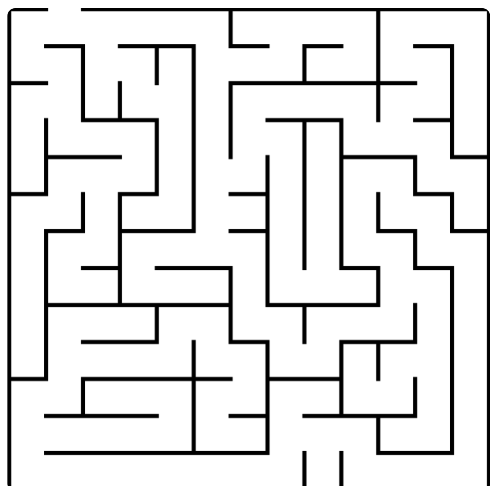
American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellowships & Grants (For more inform, please visit: <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>)
Application Deadline: January 10, 2018 Selected Professions Fellowships
March 15, 2018: Community Action Grants

John Jay College Vera Fellowship (For more inform, please visit: <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/vera-fellows-program>)
Application Deadline: March 13, 2018

CUNY Becas Scholarship Program (For more inform, please visit: <http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/cuny-mexican-studies-institute-scholarship.php>)

Application Deadline: March 01, 2018

MAZE



WORDSEARCH

Flood-Earthquake- Avalanche- Volcano-
 Tsunami- Land- Storm- Tornado-
 Hurricane- Lightning-Blizzard

F	O	D	N	V	A	O	R	O	N	A	O	N	O
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SUDOKU

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				8			7	9

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in being interviewed or having your work featured in the newsletter please contact us at rnguyen@jjay.cuny.edu or mail in your submissions to:

John Jay College - PRI
 ATTN: EI Student Newsletter
 524 W. 59th Street 609B BMW
 New York, NY 10019

CALENDAR

Events listed are open to all CUNY students unless noted

10/18 – 2/1 New York City's Iconic Buildings and Bridges - Drawings by Joe Loguirato. Open to the public! Brooklyn College

1/13 Open House - Executive MPA Program. Baruch College

1/24 HAVANA...HAVANA!
 CUNY Graduate Center
 4:00 - 6:00 pm

2/6 Seminar in Applied Economics: A lecture with Boyan Jovanovic, NYU Stern. The CUNY Graduate Center

2/7 Open House for Graduate Programs at the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. Baruch College

2/8 Latin American Literary History: Continuities and Discontinuities. The CUNY Graduate Center
 4:00 - 6:00 pm

3/9 Affect Theory and the History of Emotions in Early Modern England. The CUNY Graduate Center
 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

4/18 – 5/16 Melvin Edwards: Passages Art Exhibit. Open to the public! Kingsborough Community College