

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### 3rd Annual Student Research Day

For the third consecutive year York College students, supported by their faculty mentors, wowed the York College community with their scholarship as undergraduate researchers.

On April 19, York held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Research Day with presentations across the disciplines from Accounting to English, Geology, Theater Arts and Business, Biology and Technology and beyond. The event also featured a student/faculty panel during the luncheon, which included Aviation



**Internationally acclaimed writer Hari Kunzru during his luncheon keynote address**

majors Shivanand Sooknanan and Edgar Sierra, whose research examines the impacts of fuel price on stock returns of airlines in the United States.

The students were joined by their faculty mentor, Dr. Chun-Pin

Hsu, while Social Work major Tiffany Cudjoe was accompanied by her mentor, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers. Shirley Jackson, a Geology major with Dr. Nazrul Khandaker represented by Dr. Stan Schleifer; and the York College cast of the production of *Rent* (see also p.13) was joined by Professor Timothy Amrhein of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts.

The keynote speaker, award-winning novelist and technology writer, Hari Kunzru, a Business and Economics expert,

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### Special points of interest:

- **Largest Alumni Gift to date**
- **Faculty Showcase publication launched**
- **Aviation Institute Founders Day**

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### York Students go to Washington

On Tuesday, March 27, 2012, five York College students accompanied their professor, interim coordinator Mark Schuller, in a visit to Washington, DC in advance of the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. The students were Sabine Bernard (African-American Stud-



**L-r.: Stephanie Semé, Sabine Bernard, Tracey Ulcena, Adlin Noël at Congressional Black Caucus Briefing. Also pictured are Etant Dupain, Bri Kouri Nouvèl**

ies and Anthropology), Sandy Nelzy (Nursing), Adlin Noël (Physicians' Assistant), Stephanie Semé (Psychology), and Tracey Ulcena (African American Studies and Psychology). At the invitation of Rep. Yvette Clarke (Brooklyn), whom they met in the

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## Provost Lecture Series

**“Can we come in?”: Foreign Workers and the Israeli-Jewishness dilemma**

Prof. Robin Harper

Israel was created as a homeland for the Jews. In this “ethnic democracy,” in which the external borders remain contentious, all Jews are privileged members with full access to citizenship rights. Officially there is no such thing as immigration in Israel: all migrant workers are supposed to return home, after a maximum of five years work contract.

In recent years, there has been an influx of migrant workers, which now give a new face to Israel: 5% of the population is

neither Jewish, nor of Arab descent. The problem is, as the adage says: “There is nothing more permanent than a temporary worker.” The key concern with the migrant workers, and their families, is to keep a Jewish majority. And that leads to an identity crisis. The Israeli citizenship is based on the laws of blood, return to the homeland of the Jews, and the law of permanent residency for the Israeli Arabs. The question of citizenship is moving from “who’s a Jew?” which was decided by religious authorities, to

“who’s an Israeli”, which should be decided by the State.

Through her eloquent presentation, Dr. Robin Harper (Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) took us on a fascinating journey, as did the foreign workers she interviewed in Israel. She presented the result of a larger project, on which she worked for the last two years, in collaboration with Dr. Hani Zubida from the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliya, Israel. Both

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Fall, the students led a panel for the Congressional Black Caucus that discussed Haiti’s Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, the subject of the research they conducted with Prof. Schuller in the summer of 2011. Prof. Schuller and Trans-Africa Forum and Center for Economic and Policy Research distilled policy solutions.

Following this briefing, the students met at the U.S. State Department, meeting with the two Deputy Haiti Coordinators, again discussing

their research findings and potential solutions that the U.S. government can take to ensure greater aid accountability and respect for IDP rights.

The next day, March 28, the students presented their research at a panel of the Society for Applied Anthropology, for which Schuller chairs the Human Rights and Social Justice Committee. Anthropology and Psychology student Vijaya Sarju also presented at the conference on her research on Domestic Violence in the Caribbean community

in Queens.

Funded by a National Science Foundation grant and supported by the CUNY Haiti Initiative, the students were paired with a student from the State University of Haiti (where Schuller has taught since 2003) and visited one IDP camp every day for five weeks. Students conducted direct observation, 100 household interviews (for a total of 791) with a 56-question survey, and 10 semi-structured audio-taped interviews.

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Representative Yvette Clarke

## York College Student Selected for Prestigious Internship



Robert W. Fernandez' York College journey is turning into quite an exciting trip. This summer the Biotech major will spend several weeks doing research at Princeton University.

"I will be part of a research group headed by a faculty member in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Molecular and Quantitative & Computational Biology," says Fernandez. "I will receive intensive laboratory research experience, will collaborate with other graduate/post-doctoral fellows, will be part of research discussion groups, attend career forums, and present my research in a poster session."

His research abstract has also been accepted for a poster presentation and PowerPoint discussion at Columbia University's Undergraduate Science Journal Symposium, this spring. The annual event "aims to establish a forum for the display of outstanding undergraduate research to be viewed by faculty and students of pre-eminent Northeastern region research institutions," according to the university.

Fernandez' abstract, "Loss of Function and Overexpression of VMAT Suggest that the Levels of Dopamine Signaling Correlate with the Capacity to Avoid Social Stress Signals in *Drosophila Melanogaster*," was originally submitted to the Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal and inspired the invitation to present at the Ivy League institution.

He also presented his research at York's Undergraduate Research Day on April 19th.

Although everything seems to be coming up roses for Fernandez this spring, it wasn't always that way. He has had to deal with thorny issues in his life and fight for every success he has achieved.

Born in Lima, Peru, Fernandez, his younger brother and their parents, came to the United States in 1994 when he was four years old. The family settled in Elizabeth, New Jersey. It wasn't until he was a high school senior preparing for college that Fernandez realized that his immigration status was "undocumented." Rutgers and other senior colleges in New Jersey rejected the honor student on that basis.

He turned to the community colleges and graduated with honors from Union Community College in Cranford, New Jersey with an associate's degree in Business. He then spent a year at Queens College but transferred to York the following year in 2010.

"I took a biology class at Union County College and it changed my mindset towards Biology," Fernandez recently recalled. "When I first arrived at York College I doubted if this was the right choice for me, but Dr. Louis Levinger advised me; and I left convinced that this college was very student-oriented and the science professors here were very open."

Fernandez has been guided in the lab by Dr. Anne Simon whose research "aims at understanding the molecular mechanisms relevant to complex behavior in adult organisms."

"It focuses on *Drosophila melanogaster* as an animal model," says Dr. Simon. "I apply the tools of genetics to study behaviors ranging from learning and memory to social interaction."

Simon has enjoyed guiding the young scholar.



Robert W. Fernandez

**"When I first arrived at York, I doubted if this was the right choice for me, but after receiving advice I left convinced that this college was very student-oriented and the science professors here were very open."**

## Social Work Professor Receives Another Award



Honorable Helen M. Marshall (Queens Borough President), Executive Director Joan Serrano Laufer (Queensboro Council for Social Welfare), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College of The City University of New York), New York State Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse), and President Thomas L. Tedeschi (Queensboro Council for Social Welfare)

On March 30, 2012, Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, Inc. (QCSW), the Honorable Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, United Way of New York City, and the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers co-hosted their 21st Annual Reception Honoring Queens' Social Workers. The reception was held at Queens Borough Hall.

As part of the ceremony, Borough President Helen M. Marshall presented four special awards: Eighth Annual Nita Henick Award, Eleventh Annual Fred Kuo, Jr. Memorial Award, Seventeenth Annual Evelyn Pliego Memorial Social Work Student Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, employed with York College of The City University of New York as an Assistant Professor of Social Work was selected to receive the Eleventh Annual Fred Kuo, Jr. Memorial Award, which is presented each year at the QCSW reception to a Queens' social worker who fosters respect and understanding in human diversity. Fred Kuo, Jr. of Great Neck, NY, was a 53-year old Engineer who perished in the World Trade Center, Tower 2, 91st Floor on 9/11/2001. "I never had the privilege to meet Mr. Kuo, Jr., but I am devoted to commemorating his legacy of respect and understanding in all humankind," said Rodgers.

To have Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall present her

Declaration of Honor in recognition of Rodgers' years of dedicated service to the borough of Queens, the social work profession, and research on posttraumatic growth in diverse populations is a highlight of Professor Rodgers' career. Unforgettable was Borough President Marshall's designation of Friday, March 30th, 2012 as "Dr. Selena T. Rodgers Day." "It is rare to be bestowed with such a tribute and I am extremely humbled to be acknowledged with distinguished honorees" stated Rodgers.

The ceremony closed with Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez' (also a social worker) presenting 12 Queens social workers with Outstanding Service Certificates.



## York Faculty Update



- **Duncan R.O.**, Sample, P.A., Bowd, C., Weinreb, R.N., & Zangwill, L.M. (2012). "Arterial spin labeling fMRI measurements of decreased blood flow in primary visual cortex correlates with decreased visual function in human glaucoma," in: *Journal of Vis Res.* 60C:51-60.



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discussed “transgressive coupling” of his “bi-racial” identity brought about by the marriage of his parents in 1960s London, England. The topic of his discussion, “Whoever brought me here, will have to take me home,” was poignant, witty and well-received.

Research posters dominated the Health and Physical Education complex, with the burgeoning researchers ready and willing to discuss their “discoveries.”

Kimberly Feis, a senior majoring in Community Health Education, based her research on “Prostate Cancer Awareness for African American Men (PCA-AAM): the Systematic Design of a Theory-Based Prostate Prevention Program.” Her goal is to encourage African American men in Central Harlem to get screenings for prostate cancer and to take control of their health. She notes that more people know about the cancer, the greater the chance to treat it in the early stages and to decrease the number of African Americans with prostate cancer.

Erica Guadalupe, a Gerontology major, presented “Social Factors and the Perception of Age-friendly Features in

Jamaica, Queens.”

“One of the things I wanted to do as a health management worker in the future is look at how prepared cities are for the aging population and what it means,” said Guadalupe. “I wanted to know if Jamaica is what the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) considers ‘age-friendly.’ Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg also wants to make New York City the first age-friendly city.”

According to W.H.O., one million people worldwide turn 60 each month; and the United Nations has predicted that the number of older people 60 and above will swell from the current 600 million to 1.2 billion by 2025, and that current community designs and services are not supportive of those future needs.

Ezazul Haque, an Environmental Health major, also wowed Research Day with his presentation on using the nutrition from New York City’s waste water for processing as bio fuel. With the support of his faculty mentor, Dr. Ratan Dhar, Haque visited the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to propose York’s involvement in the process as the water was being

sent all the way to the University of Tennessee.

“I asked them, ‘Why are you sending it all the way to the University of Tennessee when we’re right here?’” Dhar said of his conversation with DEP. “So we’ve brought it to York, squeeze out the water and dry it. We found lots of toxic metal in it. After this we’ll send it back to DEP.”

Haque’s research has also impressed people beyond York’s campus. This summer he will be doing research at the Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP) at Columbia University through Dr. Joseph Korevec.

“I met him at Sponsors for Educational Opportunities (SEO) Winter Reunion Event at NYU in January of this year,” Haque explained. “I have been a part of SEO since 2005, where I participated in numerous events and competitions. At the retreat, I had a conversation with Dr. Korevec about my research with Dr. Ratan Dhar. He was very interested and encouraged me to apply to SPHSP.”

“I’m happy to say I am one of the 50,” says Haque who started his higher education as a computer engineering

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A panorama view of the Research Day poster and luncheon space during the luncheon session



The numerous posters offered opportunity for dynamic exchanges between students and guests

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major at The City College/CUNY. SPHSP is a 10-week program in the Columbia University Medical Center, Mailman School of Public Health.

The English Department was also well-represented by Stephanie Alvarado, Waczma Wali and Saba Safaraz and their mentor, Dr. Charles Coleman, who has a specialization in applied linguistics. The team presented on the acquisition of language.

"You don't think about how powerful language is," says Alvarado. "But only humans can speak. Every human being is born with the instinct to speak but it needs to be triggered."

To underscore the assertion, the team studied the story of "Genie," the California girl found in 1970 at the age of 13 who had no physiological deficit to interfere with speech. However, her mother kept her isolated without verbal communication. Genie could not speak when she was found and, according to the York researchers, the lost opportunity for speech development was irreversible. 42 years later she still does not have verbal skills.



Students and faculty presenting at the music panel during the Research Day



Prof. Rishi Nath, Director of the Undergraduate Research Office, thanked faculty and students for their participation

Other presentations included "Henna for the Effects of Simplification on Learning Henna Application," presented by Occupational Therapy students Huma Abbasi and Asha Roy under the mentorship of Dr. Lillian Kaplan.

Dalau Charles, a Business student, presented a paper "Economic Growth in Haiti: A Trend Analysis," which used descriptive analysis to analyze the Caribbean nation's economic condition between the years 1970 and 2010.

Under the guidance of his mentor, Professor Olajide Oladipo, Charles' study discovered that economic growth in Haiti has been "marred by political instability, economic mismanagement and exogenous shocks." It also concludes that even when there has been growth it has not been sustainable.

"Inadequate regulatory and legal frameworks hamper private sector development," says Charles.

President Marcia V. Keizs was pleased with the robust research output of York's undergraduates and commended Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith for making

student research an essential part of the college's life.

"I consider the Provost an inveterate researcher," said President Keizs. "He has honed his skills and become a very good administrator; but he is his own active researcher, so congratulations to you because it was you who, three years ago, established undergraduate research (on a large scale) at York."

This year the Provost also added another element to Research Day. Three types of prizes were given out to faculty members who mentored the largest number of students presenting at the event: the Dean's Award, the Provost's Award and the President's Award for Enhancing Undergraduate Research Mentoring. An Undergraduate Research Support Fund has also been launched and off-campus participants have been recruited.

A group of students from Queensborough Community College also participated by presenting research alongside the York students. They belonged to a group of former students of Dr. Nidhi Gadura, a York alumna who is now a

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## Kranacher Wins Hubbard Award

Spring has awakened with a special honor for York Accounting professor, Mary-Jo Kranacher. She has been recognized by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) for “contributions as an anti-fraud professional.” Kranacher will receive with the prestigious ACFE Outstanding Achievement Award.

“I am writing today to congratulate you on being selected this year’s **Hubbard Award winner**,” says Jeff Kubiszyn, CFE Chapter Development Manager Association of Certified Fraud Examiners based in Austin Texas. “Your article, ‘Beyond the Fraud Triangle: Enhancing Deterrence of Economic Crimes’ in the September/October 2011 issue of *Fraud Magazine* was selected by the magazine’s Editorial Advisory Committee.”



Mary-Jo Kranacher

The Hubbard Award is named in honor of Dr. Thomas Hubbard, a former regent and professor of accountancy at the University of Nebraska. The award is given to the author of an article published in *Fraud Magazine* during the previous year.

Kranacher is chair of the Accounting and Finance department at York (School of Business & Information Systems). An expert in fraud examination, she is also the co-author of the recent book, *Fraud Examination and Financial Forensics*; and is contributing author of *Principles of Fraud Examination*, Second Edition. She was responsible for shepherding \$500,000 from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) to provide an endowment for anti-fraud education at York. The gift, established the ACFE Endowed Professor of Fraud Examination; she now holds that chair.

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professor at Queensborough.

“I was thrilled to participate on the Research Day at York,” said Dr. Gadura. “It was wonderful to come back to my alma mater and see all the progress that students are making. I was particularly surprised to see some of my former QCC students who have transferred to York College and are engaged in research activities there. It was special to see my former Biotechnology students Ahmad Esa and Jean-Robert Saville who were presenting their research posters from Deb Chakravarti and Ruel Desamero’s labs. Both of these students were in my honors Biotechnology course

where they got a chance to participate in research-based projects and make presentations.”

The Provost once more invoked author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston. “Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose,” he quoted, adding that this third Research Day presentation “is intended to showcase and celebrate the poking and prying with a purpose that some of our students have been engaged in, guided by their faculty mentors.”

Professor Rishi Nath, director of Undergraduate Research at York expressed gratitude for the student participants and faculty mentors. He

is also gratified that by this third year it has outgrown its original display space in the Academic Core Building and moved into the Health and Physical Education Complex.

“The number of researchers in the York student body is growing every year,” said Nath. “This year’s poster and panel presentations speak to that growth. We are all helping to enlarge the culture of inquiry at York. Student Research Day is when it crystallizes.”

Steven McCartney, a Physical Education major, also presented on the “Association of weight, physical activity and food choices among high school and college stu-

dent at York College/CUNY,” under the mentorship of Dr. Donna Chirico, a Psychology professor.

McCartney received funding of \$1,400 from St. John’s Episcopal Hospital to help fund his research. Three executives from the hospital were present: Nelson E. Toebbe, CEO Eric Matla, vice president for Development and also on hand with them was Penny Chin, the hospital’s director of Public Relations. The donation is to help with McCartney’s synchronized walking program for individuals 18 to 30 years old in collaboration with the hospital.

## Each One, Teach One Blueprint



**Dr. Selena T. Rodgers** (Assistant Professor of Social Work at York College/CUNY) and **Tiffany Cudjoe** (l.)

On April 19th, 2012, Tiffany Cudjoe, student research assistant to Dr. Selena Rodgers presented a segment of their research project, titled “The Duty of Self-Care: Vicarious Trauma and Coping Strategies in Social Workers” at York College’s 3rd Annual Student Research Day.

Invited by Office of Undergraduate Research Director, Dr. Rishi Nath, Ms. Cudjoe and her Research Advisor, Dr. Rodgers also participated in the lunch session panel discussion.

Ms. Cudjoe summarized her presentation experience as a thrilling opportunity to talk about her rigorous research journey alongside her mentor. “Undoubtedly, York’s Student Undergraduate Research Day was highly interactive. In addition to showcasing important research findings, I was able to engage in positive dialogue with many students and faculty from various departments”

highlighted Ms. Cudjoe.

In April 2012, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers and Ms. Cudjoe co-presented at The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) 44th Annual Conference. The annual forum was hosted in Atlanta, GA. Aligned with the conference’s theme “A New Era of Social Justice and Civil Rights,” their presentation, “Rise Up Social Workers: From Vicarious Trauma to Posttraumatic Growth” focused on the preliminary findings based on a year-long, PSC-CUNY 42 funded national study involving social work field education supervisors.

Ms. Cudjoe is especially grateful to The Percy E. Sutton SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) staff and Office of the Provost Undergraduate Research Fund for the financial support she received to travel to her first national conference.

Professor Rodgers and Ms. Cudjoe are currently

completing a manuscript titled, “Each One, Teach One: A Blueprint for Postsecondary Student Scholars’ Search of Education, Elevation and Knowledge.” The article aims to discuss a student “Each One, Teach One” initiative created by Dr. Rodgers almost 10 years ago, the critical role of undergraduate research in students’ professional development, and core tips for a successful faculty/student mentoring relationship.

Cudjoe’s excitement for research has taken off. She is already looking forward to collaborating with her mentor on a grant-funded research project about perceptions of historical trauma among African-American women. Additionally, Ms. Cudjoe is involved with an independent photo research project examining hip hop and its socio-cultural effects in African-American and Afro-Caribbean young adults.



**Dr. Rodgers (l.) and Ms. Cudjoe** addressing attendees at NABSW conference in Atlanta, GA.

**“To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say.”**

*George Santanyana*



## Jazz Dynamo Patti Austin Sings to Benefit York College Students

The York College Merit Scholars will benefit from funds raised at the 5th Annual Foundation Board Concert held at the College's Performing Arts Center on April 30. Jazz vocalist extraordinaire Patti Austin and her Trio brought the house down with their powerful performance in tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.

Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York College and George P. Aridas, Foundation Board chair, praised the honorees for their years of excellence in their respective fields.

Lisa Ellis, founding operational partner of Fireman Capital Partners, was unable to attend but appeared via video to congratulate fellow-honorees and the College for its foresight in providing merit-based



Patti Austin

scholarships for qualifying students.

Charles Murphy, vice president of Turner Construction, which built the Northeast Regional Laboratory/New York District Office of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on York's campus, was lauded for his work; and City Councilman Leroy Comrie whose 27th Council District in Queens includes York College, was also honored for his years of service to the city, borough and community.

Austin sang her signature, "Salute to Ella Fitzgerald," based on her 2007 album, "Avant Gershwin: The George and Ira Gershwin Songbook." The Merit Scholarship program was launched by the York College Foundation Board under the leadership of President Keizs. It serves as a recruitment vehicle to attract academically qualified students; and as an incentive that awards sophomores, juniors and seniors who have maintained a 3.25 minimum grade point average since their freshman year.

Emcee duties were handled by Brenda Blackmon, co-anchor of My 9 News for WWOR-TV; and Sheila Anderson, host of WBGO Weekend Jazz After Hours.



**Dignitaries and honorees (l.-r.):** George Aridas, Marcia V. Keizs, Leroy Comrie, Charles Murphy, Jeff Spiritos

**"The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself."**

**Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton**



The 24th annual York College Alumni Inc. Scholarship and Awards Fundraising Dinner Gala was held on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Antun's of Queens Village. Professor Robert Clovey, Class of 1999, was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Robert D. Parmet received the Distinguished Faculty Award.

In the picture, Prof. Clovey (l.) and Dr. Parmet (r.) are posing with their awards; they are joined by York College President, Dr. Marcia Keizs.

## York's Health & Phys. Ed Department Holds First Eta Sigma Gamma Initiation Ceremony



**Dr. David Ajuluchukwu (l.) and Dr. Irene O'Boyle during the founding ceremony of Epsilon Lambda chapter of the Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society**

The York College Health and Physical Education department held its first-ever Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society Initiation ceremony on Thursday, April 26.

Eta Sigma Gamma, the national health education honorary, inducted 30 members into the York College chapter, which will be known as Epsilon Lambda, in the Faculty Dining Room during a two-hour ceremony Thursday.

Dr. Irene O'Boyle from Central Michigan University, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, who is the Director of Chapter Development of Eta Sigma Gamma made the trip to York College to formally initiate York

into the honorary.

"It's a special honor for York College to be accepted into this distinguished chapter," said Dr. David Ajuluchukwu, Chairperson of the Health and Physical Education Department. "Being a member will allow our students to interact with other members of chapters across the nation. I believe this will encourage students to join our program and also give York College national exposure."

The goals of the honorary include: supporting the planning, implementation and evaluation of health education programs and resources; stimulating and disseminating scientific research; motivating and

providing health education services; recognizing academic achievement; supporting health education advocacy initiatives; promoting professional standards and ethics; and promoting networking activities among health educators and related professionals.

In order to become a member of this prestigious group, a school must uphold the goals of the honorary by participating in events related to education, research and service. In addition, each member must maintain a GPA of 2.7 or higher, attend Chapter meetings and participate in at least one Chapter Committee.

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researchers were interested in examining the social borders in an ethnic state. Indeed, in today's global economy, there is a tremendous demographic flux. Temporary workers come, and generally stay. This can lead in social unrest, especially in ethnic states (as opposed to immigration states). As a young (60 years-old)

ethnic state, Israel poses a unique case-study.

As witnessed by Dr. Harper, it is a very overwhelming experience to see the unrest in Israel. She saw demonstrations, during which young five year old children of migrant workers were shouting "Let us stay", alongside holocaust survivors in walkers and wheel chairs; while op-

posing groups were yelling to let them go.

The reception in Israel of migrant workers is mixed, with good labor rights, but few social rights. The main themes revealed by these interviews covered the notions of feeling invisible as a human beings and the arbitrariness of the government, the police, and of the deportation

rules. But, interestingly, religion was also a strong theme, as it was a very strong motivation for the migrants to come to the country where Jesus lived. The interviewees were disenchanted to find that the people in Israel were not very biblical. Very strikingly, the children also have accepted many

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## York Scholarship in Demand as Provost Fields Requests

York College's scholarship continues to be "on the move" as its faculty and administrators field continual requests for speeches, research collaborations, presentations, and speeches.

This month Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs has been invited to participate in three high level international forums: two in Washington, DC and one in the Caribbean.

In early May he spoke at the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, where he addressed the topic, "Geopolitics of the Contemporary Caribbean: Content, Consequences, Countermeasures."

Two weeks later (May 21) he will be a panelist, along with other scholars from universities across the United States and Canada, at the Institute of National Strategic Studies of the National Defense University in Washington where he will once again assess Caribbean regional secu-

rity. His talk will be titled "Regional Security Engagement in the Caribbean: Problems and Prospects."

In June he will be moderating a discussion in Barbados on hemispheric security by national security ministers, army and police chiefs and diplomats from the Caribbean, United States, Great Britain and Canada, among others. The thrust of that conference is "to present a summary of the Drug Consumption in the Hemisphere, with a view toward the future." It will also examine the role the Caribbean has played in the illegal drug trade and numerous important questions such as the role played by non-government organizations (NGOs).

"Issues of drugs, crime and security -- both national defense and public security--resonate with all nations and societies across the Americas," says Dr. Griffith. "Of course, the scope and severity of the clear and present dangers they present vary among nations. Moreover, Caribbean states, being small and resource-constrained, are among

the states most seriously affected."

Griffith also sees the necessity for York to be a contributor to the scholarly discourse in all areas where it has expertise.

"The positive engagement by faculty and administrators in the scholarly and public spheres clearly indicates that York offers value-added not just in the instructional arena but also in the scholarly and policy arenas," he noted. "These arenas matter in the context of the overall mission of the college."

Dr. Griffith, an expert in Caribbean and Inter-American Security, Caribbean drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism in the Caribbean and the Americas, has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, and several books, including *Strategy and Security in the Caribbean* (1991), *Drugs and Security in the Caribbean* (1997), and *Caribbean Security in the Age of Terror* (2004).



Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith



Sandy Nelzy presenting at  
Coppin State University

**The students  
so impressed  
Rep. Yvette  
Clarke the  
first time  
they met that  
she hired  
alumna Sa-  
bine Bernard  
as an intern.**

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The study yielded some very timely results. For example, despite the discourse about not being “real victims,” only there for the free services, 92% of people preferred to leave the camps, and only 3.5% came since the earthquake. Also, on average, families lost .8 people in the earthquake, which would suggest that higher estimates of Haiti’s official death toll are plausible. One of the longest-lasting impacts of the aid delivery is the fissuring of Haiti’s households: average size went from 5.37 to 3.36. This was likely because of policies from aid agencies to distribute aid

(food, hygiene kits, tents, etc.) to heads of households. So following this reward structure, many families decided to split up to maximize their access to life-saving resources. But this has a downside: Haiti’s extended family ties are the first and last resort for solidarity, which explains how Haiti’s people can survive in very difficult times. Whether this rupture in solidarity ties is repairable in future disasters remains uncertain.

This kind of on-the-ground research, and the students’ own lived experience and poise, is being sought out. The students will publish

their findings, on Huffington Post and by submitting to the journal *Practicing Anthropology*, published by the Society for Applied Anthropology.

The students so impressed Rep. Clarke the first time they met that she hired alumna Sabine Bernard as an intern. Bernard is organizing a presentation for the Haitian community in Brooklyn, where Rep. Clarke will unveil policy solutions drafted with Schuller and his colleagues at TransAfrica Forum and Center for Economic and Policy Research.

## Remembering the War of 1812



This year commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Dr. Laura Fishman (Dept. of History and Philosophy) and Dr. Robin Harper (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences) presented a special lecture on April 23. An audience of one hundred students, faculty, King Manor Museum staff, and community residents attended a lecture “From Battleground to Empire State: New York and the Leg-

acy of the War of 1812.”

Mr. Ronzoni, a history scholar and active member of the Greater Astoria Historical Society, explained that this “forgotten war” actually did much to promote the creation of confidence, pride and patriotism in the relatively new United States.

The thirty year period of peace that followed the war allowed the nation to develop both economically and politically. Especially signifi-

cant for New York State was the building of the Erie Canal and the work of Governor DeWitt Clinton. Indeed, a lively question and answer session followed the presentation as students, faculty and guests further explored the issues raised by Mr. Ronzoni.

This collaborative effort between King Manor and York College generated a productive and enriching experience for everyone involved.



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aspect of Israeliness, even without being Jewish.

Dr. Harper discussed a spectrum of opportunities that could be created for permanence of the migrant workers and their families, including serving in the military, as all Israeli citizens are required to do. Currently, these children are at risk of being deported. But the changes, although, necessary are challenging. One would need to move from religious authority to the government to decide citizenship. Other ethnic states have found ways to accommodate migrant workers, but it would

involve redefining at the core what it means to be Israeli.

Dr. Harper pointed out one interesting issue, which is that other countries have had a history of importing labor, and that there was no example of labor returning home in a systematic manner. In addition, it is surprising to ask foreign workers to come, when Palestinian could perform the labor. And although Dr. Harper was very careful to say that her results were specific of her specific study in Israel and not to draw comparisons too fast, similar issues are present in many other states.

Many lessons could be drawn from policies that could be used in Israel to solve its current migrant issue.

Discovering the tools used by Dr. Harper in her research field, understanding the topical subject that obviously fascinated her and captivated the audience was a great experience. Dr. Harper's engaging presentation allowed for an interesting reflection about what it means to be citizens, and foreign workers. Because of our own various citizenships and migrant status, many of us in the audience could relate to these notions.



Foreign workers in Israel protesting

## York College Brings Jonathan Larson's RENT to life!

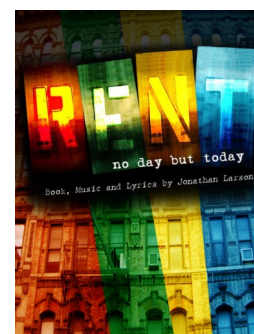
To conclude the 2011-2012 Season, in what is the first-ever collaborative effort among the Theatre Discipline, Music Discipline and the York College Performing Arts Center (producer Matthew Katz), the York College Theatre presents the spell-binding, captivating, and energizing Broadway smash hit musical, RENT. This production moves to raving rock music while telling a tale of triumph and

finding love in today's tough world.

RENT is set in New York City's gritty East Village, and this revolutionary rock musical is an imaginative retelling of Puccini's 1896 classic opera, "La Bohème". This unforgettable and timeless story of a group of starving artists, who, despite poverty and illness, learn to fall in love and find their voices, brings a universal message of hope for everyone. The play touches

on such controversial themes as homelessness, AIDS, and drug addiction. Filled with compassion and understanding, Rent is about one fulfilling their hopes and dreams despite inexplicable odds.

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize, RENT with Book, Music and Lyrics by the late Jonathan Larson, has made a lasting mark on Broadway with songs



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## Angelo Gousse Pledges Largest-Ever Alumnus Gift



Dr. Angelo Gousse

**“Our students are every bit as bright and talented as those coming from Ivy League schools. This allows our students to go into standardized tests as prepared as their peers who come from less modest means.”**

Dr. Angelo Gousse, '86, a Miami-based urologist, surgeon and renowned researcher, has made a \$200,000 commitment to York College in honor of Professors Leslie Lewis, Jack Schlein and his other faculty mentors at York. This is the largest pledge ever received from a York alumnus.

Professor Lewis, now professor emeritus, notes that “there are very few minorities in the field of academic medicine. Angelo’s accomplishments are superb, and his generosity to York will have an enormous impact.”

Dr. Gousse’s gift follows commitments from Dr. Robert Champer, '81, a retinal surgeon in Eugene, Oregon, and Dr. Lorraine Patten, '79, a dentist in private practice in Dutchess County, New York. A total of \$400,000 has been pledged by alumni toward an endowment to support the natural sciences, toward an ultimate goal of \$1.5 million. The endowment will help recruit and retain outstanding faculty; fund faculty and student research and travel to academic conferences; provide scholarship support; and help meet spe-

cial needs, like paying for MCAT preparation for students who could not otherwise afford it.

“It is all about leveling the playing field,” says Jack Schlein, York’s longtime pre-med advisor, now retired but still teaching at York as an adjunct faculty member. “Our students are every bit as bright and talented as those coming from Ivy League schools. Offering MCAT preparation allows our students to go into standardized tests as prepared as their peers who come from less modest means.” Dr. Gousse, who was valedictorian of his class, is Clinical Professor of Surgery (Urology) at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. He was previously Tenured Full Professor of Urology and Director of the Residency Teaching Program at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Dr. Gousse received his medical training at Yale University School of Medicine, where he won a national medical fellowship and graduated with honors at the top of

his class 1990.

Born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where his father was also a physician, Dr. Gousse credits his York professors with inspiring him to pursue a career in medical research. “The outstanding Biology program, the mentorship of Drs. Leslie Lewis and Jack Schlein, directed my path and paved the way for all my academic accomplishments,” said Gousse. The MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) program was an important building block in my development as an investigator.”

In addition to his teaching and practicing responsibilities, Dr. Gousse has also published extensively in his area of expertise and is an editorial reviewer for the *Journal of Urology*, *British Journal of Urology*, *Neurology Urology and Urodynamics Journal* and *Urology Gold Journal*.

Dr. Gousse is also section editor for *Current Urology Reports Journal*. He has lectured worldwide his area of expertise. He is listed in the “Best Doctors in America” roster.

## Aviation Institute Hosts Founders Day Forum

by Ijeoma Martins

The CUNY Aviation Institute at York College recently held its first Founder's Day forum to celebrate the success of the Institute and its founders.

The event, held in the Faculty Dining Room, was filled with eager students from high schools and other notable guests. President Keizs brought warm greetings and expressed her delight that 39 students were graduating this year. A video presentation created by Edgar Sierra, a graduating senior who organized the event, was also shown.

Asked why he wanted to honor the founders, Sierra said it was necessary.

"Students needed to know the founders and know that these people

paved the way for this institute," said Sierra. "Without these people there wouldn't be an Edgar running around from office to office and interning at American Airlines. These new students need to know that without these people there would be no Aviation Management program."

As part of the event, President Keizs moderated a panel discussion featuring Icema Gibbs, director of Corporate Social Responsibility for JetBlue Airways; Cruz Russell, director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ); Philippa Lee Karteron, executive director of the Council for Airport Opportunity (CAO) and Dr.

Alfred Ntoko, Dean of the School of Business and Information Systems at York and a Finance professor.

The President's probing questions stimulated a conversation that provided a better grasp on the field of Aviation and its future.

Guests included not only York students, faculty and administrators, but also attendees from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Jet Blue, JFK IAT, Council for Airport Opportunities, Bombardier, Delta Airlines, United Airlines, Vaughn College, local high schools students, and political representatives.



Aviation students during the Founders Day event

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that rock and a story that really resonates, such Seasons of Love, Without You, Out Tonight, One Song Glory, I'll Cover You, and Santa Fe. This production is intended for MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY.

Under the direction of Professor Timothy J.

Amrhein, this production will feature the evocative set designs of David T. Jones, built by York College students under the direction of CLT Garth Belcon. It also features the many costumes of guest designer, Allison Crutchfield, the vivid lighting of guest

designer, Daniel Winter, and the beautiful orchestration of Musical Director, Professor Jonathan Quash. CLT, Jessica Morales, member of Actor's Equity Association, rounds off the list as production/stage manager and choreographer.



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## York Launches Faculty Magazine



Provost Griffith (2nd from r.) and faculty and staff unveiling the new publication



York College recently unveiled an attractive, glossy magazine dedicated to faculty scholarship. The launch took place in the Faculty Dining Room during the April 18 celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Provost Lecture Series.

Known simply as *Discovery*, the new publication celebrates faculty research and community engagement. This inaugural issue features faculty members from across the disciplines and highlight their accomplishments in the

labs, in the classrooms and in the field.

Featured in the issue are Professors Margarita Drago (Foreign Languages), Mary-Jo Krancher (Accounting), Timothy Paglione (Physics), Ruel Desamero (Chemistry), Louis L e v i n g e r (Biochemistry), Anne Simon (Biology), Linda Gerena (Teacher Education), Rishi Nath (Mathematics and Computer Science), Beth Rosenthal (Social Work), Fabiola Fernandez Salek (Foreign Languages), Nazrul Khan-

daker (Geology), Mark Schuller (Anthropology/African American Studies), Margaret MacNeil (Biology) Olajide Oladipo (Finance), Susan Letteney (Social Work), George White (History), Sonia Rivera-Valdes (Spanish Literature), Leslie Keiler (Teacher Education) and Robert Clovey (Accounting).

The issue is available in hardcopy but is also accessible online at: [www.york.cuny.edu/static-assets/york\\_discovery/york\\_discovery.html](http://www.york.cuny.edu/static-assets/york_discovery/york_discovery.html)

## Students Present at the 40th Annual Hunter Psychology Convention/22<sup>nd</sup> N.E.U.R.O.N.

On April 1, 2012, three York College students participated in the 40th Annual Hunter Psychology Convention/22<sup>nd</sup> N . E . U . R . O . N . (NorthEast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience) Conference. The three students presented their work at the conference this year under the mentorship of Drs. Beth Rosenthal and Rebecca Rivera-Maestre: Tamrah Biernat (Social Work), Marilyn Dolloway (Anthropology), and



Drs. Rosenthal (l.) and Rivera-Maestre (r.) with the students attending the conference

Amanda Williams (Sociology). York students from Dr. Rosenthal's research methods course were also in attendance at the Conference and provided support and encouragement to their fellow students.

The title of the pres-

entation was "The Relationship between Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Psychological Distress: Gender Differences." Students found that, while there were no statistically significant differences in the relationship between discrimination and psychological distress in terms of gender (i.e., males and females did not differ in the relationship between psychological distress and racial/ethnic discrimination), older adolescent females ex-

perienced higher levels of psychological distress; and older adolescent males experienced higher levels of racial/ethnic discrimination.

Students talked about the importance of reducing racial/ethnic discrimination because it can lead to psychological distress.

Students participating in the conference described the experience as, "stimulating", "gratifying", "intellectually challenging".



## Spring 2012 Occupational Therapy events

On March 8th, the Occupational Therapy department was honored to have Dr. Glen Gillen as a guest speaker to Occupational Therapy (OT) graduate students in their advanced neuroscience class.

Dr. Gillen is a full-time faculty member of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and is the associate director of their Clinical Occupational Therapy Program. A past recipient of multiple awards for clinical excellence in neurorehabilitation, Dr. Gillen was recently awarded the prestigious Eleanor Slagle Lectureship (given by the American Occupational Therapy Association for his contribution to the body of knowledge of the profession through his re-

search, education, and clinical practice).

He maintains a clinical caseload working in the areas of acute care and inpatient rehabilitation. Dr. Gillen is best known in the neurorehabilitation community for his contribution to the literature. His book, *Cognitive and Perceptual Rehabilitation: Optimizing Function* (<http://glengillen.com/books/cognitive-and-perceptual-rehabilitation-optimizing-function/>) (published by Elsevier), is the textbook for the OT course.

Dr. Gillen lectured on anosognosia, unilateral neglect and apraxia (conditions typically occurring with brain trauma or stroke) and subsequent OT assessment and treatment.

At the department's

annual research colloquium 6th annual Occupational Therapy Research Colloquium Dr. Anthony Lequerica, a clinical research scientist in the Traumatic Brain Injury Laboratory at Kessler Foundation Research Center and assistant professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School addressed an audience of clinicians and students, multiple years of York College OT alumni, clinical fieldwork supervisors, and faculty.

Dr. Lequerica gave a well received talk on his work investigating factors that facilitate or inhibit patient engagement in rehabilitation.



Dr. Gillen (2nd from left) with faculty during his visit at York



Dr. Lequerica during his lecture at York

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Taso Mikroulis leads the cast as Roger Davis, a songwriter who is HIV positive, with Kevin Gomez as Mark Cohen, an independent filmmaker and Roger's roommate and Sabrina Thomas as Mimi Márquez, an exotic dancer with HIV. The cast will also feature Solomon Peck as Tom Collins, a gay philosophy professor and anar-

chist with AIDS; Miya Bass as Maureen Johnson, a bisexual performance artist; Erick Carter as Benjamin 'Benny' Coffin III, the local landlord and a former roommate of Roger, Mark, Collins, and Maureen; Daniel Anthony Hidalgo as Angel Dumott Schunard, a gay drag queen percussionist with AIDS and Tatiana Lizcano as

Joanne Jefferson, a lawyer, who is Maureen's partner. Ensemble members include Marc Beard, Clarence Ilanan, Jarrel Lynch, Stephen Pink, Alex Constantinides, Rickie Tice, Maria Angelina Nidea, Gabrielle Calixte, Nina Oll-Adikankwu and Nakiiya Humes.

## **Provost's Congratulations !**

*Please join me in applauding the following faculty members who received awards in three categories for mentoring students and helping them to successfully participate in the April 19 Student Research Day:*

### **Dean's Award** (for mentoring 5-7 students)

Beth Rosenthal	Social Sciences
Michael Sharpe	Behavioral Sciences
Xin Bai	Teacher Education

### **Provost's Award** (for mentoring 8-11 students)

Chun-Pin Hsu	Accounting & Finance
Tom Zlabinger	Performing & Fine Arts
Thomas Marion	Performing & Fine Arts
Ratan Dhar	Earth & Physical Sciences

### **President's Award** (for mentoring 12 or more students)

Ruel Desamero	Chemistry
Olajide Oladipo	Business & Economics
Nazrul Khandaker	Earth & Physical Sciences
Laura Beaton	Biology
Deb Chakravarti	Chemistry
David Ajuluchukwu	Health & Physical Education
Ray Marks	Health & Physical Education





## Teaching Mathematics to a Digital Generation T<sup>3</sup> Regional Conference Jamaica, Queens, NYC

Where: York College/CUNY  
When: June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Sponsored by Texas Instruments

### Conference Description:

Join us at York College of the City University of New York (CUNY) in Jamaica, Queens one of the most diverse neighborhoods in New York City for a 2-day T<sup>3</sup> Regional Conference. Sponsored by Texas Instruments, the conference is open to all teachers (grades K – university) interested in incorporating the use of technology in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Sessions will include presentations, demonstrations and workshops aimed at providing attendees with activities, strategies and knowledge that they can bring back to their classrooms.

### T<sup>3</sup> Regional Conference Highlights:

- Attend beginner through advanced sessions
- Learn from experience educators
- Choose from hands-on and demonstration sessions for new and experienced educators
- Network with other educators from your region
- Receive lots of great classroom activities and ideas
- Exchange ideas with others who are trying new techniques in their classroom
- Acquire the latest news on TI's educational products
- Return to your classroom with a renewed enthusiasm for teaching

### Keynote speaker

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Frank Gardella, Executive Director of the Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning & Teaching and a recipient of the 2010 Hall of Fame Award for New York State Outstanding Mathematics Educator will give the keynote address.

For more information and registration, visit the conference website at:  
[www.york.cuny.edu/t3](http://www.york.cuny.edu/t3)

For additional information contact Dr. Virginia L. Thompson at (718) 262-2548 or via e-mail at [vthompson@york.cuny.edu](mailto:vthompson@york.cuny.edu)

Save the date → June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
T<sup>3</sup> Regional conference at York College Jamaica, Queens, NYC

York College  
Office of the  
Provost

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**The deadline for submissions to the September issue of Academic Affairs Update is August 31, 2012.**

***All items should be submitted in MS Word***

***via email to:***

***AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu***