



Chronicling the Achievements and Activities of Honors Scholars at City Tech

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Abstract

Scholars, the Honors Scholars Program newsletter contains articles, student achievements, and experiences as well as information on program activities. A student-driven publication, volume 5, issue 1 continues to showcase our skills serving as photographers, graphic artists, technical writers, and reporters. Responsibilities crucial to this major interdisciplinary project include going to scholarly presentations, attending workshops, conducting interviews, creating layouts, editing texts, taking photos, meeting deadlines, and integrating feedback.

Current Issue



	<p>NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY of The City University of New York</p> <p>Russell K. Hitzler, President Bonne August, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Pamela Brown, Associate Provost</p> <p>Honors Scholars Program Janet Liou-Mark, Director Reneta D. Lansiquot, Assistant Director Laura Yuen-Lau, Coordinator</p> <p>Founding and Managing Editor: Reneta D. Lansiquot Contributing Editor: Cherishe A. Cumma Art Director: Savannah Blodgett Graphic Designer: Aaron Hollingsworth-Harris Photographers: Aaron Hollingsworth-Harris, Nigora Ikramova, Tod Seelie</p> <p>Cover Photo: Tod Seelie</p> <p>Printing Reproduction Center at City Tech</p>	<p>4 City Tech's Theatreworks Presents: The Gravesend Inn, A Haunted Hotel Pamela Drake</p> <p>6 Finding Purpose through Personal Hardship Malika Ikramova</p> <p>8 Workshop Teaches Chemical Lab Safety and Computer Safety Pamela Drake</p> <p>10 Fashion and Textiles at the Smithsonian Museum of Design Hilda Jara</p> <p>11 Nurturing Successful Students Mariah Rajah</p> <p>12 Decisions Luke Damond</p>	
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Finding Purpose through Personal Hardship

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. I noticed that I began to have blood in my stool, high fevers, fatigue and sharp pain in my stomach. 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. Much to my case was so rare. Laparoscopic surgery was performed before GIST, 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. But after getting a sufficient amount of rest, I returned to school thinking that I could handle the stress. My first day of school was very tired when I got home. I scared me how drained I was feeling, but I decided 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 busy enough not to think of the past, and instead focus on the future. Unbeknownst to the rest 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. There were very challenging times for me, but I must say that I 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 played strong throughout my sickness without their support. During the previous semesters that I was at, 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 the unexpected challenges are the opportunities for us to learn and grow. After everything that I have been through, I decided 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.

Decisions

Luke Damond

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 to 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 advantages my sister faced after she got into

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.

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

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