

Meet City Tech's Multi-talented Journalism Students!!!

An Emotional Dream

An interview with Karen Navarro by Alejandra Aragon

Karen Navarro is a 21-year-old college senior at New York City College of Technology, majoring in Computer Engineering Technology. She happened to fall right into place, in the right college choice for her dreams. When growing up, she had many dreams like any child would have such as becoming a Firefighter, a Policewoman, a Doctor, and more. At 10 years old, she knew that her future dream had to do with computers and technology. She realized her passion upon receiving her very first laptop: a Windows 7 (that she still owns till this day!). Being fascinated and thrilled with the concept of technology and all the wonders it holds in one single piece of metal device, she decided to go for it.



Navarro, a Latina with Ecuadorian roots residing in the streets of Harlem in New York City, attends school full-time, and her occupation is not your typical boring customer service position. Digital Content is where she makes an income, on Twitch (a streaming platform) to be exact. During her time off, she enjoys logging into her Twitch and putting in great effort to entertain her following through the exploration of video games or makeup. You can find her on Twitch as *Allergic2Haters*, every Friday and Saturday at <https://www.twitch.tv/allergic2haters>.

Clear Road to Success

By Cristian Cortez

Pamela Consuegra is three years into earning her Communication Design degree from City Tech. It is clear from her goals to be a well-known artist and interests like gaming that this is the correct major for her. Consuegra has a clear view of what she envisions for her future. Indeed, her goals of being a freelance artist and having her own gallery are not far out of reach. From her past jobs working and going to school full-time, she is aware of how hard she must continue to work before her dreams are able to become a reality.

Pamela Consuegra in Brooklyn.



Dreams Comes True

By: Lubna Sharmin

Architecture

student Farouk Fares' dream will be coming true in two years when he graduates! Lubna Sharmin interviews Farouk on a zoom call to discuss the challenges he faced and his approach

toward life which allowed him to achieve his long-standing goals. We also learn about his favorite restaurant that never gets boring -- no matter how many times he goes there!



FUTURE RADIATION THERAPIST EXTRAORDINAIRE: LISSETTE REYES

By Kimberly Rivera



Interviewee: Lissette Reyes

I had the pleasure of interviewing Lissette Reyes, a student at New York City College of Technology currently majoring in Liberal Arts. Her intent is to continue her education and become a Radiation Therapist. From interviewing her, she seems to be a laser-focused, supremely interesting individual.

The Future Dentist: Leticia Beltran

By Jawad Awada



Leticia Beltran is 22 years old and is attending her third year at City Tech and is majoring in Dental Hygiene and sees herself as a future dentist. Even though she was the one who interviewed me, I still wanted to gain some information about her. When asked how she wants to be remembered, her answer was, "I want people to remember me as a selfless person. I tend to put others before me without asking for anything in return. I tend to not hold grudges ever towards anyone and get past things even if someone does me wrong." This was important because it gave a little side as to the person Leticia sees herself as.

Another question that was asked was: what's one thing she would want to do before she dies, and her answer was, "I definitely want to make sure I get over my fears before I die such as skydiving and going on those huge roller coasters because I'm afraid of heights but I want to face my fears for sure."

I wanted to see how she spends her days when she's not working or doing any school work and one thing she likes to do is getting to spend time with her loved ones. That says a lot about the kind of person she is given the fact that she's always busy. She doesn't forget about the ones that care about her and manages to make time for them.

Practical Yet Ambitious: Cristian Cortez

By Pamela Consuegra

Cristian Cortez is a Computer Engineering Technology major in his final year at City Tech-CUNY. Being a hardcore gamer, one would think he was made for this major; however, Cortez's original dreams were of being a veterinarian and caring for animals. Since that didn't work out, he created new dreams that he could envision himself in. After visiting Google headquarters in high school, he was captivated and decided his future career would be working within his dream company! Although he is soft-spoken, Cortez has a clear outlook on his journey and is not afraid to adapt and work hard to achieve his goals.



Christian Cortez Gazing over his City

Ambitious, Dedicated, and A Life Filled with Blessings

Written by Karen Navarro



Alejandra Aragon is a young and intelligent Latina woman who studies incessantly at school hoping to become someone recognized in her chosen field, who currently decorates cakes at a bakery named Magnolia Bakery. She is majoring in Hospitality Management and specializing in Pastry Arts for her Bachelor's degree. She is currently a Senior at New York City College of Technology-

CUNY.

When she finishes her Bachelor's degree, not only will she be expecting a newborn after graduation, she is willing to continue her education whether she is going for her Master's degree or getting certified. Other than being a busy college student, a cake decorator and a soon to be mom, she also has side hobbies such as being a gamer as well as binge-watching Korean drama shows or anime. She particularly loves to be on her Nintendo Switch or any other gaming console to play Legend of Zelda, Pokemon, or even Animal Crossing. Her enjoyment watching Korean shows has led her to want to travel to South Korea one day, whether it's for a vacation or her honeymoon.

Aragon is a very hardworking, dedicated and ambitious young woman who is sure to achieve her own goals and dreams at her own pace. When there is a will, there is a way, so look for a Baker Shop owned by Alejandra, opening one day in NYC soon.

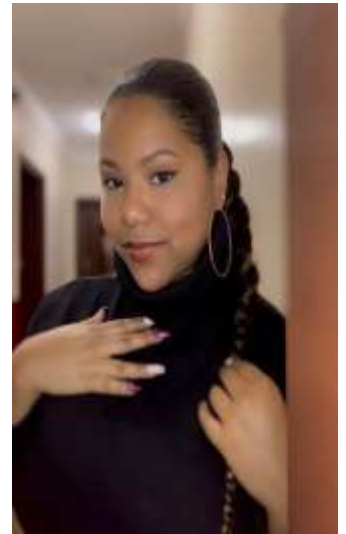
The Beauty of Ms. Perfection of Imperfection



Interviewer: Aminata Kane

Interviewee: Jozelyn Santos

In a microwave perfected society, where everything has to be quickly made and put in a box with a bow at the top, **Jozelyn Santos** is a maverick. She would rather have everything made on the stove, carefully prepared with cut vegetables, the right seasoning and oils; and caught in an intensive debate about whether she



wants chicken, beef, steak or seafood such as shrimp, lobster, or fish--either fried or broiled. She simply revels in the focus of putting the perfect ingredients in a pan, making sure she doesn't put too much seasoning in, doesn't overstir the food, and doing a final test-tasting to make sure the meal is just right. The last step is making sure she doesn't burn the food. The stove is Joelyn's Goddess, for she believes in the patient cooking process, the need to not rush and knowing she will reach her goal a step at a time.

I hope whoever reads this understands the extended metaphor I've employed. If you don't, I suggest you reread *Romeo and Juliet* or read any other play by William Shakespeare... But enough with the metaphors. I know you are asking: who is Jozelyn Santos? After reading this profile, you will know who she is. But first get some water, food, and maybe a tissue. This interview will give you some hope. If you are a first-generation immigrant, you will find an amazing role model in Jozelyn; she's a person with a powerful personality who moves with life's punches, who at just 21, has a dazzling future.

Being the Best Version of Yourself is Your Best Outfit

Interviewer: Jozelyn Santos

Interviewee: Aminata Kane



Simplicity and Passion. These words may seem opposite from each other, but for those who hold a deep passion for something, this passion is simple for them. Everyone has their own passion, whether it is dancing, drawing, helping others, and more. Passions often define people; they show who people are and drive them to be as successful as they can be. This is the case for **Aminata Kane**, whose character shines through her passion for fashion. For Aminata, it is simple. She strives to be the best version of herself, which will become her best outfit!

Simple facts make up the stepping stones of who Aminata Kane is. She is a twenty-one year old young lady of Guinean and Ivorian descent. Though living in the Bronx, Aminata--prior to the pandemic--would travel to Brooklyn to attend New York City College of Technology. It is here, where her passion for the fashion industry continues to evolve as she studies the Business and Technology of Fashion. Currently in her third year and in the hopes of graduating in the late fall of 2021, she would tell her freshman year self: to take her time, not to rush, to stay responsible as well as continue to explore and learn new things during her free time.

A person who describes herself as “*creative, detailed-orientated, and open minded*,” while others describe her as a “*good listener who also loves to talk and share her perspectives*,” cannot be so simple

after all. Now, let's dive into more of the “simple” facts of Aminata Kane, that do not make her so simple after all.

Admiration Towards Some, Pet Peeves Highlighted By Others

When asked the question “Who’s someone you admire?,” it is natural for there to be some hesitancy. A person can admire a celebrity, a public figure, family members, friends and more. It is hard to admire that one person when you may admire many. In Aminata’s case, she does not admire a “*particular person*” but admires people whose characteristics entail openness, intelligence, the ability to fight through any obstacles, creativity, and humor.

As Aminata admires these characteristics of some people, there are certain traits that she will certainly not stand for. A few of her pet peeves include people who are rude and simple-minded. Yet the main pet peeve that shows the person who she is, is a person who “*purposely has low energy and wants others to be sluggish with them.*” While some people’s pet peeves may include the simplicity of not closing the cap of the toothpaste properly, for Aminata it is deeper than that. She loves people filled with drive and zest and unwilling to tolerate anything less in those around her.

The Daily Life of Aminata Kane

A typical morning: Waking up early to pray, then indulging in the peacefulness of more slumber. Once she wakes again, the simple task of bathing, eating some breakfast, and finishing assignments (which let’s admit... is not so simple at times). Before the start of the new week, on Sunday mornings, she is home cleaning, doing homework, and finding time to rest. Her free time consists of exercising, but most importantly sketching. This is where the simplicity of Aminata is no longer simple; is it passionate.

The Creativity Within the Passion

At the age of ten, most of us wanted to be dancers, singers, astronauts and more. Yet, in Aminata’s case, she wanted to be a cardiologist as part of her passion is to help others. Although this was the dream for the ten-year-old Aminata, her deepest interest always veered towards creativity. As the roots of her interests include anything related to fashion, a talent of hers that some may not know about is

her skills that are being used for virtual styling. Downloading multiple items and garments on Pinterest to then upload it to Fashmates, which is a site where you can create your own virtual moodboard is where the creativity begins. These items and garments range from tops, bottoms, dresses, shoes, accessories and more. Once she completes her style, she saves the moodboard to then post it on Instagram, where she can show her passion and style sense to a wide audience. Here are a few examples of Aminata's stylish work:



Fashion, Fashion and More Fashion!

Aminata Kane's creative mind incessantly wanders off into the world of fashion! This is where she can be her utmost best and continue to show her creative, yet detailed, side to the world. With the hopes of graduating this year, 2021, Aminata's desire to work within the fashion industry as designer or fashion writer who makes trend reports is a goal she hopes to reach next year. As she wishes to step foot into the fashion world next year, her biggest dream is to be a successful fashion designer, allowing people around the world to wear her creative designs.

Beyond Fashion

Although Aminata chooses to distance herself from political issues because it can be stressful, she is well aware of what goes on in the world we walk upon. Besides her passion for fashion, Aminata has interests

in the issues and well-being of the Black community, victim blaming, as well as the psychology of self-awareness.

Personal Motto

As Aminata strives to be the best version of herself, her personal motto would be: “*Practice makes persistence and perfection.*” The more familiar motto is: “Practice makes perfect.” However, in Aminata’s mind, persistence is the key to overcome any obstacles that life may throw at you, which in turn, helps build character. Yet, when it comes to perfection, she believes there is no such thing as perfect, but to be ten times better and strive for more is as perfect as it can get. All in all, when Aminata reaches out and is satisfied with the best version of herself, she would have created the best outfit yet!

The Anti-Social Butterfly

By Lissette Reyes



Kimberly Rivera was born on November 23, 1996 in Brooklyn, New York. She's 1 out of 6 children and currently 24 years old and a junior at City Tech. Kimberly is majoring in Hospitality Management Bachelor's program in hopes of opening her own coffee shop. Kimberly's biggest influence is her mother. As she explains, "someone who has a big influence on my life is my mom because she had a tough childhood and still managed to raise 6 successful children." Aside from being a wonderful person, she's also Latina as her family comes from the Dominican Republic.

What some people don't know about Kimberly is that in high school she learned to play the trombone on a professional level! Pretty impressive! Aside from that impressive talent, Kimberly has put her mind into achieving other goals this year, which is to get her driver's license and invest her money properly.

Rivera has a positive mindset and is ready to achieve anything she puts her mind into. She describes herself as an antisocial butterfly, and enjoys drinking her coffee every morning, cleaning her room (everyday), playing with her dog Clancy, as well as studying and watching anime. But she also does baking and cooking! She cares about activism including fighting for ending deportation, BLM, and freeing immigrant children from cages. Rivera's favorite holiday is Halloween. She enjoys ordering oysters and lobster roll along with amaretto sour to drink, from her favorite restaurant. She has many dreams she wants to achieve in life, which include seeing Angel Du\$t live, starting a band, opening her own salon (in addition to opening her own coffee shop). As is evident in her great photo, she also wants to be remembered as someone who frequently dyed her hair!

Dedication is Key: Zahira Santana

By Matthew Castro



“I want people to remember me as a Latina who made a change and fought for certain changes like body positivity and being equal no matter where you are from or what gender you are. I want to work in fashion design, so I want to make an impact on women’s lives and create pieces that make them feel comfortable and confident for women of all shapes and skin colors.”

-Zahira Santana

Zahira Santana is a student at City Tech majoring in the Business and Technology of Fashion in hopes of becoming a fashion designer. She is a young adult who has the typical day most of us do now because of COVID-19. She has her breakfast in the morning, works on her assignments for the day, and makes it a priority to stay “mentally and physically strong.” She eats her lunch and completes chores around the house and, come dinner time, her day is basically over. This is a typical day that most of us have, but just like the rest of us, Zahira also has unique interests and skills. Zahira is good at dancing and baking, and is an artist who has seen her skills of painting develop over the course of the pandemic.

Zahira was born in the Dominican Republic on April 30, 2002. Growing up as a young girl in D.R. , life didn't deal her the best hand. Luckily for Zahira, her Mother (the person she admires the most) taught her from a young age to "Keep her head held high" and that she could accomplish anything she ever wanted. Zahira's mother, Elvira, is the second oldest out of four kids and in her teen years she had to get a job and provide for her family. This great sacrifice is why Zahira will "forever admire her for her strength, determination and her love." The apple didn't fall far from the tree; one of the words that Zahira will use to describe herself is dedicated, which sounds credible because her motto is "Good Things Take Time." She says, "I've learned that sometimes we want to rush things because we want them a certain way, but we really need to just take it a day at a time and see where life takes us." This is a lesson many of us need to take home. . .

Most people have dream vacations or places they rather be then stuck at work; that place may be Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Italy; anywhere other than home. Dominican Republic--on a beach or a pool, enjoying the sun and having fun with friends and family--is the place Zahira wishes she could be. Or she also might want to stop by her favorite restaurant for a quick bite and get an order of Yaroa; "a Dominican dish that consists of French fries, chicken, cheese, ketchup and Mayo." She exclaims, "It's not the healthiest, but I sure do love it" I agree, Zahira, Yaroa, as these pictures show, looks really good.



Making Decisions: For Himself and Others

By Leticia Beltran



Jawad Awada is a 21-year-old attending City Tech who's majoring in Radiology. Growing up, at the age of 10, Awada wanted to become a famous soccer player. He was living in Lebanon and he would play soccer till his legs hurt. As he explains, "Soccer over there is pretty much the only sport they play and growing up with my friends and family members everyone played it." At a young age, many children seem to want to be a famous soccer player or a famous actor/ actress, but life takes its course. As we grow up, we all tend to make decisions that end up changing towards the end for practical purposes. We look into a major, for example, to see if it's both something we're interested in and something we're able to make a living off. We also consider the impact it will have on our families, present and future, Jawad wisely adds.

Turning Dreams Into Reality

By Brittany Finger



Ruthie's future Career

Ruthie Zeron is a City Tech student who is very passionate about being in the medical field. She is majoring in Radiologic Technology and hopes to move on to other modalities as well in the field. Just like everyone else, Ruthie has goals she wants to achieve. Thriving to be like her mother, Ruthie comes across as a very genuine person, who is focused on creating a good life and amazing career.

Though still adjusting to the new ways of living due to Covid19, she hopes that things in this world change soon.



She wants people to remember her as a person who tried to do the right thing and as someone that tried to help those who need it the most. As humble as Ruthie is, she looks up to her mother, saying she is the backbone of their family. Despite what she went through, she is still strong and tough, and Ruthie inspires to be just like her. Even through rough times, Ruthie continues to live her busy life with steadfast purpose. Every day she wakes up early, showers, gets dressed, eats

something very quickly, and heads out the door. She then walks to work, which takes her about twenty minutes.

While asking Ruthie all these questions, I asked her how she feels about remote learning. World-wide this has been an occurring problem for many children and even parents. Ruthie believes on-line



Ruthie with her co- workers

education is convenient, but it can be isolating as there is little socialization with classmates. She also does not think she is learning as much as she would if class was in person. That is exactly how I feel; so I definitely understood where she was coming from. Despite the challenges, they do not stop Ruthie from getting her education. During the pandemic, Ruthie learned, in particular, that time is valuable. It made her realize life is short and it is better spent doing the things you love and being surrounded by the people you love. People seem to not notice what they have until we no longer have it. I too think this is really important. We all need to surround ourselves with the people we love and make us happy because time is priceless.

“Everything Happens For a Reason: Meet Erika Gissel Naranjo”

By Clifton McDowell, Jr.



Clifton: Okay I will start the recording now. Ready?

Erika: Yes, I am ready.

Okay, awesome, so good afternoon. To start this off, why don't you tell us your name and when were you born?

Okay, my name is Erika Gissel Naranjo and I was born in the US on January 18th, 1997.

Cool another January birthday! I was born January 7th. Okay, Erika so what would you say a typical day in your life looks like?

So, I'm a full-time student and a manager at NoBu 57. I always start my day off at 6am with a quick workout, followed by my 8am classes. I love brunch, so I try to squeeze that in with a friend before I head over to work. I usually work to about 11pm or midnight depending on how busy the night is and the way pandemic regulations are changing right now is

definitely another factor.

Oh wow, you really have a very tight schedule. I commend you for doing work and school, I know that must be difficult. With all that you're doing, if you could be anywhere right now where would that be?

I would have to say Tulum, Mexico, but I love to travel and want to travel more.

What are some places you have been too?

I've traveled to South America, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Argentina and Costa Rica. In North America though, I've traveled to Canada and Mexico.

You've definitely been to many more places than me.

(Laughs)

Where would you say your favorite place to visit was and where do you want to visit next and why?

I would have to say Peru. I really love that place because of their cuisines and their beaches. As for where I would want to travel next (pauses), I definitely want to hit Spain because I really enjoy poetry and most of my favorite poets have written just by walking down the streets there. I also want to experience and admire the architecture for myself.

You mentioned you love the cuisines in Peru, what would you say is your favorite dish? This can be from anywhere.

Fried Calamari!

I could definitely eat that anywhere as well. I too love seafood. If you were to describe yourself using only three words, what would they be?

Selfless, funny, and kind.

Do you think your friends if asked would give those same answers?

Yea, but they would probably also say I'm a workaholic.

Well, you sure do have long work hours. You said that you were also a full-time student?

Yes, I'm a senior and will be graduating soon in Hospitality Management.

Well, congratulations! You definitely come across as someone who loves to travel, while also thriving in the midst of going to school and working as a manager. Is there anyone you would say you admire and why?

(Erika takes her time to think) I would definitely say my mother, and not just because she's my mother, but because she's an example to me as a woman role model. She had me at a very young age and managed to work two jobs and still gave me the best of lives. She came to this country from Ecuador with absolutely nothing and worked from the bottom up. She knew nobody here and along the way, she tragically lost her mother and never got to say goodbye because she was living here while her mother was in Ecuador. I think death is very tragic and I can't imagine losing my

mother, so for her being able to push through that, I really admire her.



(Erika and her mother)

It really seems like your mother is a very strong woman and she definitely has passed that on to you. Before we end, is there a personal motto or saying that you live by?

Yeah, Everything happens for a reason.

Indeed it does. Well Erika that's all the time we have for today. Thank you so much for taking time out of your day for me.

The pleasure was all mine.

Who is Brittany Finger?

By Ruth Zeron



If the hard time we had scheduling an interview told me anything, it was how hard working and committed Brittany Finger is at helping her parents run their business. “I am a cashier at my family’s delis. We own two delis and one flower shop,” she wrote in the google doc we exchanged to get to know each other better. She is only 20 years old and works 12 hour shifts, all the while taking 6 classes.

Her work ethic seems to stem from the big Italian family she comes from. She is one of four, and is close to all her siblings. Brittany was born and raised in Ozone Park, Queens. She considers herself a homebody, and when she is not working, she is spending her spare time cooking, painting, or playing sports. She also enjoys watching the tv show “Vampire Diaries”, and when forced to choose between “Friends” or “Seinfeld”, she would rather watch “Friends”.

The pandemic has made doing some of her hobbies difficult, but thankfully, she has not gotten sick. Mainly, she misses spending time with her friends, going to concerts, and traveling like she used to before March of 2020. She copes with the stress by going to the gym and exercising. She also likes making schedules for herself to guide her throughout the day.

Brittany is also aware of the social and political climate, and is a big BLM advocate: “This has been an issue for years and it’ll continue to be if we don’t all come together to make ... changes,” she writes. If you ask her who she admires, she would say Haley Beiber, Justin Beiber’s wife. She looks up to her because Haley uses her celebrity platform to stand up for what’s

right, unify, and encourages her fans to be good people. She was a big promoter of voting, which Brittany thought was great.

When I asked her if she had to listen to one singer or musical group for the rest of her life, who would it be, she replied, “Justin Bieber”. Her favorite song of his is “One less lonely girl”. Besides listening to his music, she is also passionate about traveling, with California being her favorite destination so far. She hopes to go to Italy one day and even learn to speak the language in efforts to get closer to her roots and honor her immigrant grandparents who moved to the States.

It is clear that her spirituality is important to her, too. One of her 3 tattoos reads “God is bigger than the highs and lows” and represents her faith during her formative childhood years. She considers it a type of protection, in a way. Her other tattoos are a rose, to symbolize growth, and another one that reads “Love yourself first” to remind herself that she needs to love herself first before she can love someone else. “I always put everyone else's feelings before mine,” she wrote. “I always try and help in any way I can”. It is clear she cares deeply for her family and friends.

Brittany has big plans for her life. She is proud of what she has achieved so far, while keeping her social life intact, and her proudest achievement is having had created sets and written scripts for music videos. Her long-term goal is to work on set as a director's assistant and her short-term goal is to finish all her assignments and then take a well-deserved vacation.

Optimism is Key During Hard Times

By Zahira Santana

Matthew Castro is a student at City Tech Majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology whose goal is to become a Mechanical Engineer and/or a professional fighter.

To accomplish his dual goals, he took action. As a freshman in high school, he joined the STEM program and then joined the MMA. He won purple belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and has continued to be part of the program for about four years -- but has now taken a break because of the pandemic.

Matthew's MMA certificate, earned in 2019.



Matthew is a young adult who wants to be remembered as someone who made others laugh and provided them a safe place where they can be themselves. This makes great sense since the person who Matthew most admires is his mom Josephina. Matthew wasn't always the most optimistic and positive person when he was under stressful circumstances, but his mother Josephina is someone who remained very optimistic during tough times. She is someone who always reminded her son to look at the bright side of whatever life throws at him.



Matthew was born in Queens, New York. For most of his life he has moved to different cities/places like Corona, Lefrak City, Ozone Park and Rego Park which is where he now lives since the age of 16. New York is all Matthew has known for his whole life. If there were anywhere in the world that he could be right this minute, however, it would be in a private house in the Dominican Republic. He says he would really enjoy being on the beach just away from everything with his family enjoying the nice weather. One thing Matthew wants to make sure that he accomplishes before he dies is to travel and visit continents like Africa, South American and Australia. He wants to see the architecture in Asia and Europe and also wants to one day be able to climb the Great Wall of China.

Matthew on his graduation day.

A Passion That Leads To A Career:

A Story of Kelvin Burgos

By Khaled Ghazy

Kelvin Burgos, a native New Yorker who resides in Brooklyn, spends his time gaming

and hanging out with his significant other. Kelvin has always resided in Brooklyn; in fact, the



majority of his life was spent attending the New York City public school system. Though raised by parents from the Dominican Republic, Kelvin does not speak his native language which is Spanish. When deciding what college Kelvin wanted to attend, he found New City College of Technology particularly because of its technology programs. Kelvin has always been fascinated by the developing nature of technology. As a kid, he was always engrossed in gaming. As he explains, “My main hobby is gaming, which I been doing since I was a kid. I long enjoyed

it for its looks, stories, and gameplay.” Some of the topics and social issues Kelvin is passionate about are the state, nature, and evolution of technology. He’s also passionate about social issues within his community that impact his friends, neighbors, and family members. Kelvin’s favorite subject in school to study is computer engineering; he is fascinated by how different parts of a computer function and their overall contribution to the whole.

Kelvin really enjoys his Journalism class and hopes to gain a basic understanding of how to properly conduct interviews and properly do research into topics he is passionate about.

*Architecture Student **Farouk Fares** interviews Computer Engineering student **Lubna Sharmin** on a Zoom call. Together they discuss challenges, breaking pre-established boundaries, and the power of resilience.*



Fares: I'm gonna start recording and then ask some questions. Okay, it's recording. Today im joined by Lubna Sharmin a Computer Engineering student At City Tech.

Sharmin: Hello how are you! So are you gonna use the questions that Professor provided us or you have your own question list?

I'm doing great! You? And a bit of both. I'm gonna work with a bit of both really. Doing great. Okay, you can start asking me questions.

All right. So the first one I want to know is pretty basic, but what's your major? Like what do you study?

Okay. So currently, I'm studying Computer Engineering Technology. And this is my last semester, so I'm about to graduate.

All right, so this is your last semester. That's amazing congratulations!

Thank you! What about you?

I'm currently on my fourth semester. I'm an architecture technology student. So, I'm still a long way from graduation. But getting there. So what led you to pursue computer engineering? Was it something you've always wanted to do?

No, it's not what I always wanted. Honestly, when I was a child, I always wanted to be a doctor. This is because on mom's side, everyone is a Doctor. My grandfather is a doctor, my aunt is doctor, and my uncle is a doctor and even my great grandfather's a doctor. But then when I got a little older, like in middle school, I wanted to be a lawyer and this is because my dad was a lawyer. But not here, like before we migrated, like, a couple of years back in Bangladesh. So I always had in my mind, either I'll be a doctor or lawyer. But when we migrated here, I started attending school and becoming curious about a lot of other things. Somehow, I really wanted to pursue Computer Engineering. But then like, you know, when I went to high school, I got into sports. I loved playing tennis. I was the tennis Captain my sophomore year. We actually won a lot of different tournaments and everything. But obviously, my parents were like, no sports cannot be your career; you have to pick something like, you know, more realistic. I'll admit that my family fits the migrant family stereotype, like you have to be a doctor lawyer or something like that. So when I shared with my parents my fascination with Computer Engineering, they were like, oh, why don't you go for Electrical Engineering? And to be honest, I actually listened to them. I studied for a year, then I just had to transfer to Computer Engineering. So yeah, that's how I ended up in this field here at City Tech.

Yeah, so would you say you kind of broke traditional boundaries? You thought you'd follow what your parents said, but you just decided to break from these expectations. To do what you wanted to do. Forget about tradition and do your own thing, right?

Mostly yes. I still don't really know why my parents did not like Computer Engineering. But now they're okay with it. I must admit though my dad is still telling me that after my Bachelor to give the MCAT or LSS LSAT exam a try. They're still pushing me to get into law school or medical school.

That's great that you decided to follow your own path. Even though you knew you would face backlash, you still went along with it.

“ON BEING CLIFTON” BY ERIKA NARANJO

Clifton McDowell is a 29- year- old lighting major at City Tech, who was born on January 7th, 1992 in Queens, NY. He is both African American and part Native American. A while ago, he was able to trace his heritage back to the Iroquois tribe of Tuscarora.

Erika: Hey Clifton, thanks for that little intro on yourself. You really are full of surprises! So tell me, who is someone you admire, and why?

Clifton: I admire my fiancé Alisha mainly for her heart. She really has extraordinary empathy for people, especially the less fortunate and vulnerable. She’s always wanting to go around giving them supplies to help them, or speaking to young ladies and helping them with different issues. She really just loves to help others and it’s something I feel I don’t have as much.

Erika: How romantic and how is it that you proposed if I may ask.

Clifton: I proposed on September 26th, 2020 on the Brooklyn promenade. I chose that location because that's where we had our first date (on Nov 1st 2014). And now on Nov 1st 2021, we will be getting married.

Erika: Wow that’s great to hear. We usually look for somebody to really compliment us for our future, sort of combining our ying to our yang. Now tell me a pet peeve of yours.

Clifton: I hate when people use sarcasm as a way to make you stop talking. Like if they



Clifton proposed in the same place where they had their first date in 2014.



Clifton and his fiancé

don't believe you, they will not directly confront you but say something silly to try make you feel dumb. I also can't stand back-seat drivers, especially if they don't even have a license.

Erika: I dislike sarcasm as well, so I completely get where you're coming from! What's a typical day like for you?

Clifton: So I'll describe my most busy day which is Tuesdays and Thursdays. I wake up around 9 am after getting home around 2 am from work. My first class of the day is at 10am followed by my second class at noon. I have a 3-hour gap which I use to workout, read my Bible, do any homework that I missed, and eat some food. I then go back to class at 4pm until 6pm, and go right into my final class until 8:55 pm. During that last class though I am traveling to work at the airport and I work until 1 am. So my day is extremely busy and tiring.

Erika: That does sound tiring ! Do you have any skills or talents that most people don't know about?

Clifton: Not really, all my family and friends know that I am a singer, writer, and dancer. I also love theater and musicals.

Erika: Now I know these questions can get to be annoying, so if you could be anywhere other than here, right this minute, where would you be?

Clifton: I would love to be on my honeymoon already.

Erika: Ha ha ! That answer seems about right . How do you want people to remember you?

Clifton.: I want people to remember me as being a leader, a creator, and someone who



was approachable and willing to help any and everybody.