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Technical Times

Barry Tech is the Edge for All-Star Athletes

Three All-Star Members of Long Beach High School’s Varsity Wrestling Team Attend Barry Tech

As you walk the halls of Barry Tech on any given day, you will be walking with some of Nassau County’s finest All-Star Athletes. You might spot a quarterback or a defensive end, or a tennis superstar! Watch for Champion Track & Field stars hustling by! You certainly will notice the powerful wrestlers—the Long Beach High School Champion wrestlers.

Three members of Long Beach High School’s Wrestling Team, recipients of the most Wrestling Crowns at the Nassau County Championships, and participants in both State and National competitions, attend Barry Tech!

Scientific Knowledge Gained through Certified Personal Training, Nurse Assisting and Medical Assisting empowers All-Star Athletes...

Nassau County 2011—152 pound Wrestling Champion Adam De Jesus, 12th grade, of the Long Beach High School Wrestling Team credits Barry Tech’s Certified Personal Training class under the guidance of teacher Vincent Carvelli as giving him the edge to dominate on the mat. “Learning all about how to train and how the body functions lets me see the vulnerabilities of my opponents.…..

By carefully observing their preparation before the contest, I know where their flaws lie……I can attack those vulnerabilities.”

Adam will be attending Nassau Community College in the Fall 2011 Semester as a member of the Wrestling Team on full scholarship. He has entered a program which will enable him to transfer into SUNY Albany as soon as he has finished his two year degree at NCC. As he finishes his high school career, he is preparing to become a Certified Personal Trainer which will allow him to work in the field while he is attending college.

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In addition to attending CTP, Adam practices every day for up to four hours running and lifting. Adam says, “I have always had a desire to help others become physically fit. As a junior I enrolled in the Certified Personal Trainer course. My teacher, Mr. Carvelli, a well-established fitness professional and trainer to the trainers, taught me a new understanding of what “working out” and “getting in shape” mean.

“Motivated by my brother’s near-death experience from diabetic complications and the dedication I receive from being a member of the wrestling team, I went to learn everything Mr. Carvelli has to offer. By the end of the first year, I had enough knowledge to write a chapter of a book. By the end of this year, I’ll be able to finish the book, and achieve my goal of helping others.”

Teammates and Brothers: Cousins Attending Barry Tech

Cousins Mark Raghunandan (Nurse Assisting, Ms. Barbara Pelrine) and Krishna Sewkumar (Medical Assisting I, Ms. Joan Lambert) 11th grade cornerstones of the Long Beach High School Wrestling team, continually grapple with the fact that they must face each other for the title! In one bout, Krishna prevails, in the next, Mark survives as the winner. They know that their road to success means the challenge of establishing dominance over the other, but they wouldn’t have it any other way.

Wrestling is the edge that defines their lives as cousins, brothers in spirit and students on the way to a successful career in the health care professions.

Mark notes that, “This year, I decided to attend Barry Tech to further my studies in Nursing. Most people are in it for the money, but not me. I want to help society and be a better person by giving people care in a hospital setting. The thing I’ve learned at Barry Tech that sticks with me the most is the importance of a good work ethic. We learn about behavior in and out of the work place. Your conduct reflects your choices and judgment. The way you behave, what you say, and how you work with others determines your success.”

In this issue... Students credit Barry Tech with giving them a boost in their careers...
A Few of Barry Tech’s Outstanding Athletes

According to Senior James Cohan, Certified Personal Trainer II, Syosset High School Varsity Football & Baseball, “CPT has helped me train for the physical fitness testing that I will undergo in July in Fort Benning, Georgia. I enlisted in the Army two months ago. I am in the Infantry and my goal is to become an Airborne Ranger.”

Senior James DeCicco, Construction Trades (Mr. Peter Haarmann), John F. Kennedy High School in Bellmore-Merrick C.S.D., starting Nose Tackle for the JFK Varsity Football Team, won 1st Place in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition for Carpenter’s Assistant at Farmingdale University.

Senior Jacqueline Raynor, Fashion Design Technology II (Mrs. Belle Cheverino), Garden City High School, Nassau County Singles Tennis Champion, has received a full scholarship to Quinnipiac University.

Senior Christopher Edouard, Nurse Assisting II (Mrs. Barbara Pelrine), Valley Stream North High School Varsity Track, New York State Track Champion, prepares for his Nurse Assisting New York State Certification exam as carefully as he prepares for his next track meet.

Auto Skills (Mr. James Kirdahy)
Senior Leon Johnson of the Roosevelt High School Football Team is All-County for both a Defensive End and Offensive Guard.

Seven Members of the Aviation Operations II class (Mr. John Carey) are Student Athletes as well as Aviators: Kevin Schneider, W.T. Clarke High School in Westbury, Soccer Wrestling & Lacrosse; Bryan Crespo, Baldwin High School, Football, Basketball and Lacrosse; Evan Pascariello, Mepham High School, Ice Hockey and Soccer; Andrew Gecsei, Glen Cove High School Varsity Wrestling, North Shore PAL Hockey; Brandt Scott, Long Beach High School, Varsity Football, Varsity Track; Max Vainshub, Massapequa High School, Martial Arts Instructor, 2nd Degree Black Belt (not shown); Jake Gelfand, Long Beach High School Surfing, the 1st Surf Team in the State.

Nurse Assisting II students Catricia St. Aime and Malika Mushette are on Baldwin High School’s Varsity Badminton Team.
“Champions at Work!” That is a very catchy slogan, don’t you think? But doesn’t it sound like a contradiction? The definition of a champion is someone superior or the very best at whatever task he is competing in. So if someone is already the best in what he does, why would he need to work any further? A champion is already at the top of the game, so to speak.

But think about it this way...We all know those athletes who make it to the Super Bowl, the World Series, and the Finals. We can consider those people champions, right? They have proven themselves superior to every other person. Do you think that after these championship games, these players go on vacation and come back the following year and miraculously succeed again? Of course not! They have a continuous rhythm. They continue to condition their bodies. They continue to go over plays. They continue to put forth effort so that they can be successful and be considered champions again and again.

So it’s the same format with Barry Tech’s SkillsUSA membership. We are already champions; now we are conditioning ourselves to remain champions. Not just in school, home, work, or with friends, but in whatever we pursue in life. We give 110%. SkillsUSA pushes its members to do so. For example, SkillsUSA competitions push its members in the professional situation, the work place!

In Pharmacy Tech, all students go out on our various internships. For me personally, it’s no joke! As soon as I get to the pharmacy they put me to work. There are no chairs, so I am on my feet the whole time. I fill prescriptions, type prescriptions, talk to the customers, and learn from the pharmacist. Everything!

But the funny thing about this situation is that it feels ordinary. I feel I was prepared well for it. In class we constantly go over material, practice filling prescriptions, and memorize different drugs. So when I got to the real pharmacy it wasn’t a surprise to me that it was going to be a lot of hard work on my part.

My class “conditioned me” to be ready for the formal workplace. That is one of the biggest benefits I appreciate about my Pharmacy Tech class. Mrs. Cunningham doesn’t sugar coat anything! She makes you experience the real situation, so when the time comes for us to do the actual work, we are ready. We are not lost in the clouds or caught off guard. We expect certain things to occur and we are ready for the challenge.

We can compare this to a track runner who has a big meet at the end of the year. Let’s say he runs long distance, the 5 mile run. Do you think if this long distance runner just practiced the 100 meter dash, the shortest distance in track and field, all year, he would be successful? Do you think he would be ready to run those 5 miles at the end of the year? Of course not! He would not be preparing himself for the long distance. He would have been inadequate and fallen short.

But see...The classes here at Barry Tech do the complete opposite. They make sure that we are ready for our task or our long distance run so we can be excellent and not fall short.

This reminds me of my mother. When I was younger, in middle school, I was a good student. I got 90s and 95s. I was one of the best in my classes. I was excited when I got home. I ran to my parents and showed them my grades. They would always commend me on my good work. But after commending me, my mother would always ask me, “Why didn’t you get a 100%?” I would get so mad when she asked me this. I was one of the best in my class and I always tried my hardest. I did not understand then, but, now I realize what she was doing. She knew I was at the top of my class. But she was pushing me to do my utmost, so that I stayed at the top of my class. I see now that she was motivating me to always give my all. Not just in school but, in all my endeavors.

Now you know we can’t talk about Barry Tech without bringing up the first day of school. I know for me, it was one to remember. I had heard so much about Barry Tech. There were students from over 40 different districts, and a humongous campus.

I remember thinking to myself: a new school, new people, whole new atmosphere and new girls. I didn’t know what to expect. When I got to my class, there were so many different people: Blacks, whites, Indian, Chinese, Haitians, and they were all from different districts. This district was sitting in that corner, a different one sitting over here. We were all so diverse. I remember thinking, “How in the world are we going to get along?”

I remember vividly my teacher. It was her second year of teaching, so she was fairly new at this. She was nervous. She was stuttering, shaking, and even started sweating. The whole situation was hilarious. The whole class laughed, even my teacher found it amusing. What I got out of this situation was that we all laughed at the same joke. That made me think it did not matter where we were coming from but that we were all going forward to the same goal in the future.

So, Barry Tech is preparing us for what to expect throughout our whole lives, which is, interacting with different people, with different backgrounds, from different cultures, coming together for a common goal. Not only interacting with them, but respecting their cultures and perspective on life.

That same idea is true of all the classes that are part of Barry Tech. Our teachers put us to the test everyday and motivate us to do our best, and by doing this, they “condition” us for our jobs in the future, and our lives in general.

Champions at work:
We are already champions; now we are preparing to stay that way.
On February 28, 2011, Monica Grau and Jordan Bryant, graduates of the Barry Tech Class of 2010, visited their Alma Mater, Ms. Belle Cheverino’s Fashion Design Technology class, to share with current students their experience as undergraduate Fashion Design students at SUNY’s Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, New York. Monica and Jordan relished the opportunity to remind the students that Barry Tech is the stepping stone to living the dream.

As FIT undergraduates, Monica and Jordan still attend class together and work off each other and their prior educational experience at Barry Tech. According to Jordan, “We love that we can continue to go to school together. We understand exactly what each other’s going through. It’s a comfort zone.” Monica added that, “Attending FIT is the best thing in our lives. So it’s hard. Well, everything good is hard. If it’s what you love, it’s not work.”

According to the girls, “Our professors are some of the most famous in the industry, and at the top of the industry. For instance, one is a former creative director of Ralph Lauren and another is Steven Stipelman, illustrator for Women’s Wear Daily.” Even though these professors are icons, they are still approachable, and appreciate students who work hard and ask questions.

FIT has become the center of their lives. Jordan said, “If I weren’t at FIT, I wouldn’t know where I’d be. We are there from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. because there is nowhere else we want to be. We love it! We arrive 45 minutes before class starts to get a spot right up front, setting up our forms and draping. The first semester really was just a review for us, an automatic A because of our work at Barry Tech.” In fact, the girls said that the hardest part so far has been carrying their materials and forms from home to school on subways and buses. They do acknowledge that the college classes are more concentrated, and that they might have to finish an item as complex as a blouse in one class.

Monica shared that, “Things are easier for us in class. I know how to do what I should! Mrs. Cheverino taught us the correct way to sew and use fabric, something most of the other new FIT students did not know when they entered the program. I still bring my Barry Tech sample book with me all the time. The techniques we learned at Barry Tech are the authentic ones.”

Jordan echoed her message: “Barry Tech absolutely prepares you for what is to come. If you have a dream to work in the industry, do whatever it takes to get there—just go for it!”

Through her Barry Tech experience, Monica had internships in which she worked with Charlotte Ronson, Rebecca Minkoff and Prabal Gurung. She noted that, “While I received no actual paycheck, the internship was worth more than money. It was like free education.”

Jordan’s summer of 2010 internship was with Simply Vera with Vera Wang. Jordan told the students to, “Take advantage of every opportunity that’s offered and run with it. Barry Tech opens doors.”

The girls also provided some tips for the college application process. They noted the importance of maintaining a portfolio that you can speak about fully. Jordan advised, “On the interview, be ready to back up your artwork. You need to explain and describe your inspiration and your depiction. Sell it to the admissions officers as if you were selling your designs to buyers.” Jordan also mentioned that financial aid is readily available and surprisingly generous. She said, “Apply! Take advantage of it. Grants even help pay for supplies.”

Monica and Jordan also offered to assist the current students in applying to college. Jordan said, “We’re grateful for all the help we received, and we would like to return it.”

Clearly, for Monica and Jordan, attending Barry Tech gave them a distinct advantage. Monica had a stirring message for the students: “That we came to Barry Tech is an advantage.”
In my family the study of Culinary Arts started long before I was born. My great-grandmother started Biancardis Butcher Shop on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx. Today, my uncles and cousins own it. My father, Paul Magro, is a chef and CIA graduate. Most of the people I grew up around are chefs, and their friends are chefs. It is a very tight community; fortunately, I have made many friends because of this.

My love for the culinary arts and food simply outweigh anything else I have ever done or taken interest in. I started learning from my father, making omelets at the early age of four years. After that, it was a domino effect. For my 9th birthday, my parents gave me a Damascus Santoku chef knife. Many people thought they lost their minds, but that gift is one that kept on giving. I started practicing my knife cuts, then moved to basic sauces, and safety and sanitation and handling of produce and meats. I crave the knowledge. I spend my spare time reading culinary related books, thinking of dishes, critiquing my previous dishes, and practicing as often as I can.

My first job was off-premises catering for a restaurant called the Ivy Cottage. After a couple of years, I felt I needed a new experience so I became a cook at a Marriot Hotel doing on-premise catering. I also worked with my father preparing high-end sit-down dinner parties for about 12-15 people. These jobs gave me real experience outside of the classroom and my own kitchen. I was thrown into hectic kitchens and had to make my way out. I embraced the work, and continue to love working.

Although I am still young, my life has had many ups and downs. The day before my 11th birthday, I was diagnosed with a cancer called Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. My treatment consisted of chemotherapy, followed up by radiation treatments. After that long and very difficult journey, I was ready to continue to live my life, but that was when the worst thing happened. My older brother, Michael, who at the time was 13, was diagnosed with a cancer known as Leukemia. He fought very hard, but in the end lost his battle. Six weeks after his diagnosis, Mike passed away at the age of 13. To help deal with our loss, my family and I started the Michael Magro Foundation to honor him. We are dedicated to helping children with cancer. I was lucky enough to assist my father in writing his cookbook to raise money for the Foundation.

After these traumatic events happened, I learned two things. One, that life is very delicate; it can be given or taken away within seconds. Two, do not let your dreams pass you by. Life is too short. I am doing everything in my power not to defy lesson two. The culinary arts are the only things in my life that have been constant. I love it, and will always love it. Through the Michael Magro Foundation I have learned to help others. Someday, I hope to give back and help others during my culinary journey. I cannot see myself in any other trade during this lifetime.
Spotlight on Cosmetology: Life in the Barry Tech Salon

An Authentic Learning Environment for Beautifying the World from Inside Out

From the Journals of Mr. Daniel Aurierma's COSMO II Students

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shley Baylis, Oceanside H.S.—Being a cosmetologist is a lot more than cutting hair, coloring hair and doing nails. Cosmetology requires knowledge in chemistry and geometry. My experience at Barry Tech has shown me that cosmetology is a lot more complex than most people think.

You need to know angles and what chemicals can be mixed together. You also need to have good interpersonal skills with complete strangers.

During the past two years, Mr. Aurierma has taught me how to be a successful cosmetologist. We’ve learned all the basics to cosmetology; now, it is our turn to show that we can do what we have learned. But this class has given me more than the basic knowledge of cosmetology. It has even given me a few good friends that I will keep in touch with over the years.

Meghan B’Amico, Hicksville H.S.—In my junior year I enrolled in cosmetology at Barry Tech unaware of what to expect. Once I entered the classroom, I felt nothing but comfort and welcome from each individual I met. In the first year we learned the basics to better prepare us for the advanced techniques we learn in the second year. For example, we learned the basic procedures for blunt haircut, manicures and makeup.

Many outside of the industry do not grasp the complexity this field has to offer. There are always new techniques and styles to master. Not only do we learn the skills in cosmetology, but we are taught how to present ourselves in a professional manner, as well as prepare us for the future in the field. With the client services on Thursdays and Fridays we get the feel of the environment in a salon.

My time at Barry Tech has helped me grow not only as a person but as a future cosmetologist.

Tatiana B. Graham, Hempstead H.S.—We came into our classes in the beginning of junior year, dazed and confused, but we are leaving senior year with self assurance as well as confidence.

We have received a gift that is free, and will last for eternity. There are three elements to this gift: knowledge, friendship and skill.

Devotion and love are the key ingredients in the teacher’s lessons, to mold us into the potential they see in us. I have created life long friendships with people who share the same passion as me.

Barry Tech has taught us valuable life lessons that we will take with us wherever our future leads us.

Keeping Current with the Business of Beauty

Victoria Basso, East Meadow H.S.—The Barry Tech Cosmetology and Barbering classes attended the International Beauty Show held in New York City at the Jacob Javits Center on March 8, 2011. The Javits Center is a huge place and people from all over the world were attending along with us. A famous hairdresser, Martin Parsons, known for up do’s, demonstrated his techniques. It was kind of surprising how easy he makes it look; it’s like a twist and he just holds it with a Bobby pin. He was amazing.

Andrea Sardo, East Meadow H.S.—When we arrived at the IBS, I was filled with joy. I love all of the lights, music and beauty. In my favorite area, the nail care section, Harmony Gelish Nail Gel caught my attention. I work with that product in my salon and it is not for sale in stores, so I was excited to be able to purchase all of the gel nail polishes and see the colors in person. I took a lot of products home including O.P.I. and Essie nail polish, acrylic powders, and gel nail polishes.

Hair Extensions: The Latest Trend

Kenny Salgado, Bethpage H.S.—Angela Demoletto, from Blue Sky Beauty, came to class and demonstrated the “Double Loop Lock” method of applying Neo-Trends International hair extensions. She took an extension and pulled a few strands of hair through and pulled the loop. These loops tightened and held the extensions in close to the root so they wouldn’t fall out. I was stunned and thought this was a great idea. These extensions did no damage to the hair and were easily taken out, not to mention they’re reversible.

Marissa Walsh, East Meadow H.S.—To demonstrate the So.Cap technique of applying hair extensions, Laura Gambardilla, the demonstrator, put a few extensions in a volunteer student’s hair. I love hair extensions and it was really interesting learning about the different types and techniques of applying them. As difficult as the procedure appears, it was that simple. Each individual strand of the extension was connected to the head in about thirty seconds. I was really surprised how natural it looked and that they were very easy to remove. The demonstrator referred us to a class her organization runs to certify cosmetologists to apply the So.Cap. extensions.

Jessica Becker, POB H.S.—On March 5, 2011, the owner of Salone Gino came to Barry Tech to showcase his invention, a strange-looking comb with a cone sticking out of it that was really amazing. It turned a difficult 45-minute haircut into a simple, effortless-looking cut that took about half the time it usually would. He taught us a lot about layering, feathering and texturing. He talked about life skills, people skills and business skills, saying it was ok to take risks with something as long as you’re aware of the consequences. He talked about owning a salon and the precautions you have to take every step of the way from the space you rent to the products you use and the people you hire. His words were inspirational.
**Professionalism**
By Fatima Syed, East Meadow H.S.; Ms. Simonee, Cosmetology II

This year in cosmetology we’re learning how to become more professional while we learn about the real world of the beauty industry. People working in the industry come to the classroom and share their experiences. We are learning how to do advanced client service techniques.

Our atmosphere is unique because we use creativity in many different ways. For example, we bring out people’s personalities through appearance enhancement. It’s amazing how we can do so much to highlight a person’s features.

The class has a very friendly atmosphere. We all get along and work together. I am looking forward to learning more and getting my state board license.

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**Making Dreams Reality**
By Cassandra Levine, POB JFK H.S.; Ms. Tammy Ponzetti, Cosmetology I

Within the business community, people take many risks just to see if they’ll get anywhere. When you attend Barry Tech, you know you’ll get somewhere you want to be. Studying cosmetology at Barry Tech is very important to me. I’m basing my career around cosmetology.

My reasons for pursuing the field of cosmetology are very important to me. To start off, I have a natural passion for it. I’ve always loved doing my hair, nails and makeup ever since I was little. Not only did I love doing my own, I loved doing everyone else’s. Now I provide services for everyone I know, including acrylics and nail polish, and I also dye my friends’ and my own hair, so I build skills in school and by myself. Also, I want to make sure I’m successful on my own, before the future brings too many obstacles. I am determined to be independent and successful before marriage and kids.

Barry Tech can be the push and advantage I need to complete my goals. I have everything planned out and I’m 100% sure it’s what I want to do with my life. I have a strong feeling Barry Tech classes are a great advantage because they prepare me for a job after I complete high school. I have an edge on all of my friends because of the fact that I’m going to a trade school at such a young age. I know how I want to live my life, what I want to do with it, and even what I want to specialize in within the field of cosmetology. I feel very confident in making my hobby a living, and my dreams reality.

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**A Business Proposal**
By Kori Sassman, West Hempstead H.S.; Ms. Davis, Cosmetology II

A business that caters to you and your children; a make-up salon where you can get your make-up done and not have to worry about finding a babysitter for your kids.

I want to open a business that has a section with babysitters who watch the kids while mothers have their make-up done. We will also have a section for hair styling, but the emphasis will be on make-up.

Every little girl loves to get her make-up done, so we will so we will cater to both the mother and daughter. There will also be a “Dress-up” section where the kids can have a fun time and even make friends. We will also have toys for boys, and they can have their hair cut, too. While the children are playing and occupied, their mothers have nothing to worry about!

With a make-up salon, prices aren’t going to be cheap due to the fact that you have to change every applicator every time you change your client. The area for the kids will be an additional cost. It must be very clean and not cluttered at all because kids carry a lot of germs. The salon will be located in a nice area near restaurants and stores, and have a big parking lot for everyone’s convenience.

The interior of the salon will look very Victorian. I want big mirrors and open windows so it’s always sunny. The floors are going to be marble, and no clutter will be visible. The environment will be as clean as possible so that the clients feel comfortable.

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I have never been to a salon that had a section to occupy kids while their parents are getting services.

I feel my make-up salon will be successful because many people that want to get their hair and make-up done have children, and the children are either running around the salon or the parents have to search for a babysitter.

I find this a very different and creative idea and think it will be successful.

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**Who’s Who in The Barry Tech Barbershop**

The Barry Tech Barbershop has become the new hot spot, with students from all corners of Barry Tech seeking the latest styles from the latest stylists. Under the guidance of Master Barber James Baggiano, the program is flourishing.

Alexandra Stevens, West Hemp. H.S. Coming to Barry Tech has been a very pleasurable learning experience with many advantages. Since I’ve been here I’ve made some new and interesting friends. Everyday I learn something new. For instance, we have learned how to correctly wash hair and how to give a fade. In addition, we learned safety rules and hazards. There is more to barbering than the average person may think. The history and the artistic side to it are the most fascinating parts. When you finish a client’s cut, the hairstyle is like a piece of artwork you created. I appreciate that I have been able to come for this unique learning experience. Being a female in this field isn’t traditional, so I look forward to working as hard as I can to succeed.

Once I complete the course and graduate, I plan to put my newly learned skills to work. I would first like to get myself a job and save up money to someday open up my own barbershop. My biggest goal is to be a very successful female barber to change the way people feel about others.

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Left: Sergio Benitez of Roosevelt H.S. cuts Mr. B’s hair, while Stan Morocho of Uniondale H.S. works on Great Neck South’s Shaykem McCarthy. Above: Lynda Nicholson of Westbury H.S. styles Alexandra Steven’s hair.
Barry Tech Alumni:
Soaring Careers

Ian Landes, Class of 1999 and Neil Iovino, Class of 1998, recently reached a new height in their high-flying careers when they were charged with the responsibility of transporting former President George W. Bush around the country during a speaking tour. The two students met while studying Aviation Operations with Mr. John Carey and reunited as co-workers years later.

The two former Aviation Operations students are flight captains for an exclusive corporate jet charter company. They fly state-of-the-art Legacy 600 jets known for their gorgeous interiors and luxury amenities.

The pair frequently fly celebrities such as the Jonas Brothers and other artists around on world tours. They particularly enjoyed escorting the former president. According to Ian, “The President was a regular guy who carried his own bags.”

A Pharmacy in the House:
Learning by Doing in the Barry Tech Pharmacy Tech Program

By Wayne McLaughlin, 12th Grade, Baldwin High School; Mrs. Elaine Cunningham, Pharmacy Tech

During my time at Barry Tech, I have had the privilege of being exposed to a variety of great experiences and opportunities in and out of the classroom. One opportunity I have had the pleasure of partaking in was the Pharmacy Internship, which is typically done at a Walgreens Pharmacy or in some cases an independent pharmacy. In the Pharmacy Tech class, we are able to practice techniques that will allow us to assist the pharmacist in dispensing medication to the public. We have a mock pharmacy stocked with pill bottles full of fake pills such as Smarties which we use for role playing customer care.

On my internship, I have the opportunity to do many different tasks and learn important life principles that can be utilized in other aspects of life, not just the workplace. Working in a real pharmacy with a real Doctor of Pharmacy gives you a sense of responsibility. For example, you must learn to be on time. Another principle is organization; you want your area to be as clean as possible at all times so you can work in an efficient and timely manner. In addition, communication skills are enhanced. Being able to work at the cash register gives the student a chance to interact with a lot of different characters. This intertwines with the principles of patience and empathy, because from time to time you will come in contact with health-compromised individuals who will give you a hard time, but you have to display a good attitude and respond like a professional.

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