

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Bringing Research to the Fore



Professor Rishi Nath

Summer 2010 will be forever known to York College Professor Rishi Nath, as the year of his “Excellent Math Adventure,” through Europe for a conference and professional meetings.

Blogging for York from this mathematical *tour d’Europe*, Dr. Nath, an assistant professor in the Department of

Mathematics and Computer Science, shared his scholarship in Algebraic Combinatorics and Representations of Finite Groups and Partition Theory with his European counterparts and enjoyed the scholarly reciprocity which this opportunity provided.

Dr. Nath, Director of Undergraduate Research and the Honors Program at York, was invited to attend the conference in honor of the 60th birthday of Professor Jacques Thevenaz in Lausanne, Switzerland. He also had a separate grant to visit the University of Copenhagen this year

and decided to combine the two events in one trip.

Asked if he attended as student or teacher, Nath showed the two are not mutually exclusive.

“I was both student and teacher,” said Nath upon his return to the fold at York. “I visited Denmark, France and Switzerland. In Switzerland I attended a conference so I was a student, listening to the latest developments on representation theory. In Denmark I lectured at the University of Copenhagen, so in a sense I taught.

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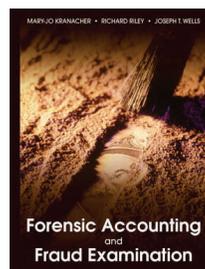
Professor Publishes Book on Forensic Accounting

Mary-Jo Kranacher, ACFE Endowed Professor of Fraud Examination and chair of the Department of Accounting & Finance, recently published a new critical text on a very pertinent topic.

Together with Joseph T. Wells and Richard Riley, she is a co-author of *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination*, a new textbook published by Wiley and Sons.

The book provides a comprehensive introduction to fraud detection and deterrence within the context of the model educational curriculum in fraud and forensic accounting that was developed by a Technical Working Group of experts and funded by the U.S. National Institute of Justice. Segments titled “From the Fraudster’s Perspective” allow students to get inside the

mind of a white collar criminal, and engaging case study examples bring technical concepts to life and offer real world practicality for fraud and forensic investigations.



Special points of interest:

- New Faculty Bios
- York Prof builds world’s longest barometer
- Public accountants society headed by York Prof

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“Travel is a tonic for comfortable thinking and living. It stretches your mind. I encourage students to explore all available opportunities to travel and learn.”

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However in the small audience were several experts, so over dinner afterwards I learned some things. [It’s] the schizophrenia of being an academic.”

He also met with a fellow-scholar of similar ilk.

“It was natural to visit Copenhagen now, since Jean-Baptiste Gramain, a post-doctoral fellow with similar interests, is leaving Denmark this fall for Germany,” he explained.

Asked how he was received as an American mathematics scholar, Nath said he was pleased with his reception.

“I received exactly the feedback I needed on my current research, and also came back with several new ideas,” he said. “I was inspired by seeing both the veteran researchers and the newer crop of thinkers converging from all over the world to continue long-standing conversations.”

But he was inspired by much more.

The link between a passion for teaching and researching is underestimated,” said Nath. “My advisor told me ‘Get to reading!’”

The York professor also revealed that a new paper has come out which presents the results of the last fifty years in symmetric groups in a new light.

“‘Graded algebras,’ he quotes the paper, ‘is the future.’ If mathematical researchers are unafraid to try a new, better approach to explaining a difficult concept, then so should mathematics instructors. Also, my students are fascinated by the idea that I travel to conferences to discuss new math. They become more invested in the course. Research and teaching are friends, not enemies!”

As for what he brings back to York from his scholarly odyssey, Nath is enthusiastic about the possibilities.

“I paid close attention to the relationships between successful mentors and their students,” he says. “I hope to be able to share what I have learned in that area about collaborative projects. There is a development and evolution that must occur in every productive endeavor of this kind. I also was struck by how

essential funding is to be able to conduct basic research and travel, and how proper funding can influence the development of a field, or stunt it.”

But Dr. Nath’s latest research effort has flourished from the international interaction.

“I will revise one of my main results before publication to reflect some comments I received overseas,” he said. “I also have a new idea for expanding on some work I have done; I may look to work on it with an undergraduate who is well-prepared for intensive research.”

Nath is also grateful for the opportunity and those who made it possible.

“[I am] thankful to the Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne (EPFL), the PSC-CUNY, and the Office of Academic Affairs for supporting my trip,” he said. “Travel is a tonic for comfortable thinking and living. It stretches your mind! I encourage students to explore all available opportunities to travel and learn. I will.”

Geology Major Receives Brownfield Scholarship 2010-2011

A geology major in the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences at York College of CUNY, Avel Cunningham, was awarded the most remarkable "Brownfield Scholarship 2010-2011." The second annual NYC Big Apple Brownfield Awards Ceremony was held on June 21, 2010, at the School of Law, New York University (NYU) (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/oe/html/community/BABA2010.shtml>).

The Scholarship Program for Brownfield Studies

The Scholarship Program for Brownfield Studies is an annual program designed to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in the environmental industry in New York City. Brownfields are properties where redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination.

The New York City Partnership of Brownfield Practitioners was started in response to the Local Brownfield Cleanup Program initiated last year under PlaNYC by the NYC office of Environ-

mental Remediation. Its primary function is to promote sustainable Brownfield management in New York City, providing the needed services and conferring the resulting benefits to New York City communities and residents.

An essential component to the long-term success of Brownfield remediation is the commitment of the next generation of Brownfield professionals.

The Scholarship Program for Brownfield Studies began last year as a means of encouraging students to enter this increasingly important field. The competition for scholarships is open to New York City public school seniors or current undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in any of the City University of New York (CUNY)'s 23 component colleges.

Avel is a senior with Geology major in Earth and Physical Sciences. She has already participated in national and international conferences as a first author and co-author of various posters and abstracts. Her research to date ranges from nutrients and heavy-metals loading in Jamaica Bay to iron and arsenic speciation in sediments

from contaminated areas in Bengal, India.

Avel has significant training and experience in collecting field samples including water and sediments and running them on site and in the laboratory using field and bench top instruments, respectively.

Her advisor, Dr. Ratan Kumar Dhar, Assistant Professor of Earth and Physical Sciences mentioned that Avel is the only undergraduate awardee with the other seven awardees being graduate students from CUNY colleges. He strongly believes that there are more students in Geology capable of excellent work like Avel.

Dr. Dhar cites her motivation and praises her for enthusiastic response to challenge and responsibility, as well as her mastery of sophisticated instrumentation.

He also states that he was "immediately impressed" by Avel's approach and hands-on experience, as well as her attention to detail. She is described as "well positioned" to become a leader in the area of environmental geosciences.

*Point of
Pride*

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY



Avel Cunningham (r.) and Prof. Dhar in the lab

Welcoming our New Faculty Colleagues (Pt.1)

In Fall 2010 a cohort of new faculty across many disciplines and departments will begin their work as teachers and researchers at York College. We are proud of the new colleagues joining us and are happy to introduce them (in no particular order) in the following pages of the newsletter. In the next newsletter, we will list the remaining members of the new cohort.

Arne Christensen



Arne Christensen earned his Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). As a doctoral student his research focused on the role of a recently described protein, called Mosaic eyes, in vertebrate retinal development.

As a postdoctoral fellow at Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center, he

worked towards a better understanding of how migratory fish that move between freshwater and seawater, such as Atlantic salmon, can maintain their internal salt concentration despite dramatic changes in environmental salinity.

His research foci at York College will fall into two areas of interest. The first focus will use zebrafish to investigate early develop-

ment of osmoregulatory mechanisms in vertebrates. The second will use local fish species, such as the mummichog, to investigate disruptions to osmoregulatory capacity by anthropogenic contaminants.

Dr. Christensen joins the Department of Biology in the School of Arts & Sciences.

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Claire Serant



Claire Serant is a lecturer in the English department's journalism program. Prior to York, Ms. Serant worked as a general assignment reporter at the New York Daily News for 14 years.

She freelanced for *Black Enterprise* and *Essence* magazines, *New York Newsday*, *The Journal*

News (Westchester) and *The Star Ledger* (Newark). Ms. Serant worked as a senior editor at CMP Media LLC where she wrote business articles for *Electronic Buyers' News*.

Ms. Serant has a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. She taught journalism at St. John's University in

Queens, New York. At York, she will teach Introduction to Feature Writing and English composition classes starting in the fall 2010 semester.

Ms. Serant joins the Department of English in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Debbie Rowe

Dr. Debbie Rowe, who originally hails from Kingston, Jamaica, is an alumna of the English Department of the City College of New York.

During her near decade-long hiatus from academia, Debbie rose through the ranks of the technology industry, becoming a Manager of the Information Technology Department at

the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Leaving that position to pursue her desire to teach, she obtained her Master of Science as well as a Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. While completing her graduate studies, Debbie has taught writing courses in the U.S. as well as in

Asia, working with native and non-native English speakers.

She is excited about joining the faculty of the English Department in the School of Arts & Sciences, where she will pursue her teaching and research interests in various forms of written and oral communication.



G. Lawrence Belcon

A native New Yorker, from Bronx and Brooklyn, G. Lawrence has spent 18 years as a professional theater Technical Director, Production Manager and Stage Manager for traditional Theatre, Dance, Live Music and Trade Shows.

Lawrence has worked on projects from Danny Hoch's one-man shows on

tour internationally (Sydney Opera House, Kennedy Center, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, International Theater Festival in Havana), to Sound Stage Managing at Universal Studios Hollywood.

He has ten years of experience as an independent feature film producer and writer, and spent the past 3 years at California Institute

of The Arts as an Assistant Technical Director and adjunct professor for the School of Dance.

G. Lawrence is happy to join the Department of Performing & Fine Arts, in the School of Arts & Sciences, as a College Laboratory Technician and he is excited about the years' upcoming work.



Thomas Moore

For most of his career Tom Moore worked as an on-air reporter and producer at Bloomberg Radio and TV in New York. He covered general news as well as business stories and was part of the staff that launched the *Bloomberg Radio and TV* all-digital news operation.

Before Bloomberg, Moore worked at The

MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour on PBS and he was part of the *NBC Nightly News* with Tom Brokaw - Decision '88 team.

He studied at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism where he earned his Master's in 1992, working in print and radio. Moore has also worked for the *New York Times* and *Pacifica*

Radio.

Before coming to York – he was a news writer, off-air reporter and interviewer at the CBS Radio Network in New York. He also helps edit Brooklyn's *Park Slope Food Coop Gazette*. Tom joins the Department of English in the School of Arts & Sciences as an Assistant Professor.



Ian Hansen



Dr. Hansen's main research interests are the political, religious and existential aspects of cultural and social psychology.

Dr. Hansen, who is fluent in Mandarin, holds an MA degree in psychology from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and a Ph.D. in the same discipline from the University of British Columbia.

Most of his recent work has focused on the relationship between (a) religiousness, (b) "coalitional rigidity" (authoritarianism, fundamentalism, dogmatism, exclusivity), and (c) the inclination to tolerance and peace.

His other interests include moral reasoning, cultural contradictions within cultures, and trac-

ing self vs. society vs. "absolute beyond" in various psychological constructs.

Coming from John Jay College (CUNY), Prof. Hansen joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences.

Shereen Inayatulla



Shereen Inayatulla specializes in Composition and Rhetoric. Over the last decade, she has taught English in a variety of international contexts ranging from college writing courses in Canada and the U.S. to secondary-level language courses in Japan's public school sys-

tem.

Her research areas include critical pedagogy, queer and postcolonial feminist theories, and representations of teacher/student identity in literacy narratives.

She has presented her work at such forums as the Conference on College Composition and Commu-

nication, the Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference, and the Thomas R. Watson Conference.

Dr. Inayatulla, who recently received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, joins the Department of English in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Kristin Davies



Kristin Davies earned her Ph.D. in Social and Health Psychology from Stony Brook University in August 2009. Her primary research interests are in intergroup and interpersonal relations, and her dissertation examined the process of cross-race friendship development.

More recently, Dr. Davies has held a post-

doctoral appointment where she worked with Dr. Arthur Aron at Stony Brook, analyzing data from a prejudice-reduction project which paired incoming students of different racial backgrounds together to complete friendship-building tasks.

In addition, she has also worked at the Manhattan Campus of the VA NY Harbor Healthcare System,

assisting Dr. Sundar Natarajan with multiple projects aimed at improving the cardiovascular health of veterans.

Dr. Davies very much enjoys instructing and working with undergraduate students and is excited to join the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

Kuan-Pin Chiang

Dr. Chiang received his pharmacy diploma from Chia Nan University in Taiwan and went on to receive a B.S. in Health-care Administration from C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University, his M.S. in Pharmaceutical Marketing from St. John's University and a Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Rhode Island.

While on faculty at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University, Dr. Chiang received the "Faculty of the Year Award" from the Office of Career Services for culti-

vating students' professional development and promoting experiential learning, as well as the University's highest recognition, "David Netwon Award for Excellence in Teaching." Additionally, Dr. Chiang had guided his students to compete for the American Advertising Foundation's *Most Promising Minority Students Program* where several students had been selected and recognized as winners.

Dr. Chiang co-founded CKP Media, a leading multimedia production company that provides multimedia localization to

corporations worldwide, and served as Vice President of Marketing and Global Business Development.

Dr. Chiang has conducted research and published journal articles and book chapters in the area of consumer behavior in an online environment, particularly in the domain of consumer information research.

Professor Chiang joins the Department of Business and Economics in the School of Business & Information Systems.



Elizabeth Alter

Dr. Elizabeth Alter is an evolutionary geneticist whose research focuses on understanding adaptation and population histories in marine organisms. She received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from

Stanford University in 2007. Her work uses population genetic techniques to reconstruct the evolutionary history of marine species such as whales and fishes. She is also interested in how sci-

ence can be used to better inform ocean policy and conservation.

Dr. Alter joins the Department of Biology in the School of Arts and Sciences.



Rebecca Rivera-Maestre

Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre is an Assistant Professor of Social Work in the Department of Social Sciences in the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences. She received her Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia

University and a Ph.D. from New York University's Silver School of Social Work.

Her dissertation was a qualitative study exploring the experiences of relational aggression and violence in the lives of urban

adolescent girls in New York City.

Dr. Rivera-Maestre's research interests include youth violence, with a focus on girls involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.



Elgin Klugh



Elgin Klugh is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies in the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences. He teaches Cultural Anthropology, Introduction to African American Studies, and Research Methods. His general areas of interest include Race and Ethnicity, Heri-

tage, African American History and Culture, and Education.

The primary focus of his research is on the ability of subaltern groups to marshal the effectiveness of shared values and collective action to create resources for mutual benefit and development. His published works include

articles in journals, anthologies, and conference proceedings.

Dr. Klugh maintains active memberships with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the American Anthropological Association, and the Association of Black Anthropologists.

Marguerite Schneider



Marguerite Schneider is acting Department Chair and Associate Professor of the Business and Economics Department in the School of Business & Information Systems.

Her primary areas of research are corporate and public sector governance, institutional investment, and organizational leadership. Her work has been published in many top-ranked peer-reviewed journals including *Organization Science*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Administration & Society*, *Leadership Quarterly*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Business & Society*, and the *British Journal of Management*, and in several book chapters. Two of Dr. Schneider's papers have been designated as among the best papers at

the *Academy of Management Conference*.

Prior to receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Schneider worked in professional and managerial capacities in corporate strategic planning, including at Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb and American Express. She was a full-time Instructor at Rutgers while completing her Ph.D., and immediately after completing her Ph.D. was an Assistant Professor of Management and International Business at The College of New Jersey. She was most recently an Associate Professor of Management at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Dr. Schneider received her B.S. magna cum laude in Economics and M.B.A. in Finance, both from NYU. Her Ph.D. in Organization Management is from Rutgers University,

with a specialization in Strategic Management.

Dr. Schneider has been a Board Member and Vice President of the Eastern Academy of Management and a Member of the Graduate School-Newark Faculty of Rutgers University, and is a Research Fellow of the Corporate Governance Institute at San Diego State University.

She is an Editorial Board Member of *Group and Organization Management*, *The Leadership Quarterly*, *Management Learning* and *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*. Dr. Schneider is also a Member of several professional associations including the *Academy of Management* and the *International Association for Business & Society*.

Phoebe Massimino

Phoebe Massimino has a Ph.D. in Business from the City University of New York Graduate Center, an MBA in Industrial Psychology from Baruch College, and a BA with a double major in Psychology and Anthropology from Queens College.

Her doctoral dissertation, "Development and Implementation of a Capacity Planning Model for the Service Industry" was honored with the Sidney Lirtzman Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Business.

Dr. Massimino has over 25 years experience in the financial services industry,

most recently as a Vice President at JPMorgan Chase where she managed people, programs and projects in Administrative, Operations and Technology areas. In addition, in the public sector, she managed the Personnel function for a school district on Long Island.

Dr. Massimino has previously taught at Nassau Community College and Molloy College, both in Molloy's undergraduate and MBA programs.

For over 14 years, she has been a volunteer in Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) programs, most recently as President of a

PTA Council encompassing 5 high schools, 15 grammar schools, and 2 Special Education PTAs.

In 2007, Dr. Massimino was honored with the "Making a Difference Award" from the Sewanhaka Federation of Teachers, and in 2009, she was honored with a "Woman of Distinction" award from State Assemblyman Thomas Alfano for her volunteer work and community service.

Dr. Massimino joins the Department of Business and Economics in the School of Business & Information Systems.



YORK COLLEGE CUNY

Tanya Prewitt

Dr. Tanya Prewitt graduated from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI (B.A. in Psychology, Exercise Science and Physical Education) and working in sales after completing her undergraduate degree, she became adamant about pursuing a graduate degree in sport psychology. Tanya completed both her master's and doctoral degrees in Sport Studies (with an Emphasis in Sport

Psychology) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Her research interests revolve around the culture of sport as it relates to family, gender, race and hierarchical systems present in modern day American sports. During Tanya's final year at the University of Tennessee, she served as the Mental Training Graduate Assistant for the Lady Vols Athletic Department providing per-

formance consulting to individual athletes and teams.

Currently, Dr. Prewitt is actively involved in the Association of Applied Sport Psychology and working towards becoming a certified sport psychology consultant.

Dr. Prewitt joins the Department of Health & Physical Education in the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences.



Merris Small



Merris Small is a Certified Public Accountant. She received her B.Sc. in Management Studies and M.Sc. in Accounting from the University of the West Indies, Mona. Professor Small has extensive experience in auditing and taxation, working in the public sector, private sec-

tor, and in public accounting.

Professor Small previously worked as a financial controller in a general insurance brokerage firm in Jamaica. She migrated to the United States where she sat for the CPA exams and obtained her CPA license in the state of New York. She has worked for

two of the Big Four Public Accounting firms, Ernst & Young LLP and PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP. She was a tax manager at PWC in the financial services industry group.

Prof. Small joins the Department of Accounting and Finance in the School of Business & Information Systems.

Clinical Laboratory Science/Med Tech Gets Initial Accreditation

Dr. Dana Fusco, Associate Dean of the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences, recently announced to the York College community that the Medical Laboratory Scientist program at the College has been awarded initial accreditation by the National Review Board.

The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) awarded accreditation for a two-year period effective April 2010. Having an accredited program allows students to sit for licensure exams allowing them to practice as lab scientists throughout the country.

“This is a big step up for us and we are pleased with the impact that this will have for our students,” said Dean Fusco, who also congratulated everyone

at the College associated with the successful outcome of the application.

The Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology program has been at York for many years under the shorter title of Medical Technology, and shorter yet, as “Med Tech.” Its placement within the newly-formed School of Health and Behavioral Sciences accords it additional prestige as it continues to supply area hospitals with well-trained graduates.

Indeed, according to [program] Director Peter Jackson, MS, MT (ASCP), local hospitals offering internships in the field, invariably want to hire his students *before* they can graduate. Among the area institutions vying for York talent in this

crucial field, are Elmhurst, Long Island Jewish and Jacobi Hospitals.

“The value it brings is that York now will be acknowledged all over the country as having an excellent clinical science laboratory,” said Jackson. “York will now be known all over the country as an NAACLS-accredited institution.”

According to Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, this latest development is part of an ongoing effort to raise the stakes for York. “This accreditation is the latest external ‘seal of excellence’ received by the College, and is further proof of the pursuit of excellence in our educational enterprise,” said Dr. Griffith. “I applaud the work of Dean Dana Fusco, the Chair of the department

of Health Professions, Dr. Robert Brugna, Medical Technology program director, Peter Jackson, and the program’s faculty, for making a reality of this pursuit, which enhances both the opportunities for students and graduates of the program; and the prestige of the program itself.”

York College, according to Jackson, is not the only CUNY College with this program; however, it is the only one with NAACLS accreditation. Now this staple of the York College health careers offerings, which also include Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, and Gerontology, is certified to continue the legacy of excellence in Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology training.

New Entrepreneurship Club Welcomes First Distinguished Speaker

York College Entrepreneurship Club was formed in Fall 2009 through the initiative of Dr. Olajide Oladipo of the School of Business & Information Systems. One of the aims of the Club is to serve as a conduit through which York College students can access relevant entrepreneurial resources, network with prominent community entrepreneurs and share business ideas. We want to stimulate interest in entrepreneurship among York students and the members of the College's community. The Club provides students with the seedbed for developing and testing entrepreneurial talents.

The Club is passionate about helping students and members of the community build sustainable ventures and providing members with lifelong learning support platform to minimize business risks while maximizing success

in ventures. The Club promotes an entrepreneurial mind-set through its various annual activities which include entrepreneurship conference, startup idea assessment contest and a distinguished speaker series.



Prof. Oladipo (center) and Mr. Foley (4th from right), posing together with student members of the Entrepreneurship Club.

The first distinguished speaker was Mr. James Foley, Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) International Trade Center. Mr. Foley has authored several books on entrepreneurship. On April

30th, he discussed "10 lessons for Future Global Entrepreneurs." He emphasized that entrepreneurs need to be creative, fight insecurity, must be passionate, persistent, engage in valuable networking, and must have an in-depth knowledge of their target market.



Dean Rosen (l.) of the School of Business & Information Systems, and Mr. Foley.

In Fall 2010, there will be a networking event on "Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs."

Winners of the Spring 2010 Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarship

<u>Student</u>	<u>TMCF Donor</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Major</u>
Hassam Rehman	GMAC	U-FRESH	Physician Assistant
Tokunbo Adeshina	UBS	L-JUNR	Aviation Mgmt
Alvin Victor	TMCF Ambassador	L-JUNR	Business Admin

2010 SIEMENS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Jasmaine Calizaire	Siemens	L-JUNR	Spch-Ta/Child Ed.
Mehrin Gadit	Siemens	U-SENR	Biology/Ed 7-12



York Professor Builds World's Longest Barometer



Professor Robie demonstrating his record barometer

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

York College Chemistry Professor Daniel Robie has put himself and York on the map for having built the “world’s longest barometer;” and it ties the record, with an Australian, for the world’s highest barometer.

Dr. Robie, whose specialties include astrochemistry, photodissociation, atmospheric chemistry and molecular reaction dynamics, and a team of artists interested in weather-based art, constructed the barometer for a science fair with SP Weather Station (spweatherstation.net), an exhibition of works by artist-scientists and scientist-artists. The event was held at the Flux Factory in Long Island City, Queens, earlier this summer.

After testing the device at York, Dr. Robie and SP Weather Station constructed the barometer at Flux Factory. At the base is the drum containing 20 gallons of water, dyed with green food coloring. Out of the drum there proceeds 250 feet of plas-

tic tubing snaking all through the building to its ultimate destination.

Like an intergalactic interloper, the tubing emerged from its circuitous route onto the roof through the chimney and into view, seemingly spent, but hardly. The position of the top of the water column was measured with a meter stick attached to the tubing. During the course of the exhibition through calm weather and two violent storms in early June, the barometer remained and the top of the water column moved up and down by a foot (ca. 30 cm).

“Galileo built one of the early barometers,” Robie explained. “The most important thing is the height of the column,” he explained, adding that he will be buying a liquid nitrogen generator that will liquefy the air. There is a lot more nitrogen in the air than water.

The barometer has now taken up residence in York’s atrium where Robie continues to test and teach with it. He is also

mentoring a student from Forest Hills High School in the *Bridge to Research* program founded at York by Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Summer 2010 *Bridge to Research* is funded by the Department of Education; and is designed for high school and York College undergraduate students.

Dr. Robie has published and presented prolifically in his field and serves both the College and external community in various capacities. He has been director of the York College/FDA Internship program; served on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation study of York College; served on the planning team for the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College and consulted on the Astro Chemistry Discovery Center for the New York Hall of Science.

Robie also monitors weather from a [weather] station atop his Flatbush, Brooklyn home.



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

September/October 2010 Forums and Workshops

Thur., Sept. 23 (Panel)

Dealing with Student Incivility

12:00–2:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenters:

Dr. Anne Simon, Biology
Dr. Thomas Gibson, Assistant Dean, Student Development
Dr. Susan Bily-Lindner, Director of Counseling

Thur., Sept. 30 (Discussion)

Threshold Concepts

12:00–2:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Facilitator:

Dr. Deb Swoboda, Behavioral Sciences

Thur., Oct. 14 (Poster Session)

3rd Annual ETL Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Poster Session

12:00–2:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenters:

2009–10 Title III Faculty Grant Recipients

Thur., Oct. 28 (Panel)

Online Learning: More Interaction, Not Less

12:00–2:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenters:

Dr. Wenying Huang-Stolte, Instructional Technology
Dr. William Ashton, Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Heather Robinson, English
Prof. Alan Winson, Writing Program

Queens HS @ York math teacher scoops up award

On June 3, 2010, Queens HS at York math teacher Ms. Soon Young Kwon received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2010 award from *Education Update*, an award-winning newspaper covering a range of topics on education. School Chancellor Klein, as well as 11 teachers and 12 administrators from schools across the City received honors for being outstanding educators. Burt Sacks, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for CUNY Management Services, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating, presented the award to Ms. Kwon.

Education Update has galvanized the education, corporate and philanthropic communities to recognize teachers and administrators who have made extraordinary contributions to the lives of children in New York City. The Distinguished Leaders in Education ceremony began eight years ago, and was held at the Harvard Club this year. Parents and colleagues came from around the nation to show their support in what has become an annual event.



Ms. Kwon (l.) and Mr. Sacks

Practicing what he teaches: Clovey, CPA

by Keldy Ortiz

Acquiring skills is one thing, but for Robert Clovey, CPA, newly elected president of the Queens/Brooklyn chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, it is what you make of them that counts.

While preparing for the upcoming calendar year, Clovey, in just his third year in the chapter, is working with the group's other newly elected officials in preparation for various events scheduled to take place in the fall.

Being president gives me the chance to advance the chapter for [current and potential] members," the Cambria Heights resident said. The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants has over 28,000 members, and, Clovey pointed out, is always looking for more.

Being president of the local chapter is just another part of who Clovey is, as he is a professor at both York and Brooklyn colleges, teaching basic to intermediate levels of accounting to aspiring students looking to get into the profession.

"Most of the students I work with, they all work, they all have experience," he said. "They work in a bank as a teller, they work in a pharmacy, but they don't work in accounting."



Prof. Robert Clovey

His students' lack of experience in the field led Clovey to start up an IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, first at York College in 2008 and most recently at Brooklyn College.

The VITA program offers free tax filing and is targeted toward underserved communities and low-to-moderate income individuals who cannot afford professional fees. With Clovey in the lead, students at the two colleges combined to prepare 5,000 returns this year, up from the 2008 when only 550 were done. And,

Clovey said, the program resulted in more than \$5 million in tax refunds going to low-income taxpayers throughout the city, not just in Queens and Brooklyn.

"I look back on my experiences from school," said Clovey who received his undergraduate degree from York, in Jamaica, and his masters at Queens College, in Flushing, both in accounting. "You learn taxes from a textbook, but you never know where the numbers end up on the return. This is where everyone benefits. When students learn about theory in class, they can get a chance to see how it is applied [through the VITA program]." He hopes to also involve Queens College in the 2011 tax season.

It was not Clovey's intent to pursue accounting after first arriving into the U.S. from his native country of Grenada in 1986, but he found he had a knack for the numbers. "It was a conscious decision," he said. "I did well in Accounting I and II, so my professor advised me to consider

it."

After finishing college and graduate school, Clovey worked in various accounting firms, which included working in internal accounting. At times there was work that he did not understand, however, because it was not part of his background in the field. That led to the realization that academics were where his full potential could be reached.

"Teaching forces you to keep up with the profession and all the changes in the tax law," he said, whereas in the field, "you may be aware of some changes that happen, but you are not involved in those changes." One change that will affect all accountants will be the use of international accounting standards in the U.S., he said.

Clovey began teaching at Iona College in 1999 and later at Westbury High School on Long Island. In 2004 Clovey taught part-time at his alma mater, York, and in 2005 he became a professor at the College.

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Clovey strives to have youth participate in the Queens and Brooklyn CPA chapter, and even invites high school students from the two boroughs to participate and work alongside college students in the VITA program.

“With the profession you tend to get the experience towards the end of your academic career,” he said. “By bringing in high school students it gives them a feel for the type of work that [accountants] do.”

And for the young people, he added, “just stepping foot on a college campus ... may be the motivation they need to go to college.”

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Jazz Five
AT YORK

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with special guest
NEA JAZZ MASTER, CANDIDO

Saturday, September 25, 2010 • 7:00PM

BILL JACOBS ENSEMBLE
Saturday, November 6, 2010 • 7:00 pm

KENNY BARON
Saturday, February 5, 2011 • 7:00 pm

GERI ALLEN
Saturday, March 5, 2011 • 7:00 pm

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YORK COLLEGE IN

Week of Welcome at York College – WOW

**YorkFest – 9/11, 11:00 am–5:00 pm
&**

**9/11 Commemoration Ceremony –
12:30 pm**

YorkFest is a festive celebration of York College spirit and welcomes new and returning College students, faculty, and staff for the academic year. The event is held in the Plaza of the Academic Core building.

**YC Comedy Day – 9/13, 5:00 pm–
7:00 pm**

Join us for the comedic styling of Reese Waters. We guarantee you will laugh until your stomach hurts! The event is held in the large auditorium in the Performing Arts Center.

**YC Cardinal Mixer – 9/15, 3:00 pm–
6:00 pm**

Come meet other freshman, faculty/staff members, and show off your best dance moves! The event is held in the Plaza of the Academic Core building.

**YC Convocation – 9/16, 12:00 noon–
2:00 pm**

This is an academic ceremony that serves as the formal opening of the academic year at the College. This mandatory event is held in the large auditorium of the Performing Arts Center.

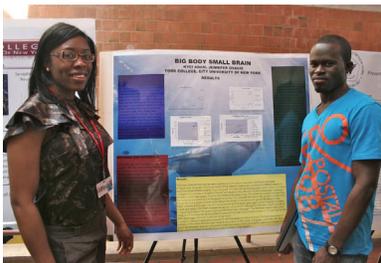
Executive Leadership Breakfast



**Guest-speaker
Jay H. Walder**
Chairman & CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority



**Friday, October 8, 2010
Faculty Dining Room**



Impressions from the 1st Undergraduate Research Day in Spring 2010



Official Opening of the Office of Undergraduate Research



Thursday, September 30, 2011
Room 3E07b



Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs

Provost Lecture Series Fall 2010

Dr. Robert Aceves, "Chicanas and Chicanos in Aviation: Overcoming Barriers," - September 20, 2010, 1:00-3:00 pm, Room 4M05

Like other industries, for many years aviation provided only limited opportunities for non-Whites and women. However, from the bi-plane to the space ship, Mexican-Americans have been significant, but unknown contributors to American aviation history. As a process of reflection and remembrance, my research opens a space where past and present conceptions of aviation history coalesce.

Dr. Timothy Paglione, "Star Formation from One End of the Spectrum to the Other," - October 21, 2010, 4:00-6:00 pm, Room 2M04

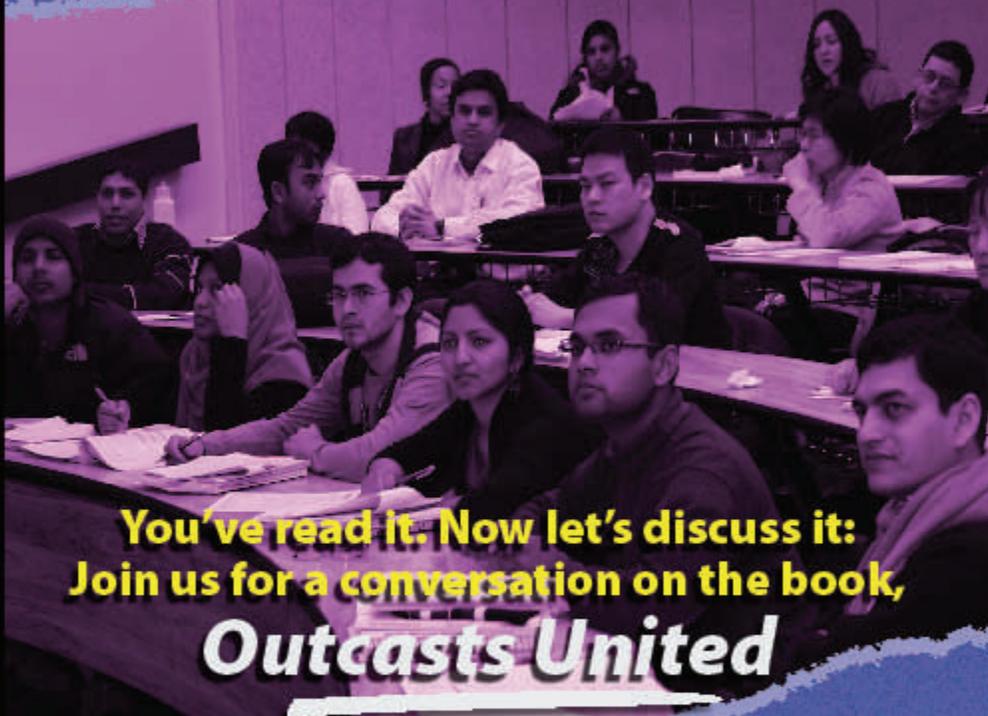
The very largest clouds in galaxies form the most massive stars. Unlike our meek Sun, these stars live furiously, greatly affecting their surroundings with their winds and radiation, then die dramatically in giant explosions that enrich the interstellar medium in heavy elements. Their lives are relatively brief as well ("only" 10 million years or less) so their impact is not only profound but immediate. Certain galaxies known as starbursts create numerous clusters of these massive stars in their centers. From birth to death, high mass stars reveal themselves through their emission at all wavelengths of light, from radio waves to gamma-rays. Dr. Paglione will review some of his previous and recent work with students on studying massive star formation in galaxies from both ends of the spectrum, what we have learned about starburst galaxies in the process, and how the entire spectrum of a galaxy is tied together by its star formation activity.

Prof. Robert Clovey, Dr. Michael Flynn, Dr. Fabiola F. Salek, "Women's Empowerment and the 'New Immigration': York's VITA Program," December 2, 2010, 3:00-5:00 pm, Room 2M04

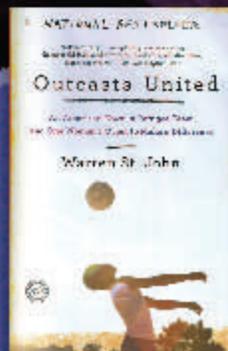
This presentation will draw from a phenomenological, interview-based study of the experiences of thirty Caribbean and Hispanic immigrant women. Additionally, a quantitative survey-based study (400 surveys) measuring attitudes on women's empowerment has been conducted. All research subjects filed their 2010 federal and state income taxes at York's VITA program (the presentation will also include a discussion of York's Vita Program). This research project describes these women's assimilation and acculturation experiences, familial economic decision-making, and attitudes toward the "American Dream."

York College Freshman Reader Day

THE FRESHMAN READER PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WITH A SHARED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AND TO INTRODUCE THEM INTO AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY WHERE INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT IS FOSTERED AND VALUED.



You've read it. Now let's discuss it:
Join us for a conversation on the book,
Outcasts United



Freshman students are cordially invited to the Program:

Tuesday, Sept. 7th

Room AC-3D01

12 – 2:00 PM

Light Refreshments and Raffle

For further information visit

www.york.cuny.edu/freshmanreader



P R O V O S T L E C T U R E S E R I E S

CHICANOS AND CHICANAS IN AVIATION: OVERCOMING BARRIERS.

From biplane to spaceship, Mexican-Americans have been significant, but unknown contributors to American aviation history. As a process of reflection and remembrance, my research opens a space where past and present conception of aviation history coalesce.



Monday, September 20, 2010
1:00 - 3:00 PM Room 4M05



Dr. Robert I. Aceves
Associate Professor, Department of Business & Economics
School of Business & Information Systems



On the Move

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The deadline for submissions to the October issue of Academic Affairs Update is September 24, 2010.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu