

# Academy of Business Newsletter

## MENTOR AND STUDENTS IN NEW YORK

BY LUIS MENDOZA

The mentoring program has been around since the beginning of the AOB. Throughout the years we see just how close and strong the relationships between a mentors and our students have become. These mentors help the students by giving them life advice, lessons, and guiding them in the right direction. As the journey of mentor and student progresses, we can see just how strong the relationship. Roxana Flores, Perla Miranda and their mentor Sonia Hamilton are great examples of showing just how close a student-mentor relationship can become.

In the summer of 2015, Perla, Roxana, and Sonia Hamilton took a trip of a life time, from September 2nd to September 7th these three young ladies visited the beautiful city of New York. Both of our AOB students loved the trip! Roxana told us "The trip was so surreal, it felt too unreal to be in New York because it has always been a dream of mine to go." Perla mentioned that, "The trip was very fun and exciting because I had never been to New York. It was a great experience, one that I will never forget. "As Roxana, Perla, and Ms. Hamilton traveled around the city of New York they had many special moments. Roxana told us "My favorite part of the trip was when we spent a whole day touring around New York City with my mentor's family and a family friend of theirs." Perla said that her favorite part of the trip was "Traveling to Time Square, visiting the Empire State Building, and seeing the Statue of Liberty. I enjoyed these moments most because I had only seen those

## AOB SPIRIT WEEK

BY: YARA DIAZ

AOB spirit week is something that we have all have been anticipating, but what exactly is AOB spirit week and why are we doing it? Thanks to Michelle Garcia, the creator of AOB spirit week, we now know exactly what it is and how it came to be. AOB spirit week will be the 1st to the 5th of February. AOB spirit week was created when some students became upset when they had to dress up professionally on pajama day. The students decided to take matters into their own hands and bring this situation to the one and only person who could make AOB spirit week happen. Not only is dressing up exciting, but Michelle also decided to have AOB spirit week tie in with our new buddy system and have the last day be a day you spend with your buddy and eat some delicious food. AOB spirit week isn't only about dressing up, it's also about bringing all AOB together and being excepting of one another.



Tacky tourist day

Left to right: Ofelia Madrigal, Chelsa Mendoza

places in movies and last year I actually had the opportunity to go a be there”

Although Roxana and Pearl have always had a strong connection with Ms. Hamilton, Roxana says “I feel extremely close to my mentor because nobody would go out of their way to take me on a trip just to see myself in the future. I owe a lot to Ms. Sonia.” Perla adds that their connection with Ms. Hamilton is now stronger than ever. There are special bonds that form within the AOB community, bonds with teachers, students, staff, but there is a specific kind of bond that can only be found in between a mentor and the student.

Ms. Hamilton is an AOB mentor who contributes her time to help students by giving them helpful tips and guiding them in positive directions. Ms. Hamilton took our AOB students on an amazing trip that they will never forget. When I asked her which sight they visited, she replied “We visited St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City weeks prior to the visit by Pope Francis. We went to Rockefeller Center, we saw Radio City Music Hall and we went to Penn Station. The solemn moment was our time at 9/11 Memorial. Pictures cannot describe how we felt, especially since we were there before the 9/11 Remembrance at the Reflection Pool that lists the names of all 9/11 victims.

The Empire State Building had a virtual ride that provided its history and other iconic locations around New York. There is an Observation Tower that has a 360 panoramic view of the entire city. Ellis Island is a remarkable site with a vast history of the immigrants who came to America.”

Ms. Hamilton also had a blast on this amazing trip. She was asked what her favorite part of the trip was, she told us that “My favorite part of the trip was the various mass transportation available to us. We arrived in New York by plane and we took a car to get to our living quarters. For the sightseeing tour, we took the train, then took a bus, and we went on the subway and finally boarded a ferry to get to the Statue of Liberty.”

“I totally enjoyed this unique experience because I have gone to New York at least 30 times and I had never gone to the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, or Time Square. We created lasting memories to share for many years to come. We took lots of pictures and we did a lot of walking. Roxy very respectful, enthusiastic

and Perla were patient and about our trip.”  
But at day there is a connection mentor and heartwarming grows and will grow among ladies.  
told us that “I connected to and to the AOB ever before.



the end of the strong between student. A very relationships continue to these three Ms. Hamilton feel more Roxy and Perla program than This was a

rewarding experience because I strongly believe that Roxy and Perla were able to see how

many opportunities are available to them when they study and find good-paying jobs. The only limitation in our lives is ourselves when we don't strive for excellence! I am grateful to be a mentor to a fine organization that has an outstanding staff"

## JA FINACE PARK FIELD TRIP

By: Stephanie Vasquez

The junior's trip to JA Finance Park field trip was on Thursday, January 5. This provided students with an opportunity to learn about finances and about balancing their money and how to spend it. The 11th graders were given iPads and visited a website where they were basically assigned a life. You are given a job, a salary, you might be married

or single, and you might have kids. Then they went to another room with different stations (like health care, car rentals, insurance, food, clothes, etc.) Students had to use a budget to buy things like basic living needs. For some people it was really difficult since they had low income and a family to take care of, which meant that they were on a tight budget.

This event was even broadcast live on Fox News and was very special event for the entire AOB. Ofelia Madrigal told me "My favorite part was probably just getting to experience the real world and learning about how hard it is to buy things and to budget yourself."



## The Circle of Trust

By: Luis Mendoza

"Are you in the circle of trust?" every AOB student is familiar with this saying. Mr. Colombo, our favorite AOB economy and government teacher, has said this since the day he joined the AOB. You might be asking yourself "What is the circle of trust?"

To understand and know the meaning of the circle of trust we need to know its origin. Mr. Colombo told us "Years ago, somewhere around 1985, I used to be salesman at company called 3M. I was in the sales group that sold copiers and photocopy machines. During that time I had to take a sales training class. In that class they talked about the circle of trust, and how you and your customers have to be in that circle of trust together. This meant no lying, only trust. When I got out of sales I taught at San Diego High, and I used various strategies to make the kids behave wells, such as enforcing rules, referrals, giving out detention. But none of these methods worked. The class was still out of control. Finally one day I just put the circle of trust on the board and started writing names of students who were in and out of the circle of trust."

Mr. Colombo says that when one is in the circle of trust there are many benefits that come along with it but also some responsibility as well. Mr. Colombo said that "for students within the circle, they gain many benefits, such as, when they ask me for something I generally say yes, and if they tell me something I believe them."

The origin of the circle of trust is a story that not many people know, the origin represents just how far the circle of trust has come and grown into our the AOB community. When asking Mr. Colombo what the meaning of "the circle of trust between me and my them I will deliver and something they must connects us"



trust is, he responded with represents a bond students, that what I tell when they tell me deliver that. It's a link it

Mr. Colombo

## New Year's Resolutions

By: Stephanie Vazquez

Many students at Clairemont High have New Year's resolutions that push them to succeed in 2016. The New Year is here and we must plan to what comes next and prepare for all the necessary changes and accomplishments that are coming our way. I have talked to students and teachers around Clairemont about their New Year's resolutions and they are all really excited about starting fresh this year. Gabby Baker is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Clairemont, says her resolutions are "to do my homework right when I get home. To eat healthier and to join a sport." Another 10<sup>th</sup> grader, Dahmira Jones, says, "I have two resolutions, to be a vegetarian and to lose weight. My academic goal is to maintain what I am doing right now." I also talked to one of the new math teachers here at Clairemont, Mrs. Khachiyan or just Mrs. K, says "I want manage my time more wisely, budget my money more efficiently and stay active." It looks like many people at Clairemont want to manage their time more wisely and are hopeful as they gaze at the horizon of this New Year.



Ms. Khachiyan



Gabby Baker

# Ice Skating

By:Gabrielle Baker

On December 18, 2015 AOB students and teachers went to the Westfield Town Centre for ice skating. It was a wonderful way to start the winter break and get in the holiday mood by participating in a winter sport. Students gained many lasting memories from the field trip. For example, students and teachers were able to bond with one another and enjoy each other's company. Mary Pineda, a sophomore at Clairemont said it was "Exciting... I enjoyed having a very delightful time with my friends." The ice skating rink was also in a prime location, being directly under the mall's food court, making it easy for everyone to enjoy their lunch from a variety of choices. Overall, the ice skating field trip was the perfect way to get to get ready for the holiday!



## Student Interview

By: Yara Diaz

I'd like to introduce Alexis Harris. Alexis is a freshman and this her first year in the Academy of Business. Like any curious person I wanted to know what her first impression of the AOB was. Alexis said she thought it was a smart idea to make all these new academies so that students can see what is out there and available for students after they leave high school. Of all the academies Alexis decided to pick AOB because when she went to the tour she was drawn to the academy and how the teachers showed sincere support for the students. She believes that the AOB can help contribute to her future by giving her experience and the support she may need. When Alexis first saw the AOB building she really liked it and was very excited to be there. She found the building to be amazing and found the trading room very intriguing. Alexis is very confident that she picked the best academy and is looking forward to what this academy has in store for her. The next person I interviewed was Jessica Abourserhal. Jessica is also a freshman and is very excited to begin her high school year as a member of AOB. When Jessica first saw the new building she felt as if the AOB was headed down a good path and that the new building will help AOB to grow. She chose to join the AOB because she didn't have any particular interest in any other pathway, and she thought that learning about business and finance now would help her in the future. She feels that she made a great choice choosing this academy and doesn't regret her choice. Lastly, I interviewed Annette Moreno. Annette is also a freshman and is very happy to have chosen AOB. Annette thought the academy was very cool, and she really likes the teachers. Annette says that she made a good choice because she knows that business is part of every career, and she knows having those extra business skills will help her in the future. Annette is very impressed with how much the teachers in AOB care about the students and really want them to be successful, and she likes the great resources in the new building.



## Melissa and her Activities

By: Luis Mendoza

One of our most outstanding AOB students is Melissa Figueroa. And Melissa is not only the COO of the AOB but she is the varsity Cheer Captain, the GSA President, the ASB treasurer, she is also actively involved in the AOB executive team. Of course, we can see that Melissa has a busy schedule but nevertheless she enjoys all the clubs she's involved in. She's involved with them not only because she loves Clairemont High School, but also because it keeps her busy and motivated to keep her grades up, as all these clubs require that students maintaining good grades. You might wonder how does Melissa do it? How does she keep track of what she is doing? In a recent interview Melissa told us "I have various reminders on my phone that alert me when I have something to do, and I also have a Google Calendar which is where I have my whole day and schedule planned out." Whether you are a student, teacher, businessman, or just a regular person I think we can all learn something from Melissa.



## What do students think of mentor meetings?

BY: Gabby Baker

Our sophomore AOB students began their 2015-16 mentor meetings in September. Since then students have been working on goal-setting and team building, going on tours of local colleges, backward planning, and learning how to establish goals. This semester with their mentors. Students seem to enjoy their mentor meetings and have a lot of positive things to say about it. Stephanie Vazquez is one of the many sophomores who think having mentor meetings is informative. She says, "I think it's helpful because it gives me a perspective on the different types of careers there are." Another sophomore, Mary Pineda, agrees with Stephanie about how useful the mentor meetings are, saying "I think the mentor meetings are very helpful because mentors guide you to success." Overall, students enjoy the mentor meetings and are looking forward to many more!



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