

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 3rd 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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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.

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”



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

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.

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

George Santanyana