

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### Third Academic Leadership Retreat



**President Marcia V. Keizs addressing participants of the Academic Leadership Retreat**

On January 22, Provost Griffith called on York College’s academic leadership – both departmental chairs and program coordinators, as well as academic administrators in the Provost’s Office – to convene for the Third Academic Leadership Retreat. For one day,

the group of nearly 40 college leaders met and shared in formal presentations, discussions, and through informal commentary during lighter and social parts of the retreat, their perspectives, concerns and achievements. Ideas about administrative and academic improvements and best practice experiences were part of these discussions, as well as giving an opportunity to identify weak areas and to frankly acknowledge the distance we still have to cover on the road to endemic practices of sustained excellence.

The day began with brief welcome remarks by Provost Griffith setting the stage for these exchanges and supporting both the recognition of achievements and identification of areas requiring attention. The first panel “Enhancing Some of the Fundamentals: Opportunities, Ownership, and Outcomes in Math, English, and Writing” focused its attention on specific examples in three prominent disciplinary areas affecting practically all York students at some point. In her introductory

*cont.’d on p.4*

### New Year, New Grants for York Faculty

York College faculty members across the disciplines have started the new calendar year the way they left the old one – with research grants pouring in to fund their impressive scholarship.

Dr. Ruel Desamero was recently awarded a grant of nearly half a million dollars from the National Institutes of

Health/National Institute of General Medical Sciences through the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program.

The assistant professor of chemistry will use the grant toward his study of “Dihydropyridine Reductase: Mechanism of Enzyme Action.”

“Enzyme-substrate interactions have long been recognized as representing an extreme expression of structural complementarities in biological chemistry,” he explains of the research geared toward, “understanding the inner workings of an enzyme system like dihydropyridine reductase (DHPR).”

*cont.’d on p.9*



#### Special points of interest:

- **Third Academic Leadership Retreat**
- **Art & Sciences Student Research Exhibition**
- **Health Fair**

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## Provost Lecture

### “The Lord has Called Us to a Hard Task”: Chaplain Robert Dokes, Black Soldiers, and the Practice of Transgressive Citizenship in World War II

by Dr. Debra Swoboda



**Provost Griffith (l.) presenting a framed poster of the lecture to Dr. White**

On December 2, 2009, Dr. George White, Assistant Professor of History in the Department of History and Philosophy, presented the third Provost Lecture of the Fall 2009 semester. Provost Ivelaw Griffith welcomed the group and Dr. Laura Fishman, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy, introduced Dr. White, noting his sustained and enthusiastic contributions to the department and the college.

Dr. White began the presentation by pointing out that his use of oral history to examine the life and work of Chaplain Dokes is situated within an analysis of race and racism with applications to military history, and within the field of critical race theory. To study Reverend Dokes and the World War II African American soldiers whom he served, Dr. White explained

that he had interviewed Dokes’ surviving daughter and charter members of the 2nd Baptist Church of Paterson, New Jersey, and read periodic reports and letters that the Reverend had written between 1942 and 1945. Dr. White’s aim was to examine how this man, in the midst of so much violence and racism, had developed “an alternative Christian practice” and “a masculine performance.”

The presenter provided a vivid description of the life and times of Reverend Dokes, displaying photographs supplied by family members and augmenting his comments with stories from Dokes’ surviving daughter, who was in the audience.

Dr. White pointed out that Chaplain Dokes, after receiving his Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, estab-

lished a church in New Jersey and then joined the military in May 1941. Dokes served as chaplain in training camps both in the South and in areas of the country where there were no African Americans in surrounding communities. His experiences in the service caused him to write home to his wife, “the Lord has called us to a hard task.”

As Dr. White explained, Reverend Dokes worked tirelessly to invigorate the men he served, often conducting services in open fields and mess tents when routine facilities and resources were not provided. In contrast to the experiences of White military chaplains, Dokes gave frequent sermons which attracted a large number of men, including soldiers to whom he was not assigned.

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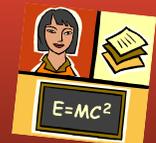
## PROVOST LECTURE

### “Teacher Identity and Math for Social Justice: Reflections on a Community of Practice”



Dr. Lidia Gonzalez  
Department of Math & Computer Science  
School of Arts & Sciences

February 24, 2010  
Rm. 4M07, 1:00 - 3:00 pm



Proponents of teaching mathematics for social justice (MFSJ) support the idea that mathematics can be used to further an agenda of social justice. In this lecture we consider MFSJ both theoretically and in practice.

*Point of  
Pride*

## York Physics Major Excels at Research

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Physics and Mathematics major, Nicholas Hunt-Walker recently took York to a place it had not been before: an honorable mention in the Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Award. At the national meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Washington, DC, in early January, Hunt-Walker won the honor in the Student Award competition for his poster on his X-ray studies of dwarf galaxies.

The honorable mention, according to York Physics professor, Dr. Timothy Paglione, is especially noteworthy since the competition features students from both graduate and undergraduate sectors.

Hunt-Walker attended the event with his mentor Dr. Paglione to present the poster he had developed during an internship for undergraduate interns at the University of Wisconsin – Madison last summer, with principal investigator, Dr. Marina Orio.

“I am working with Dr. Orio in exploring the x-ray populations in the Fornax and Leo I dwarf sources spheroidal galaxies,” Hunt-Walker explains in his CV. “Over the summer I worked on reliably detecting and

mapping the x-ray sources in the Fornax dwarf spheroidal galaxy, as well as obtaining high-confidence matches for these sources at other wavelengths using the Vizier search feature.”

Hunt-Walker, who is concurrently working with Dr. Jules Halpern as a post-baccalaureate research assistant in Astrophysics at Columbia University, came to York from Queensborough Community College in 2007 after a year and a half at the latter institution.

He enjoys the benefits of the small college environment York offers. “I have definitely benefitted from the faculty/student ratio at York in getting to know the professors,” Hunt-Walker notes.

Paglione sees nothing but great things in life for this student. “I envision a boundless future for Nick,” Paglione responded when asked about his student’s potential beyond York. “He could be the academically brightest Physics major we’ve ever graduated; but even more, through his own initiative, he’s engaged in a great deal of fruitful research in his still-young career.” Indeed, he already has a

four-page CV. “It’s his independent research skills that will be valuable in graduate school and beyond,” continues Paglione. “We already work together as colleagues, which is more typical of someone at least a year or so into their graduate studies, if ever...”

It’s a matter of going the extra mile. “In the sciences everyone knows what you know,” Hunt-Walker explains. “It’s the quality of the research [that makes the difference].”

Hunt-Walker who expects to graduate Summa Cum Laude in February (2010) has earned a dizzying list of accolades and awards over the past few years. He was the inaugural winner of the Dr. Eugene Levin Scholarship (for two years); a University Student Senate award winner and has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. He has also participated in the Honda Campus All-Stars under the direction of Dr. Farley Mawyer.

The graduating scholar intends to pursue a Ph.D. in astrophysics, “with a strong teaching component.”



**Nicholas Hunt-Walker**



**Nicholas with his York mentor, Prof. Tim Paglione**



**L.-r.:** Lou D'Alotto, Panayiotis Meleties, Thomas Gibson, Harry Rosen, and Robert Aceves



**L.-r.:** Holger Henke, Stanley Schleifer, Robert Brugna, and Gila Acker

**cont.'d from p.1**

remarks, the panel chair Dr. Valerie Anderson stressed that data – when and to the extent we use them – force us to see the world as it is, not as we would like to see it. Richard Stuckhardt from the Office of Institutional Research underscored the Office's preparedness to work with programs and departments to develop and analyze data sets. As he pointed out, in this discovery process a collaborative approach is important in order to develop questions fostering a deep understanding of the issues and to offer pertinent definitions in order to develop telling data.

Dr. Michael Cripps, the Director of York's Writing Program, explained that with regard to the Writing Program opportunities do not just exist locally, but also regionally and at the national level. Ownership, he asserted, has to be assumed by all not just some. Outcomes need to attend to both the good and the not so good. Thus, Dr. Cripps reported that in national comparison York students actually exceeded the national median in best writing practices. Having also found, however, that there are areas of need, more

York freshmen are now being steered to receive more lower level writing-intensive courses earlier.

Dr. Valerie Anderson continued the panel by admitting her surprise about how a closer look at the data pertaining to her department actually contradicted some notions she (and faculty in her department) had about it. Specifically, Dr. Anderson shared that she was taken aback when she learned that a significantly lower number of students than she had assumed are actually graduating as English majors. Learning the new reality, Dr. Anderson outlined immediate and concrete steps she has taken to change advisement in her department.

A similar experience was related by Dr. Louis D'Alotto, who reviewed the declining pass rates in one of his department's key courses. The analysis of the data, as Dr. D'Alotto explained, forced him to more carefully examine grade rosters for this class and to review the full- vs. part-time faculty teaching ratio for these and other classes. A further study of course delivery in his department revealed that the use of textbook software has improved final

exam grades for a particular course by 10%, which hopefully will become a compelling reason for responsible faculty to endorse this technology in their pedagogy.

In the discussion following the presentations of this panel, members of the retreat appreciated the specific examples demonstrating how systematic analysis of course and program delivery at the department level can reveal significant opportunities for improvement. Provost Griffith emphasized the need to not just feel comfortable with the assertion of quality instruction, but to find ways to ascertain quality control. He shared his surprise regarding recent observations made by new faculty members that some of their colleagues do not prepare students thoroughly enough for success in higher level courses. Clearly, this reveals the need for regular reviews of syllabi and an opportunity to consider institutionalization of course coordinators, among other things.

In her presentation following the first panel, President Marcia V. Keizs spoke about her personal growth as an administrator and scholar, sharing her conviction

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that everybody can lead from where they are, regardless of official title and formal position. In her own experience, sometimes a lesser position can actually become a greater opportunity to shine than a formally higher placement. Following these opening remarks, the President commented on the Provost's three O's – Opportunity, Ownership, Outcomes. Dr. Keizs promoted the idea of being student-/customer-centered, the concept of Academic Integrity (i.e., a seamlessness of accountability in teaching and learning), the idea of team work, and the notion of ownership in various administrative fields. She also elaborated that while we are facing yet another new generation of students, there are abounding opportunities for graduate students, for the creation of new programs, and for collaboration with other colleges.

In summing up, she counseled the leadership at the retreat not to go for low-hanging fruit only, but to think big, to dream big dreams and to work making them a reality. She pledged her administration's support for such new initiatives and her dedication to create a cli-

mate for and of success.

An enlightening summary by various chairs who had recently attended an American Council on Education (ACE) conference for department chairs followed President Keizs' presentation. Dr. Laura Fishman shared her deep appreciation for collegiality in an effort to overcome inherent tensions between leadership and management demands. Dr. Gila Acker led the group through several examples on how to successfully relate to your dean, while Prof. Ken Adams recollected reflections on student evaluations of teaching effectiveness. Dr. Larry Johnson and Prof. Mary-Jo Kranacher rounded off this panel by insights gained on always important issues such as facing risks and time-management.

During the luncheon session Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Dr. Lexa Logue spoke about the history and rationale of the Performance Management Process, as well as the parameters of the University's Masterplan. Dr. Logue was unequivocal in making it clear that CUNY consider student success to mean that as

many as possible students are getting a degree.

The afternoon brought two more panels for the retreat participants – one focusing on student support services and the second explaining the draft development plans for the new schools.

The panel “Enhancing Retention and Graduation Outcomes: Learning from Case Studies in Support Services” shed light on crucial student support areas such as Testing, Academic Advisement, the Registrar's Office, and Sponsored Programs. In his presentation Dr. Bob Baer, Director of the Academic Advisement Center, highlighted the impact of proper advisement on retention and graduation rates.

In a presentation that was packed with technical information, Sharon Davidson, York College's Registrar, explained the multiple ramifications of report requirements and the need for timely responses to information requests on issues such as grades, identifying instructors' names for all courses, or pertinent course changes. In particular, she explained some of the possible legal consequences for the college and the instructors



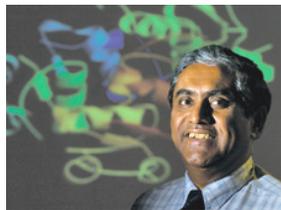
**Provost Griffith (r.) underscoring a point to the retreat participants**



**Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Lexa Logue (center) addressing retreat participants**

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## Welcoming New FDA Coordinator



**Dr. Deb Narayan Chakravarti**

At the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester Dr. Deb Narayan Chakravarti will start as a Professor of Chemistry. He will also be the Director of the York College-US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) collaboration. York College campus, which houses the Northeast Regional Laboratory, the North East Region New York Field Office and the New York District Office of the FDA, collaborates with the FDA through York-FDA student fellowship and internship programs, FDA-York College Workshops, FDA scientists teaching classes at York, etc.

In addition, to further developing the York-FDA collaboration, he would like to build an industry outreach program focused on training and placement of students as well as to initiate innovation partnerships with the schools of Business and Information Systems, and Health and Behavioral Sciences to develop curriculum that would cater to emerging career paths.

Dr. Chakravarti has extensive research, teaching, administrative, regulatory and project leader/management experience in both academia and in-

dustry. Before joining York College, he was the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Professor and Director of Proteomics at the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences (KGI, Member of The Claremont Colleges) in Claremont, California. At KGI he was actively involved in setting up and developing the team-based applied curriculum and taught a number of pharmaceutical and biotechnology courses.

Dr. Chakravarti also established a state of the art Proteomics Center at KGI, and actively carried out both basic and applied research that involved undergraduate and graduate students as well as post-doctoral fellows. He was a member of the Curriculum Review Committee, established and chaired the Academic and Research Resource Center and was also the Director of the outreach program of a NSF funded Frontiers in Integrative Biological Research grant.

He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Calcutta, Calcutta, India, and a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford, Oxford, England, where he worked under the supervision of late Prof. Rodney R. Porter, F.R.S., a Nobel Laureate. Dr.

Chakravarti's research at Oxford and subsequent post-doctoral work at Scripps Clinic (now known as The Scripps Research Institute) under the late Prof. Hans J. Muller-Eberhard involved the human complement system. He began working on vaccines (against human river blindness or onchocerciasis) and subsequently was in charge of Protein/Peptide Analytical and Peptide Chemistry groups at Wyeth Vaccines (now part of Pfizer).

He was also involved in research and development of vaccines against a number of infectious diseases, including the groundbreaking work on the application of genomics and proteomics for the development of vaccines. Dr. Chakravarti introduced proteomics as well as biological mass spectrometry to Wyeth Vaccines, set up the relevant facilities and was also in charge of the Proteomics Group for high throughput identification of bacterial surface proteins as candidates for subunit vaccines. He was actively involved in the "well characterization" of some of the most successful conjugate vaccines, such as HibTITER, Meningitec and the blockbuster product Prevnar.

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The Reverend's work gave him knowledge of the severe strain placed on Black soldiers, who had to prepare to go to war outside the United States while fighting White privilege and emasculation in America. Consequently, although Dokes' service earned him the respect of his superiors, he saw his work as an attempt to deal with "hell on earth." Dr. White pointed out that Dokes conjectured, in his letters at the end of his service, that Jim Crow laws would expand at the end of the war.

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for failing to ascertain that only students attend their classes who are enrolled and registered. Testing Center Director Fenix Arias spoke about the importance of the CPE exam and how recent successes regarding increasing pass rates were created, as well as about other tests (e.g., ATB) which students have to take. In her presentation, Director of Research & Sponsored Programs Dawn Hewitt explained the importance of matching grant applications with institutional abilities, as well as the need to focus on specific outcomes in grant-writing.

Dr. White explained that Reverend Dokes' life and work depicted a "reimagined American citizenship." By loving America in spite of what it took from them, and not because of what it gave to them, Dokes and other African American soldiers inverted the notion of patriotism. They practiced a Christianity that encompassed fighting the limitations of citizenship – a citizenship that reflected the cognitive dissonance produced by enduring racism and emasculation as part of their service in the military.

The afternoon was rounded off with some strategic directions outlined by the three academic deans with regard to our new schools. The plans gave opportunity for chairs and program directors to appreciate better the implications of the new structure, as well as to reflect and react to some of the propositions. The plans will be discussed and revised in the coming weeks and months, and will be introduced in the Academic Affairs newsletter in due time.

Concluding the event, Provost Griffith invited

A thought-provoking discussion followed Dr. White's presentation. Questions and comments stressed the value of the topic, raising issues of race, gender, military service, and the importance of oral history. Overall the group discussion reflected the theme of the lecture, which stressed that the real experiences and perspectives of Black soldiers have not been adequately recognized or appreciated.



**An attentive audience followed Dr. White's lecture**

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

all participants to give a quick reaction or appreciation of what they had learned during the day. Emails from several chairs in the days after the event confirmed that the event was very useful and a welcome opportunity to ask questions and learn about aspects of leadership and administration that are not always sufficiently or quickly enough recognized. The event also gave a few short yet welcome opportunities for socializing and fellowship among chairs, program directors and administrators.



**Dr. Bob Baer, Director of Academic Advisement, addressing participants at his recent Annual Leadership Retreat**

## Business Students Interning at SBDC



**Prof. Olajide Oladipo (l.) with his students, Camille Ashwood-Swaby (center) and Patrick Newland (r.)**

With the support of Mr. Harry Wells (Director of SBDC), Prof. Olajide Oladipo recently was able to place two of his students in a full year paid internship with the York College Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The students, Patrick Newland and Camille Ashwood-Swaby, are currently working under the super-

vision of the York College SBDC Director, Assistant Director and Business Advisors. During their internship, they perform the following functions:

- Assist in marketing, research and industry studies;
- Assist in the preparation of Financial Statement projections such

as cash flows analysis, income statements, balance sheets etc;

- Assist in general administrative duties;
- Assist Business Advisors and clients with business and marketing plans.

Professor Oladipo plans to increase the number of students in the very near future.



PRESIDENT MARCIA V. KEIZS

INVITES YOU TO THE

*York College  
Executive Leadership Breakfast*

FEATURING

JOEL I. KLEIN

CHANCELLOR

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

8:00-9:30 AM

YORK COLLEGE FACULTY DINING ROOM

ACADEMIC CORE BUILDING

94-20 GUY R. BREWER BOULEVARD

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PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT AT

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Dr. Desamero believes research into DHPR “is important if cures for the diseases caused by a malfunctioning or deficient enzyme are to be found.” He has mentored many students in his field, including Vanessa Crevecoeur, '07, now a doctoral student in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale University.

Biology professor, Dr. Gerard McNeil, has been awarded \$472,855 by the National Institute of Health for his research in “Characterization of RNA Targets for the Drosophila Protein Lark during Oogenesis.”

Dr. McNeil, who is chair of the Biology Department, is a specialist in developmental genetics, molecular biology and cell biology, and earned his Ph.D. at the Medical School of the University of Massachusetts. He has influenced many of York’s students in the biological sciences, including Fiona Smith, '05,

who earned a Salk Scholarship into Pennsylvania State College of Medicine from which she graduated as a physician in 2009.

In the social sciences, Dr. Beth Rosenthal, a professor of Social Work, recently added to her scholarship with a \$69,206 grant from the National Institute of Health to study “Adolescent Trauma, Psychopathology and Resilience: A Person-focused Approach.”

Dr. Rosenthal, a specialist in social stress and its psycho-social outcomes among adolescents and resilience among adolescents, earned her D.S.W. and other degrees from Adelphi University.

She has mentored approximately 30 students in her research lab at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in various fields such as psychology, sociology occupational therapy and social work. And just as her students cut across disciplines, so

too do they hail from various institutions: York and other CUNY institutions, as well as St. John’s and Columbia Universities.

Dr. Rosenthal’s scholarship has influenced her students to pursue their own in the areas, leading to presentations and publications with their mentor. Currently, there are five students in her lab who will benefit from this latest NIH grant.

According to Rosenthal, they are proving their mettle in data collection, preparing the data for statistical analysis and carrying out basic statistical procedures.

“These skills prepare students for entry-level social research jobs and for success in graduate school,” she explains. “The experience of working in the lab enables them to master basic social science research skills.”



Dr. Ruel Desamero



Dr. Gerald McNeil



Dr. Beth Rosenthal



Two of the Tuskegee Airmen (left and center) attending Prof. White’s Provost Lecture in December 2009. Prof. White on the right.

Prof. Anne Simon, Zohra Saad-Kherief, and Margaret Ballantyne (l.-r.) attending the Arts & Sciences Fair in Fall 2009



## Forging New Alliances with the University of Aruba

by Dr. Bonnie Oglensky



**Professor Clementia Eugene, Dr. Bonnie Oglensky, Faculty Secretary, Irene Croes (l. to r.)**



**Thesis and Lecture Hall**

At the invitation of Professor Clementia Eugene, department head, Social Work & Development, at University of Aruba, Dr. Bonnie Oglensky (Dept. of Social Sciences) met with members of the faculty in January 2010 to begin a dialogue about the establishment of a new social work program at Aruba's growing university located in the capital city, Oranjestad, Aruba.

Housed in a historic monument, the former Huize de La Salle Monastery, the University of Aruba started in 1988 as a subdivision of the University of the Netherlands Antilles. From a limited number of students during its first year, enrollment at UA has grown to more than 400 students. Graduate and undergraduate studies include law, economics, and international tourism. The faculty consists of professors and lecturers from the neighboring island of Curacao and the Netherlands, as well as the University of Central Florida, University of Arizona, Hogeschool Diemen (The Netherlands), and the

University of Puerto Rico.

The Social Work & Development major launched with its first cohort of students in Fall 2009, contributing to relevant knowledge regarding social and demographic issues in Aruba and in the region. Bringing with it a unique feature – the “development” perspective – the program will be geared toward training students to think about economic and social development of the island as a whole. According to Professor Eugene, practice in social work will emphasize not only direct casework with individuals, families, and groups, but also structural change to improve the social welfare of the island.

Dr. Oglensky was happy to share information about the social work program at York – particularly regarding the Field Education component for which she served as Director from 2004-2009. Professor Eugene was most interested to engage in discussion about how the social work program at York selects and orients field

instructors, supports students as they go through the field practicum, and assesses learning.

A focus of discussion was on the “Writing in the Field” workshop series that Dr. Oglensky has offered to social work students since Spring 2008 aimed at improving writing mechanics and clinical reasoning skills required to compose meaningful and accurate professional social work records.

Professor Eugene expressed interest in forming an alliance with York College for their overseas field placement option which will be offered to social work students in their senior year of the program. She is also eager to have Dr. Oglensky return to teach Writing in the Field to social work students at University of Aruba.

Enriched by multicultural, multilingual student bodies, both York College and University of Aruba may have much to learn from each other as this alliance evolves.

## Student Research at Arts & Sciences Fall Exhibition

The students, faculty and staff of the School of Arts and Sciences organized and held the first Fall Exhibition of Research, Scholarship and Creative Works on December 10, 2009.

Posters showing research and scholarship, student seminars and student art creations (sculptures and paintings) were exhibited on the fourth floor of the Academic Core (AC 4E corridor). Exhibits included models from the cultural diversity students, posters with department activities, student and faculty research.

During the exhibition science students made brief seminar presentations of their research in the adjacent lecture hall. Posters and exhibits in-

clude research posters from Biology, Chemistry Earth and Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, presentations by the Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities, History and Philosophy, English and Performing and Fine Arts.

The posters and exhibits indicated the breadth of interests and scholarship of faculty students. There were posters showing activities with the United Nations by Professor Martin Atangana, and posters on geology research in the Caribbean. Posters showing research in neuroscience and genomics and posters studying protein properties.

The Foreign languages exhibit had faculty books and publications and provided information on the

Study Abroad program. Village models by cultural diversity students and sculptures and paintings by the performing arts students were also admired.

More than 200 students, faculty and staff attended the exhibition from all the departments and units of the college.

The organizing committee was led by Ms. J. Albertini (Biology) and included Ms. I. Taniey (Mathematics), Ms. C. Parris-Davis (English), Ms. P. Miles (Earth and Physical Sciences), Ms. D. Samples (Chemistry), Ms. J. Heywood (Performing and Fine Arts), Ms. E. Freeman (Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities) and Ms. V. Grande (History and Philosophy).



**Visitors studying the posters**



**Prof. Khandaker making a point**



**Students exploring the high-tech exhibits**

**President Keizs addressing the 3rd Academic Leadership Retreat in January 2010**



## Health Fair attracts many...



**Prof. Grosskopf explaining HIV prevention**

A Health Fair was recently held to promote the wide array of health services available in and around the York College community. The fair which was hosted by the Health Promotion Center at York College attracted over 200 students and faculty.

The wide array of information that was on display covered topics such as safe sex, family planning, diabetes, and stroke. On site HIV and blood pressure testing were available to participants. Lectures were conducted by Professor Nicholas Grosskopf and members of the AIDS Center of Queens County. A coat drive which was conducted by intern Tanesha Orridge secured 60 coats which will be donated to the Colonial Family Center for the homeless. Surveys collected from the event were helpful in their recommendations of what students expected in the future and what services they thought were lacking in the York Health Community.

The project was spearheaded by the Director of the Health Promotion Center Dr. Ray Marks and the Center's interns. The event was co-

sponsored by the York College Student Government Association.

The fair was a success and it will be done as an annual event. Special thanks to Dr. Ajuluchukwu, Ronald St. John and Eric Holloman for their assistance with this project.

### Student's comments

#### *Valesha Lera:*

"The most important display and presentation that I really found informative was the session about the proper use of sexual protection and also the results of STDs. I really enjoyed this because I've studied a lot of biology and his explanation of what happens to our bodies was so informative and he also explained a few things that I didn't know."

#### *Angel Isaac Castillo:*

"The fair had a lot to offer when it came to education of diseases like diabetes and STDs, as well as information about nutrition which is one of the best ways to prevent a number of different types of diseases. While the fair was small it was able to provide a lot of infor-

mation to the people that were there.

#### *Manira Akhtar:*

"The Health Fair was definitely an experience I would never forget. I just wanted to be more involved with the Health Fair. What surprised me the most was, many members working within groups and that each member's level of involvement was very high."

#### *Donia Darhan:*

"Many people do not know how to choose a healthy lifestyle and how to make changes. This is why I believe that taking more health classes, and attending health fairs will educate people better. It will provide information that sometimes one has not heard of. For example, when I heard about diabetes, I always used to believe that once it was in the family, I was prone to getting it no matter what I did. However, educating myself about this disease at the health fair helped because even though diseases run in the family, there are many ways to prevent them."



**Health Fair participants getting information about nutrition**

## Dr. Rodgers Wins Social Workers Award

Dr. Selena T. Rodgers recently received the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emerging Social Work Leaders Award by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) New York City Chapter.

The annual award recognizes early career social workers who demonstrate exemplary leadership, expertise, and dedication to the profession and to the improvement of social and human conditions at the local levels through contributions to services, resource development, political efficacy, cross-cultural and anti-racist practices, teaching, research, and practice knowledge.

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**Darakshan Ahmed:**

“The Health Fair was very informative on the subjects of HIV, flu, diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure and cervical cancer. This is the first time I have attended a health fair in the health building. The coordinators of the booths were very helpful and informative on the subjects of preventative measures. I really liked the idea of conducting blood pressure testing of the participants and providing information on

Dr. Rodgers’ significant contributions to the profession include her research focusing on the intersection of posttraumatic growth, social support and spiritual well-being in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic groups who have experienced forced migration and childhood sexual abuse. In 2010 she co-authored a book chapter, “Our Survival, Our Strengths: Understanding the Experiences of African-American Women in Abusive Relationships,” published in L. Lockhart & F. Danis *Domestic Violence: Intersectionality and Culturally Competent Practice*. Dr. Rodgers

how to reduce risk factors.

I also participated in the informative lecture on HIV & Aids given by Professor Grosskopf. He explained his research on the distribution of condoms in NYC and its relationship to the topic of HIV. One of the great aspects of the fair was the HIV testing that was being conducted upstairs in the Health Promotion Center.

I learned a great deal of information from both the hand washing and

also spearheads mentoring opportunities for students and alumni, inspiring in them a sense of service, professionalism and leadership.

Dr. Rodgers was nominated by York College’s Dr. Mark Schuller (Dept. of African American Studies / Anthropology) and congratulated by President Marcia Keizs, Safe Horizon’s Chief Executive Officer, Ariel Zwang and Chief Program Officer, Beatrice Hanson. Several colleagues, students, family and friends were among 325 people who attended the awards dinner in celebration of the 2009 honorees.



**Patricia Brownell (President of NASW-NYC) (l.) and Selena T. Rodgers (Honoree/Assistant Professor of Social Work)**

food portion control. The giving away of hand sanitizing samples and healthy snacks was very helpful in showing me how to prevent over-eating. I especially liked the pamphlets explaining how to create portion control in daily intake of food at home. Some of the pamphlets which included hand washing, breast examination, diabetes control, and stroke were very educational.”



**Lots of useful information was disseminated during the health fair**

## Linda Gerena joins TESOL committee



**Dr. Linda Gerena**

Linda Gerena, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, was recently elected to national leadership office in the professional organization TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). Dr. Gerena will be a member of the incoming Nominating Committee for TESOL, an international organization with a network of almost 60,000 individual and affiliate members from around the world.

For over 40 years, TESOL's mission has been to develop and maintain professional standards and expertise in the teaching of English, to promote and encourage the learning of English worldwide and to support the retention of native languages while their speakers acquire English. TESOL provides resources for teachers of English Language Learners, encourages research, and pro-

motes scholarly publications in peer reviewed journals, books and electronic resources in fields such as applied linguistics, bilingual education, English as a second or foreign language, English for specific purposes, intercultural communication, and policy issues in language education.

TESOL also conducts workshops and symposia, and organizes an annual conference that is attended by global English language educators. With an average conference attendance of more than 6,000 professionals, TESOL's convention is one of the largest annual educational conferences worldwide and is the foremost venue for professional development for teachers of English to speakers of other languages.

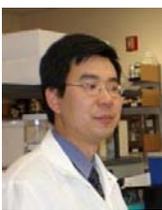
Dr. Gerena's long-standing commitment to TESOL and her previous service to the organiza-

tion were factors in her selection as a candidate for office and her subsequent election to office by the general membership. The Nominating Committee helps to shape and direct the future of the organization in that it is responsible for soliciting nominations from the membership, standing committees and all other constituents of the organization for all elected positions. As a member of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Gerena will have the responsibility to screen and select candidates for TESOL elections for the President-elect, the Board of Directors, and the incoming Nominating Committee.

Dr. Gerena is a life long advocate for English language learners and TESOL and is deeply gratified by the opportunity to serve TESOL in such a critical and influential capacity.



## York Professor's mentee Intel Talent Search semi-finalist



**Dr. Emmanuel Chang**

Dr. Emanuel Chang's mentee from the Queens High School for the Sciences, Manjinder Singh Kandolahas, was recently named one of the 300 semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. Manjinder's research title was "Computational Analysis of Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Substrates in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Leads to a Novel

Substrate Identification Mechanism." Intel Science Talent Search is a program of the Society for Science and the Public. As America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition, this talent search brings together the best and brightest young scientific minds in America to compete for \$1.25 million in awards.

## Geology Student Research at Argonne National Lab

by Kathleen Robbins and Reuben Tineo

On November 13, 2009, we presented our research on the COMPOSITION AND ORIGIN OF THE CRESCENT BEACH SAND, SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE at Argonne National Laboratory's Undergraduate Symposium. We were sponsored by York College's Auxiliary Enterprise.

The event was well attended and approximately 450 registrants were present. There were 16 lecture sessions with topics ranging from bioremediation to supernovae. We participated in the Environmental Sciences session and fellow presenters' topics ranged from the investigation of invasive Buckthorn management to the study of foraminifera (micro fossils used for paleoclimate and age determination) in the Antarctic.

Students were able to tour both the Advanced Photon Source (APS) as well as the Argonne Tandem Linear Accelerator System (ATLAS), the world's first superconducting ion accelerator. The APS is freely available for research projects provided that all data is shared and a quarter of the time researchers have the facilities that must be dedicated to student re-

search.

Our research focused on the origin and composition of the sediment from Crescent Beach collected in March 2009. The samples were assessed for grain size, heavy and mineral composition and our preliminary results were presented along with several other environmental and geological presentations. York College laboratory facilities were utilized and we worked on weekends, as well. This research project has given us new incentive and we will continue to work towards preparing materials for presentation for the forthcoming GSA meeting, to be held in Denver, October 2010.

Students, professors and researchers networked and discussed research opportunities for future collaborations. Of particular interest was to discover that Dr. Linda Phaire-Washington, of Argonne National Laboratory is also a former York College professor.

We realized the importance of beginning research at the undergraduate level and the seriousness and commitment that are required. We were very impressed by the work conducted by our fellow presenters and

their drive for success.

We suggest students get involved with research as soon as possible in their education and not be intimidated by the hard work and long hours that are needed for presenting at regional and national meetings. The connections and networking possibilities that result from this effort exceed expectations and the additional resume line item impresses employers. Geology faculty reminded us about York's strong commitment for supporting undergraduate participation in national-level research symposium/meeting and we are fortunate to take advantage of it.

Argonne National Laboratory was a gracious host and we would like to thank them as well as the following for their support: Dean Panayiotis Meleties, Dr. Khandaker, Dr. S. Schleifer, Dr. Ratan Dhar, and Keshaw Narine, all of York College, Kale Clausen, Queens College, Maine Geological Survey, Dr. Dennis M. Robbins, Hunter College, Constantine Meleties and Vaspour Antanesian. Lastly, we especially thank York College's Auxiliary Enterprise for their financial support.



Reuben Tineo

**“We realized the importance of beginning research at the undergraduate level and the seriousness and commitment that are required to do research.”**



Kathy Robbins



## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### February/March 2010 Forums and Workshops

**“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” – Aristotle**

Thursday, February 25

**Speaker Forum:**

***Questioning, Listening and Responding to Promote Better Discussions***

12:00 - 2:00 pm

Lecture Hall, AC 4M07

Guest Speaker:

Stephen Preskill, Department of Education, Wagner College

Wednesday, March 3

**Workshop:**

***Writing at York College/CUNY: Achievements and Challenges***

1:00 - 3:00 pm

CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenter:

Michael Cripps, English & WAC/Writing Program Coordinator

Thursday, March 18

**Speaker Forum:**

***Encouraging Interdisciplinary General Education***

12:00 - 2:00 pm

Faculty Dining Room, 2D01

Guest Speaker:

Marcia Bundy Seabury, Department of English, University of Hartford



**Participants at a Strategic Planning meeting in December 2009 deep in discussion**



## York Faculty Update



- Dr. **Martin Atangana** (Dept. of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences) attended the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society 2010 Biennial Convention that was held in San Diego, California, from January 6 to January 9, 2010. He represented the York College Tau Lambda Chapter and served as Chair/Moderator of Session 9 that was dedicated to politics in Africa.
- Dr. **Hamid Bahri** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, School of Arts & Sciences) organized and presided over a Special Session at the 2009 MLA conference in Philadelphia (Dec. 27, 2009) on: "Marginality in Francophone North African Literature."
- Dr. **Zohra Saad-Kherief** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, School of Arts & Sciences) presented a paper "Language Policies, Rights, and Conflicts in Post Colonial Algeria," at the 11th International Pragmatics Conference on July 15th, 2009, in Melbourne, Australia.
- Dr. **George White** (Dept. of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences) chaired a session at the 124th annual meeting of the American Historical Association in San Diego, California (January 9, 2010).
- Prof. **Peter Jackson** (Dept. of Health Professions, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) published an online article "Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome: A Laboratory Look At One Platelet Function Disorder," <http://laboratory-manager.advanceweb.com/> (January 28, 2010).

### School of Health & Behavioral Sciences

#### *2nd Global Health Lecture*

*in partnership with Jamaica Hospital Medical Center*

### "Maternal Mortality: A Human Rights Issue"

**Jason Opeña Disterhoft**  
*Amnesty International (USA)*



**Tuesday, March 2, 2010**  
**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Faculty Dining Room**



**O**ne woman dies every minute and many more face long-term debilitating ill-health as a result of conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth. Of all the goals set by the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, cutting the maternal mortality ratio by 75% has seen by far the least progress, less than 1% per year by the most optimistic estimates.



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**The deadline for submissions to the February issue of Academic Affairs Update is February 22, 2010.**

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

***via email to:***

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