



HarlemLIVE Notes



<http://www.harlemlive.org>

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The Award Winning Student Publication Produced in Harlem

2004

Award Ceremony in Times Square HL Students Attend Columbia Engineering School

This year's Award Ceremony is sure to be a spectacular event. It will take place on the 30th Floor of the Reuters Building overlooking the bright lights of Times Square on Thursday, August 19th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.



Each year, the HL Award Ceremony gives us a chance to honor the recent high school graduates whom are going on to college and careers, and to thank the adult volunteers who give up so much of their time to work with the talented youth. At the ceremony we give an update on the successes of the alumni and pass the torch to the new leaders for the coming year.

This year is particularly significant for several reasons. The last of the original HarlemLive staff, Shem Rajoon, just graduated from High School. Rajoon's been with HL since age 11 and will conduct the passing of the torch ceremony. Also, this is the first year that portions of the original HL alumni begin graduating from college.

The evening will feature video clips done by the youth including a documentary produced with Manhattan Neighborhood Network. The talking drum ceremony will honor the students who've joined HL in the last year and stayed with the program.

HarlemLive students Shem Rajoon, Brad Harbans, and Clifton Taylor visited Dana Volcek at Columbia's Engineering School in June to discuss how the school could assist HL with upgrading our technology endeavors as well as help with the interface to our clickable



map www.harlemlive.org/map. Once again, the contacts we make help to benefit our students and to change the course of their lives

It turns out, that two students had just dropped out of the School's "Engineering Design Via Real Projects." The class, open to high school juniors and attracting students from around the country and overseas is a hands-on intensive course in which students develop an original engineering design. Students learn design by working on real, socially oriented projects for real clients selected from the non-profit sector in the Harlem community. Students have access to world famous, state-of-the-art multimedia labs and technologies.

Brad Harbans, who just joined HarlemLive in June, was one of two HL students who were accepted into the \$4,000 course with full scholarship.

"I've done a lot of 3D modeling before," said Harbans. I taught myself before but now I have instructors and I'm doing it at Columbia University.

Columbia's one of the best schools. It's a different and new experience. It's giving me insight of what it's like to go to college."

For Clifton Taylor, who's been with HL for about five years, the effect of the course was even more profound. With the relationship he built with Harbans, Clifton became more interested in useful applications of his vast technical knowledge. Additionally, Clifton's feelings about college evolved.

"This experience has changed the way I feel about higher education. It's now something I want to do, and that can help me out in the long run. I think it's fun. We're also working together in teams, sharing ideas. I have always liked working alone. This course makes me feel like I'm a part of something. I've been able to make friends with people that look different than me. I can see myself now working together with others instead of working by myself."

HarlemLive looks forward to further collaborations with Columbia's Engineering School in the near future.

HarlemLive Alumni Staff Playing 2 Win

It's good we're on an upward spiral but sometimes you end up in the same place, just on a higher plane.



When Shawna Bushell, the new director of Playing 2 Win, was looking for a quality staff to run the summer program at the nation's original computer technology center, she didn't have to look any further than HarlemLive. HL Alumni, Shem Rajoon and Justin Young joined P2W in June to teach classes, develop programs, supervise open access hours and redesign the Playing 2 Win website <www.playing2win.org>. "All the things I'm teaching I learned at HarlemLive," said Young. "It's been a great environment, the students are great."

HL Alumnus, Melvin Johnson, was already working as P2W's program

assistant for the better part of a year.

"It feels great to have young people come through the ranks of HL. I feel we're the next generation and we're creating a positive image for the community for young men of color who are employed and making things happen. It's ironic I'm sitting in the same spot that I was when HL was at P2W."

Playing 2 Win housed HL for nearly three years under the directorship of Mara Rose.

HL Covers the DNC

Three of HarlemLive's newest reporters were invited by Donna Brazile, Al Gore's campaign manager in 2000 and author of the recently published "Cooking with Greese," to cover the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

The convention took place from July 26 - 29 at Fleet Center in Boston. HarlemLive reporters along with adult advisor Kody Emmanuel met and interviewed many significant people in Democratic politics such as the Reverend Jessie Jackson, U.S. Senate candidate Barack Obama, Newark Mayor Corey Booker, and others.

I learned that as a journalist you have to be persistent," said Janelle Jemmott, 17.

"It's always good to be prepared. It was a very different experience for me. I learned different styles and having to meet a deadline the same day."

Tyrell Carlton, 16, said he was impressed by Michael Moore. "When he talked about the film (Fahrenheit 9/11) he said that if folks had been informed by the press his movie would not be needed."

Journalist Kody Emmanuel accompanied the youth on their trip. "All the work that we have done over the past few weeks in the summer program proved to have been effective in preparing the students for this kind of intensive role at the convention. They were professional and prepared and that led to some powerful interviews. They basically interviewed most of the top leadership of the Democratic party."



Janelle Jemmott poses with Shirley Franklin, Mayor of Atlanta

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