



Academic Affairs **Update**

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M.S.W. Program Set to Launch at York in Fall 2018

By **DR. SELENA T. RODGERS**

After many years of advocacy, research, collaboration and hard work, the M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College is almost here. Ready for launching in the fall 2018 semester, the newly-degreed Master's Program was approved by the York College Curriculum Committee (11/2016), Faculty Senate (2/2017), Committee on Academic Policy, Programs and Research (2/2017), the City University of New York (10/2017), and the New York State Education Department (11/2017).

During the fall 2017 academic semester, social work faculty members actively engaged in pre-candidacy work, including writing the formal proposal due to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in early 2018.

It was a long time in coming.

York College, a senior college of the City University of New York (CUNY), located in Queens, New York, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation, announces its plans to launch its new Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program in fall 2018. Gazing back at York College's beginnings to lay its roots for an academic home in Jamaica, Queens and reminiscent of President Marcia V. Keizs' "York on the Move" initiatives to establish graduate programs, the College's Department of Social Work, a cornerstone program, endured a parallel long and arduous journey of unyielding advocacy, relentless inquiry, and laborious planning process to offer the first graduate social work program in Queens.

Looking forward, the nascent program joins the Bachelor of Science (BS) in social work, which currently boasts a 45-year established national reputation, and leading health professions graduate programs at York that take pride in national reputations—Occupational Therapy, Pharmaceutical Science and Business, Physician Assistant—and throughout CUNY. According to the Decennial York College Self-Study for York



Dr. Selena Rodgers, Founding Director and Associate Professor, M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College

Deadline!

All items for the **Spring 2018** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted to Cynthia Haller (challer@york.cuny.edu) or Marcia Moxam Comrie (mcomrie@york.cuny.edu) by **March 26, 2018**. Text should be sent in MS Word. Photos should be sent as separate hi-res files (preferably not less than 1MB).

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MSW Program

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College's Middle States Commission on Higher Education, by 2019-20 the Master's degree offerings will grow to include Clinical Trials, Nursing, and Business.

The M.S.W. degreed program at York will enhance CUNY's vision and uphold the legacy inaugurated by the Louis M. Rabinowitz School of Social Work's Hunter College School of Social Work (now renamed Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College) over 60 years ago and continued by Lehman College and the College of Staten Island.

On September 29, 2017, Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at York College, congratulated Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Associate Professor, and named her Founding Director of the M.S.W. Program.

When Dr. Rodgers was appointed founding director of the M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College, she made [her] history as the first African-American woman to lead the first graduate social work program in Queens within the City University of New York.

"As a native New Yorker and Queens resident with deep roots in the Jamaica Community for over three decades, coupled with being one of the early advocates, trailblazers, and conjunct voices [with Dr. Vadim Moldovan and social work students, who led the initial proposal efforts] I am humbled to see the full spectrum of the M.S.W. program actualized," said Dr. Rodgers. "I am also grateful for the opportunity to make significant contributions to York College, and the Queens community, through my leadership of this program."

Dr. Rodgers, who has taught in the Social Work department since 2002 [starting as an adjunct assistant professor], is delighted with the opportunity to serve as its founding director. "It is a tremendous honor to be tasked with the leadership responsibility to oversee York's M.S.W. program," said Professor Rodgers. "I stand prepared and pledge to rise to the administrative leadership and CSWE mandates essential to successfully attain candidacy,

eventual accreditation and sustain a robust program that equips urban health scholars to soar and transform lives."

Many have helped champion the M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College. In salute of this historic accomplishment, I [we] wish to convey profound gratitude to York's President, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs and Provost, Dr. Panayiotis Meleties for their commitment, stalwart leadership and shared excitement for a graduate social work program. Recognition is expressed to members of the social work department and college community for their contributions, effort, and shared work to launch the M.S.W. program. Special appreciation is also extended to the cadre of prominent community leaders, constituencies, agency partners, and elected officials—past, present and future—especially Assemblywoman, Hon. Vivian E. Cook for her steadfast support of York College, the social work program, and our student scholars.

York Alum '09 [Magna Cum Laude] Erroll Davidson, Jr. offered reflections befitting York's momentous journey to develop the M.S.W. Program.

"I really appreciate the mentorship provided by Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Moldovan," said Mr. Davidson, who earned his M.S.W. at Fordham University in 2010. "They created platforms that helped prepare us [students] to embody a spirit of activism and possibilities. I first heard mention of support for a M.S.W. Program from President Keizs during the 2009 Alumni event [which I attended with Dr. Rodgers]. Since then, many students have used their voices to advocate for a M.S.W. Program at York. Our voices matter and I am really appreciative of the foundation York College set for me academically; and totally support the M.S.W. Program trajectory."

WHY PURSUE A M.S.W. DEGREE?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the job outlook and employment of social workers is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all other occupations. Employment growth will be driven by increased demand for healthcare and social services. The M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College will kick off with

a health/mental health specialization to prepare student scholars to meet labor demands and career aspirations.

WHY CUNY YORK? Under the leadership of President Keizs, York will inaugurate the first social work graduate program in Queens, New York. It builds on the York College Social Work Program's baccalaureate nationwide status, offering guidance and mentorship from enthusiastic and supportive faculty. York is near all major points of transportation, boasts a diverse student body and has been top ranked for two consecutive years, graduating scholars with the lowest student debt in the country.

"The M.S.W. Program at York will prepare students to meet multifaceted responsibilities of the local and global workplace. The Program is based on the 40-year long social work education experience of the prominent York College Bachelor of Science in Social Work program. The Program provides students with effective social work practice skills, cutting-edge methodologies and vast interdisciplinary theoretical framework on the foundation of social work values and is dedicated to empowering students with excellent and rigorous social work education toward professional competence and societal wellness," stated Professor Moldovan, a catalyst and advocate for the M.S.W. Program.

WHAT IS THE MISSION STATEMENT?

"The M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College seeks to recruit and prepare students from the diverse surrounding communities to become highly educated, skilled, culturally competent and compassionate professionals so they can provide highly competent services to underserved urban areas, with an emphasis on meeting the needs of clients within health care agencies and organizations. Social work is a profession that strives to create a just, inclusive and equitable world for the future of humanity. Guided by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), social work is committed to challenge oppression, embracing diversity, and ensuring that individuals, communities, and organizations function at an optimal level."

WHO ARE YORK M.S.W. FACULTY?

M.S.W. faculty include internationally recognized Fulbright Fellows and study abroad instructors who serve distinctly in a number of community, national and international service positions as editorial board members, expert evaluators, and reviewers and have served on CSWE and Fulbright commissions. They lecture at conferences worldwide, publish myriad articles in refereed journals, maintain active research agendas, and are awarded institutional and extramural grants. They are seasoned NYS licensed clinical social workers and administrators with a range of professional expertise.

WHAT IS THE M.S.W. PROGRAM AT CUNY YORK COLLEGE PROGRAM OF STUDY?

The M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College offers two degree structures: (a) A full-time program in which the required 62 credits are earned during four consecutive terms of full-time study, and (b) An Advanced Standing Program in which student scholars may receive up to 26 transfer credits, must complete 36 credits as matriculated second-year student scholars and complete their degree in two terms; 18 credits in the fall semester and 18 credits in the spring semester. For both programs, student scholars begin their program in the fall semester.



In keeping with [CUNY's] NYS legislative charge and York College's mission for "enriching lives and enabling students [scholars] to grow as passionate, engaged learners with the confidence to realize their intellectual and human potential as individuals and global citizens," glancing ahead, and imbued with a sense of purpose, the founding members have set the stage to revolutionize graduate social work education at CUNY York College.

Congratulations to the leadership team and the department for their investment

Master of Social Work Administration
York's Department of Social Work founding M.S.W. Administrators, Professors Gila Acker (Chair, center), Selena T. Rodgers (Director, right), and Shirell Roeback (Field Director, left) participated on January 19, 2018, in the Candidacy Workshop hosted by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Office of Social Work Accreditation (OSWA) staff at CSWE Headquarters in Alexandria, VA. "The workshop focused on the appropriate standards used in graduate social work education and the preparation of the self-study required for the establishment of the M.S.W. program and upcoming M.S.W. program starting in fall 2018," said Dr. Acker.

in working towards the multistep accreditation process—self-studies, site visits, and the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviews in accordance with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). "The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) workshop provided strong guidance and discussed the intended support through the accrediting process. *I feel the magic in the air!* I celebrate the launch of the M.S.W. program," stated Professor Shirell Roeback.

Welcome to the M.S.W. Program at CUNY York College! ■

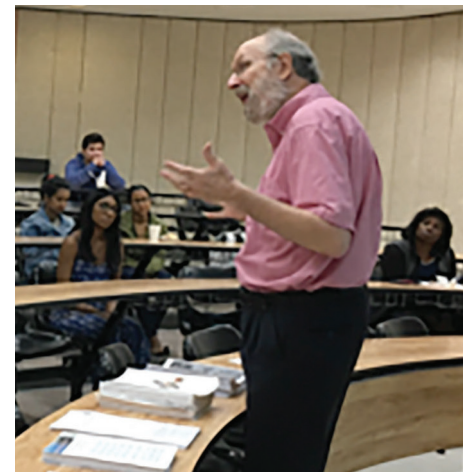
Mathematics and Computer Science Event Fosters Student Success

The increasing interest in and need for graduates in STEM fields is well established. However, students in these fields regularly report feelings of isolation and a lack of belongingness to the academic community.

These are even more prevalent among members of under-represented groups in these disciplines (women, people of color, first-generation college students and those from working class backgrounds). Yet programs that foster student-faculty interactions can support

student success as they establish the beginnings of what will develop into successful mentoring. Similarly, students that connect with peers serve to support one another in and out of class

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Dr. Malkevitch, Professor Emeritus, delivering the keynote address

Fostering Success

Continued from previous page

and can counter the negative effects of isolationism. It has been suggested that even hearing the accounts of successful students (including alumni) in these fields is enough to counter feelings of isolationism, increase confidence and support student success in these fields.

It is against this backdrop and in response to student requests for increased mentoring opportunities that the *Fostering Success in Math and Computer Science* event was born. The event was organized by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at York College. It brought together current students, faculty, and alumni in an effort to share stories, experiences, and advice around issues of academic success in these fields. The event began with an overview of the academic programs, student supports, and upcoming department events given by Dr. Lidia Gonzalez, the Chairperson of the Department.

Next came an informative and inspiring keynote address given by Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph Malkevitch, who began his work at York College almost at the college's inception and has mentored students successfully for decades. His talk focused on ways that students could support their own efforts at learning and ended with a discussion of the numerous careers and opportunities available to graduates in mathematics and computer science. The list of careers and opportunities was both lengthy and varied. Students in attendance seemed genuinely excited by the possibilities.



Panelists for the event, left to right: Dr. Joseph Malkevitch, Professor Emeritus; Dr. Adefemi Sunmonu, Professor; Karan Patel, Current Computer Science Major; Dr. Virginia Thompson, Assistant Professor and Math Learning Center Director; Dr. Viven Wang, Assistant Professor; Grace Rajendra, Mathematics alumna and 2017 York valedictorian

The event ended with a panel discussion featuring faculty members Dr. Joseph Malkevitch, Dr. Adefemi Sunmonu, Dr. Virginia Thompson, and Dr. Vivien Wang, all from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. The panel also included current computer science student Karan Patel and recent graduate, Bebi (Grace) Rajendra. Grace, a mathematics major, was last year's valedictorian and is currently employed as a mathematics teacher. It bears noting that Dr. Thompson is herself also a York graduate. Panelists shared their stories talking about their experiences as students of mathematics and computer science. They spoke about how their success was due in part to the mentoring they received from faculty. Many spoke of the struggles they faced academically and the way in which working with peers, reaching out to faculty, and persistence through assignments and

courses ultimately contributed to their success. Students in attendance asked numerous questions and these gave way to a discussion of how students can avoid isolationism and make use of the resources and opportunities available to them. Advice, stories, and experiences were shared.

A follow-up event is scheduled for the Spring 2018 semester. Students who attended the event will receive a copy of the book, *What the Best College Students Do*, by Dr. Ken Bain. Book club sessions will be organized where students will be invited to, with their peers, discuss the book and its relevance to them. Faculty members in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will facilitate the discussion. Interested students, including those that did not attend the initial event, should contact Dr. Lidia Gonzalez at lgonzalez@york.cuny.edu for more information. ■

Alumni Kudos!

Geology alumni **Krishna Mahabir**, who has taught at Grover Cleveland High School for 18 years, is one of seven New York City public high school teachers to receive the Sloan Award for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics.

The award, a collaboration between the Fund for the City of New York and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, recognizes New York City educators who exceed expectations, advance student success

and achieve superb academic results. Originally from Guyana, Mahabir's mission has been to foster an interest in science studies in the school's large population of newly arrived immigrants.

Precocious Entrepreneurs Make Donation to York's STEM Program for Children

Two young sisters, Asha Samuel, a sixth-grader, and Saya Samuel, a seventh-grader, recently established themselves as philanthropists by donating their young life's savings to the STEM program they attend at York College, CUNY.

The children drained their savings account to donate to the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) MUREP (Minority University Research and Education Program) also known as the "MUREP Aerospace Academy" (MAA). The program, founded at the college in 1999, is dependent upon external funding for survival.

The girls' parents enrolled the sisters in the York College program (formerly known as the SEMAA program [Science, Engineering Mathematics, Aerospace Academy], a Saturday and summer program for children in grades K1-12). The free opportunity, designed to cultivate an early interest in STEM education

for children in Southeast Queens, was brought to York College in partnership with Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY 5th District). With minimal funding from NASA, the MAA program relies on corporate sponsorship via Con Edison and National Grid, and also depends on private philanthropy.

During the Fall 2017 orientation for Asha and Saya's group, the director, Dr. Nazrul Khandaker, who is also a geology professor at York, talked about the struggle for funding to keep it running, and the role community can play in keeping it alive and offering superior STEM education to school children in the area.

Inspired, Asha and Saya told their parents, who were in the audience, that they would like to dip into their savings, accumulating since they were born, and donate. Their goal is to help keep the program running so that many more children can get the best out of the reputed

NASA opportunity at York College. The parents agreed and the budding philanthropists made a formal presentation of almost all of their savings—\$3,000 on December 2.

"We made the donation so that the program will be here for other children to have the same experience that we're having," said Asha Samuel, the younger of the two sisters, who presented a \$1500 check to the program. Her sister, Saya, who also presented a \$1500 check, agreed.

"At first you think that you don't want to get up early on Saturdays," said Saya. "But now we love coming."

Neither child has yet decided if she will pursue a STEM major in college, but both agree that the exposure they are receiving in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics is a win-win. Their cousins Peyton Samuel and Joshua Thomas are also part of program. And the girls' father was present to see his daughters make the very grown-up move.

In the audience for the presentation were Dr. Jack Schlein, Professor Emeritus of Biology and founding director, as well as Dr. Timothy Paglione, an Aerospace professor who has been co-director with Dr. Khandaker. Shereitte Stokes III, York's Vice President for Institutional Advancement, was also on hand to thank the generous young donors.

To date more than 24,000 public school children have gone through the STEM program since its inception 18 years ago. Consequently, many have chosen STEM majors in college; all have expressed the importance of their early exposure to the sciences in enriching their educational experience and kindling their curiosity.

"By emptying their savings accounts and making this timely donation to the NASA MAA STEM Program at York College, Asha and Saya Samuel made history and opened the door for non-traditional philanthropists," said Dr. Khandaker. "It created a new dimension to philanthropy, which has taken a new shape in our program." ■



Left to Right: Peyton Samuel and Joshua Thomas, Saya Samuel, Vice President Shereitte Stokes, Asha Samuel and Dr. Nazrul Khandaker.

Maki Hajikano Exhibits Art Work

Artwork by Professor Maki Hajikano, Department of Performing and Fine Arts, was recently included in a group exhibition entitled, "Director's Choice: From Virtual To Actual 6," held October 31 to November 25 in Chelsea, New York City. The exhibit was curated by Vernita Nemec, the director of Viridian Artists Gallery in Chelsea, NY. A total of fifteen artists' works were presented in this group exhibition.



Professor Hajikano's sculptures that were selected for the exhibition are part of a series of work entitled "Accumulation" that employs colorful glass; the effect provides an inviting atmosphere that endows the objects with a mysterious feeling. This work is inspired by various cell forms and mutation processes, which were inspired by the introduction of Ips cells. "Accumulation" is a series of biomorphic shapes with different colors,

which explore and express the mutation progression.

Professor Hajikano utilized a glass-casting process for this series. The special qualities of glass, such as transparency and color, have played an important role in her work. According to the Professor, employing the special qualities and properties of glass allows her to juxtapose the original form and content, thereby creating a timeless moment that is of the moment and yet flowing, as in the mind of the viewer in discerning the piece in time. Its effect brings a degree of complex ambiguity to the work, which encourages the observers to ruminate, and sometimes it disturbs or disrupts their expectations.

Professor Hajikano describes her artwork as follows:

"I make art that is unadorned, minimal and often reductive. I often employ multiple components in my work to create clear visual statements. I am currently researching a new series of artwork



Accumulation Series #1 a



Accumulation Series #1 h

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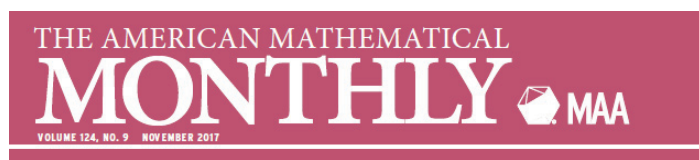
Dr. Rishi Nath in the *American Mathematical Monthly*

Every summer, a small collection of mathematics undergraduates from across the country spend their summers at University of Minnesota at Duluth, doing research, and often publishing papers in some of the top mathematical journals. Alums of the Duluth REU, as it is known, include Manjul Bhargava, winner of the 2014 Fields Medal. Professor Rishi Nath has been travelling to Duluth to work with the students there for three of the last four summers, at the invitation of Professor Joe Gallian, the director of the program. He has suggested unsolved problems and references to the student researchers, serving as a mentor. Two of the students who worked on problems he suggested, Levent

Alpoge and Amol Aggarwal, received the top national award for undergraduate research, the Morgan Prize.

Now a paper by Dr. Nath surveying some of the results obtained over the last four years has just been published in *The American Mathematical Monthly*. The paper, "Advances in the Theory of Core and Simultaneous Core Partitions," was included in a special undergraduate research issue of the prestigious and widely-read journal. "It was important to describe the results of these young researchers to the mathematical community," Nath said. "Many of them will go on to make further contributions, and the theory of core partitions is an emerging area."

The American Mathematical Monthly was founded in 1894, and is published ten times a year by the Mathematical Association of America. It is considered the most widely read mathematics journal in the world. ■



that investigate the relationship between Japanese cultural metaphors and their effective visual renderings. In order to capture the Asian concept “A Transient World,” which is pervasive throughout much classical Japanese literature and art, not to mention philosophy, I have been utilizing the characteristics of glass with a new approach in this new series of work.”

Professor Hajikano noted that the PSC-CUNY research grants she has received over the past three years have been enormously helpful in enabling her to pursue her research and to advance her art. In 2011 she was a recipient of The Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, New York City. She has also received various art residencies, such as John Michael Kohler Arts Center, the

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and an Emerging Artist in Residency at the Pilchuck Glass School. Her work is also part of public collections at, among others, William P Hobby Airport Artwork Collection, Houston, Texas, and the Early Childhood Research Center, Stephen F Austin State University, Texas. She regularly exhibits her artwork both nationally and internationally. ■

York Theater Goes Biblical...Sort of

Religious or not, Christian or not, most people over the last two thousand years have heard of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who literally sold out Jesus. Playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis’ *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* revisits the story of the rogue disciple who pocketed 30 pieces of silver for giving up his Savior to be crucified. He then compounded the tragedy by committing suicide to escape the weight of his guilt.

Guirgis’ Judas is now doing penance in purgatory while a who’s who of biblical figures, famous late 19th and early 20th century notables and the devil himself weigh in on whether or not Judas deserves forgiveness for the betrayal by which all others have since been judged.

Directed by York Theatre Arts Adjunct Assistant Professor Janice Capuana, the play, which ran from December first through the ninth, 2017, takes the audience through a lengthy courtroom trial with witnesses such as Sigmund Freud, weighing in on Judas’ state of mind at the time of the betrayal; Mother Theresa; Pontius Pilate, who presided over Jesus’ trial; Saint Peter; Saint Matthew; and others including Satan, all weighing in on Judas’ eternal fate.

Played by Jose Joel Cruz, a York College junior in Theatre Arts, Judas is appropriately pathetic in his clothing, body language and attitude. Guilt-ridden and hopeless, Judas is catatonic for most of the nearly two-hour long production. But when he is finally animated in his own defense, Cruz’ Judas is defiantly cursing a mean streak in modern-day profanity, and is a drunkard to boot!

Fourteen students and three guest artists made up the cast. All committed 100 percent to their roles; but there were some standout performances that bear mentioning. The aforementioned Jose Cruz in the lead role elicited sympathy even though the biblical figure is a reviled turncoat.

Claudia Gregory as the defense attorney, who is in fact a Theatre Arts major, was compelling. Featured in practically every scene, Gregory’s voice is strong throughout and she held her own against the wily devil. Kassandra Rodriguez, a transfer student from LaGuardia Community College, as a sensual, foul-mouthed, Saint Monica, brought comic relief and maternal instinct as appropriate. She later doubled as a Roman soldier.

T. Clifton Smith, a recent York Theatre Arts graduate, was deliciously devilish as the red-loving prince of darkness. Smith, who appeared in at least three productions while still a student at York (*The Water Carriers*, *Race*, and *Romeo and Juliet*), is equal parts charming and revolting as he vies for Judas’ soul; and while at it, he tells the judge, the defense attorney and the prosecution that he’ll take theirs as well. That elicited a visceral reaction from many in the audience.

This production, like many before it, demonstrates that theatre at York College is vibrant and viable. Every element contributed to the overall effect, from the directing (Prof. Janice Capuana), lighting design (Christine Tang), technical directing (Joshua Warner), and costume design (Courtney Butt), to the surreal [Salvador]



St. Monica (Kassandra Rodriguez) consoles Judas (Jose Cruz).

Dali-esque set design—100%-York-student-made by the eleven men and women Theatre Practice students under the technical direction of CLT Josh Warner. The “costuming assistant” Randy Houston also deserves mention as an adjunct lecturer and York College alumnus. Senior Theatre Arts major Shaniqua Weekes impressed as production stage manager.

The entire cast was proudly professional and deserving of individual mention. They were, respectively, Trey Adams, Ishaq Cooke, Jose Cruz, Thomas Lacey, Steven Fadugba, Claudia Gregory, Akijah Hall, Isaac Lama, HyQuana McCallister, Jaba-ree Muhammad, Romea Noel, Kassandra Rodriguez, Jonathan Rodriguez, T. Clifton Smith, Katreena Stuart, Enrique Valdea, Rayvon Johnson and Claudia Gregory. Take another bow! ■

Wellness Wednesday Depression Screening Collaboration

By **DR. SELENA T. RODGERS**
Associate Professor and Faculty
Advisor, YC SWEET Club

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), depression is a common condition which has been foreseen to cause much more disease burden to the health sector by 2020.

A CALL TO ACTION: During summer 2017, Dr. Jayoung L. Choi, Licensed Psychologist and Director for the York College Counseling Center at York College, contacted Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R) and Faculty Advisor for the York College (YC) SWEET [Social Workers Empowering and Encouraging Together] Club for over twelve years, to collaborate with the center for National Depression Screening Day at York College, City University of New York (CUNY).

On October 26, 2017, Dr. Rodgers, Social Work Club members, and two gerontology majors attended a depression screening training facilitated by Dr. Choi.

Location is everything. The campus' atrium is located in the main building (the Academic Core Building) and, with the use of flags representing students' countries of origin, acknowledges the diverse student body from over 125 different countries of birth and who speak more than 80 languages. This display embraces sustained responsiveness and inclusion. York College held its National Depression Screening Day on November 1, 2017, during Wellness Wednesday in the atrium of the Academic Core building.

Understanding the need to identify protective factors against depression while remaining true to social work empowerment perspectives and social work generalist skills of engagement, YC SWEET members conducted Depression Screening, provided mental health

education, and made appropriate referrals for support services.

"I had the opportunity to help educate and raise awareness about mental health, said Lavern Butler, YC SWEET Club Publicity Coordinator. "The event took place on our very own college campus, which allowed us to serve the population of our peers. We know that many individuals suffer in silence from mental health disorders such as depression. It was an honor to be part of a significant event that gives voice to mental health and wellness."

Dr. Choi thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and generosity in making the National Depression Screening Day event happen. She extended a special acknowledgment to YC SWEET Club President Ms. Ayanna Kaalund for organizing the group and setting up safe and comfortable areas to conduct the screening, the members of YC SWEET and their advisor, Dr. Rodgers. for her support and for encouraging the members and students to actively participate in the event.

"The event was a smashing success! In total, we screened 56 students. Of the 56, 42 students' scores fall under eight, meaning they are doing well overall. On the other hand, 12 students endorsed moderate symptoms consistent with a major depressive episode while two students endorsed symptoms that likely meet the criteria of

major depression. As a result, we have some students who came in to schedule a further evaluation," said Dr. Choi.

YC SWEET Club President Kaalund and Faculty Advisor Dr. Rodgers compiled a two-page mental health resource list distributed to screening participants. Additional access to information and support services is available at:

- **Anxiety and Depression Association of America**
<https://adaa.org/finding-help/helping-others/college-students/facts>
- **The National Institute of Mental Health**
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/depression-and-college-students/index.shtml>
- **York College Division of Student Development**
<http://www.york.cuny.edu/produce-and-print/contents/bulletin/division-of-student-development>

During fall 2017, the benefits of student-focused York programs have also been realized through health-focused collaborations between YC SWEET and the Women's Center Domestic Violence Awareness Day and Breast Cancer Walk as well as the Men's Center Suicide Prevention Walk. Members also assisted Helping Hands Club with the Holiday Toy Drive. ■



National Depression Screening Training Front row: l to r: Dr. Jay L. Choi [Director, Counseling Center], Ashley Pellegrino [Recording Secretary, Social Work Club], Diana Hernandez [Member, Social Work], Michelle Premnauth [Gerontology] Alicia Smith [Correspondent Secretary, Social Work Club], Dr. Selena T. Rodgers [Faculty Advisor, Social Work Club], Jahleesa Hodge [Member, Social Work Club], Ayanna Kaalund [President, Social Work Club]. Back Row l to r: Lavern Bulter [Publicity Coordinator, Social Work Club], Tatiana Hernandez [Recording Secretary Elect, Social Work Club], Karima Meloni [Member, Social Work Club], Charles Clink [Vice President, Social Club], Fezaad Y. Kay [College Assistant, Counseling Center], Aneesa Kadim [Publicity Coordinator Elect, Social Work Club]. *YC Social Work Club is also referred to as YC SWEET [Social Workers Empowering and Encouraging Together] Club.



Accomplished Biology Major Has Big Plans for the Future

Dupah Gobin may have discovered most of York's extra benefits later in her tenure at the college, but the graduating senior has made up for lost time in remarkable ways.

Arriving at York as a part-time freshman in 2011, Gobin did not know to seek out and take advantage of co-curricular and other opportunities such as clubs, scholarships and mentorships. It wasn't until her upper junior year that things began to click and she began signing up for such activities as a fully engaged student scholar. Now she not only has an academic mentor, but she is herself a mentor to other students.

"Things would have been so much easier if I had known," said Gobin, a graduate of John Adams High School in Ozone Park, Queens. "There are so many great opportunities for funding at York. You just have to ask."

The funding Gobin alludes to includes money to pay for research and internship trips to, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Angola and most recently, to Arizona, where she presented at a conference on the summer research she conducted in Brazil over summer 2017. She also traveled to China, where she attended a different university in each of three cities, focusing on "the arts and cultural aspects."

Mentored by Dr. Elizabeth Alter, Gobin, who is a biology major, has had a dizzying list of accomplishments in and out of the classroom and labs at York. She is vice president for the Undergraduate Research Club, a vice president in Student Government, and a facilitator in the National Society of Leadership and Success, among others.

Dr. Alter affirms Gobin's scholarly bona fides.

"Dupah is one of the most passionate and adventurous students I have encountered at York," said Dr. Alter. "Her passion for experiential learning and her identity as a scientist inform how

she navigates the world both in and out of the classroom. She has the ability to quickly hone in on problems, and importantly, to pursue realistic solutions no matter what the obstacles."

Gobin, who is also EMT certified, plans to attend medical school after graduating from York. To undergird this ambition, she has participated in numerous medical internship programs and was a Research Scholar with the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in 2016–2017. (LSAMP is a program designed to provide financial and academic support to encourage STEM education of students from minority groups.)

Gobin has also taught and mentored students on campus, both as a volunteer and as a campus job. She has been a Community Health Ambassador with Mentoring in Medicine; volunteered with Roxi's Dare2B; is a participant in

the Role Model program with the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Inc; is a mentor with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund/Walmart Foundation First Generation Scholars Mentorship Program; has mentored freshman students in Dr. Alter's Biology 110 course; is a student instructor in the Undergraduate Fellowship Program; and much more.

Gobin has also presented her research at the 31st Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Memphis, Tennessee. She recently presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Phoenix, Arizona and was granted the Student Travel Award. She was selected for the York College Summer Research Program 2017 and has conducted independent research under the guidance of Dr. Elizabeth Alter. Her research is the first to investigate the microbiome of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) along a latitudinal gradient. A paper based on that research has been accepted for publication by the University of North Carolina at Asheville, in conjunction with the NCUR Governing Board.

Once in medical school, Gobin, a [Dr.] Gloria Waldman Scholar, plans to earn not only on an MD (focus on emergency medicine), but a PhD as well. Asked how York has contributed to her future goals, Gobin gave an extended response addressed to the college itself.

York College, because of your expertise and guidance, I have a deeper understanding of leadership. I have learned a great deal from you, and your involvement in my professional career has helped me create a successful future. I would like to express my gratitude towards York College for all the opportunities and success they have provided me. These opportunities helped me sharpen my leadership skills for the workplace. My gratitude for your contribution to my future success as a leader is immeasurable. ■



Ms. Dupah Gobin at the ABRCMS conference



The Importance of Ethical Research for Students at CUNY and Other Public Universities in the Era of President Trump

By **MICHAEL ORLANDO SHARPE, Ph.D.**

Keynote Address Delivered to City College/ City University of New York (CUNY)

Graduate Student Research Symposium

In their seminal book *The Craft of Research*, Booth, Colomb, and Williams argue that in the broadest terms everyone does research: we all gather information to answer a question and solve a problem. Whether we are a scientist, researcher on Wall street, business person, art collector, or historian we all do research. The famed female African American writer, folklorist, anthropologist Zora Neal Hurston and author of the 1937 novel *Their Eyes are Watching God* said that “research is formalized curiosity. Poking and prodding with a purpose”. This aptly describes the research enterprise of generating research questions, hypotheses, methodology, findings, and refining theory.

Research is a systematic inquiry that investigates hypotheses, suggests new interpretations of data or texts, and poses new questions for future research to explore. In their discussion of scientific research, King Keohane, and Verba (1994), suggest that the differences between quantitative and qualitative research are purely stylistic and that researchers will produce more reliable results if they pay attention to the rules of scientific inference. For them, regardless of whether your research is in engineering, political science, chemistry, sociology or other disciplines, the characteristics of scientific research are the same.

Engagement in the research enterprise teaches student how to better understand what they are studying by having firsthand experience, reading published scholarly papers, balancing individual and collaborative work, and developing an area of interest that they might expand on in additional study or in their professional development. Many notable CUNY

Alumni are testimony to this and include several Nobel laureates and distinguished professionals, such as Julius Axelrod (Nobel laureate in Medicine 1970); Robert J. Aumann (Nobel laureate in Economics, 2005); John O’Keefe (Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine, 2014); as well as the inventor of the polio vaccine Dr. Jonas Salk; political scientist, former secretary of state and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Henry Kissinger; former Congressperson Barbara Boxer; former secretary of state Colin Powell; the writer Upton Sinclair; the screenwriter Ernest Lehman; mathematician Abraham Sinkov; businessman and Intel pioneer Andrew Grove; physicist Leonard Suskind; former Congressperson and presidential candidate Shirley Chisholm; York alumni—political consultant Hank Sheinkopf, CNN correspondent, former Clinton advisor, and president of Sheinkopf Communications Ltd.; Dr. Deborah Persaud, associate professor of infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a pioneer in pediatric AIDS; and so many others—parents, educators, civil servants, and community members. The achievements of these alumni speak to CUNY’s mission as a public university

since 1847 to provide opportunity, quality, and access regardless of background.

In the era of Trump, fake news, and neoliberalism, ethical research in public universities is more than ever, critically important. Booth, Colomb and Williams (2003) argue that there is an ethics of civil communication in research, ethics coming from the Greek word *ethos* meaning either individual character, good or bad, or shared custom in a community. Ethical researchers do not plagiarize or claim credit for results of others, misreport sources or invent results, submit inaccurate and questionable data, conceal objections that they cannot rebut, caricature or distort opposing views, or destroy or conceal sources and data.

We just witnessed an election that violates an ethics of communication in which few predicted the result of Trump winning the presidency. Elections have consequences. Trump has tried to make good on his campaign promises and issued executive orders based on what one of his spokespersons would call “alternative facts,” such as building a wall to keep out hordes of “criminal” Mexicans, when in fact immigration from Mexico has slowed in recent years. Asians, not Mexicans, are the fastest growing immigrant group in the US. The travel bans focus on refugees, supposedly to make America safe from potential terrorists, but not one refugee has committed a fatal terrorist act on U.S. soil and none has come from any of the ban’s targeted Muslim majority countries. “Fake news” was deployed to accuse Hillary Clinton of a wide range of crimes including sex trafficking in children to give an advantage to Trump.

The fraud of the for-profit Trump University and so many others signal an acceleration of the neoliberal agenda of deregulation and the privatization of the university and public sphere. This trend is



Michael Orlando Sharpe at City College



Betsy Millord, a York alumna, invited Professor Sharpe to keynote the Graduate Research Symposium

reflected in the prohibitive costs of tuition of many public as well as private universities that limit access and opportunity, and an anti-intellectual climate turning them into vocational factories that define success in terms of money and power and downplay liberal and humanities education.

Theodor Adorno warned in his 1967 essay “Education After Auschwitz” that schools must teach values and critical self-reflection at the heart of our democratic society and this will make another Auschwitz impossible. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences argues that public research universities are critically important as they provide opportunity, access for all, quality education at affordable cost and serve the national and regional interests as hubs of innovation and culture, often collaborating with state and local education systems. I contend ethical research in public universities is ultimately necessary for our democratic society as the “factions” or “special interests” that James Madison warned about in the Federalist Papers are not necessarily looking out for the common good.

The contemporary neoliberal agenda of privatization of education and other

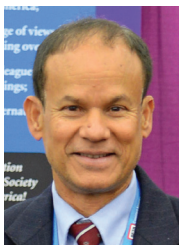
public goods as the rational efficiency of market demands are essentially a watering down of the values of inquiry and fact-based reasoning of the liberal university. It is important that CUNY students today conduct and publish ethical and credible research, read noteworthy newspapers and other publications, and join organizations, as civil society is the bedrock of our democracy. ■

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Kudos!



Professor Naz Khandakar, (Earth Sciences), was one of 30 tenured faculty and administrators in a nationwide competition selected to represent their

institutions at a workshop on Geoscience Diversity Experiential Simulations (GeoDES) in Boulder, Colorado November 2-6, 2017. GeoDES is funded by the National Science Foundation and sponsored travel, lodging, registration and meals for attending individuals. GeoDES aims to train selected geoscientists as “champions for diversity” to challenge prejudices and prejudicial structures at their institutions so that the geosciences can become a more diverse and welcoming environment for scientists of all backgrounds. At the workshop, participants learned about prejudice and about how institutions are structured (particularly in geo-

science departments) such that they continually reproduce inequitable conditions. GeoDES is collaborating with Mursion, Inc. to develop an innovative, mixed-reality, virtual simulation to build participants’ skills to combat bias, prejudice, and prejudicial structures. In the simulation, participants interact with avatars in various situations that exhibit common prejudices in geoscience contexts. These simulations give participants practice for how to respond given different scenarios that commonly occur within the geoscience discipline, with the intention of building competency and confidence to combat these challenges when they occur in the workplace.

Professor Khandakar (Earth Sciences), an active member of the Geological Society of America (GSA) since 1985 and currently its International Secretary, also recently published the article “Why GSA Is Important to Me” in the December 2017 issue of *GSA Today*.

The article is available at <https://www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/archive/27/12/>. Dr. Khandakar praised the organization as a “cornerstone for scientific resource retrieval,” an especially important research asset given the interdisciplinary nature of the geosciences.



Professor Larry Tung’s (Performing and Fine Arts) new film *Children of Drum*, a documentary about the legacy of Black journalists in Apartheid-era South Africa, had its

world premiere at the African Diaspora International Film Festival in New York as a part of its centerpiece event. The screening took place at Teachers College Columbia University on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. A Q & A session with the film’s director and producers followed the screening.

ISM Hosts Presentation on Geospatial Technologies and GIS

On November 16, 2017, Dr. Henry Bulley addressed the ISM society on the role of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Geospatial technology on daily activities. Dr. Bulley presented to a room of over 70 students. Geospatial technology is used to obtain, control, and store geographic data in an information system. GIS is one form of geospatial technology. It functions by generating, managing, and analyzing geographic data, and displaying it on a map. An early example of GIS was seen in the mapping of the cholera outbreak in 1854 in London, England. Dr. Bulley said creating a map is like having an Excel Spreadsheet with rows and columns, which would be the longitude and latitude of the map. However, GIS is not only about maps but is used widely in society for many reasons. Some of these include:

1. Telecom and Network services: GIS enables wireless telecommunication companies to enhance a variety of applications like engineering applications, customer relationship management, and location-based services;
2. Accident Analysis and Hot Spot Analysis: GIS is used to minimize ac-

cidents on roads through proper traffic management;

3. Urban Planning: GIS technology is used to analyze urban growth and expansion.
4. Navigation: GIS is used for routing and scheduling;
5. Defense Systems: GIS is increasingly used to derive terrain information, which can be useful for planning war strategies;
6. Crime Analysis: GIS is an essential tool for crime mapping, which is a key component of crime analysis. Satellite images can display valuable information about criminal activities.

Students were also informed of career paths associated with geospatial technologies and GIS, such as:

- Cartographers: create maps
- Database Managers: store and extract information from structured sets of geographic data
- Programmers: write codes and automate GIS processes; programming languages such as Python, SQL, C++, Visual Basic, and Java Script are in high demand

- Spatial Analysts: manipulate, extract, locate and analyze geographic data.

Geospatial technology also consists of global positioning systems (GPS), remote sensing, and creating maps. A popular example of geospatial technology is Internet Mapping Technologies, which includes software programs such as Google Earth and web features like Microsoft Virtual Earth. GPS is widely used in mobile technologies but is also used to calculate:

- Speed
- Bearing
- Track
- Trip distance
- Distance to destination
- Sunrise and sunset time, amongst others.

Remote Sensing plays an essential role in the enhancement of any GIS, as it allows data to become much more relatable and useful. GIS receives data from Remote Sensing platforms such as satellites and radars. Remote sensing technology continues to increase in resolution and power of the GIS. ■

Kudos!



Dr. Anthony Andrews (Student Activities) has been elected Chairperson of the Community Advisory Board for New York City Health + Hospitals.

Dr. Andrews has a longstanding affiliation with the health system, having first served as an appointee of the late Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. A graduate of York College (BS), Baruch College (MS) and St. John Fisher College, where he earned the Ed.D in Higher Education Manage-

ment last year, Dr. Andrews has been employed at York for many years. He is also a Queens District Leader.



In Fall 2017, the Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, of which **Dean Donna Chirico** is president of the American board, sponsored the event,

“Mediterranean Hospitality from *Magna Grecia* to the 21st Century.” The event “by necessity discussed the idea of hospitality from the perspective of the host and the visitor including if the visitor is a tourist, immigrant, or refugee,”

as Dr. Chirico explained. The event received coverage in *Corriere della Serra* and *La Repubblica*, the two major news agencies in Italy, and *La Voce di NY*, a major Italian American news source based in the US.



An article by Professor **Robert Parmet** (Department of History, Philosophy, and Anthropology) based on and citing York's Black American Heritage Music History Archive will

appear in the Winter 2018 issue of *New York Archives*.

School of Arts and Sciences Shares Discoveries During Fall Expo

With approximately 60 students participating, the Fifth Annual Fall Arts and Sciences Exposition 2017 was another success story in the history of the School of Arts and Sciences.

The atrium of the Academic Core Building was impressively decked with posters—of mostly graduate students—bearing research topics such as “Misinformation Hurts Vaccine Business,” by graduate student Urvashi V. Vihol and Dr. Deb Chakravarti as mentor.

The research was a PHS 507 Pharmaceutical Industry and Business Class project. The poster listed a number of myths including that natural immunity is “better than vaccine-acquired immunity.” According to the researchers, it is a myth that “catching” a disease and getting sick results in a stronger immunity response to the disease in the future than a vaccine can provide.

Indeed, The Pharmaceutical Science and Business Program, housed in the Chemistry Department was well represented both in the number of researchers and in the topics studied. Among the program’s other posters was “Inhalable Insulin: Challenges for Marketing,” by Israt Sarmin, also from the MS in Pharmaceutical Science and Business; and the aforementioned Dr. Chakravarti; “Drug Price Hikes in the US: Johnson & Johnson Strategy to Combat Criticism of Pricing Practices for Prescription Medication,” by Andriele Silva and Dr. Chakravarti.

The Earth and Physical Science Department’s Environmental Health Science unit was also represented, most notably the research, “Internship at NY-CDEP Waste Water Treatment Facility: A Bridge to Employment,” by Tabassum Ahmed and Razoana Ferdous under the mentorship of Dr. Ratan Dhar.

Neuroscience also took center stage under the usual mentorship of Dr. Francisco Villegas. The topic, “Deep Brain Stimulation in a Rat Model of Alzheimer’s Disease,” was researched by a large group of Dr. Villegas’ students, who found that “by creating a rat model of



Keynote speaker Olivia Kate Cerrone

the disease” they were able to study the effects of deep brain stimulation.

But York wasn’t the only college involved in the exposition. As had been the case several times in the recent past, students from Queensborough Community College also participated. One group presented on Alzheimer’s disease, calling it “the most common neurodegenerative disorder,” under the mentorship of Dr. Francisco Villegas, in whose lab the research was done.

In addition to the cutting-edge research in which students so competently engaged, students, faculty and others were able to enjoy a Humanities presentation by keynote speaker Olivia Kate Cerrone, who read from her latest book, *The Hunger Saint* (Bordighera Press).

The Hunger Saint, an award-winning novella about child labor in the Sulfur mines of Sicily, focuses on a specific child in 1948. The story centers around Ntoni, a young boy subjected to a life in the mines to support his family. Life in the mines was miserable and mostly short-lived as the children’s bodies could endure but only so much before succumbing to the inevitable.

Cerrone’s captivating reading was a perfect way to end the event – with gratitude for the good fortune of living in a place like New York City in the 21st century.

According to Dr. Donna Chirico, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the event is co-chaired by a faculty member, Dr. Deb Chakravarti (Chemistry), and a staff member, Ms. Vanessa Grande (History, Philosophy, and Anthropology).

“It is through their efforts that the event has grown,” said Dr. Chirico. “All of the department administrators participate under Ms. Grande’s supervision. I always say that their organizational skills make a complex endeavor seem easy.”

Asked what she thought of “the scholarship” of the presentations, Dean Chirico explained that it ran the gamut.

“The scholarship ranges from neophytes presenting work for the first time to more formulated projects,” said Chirico. “An aim is to encourage students to present their work even if it is rudimentary.”

Chirico did not need to look very far to find a speaker.

“Keynote speakers for the Expo are rotated among the disciplines in the Arts and Sciences,” said Chirico. “Last year a chemist presented so this year the aim was to have someone in the humanities. Olivia Kate Cerrone taught as an adjunct at York a number of years ago, which is how I met her. Through my involvement in Italian American Studies, I have been aware of her writing and publishing efforts.” ■

Alumni Kudos!



Geology graduate **Barbara Barnett** co-authored a publication in 2017 with Dr. S.K. Boss (University of Arkansas), “Global Agriculture

as an Energy Transfer System and the Energy Yield of World Agriculture 1961–2013” (Wiley Online Library, DOI 10.1002/ep.12799). Ms. Barnett was a recipient of an NSF undergraduate fellowship and worked under the supervision of Dr. S. K. Boss in Summer 2016. According to Dr. Boss, “Barbara Barnett was an integral part of the research team during summer 2016 and earned co-authorship for her effort!”

School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs Hosts Conference on Health Equity

The School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs' Committee on Comprehensive Professional Development sponsored a fall conference on November 8, 2017. The conference, titled "Advancing Health Equity: A Racial Justice Approach to Public Health," highlighted multiple aspects of health equity in the New York City area. Dr. Donna Chirico, Dean of Arts and Sciences, welcomed the conference attendees and provided introductory remarks. Over 80 participants, including faculty, administrators and students, attended the conference to learn about the impact of health inequity in our area.

The guest speaker for the conference was Torian Easterling, MD, MPH. Dr. Easterling is the Assistant Commissioner of the Center for Health Equity's Brooklyn Neighborhood Health Action Centers at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He holds an MPH from Icahn School of Medicine at Sinai in New York and completed his residency in Family Medicine here in Jamaica at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Easterling opened the conference with a historical perspective on how the Eric

Garner case prompted NYCDOH to take a stand against injustices and protect the health of all New Yorkers.

Dr. Easterling explained the Center for Health Equity's role in supporting the Health Department's work to eliminate health inequities, which are rooted in historical and contemporary injustices and discrimination, including racism. He defined health inequity as differences in health outcomes that are avoidable, unfair, unjust and driven by social factors.

His research at the Center for Health Equity includes the development of Community Health Profiles that provide comparative information on major health issues including HIV, smoking, and health insurance and serve as a critical resource for improving health in communities. The data collected revealed worse health outcomes by zipcode for conditions such as asthma, diabetes, infant mortality, premature mortality and life expectancy. Hot spots of higher percentages of a number of poor health outcomes were consistently identified in Harlem, South Bronx, the Rockaways, and areas in Brooklyn and Staten Island. Although the Community

Health Profiles revealed many neighborhoods where metrics related to improved health had been noted, there are significant health inequities that persist among many New York City neighborhoods. Dr. Easterling offered valuable information on some of the root causes of these inequities and the structured policies and practices that impact neighborhoods.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has created Neighborhood Health Action Centers in place of some formal district public health offices. These Centers strive to reduce health inequalities and promote health equity in low-income and communities of color in NYC. There are currently three Neighborhood Health Action Centers, located in East Harlem, East Brooklyn and the South Bronx. These Health Action Centers operate in a joint outreach with other local agencies, co-locating services and programs to better serve the community.

Following Dr. Easterling's presentation, he fielded questions from the audience and further expounded on some of the metrics he had presented. He provided suggestions regarding action steps audience members could take to address health inequities. Dr. Easterling further challenged attendees to consider it our responsibility as health professionals to fight racism.

The conference delineated the strategies needed to shift focus from personal health to community health. Current health practice has focused on risky behaviors and the disease that stems from them. In contrast, models for emerging public health practice is geared toward addressing social and institutional inequities and creating opportunities for people to be healthy. Conference attendees provided highly favorable feedback in the program evaluations and shared suggestions for future events involving related topics.

This conference was part of an on-going series of inter-professional conferences, initiated by the founding Dean of the SHSPP, Dr. Lynne Clark, who retired in June. The conference series has focused on a variety of health-related issues during the past four years, providing a forum for discussion of highly relevant



From left to right: Claudette McFarquhar, Helene DePalma, Dr. Torian Easterling, John Graffeo, Janet Guidi

topics in healthcare. The conference was planned by the SHSPP Comprehensive Professional Development Committee, with the continued support of the Office of Academic Affairs. For the 2017-18 academic year, the committee is chaired by

Helene DePalma (Health Professions), with committee members Shawn Williams (Health Professions), John Graffeo (Health Professions), Nicholas Grosskopf (Health and Physical Education/Gerontological Studies), Janet Guidi (Academic

Advisement), Elise Henry (Occupational Therapy), Claudette McFarquhar (Nursing), Nick McNickle (Movement Science) and Shirell Roebach (Social Work). Plans are underway for the spring conference to be held in April 2018. ■

Human Resources Club Hosts Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

The York College Human Resource Club and the York College Student Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management York (SHRM) did not disappoint with their annual fete.

The December 8 event featured a remarkable speaker with a particular familiarity with York. Ms. Luis G. Wallace, assistant area director, Queens District Office OSHA/United States Department of Labor, as it turns out, is a York College alumna of the Class of 2005.

"I had not been back to York since my graduation," she told the audience of mostly students affiliated with York-SHRM. "But I remember it well."

That the keynote speaker was a York alum was purely by happenstance. It was not until she sent her resume to Dr. Phoebe Massimino, department chair for the Business and Economics Department and faculty advisor to York SHRM, that it was made evident that she was part of the extended York family.

Ms. Wallace, who is also a military veteran of the US Marine Corps., ex-

plained that her team of seven inspectors covers all of Queens and that their inspections help to keep workers in the borough safe.

Signed into law by then-President Richard Nixon in 1971 to protect workers from unsafe working conditions, OSHA has since then saved millions of lives in disparate workplaces.

"Before OSHA, an average of 30 people [in Queens] died on the job," said Wallace, who majored in psychology at York. But in 2015 it was 13 but even one is too much; nationally, 4500 people die annually from workplace injury," she noted.

For its part, the Human Resource club was established at York College In January 2013 and has thrived under the guidance of its rotating student leaders and Dr. Massimino's support.

The goals of the club, according to Dr. Massimino, are "to stimulate interest in Human Resources as a career, to stand out, set ourselves apart and be more professional in our chosen career; to develop our decision making and leadership skills; to increase our knowledge by sharing ideas, exchanging information and bringing new information to Human Resource Club members; to sponsor guest speakers and networking opportunities and to engage in resume building."

The Human Resource Club also hosted two workshops on business etiquette in the fall 2017 semester; and had a luncheon where Career Services gave a presentation focusing on internship opportunities and interviewing skills.

They also believe in "paying it forward" as a form of service. To this end, in the Spring 2017 Semester, the members of the Human Resource Club and

the Student Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management also conducted three workshops to assist ESL and GED students to write resumes. The club also further partnered with the Entrepreneurship Club to conduct interviewing skills and networking skills workshops.

Wallace for her part has been on the job with OSHA since 1988 and was delighted to return to York in a speaking capacity, partaking in the refreshments provided by Dr. Massimino and the club.

"I have fond memories of York," she said. ■



Ms. Luis G. Wallace

Kudos!



Professor Gila Acker (Social Work) recently published an article in *The Journal of Homosexuality*: Acker, G. M. (2017). "Transphobia Among Students Majoring in the Helping Professions." *Journal of Homosexuality*, 64(14), 2011-2029. doi/full/10.1080/00918369.2017.1293404



Professor George Lam (Performing and Fine Arts) has been selected to be the 2018 Composer-in-Residence at the Chautauqua Opera Company. <http://chq.org/opera-about/composer-in-residence-program#2018-composer-in-residence>

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

York Representatives Attend CUNY Women's Leadership Conference

York College was well-represented at the 13th Annual CUNY Women's Leadership Conference, held Friday, October 27, 2017 at Hunter College. This year's conference, sponsored by the Council of Presidents' Women's Leadership Initiative Committee and the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission, focused on the theme "Celebrating 100 Years of Suffrage and Strategizing Next Steps for Forward Momentum." The conference program, whose presenters included legislators and representatives from a number of prominent women's organizations, featured New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hiochul, Chairperson of the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission and Melissa De Rosa, Secretary and Top Aide to Governor Andrew Cuomo in the plenary session. ■



York representatives at the conference. Front row left to right: Students Natalie Matthews, Ashley Rodriguez, Alicia Smith. Back Row left to right: Students Marie Richard and Keila Ottero, York President Marcia V. Keizs, Student Alexandria Ulysse, Michele Hardy (SEEK) Ericka Woods (Counseling), Jean Phelps (Student Activities) and Bruny Almodovar (Academic Advisement Center)..