

Photographs by
MICHAEL SANTIAGO

To Serve and Learn In Youth Justice

DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES and often overworked staff, a number of innovative New York nonprofits manage to provide life-changing alternatives to young people caught up in the criminal justice system. To support these organizations and attract talented students and scholars to the youth justice field, The Pinkerton Foundation joined with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2012 to develop a unique fifteen-month paid fellowship program. Working

two full summers, the month of January and fourteen hours a week during the school year, fifteen to seventeen John Jay undergraduate and graduate students serve at alternative-to-incarceration, post-prison reentry and other community-based organizations. The Fellows also participate in an academic seminar on the role of nonprofit organizations in the justice system. “Our grants are to John Jay, but the immediate beneficiaries are the young people served by youth justice programs throughout the city,” said Rick Smith, the Foundation’s president. “In the long run, we hope that this highly competitive program will empower the college’s best and brightest to consider careers in youth justice.” ♦



Maysles Documentary Center: Kareem King (red hat), Joseph Aquino (white shirt) and Corey Cortes edit a documentary. Below, Executive Director Christine Peng advises young film-maker Mario Rivera. The Harlem-based center trains young people to work together in producing documentaries that illuminate their lives and communities. The center hopes those films will “inspire dialogue and action” around community needs.



Possibility Project: Calvin Aragon (left) and Isaiah Burrell pretend to play basketball on Mars, where they would weigh much less than they do on earth. The project empowers young people in the child welfare and justice systems to share their stories through original musical theater productions.



Pinkerton Fellows Retreat: Levi Bain (top) prepares himself for the “trust fall” exercise. Terrance Martin and Monique Powell work together to safely pass one another on the ropes. The John Jay student body is among the youngest and most diverse in CUNY, and Fellows often become role models to the young people they serve.



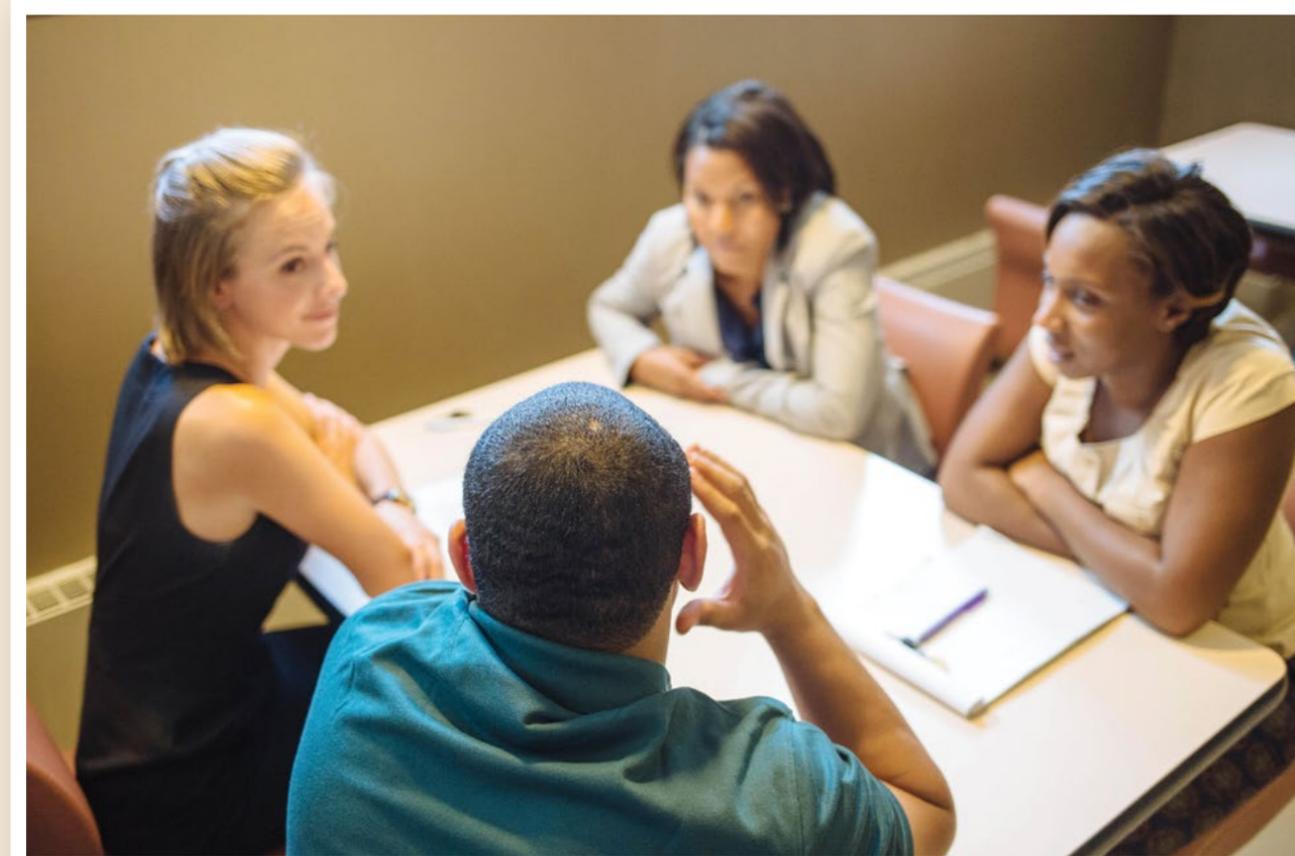
John Jay College Training: Pinkerton Fellows role-play courtroom scenarios. Janelle Robinson (top) plays a tough prosecutor. Jesse Ahinful and Angel Ho (left) are judge and bailiff. (Above) Rahkim Hawkins, seated, Karim Chapman, center, and Matthew Wulah, from the Arches Alumni leadership training program for court-involved young people, share experiences with the Pinkerton Fellows.





Friends of Island Academy:

Messiah Ramkissoon (above, far right), director of culture at Friends of Island Academy, with young inmates at Rikers Island Correctional Facility. Friends connects them with mentors, job leads, educational resources, and housing upon release. Jacob Cohen, with cello, partners with Friends to play for young adults at Rikers, whom he often invites to join him on the cello. (Below, far right) Ramkissoon and Jamil Muhammad, pen in hand, work with young people to prepare for release.



Bronx Defenders: (Top) lawyer Jenay Nurse (white jacket), social worker Julie Smyth (in black) and Pinkerton Fellow Imani Randolph (short sleeves) confer with a client. Because of his age, neither his face nor name can be published. Charged with a violent felony at 15 and sentenced to a secure juvenile detention center, Bronx Defenders helped him to re-engage with school. He is now on the Honor Roll and will avoid a criminal record if he stays out of trouble.

