



Triton College

# CONNECT

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## Chef Bill Kim Returns to Campus to Motivate Students



Pictured left to right are Carlos Roa-Vargas, Deven Dejesus, Luke Mc Guire, Chef Bill Kim, Andrea Andrade, Laniyah Capshaw, Moon Stewart and Taylor Wright.

Chef Bill Kim, an award-winning Chicago chef, cookbook author, restaurateur and Triton alumnus, shared his knowledge and expertise with Triton College culinary students. Speaking to the Knife Skills (HIA 101) class, Chef Kim cooked up some great advice.

Kim also did a demonstration for students and discussed the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in the culinary industry.

"Chef Kim taught me that if I want to succeed in this industry, I'm going to have to put forth effort and not give up," said student Taylor Wright of Bellwood. "If I don't try my absolute best, I'm not going to move forward."

The Triton College community means a lot to Kim, since he was inducted into Triton's Wall of Fame this past spring and currently teaches continuing education cooking classes.

"Triton gave me the foundation to build a career out of my passion," he said.

Chef Kim immigrated to the United States from Seoul, South Korea, when he was 7 years old,

explaining that his family wanted to embark on a new journey in America with better opportunities.

As a young boy, Chef Kim made his family sandwiches and English muffins, igniting his love of cooking. This passion only grew as he got older, and he felt inspired to follow his dream when he learned that Triton offered a hospitality program.

"Community college was an ideal situation for me because I could live at home while earning my degree," he noted.

After receiving the educational tools he needed from Triton College, Chef Kim attended Kendall College. Following graduation, he worked with world-renowned chefs, such as Jean Banchet, Charlie Trotter and Pierre Pollin.

His culinary journey continued when he had the opportunity to cook at different restaurants across the country, including Le Ciboulette in Atlanta, and Susanna Foo Restaurant and Inn on Blueberry Hill in Philadelphia. In the Chicago area, he has been a chef at Charlie Trotter's Restaurant and Le Lan (both in Chicago), and Trio in Evanston.

He has partnered with Cornerstone Restaurant Group (CRG) to open Timeout Market in Chicago and The Table at Crate in Oak Brook, Ill., a partnership with Crate and Barrel. Most famously, CRG has also partnered with him to open Urbanbelly in Wicker Park.

"Urbanbelly stands out because it's affordable, flavorful and accessible," he said. "We cook without borders."

Chef Kim's cookbook, *Korean BBQ: Master Your Grill in Seven Sauces*, offers 75 Korean-American recipes that are both casual and practical. The book can be purchased through most online retailers and local bookstores.

For the future, Chef Kim and CRG are planning on opening Michael Jordan Steak House, MJ23 Sports Bar & Grill, Hi-Fi Chicken & Beer and finally, Brasserie 1783 in Korea in 2024.

"I hope to inspire students at Triton College and beyond," he said.

## Instructor Dr. Sheldon Turner Participates in STEMSEAS Program



Instructor Dr. Sheldon Turner aboard the STEMSEAS cruise.

Dr. Sheldon Turner, chairperson of Triton College's Science Department, spent 10 days at sea conducting oceanic research with the STEMSEAS Program. STEMSEAS, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), provides six-to-10-day ocean excursions for undergraduate students to conduct research and build a sense of belonging in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

This STEMSEAS cruise, aboard the R/V Thompson, was the Inaugural Community College Faculty Expedition. The aim was to train future STEMSEAS mentors among community college faculty and help promote the program to more community college students.

"There were 13 faculty members from across the country selected to participate," said Dr. Turner. "I was the only representative from the Midwest."

Leaving Seattle on Nov. 2, and landing in Honolulu on Nov. 11, those aboard used the ship's science labs to conduct scientific research, such as how much salt was in the water, as well as the ocean's temperature. Dr. Turner was fascinated by the plankton and other organisms that could be viewed under microscopes just from a drop of water.

"For most of the trip we saw no boats, planes or signs of life outside," he said. "Under a microscope, the ocean is full of living organisms."

The faculty were also surprised to find a lot of tiny pieces of plastic that were seen under a microscope. Even 1,000 miles from shore, microplastic was still found within the ocean.

One of Dr. Turner's favorite parts of the trip was when he collected volcanic rocks from 3,500 meters (over two miles) below sea level from a 2-million-year-old underwater landslide, bringing them home to be studied by Triton students.

"I loved seeing the rare marine life, such as a whale shark that came to the surface while we were dredging the rocks," said Dr. Turner. "As we got closer to Hawaii, we saw beautiful mahi-mahi fish."

Dr. Turner admits that it was a challenge getting adjusted to being out at sea, since there were two major storms in the North Pacific. The large waves made it difficult to sleep, leaving many faculty feeling nauseous. After taking medicine and caring for each other, everyone on board was able to get used to being out at sea.

"The amazing kitchen staff helped with getting adjusted," noted Dr. Turner. "There was a full kitchen and a crew to help make our stay more comfortable. We were given three meals a day, with delicious food options, and plenty of snacks and coffee at any time of day."

Dr. Turner said he had a great experience overall and plans to go on another expedition as a mentor during the summer months. His biggest hope is for Triton students to get involved in future STEMSEAS trips.

The expedition and the STEMSEAS Program is funded by the National Science Foundation through a grant to Columbia University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). STEMSEAS is also supported by a partnership with the University National Oceanographic Laboratory Systems (UNOLS).

## Triton College Refreshes Academic Success Center

Flexible, inclusive and accessible are all words that describe Triton College's newest study room for students, the Academic Success Center, located in Room A-100 (A Building), below the Triton College Library. The center is open Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Triton students are welcome to go to the Academic Success Center at their own convenience to work independently, meet with tutors or to collaborate with other students in a relaxing environment, according to Hilary Meyer, dean of Academic Success.

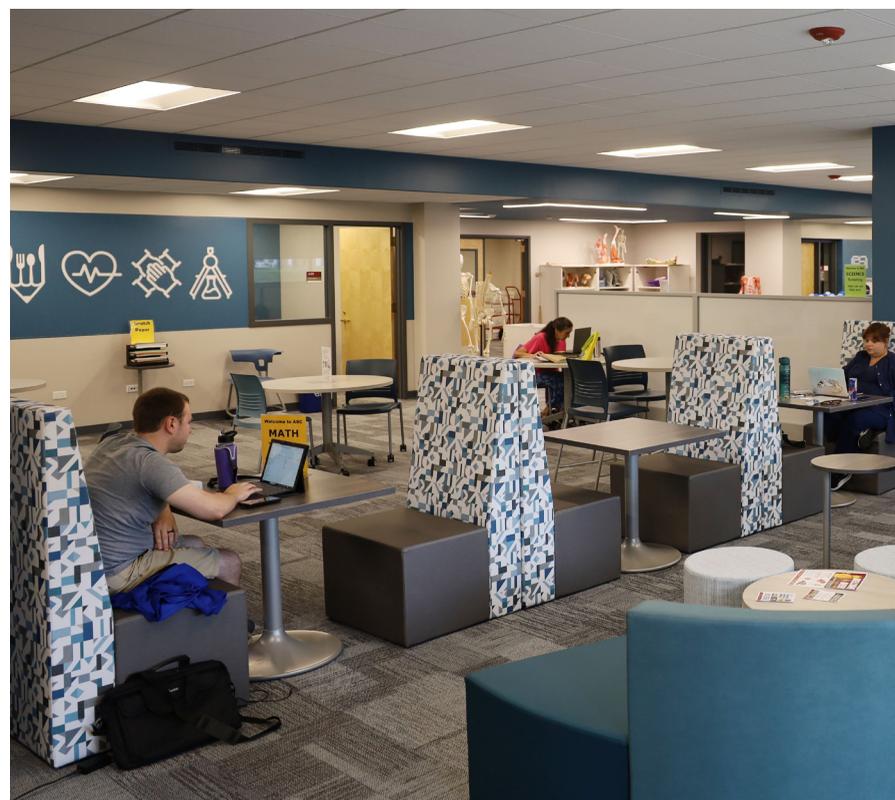
"The center includes an assortment of collaborative and individual work zones, a blend of open and cozier spaces, a mix of table heights from coffee tables to counters and various seating styles, including active chairs designed for movement," said Meyer.

Meyer noted that Triton's outstanding tutors, who are accessible by appointment, will be present to support students. She feels that the tutors are the most important feature of the center.

"Laptops are available for tutors and students to work on. We have also added white boards throughout the space," she said.

Triton is dedicated to assisting and providing resources for students with all different learning styles and to meet their needs. The college hopes to create additional inclusive study areas across campus in the future.

"I hope students see the Academic Success Center as a welcoming place of learning and discovery, and a space for them to work towards achieving their goals," said Meyer.



Academic Success Center

## Cosmetic Entrepreneur Kennedy Bolden is a Leader on Campus

Triton College student Kennedy Bolden of Westchester is a visionary and a leader, both on campus and in her life.

At Triton, she is a member of SURGE (Sisterhood of Undergraduate Representing Great Excellence), women's track and field, and she's an orientation leader (OL).

"I wanted to attend Triton College because it was convenient and close to home," she said.

Besides being extremely active on campus, Bolden is a cosmetic entrepreneur. Her company, Kenny B Cosmetics, sells lip glosses and lip scrubs, which she creates herself.

Growing up, Bolden always loved beauty. As a dancer, she enjoyed wearing flashy outfits and experimenting with different looks when it came to makeup. As she grew up, Bolden started mixing cosmetic products to create her own lip balm and sold it to members of her church, family and friends.

"My friends and family advised me to start my own cosmetic company," she explained. "I launched Kenny B Cosmetics during the pandemic."

Bolden purchases the materials needed from wholesalers and Amazon to create the lip glosses and lip scrubs, using all natural ingredients. All her products have a variety of scents and shades which are reasonably priced.

For the future, Bolden hopes to expand Kenny B Cosmetics by integrating lipsticks into her company.

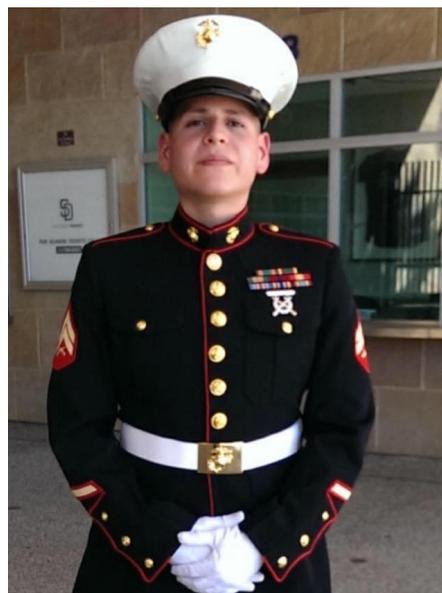
"Since I am so busy, I have to balance my time between school, extra activities, my makeup company and my job," she said. "It can be challenging, but I enjoy it."

Bolden has been accepted to Northern Illinois University (NIU), where she will be attending this spring. Since she has a 3.4 GPA, Bolden received an invitation to the honor society. At Northern, she will continue studying business administration to build her cosmetic company.



Kennedy Bolden is the founder of Kenny B Cosmetics.

## Alumnus Ivan Sanchez Feels Overwhelming "Gratitude" for Triton College



Ivan Sanchez

Ivan Sanchez feels grateful for all the opportunities he received from Triton College, both in his career and beyond.

"Triton gave me so many connections," he said. "The college helped me meet the right people and finish my degree. I received all the tools I needed to become successful."

Growing up in Logan Square, Sanchez was influenced by his uncle, who was a paratrooper in the Mexican military. He said he enjoyed listening to his uncle's stories and felt inspired to also serve in the military.

Following in his uncle's footsteps, Sanchez joined the Marines after graduating from Kelvyn Park High School in 2009. During his five years with the Marines, he served as a helicopter mechanic. He fondly remembers traveling to Hawaii, Guam, Hong Kong, Jordan, Oman, Thailand and all over the United States during his years of service.

"Once I was honorably discharged, I knew I wanted to move back to the Chicago suburbs," he explained. "My sister was attending Triton College for nursing, so I decided to visit a Triton open house. That's when I met Antigone Sharris (chairperson of Engineering Technology at Triton College). She believed that I could become an engineer."

Sanchez started taking Mechatronics classes at Triton in 2014. While attending Triton, he went to a job fair and met with GF Machining Solutions, LLC, a Swiss conglomerate based in Chicago. He started working for the company full time in 2016.

When Sanchez completed Triton, he transferred to Southern Illinois University (SIU), where students can earn their bachelor's degrees on the weekends via a satellite campus. For Sanchez, this was a perfect arrangement for him since he was a new parent and worked full time. He was able to complete his bachelor's degree in 2019. The combination of education and experience made it possible for Sanchez to be promoted to team lead and then to project management.

Today, Sanchez's responsibilities at GF Machining Solutions, LCC include scheduling, assisting with technician problems and working with computer numerical controls (CNC) machines.

"I still have time to figure out if I want to pursue a master's degree," he said. "For now, I hope to grow within this company."

Sanchez credits the great counseling from Sharris for helping him excel in the field of technology and to Triton College for presenting him with so many opportunities. He's also thankful for the Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) and Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) for assisting him with his tuition.

Outside of work, Sanchez is a jiu jitsu instructor. He also likes to spend time with his 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter.

"Antigone and I still keep in touch to this day," he said. "Antigone, as well as Triton College, helped me get to where I am."



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