



HarlemLIVE Notes



<http://www.harlemlive.org>

Dec/Jan/Feb

The Award Winning Student Publication Produced in Harlem

2004-2005

More Youth Earning School Credit at HL Fashion Show Fundraiser

Teens interning at HarlemLIVE for school credit are an increasingly significant portion of the staff as more and more students seek to fulfill their graduation requirements while performing as reporters, web editors, technicians, public speakers and administrators.



Conforme and Wilson

HL accepts juniors and seniors from the City As School to earn credits in English, technology, math and global studies. Students from Columbia Prep, Beacon and other high schools attend HL for community service.

This year, the number of students attending HL for credit has doubled with the help of new relationships with Mott Hall HS and The Bronx Guild, among others. Two of the interns from Bronx Guild will stand to get the most out of the experience as they attend at least two full days a week and will continue at HL until graduating from High School. These long-term commitments also lend a great deal of consistency to HarlemLIVE as the students build their knowledge of the program and themselves.

Bronx Guild junior, Bryan Conforme has quickly accepted responsibility as HL's premiere web developer. Conforme is furthering his knowledge about Photoshop and Dreamweaver in classes taught by

alumni Justin Young and Shem Rajoon. Additionally, Bryan has recently joined the HL-Designs team (www.hl-designs.com), building web sites for outside organizations. Conforme also helped in a presentation to appeal to administrators of Columbia University as they kick off their Community Service Awards fund drive.

"In my last internship, they slacked in the teaching," said Conforme. "It's a lot different at HarlemLIVE. It's more fun and I learn more. I get more respect and more responsibility, which helps whatever I choose to do later on."

In a visit to HarlemLIVE, Bronx Guild teacher, Phil Vaccaro, said that the program is, "Definitely a confidence builder. The kids take ownership and are proud of their work."

"In my mind," said Vaccaro, "it is more legitimate. This is like running a business and it develops a lot of technical, business and administrative skills that will help in college and their future professions. I want to see them building their skills. The mentoring at HL is good. The youth get more attention and have a very tangible output."

"I was surprised by the all the different connections that HarlemLIVE has," said Bronx Guild sophomore, Keandra Wilson. "I've learned how to interview, do research and do everything necessary to produce a story."

HarlemLive sees these kinds of internships as key to building the magazine's staff in the new school environment at the New York City Department of Education, especially with their smaller specialty school solutions.

HarlemLive, in collaboration with Parlé Publications, is putting together HL's first big event for 2005. On February 12th, there will be the first annual Freestyle Fashion Show featuring new clothing lines, talent, and other performances.

"We want to raise money so we don't always have to ask for it," said Editor in Chief, Kevin Benoit.

Kayude Bentley with 4Ts productions is working as consultant to Benoit

February 12th, 2005
525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027-6696
Tickets in Advance \$10 At the Door \$15
Call HarlemLive for Tickets

Horace Mann Auditorium
Teacher's College
Columbia University 5-8 p.m.

Talent Show Auditions
will take place from Dec. 6-17
rsvp: mrbenoit@msn.com
or call 212-222-4681

and managing editor, Mera Beckford. "In my HS, I put together a fashion show. We had MC Lyte, and the event was quite successful," said Benoit, now a sophomore at John Jay College. "We'll have about 10 urban hip hop publications present, including XXL, The Source, The Black Urban Times and others."

"Some of the clothing lines to be featured include Ja Rule and ErvinGeoffrey," said Benoit. "We're trying to get some professional models but the show will also feature HL members walking the runway."

Tickets are \$10 and the event will be held at Horace Mann Theater at Teachers College, 525 W. 120th between Broadway and Amsterdam.

For more information or to contribute, call Kevin Benoit at 212 222-4681 or

Highlights and Successes from HL's Past Year

2004 has been a banner year for HL. Both recruitment and income increased this year and our youth staff had the opportunity to participate in an array of opportunities. In addition, we increased the number of schools that send students to HL for academic credit.

Through the work of the alumni and Cynthia Simmons, HLDesigns (www.hl-designs.com) was born, providing a revenue stream by creating web sites for outside organizations. Already HLDesigns has had over a dozen web clients and has been approached to partner with other web designers to assist with their web development projects.

In addition to HLDesigns, we generated revenue by hosting events, parties and meetings at our headquarters. HarlemLIVE became the new home for the Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop Monday night reading series last fall.

Last year we increased our fundraising initiatives. Members, from our new membership campaign, Bloomberg, Verizon, City Council Members Robert Jackson and Bill Perkins, Time Warner, Columbia Community Services, The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation, Teachers College, Reuters, and Kev's Stationary were among those who contributed either financial or in-kind support to HL for our programs. Public Allies New York provided us with part time programmatic staffing

to help train and guide our youth.

Programmatically, we began the year by producing a bi-monthly newsletter to communicate with our supporters and friends about HL activities.

In March, four of the HL's youth staff were transported to Vermont to serve as Technology Ambassadors for youth from several former Soviet Union countries participating in the US State Department-funded Future Leaders Exchange Program. Donna Brazile, Chair of the Democratic Party's Voting Rights Institute, invited three HL teens to attend and cover the Democratic Convention in Boston and the alumni of the Medill School of Journalism sponsored their trip. Later, our reporters spent a day at the Republican Convention.

Several teens completed field-training with Manhattan Neighborhood Network and will soon train to use the MNN studios.

After a year's hiatus, scores of teens participated in our Summer Youth Media Challenge and were honored at our annual Awards Ceremony hosted by Reuters at their Times Square headquarters.

Two HL teens were accepted and awarded scholarships to Columbia University's Engineering School's summer design course which attracts accomplished youth from around the world.

In the fall, we began our college

mentor program to assist HL seniors with their college application process.

A Look Ahead for 2005

HL would like to develop other sources of earned income through video documentation, computer repairs and technology workshops.

We plan to expand the geographic scope of our reporting by including stories from teens in other cities and augmenting certain sections, like Health.

We are developing strategic relationships that we hope will give us broader recognition in the city by partnering with organizations that will host "meet HarlemLIVE events" in neighborhoods outside of upper Manhattan.

Our video team is forming collaborations with the office of Councilman Bill Perkins in producing a bi monthly community show.

Administratively, we are working to secure sufficient funding to staff four paid positions that would sustain our success.

**Thank you
Bloomberg for your
recent and
continued support.**

HarlemLive
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