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## Deadline!

All items for the **Early Winter 2017** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted to Cynthia Haller (challer@york.cuny.edu) or Marcia Comrie (mcomrie@york.cuny.edu) by **November 27, 2017**. Text should be sent in MS Word. Photos should be sent as separate hi-res files (preferably not less than 1MB).

# Studying Abroad: Social Work Students in Eastern Europe

By **VADIM MOLDOVAN**

The Third York College Social Work Study-Abroad Expedition in Eastern Europe, held in Summer 2017, was developed on the platform of twelve years of York College presence in Moldova. The record of prior accomplishments included multiple social research expeditions by York College faculty, official visits by administrators, and two study-abroad programs. The York College-Moldova connection has yielded substantial academic production through organized international forums, presentations at international conferences, and publications in scholarly journals.

This study-abroad program was designed for a graduating class of social work students to allow them to graduate a semester earlier through an intense month-long study-abroad experience. The program was hosted by the Free International University of Moldova. The organizational issues were facilitated by

Project Casa Mare—a non-governmental agency in Moldova that was launched by York College faculty to serve as the platform for York College-Moldova collaboration.

The “Moldova Ten” consisted of ten York College social work students who

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## Studying Abroad

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were joined by six Moldovan students from different universities. The Program included *en vivo* class instructions/discussions, on-line teaching via Skype, field supervision via Skype, practicums in the State Psychiatric Hospital and the rural area of Old Orhei, presentations, and cultural activities including trips around the country and abroad. The Program relied heavily on student-to-student collaboration, particularly between U.S. and Moldovan students.

The study-abroad team met with a number of officials in Moldova, including members of the Parliament, representatives of relevant ministries, and other stakeholders involved in mental health issues. The interviews served as an information-gathering and assessment device that, in conjunction with literature research, provided the data for social policy analysis in the area of mental health and other social issues.

The first two weeks were spent in the urban area at the Vocational Rehabilitation Center (VRC) located at the State Psychiatric Hospital in Chisinau. The

students were working with psychiatric patients (adults and children) at vocational rehabilitation classes and creating culturally-significant products together with the patients through the methodology developed and implemented by Project Casa Mare. The non-clinical methodology of working with the psychiatric patients (still under development) entailed:

- employing a therapeutic model that is empowering, oriented toward self-efficacy, and non-clinical
- promoting structured productive activities that stimulate a person's creativity, spirituality, and sense of history.
- organizing such activities to produce outcomes that are tangible, replicable, and marketable. The marketability of the products, the ability to sell them at the market place, is an important aspect of social normalization.
- building a community of people with the common anomalous pattern of interaction with others and the history of psychiatric exposure.

One of the outcomes of the urban field placement at the psychiatric hospital was Zeitsa de Carbuna—a replica of the statues discovered in Moldova that



Seeta Koarlall with Zeitsa de Carbuna

date back to the 5th millennium BC. Together with the patients at the State Psychiatric hospital, the students made clay replicas of the figurines that were fired and packaged for retail sales at tourist outlets throughout the country. The proceedings will support the patients and activities at the state psychiatric hospital. This rehabilitation methodology involves the creative, spiritual, historical, and marketable aspects of this activity.



The study-abroad opening ceremony at the Free International University of Moldova.

At the State Psychiatric Hospital, U.S. and Moldovan students, alongside with psychiatric patients, created the Moldovan “Achilles Shield,” 1.5 x 2 meters, consisting of nine segments, each representing the main nine periods in the history of Moldovan territory. Working on the Shield of Achilles served as a prelude to the rural area practicum as the students learned about various historical strata in Moldova, all of them represented in the Old Orhei.

The team, consisting of York College social work students, their counterparts from Moldovan universities, and members of the local community under the guidance of professional archaeologists from the Academy of Science in Moldova, undertook archaeological excavations in the rural area of Old Orhei. The community-oriented purposes of this enterprise were bonding of community members, exposure to history of the region, and excavation of artifacts that may serve as prototypes for replication and marketing through social entrepreneurship methodology.

The archaeological expedition was highly successful, as it yielded a plethora of archaeological artifacts, two seminars dedicated to the history of the region, marketable replicas of an archaeological artifact, and a follow-up plan.

U.S. and Moldovan students made a great team from the very beginning of



Ione Lewis (left) with the Achilles Shield, depicting nine periods in Moldovan history.

the Study-Abroad project. They were divided into groups consisting of two Americans and one Moldovan in order to facilitate international cooperation. Each group worked on class assignments and special projects collectively. The bonding experience also included cultural trips that took place on weekends. Beyond the educational activities, students were always helping each other and socializing.

The study-abroad group and associates took three day-long bus tours of Moldova and Ukraine (Odessa) in order to learn about cultural and historical aspects of these countries and enjoy the sites. During the trips in Moldova they visited the medieval fortress in Soroca, the Roma region, four monasteries, and the house-museum where the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin lived when he was exiled to Moldova.

Upon their return, York College students made a presentation to incoming transfer students, generating much interest in the follow-up 2018 expedition. This study-abroad program raised the bar on such expeditions at York College and CUNY, as well as developed the study-abroad methodology for such projects in the future. Overall, the students’ interest in curriculum internationalization and global issues have been significantly increased as the result of the trip. The students who participated in this trip have begun plans for founding a Center for International Social Work at CUNY. A College-wide forum on international education is being planned for October. Furthermore, the material generated by the expedition is enriching the social work curriculum and pedagogies at York College and beyond. ■



A reporter from ProTV, one of the main TV stations in Moldova, interviewing Taylor Hernandez and Ione Lewis at the archeological excavation site.

# York Welcomes New Faculty

## School of Arts and Sciences



**MARK ADAMS**, Lecturer,  
Performing and Fine Arts

Mark Adams is a composer and musical director and regularly performs in international venues with jazz legend and mentor Roy Ayers, as well as other renowned artists. His live sound, 'Fresh & New,' is "the beginning of the new movement of Souljazz, transport[ing] Jazz away from the Smooth

Jazz format," and in 2010 Adams began touring under his own name. He has released several recordings, the latest of which is 'CONVERSATIONS.'

Adams has performed throughout the U.S., Cuba, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, Japan and China. He has also toured with many other renowned jazz and R&B artists. Adams debuted on Broadway in the musical "Five Guys Named Moe" and "The Color Purple" and has been in numerous off-Broadway productions, including in Frankfurt, Germany.

Adams has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Performance from City College, City University of New York, and a Master of Arts from Queens College, City University of New York. At York, he teaches music theory and jazz history, music appreciation, beginning and advanced piano techniques (classical and jazz), jazz styles and techniques, jazz improvisation, keyboard harmony, and advanced harmony: forms and analysis. The conviction that technical skills are indispensable to a well-rounded musician inspired Adams' 2010 book *Basics: A New Comprehensive Approach to Learning the Basic Concepts to Music Theory, Piano Techniques, Keyboard Harmony, Jazz Techniques and Improvisation*. *Basics* exposes Adams' passion for nurturing young musicians, as well as his accessible teaching style.



**GUOZHEN AN**, Substitute Lecturer,  
Math and Computer Science

Guozhen An received a BS in Computer Science from Jilin University in China, and an MA in Computer Science from Queens College CUNY. Now, he is a PhD candidate in Computer Science at the Graduate Center CUNY. He has worked as a researcher at SONY, AOL, and CUNY, and also as an adjunct lecturer at Queens College and Queensborough Community College. His research interests are in Natural Language

Processing, Spoken Language Processing, Speech Recognition/Analysis/Synthesis, Machine Learning and Computational Linguistics. He has published in international conferences such as Interspeech, NAACL, Cognitive and ACM.



**ROBERTO BENEDITO**, Assistant  
Professor, History, Philosophy and  
Anthropology

Roberto Benedito is a lawyer with a PhD in Legal Anthropology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. His field research area specialty is South East Asia focusing on human rights, indigenous peoples and the significance of cultural practice in

law and legal institutions. He is Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of History, Philosophy and Anthropology. He currently serves as Coordinator of York's Cultural Diversity Program and the discipline of Anthropology. He is also a member of the Common Reader Committee and the Undergraduate Research Advisory Council (URAC).

Dr. Benedito's research deals with law and society in the United States and in South East Asian countries, particularly the Philippines, where he was from originally. He has studied legal culture and legal consciousness in indigenous communities in the Philippines. He has published on the effects of international and state law on indigenous legal systems.



**LAFORREST COPE**, Substitute  
Lecturer, English

LaForrest Cope has been at York for twelve years, wearing several different hats. As a CUNYCAP advisor for the Office of Student Activities, she received a Student Government Association Award (2007-2008) for coordinating the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Liberal Arts Tournament.

In 2005, she worked with the SEEK Department's pre-freshman summer experience. In 2006, she was appointed Adjunct Lecturer in English, where she teaches Introduction to College Writing, Understanding Literature, and Research Writing for majors in the humanities and social sciences. Previously, LaForrest was the recipient of a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, which allowed her to study composition at the Juilliard School. Burnin' up the *Billboard* charts with four top-five songs in two years, her explosive writing talent has helped launch several careers, most notably, Whitney Hous-

ton's. The fiery "You Give Good Love" earned LaForrest (a/k/a LALA), who writes music and lyrics, a Grammy Award for Best R&B Song nomination while giving Whitney her first number one hit single. In 2016, LaForrest's departmental faculty reading event led to her opening on off-Broadway in "Return to LALA Land," a spoken-word/ musical performance piece at the 13th Street Repertory Theater based on her creative nonfiction book, *SOUL SHAKER*, about the challenges facing women in music and how the many misconceptions about musical talent diminish the industry's ability to address it effectively. LaForrest holds an MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translation from Queens College of the City University of New York, where she also earned a BA in English.



**PATRICIA MILANES**, Assistant Professor, English

Patricia Milanes, a long-term member of the York College community, has recently been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of English. She teaches a variety of courses, including academic writing, literature, and theory. She received a PhD from St. John's University, an MA from

Hunter College, and her BA from York College. Her doctoral research in medical humanities examines representations of illness, wellness, healing, and healers in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century African American literature to reveal how these narratives intervened in prevailing discourses about community care, medical racism, and access to citizenship. Dr. Milanes is currently expanding the work begun in her dissertation, and looks forward to ongoing service as an active member of York's academic community. She also anticipates continuing to mentor students throughout their tenure at York, and, in particular, enthusiastically encouraging students to pursue graduate studies.



**DeSHAWN NELSON**, Substitute Lecturer, Behavioral Sciences

As a native New Yorker, DeShawn attended Townsend Harris High School at Queens College, graduating in 1997. He received training in psychometrics and psychological evaluation at Howard University in Washington, DC. After graduating from Howard University in 2001, he returned to Queens,

NY, his home. Back in New York City, DeShawn earned his master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from New York University. Following this achievement, he worked as a university career counselor and training expert for several non-profit organizations. Subsequently, he embarked on an academic/clinical pursuit that led to seven years spent as a practicing clinician and researcher with foci on developmental disabilities, technology and learning, and the impact of fathers

on child development. After a fulfilling and successful year and a half teaching as an adjunct at York College, DeShawn is proud to join the York College community in a fuller capacity and wants to continue impacting student aspiration and achievement at York College.



**DAWN ROBERTS-SEMPLÉ**, Assistant Professor, Earth and Physical Sciences

Dawn Roberts-Semple, Assistant Professor, is neither new to York College nor to CUNY. She has taught as an Adjunct Lecturer, and Assistant/Associate Professor at other campuses. During her early years of adjunct teaching at York, she served in the public service

sphere as Director of Education and Director of Health Access programs, funded by the US Department of Education and New York State Department of Health, respectively. She holds a Master's degree in Environment and Development from Cambridge University (UK), and a PhD in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. Her teaching and research interests focus on the public health and environmental impacts of pollution. Dr. Roberts-Semple has conducted extensive air quality and meteorological monitoring, related to adverse health effects of ambient gas- and particle-phase pollutants. She is currently involved in a citizen science project funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency to identify air toxics from jet fuel emissions in the JFK Airshed, and to assess the potential impacts on residents in contiguous Queens and Long Island communities.



**CASANDRA SILVA SIBILIN**, Lecturer, History, Philosophy and Anthropology

Casandra Silva Sibilin earned her MA at the University of Chicago in Humanities and Philosophy, with a thesis on Rousseau's concept of freedom and the intersection between his educational and political philosophy. Her BA

is from Barnard College, Columbia University with a combined major in Philosophy and English. Her interests in philosophy and literature are driven by a desire to understand the nature of happiness and human flourishing particularly as they relate to philosophies on the purpose of education.

Ms. Silva Sibilin first arrived at York in 2007 as an adjunct to teach courses in Philosophy and Cultural Diversity (Western Civilization). Since 2009 she has also enjoyed teaching the interdisciplinary Philosophy-Sociology course on Major Issues of Education. Besides these courses, she has also taught Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY.

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## New Faculty

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**VIRGINIA L. THOMPSON,** Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science

Virginia L. Thompson earned a BS degree in mathematics from York College in 1998. She later on received her MA and EdD degrees in Mathematics Education from Columbia University, Teachers College. Dr. Thompson has been a doctoral lecturer for the Mathematics and Computer Science department at York since 2011, where she has focused on teaching and providing service to her Department and School. She is currently the director of the Mathematics Learning Center, where students receive tutoring services for all gateway courses. Her research focuses on computer algebra systems, technology used in mathematics courses, and teaching and learning online. She has created and teaches an online course for Math 119—Computer Algebra Systems—and is currently mentoring faculty for online/hybrid course development. Professor Thompson is looking to soon publish an article that will compare student experiences and success in an undergraduate mathematics course offered through online, blended, and face-to-face instruction.



**CAROL A. WHYZMUZIS,** Substitute Doctoral Lecturer, Biology

Carol A. Whyzmuzis joined the Biology Department at York College as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in 2008 and has been appointed as Substitute Doctoral Lecturer starting Fall 2017. After earning a BS and MS in Education from St. John's University, she taught two years as a science teacher in St. Pius X School in Rosedale. Afterwards, she pursued a career in pharmaceutical research and development, working in biochemistry and later in drug safety evaluation for eight years for Rorer Group Inc/Revlon Health Care Group, starting as a Research Associate, then Associate Scientist, and finally a Biochemist. She left to pursue her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which she earned from New York Medical College in 1994, after which she accepted a position as a Post-doctoral Fellow at Winthrop University Hospital, Mineola. Her position there was in Thoracic Cardiovascular Research, with a two-year Fellowship from the American Heart Association. She began her academic career as an Adjunct Assistant Professor and later Assistant Professor in the College of Professional Studies at St. John's University. Her CUNY career began in 2004 in Biological Sciences at New York City College of Technology. She joined the Biology Department at York College as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in 2008.

## School of Business & Information Systems



**PAUL CLINE,** Assistant Professor, Business and Economics

Paul Cline holds an MS in Aviation and a PhD in Aerospace Sciences from the University of North Dakota. His area of research is human factors and the intersection between gender and aviation. He is also a Registered Nurse with over thirty years experience in critical care, emergency, and flight nursing. As teaching is an integral part of nursing, he views his move to academia simply to be nursing in an unconventional setting.



**JOHN KOLMOS,** Assistant Professor, Business and Economics

John Kolmos, Assistant Professor of Aviation, received his doctoral degree from Capella University of Minnesota in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Evaluation and Measurement, graduating with distinction. After publication of his dissertation on how older adults learn new and/or advanced technologies he was asked to present at Capella Psychology Conference in March of 2017. He has another paper that will be published in the next issue of *University Aviation Association*. Dr. Kolmos also received a Master's of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a double specialization in Aviation Human Factors and Educational Technology in Aviation and Aerospace.

Dr. Kolmos was the editor and writer of a number of safety newsletters and safety journal publications for Farmingdale State College, Civil Air Patrol, Liberty Jet Management and New World Jet Management. He has over 700 hours of flight instruction given with over 2000 hours total flight hours in aircraft ranging from gliders to jets. In addition, Dr. Kolmos has over 10,000 hours of classroom instruction given from Private Pilot through Part 135 instruction for commercial pilots. As Team Leader for the FAA Safety Program, he has put on numerous safety seminars on Long Island and Westchester County. He is a 15-year member of the Civil Air Patrol with the rank of Major and is the DOV-A (Assistant Chief Flight Instructor) responsible for standards and evaluation for the Civil Air Patrol New York Wing according to the standards of the United States Air Force.

Dr. Kolmos has over ten years as Director of Safety and Security for FAR Part 135 commercial aviation management and operations experience. He has designed and supervised internal audits and been through extensive audits with IS-BAO, ARG/US and Wyvern Wingman program, as well as with the Federal

Aviation Administration and Homeland Security. He has implemented safety training, risk assessments gap analysis and accident and incident investigations for Part 135 and the Civil Air Patrol, as well as for Farmingdale State College Aviation Center.



**Efstathia Korkou**, Assistant Professor, Business and Economics

Efstathia Korkou, an Assistant Professor of Economics, holds a BS degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in Greece, an MBA degree in Financial Engineering from the Athens University of Economics and Business in Greece, and a PhD in Economics

from CUNY's Graduate Center. Her research lies in the area of Behavioral Finance and Experimental Economics. More specifically, it deals with the study and empirical measurement of gender differences in risk aversion (a renowned characteristic of human behavior under uncertainty) once individuals are called to allocate their wealth and make investment and retirement decisions. In Fall 2017, she is teaching Statistics, Advanced Statistics, and a hybrid course, "Economics of Trade Unions and Collective Bargaining in the United States."



**Wesley Palmer**, Substitute Assistant Professor, Business and Economics

Wesley Palmer is an accomplished professional with over 30 years of industry experience in Financial Accounting, Management, Taxation, Information Technology and Entrepreneurship. He was Chief Executive officer of Wezpa Consulting, Inc., a financial services

company that he founded in 1997. He has also taught International Business at Kettering University, Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management at Baruch College, and Business Ethics at Touro College. He is a writer, reviewer, and has published several articles in international business journals.

Dr. Palmer is a recipient of the Information and Communication Technologies in Organization (ICTO) 2017 award at the University Paris Nanterre, France, for research in Communication Technology; the Abu Dhabi University Entrepreneurship award for track Chair, ICOM 2016; and the Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America Best Paper award for research in entrepreneurship.

He earned a BBA in Management and International Finance and a BBA in Economics from Baruch College. He earned his MBA in Accounting and a Post-Graduate certificate in Accounting from Keller Graduate School of Management, and his PhD in Management with specialization in leadership and organizational change from Walden University. He is a member of several international organizations including Academy of Management.



**GERALDO VASQUEZ**, Associate Professor, Accounting and Finance

Geraldo (Gerry) Vasquez previously taught entry- and advanced-level accounting courses to undergraduate and graduate students at the City University of New York-Brooklyn College, Queens College and Guttman Community College. Prior to joining the faculty at the City University of New York,

he spent over fifteen years in the private and public sectors. He has considerable financial and administrative management, technology project management and auditing experience. Dr. Vasquez served as the Chief Financial Officer of Sustainable South Bronx, Inc., the Founding Director of Finance and Administration of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and a Senior Auditor for the Office of the New York State Comptroller in the public sector. In the private sector, Dr. Vasquez was responsible for various finance, budgeting, accounting and technology project management functions as a Vice President of Merrill Lynch and Co., Inc.

Dr. Vasquez holds a DBA from the Fox School of Business and Management (AACSB accredited) of Temple University. He also holds a MSc and BA in Accounting from the City University of New York-Queens College, and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

## School of Health Sciences & Professional Programs



**SOPHIA AIDINIOU**, Substitute Lecturer, Health and Physical Education

Professor Sophia Aidiniou, Hofstra University Alumna, has been teaching comprehensive health education, including nutrition, human sexuality, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, spirituality, death and aging, and alcohol, tobacco, illegal, and prescription drug education

for over ten years. She has developed collaborative partnerships with various community health organizations such as the Epilepsy Foundation, the Maurer Foundation, the Young Men's Health Clinic, and LiveON New York. She has won several "Making a Difference in the Community" awards for her successful four-year running Annual Organ Donor Awareness Peer Education Event at BMCC and was invited to appear on CUNY TV in March 2016 for her efforts in working closely with students to save hundreds of lives through organ dona-

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## New Faculty

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tion. In her free time she enjoys working with various charities such as the Brian Moore Memorial Fund, Wounded Warriors and Aces in Action, raising money for a cause. She is currently completing a PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center in Urban Education with a focus on Health.



**MAGALIE L. ALCINDOR,**  
Substitute Lecturer, Department of  
Nursing

Magalie L. Alcindor received her BSN from SUNY Downstate, MSN/PNP degrees from Lehman College, and is completing her PhD program in Nurse Education from Cappella University. She has 27 years of experience as a Pediatric RN and was in private PNP

practice with her physician-husband from 2005-2016. She has taught at VEEB, NYT in Westbury and at York College. At York, she began as a non-teaching adjunct in the Department's laboratories and later served as a Clinical Supervisor of BSN students at their externship sites. Her clinical research has delved into the different learning strategies used by students across diverse cultures during their studies in the United States.

On April 5th, 2017 she was selected as York College's Department of Nursing 2017 Distinguished Adjunct. As a Clinical In-

structor, she has served with distinction as a role model for our faculty and students. She applies her vast nursing experience to course content in the classroom and the clinical setting. She easily gains rapport with her students, assisting them to transcend the obstacles associated with the rigor of nursing. Well-respected at the Nursing Department's clinical affiliate sites, she is often the site's first choice as York College's Clinical Supervisor.

## York College Library



**MEREDITH POWERS,** Assistant  
Professor, Library

Meredith Powers is a reference librarian at York College Library. Previously, she has worked in library administration at Teachers College, cataloging and web archiving at the Frick Art Reference Library, and young adult services at Brooklyn Public Library, where she developed programs, taught

technology workshops, and provided library services for incarcerated populations. She received an MS in Library & Information Science from Pratt Institute, where she focused on user experience and information experience design. She has written and presented extensively on teaching and learning using new technologies, and she is interested in digital privacy, information literacy, and online library resources and services. ■



### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## York College Student Granted Funding for Study Abroad Experience

Congratulations to Social Work major, Yssed "David" Tobo, who completed his second study-abroad adventure in Summer 2017. The trip was fully-funded



by CUNY's Office of Special Programs, to the combined tune of more than \$5,000, thanks to his stellar "academic accomplishments," as stated in an email from CUNY.

In Winter 2017, Tobo took Sociology 240 (Immigration, Citizenship and Nationalism) at the University of America

in Athens. Now he has spent most of summer 2017 in Bali, Indonesia studying Cultural and Psychological Theories of Self in Society. The five-week program is comprised of two psychology courses: Culture, Psychopathology, & Healing; and Multicultural Issues in Forensic Psychology.

Before taking the summer trip, Tobo described the program as follows: "This program will take place in Ubud, Bali, which provides a good point of contrast to the United States for understanding complexities of self and culture and its application to psychopathology and healing. While Indonesia is host to the largest Muslim population in the world,

the majority of residents in Bali are Hindu. Students will be exposed to Balinese Hindu and animist spiritual beliefs as it pertains to the Balinese construction of self, wellness, psychopathology, and healing."

Tobo, who is also a member of York's Student Senate (USS) Delegate, and a York College SEEK Mentor, said that class work in the program was supplemented with Balinese guest lecturers, visits to cultural sites, temples, traditional healers and nonprofit organizations. Part of the John Jay College group that went to Bali, he expressed gratitude to the SEEK office for sponsoring his experience. ■



# Collaborative Learning Center Open for Business

During the Spring 2017 semester, the Writing Center and Academic Achievement Center merged into the Collaborative Learning Center (CLC), located in AC-1C18. The services previously offered in both centers are now replicated in the integrated new Center. The CLC is a one-stop area to address academic support needs in writing and in other academic disciplines.

The CLC supports York's student body in all aspects of the writing process: generating ideas, doing research, drafting, revising, documenting sources, using the conventions of written English, writing graduate school essays and using word-processing programs. It also provides comprehensive, centralized college-wide tutorial services for registered York College students in most other disciplinary areas. The focus of the Center is to help students develop the necessary skills to succeed in their college-level writing and other academic classes. Writing Consultants and Discipline-Specific Tutors work with students who are in writing or writing-intensive and other academic courses, e.g., Cultural Diversity, Philosophy, Psychology and Accounting.

For STEM courses, biology tutoring is offered at the CLC. However, students seeking tutoring in Chemistry and Physics courses should be referred to those Departments for assistance. For math courses, assistance is available at the Math Learning Center.

When it comes to writing, the Center's approach to tutoring encourages students to take an active role in all components of the writing process. Putting this theory into practice allows students, guided by Writing Consultants, to take ownership of their ideas and to hone their critical thinking and analysis skills, translating them into their own reading and writing. The CLC is student-oriented: its goal is to assist students to recognize their strengths



The Collaborative Learning Center (AC-1C18) offers tutoring for students at all undergraduate levels.

and to trust in their abilities, thereby helping them to become competent, self-reliant, and confident students. Through peer tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills, patience, and diligence, the CLC seeks to increase students' satisfaction and appreciation of their educational experience at York College.

By academically supporting students at all levels, the Collaborative Learning Center's knowledgeable, courteous and caring tutors encourage higher levels of thinking and learning, offer an individualized, systematic, and structured learning experience, motivate self-paced and self-directed learning, increase understanding of course content materials, increase studying and learning strategies, and assist in improving grades, retention, and graduation rates. Students can come to the CLC to receive help with:

- Understanding course assignments, especially for a writing or Writing-Intensive Class.
- Generating ideas and organizing those ideas effectively.

- Understanding how to use grammar and punctuation effectively.
- Understanding and applying concepts, formulas, and other content material associated with a particular course.
- Homework
- Pre-Exam review

The CLC can be reached at 718.262.2494 or 718.262.2303. Students are welcome to go online at [www.yorkcollege.mywconline](http://www.yorkcollege.mywconline) to register and make an appointment with the tutor(s) of their choice for 25- and/or 50-minute sessions in writing, cultural diversity, history, philosophy, or any other discipline except chemistry, physics, or mathematics. The hours for the CLC are:

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

On October 31, the CLC will be hosting its Open House. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome from both 12-2 pm and 4-6 pm. ■

## Middle States Accreditation Update *from* President Keizs



On November ninth, Dr. Melanie Perrault, provost at Buffalo State University and team leader for our Middle States reaccreditation team, will be on campus for a day. As noted in previous emails and at Convocation on September 14, Middle States preparation has been an all-important focus of the last year or more at York College. We are now in the home stretch of the protracted process. As such, we will shortly have a rough draft of the self-study document.

The draft will be sent to the college community for review and there will be space provided electronically for feedback. Comments will be incorporated into the self-study document. The official visit of the Middle States Commission will be in mid-March. We are on target to meet all our deadlines and are looking forward to this very significant event in the life of the college.

In the meantime, our self-study process has brought out many recommendations such as to:

- Align policies, processes, practices and procedures institution-wide and with CUNY, communicate these policies campus-wide, and assess for the impact these have on the mission of the College.
- Strengthen General Education and Pathways to ensure that each course promotes skills for scientific and quantitative reasoning and technical competencies, and assess the impact General Education has on building a strong foundation for majors.
- Assess the effectiveness of programs supporting student experience, especially as they relate and impact student progress, retention and graduation.
- Develop an oversight system for institution-wide assessment of student learning, a communication system for sharing the student learning objectives, measures and results to the whole campus, and procedures for linking the results to future planning and resource allocations.
- Establish assessment of non-academic units including the development of assessment plans (mission, goals, measurable objectives, results) and

implications for future planning and budget allocation.

In the run-up to March 11-14, 2018 we will focus our attention on the following:

- Receiving feedback on the draft of the Self-study in late mid-October from the college community and CUNY.
- Hosting Dr. Perreault on November 9, 2017. She will meet with key members of the campus and the Steering Committee. Please put this date on your calendar in case she wishes to meet with you. We will have a full list of whom she would like to see before she gets to campus.
- Completing the Self-study and submitting it to MSCHE and the visiting team members by the end of January so they may prepare for their visit in March.
- Hosting the visiting team on March 11-14, 2018. Keep these dates open in case any member of the visiting team wants to meet with you.
- Receiving notification from MSCHE as to our accreditation status upon the conclusion of the June MSCHE Board meeting. ■

## Math Department Event Keeps Women in the Equation

In Spring 2017, the Mathematics and Computer Science department hosted its 8th annual “Women in Math and Computing” day, proving once again that women are important contributors in the professions and mathematics education. The event, funded through a grant from the Mathematical Association of America obtained by Dr. Lidia Gonzalez and Dr. Rishi Nath, was engaging and well-attended. Asked what the reasoning behind the event was, Dr. Gonzalez explained that it speaks to the importance of inspiring women in the field of mathematics:

“It was part of an effort to challenge the under-representation of women in

math by bringing successful women mathematicians to York to share their work with our students,” said Gonzalez, now chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science department. “Currently, the event is also funded by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) from a Simons Foundation grant obtained by Dr. Radoslaw Wojciechowski. The event features talks by women mathematicians (usually 2-4) and is followed by lunch at Sangria, a nearby restaurant.”

According to Dr. Gonzalez, taking the students and speakers off-campus to the restaurant, located in the neighborhood

on Sutphin Boulevard, helps students to relax and engage with the guest speakers.

“The idea is that this creates a space for students to interact with the speakers in a more informal setting so as to begin to break down traditional notions of who does math,” said Gonzalez. “To this end we try to bring in speakers who are encouraging, personable and resemble our students in some ways with the hopes that they will see these role models and begin to embrace the possibility that they too can become research mathematicians should they choose to.”

Dr. Gonzalez also had high praises for faculty colleagues such as her co-

chair for the event, Dr. Wojciechowski. As well, Dr. Virginia Thompson, Dr. Rishi Nath, Dr. Vivien Wang and Dr. Shweta Jain had important roles in the success of the program.

Speakers this year were Dr. Jie Li, Assistant Professor, Computer Systems Department at Farmingdale State College, who presented on “Pseudorandom Number Generation for Monte Carlo Simulation;” and Dr. Kate Poirier, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, New York College of Technology, whose topic was “Intersecting Loops on Surfaces and String Topology.”

York Mathematics student Syeda Jahan



Dr. Jie Li



Dr. Kate Poirier

was in attendance at both lectures and wrote an essay on the presentations for her class, Math 333 GH. On the presentation by Dr. Jie Li, Jahan wrote in part, “[One of] the impressive things that [Dr. Li] showed us is how we can estimate the value of Pi using Monte Carlo Simulation,” Jahan recalls in her recollection of Li’s presentation. “Monte Carlo simulation is a computerized mathematical technique to account for risk in quantitative and decision-making. This technique is used by the professionals in fields [such as] finance, manufacturing, engineering, research and so on.”

The student was also intrigued by Dr. Poirier’s presentation.

“Professor Poirier talked about a very interesting branch of mathematics,” she recalls in the essay. “She started her talk with a simple definition of surface and took us from there to a better understanding of topology and how abstract algebra is used to study topological spac-

es. Topology is any type of deformation (such as twisting or stretching) of an object as long as it retains its properties. Some of the interesting facts about topology are: (i) Size doesn’t matter in topological equivalence; (ii) a closed, orientable surface is completely determined up to homeomorphism or similarity of form by its genus. Genus is the number of holes or handles in the surface of a topological object. For example, the ear of a mug and the center of a donut are considered topologically equivalent as each has one hold. Likewise, a sphere and a chair with multiple handles are not topologically equivalent since the sphere has ‘0’ genus, whereas, the chair has multiple genres....”

The event attracted not only math majors and current math professors, but also Professor Emeritus Joseph Malkevitch, who taught at York for several decades and has an international reputation in the area of geometry (polytopes, graph theory, tilings, etc.). ■



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

# York Biology Major Wins Full Scholarship for Fall Semester



Nigel Sampson, an international student from Antigua, recently won an Annette Rickel Foundation Scholarship to cover his entire fall 2017 tuition. The scholarship has many stipulations and Sampson meets them all.

The needs-based scholarship requires that the candidate [must] be attending public university; be in his first or second year of college; and have well-rounded experience such as participating in sports or the arts, work experience, and/or community service.

Sampson, an enthusiastic soccer player for York, was able to check all the qualification boxes and received a stellar recommendation from his mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Alter. The soccer goalie explained that as an international student

he does not qualify for most scholarships despite his excellent grades.

“This scholarship was a life-saver,” said Sampson, whose ultimate goal is to earn a PhD in marine biology or to become a physician. “Before the scholarship I was wondering how I would pay my tuition for this semester.” Now he is optimistic that this scholarship will be the gift that literally keeps on giving until he graduates in another year or so.

Asked to describe this particular mentee, Dr. Alter, whose expertise includes evolutionary genetics, marine biology, conservation biology and environmental DNA, gave a glimpse into why her recommendation helped seal the deal with the Rickel Foundation.

“Nigel’s work stands out for its thoroughness, originality and authenticity,” said Alter. “Beyond merely seeking a grade, it is clear that he is passionate about research, [and] possesses strong

curiosity and the ability to ask the right questions.”

Sampson, a member of the Undergraduate Research Club, is humbled by his good fortune and checked off a list of people who have been instrumental in his success story. The biology standout explained that along with his official mentor, Dr. Alter, Rose Deng; Dr. Vincent Banrey, Vice President for Student Development; Kashfi Fahim, director for both the Honors Program and the Undergraduate Research Club; and the Center for Students with Disabilities have all contributed to his success at York. Off campus, he is thankful to his benefactors: his uncle and aunt, Colin and Winnifred Quinton, with whom he lives in Brooklyn.

“I am very grateful to Dr. Alter for the role she played in helping me attain this scholarship,” said Sampson, whose story proves once again that it takes a village to raise a scholar. ■

# Mission Grandbois: A Cross Disciplinary Collaboration

By **MARGARETT ALEXANDRE** and **SELENA T. RODGERS**

Since 2013, Founder and President of Mission Grandbois, Margaret Alexandre, has provided collaborative grant, service-learning and teaching opportunities for faculty and students at York College and the School of Professional Studies (CUNY) to bring theory into practice at hospitals, orphanages, clinics, and surrounding communities. During summer 2017, Professor Margaret Alexandre and Professor Selena T. Rodgers, both faculty members in the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College collaborated on the third annual Mission Grandbois summer camp in L'Artibonite Marchand Dessalines, Haiti. Professor Alexandre also organized a two-day health screening for the campers and community members, in which close to 300 individuals were seen by contracted healthcare providers. For a second time (2015 & 2017), Heeling Soles, Inc. provided footwear for close to half of the campers.

"I wish to applaud the tireless efforts, enthusiasm, and practical contributions made by Professor Rodgers, Heeling Soles, Inc., stakeholders from community schools, Round Hill Community

Church and other faith-based affiliations, who helped Mission Grandbois meet the basic and educational needs for the 227 camp attendees this summer," said Professor Alexandre.

The inception of Mission Grandbois rose out of defiance to high illiteracy rates, the perils of inadequate health care and nutritional deficiencies that plague many Blacks in rural communities throughout Haiti. In 2009, Mission Grandbois was officially launched, proactively tackling these issues with a particular emphasis on children and young adults. Expanding its mission, in 2013, the Alexandre family established the Edouaine Alexandre-Vilceus scholarship fund in memory of their eldest sister—the *de facto* family matriarch, a nurse and trailblazer—who set the vision in motion to give back, provide support, and maintain the dignity and worth of the Grandbois community. To date, approximately 47 youth have benefited from the scholarship fund. As part of their 2017 service commitment to the Grandbois community, the Edouaine Alexandre-Vilceus recipients assisted Professors Alexandre and Rodgers

with the younger camp attendees. To learn more about Mission Grandbois, follow them on Facebook.

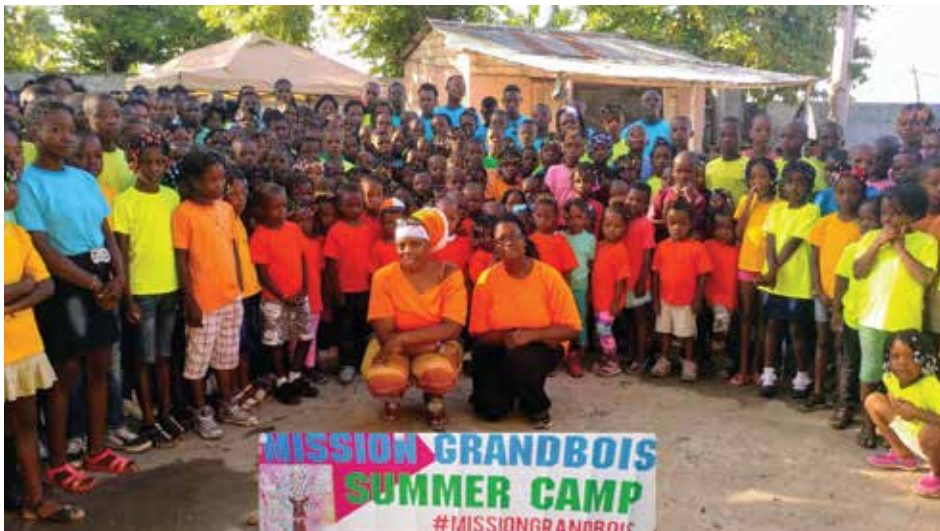
Dr. Rodgers' reflection on her time spent in the northern region of Haiti was very telling.

"While I only had a brief glimpse of Haiti, the gravity of undeveloped infrastructures, contracted heavily armed security presence, lack of resources, gender role disparities and exploitation confirm U.S. media headlines. Contrasting these provocative perceptions, I encountered fiercely self-sufficient people evinced with revolutionary values and a spirit to survive!" Dr. Rodgers observed. "In concert with my observations, I felt affirmed, inspired, uplifted, and humbled that Blacks across the diaspora share similar views about the love for music, dance and drama, sustaining legacy and culture, tenacity for academics, speaking an intersection of native tongue and colonial language, and valuing time spent with family and community members. My lasting impressions also derived from informal conversations with caretakers at Grace Children's Orphanage located in Carries and merchants at Open Markets (Port-Au-Prince, Petionville, and Marchand)."

Dr. Rodgers appreciated a holistic experience during the scholarly sojourn.

"The opportunity to visit important forts and monuments, including the family home of Toussaint Louverture [1743-1803] in Marchand, briefly tour Gonaïves, eating guineps and Haitian légumes militon, while taking in the rural landscape of the island, has further transformed my personal worldview and forever changes my professional acumen," said Dr. Rodgers. "Some might call my time in Haiti humanitarianism, others social work. Whatever the reference, the sojourn to Haiti [has] left an indelible imprint on my life."

Purposefully present, Pwofesè (Professor) Rodgers engaged learners in interactive teaching, covering basic math,



Front row l to r: Selena T. Rodgers [York College/CUNY, Department of Social Work], Margaret Alexandre [York College/CUNY, Department of Nursing], and Mission Grandbois summer camp participants wearing colorful t-shirts to celebrate the tropical colors seen throughout the Island of Haiti.



English and reading, oscillating between Haitian-Kreyol and English to strengthen her engagement and the student scholars' comprehension of the material. "I educated and mentored student scholars in Grandbois with the same passion, expectation, cultural respect, and advocacy I extend to student scholars in the U.S and every other place in the world I encounter learners. Sustaining access to educational possibilities and knowledge hinges on students' fortitude and educators' belief that students are scholars who will actualize into their full potential," posited Rodgers. Professor Alexandre remains unwavering in her advocacy efforts for access to educational resources with private and local municipalities.

Creative play and crafting were successful approaches used to connect with the younger children. "I was pleasantly surprised to see the children return to camp day after day wearing the beaded bracelets they helped create the first day

of camp. I was enamored [of] the camper's energy. Whatever the developmental milestone, everyone flourished with a smile" indicated Rodgers.

The cross-professional collaboration between nursing and social work faculty at Mission Grandbois was an exploratory venture that provides promising study abroad and scholarly opportunities for CUNY students and faculties from diverse disciplines.

*Margarett Alexandre is an assistant professor in the Department of Nursing, School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College, CUNY and the Founder and President of Mission Grandbois in L'Atritonite Marchand Dessalines, Haiti. Professor Alexandre is also a PhD candidate at the CUNY Graduate Center. During summer 2017, she conducted her approved Institutional Review Board (IRB) research interviews with study participants—Haitian survivors—to better understand their lived*

*experiences of traumatic amputation resulting from the 2010 earthquake.*

*Selena T. Rodgers is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College, CUNY. As a U.S. Fulbright Scholar (Specialist Program), Professor Rodgers' research on posttraumatic growth has afforded her opportunities to serve as a visiting faculty at the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM) in Chişinău, the Republic of Moldova, helping to develop graduate-level courses, teach Moldovan and American students and train university faculty. She has also conducted workshops for students and faculty in South Africa and South Korea.*

Heartfelt prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Professor Alexandre who was in a grievous car accident in Haiti. She has been discharged from the hospital and is recuperating at home in Long Island, New York. ■



Mademoiselles Alexandre and Rodgers extended daily greetings—*Bonjour* (Good Morning)—to campgoers, parents and other community onlookers. The cultural ritual of morning prayer set the tone for daily activities to begin.



Alexandre and Rodgers work in solidarity to ensure sufficient availability of food for the 227 campers. While food insecurities afflict a disproportionate number of the Haitian population, the L'Artibonite area is rich in rice (*duri*), which the campers enjoyed daily.



# York College Department of Nursing

## An Expanding Vision

The York College community has recently closed its yearlong 50th-anniversary celebration. The Department of Nursing congratulates the students, faculty and administrators on all of the successes of the college over the past 50 years. We celebrated the growth of York College and all of its departments, its increase in student enrollment, and the ways that York College serves the community. Over this past year the Department of Nursing took the opportunity to reflect upon its evolution at York College and to look toward its future and its vision for students enrolled in the program.

### PROGRAM BEGINNINGS AND EVOLUTION

York's Bachelor of Science (BS) Nursing Program was established as a degree program in the Department of Health Professions in 1985 with the RN-BS Completion program under the direction of Pearl Skeete Bailey, RN, EdD. The program, which was designed to meet the educational needs of registered nurses with an associate's degree seeking to complete their bachelor's degree, received its initial accreditation by the National League for Nursing (NLN) in October 1989. Dr. Bailey served as the first Nursing Program Director and was succeeded by Ouida P. Murray RN, MA, who took over as Nursing Program Director in the 1990's. During her tenure, Professor Murray proposed the Generic four-year BS Nursing Program to the City University of New York (CUNY) and received approval from the Board of Trustees in June 2008. The Generic Nursing Program began enrolling students in 2010, offering its first clinical nursing courses in 2011 and graduating its first cohort in December 2013 under the direction of Joanne Lavin, RN, EdD.

To meet the needs of the first cohort of clinical nursing students, Dr.



Dr. Pearl Skeete Bailey

Lavin oversaw the physical expansion of the nursing laboratory with the construction of the nursing simulation labs funded by the Office of the late Queens Borough President, Helen Marshal. The official ribbon cutting of the Nursing Simulation Labs took place in February 2012. During this same time, Dr. Lavin sought to increase enrollment in the RN-BS Completion program and entered into partnerships with North Shore LIJ Health Systems (now known as Northwell Health) to offer their nurse employees the opportunity to obtain bachelor's degrees. She also collaborated with Queensborough Community College to establish an ACEN-accredited Dual Degree AAS/RN-BSN Nursing program, approved by the New York State Department of Education in 2013.

In 2014 the nursing program separated from the Health Professions department to become a department of its own, now known as the Department of Nursing in the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs under the direction of Dr. Valerie Taylor-Haslip, the first department chair. In the three years since Dr. Taylor-Haslip was first voted department chair, student enrollment

has increased, the curricula of both nursing programs have been revised, the use of clinical simulation in nursing courses has increased, and students have met or exceeded the terminal program outcomes, including a 100% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate for the Generic BS graduates.

Over the past three years, the Department of Nursing has seen:

- Increase in enrollment in the clinical phase of the program by 50%
- Increase in the number of affiliate clinical site partnerships
- Updating of the Nursing Simulation Lab, including the hiring of a clinical professor to coordinate the inclusion of simulation in every nursing clinical course
- Increase in online course offerings
- Increase in the use of computer software programs to enhance student engagement in, and preparation for, coursework
- Increase in student participation in research and research presentation activities, including presenting research internationally.
- Increase in the Global Health Assessment clinical participation

### CONTINUING THE LEGACY

For the past several years, current students and alumni have expressed a desire for the Department of Nursing to offer a master's program at York College. Students have reported they feel at home on the York College campus and are connected to faculty and staff in such a way that they feel nurtured and desire to continue their post-graduate education in nursing at York. In Fall 2016 the Department of Nursing proposed a new Master's in Science degree program offering a Master's in Nursing Education. The proposed nursing master's degree program will complement the already established master's programs offered at

York College, which include Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, Pharmaceutical Science and Business, and the new CUNY-approved Master's in Social Work (awaiting NYSED approval). The establishment of the proposed Master's in Nursing Education will provide students with opportunities to better meet their educational goals, preparing them to meet the needs of clients in the community and assisting students to contribute to the nursing discipline through publication and demonstration of scholarly work. The program will also improve nursing knowledge and skills in preparation for post-master's education, including nurse practitioner and doctoral programs. The Institute of Medicine survey of 2010 indicated there will be a shortage of nurse educators and doctoral-prepared nurse educator roles across the United States. The proposed nursing master's program will help to close the gap in the communities around York College.

In an effort to ensure students are prepared for coursework at the master's level, the admission criterion into the bachelor's program was re-evaluated and revised. An increase in rigor for student selection into the program was



Pinning Ceremony

established, and there is also a preferred doctoral-level educational requirement for faculty (six out of seven full-time faculty members are educated at the doctoral level). The Department of Nursing at York College is trending toward becoming a nationally recognized nursing program of excellence.

The Department of Nursing is excited about its future at York College and looking forward to the years ahead. Dr. Taylor-Haslip and the faculty are anticipating future partnerships with new affiliates, additional Dual Degree collaboro-

ration with other AAS degree programs, expansion of the program offerings in both the bachelor's and the master's programs, and continued growth of the faculty and student population. The ability to achieve these and other benchmarks will most certainly affect the future growth, branding and recognition of the department among the CUNY campuses. Over the next fifty years, the Department of Nursing strives to evolve into a department that exceeds the needs of its students and becomes a model in nursing education. ■

## Kudos!

### **Geology Alumnae Shine at EPA**

**Charren Cabaroy** (geology graduate, 2007) received outstanding achievement in less than a year after joining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She was both a McNair and LSAMP student and completed an MS from Brooklyn College in 2015. **Zarine Ali**, another York alumna, is also with the EPA and has been promoted to work with the Superfund group.

### **Dr. Fusco to be Guest Professor in Finland**

Professor **Dana Fusco**, Department of Teacher Education, has been invited to serve as a Guest Professor at the

University of Tampere in Finland. She will spend two weeks in winter giving lectures, taking part in seminars, consulting with doctoral students and collaborating on research initiatives.

### **Professor Kranacher Featured in Article on Credit Score**

Accounting Professor **Mary-Jo Kranacher** was recently featured in a WalletHub article about good credit score. The article, which has already garnered a great deal of nationwide news coverage, is available at <https://wallethub.com/edu/what-is-a-good-credit-score/24891/#mary-jo-kranacher>

### **Dr. Ratan Dhar Co-PI on Advanced Technological Education Grant**

The Bronx Community College Geospatial Center of the CUNY CREST Institute, hereafter BGCCCI, has received a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF-ATE) grant to expand educational pathways leading to geospatial technology careers. The Principal Investigator of this \$900,000, three-year award is Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, founding director of the BGCCCI and a full-time professor at Bronx Community College, and the Co-Principal Investigator is Dr. **Ratan Dhar**, Associate Professor in Earth and Physical Sciences at York College



## Sadaf Ahmad Awarded ASCLS Scholarship

Sadaf Ahmad has been awarded a \$1500 scholarship by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ASCLS). There is nation-wide competition for the Bernadette Rodak Memorial Scholarship, which helps to pay for expenses incurred during a 30-week, fulltime internship in an affiliated hospital lab. Ms. Ahmad trained at Jamaica Medical Center and is a 2017 graduate of York.

Dr. Kathleen Pavletich, the Director of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program, accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Ahmad at the annual ASCLS conference in San Diego, CA in August 2017.

Ms. Ahmad plans to earn a master's degree in Public Health, with the goal of teaching CLS students in a college setting. Her favorite lab areas are the Blood Bank and Clinical Chemistry. ■



Left to right: Professor Helene DePalma, Sadaf Ahmad, and Professor Kathleen Pavletich

## Nursing Students Research the Effects of Nail Polish

On July 28, 2017 two York College nursing students, Julie Titus and Diandra Duncan, were invited to present their poster at the 28th International Nursing Research Congress sponsored by the Sigma Theta Tau (International Nursing Honor Society) in Dublin, Ireland. Eight nursing students: Julie Titus, Akilah Samuel, Diandra Duncan, Omolara Adedimeji, Mariam Habib, Joanna Franco, Judd Allen Costes, and Rushain Parker worked together with Dr. Renée

Wright over the last year to conduct a literature review that lead to an IRB-approved research study titled "Does Nail Polish Have a Profound Effect on Pulse Oximetry Readings?" This fall five of the eight students are presenting the findings of the research study at Sigma Theta Tau's 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. ■

Left to right: Dr. Renee Wright, Julie Titus, and Diandra Duncan.



## Second Annual Landmark Chief Information Officer Summit

Students from the Information System Management Society represented York College at the Landmark CIO Summit on May 4, 2017, at the Time Warner Center building in Midtown Manhattan. The Summit is a yearly gathering of top Global CIOs, Chief Technology Officers (CTOs), Chief Development Officers (CDOs), Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), Corporate Technology Leaders, and Venture Capital executives. This year, the summit was comprised of 49 speakers and included companies such as Box, Verizon, Uber, Facebook, Goo-

gle, Hulu, Siemens, HCL Barclays, Fannie Mae, IBM, and Dow Jones, amongst others. There were appropriately 500 participants in attendance at this exclusive invitation-only summit. The event granted corporate leaders the distinctive opportunity of conversing on specific technological trends and innovations. These managers are constantly searching to examine the information systems revolution through premeditated advances, as ventures become more data-driven, on demand, resilient, connected and global. The topic for this year's summit was based

on the chief information officer's role in transforming the 4 C's of innovation:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication
- Collaboration

As social media ambassadors and volunteers, the students were required to provide a live feed of the event through Twitter posts (tweets). By doing this, the volunteers were responsible for increasing the visibility of the Summit on social media, as in having their twitter posts "liked" by readers. ■



# York College Commencement 2017

On Friday, June 2nd, 2017, York College hosted its 47th Commencement Exercises. At 1150-strong, the Class of 2017 was York's largest to date. Keynote speaker, New York Secretary of State Rosanna Rosado and Valedictorian Zilefa "Grace" Rajendra had inspiring remarks for the graduates.

The ceremony also featured remarks from CUNY Board of Trustees member

Lorraine Cortes-Vasquez; Matthew Sapienza, CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor and CFO; New York Senator Chuck Schumer; Queens Borough President Melinda Katz; and Councilman I. Daneek Miller. ■



Senior Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza and NY Secretary of State Rosanna Rosado



New York Senator Chuck Schumer



Valedictorian Zilefa "Grace" Rajendra and President Keizs



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz with Dr. Earl G. Simons

## Kudos!



Professor **Ian Hansen**, Behavioral Sciences, has had two articles accepted for publication: "Religion and Oppression: Cross-National and Experimental Investigations" in *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, and "Resisting Denial of the Psychologist's Role in Post-9/11 Torture" in *Clio's Psyche*



**Michael A. Sharpe's** book, *Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: The Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) has been chosen as one of ten books selected by the publisher to come out in paperback.



Professor **Thomas Marion** (Performing and Fine Arts) is featured in an extensive interview in OUTER-STAGE, a journal of independent stage and film reviews, for the York College production, *The Water Carriers*. Professor Marion directed the play at York and discusses his stage craft in the interview. The interview is available at <https://outerstage.wordpress.com/2017/06/26/sunjata-and-the-tree-of-life-at-mitf/>

## NYC Men Teach at York College

NYC Men Teach program member Dwaine Williamson graduated from York College on June 2, 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education PreK-12. He took advantage of the many opportunities the program afforded him to network with experienced teachers and school administrators. He participated in enrichment activities that helped hone his skills so that he would be better prepared for his first teaching assignment. His hard work is paying off as Dwaine has passed all the required NYS teacher certification exams and accepted a full-time position

for the 2017-2018 school year at the Bronx Academy of Health Careers, a high school located in the Evander Childs Educational Campus. We are confident that Dwaine will continue his successes and begin a great career dedicated to educating the diverse student population of New York City. ■



## FDA's Northeast Regional Laboratory Internship Group Wins Honor Award

In connection with the York College-FDA Internship Program, the Northeast Regional Laboratory of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will be presented with an FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) honor award on Wednesday, July 12th, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. EST, at the FDA's White Oak campus (Building 75 Atrium, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD). Mr. Tracey Harrison (Program Support Specialist) of the Northeast Food & Feed Laboratory, and also a student of York College, will be accepting the award on the laboratory's behalf.

The nominees for this award include analysts, first-line supervisors, an industrial hygienist, both managerial and administrative staff, as well as several university partners; all of whom work tirelessly to provide a quality-based internship experience for students from the following schools: York College (The City University of New York); Wagner College; and Queensborough College. To assist in meeting the future needs and demands for qualified scientists and health professionals in industry, NRL collaborates with the above institutions by offering internship opportunities to college students majoring in the following sciences: pharmaceutical sciences; chemistry; biology; biotechnology; Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology; Health Science; etc.

With the FDA's Northeast Regional Laboratory ("NRL") co-located on the campus of York College, NRL's internship program further reinforces the FDA's commitment to the "York College-FDA Partnership." This long-standing joint initiative (the "Partnership") was approved between the Office of the Commissioner of Foods & Drugs and the President's Office of York College. Managing both the Partnership and the day-to-day operations of the internship program on the university side is Deb N. Chakravarti, Ph.D., D. Phil (Oxon), Director of the York College-FDA Partnership, and Mr. Kent Hermann, Deputy Director for NRL. During



2016, twenty-six (26) of NRL's forty-three (43) students were York College students.

NRL's internship program is a sought after experience for both undergraduate and graduate college students. Through their mentors and supervisors, NRL's interns are given hands-on training in a wide range of scientific test methods and procedures, including HPLC/MS, GC/

MS, UV/VIS, detection of Enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* (EHEC), *Listeria* and *Staphylococcus*, etc. with a requirement that each student contribute a minimum of 120 hours in the following analytical programs: Pesticides, Filth and Decomposition, Metals, Drugs, and the Microbiological Sciences Branch.

The student interns are also trained and coached by NRL's administrative, quality and safety staff in basic jobs skills that include: professionalism; work performance; accountability; quality; and safety.

NRL and their university partners dedicate countless hours and energy to ensure that each of the students excel in their internship. They promote fundamental science interests with an emphasis in the food and health care areas, which are all central to FDA's mission. This group's work represents performance above and beyond expectations to fulfill the Agency's plan in improving the quality of and access to scientific analytical and research training.

As a result of this group's successful work, NRL has in the process created strong relationships with their university partners. To date, because of the impact of the internship program, York College and Dr. Deb Chakravarti have assisted NRL with C-14 and NMR training. ■

## York Represented at Italian Heritage Month Event

Dean Donna Chirico, Professors John Graffeo and Samuele Ghelli represented York College at the annual reception for Italian Heritage Month hosted by Mayor de Blasio and First Lady of the City of New York, Chirlane McCray. Italian language students Isabel Flores, Renee Thomas, and Sury Valdez also attended the event held on the lawn behind Gracie Mansion. York was one of three CUNY schools to be invited. Ms. McCray spoke about her mental health care initiative



Dr. Ghelli with (left to right) Renee Thompson, Sury Valdez, and Isabel Flores.

and the need to spread the word. The New York City commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management, Joseph Esposito, was honored for his service to the City and Armando Varricchio, Ambassador of Italy to the United States, spoke about the long-time relationship between Italy and New York City. ■

# York Hosts Fall 2017 Convocation, Closing Out Golden Anniversary

Dr. Marcia V. Keizs recently hosted the thirteenth convocation of her presidency of York College. The September 14 event was gifted with exquisite autumn weather, serving as the backdrop for the pomp and circumstance of the day.

Led by Math professor Dr. Farley Mawyer, bearing the college's Mace, nearly 200 faculty members, resplendent in academic regalia, strode into the Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center for the two-hour state of the college meeting.

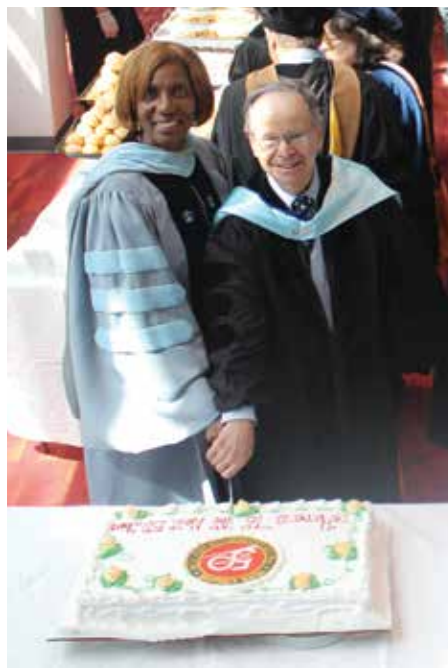
First up was Provost Panayiotis Meleties, who brought greetings and welcomed new faculty and introduced the president. As usual, President Keizs first focused her address to new students in the audience—the Class of 2021—encouraging them to “only connect,” as E.M. Forester says in *Howard's End*.

“Connect with faculty mentors, your peers, staff and indeed, with me,” she told them, underscoring the point with a list of recent graduates who connected and succeeded as a result.

She also welcomed new faculty colleagues and congratulated those who received tenure or were promoted; acknowledged new and outgoing faculty chairs; and congratulated the new Student Government cohort, led by the dynamic new president, Yssed “David” Tobo, who later addressed the gathering.



SGA President Yssed “David” Tobo addressing the audience



President Keizs and Dr. Parmet marking the end of the college's year-long golden anniversary celebration

Sadly, the president also had the painful task of memorializing two valued faculty members, who died late last year: Professors Timothy Amrhein and Winsome Smickle.

There were many focuses of the address, not the least of which was the upcoming Middle States visits scheduled for November and March, respectively. As well, the president's address included faculty scholarship, enrollment, facilities, and a fiscal report.

“I am happy to report that we will roll out two additional programs on the master's level: The Master of Social Work (MSW) and Clinical Trials Management programs will be ready to enroll students for fall 2018,” she noted.

Clinical Trials, according to Provost Meleties, is “a program to enhance the professional careers in various aspects of clinical research, qualifying individuals to hold jobs in industry as clinical investigators, researchers, administrators, consultants, data managers, quality assurance managers, regulatory affairs

managers, and educators in clinical trial management.” The program will be housed in the Chemistry department.

Keizs also announced that York's Health and Physical Education Department received a seven-year baseline accreditation for its Movement Science program; and “scores of curriculum changes in a variety of disciplines departments were effectively and systematically reviewed by the Curriculum Committee, approved by the Senate and presented to the CUNY Board of Trustees for implementation.” The event also served as a closing out ceremony for the college's year-long golden anniversary celebration. President Keizs, along with founding History professor, Dr. Robert Parmet, officially cut into a large cake emblazoned with the words, “Here's to the Next 50 Years!” “I wish for us all a successful march to accreditation renewal and a good academic year,” said President Keizs.

*The State of the College report is now available in its entirety on the president's page of the College's website.* ■

## YC Kudos!



**Harrynauth Persaud** (top) and **Shawn Williams** (bottom)



published two articles in Summer 2017, both focusing on occupational stress as a central theme: “Occupational Stress and Increased Risk for Type 2-Diabetes: A Narrative Review.” *Journal of Complementary Medicine & Alternative Health-*

*care*, 2(5) and “Long Working Hours and Occupational Stress-related Illness and Injury: Mini Review.” *Journal of Health Science Education* 1(3): 115.

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs>

## Grasso Publishes Book on Georgia O'Keeffe

Dr. Linda M. Grasso (English) has published her second book, *Equal Under the Sky: Georgia O'Keeffe and Twentieth-Century Feminism* (University of New Mexico Press, 2017), the first historical study of Georgia O'Keeffe's complex relationship to US feminism from the 1910s to the 1970s. Utilizing understudied sources such as fan letters and archives of women's organizations and colleges, Grasso shows how and why feminism and O'Keeffe are inextricably connected in popular culture and scholarship. The women's movements that impacted the creation and reception of O'Keeffe's art, Grasso argues, explain why she is a national icon who is valued for more than for her artistic practice. Information about the book and the author's related activities can be found at [www.okeeffefeminism.com](http://www.okeeffefeminism.com). Professor Grasso will be hosting a book talk, *Equal Under the Sky*, at the CUNY Graduate Center on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Room 9204. ■

