METORS BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

High above the Hudson River at the Met Cloisters, America’s only museum dedicated exclusively to the art and architecture of the Middle Ages, Bella Gurevich ‘17 explored the role of music in medieval art alongside senior curators. Finding inspiration among its gothic halls, gallery of tapestries, courtyards and more than 2,000 works of art, Gurevich conducted tours and workshops while researching her capstone gallery talk, Music and its Contexts in the Middle Ages.

Mentor Sandy Perlbinder, left, and Bella Gurevich ‘17 meet at the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, New York.
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STUDENTS

Top left: Jessica Flores ’17 interacted with leading physicists and engineers at CERN.

Top right: Tiguiran Kane ’16 is aiming to earn a doctorate in orthopedics.

Bottom, left to right: Kathryn Eckart ’18, Diana Hagedorn ’17, Michelle Barberia ’17, Alexandra Zigomalas ’18, Bella Guernich ’17, Janik Patel ’17, Ulyss Wiseman ’17, Evelyn Rando ’17 and Danielle Ollieran ’17

Met pictured: Jean Adomfeh ’17, Andrea Baatz ’17 and Jessica Flores ’17

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FEATURE

MENTORS BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

Across the globe in Switzerland, physics major Josiea Flores ’17 interacted with leading physicists and engineers at CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider, the world’s most powerful particle accelerator. She spent her days analyzing data from the TimePix detector, the results of which may ultimately shed light on theories that explain how the universe came to be.

Both Stony Brook students can credit these one-on-one internship experiences in part to the Stony Brook University Women’s Leadership Council. Founded in 2013, the Council pairs highly accomplished female mentors — some alumni, some friends of the University — with Stony Brook’s star female students to provide them with access to opportunities and break down barriers to their success.

Flores is flourishing from the one-on-one guidance she’s received from her mentor, Marilyn H. Simon, PhD ’74, ’94, president of the Simons Foundation. “Marilyn shares her wisdom and experience with me,” said Flores, a first-generation college student. “She also understands the challenges I face as someone who is academically driven and ambitious, but who lacks the life experience that might help me compete for internships, academic experiences and other career opportunities.”

It was Simon, said Flores, who encouraged her to apply for the highly selective 2016 CERN Research Experience for Undergraduate program offered through the University of Michigan. “Marilyn pushed me not to be intimidated, to express myself and to let people know I’m there,” Flores said.

“It’s a privilege to develop mentoring relationships with the young women in our Council. I’ve been impressed with their talent, their perseverance and their pride for the future,” Simon said. “Working with Josiea to navigate applications and deadlines, and balance academic, social and family responsibilities has reinforced for me how critical the Women’s Leadership Council is to the students’ success.”

An English major, Gurevich was wrestling in making many decisions throughout her academic career. “Sandy taught me that life is a long journey, I am and have the tenacity and conviction to fulfill my ambitions,” said Gurevich.

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