

• Special points of interest:

- President on Education Council
- Provost Lecture on Opera and Chemistry
- Point of Pride
- Interview with Diva Joan Cartwright
- Students prepare Taxes for Queens Residents

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York and Nassau Sign Articulation Agreement

On a misty Long Island Spring day, the presidents of York College of the City University of New York, and Nassau Community College (NCC) of the State University of New York, signed an umbrella articulation agreement for graduates from the latter institution to come to York to pursue their baccalaureate degrees.

The agreement between the two colleges, signed on March 31, was ratified in the President's Conference Room overlooking NCC's extensive campus. It stipulates that Nassau Community's students with a GPA of 2.0 or higher "will be automatically admitted to York with the cumulative Grade Point Average



Nassau Community College President Sean A. Fanelli and York College President Marcia V. Keizs sign an articulation agreement between the two colleges for NCC students to have a smooth transition to pursue bachelors degrees at York.

(GPA) received upon graduation from Nassau Community College."

Cont.'d on p.6

York Grad Selected as Charles B. Rangel Fellow

Derell Kennedo, former history major and salutatorian of the Class of 2007 has been selected as a 2008 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow. The fellowship program seeks to attract and educate outstanding young people who desire a career in the Foreign Service.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State and managed by the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University, the fellowships prepare students for a career in public service as Foreign Service Officers.

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PROVOST LECTURE SERIES

What do Opera & Computational Chemistry Have in Common?

Opera lovers were in for a treat on the afternoon of April 28, 2008, as Dr. Angelo Rossi, Professor of Chemistry, showed excerpts from Mozart's masterpiece, *Don Giovanni*. Slides of works by Raphael, artistic genius of the Italian Renaissance, were also presented, and quotations from various poets were cited as well. Thus, Dr. Rossi progressed towards his goal of bridging the gap between the humanities and the sciences, the "two cultures," identified in the famous Cambridge lecture by C.P. Snow. James Como (Chair of the Series committee) welcomed the group to the event, the fifth in this series, and set the collegial tone that continued throughout. Prof. Larry Johnson, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, introduced the speaker.

Dr. Angelo Rossi, who holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut, did post-doctoral research with a Nobel prize laureate at Cornell University and worked at the IBM TJ Watson Research Center before joining the faculty at York College in 2004. Prof. Rossi is also a member of the CUNY doctoral faculty in Chemistry, and serves as the Director of the York collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration.

The heart of Dr. Rossi's lecture focused on the development and use of Hyper Performance, or Supercomputers (HPC's). Utilizing colorful Powerpoint slides, he emphasized HPC's size, speed, energy efficiency, and applicability in such areas as weather forecasting, NASA missions, and molecular analysis. The audience was introduced to the key terminology used in this growing field, and the work of the National Science Foundation's Office of Cyberinfrastructure, whose goal is to broaden access to these state-of-the-art computer resources by reaching out to under-funded local organizations, community

groups and academic institutions such as York College. Dr. Rossi's own research is in the field of computational chemistry, which uses supercomputers to investigate the structure of molecules. This technology can simulate the interaction of RNA and proteins to enhance our understanding of the way proteins may fold, or "misbehave," and thus lead to greater insights into the causes and nature of such diseases as HIV and Alzheimer's.

Questions from colleagues raised interesting and varied issues, including the cost of this research, the relationship between real and simulated data, the scholarly venue for publication, the history of this research field, and the source of Dr. Rossi's interest in opera and the arts. This latter query provided the presentation with its own symmetry, returning it to its starting point, i.e., how scientists and non-scientists can work together to further our insights into our common humanity. Just as symmetry exists in art, and harmonic convergence may be seen as the essence of opera, chemistry is likewise characterized by its own synergy. Classic operas such as *Don Giovanni*, *La Traviata*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *Carmen* possess universal, transcendent themes, and the disciplines of mathematics, physics and chemistry adhere to essential, underlying laws.

Dr. Angelo Rossi displayed enormous spontaneity, humor and enthusiasm. His commitment to research was evident, as was his dedication to the development of interdisciplinary study, calling for more frequent connections between academic specialties. The challenges are great, but the intellectual and emotional rewards are substantial. The consensus at the concluding reception recognized the high quality of both the comestibles and the level of the conversation.

York Student Newspaper Continues To Win Awards



Pandora's Box, the official student newspaper of York College, is in the midst of winning a whole new round of awards. The paper was reviewed by a panel of judges who gave it the highest possible classification. As a result, the newspaper received the American Scholastic Press Association Award (ASPA) – First Place with Special Merit in April.

York's student newspaper then received strong recognition from the New York Press Association (NYPA) 2007 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST. The student publication took Second Place for General Excellence in its category. This is a highly competitive contest with quality entries from around the state.

Finally, within days of the previous honors, Pandora's Box was singled out again by the respected Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University in its Gold Circle Awards for 2008. York's paper was given the Third Place Certificate in Personality Profile Writing for Newspapers. Julianna Hutson, Editor-in-Chief of Pandora's Box, wrote and reported the article in question.

Although this has been a great run of

awards for Pandora's Box, the student editors and faculty advisors took it in stride. After all, the newspaper has certainly had its share of honors year in and year out for quite a long time.

For instance, the paper had previously won First Place with Special Merit from ASPA in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002. The newspaper was also recognized by NYPA in the past with Honorable Mention



Left to right: Prof. Glenn Lewis (Director of the Journalism Program), Sadeef Kully (Feature Editor), Isabelle Pierre (Arts & Entertainment Editor), Julianna Hutson (Editor in Chief), Romeo Seeman (Managing Editor), Karen Gonsalves (Community News Editor), John Rodriguez (Editorial Cartoonist), and Prof. Bill Hughes (Faculty Advisor).

for General Excellence in 1997 and Third Place for News Writing in 1998. And the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) has given York's paper three prestigious Mark of Excellence Awards over the years – one in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

In fact, the student journalists of Pandora's Box have won approximately 25 awards during Professor Glenn Lewis' 22-year tenure as Faculty Advisor that ended after the Fall 2007 semester. But it seems that Professor William Hughes, Lewis' replacement, has the editors sticking to their award-winning ways. And York College could not be prouder.



Elliot “Lee” Sander at President’s Executive Breakfast

On Friday, April 4th, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Executive Director, Elliot “Lee” Sander was the keynote speaker at a York College Executive Leadership Breakfast.



Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Executive Director & CEO, Elliot “Lee” Sander

Mr. Sander, who has served in the position for the past 15 months, discussed plans for extensive enhancement of New York’s transit system and to bring it squarely into the twenty first century.

Mr. Sander addressed a capacity crowd of students, faculty, local government and business leaders of South East Queens and Jamaica. A graduate of Jamaica High School and whose mother still resides in the area, Sander specifically spoke to the students about the talent needs of the MTA as it begins its forty-third year serving the residents of New York.



Guests at the Executive Breakfast

“The Agency will need bright, intelligent, and thoughtful individuals who can manage, design, and engineer the future of our region’s transportation,” said Sander, who says he hopes that his example and short talk would spur their interests in transportation and transportation careers.

Sander took time to comment about the upcoming budgetary constraints that will impact service, fares, current and future capacity improvements. He commented that as the region experiences an explosion in population and the burden of past government disinvestment was placed on the agency serves as a double edge sword. He also stated that further clouding of the financial situation is the overall economic environment and the outcome of congestion pricing in the State Legislature.



Mr. Sander and the Tuskegee Airmen

The breakfast, which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was also an opportunity to pay tribute to the Civil Rights icon and had in attendance, a cross-section of civic and public guests and veterans such as members of the legendary World War II heroes, The Tuskegee Airmen.

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The York College Executive Leadership Breakfast Series was launched under the leadership of the College's President, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, two years ago, and has featured speakers from both public and private sectors of New York. Jet Blue Airways founder David Neeleman, former Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff and City Comptroller William Thompson and New York City Council Speaker, Christine C. Quinn.



Former Queens Borough president
Claire Shulman

President Marcia V. Keizs
will host a reception and diaspora forum
with the Prime Ministers and Presidents
of the (CARICOM) Caribbean countries



**Friday, June 20, 2008
(5:30 pm – 8:30 pm)**

The event will be moderated by Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

Prime Minister of the following countries are expected: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, S. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago. The Presidents of Guyana and Haiti are also expected to attend.



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York and NCC Agreement

Cont.'d from p.1

York will coordinate with NCC to schedule at least two on-the-spot admissions events per year, where students will be advised at NCC about York's programs, admissions process and scholarship opportunities.

"We get some students already," said York's President, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs. "But now we are having it be deliberate – especially in the allied health field, as we try to build capacity in the sciences. That is a real area for us."

According to Acting Associate Dean, Dr. Cynthia Haller, who was present at the signing, the idea was initiated by York College Professor, Dr. Che Tsao Huang of the Communications Technology Program. Dr. Huang saw the possibility of York being able to help NCC's students to complete their bachelor's degree in Communications Technology upon receiving their associate's degree from Nassau Community College.

Now, with the signing of the umbrella articulation agreement, NCC graduates desiring to come to York will not be limited to that program; they will have the opportunity to pursue whatever major they desire.

According to the agreement, Nassau Community College A.A. and A.S. graduates are guaranteed a minimum of 60 credits in transfer to York College, provided students achieved a grade of "C" or above in those courses.

Specific program articulation agreements for York College major programs will also be updated yearly and managed by the appropriate chairs and program directors at York and NCC.

The articulation agreement, signed by [York] President Keizs and President Sean A. Fanelli of NCC, affirms the connection between York and NCC and will likely increase the number of NCC students coming to York for their BA and BS degrees. But given that some NCC students have always found their way to York on their own, this agreement just paves the way for them to have a smoother transition and clearer path to completion.

The administrators' enthusiasm at the March 31 signing is some indication of future benefits to students at both campuses.

"NCC needs to find place for our students to transfer to that is affordable and good," said Fanelli who mentioned nursing and business among the fields his students would continue at York. "This link is a natural in the twenty first century. We both want the best for our students."

Upon completion of the signing of the agreement, which becomes effective immediately, York's Provost, Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, who was also present for the momentous occasion, congratulated the two presidents.

"Let's make the agreements live," said Griffith. "Let's not just sign them and put them on a shelf and visit them occasionally. There should be ongoing conversations."

York Graduate Selected Rangel Fellow

Cont.'d from p.1

The five year, nation-wide program is highly competitive. Each year, the Rangel Program selects 10 outstanding Rangel Fellows. Kennedo will receive expenses for a two-year master's degree in international affairs or a related topic. He will also participate in a Summer Enrichment Program and do internships at U.S. Embassies overseas and on Capitol Hill.

Upon successfully completing the graduate program and meeting the established Foreign

Service entry requirements, Kennedo will be placed on a Career Conditional Appointment to the Foreign Service for three years.

"I am honored to have been selected for this prestigious program," said Kennedo. "And there are many people at York College to thank for preparing me to take advantage of this opportunity."





Dean's List Students Honored

The York College Health and Physical Fitness Center again served as the site of the annual Dean's List Convocation. The March 27 event was organized to recognize those students that made the academic Dean's List during the 2007 calendar year. In Spring 2007, 782 students made it on the Dean's List, while in Fall 2007 683 students succeeded.

More than 200 York College Dean's List students, along with their families and friends, attended the second annual program, this year hosted by Professor David Ajuluchukwu, Chair-

person of the Department of Health & Physical Education and Gerontological Studies. With greetings from York College President Dr. Marcia V. Keizs and Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith, the highlight of the brief formal program was a student address from 2007 Dean's List student Ms. Kisha Ali. A light reception followed the formal part of the program.

Selection to the Dean's List requires a minimum grade point average of 3.25 and at least 12 graded credits in a given semester. Certificates of achievement are given to students who make the list each semester that they make the list.

Scholarship Center announces winners of Spring 2008 Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarships



The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, named for the late U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice, was established in 1987 to carry on Justice Marshall's legacy of equal access to higher education by supporting outstanding students attending America's public historically black colleges and universities. Forty seven public HBCU's and six historically Black Law Schools participate in the program. (York and Medgar Evers are the only member colleges in CUNY).

The average scholarship is \$22,000 per student per semester. Scholarships are not awarded directly to students but to the member college or university to which a student has been accepted. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and full-time students pursuing a degree at one of the Fund's participating institutions. Criteria for selection include a commitment to academic excellence, community service, a high school GPA of not less than 3.0, and demonstrated financial need. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than fifty million in scholarships to more than 6,000 students.

Spring 2008 winners and the sponsors of the scholarships:

Adam Gecker (Senior in Business Administration), Bank of America

Shahana Mohamed (Junior in Physician Assistant (pending approval), Charles Lawrence Keith & Clara Miller Foundation

This scholarship is for York and Medgar Evers College students only.

Kyle De Vonish (Freshman in Fine Arts), Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation

This scholarship was is York and Medgar Evers College students only.

Nestor Llerena (Sophomore in Fine Arts), Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation

This scholarship is for York and Medgar Evers College students only.

Rachel Claude (Merit Scholar, Freshman in Nursing), Starr Foundation

Jahi Rose (Sophomore in Business Administration), Starr Foundation

Bridgena Willis (Sophomore in Business Administration), TCMF General Scholarship

Sophie Fleurisca (Sophomore in Medical Technology), Wal-Mart Foundation

Keisha Forde (Junior in Business Administration), Coca Cola Company

For more information visit our website:
<http://york.cuny.edu/scholarships>



A Visit to the Annual Conference of the National Society of Black Physicists A Student Report

It is simply impossible to provide in a few paragraphs an accurate representation of the myriad of feelings that we associate with our first-time experience at the NSBP conference. There were so many aspects of the event, each with its own positives and negatives, all of which combined to create a lasting memory.

However, out of all of these different facets of the conference, there were two that stood prominent in our minds. The first of these involves the feeling that we experienced during our first day at the conference—the feeling of being amongst a group of people with similar, and in many cases superior, abilities and goals.

Not enough can be said about the power of such a feeling of being in the presence of others who are actively working, and working at their optimum, to forge their own destinies. Their passion for the wide variety of physical sciences caused us to re-evaluate our own com-

mitment, and eventually boost our drive even further to succeed in our academic careers.

The next feeling, though not by any means less potent, was that of exposure both to the cornucopia of possible fields of interest and to others within our current fields of interest. The connections that we were able to create with professionals and graduate students in such fields as astrophysics, condensed matter, atomic, and nuclear physics are likely to strongly influence whatever career paths we take upon graduation and last our lifetimes.

Overall this experience—that of a congregation with a mass of people intensely involved in this field of study—is one that every student in the sciences, and in general, will note as life-changing.



Poet Afaa Michael Weaver Visits York College

Poet Afaa Michael Weaver, author of ten books of poetry, including *The Plumflower Dance: Poems 1985-2005* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Press), read his poetry and discussed his life and work with nearly 100 students on April 16th. Weaver, an internationally recognized poet is Alumnae Professor of English at Simmons College in Boston, and a former Fulbright Scholar and Pew Fellow, as well as an NEA grant winner.

Mr. Weaver was invited to York College by Professor Papa of the English department after Professor Papa read an intriguing article about Weaver and his work in *Poets & Writers Magazine* this past December.

Students were captivated by his tales of growing

up poor in Baltimore, and inspired by his ability to overcome not only the death of his first son at the age of ten months, but also his experiences as a child victim of incest and to go on to create a successful and personally fulfilling life as a writer and college professor.

Though Mr. Weaver didn't bring many of his books to the reading, he sold every copy he did bring to both faculty and students intrigued by his work.

Mr. Weaver's reading was funded by the Office of the Provost at York College.



Afaa Michael Weaver

President Marcia V. Keizs

**Joins our Students, Faculty, and Staff
in Welcoming all Presenters and Participants
in the May 2, 2008**

***CUNY Student Development and
Enrollment Management Conference***
**“We’ve Got CLASS: Collaborations for Leadership,
Achievement, and Student Success”**

Student hired through Internship Program

The U.S. FDA has offered a permanent position to recent ('07,) graduate Angelo Damanti, at its Northeast Regional Laboratory, located on the York College campus.

Damanti's hiring was a direct result of his participation in the York College/U.S. FDA internship program. Because of a special arrangement, only York College students are able to take advantage of internships at the U. S. FDA Regional Laboratory. These internships provide an excellent opportunity to obtain hands-on experience.

Internship opportunities are available both for students in science disciplines and for non-science majors.

Damanti who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from York last year, was hired under the Student Educational Employment Program, which provides federal employment opportunities to degree-seeking students taking at least a half-time academic course load at an accredited

four-year college or university, graduate or professional school.



Angelo Damanti

Damanti is by no means the only York graduate to have been hired by the Agency. Over the past five years at least four York students have been hired and approximately 60 students have had internship opportunities at the facility.

Interview with Diva Joan Cartwright

by Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek, Coordinator of Women's Studies

Closing the events for Women's History Month 2008, Diva Joan Cartwright performed on Friday, March 28 at the Performing Arts Center. Accompanying Diva Joan Cartwright was Prof. Tom Zlabinger on bass, George Gray on drums, and Yoichi Uzeki on piano. The performance was followed by a reception where the audience had a chance to interact with the artist. The event was organized and sponsored by the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ivelaw Griffith. Prof. Tom Zlabinger, Avis Quan, and Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek also collaborated in organizing this event.

Her powerful performance was a combination of lecture and live music. Diva Joan Cartwright honored legendary female jazz musicians by interpreting their songs. Moreover, she enthusiastically engaged the audience creating a lively atmosphere. Following her visit to York College, I interviewed Diva Joan Cartwright about her experience at York during Women's History Month.

When did you conceive *Women in Jazz Concert & Lecture*?

I researched women who popularized jazz and blues music and developed the 45-minute format. Over a period of three years, I presented the program using 11 posters created for me during the first of three SEAS Grants I was awarded by Broward Schools in Florida. My audiences were elementary, middle and high schools, community colleges and universities, and libraries in Florida. In 2006, I gave the presentation at two international schools, one in Tianjin, China and the other in Tokyo, Japan. In 2007, the presentation was part of my offerings as Artist-in-Residence of the Pan African Bookfest at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Could you describe your experience at York?

It gave me great pleasure to address the two classes: Music Appreciation and Music History. I appreciate the questions and issues raised by the students and thank them for allowing me to share my experiences as a career musician. The trio of Yoichi Uzeki (piano), Tom Zlabinger (bass) and George Gray (drums) were professional and fun to work with. This was the first time I was accompanied for this program by more than a pianist. I truly enjoyed this ensemble and hope to work with them, again, very soon. The tender loving care of Fabiola Salek definitely made me feel very special. Also, I am honored that the President and Provost visited one of the classes I gave. It shows their interest in visiting presenters is genuine.

How would you describe the audience?

I was happy with the attendance and the attentiveness of the audience. I believe they enjoyed the presentation and had as much fun as I had with their participation. It would be wonderful to come back and do my presentation in the theater with a full house!



Performing at the Performing Arts Center on March 28, 2008: Diva Joan Cartwright accompanied by Prof. Tom Zlabinger, George Gray and Yoichi Uzeki.

Discovering the Rubin Museum: A Fieldtrip Report

My visit to the Rubin Museum of art was an extraordinary one. My classmates and professors were greeted by Dr. Ramon Prats, a Tibetologist who is the Senior Research Curator at the Museum, and Ms. Emily Auchincloss, Coordinator of Educational Programs. They were very cordial and welcoming to us leading our group on a two-hour tour of the museum's collection.

As we proceeded, Dr. Prats and Ms. Auchincloss explained, told stories, answered questions, and treated us as if we were honored guests. The Rubin Museum exhibits Himalayan art that is spiritual and religious. The borders of some of these painting are edged with silk textiles while other sculptures were made of stone that is usually coated in bronze. The materials used are found locally in the areas of Northern India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet.

The first exhibit was of a Buddha statue that was made out of stone. Buddha is a deity whose life teachings are about kindness, compassion and love where the goal of right action is achieving the enlightened state. Showing us this piece gave our hosts the chance to explain some tenets of Buddhism and the meaning of this artwork in a sacred context.

Our second display was a "Wheel of Life." This was displayed on a silk fabric embellished with bright shades of a various colors. This consisted of a Yama, the Lord of Death, clutching the wheel of life. Lord Yama shows us how life unfolds in cyclical pattern. As we go through life there are six sections of the circle and it is our karma, our actions, that determines how we are re-born. According to Lord Yama there is a way out of this cycle and the human existence is the best way to find release. At the top of this icon are the mortal gods who are divine beings, followed by jealous gods.

Thirdly are the hungry ghosts that are never satisfied. They are followed by the hell realm, the animal realm and most importantly the human realm. Tibetan Buddhists believe when you bring an end to being re-born then you become Buddha. Another amazing piece from Nepal that is part of the Rubin's newest collection is the "Mandala." This is also displayed on a beautiful fabric with stunning colors. It encompasses four

squares within circles and in the center of each there is a central figure. The circles all look alike but they can be differentiated by looking at the central figure and by the colors used that all have different meanings. The path illustrated in each is a labyrinth taking different twists and turns to the same destination. This destination is to reach awakening. To get to this state a person has to overcome attachment to self by understanding that the self does not exist.

The final sculpture we saw was a statue of lord Varasattva. He was covered in bronze and is the lord of a hundred Buddha families. This statue was placed on a pedestal and this like all the other deities are consecrated which means that they are made sacred. This is done by filling them with prayers and mantras thus "bringing them to life."

Our trip was arranged by Professor Donna Chirico as part of our course called *Laboratory in Sensation and Perception*. She was able to do this thanks to a tip from Provost Griffith about an initiative that was pro-

posed between the Rubin and CUNY. Professor Chirico seized the opportunity because it meant we could go for free, but she told us that the enthusiasm expressed and willingness to tailor the visit for this specific class from Dr. Prats and Ms. Auchincloss was beyond her expectations.

This is one of several field experiences this term that is bringing the ideas covered in the textbook into the real world. It is one thing to read

about the psychological aspects of art and religion as each relates to sensation and perception, but to experience these dimensions creates a chance to learn in way that is quite rewarding.

This semester our class also went to the New York Hall of Science and for our last trip we will see "Sunday in the Park with George," which will be followed by a conversation about the creation of perceptions in music and theater with the show's composer, Stephen Sondheim. Our visit to the Rubin Museum was definitely fantastic as it educated us about Himalayan art and it expanded our knowledge of the Tibetan beliefs. Our perceptions of art, religion, and psychology have definitely been broadened!

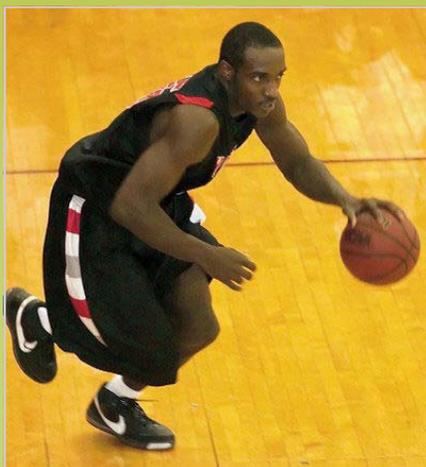
Lisa Mulchin



York's Omari Phipps named *Rookie of the Year*

York College men's basketball player Omari Phipps capped off an outstanding rookie campaign on Wednesday, March 19 by being named the D3.Hoops.com *Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year*.

Phipps, a forward, quickly established himself as one of the top players in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) during a season in which the Cardinals established a new school record for wins in a season (22-9) and went to the finals of both the CUNYAC and ECAC Metro Championships.



Omari Phipps

In addition, Phipps was among the league leaders in several major categories this season. He ranked 17th in scoring (12.3 ppg), 12th in rebounding (6.8 rbg), 10th in field goal percentage (.517) and fourth in blocked shots (1.00 bpg). Phipps also recorded double digits in scoring in all but eight out of 31 contests this season. His career-high came in the finals of the Surf & Slam Classic in San Diego, California, where he netted 26 points as he led the Cardinals to the championship.

Phipps was one of four members of the CUNYAC to receive All-Region honors. Brooklyn's Richard Jean-Baptiste was named Atlantic Regional Player of the Year, while both Duane Rhoden of Lehman and Vaughn Mason of John Jay College were named to the second team. "Omari gave us more than we could have expected in his first season," York Head Coach Ronald St. John said. "He showed great potential and he didn't disappoint. He proved to be a true go-to-guy in the low-post."

The All-Region teams were nominated and selected by the Sports Information Directors at the various schools. Each SID had the opportunity to vote for the players in his or her region.

(Article adapted from *The Queens Gazette*, March 26, 2008)

This is the last issue of *Academic Affairs Update* for the academic year. The submission deadline for materials for the first 2008/2009 issue is August 22, 2008.

All items should be submitted as MS Word file via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu

PRESIDENT MARCIA V. KEIZS JOINS AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION'S COMMISSION ON EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP



York College President, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, was recently invited to join the board of the American Council on Education's Commission on Effective Leadership (ACE). The Commission provides guidance for the ongoing development of the Center for Effective Leadership's programs and directs new initiatives to foster institutional effectiveness.

It also serves as a forum for member presidents to explore issues and share insights and personal experiences in leadership, leadership development and institutional effectiveness as they advise ACE about its programs and direc-

tion.

"I am honored to accept ACE's invitation," said Keizs who has also served on the Governor's Commission on Higher Education. "The work they do is very important to institutions such as York College and I look forward to collaborating with leaders from the various sectors of higher education."

ACE Commissions provide important leadership and guidance to the Council on the higher education community in the areas of access, success, equity and diversity, institutional effectiveness, lifelong learning and internationalization.

Student Volunteers Secure over Half a Million Dollars by providing Free Tax Preparation to Queens Residents

York College Alumnus and now Assistant Professor Robert Clovey teaches accounting at his alma mater. Last year he decided to try something new with the students in his tax class. Why not offer a field training component for the students by having them volunteer to prepare real tax returns for real taxpayers free? The call went out and 75 students signed on for the two training sessions in order to pass the examination to become Internal Revenue Service certified volunteers.

When the idea was presented to the kinder and gentler IRS it was immediately encouraged and supported. But who would entrust their tax returns (and their refunds) to students? To date, more than 550 tax returns were prepared, which generated over \$500,000 in tax refunds to clients. The standard rate of rejection is 10% and the volunteers' rate is way below that.

"I'm hoping to turn this into our own York

College campus program," said Clovey. "I think that it's really appropriate for our institution and our students. York College is the only one in Queens offering a volunteer program." The volunteers have been preparing reports on campus since January 31, 7 days a week. The plan is to continue providing the service beyond April 15 for two days a week.



Prof. Robert Clovey

News from the Occupational Therapy Department

1. On March 19th (Lobby Day) the students from the OT Department went to the State Senate in Albany with Prof. Sharon Faust to talk to their Assemblymen and Senators about the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

2. York College was well represented at The American Occupational Therapy Association's 88th Annual Conference.

Dr. Andrea Krauss and Dr. Tamara Avi-Itzhak presented a paper entitled "Increasing Urban OT Students' Proficiency and Skills Required for Passing the NBCOT Certification Exam: An Assessment of a Testing Preparation Seminar." Dr. Tamara Avi-Itzhak and Prof. Doris Obler from Long Island University presented a paper entitled "Clinical Value of the Beery Visual-Motor Integration Supplemental Tests: A Modified Replication Study."

We are most proud that two of our graduates from last year (our first graduating BS/MS class) had their research projects accepted as a poster presentation:

Mr. Tyrone Smart presented "Spirituality: One Student's Journey From Research to Practice" and Ms. Joelle Geneve presented "Self-Perception of Cultural Competence Among Occupational Therapy Students." Mr. Smart and Ms. Geneve were accompanied by Prof. Diane Tewfik who was their research advisor for these projects.



York's OT students lobbying in Albany

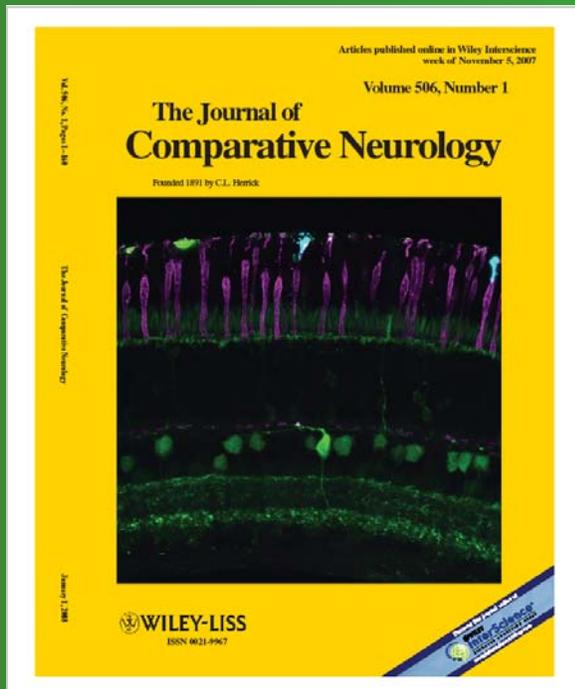
News from the Biology Department

The Department of Biology at York has recently joined the Genomics Education Partnership, an HHMI-funded project with the goal of introducing genomics research to undergraduate students throughout the country. This partnership is coordinated by Dr. Sarah Elgin at Washington University in St. Louis in collaboration with the Washington University Genome Sequencing Center. Currently, York is one of only 30 undergraduate institutions across the country involved in this partnership and the only one in the New York City area. The first cohort of York students are completing their projects this semester under the direction of Dr. Gerard McNeil and will present their results as part of the York College Natural Science Seminar Series on May 13 at noon.

The participating students are Chrystel Dol, Justina Chinwong, and Joanna Coradin (see picture). One of our recent graduates, Manpreet Kaur (07'), who currently works as a research technician in Dr. McNeil's research lab, participated in the project as a teaching assistant. This position was funded by the HHMI grant. This semester the project consisted of finishing the sequencing of the 4th chromosome of *Drosophila mojavensis* and annotation of the 4th chromosome of *Drosophila erecta*. Students who finish their projects will be authors on a future publication through the partnership.



Dr. McNeil will present a poster and participate in an undergraduate research workshop centering on this partnership at the 49th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in San Diego, May 5, 2008. This project will be an ongoing opportunity for York students to gain experience in genomic research.



York '06 graduate Paulette Gaul and Dr. Margaret MacNeil in Biology published their study "Biocytin wide-field bipolar cells in rabbit retina selectively contact blue cones" in the January 2008 issue of the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*. Paulette's confocal image of a single wide-field bipolar cell dendrite contacting a blue cone was selected as the journal's cover illustration.



Introducing CUNYfirst

CUNYfirst is a new and exciting way that CUNY will be doing business in the near future. This project will affect all students, faculty and staff and will be different than what many of us have come accustomed to over the years. So what is CUNYfirst? It is a replacement of our main computer database systems that house our financial, human resource and student information (see diagram). But CUNYfirst is not only a technological change it's a culture change! With the new system will come new intergraded tools and self-service options that will make access to information more efficient while providing increased security.

Though the new CUNYfirst system will bring many changes to the way The University does business, for faculty the changes will be minimal. Most of the changes faculty will notice will revolve around better access to information though the CUNYfirst Faculty Center. Through the Faculty Center a faculty member will be able to access their class rosters, grades for all classes being taught, and update your personnel information all from the same web interface on your office or home computer. Another feature of the Faculty Center is the ability to stay in touch with your colleagues by having the ability to search their teaching schedule. Students can be assigned advisors and if you have an advisee their name and contact information will be available right in there in the Faculty Center, you can even email them directly from that webpage! There are many other features of the Faculty Center that will be revealed to you in future communications

and when you attend CUNYfirst training.

Students will also see a marked change in their ability to access information important to them through the Student Center which will replace eSIMS. Their interface will give them access to schedules, the course catalog, and financial information.

The entire University community will have access to CUNYfirst training in modes that will accommodate many learning styles. There will be face-to-face classroom style training, job aids, and web training. Training will be available at times and in ways that will allow for everyone to partake in training before being asked to use the system.

There are many people from the campus already working to make CUNYfirst a success at York. They are working right now to make sure the General Ledger module of CUNYfirst is will be operational this summer. Though many of us will see no change when the General Ledger is implemented it will serve as the foundation for the other modules that will be phased in over the next three years (see diagram). We will continue to update the campus community on the progress of the CUNYfirst implementation. For more information you can type "CUNYfirst" in the search box of York's and CUNY's home pages.



NOTE: Please also observe the chart on the following page.

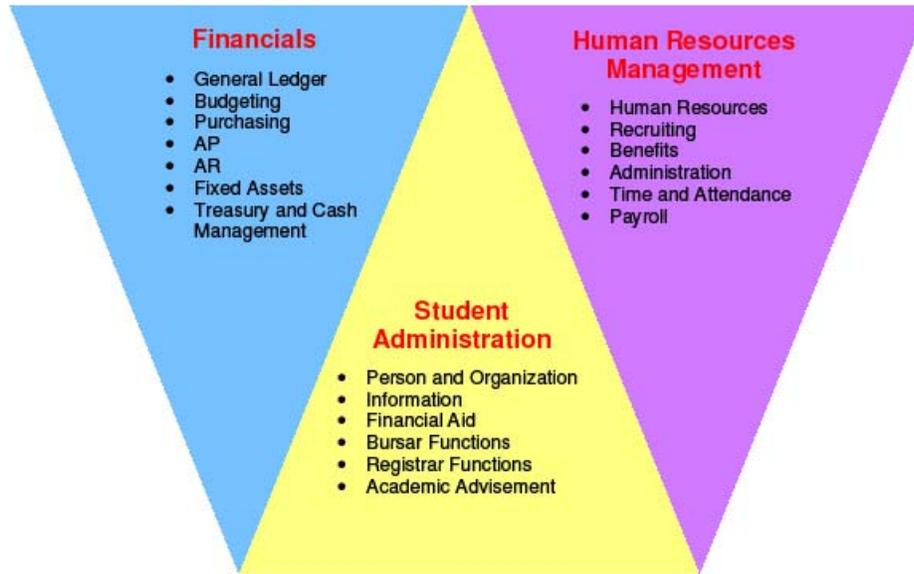
The Department of English Presents

SENIOR BRUNCH

Friday, May 16 from 11:00 am–2:00 pm in the Faculty Dining Room

Honoring our graduating majors and minors, and showcasing the research and scholarly activities of majors, minors and English Department faculty.

Integrated System



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

May 1 **Thursdays at the Center: The Impact of Faculty Research on Student Learning**
Noon-2:00 pm CETL Office, 4EA1
Presenters: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Tim Paglione, Earth and Physical Sciences

“Education ... is the great equalizer of the conditions of men – the balance wheel of society”

Horace Mann

Report as Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, 1848

CETL Sponsors Standing Room Only Event

Debra Swoboda – CETL Director

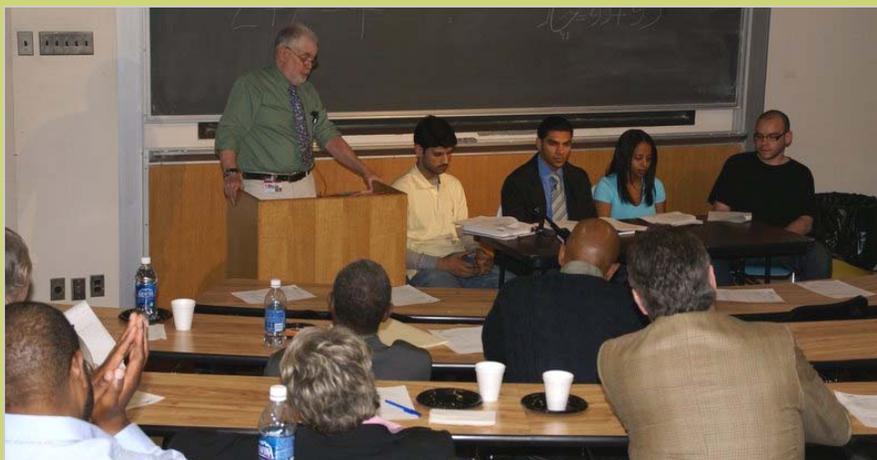
On Thursday, April 10, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning sponsored an event unlike most typical workshops or speaker forums. The event, entitled “How to Talk to Someone Who Does Not Want to Talk to You” included six dramatic presentations and audience discussion concerning the application of depicted ideas to classroom dynamics.

Using scripts based on the works of classic philosophers such as Plato and Hume, cast members illustrated various scenarios of student-teacher dialogue. Cast members included: playing Professor Cogno Scente—Howard Ruttenberg (Philosophy Professor and Chair); playing various parts—Kyle Whyte (Philosophy Adjunct Lecturer), York students Eyerusalem Belatchew and Alberto Bravo (philosophy majors), York students Imran Shahzad and Ray Reyhill (pre-physician assistant concentration); and playing Goddess Athena—Marcia Keizs (York College President).



The event was standing room only in lecture hall 4M05 and the follow-up discussion engaged participants in thinking about the challenges and tensions in talking to students. Remarks made in introducing the six vignettes summarized their overall message:

How professors talk with and relate to their students is a matter of considerable consequence. When a human connection is made, the student can be motivated to do well in the course and to think well of the subject matter, even to the extent of deciding to major in the study of it. Perhaps even more important, in human terms, how we talk to students is instructive to them concerning how it is good to function in different, sometimes difficult circumstances.



York College

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”

Albert Einstein

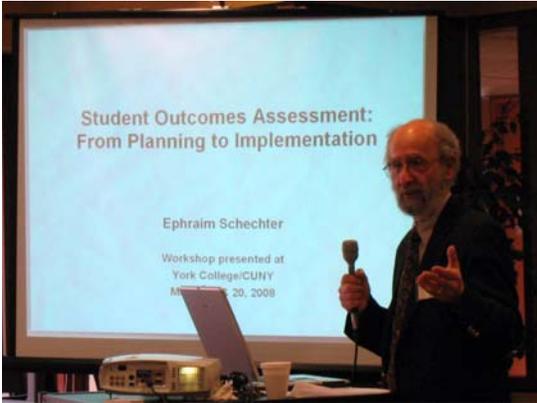
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Assessment Workshops Emphasize Utilizing Results

by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment



Dr. Ephraim Schechter

As part of the Title III General Education Outcomes Assessment Initiative, The Office of Institutional Research & Assessment invited Dr. Ephraim Schechter to present Assessment Workshops titled "Student Outcomes Assessment: From Planning to Implementation" on March 19 & March 20. An expert in the Higher Education Assessment field, Dr. Schechter has been involved in college and university outcomes assessment for over twenty years and has presented numerous workshops at national and regional assessment conferences. He also maintains the well-known meta-list Internet Resources for Higher Education Outcomes Assessment at <http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/resource.htm>.



A total of 42 faculty and staff attended the workshops. Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith gave the opening talk on March 19, 2008. Director of the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment, Dr. Aghajan Mohammadi, then introduced Dr. Schechter to the audience. The presentation started with the concept of the assessment loop and continued with assessment planning and student learning outcomes assessment. Knowing that the College is now working on the Math Skills and Quantitative Reasoning Assessment as part of the Title III activities, Dr. Schechter included a section focusing on this topic. He concluded the workshop by emphasizing that assessment is a multi-step process and it is important to use assessment results to make changes or improvements and/or support implementation requests.



Opening and introduction by Provost Griffith and Dr. Mohammadi.

The two-day workshops were very informative in the area of student learning assessment and also helped the Math Skills and Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Committee shape their planning and implementation and set the stage for future assessment activities. Handouts and resource files for the Assessment Workshops are online at the OIRA website (https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/institutional_research). If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment at 718-262-2737.

Dr. Mohammadi goes to Harvard

Dr. Aghajan Mohammadi was selected by the Harvard Graduate School of Education to attend the Summer 2008 Institute for Management and Leadership in Education (MLE).

Dr. Mohammadi is the director of institutional research, and assessment (http://york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/institutional_research). His areas of professional interest/expertise are: Institutional effectiveness in higher education, strategic planning, socioeconomic and demographic research, futuristic studies in education, research and assessment of student learning, enrollment management, global and comparative perspectives in higher education, accreditation in higher education, and information technology.

Dr. Mohammadi received his Ph.D degree in Higher Education Policy Studies, Research, and Evaluation from University of Kentucky. He has served as a faculty and administrator in four different two and four year colleges and has served as an assessment & evaluation consultant. He worked as a consultant to the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO), Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) in 2003 to develop and implement programs to improve the quality of education in the EMRO region. He has been on many accreditation visits to colleges and universities. Aghajan is one of the seven permanent members of faculty and staff swimming team at York College.



Dr. A. Mohammadi

“The best teachers assume that learning has little meaning unless it produces a sustained and substantial influence on the way people think, act, and feel.”

Ken Bain (*What the Best College Teachers Do*, p. 17)



News from York's Aviation Institute

The CUNY Aviation Institute Executive Lecture Jamaica, New York, April 10, 2008

The City University of New York's Aviation Institute at York College held its first Executive Speaker Lecture Series on April 10, 2008 at the Little Theatre at York College. The lecture series aims at promoting academic and industry knowledge on topics in aviation management. The series is geared toward students from York College and other local academic institutions as well as industry, community, and academics within the aviation field.

The President of York College, Dr. Marcia Keizs, welcomed guests and the Aviation Institute Director, Dr. Triant Flouris, spoke briefly at the event to introduce the Aviation Institute and the event speaker captain David "Dave" Bushy, Chief Operating Officer of Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines. Mr. Bushy's lecture entitled "Future Hiring in the Airline Industry" offered an inside look in the field of airline management by explaining the dynamics of the airline and its financial status and future prospects.

The Aviation Club at York College's Aviation Day Career Roundtable Jamaica, New York, April 17, 2008

On April 17, 2008, the Aviation Club at York College sponsored Aviation Day. The event featured experts from JetBlue Airways, the Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at an Aviation Career Round Table. The panelists shared their wealth of knowledge of the industry with students, faculty, and staff. The experts advised and encouraged students to be part of internship programs and focused on the importance of networking within the aviation industry.

The Aviation Club also known as the "York Aviators" was established in Fall Semester 2007. The club's mission is to share their passion for aviation with the York College community of students, faculty, and staff.

The panel of aviation industry experts was patterned after the UAA-NBAA (University Aviation Association-National Business Aviation Association) sponsored Aviation Careers Roundtable which is held annually during the NBAA Convention. The panel speakers were, JetBlue Airways Business Analyst, Mr. Samuel Kline, FAA Aviation Safety Inspector, Mr. Michael Cartelli as well as Mr. Jerome Roberson, Program Manager for Airport Parking Technology at the Port Authority of NY & NJ.

At the conclusion of the event, the panelists took time to talk to students on an individual basis about career opportunities in the aviation field. The panel was moderated by York College Aviation Professor Reeves Gandy and included introductions by York College President Dr. Marcia Keizs and Aviation Institute Director Dr. Triant Flouris.

“Writing in the Field”

by Dr. Bonnie Oglensky and Jennifer Worth

On Friday, April 4, 2008, a group of 13 senior-level students from the Social Work Program completed a workshop series entitled “Writing in the Field.” The workshop series—spanning over 2 months—included 6 hours of in-class training plus a take-away task involving the application of skills acquired to analysis of a social work case on the Internet. Included in this group are: Sharon Bowen, Yvonne Jahn, Sherridon Poyer, Harrison Mack, Lizette Diaz, Jenessa Davis, Patricia Chary-Simon, Joy Spencer, Milady Marine, Lystra Lessey, Angelina Ellis, Ynique Jones, and Rosemary Odeyemi. Each of these participants received a “Certificate of Completion of the Advanced Training in Writing in the Field.”

Developed by Dr. Bonnie Oglensky and CUNY Writing Fellow, Jennifer Worth—and supported by a Title III Grant through the York College, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)—this workshop series was designed to further prepare students with the critical thinking skills and interpretive schemes needed to write proficient clinical records for social work jobs.

Dr. Oglensky and Jennifer Worth met regularly though the 2007-2008 academic year to survey the field and develop a rubric that can serve as a guideline for other social work classes. In addition to typical competencies that WAC champions, like correct grammar and usage, the “Writing in the Field” rubric

also includes competencies like “distinguishing objective facts from subjective impressions” and “using non-judgmental language.” Such skills are important in the field, and when these are articulated singly, they grant students a new way to think about social work practice and their place in it.

All of the competencies were developed with the goal of preparing soon-to-graduating students to more easily transition from the academic to the professional worlds, by offering them more in-depth discussion of the uses of clinical records, the chance for hands-on practice with faculty guidance, and perhaps most importantly, the opportunity to think of themselves as social work professionals.

In addition to designing and running the workshop series, “Writing in the Field” is also being conceived as an action-research project. Thus, Dr. Oglensky has been studying the design, implementation, and outcomes of these workshops, the new pedagogical techniques and approaches employed, and the impact of the learning on student’s professional development. Papers about this work have been accepted for presentation this summer at two international conferences. Dr. Oglensky plans to conduct follow-up interviews in the fall, hoping to learn more about the lasting impact of the workshops on participants’ sense of writing competence and confidence at jobs and/or graduate studies in social work.



Participants Yvonne Jahn, Angelina Ellis, Sharon Bowen, Sherridon Poyer, Ynique Jones, Lystra Lessey, Patricia Chary-Simon, Jenessa Davis, Milady Marine, Joy Spencer, Lizette Diaz, and Patricia Odeyemi. (Faculty: Dr. Bonnie Oglensky (front right), and Jennifer Worth (front left).)

A Day at the Urban University Conference 2008

by Justina Chinwong, Chemistry Major, Class of 2008



The New York City Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (NYC-LSAMP) held its 11th Annual Urban University Conference 2008 on Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12 at City College. It consisted of poster session presentations by student research scholars. Undergraduate research scholars presented on Friday and graduate research scholars presented on Saturday. There was also a best practice symposium and a graduate education and tech-



Front row (l. to r.): Obdingo Mitchell (kneeling), Lyndon Haynes, Julio Conte, Alex Borovitskiy, Eric Timmons, Nancy Faustin

Back row (l. to r.): Dr. Farley Mawyer, Jean Cesarius (York alumnus), Nicholas Hunt-Walker, Eric Collado, Kolapo Solomon, Dr. Emmanuel Chang

nology exposition that included exhibitors from various academic settings, industries, and agencies.

I am an undergraduate senior at York College and have been an LSAMP scholar for the past three years. My research is in biochemistry, and my mentor is Dr. Ruel Z.B. Desamero. This year was my second time presenting at the

Urban University Conference. I had the opportunity to present my work called "Spectroscopic Analysis of a Src Kinase Inhibitor" on Friday, April 11th. My experience was very rewarding. I was able to share my research knowledge and skills.

This exposure is very important because it shows people how hard you have worked as an undergraduate LSAMP scholar. In particular, I felt very rewarded when Dr. Panayiotis Metelietis, Dean of Mathematics and Sciences at York College, found my project interesting. It made me feel like I was doing something right. Moreover, I was able to present our work to a community of students and faculty who shared similar scientific backgrounds. Because of this fact, I received feedback from many students and faculty. This feedback made me aware that there are many routes my research group can take in order to reach our research goals.

Several other students and many faculty from York College also presented their research work. Among the students who presented was Eric Collado of the Computer Science discipline. He presented "Using Spatial Partitioning and Bounding Volume Hierarchies For Real-Time Visual Surface Determination." Eric's mentor was Dr. Lewis Lasser of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. Another student presenter was Ricardo Cabanas, who presented "Specificity of Cyclin in the CDK Kinase System." Among the faculty was Dr. Emmanuel Chang of our Chemistry Department who presented "Tandem Mass Spectrometric Analysis of Desmosine and Isodesmosine."

In sum, we had a powerful experience at this year's Urban University Conference.



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All items should be submitted in MS Word via email to:
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