

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

2nd Annual Research Day Brings Out Best Of York

Undergraduate research at York is no longer the sole province of chemistry and biology, as the Second Annual Undergraduate Research Day at York College recently proved.

The event, themed "The Future is Now," was held on April 14th, and hacked a swath across the disciplines to reveal research results from Performing and Fine Arts, Behavioral Sciences to Aviation and Communications Technology, as students with support from their mentors across the disciplines now lay claim to this essential part of the higher education experience.

Daryl Ramai, for example, a Chemistry major and FDA intern, was among the more prolific presenters displaying



Dr. Rishi Nath, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, welcoming students, faculty and guests

four posters on as many topics; among them, the *Salmonella Bacterium: A perspective; Active-Site Directed Inhibition of Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase by Phenylepoxy-sulfone; and Global Impact Lab: Reducing barriers to prevent childhood blindness in Accra, Ghana.* The last one will take Ramai to Ghana for two months over the summer break this year as a volunteer and researcher along with students from Yale and other universities.

Gerardine Rodriguez, a student in Dr. Deb Chakravarti's chemistry class, presented on the effects of the ubiquitous children's drug, Ritalin.

"Children need to be free to be themselves naturally," she said. "But they give them Ritalin to make them 'focus.' This drug has also been abused by some college students..."

Rodriguez conducted her research with the aid of data base, journals, research websites and visits to pharmacists.

At last year's event, Ani Vigani, a Fine Arts major with an Italian minor, demonstrated on posters how he uses the works of the masters to form and inform his own works. This year he was back to show how he

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Another Salk Scholar for York

York College is once again celebrating the awarding of a Salk Scholarship to a graduating senior.

Over the course of its

40 years of graduating students, York College has raked up almost 30 Salk Scholars and just added another one.

Dmitri Serjanov, a

biotechnology major mentored by Dr. Lewis Levinger, recently received word that he had been granted a Salk

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Special points of interest:

- **New Dean for School of Business & Information Systems**
- **Journalism Prof wins national award**
- **Various student accomplishments**

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Provost Lecture Series

The Trickster in Pop Culture and Politics



Provost Griffith (r.)
and Dr. Ashton

Dr. William Ashton's Provost Lecture on April 28th, *The Trickster in Pop Culture and Politics*, alternatively titled, *Deception and Detection: Synchronicity, War, Politics and the Big Lebowski*, was an intriguing oral and media presentation.

It wove Jungian psychology, including a discussion on Jungian archetypes (such as mother, father, hero, villain, etc.), the Jungian concept of "synchronicity," Greek mythology, and American culture, media, and politics and deception. Ashton analyzed the Coen brothers' movie *The Big Lebowski* and the popularity of cult-like Lebowski Fests from the perspective of Jungian theory and archetypes to explore its cultural appeal for American and international fans.

However a major focus of the presentation was the enduring figure and roles of the "Trickster" in myth, literature, media, and in politics. The arche-

typical, clever "Trickster" was described as a chameleon-like figure or protagonist, in myths and stories across cultures, often caught in his own machinations, deceptions and "tricks," but who is an ultimate survivor. This engaging presentation walked Provost Lecture participants back in time to the trickster god Hermes, the antics of Br'er Rabbit and Bugs Bunny, and the successful film and television dualities of comedian partners, including Abbott and Costello and Jerry Seinfeld and George Costanza.

After taking the audience on a philosophical and historical exploration of Jungian theory, Ashton focused on *the Big Lebowski* and the central characters "the Dude" and Walter, bringing each to life with video clips to depict their out of control behaviors and the film's use of profanity and violence to break boundaries and common decency, central to

the behavior of the archetypal "Trickster."

Ashton proposed that *The Big Lebowski* responded at least in part to the 1990-1991 Gulf War and protests war in general, using "the Dude's" references to anti-war protest groups and supporting academic writings to substantiate this thesis. He provocatively concluded by applying Jung's concept of "synchronicity," seeming coincidental relationships between acausal events as one way to understand *The Big Lebowski* and its current popularity.

While art often reflects and anticipates cultural change, Ashton's presentation posed several questions taking this view one step further. He asked whether *The Big Lebowski* anticipated the future deceptions underpinning the Iraq War, if the concept of "synchronicity" can explain the "coincidence" of President Bush's signing the

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*Point of
Pride*

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Geology Senior wins LSAMP Award

Coreyn Goddard is a geology senior in the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences and has already participated in national and international conferences as a primary presenter and co-author of various posters and abstracts.

For the last two years, she has been conducting research on the geochemical cycle of trace metals in the natural environment under the guidance of Dr. Ratan Dhar (Assistant Professor of Earth and Physical Sciences). Her special focus has been on arsenic and phosphate geochemistry in natural water and sediments. Coreyn's research was published and presented at GSA (Geological Society of America) international meeting at Denver, Colorado in November 2010.

Her research was able

to draw scientists' attention from different universities across the country such as Dr. Chris Gammons (Professor of Dept. of Geological Engineering, Montana Tech, The University of Montana).

Coreyn is scheduled to present her on-going research in CUNY-wide conference "Einstein in the City" at City College of CUNY, on April 14-15. Her research was also accepted for an oral presentation at Mount Sinai University New York on May 7, 2011.

Currently, she is the recipient of the highest level scholarship awarded to her by the LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation). The award of \$4,000 is designed to help improve her skills in geosciences and continue her post-baccalaureate studies

in earth system science.

President Marcia Keizs, of York College, in her congratulation letter to Coreyn, thanked her for bringing the esteem of this scholarship to York.

Her advisor, Dr. Ratan Kumar Dhar, Assistant Professor of Earth and Physical Sciences, mentioned that Coreyn brought great honor for York to be selected for this prestigious award. He cites her motivation and praises her for enthusiastic response to challenge and responsibility.

Dr. Dhar also states that he was impressed to see Coreyn's tenacity to complete the work beyond her scheduled hours for research. She is described as "well positioned" to become leader in the area of environmental geosciences.



Coreyn Goddard



President Keizs honoring Borough of Queens President Helen M. Marshall (l.) during the 2011 Annual Fundraising event at York College

The *Three Mo' Divas* graced the 2011 Annual Fundraising event with their performance (r.).



Students Present at Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience/Hunter College Psychology Conference

by Beth Rosenthal



L-r.: Kasie Okeya, Simone Townsend, Januarie Scorsese-Vazquez, Toya Mobley

On April 10, 2011, four York College students participated in the Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience/Hunter College Psychology Convention. The Convention was extremely well attended with individuals hailing from colleges and universities all over the NY metropolitan region and beyond.

The York students, who participated under the mentorship of Dr. Beth Rosenthal, were from two disciplines; the students and their respective disciplines are: Toya Mobley, Kasie Okeya, Januarie Scorsese-Vazquez (Sociology), Simone Townsend (Social Work). The students were enrolled in a Sociology independent study course with Dr. Rosenthal. Also in attendance at the Conference were several York students in Dr. Rosenthal's Research Methods course – both to support their fellow students and to see their classroom knowledge applied to “real life” research.

The students' presentation was titled, “The Relationship between Ra-

cial/Ethnic Discrimination and Upper Respiratory Infections.” The students tested their hypothesis among older adolescents who are diverse in terms of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, family structure, immigrant status, and country of origin. They found that their hypothesis was supported, i.e., the more racial/ethnic discrimination an individual perceived he or she had experienced (during the high school years), the more that individual was likely to report upper respiratory tract infections (URI).

Additional findings included the relatively low level of perceived racial/ethnic discrimination and the relatively low level of URI symptoms. Implications called for the need to reduce discrimination in society and to screen adolescents reporting URI symptoms for racial/ethnic discrimination. The students built on this research for their poster presentation at York's Undergraduate Research Day by testing for gender differences in the relationship between racial/

ethnic discrimination and URI, in racial/ethnic discrimination, and in URI symptoms.

Comments from the student panelists and attendees reflect the positive impact of the experience on them. Students said that the Conference provided an “excellent opportunity”, and that it was an “eye opener,” “enlightening,” a “good educational experience,” an “excellent learning experience,” and “helpful for graduate level research.” It showed them that “team work can be hard but people can help each other out”; “my group gave me the confidence I needed to present.”

It also caused one student to “... see the need for all Social and Behavioral Science students to do undergraduate research.” Others stated, “I had no idea people this young could do such good research ... I thought if they could do it, I could do it.” “Events such as these should be available for all students.”

In Memoriam — Ken Adams

York College/CUNY mourns the passing of Professor Kenneth Gaither Adams, Chair and Professor of the Performing and Fine Arts Department, who died at home in Fresh Meadows, Queens on Wednesday, April 20th after a brief illness.

Professor Adams who started teaching at York as an adjunct in 1971, earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Howard University in Washington, D.C. (1968) and a Master of Music in clarinet from Manhattan School of Music in New York (1970).

As a musician playing the flute, clarinet, piccolo and saxophone, Adams was a member of the orchestra in numerous

Broadway musicals including: *Guys and Dolls*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Cabaret*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *A Chorus Line*, *Peter Pan*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, and most recently, *Finian's Rainbow* (2009).

He was also a member of the orchestra with the New York City Ballet, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the New York Virtuosi, the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Black Repertory Ensemble of Chicago.

As a successful instrumentalist and conductor in both commercial and classical music, Ken recorded with such artists as Luther Vandross and Mary J. Blige, and played in numerous commercials and film sound tracks

including television specials like the Black Enterprise Awards, Christmas in Washington, and the 1997 Inaugural Gala for former President Clinton.

Ken brought his extraordinary experience in performance, conducting, and musicianship to York College where he taught the full-range of music courses to our students since 1971.

"We are deeply appreciative of his professional contribution to our students and our institution," said Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York. His calm, discipline, and balance will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Velma, son Mark and grand-daughter Marleigh.



Prof. Ken Adams

Community Health grad Law School-bound

Julia Young, a June 2011 graduate earning her B.S. in Community Health Education major, with a minor in Psychology, is on her way to Law School.

Three Law School acceptance letters in-hand, Ms. Young is seriously considering Charlotte School of Law, located in North Carolina. The recipient of a Merit Scholarship, Julia plans to pursue a Juris Doctor (JD) along with a Masters in Public Health (MPH).

In summer 2010, Julia interned for Senator Malcolm Smith. This spring, she completed her major fieldwork requirements interning at York's Health Promotion Center (see photo right, of the *Health Fair*, April 6, 2011).

While studying here at York College, Ms. Young likens the Department of Health, Physical Education and Gerontology as her "second home" and credits Professors Lane, Marks, Brodsky and Bar-

ley, who always had their doors open to students, to listen non-judgmentally and provide information, with making her studies relevant.

Julia reflects that, "After each class I left feeling that I had to answer, 'What can health educators do to evoke change?' For me, the answer is the study of law. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, I am pledged to strive for excellence one step at a time."



Julia Young

School of Business and Information Systems Hires Dean

The exhaustive search for a permanent dean has concluded and Dr. Alfred Ngome Ntoko is now Dean designate of the School of Business and Information Systems (SBIS) at York College.



Dr. Alfred Ntoko

Dr. Ntoko was most recently Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration at Kean University, in Union, New Jersey, where he has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Financial Management, Global Investments Analysis Derivatives, Multinational Financial Management, Managerial Economics and Statics.

At his three previous institutions, Dr. Ntoko has raised a combined figure of almost two million dollars in support of student scholarships, faculty develop-

ment and other projects.

Ntoko, who will succeed Dr. Harry Rosen – who will return to his home institution, at Baruch College following his two-year tenure as Acting Dean at SBIS – has had a long and impressive career in academia.

In addition to his tenure at Kean University, Ntoko has also been Dean of the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Texarkana, Texas, and chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Law at the School of Business (among other titles), State University of New York (SUNY), Oswego.

While at Kean, Ntoko has also developed partnerships between his university and three institutions in China for their students to complete the B.S. degree at Kean University. He also travelled to Gambia in 2000 on a Canadian grant to work on curriculum development for the new University of Gambia.

At Oswego, he developed, along with a colleague, the Oswego/Budapest Finance Pro-

gram in partnership with IBS Budapest, to offer the Oswego finance curriculum to students at International Business School (IBS) in Budapest, Hungary. Under terms of the program, students would use the Oswego program at their home campus for three years then spend a year at the Oswego campus and obtain the Oswego degree.

For the immediate future, however, Dr. Ntoko sees a partnership between York and the local community as an important place to start.

“It is important that we develop a footprint in the community as it regards to economic development,” he says. “The community needs to know that the college has an inventory of skills to build partnerships with local enterprises.”

But although Ntoko’s will launch his York tenure locally this summer, his overall curriculum vision is set on thinking globally.

“It is important that the curriculum be congruent with global

needs,” he says. “They (students upon graduation) will be competing globally, not locally. We have to make sure that they’ll have the wherewithal to compete globally. The President and the Provost have high expectations of the School.”

Ntoko concedes that “there is work to be done” to make the School of Business and Information Systems competitive and the Provost sees the Ntoko selection as one of promise.

“Dr. Alfred Ntoko brings a wealth of prior decanal experience and a track record of programmatic and fund-and friend-raising accomplishments that stand to make him an outstanding addition to our leadership team,” said Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Moreover, he has the scholarly credibility and disposition to facilitate enhancement of the scholarly productivity in the School. Thus, I look forward to Dr. Ntoko being an exem-

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uses his own abstractions to create shapes that make sense; like a painting of a guitar formed out of swirls and curly cues he had been creating.

Vigani credits Professor Nina Buxenbaum, whose own prolific creations are also influenced by old masters, with being an important mentor. The Albanian-born student says York has been good for his career goals and plans to start an art club at York to raise the profile of the program.

"People will know you can be creative at York," he promised. "York has never had an art club. When I first came here I didn't even know there was an art program."

But the research in his Art major is not Vigani's only interest. In a nod to his Italian minor, he also presented a poster on marketing strategy in the food industry.

The budding Renaissance man demonstrates that there are many products in supermarkets that purport by imagery and name to be Italian when closer inspection reveals that they are not.

According to Vigani, products such as *Progresso Soup* and *Di-Giorno*, a popular frozen pizza, are neither from Italy nor made by Italian-Americans.



Students and faculty were intensely engaged in the discussion of various research projects conducted by students

"They use visual signifiers," said Vigani. "They use Italian-sounding names, the colors of the Italian flag (red, green and white), and names as their marketing strategy. It's sound and imagery. They're not breaking the law; but it is misleading."

Aviation Management majors Shivanand Sooknandan and Todunbo Adeshina, ably mentored by Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan, presented on the "Effects of Natural Disasters and Terrorist Attacks on the Airline Industry."

The duo examined the financial performance of the top 20 airlines worldwide and how the terrorist attacks of September 11, and the Icelandic volcanic eruption in 2009 impacted it. They compared a natural disaster and a man-made

disaster to see which event had the greater impact on the bottom line of the airline industry.

"We chose the top 20 airlines based on their market capitalization," they explain in their abstract. "While both affected the airlines, the September 11 attacks had a larger financial impact (in the negative)."

The results of the study, presented in charts and graphs and the list of airlines and what their losses were, make for a compelling argument for research on the undergraduate level.

Tony Wan and Jason St. Hilaire (with Zarna Rawal) did not present together, but they have a common theme in their background stories. Both are veterans of the Iraq War and now both

are thriving as student-researchers at York.

Wan, a Chemistry major born in Belize and mentored by Dr. Mande Holford, is studying cone snails and how their toxins can be developed for pain management without the addictive side-effects and the relief is longer lasting.

With two tours of duty in Iraq with the Marine Corp, Wan says his college education was delayed and he's now "trying to catch up to my peers" in so doing, he will complete his undergraduate degree in three years rather than the usual four. He plans to use his York education as the springboard to medical school.

St. Hilaire also served two tours of duty in Iraq, and is majoring in Pharmaceutical Science. He came to York with an Associate's degree in chemistry and plans to go to medical school, having served as a medic in the Navy. His presentation was on protease inhibitor to fight diseases affiliated with HIV.

"It allows the body to fight disease so [the patient] can live

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longer,” he explained.

The Department of Social Work was also well represented by, among others, Tiffany Kudjoe, mentored by Dr. Gila Acker. Kudjoe presented on “Homophobia and Formal Education in Undergraduate Students who Major in Helping Professions.”

“Of the selected research articles I reviewed, social workers and psychologist were identified as more homophobic than any other helping professionals,” she said. “I also found differences across ethnicity and gender. Afro-Caribbean and African-Americans were more homophobic than Caucasians. Males are more homophobic than females. All in all, I learned that additional research is needed about

the topic of homosexuality and homophobia.”

Denise Diego presented on “Exercise and Technology.” The aspiring gym teacher researched the impact of technology on physical fitness for children; and Christopher Wilson and Rita Riu focused on Dynamics of the Flexible Arm of tRNase Z; while Lavern Edwards, an Aviation Management major, studied famous airline crashes, what caused them, what lessons were learnt and what changes have been implemented as a result.

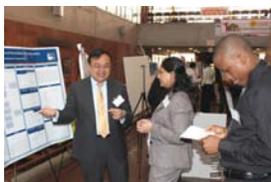
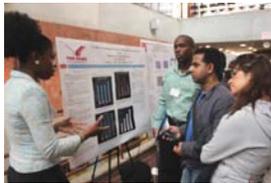
Provost Ivelaw Griffith and Dr. Rishi Nath, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, wanted to focus on the Humanities this year for the lunch-time speaker. In poet Staceyann Chin they found a willing

partner.

At noon the College took a break from panels and posters to enjoy the readings of the Jamaica-born poet and author whose poignant memoir had the audience in stitches and near tears alternatively, as she discussed her early sexual awakening, as well as the reluctance of her Chinese-Jamaican father to acknowledge paternity.

Dr. Griffith reiterated the Zora Neale Hurston assertion on research. “Research is formalized curiosity,” he advised. “It is poking and prying with a purpose.’ Each of us can formalize our curiosity.”

With the growing participation across disciplines evident, Research Day 2011 certainly was a great success.



Dr. Kelly Baker Joseph and Dr. Rishi Nath (all pictures above courtesy of Anthony Garces)



Jamaican-American poet Staceyann Chin gave a lively performance and reading of excerpts from her book *The Other Side of Paradise*

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” — Zora Neale Hurston

PoliSci class Visit to US Mission at the United Nations

On March 28, 2011, Dr. Michael Sharpe's (Assistant Professor of Political Science) "Basic Factors in International Politics" class had its 2nd visit and briefing at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

The U.S. Mission to the U.N. welcomed Dr. Sharpe's students last year and it is scheduled to become an annual visit. Although the event was initially supposed to be held at the newly renovated U.S. Mission to the U.N., due to a pending visit from President Obama it was graciously transferred

across the street to UN Headquarters.

The students were addressed by U.S. Diplomat Mr. Jeffrey Reneau, Political Adviser, U.S. Mission to the U.N. Mr. Reneau talked about his career as a diplomat and the wide array of issue areas he encounters in his work at the U.N.



Prof. Sharpe (l.) and Mr. Jeffrey Reneau

Students asked many thoughtful and intriguing questions including the relevance of the UN to the maintenance of international peace and security, the role of the US in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and about the ongoing crisis in Libya.

Mr. Reneau was most impressed with the students' level of interest and understanding of international affairs.



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Scholarship and acceptance into a Ph.D. program. The Salk Scholar, name in honor of City College alumnus, the pioneering medical scientist, Dr. Jonas Salk, is usually reserved for students proceeding to medical school. However, three years ago they made an exception for Angela Hopkinson, another Levinger mentee, to enter a Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan rather than an M.D. program due to her desire and her impressive credentials; and here again they seem to have made it for Serjanov.

According to Dr. Levinger, Serjanov, a former Nursing major, has thrived as a bio-tech major.

"In addition to carrying a full course load, Dmitri dedicated himself to the research lab," said Levinger. "This led to his acceptance into the Ph.D. program in Molecular and Cell Biology at SUNY-Downstate with a \$24,385 annual fellowship including full tuition and health insurance, and receipt of the competitive CUNY Salk award, an additional \$8,000 scholarship."

Dr. Levinger also announced that Christopher

Wilson has been accepted into a PhD program.

Starting in July 2011 he will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Biophysics at Brandeis University. He will receive a \$29,000 annual stipend with a \$2,500 supplement for participation in the Quantitative Biology initiative, in addition to full tuition and health insurance.

"While working full-time evenings and weekends, Christopher Wilson carried a full course load to graduate with honors as a Biotechnology major," he said.



Mr. Serjanov in the lab

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Safe Zone Training



L.-r.: Dr. Shereen Inayatulla, Lea Robinson (Columbia Univ.), Prof. Scott Sheidlower, Dean Dana Fusco

The Alliance for Gender and Sexual Equality (the Alliance) at York College hosted the College's first-ever Safe Zone training for faculty and staff on March 31st. The training was led by Lea Robinson, the Assistant Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Programming and Advising at Columbia University. 43 mem-

bers of the college community across academic departments and divisions attended the 2-hour training, whose purpose was to educate participants, raise awareness, and create a network of LGBTQ allies.

For more information about the Alliance or to join, please contact Susan Letteney (sletteney@york.cuny.edu)

or Emily Davidson (edavidson@york.cuny.edu). You can also visit us on the CUNY Commons.

The Alliance is in the process of planning events for 2011-2012 academic year. Keep an eye out for an electronic survey that will be distributed before summer break.



York Faculty Update



- **Michael O. Sharpe**, (Department of Behavioral Sciences, *School of Health & Behavioral Sciences*), recently published two articles: 1) "What Does Blood Membership Mean in Political Terms?: The Political Incorporation of Latin American Nikkeijin (Japanese Descendants) in Japan 1990-2004," in: *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 12:1 (February 2011), 113-142; 2) "When Ethnic Returnees are Defacto Guestworkers: What does the introduction of Japanese Nikkeijin (Japanese descendants) (LAN) suggest for Japan's definition of nationality, citizenship and immigration policy?" in: *Policy and Society*, Vol. 29:4, November 2010, 357-369.
- **Kelly Baker Josephs**, (Dept. of English, *School of Arts & Sciences*), was recently selected to participate in a Mellon Foundation-funded faculty seminar on "Freedom" during the 2011-2012 academic year at the CUNY Graduate Center. Kelly will join faculty and students from the Graduate Center as well as colleagues from Brooklyn College, Queens College, Baruch College, John Jay College, College of Staten Island, and LaGuardia Community College, all of whom are working on projects related to the seminar theme.
- **Christina Miller**, (Instructor, Library), "Cuyahoga River Fires," in: Matthew Lindstrom (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment: History, Policy, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 252-254.
- **Scott Sheidlower**, (Assistant Professor, Library), recently published three encyclopedia entries: 1) "Antiquities Act 1906," in: Matthew Lindstrom (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment: History, Policy, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 79-83; 2) "Muir, John," in: Matthew Lindstrom (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment: History, Policy, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 508-510; 3) "Olmsted, Frederick Law," in: Matthew Lindstrom (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment: History, Policy, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 598-600.
- **Sandra Gall Urban**, (Assistant Professor, Library), "Urban Renewal," in: Matthew Lindstrom (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment: History, Policy, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 744-745.

MOMENT MUSIC Wien/Vienna 2011

by Tom Zlabinger

This April I was invited to conduct a residency at the weeklong Kollektiv Akt III festival in Vienna, Austria that was a mixture of art installations, poetry readings, and live music. I am currently finishing my dissertation at the CUNY Graduate Center entitled *FREE FROM JAZZ: The Jazz and Improvised Music Scene in Vienna after Ossiach (1971-2010)* and have spent the last three years travelling to Vienna interviewing and working with jazz and improvising musicians. After having visited and observed jazz and improvised music in Vienna for so long, it was a thrill to hold the residency and present some of my concepts as a musician living and working in New York City.

The workshops were conducted in German. The first day we introduced one another both personally and sonically. After giving a little historical background both personally and musically, we each performed an improvised solo piece as a point of reference. Then we broke into pairs and performed duos to get a sense of interaction. And before we ran

out of time on the first day, we performed an improvised group piece. Before we left I asked for feedback. And of all that was said, the most important issue for the participating musicians was to avoid the “noise carpet” [*Lärmteppich*] or swamp [*Sumpf*]. The Austrian jazz and improvising musicians I have worked and spoken with have often said they would like to avoid drawn-out, boring passages. But I had never heard it articulated so well.

For the second day of rehearsals I started out with what is known as a conduction. Butch Morris and other Downtown Musicians in New York have perfected this idea of directing a large ensemble through an improvised performance through hand gestures. I explained my hand symbols and we went to work! After the ten-minute performance the eyes of the musicians lit up. It was obvious we had avoided any type of noise carpet or swamp. In fact, each musician wanted a chance to conduct the ensemble. Through these conductions we created a forty-five minute piece where each member of the octet

conducted a section. The excitement came from each musician’s personality coming through his or her own hand symbols and expressions. And although the ensemble did not radically change (it was a septet as the conducting musician did not perform), each section was quite different. On the third day we refined our process and each attempt became more fluid.

On the day of the performance we consciously did not rehearse as to keep our minds and intuition open. We were the first act on the bill and performed to a crown of over thirty people who listened to every sound and observed every hand gesture. When we came to a close, the applause was sustained and ecstatic. A definite success.

In my mind, not all MOMENT MUSIC performances are to be conductions. But as this group of musicians grew to know one another during the week, it was obvious that this was what was needed to construct the performance. Next time, wherever it happens, I hope MOMENT MUSIC will be radically different. The heart and



Prof. Tom Zlabinger



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New York Times Exec talks to Management Students

by Wayne Forrester



Juliette Blake and Prof. Wayne Forrester

Several weeks ago Juliette Blake, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for the New York Times Company, made a presentation to Professor Forrester's Strategic Management (BUS 481) class. The presentation was titled how do companies manage in the global environment?

To compete effectively, Ms. Blake said, companies must be mindful of the following:

a) Technology: This was described as a "Game Changer." A company must be aware of how this will impact its position in the market place and the effect on the competitive the landscape. Companies must understand how new technology will impact their current products as well as their future products. They must also understand how technology may change the way their customers use their products.

b) Human Resources. According to Ms. Blake, the greatest asset of a

company are the Human Resources. When managed properly a company can position itself as a serious contender in the market place. The evidence of this will be in the quality of its products as well as efficiency.

c) Research and Development: A Company's long term visibility in the market place is tied to investment in itself. Many companies cut spending on R&D when a financial crisis rolls around. Innovation was described as another "Game Changer" will move and enhance the company's standing in the market place.

Strategic Management is the driver of corporate desire to dominate their industry. Corporations must strategize on how they will compete effectively in the market place. They must continually seek that competitive edge over their rivals by producing goods and services that "add value" to the customer. This added value will be transferred from

the corporation to the customer in the form of intellectual property, quality and efficiency.

When a corporation can deliver on these, it is poised to dominate and to lead its industry. For example, when we examine the Apple Corporation and its continued domination of the tablet industry we can see that its products indeed do just that. Customers feel that Apple makes a product that will enrich their lives, and they are willing not only to pay the price but willing to wait a couple of weeks for the delivery of the product.

Apple has successfully transferred to their customers what they do best: They innovate.

More than ever, in this global environment, Companies must seek ways to distinguish themselves from their competitors, and they must take a series of steps that will not only differentiate themselves from their competitors but increase their customer base as well as carve out market share.

For a Queens jazz pianist & teacher, music is the key to happiness

by Mark Morales

An accomplished jazz pianist from Fresh Meadows is once again putting his stamp on the music scene.

Mark Adams, 40, is releasing his fourth studio album, "Embellishments," next month.

When he's not tickling the ivories on stage he teaches music theory at York College and tutors on the side for free.

Composing jazz is more than just making music to tap your feet to, he said. For Adams, it's about how his music affects people.

"When I perform and I touch someone's soul and evoke some emotions or when I'm teaching and they say 'I get it' – those are huge for me," he said.

Adams was born in Baltimore and moved to Rego Park when he was 15. His mother, Zelma, was also a pianist and his father, Kenneth, was

a composer for both classical orchestras and Broadway musicals.

Adams recalled banging on the keys of his mother's piano when he was 5 and being fascinated by the sounds.

"I used to sit down and play different notes without knowing what I was doing. It was so easy to create sound," Adams said.

He was soon hooked and begged his parents to get him piano lessons.

Zelma Adams said she still gets goosebumps watching her son play. "I get so excited. My heart starts pounding just like it did when he played recitals as a kid," she said.

Jonathan Quash, the vocalist on the new album and a fellow music teacher at York College, said Adams injects himself into his music and his intensity is unparalleled.

"If you listen carefully

you can hear the details of his life. They are very passionate and he puts everything into those songs," Quash said.

Adams hosted an album release party at York on March 25 before a 10-city tour starting in April in Port Arthur, TX. He's also performing later this year in Japan, France and England.

Adams said he hopes to create a citywide music program for public schools that don't have arts programs. Learning to play an instrument can teach kids discipline and develop their minds, regardless of skill level, he said.

"It doesn't matter what level you're at – music is food for the soul," Adams said.



Prof. Mark Adams



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soul of MOMENT MUSIC is listening for what is there and react and heighten the moment.

While in Vienna I blogged for the first time (see <http://>

invisibletarget.commons.gc.cuny.edu/.) In addition to many other activities, I also plan to blog about working with visiting traditional Korean musicians

who performed on campus at the Illinois Jacquet Performance Space as well as at Symphony Space in Manhattan.

Journalism Faculty receives prestigious national award



Prof. Hughes (r.) interviewing Johnny Hincapie in the Sing Sing prison (Photograph by Marc fader/City Limits Magazine)

A York College Professor in the Journalism Program was honored with a national award for an investigative article exploring the case of a man who has served more than 20 years in prison for a crime he maintains he did not commit.

Professor William Hughes received the award from The National Council on Crime and Delinquency for his article “Memories of a Murder,” published last fall in *City Limits Magazine*, a New York City-based public policy magazine.

The article involved years of investigative journalism into the 1990 homicide of Brian Watkins, a tourist from Utah who was stabbed to death on a subway platform. While working as a reporter before joining the faculty, Hughes met one of seven co-defendants who were convicted of the crime in Sing Sing prison.

The story raises serious questions about the conviction of Johnny Hin-

capie, who was an 18-year-old Colombian immigrant when he was brought in for questioning about the crime. Hincapie was part of a group of approximately 40 teenagers from Queens who went dancing at the club Roseland in September of 1990.

Six or eight members of the larger group mugged the Watkins family to get money for the cover charge at the dance club. Watkins was fatally stabbed coming to the defense of his mother. Hincapie maintains he was beaten and lied to by detectives, and coerced into signing a confession.

There was no forensic evidence or positive eyewitness identification against him. In fact, one of his co-defendants stated during his confession that Hincapie was not involved, but that evidence was never presented to the jury.

The article examined the psychology behind false confessions, the phenomenon of wrongful

convictions and the training which law enforcement personnel undergo which almost guarantees that a certain percentage of suspects will be coerced into admitting they are guilty of crimes they never committed.

Prof. Hughes received a PASS (Prevention for A Safer Society) award, which according to the NCCD is, “... the only national recognition of print and broadcast journalists, TV news and feature reporters, producers, writers, and those in film and literature who try to focus America’s attention on our criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems in a thoughtful and considerate manner.”

The five other magazines which received awards in the same category for 2010 were *American Prospect*, *Center for Urban Pedagogy*, *Marie Claire*, *Miller-McCune*, and *The New York Times Magazine*.

cont.’d from p.2

Iraq War Resolution and the first *Lebowski Fest*, and third whether the ever present “Trickster” in combina-

tion with the public’s awareness of political deceptions are major reasons for the popularity of *Lebowski Fests*.

York Students Wow At Philly OT Expo

A group of students and faculty from the Department of Occupational Therapy presented their research at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Exposition in Philadelphia in mid-April.

According to Dr. Lillian Kaplan, at least 18 students, many of them graduating seniors, presented.

“I think they were all wonderful ambassadors for the Occupational Therapy program and York College,” said Dr. Kaplan, who has taught in the Department at York many years. “York OT students wowed with their professional presentation; and their work was very well received.”

Kaplan added that students and faculty had a large professional representation at these local and national events as well as excellent support from faculty and current and recent graduates.

Six students presented 4 undergraduate projects as poster presentations from a joint assignment shared by their class in Advanced Occupational Analysis and Research Methods with Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Tamara Avitzhak as advisors.

Four faculty members presented at the national conference: Dr. Beverly Horowitz, Dr. Avi-tzhak, Dr. Andrea Krauss and Dr. Lillian Kaplan. 12 students presented – nine from the current graduating OT class (2011) and three from the third-year OT class. Three members of the Class of 2010 were also on hand to present their master degree project from last year; and a large number of current non-presenting students also attended the conference.

“I think that having the experience of presenting one’s work on a national level allows students to gain confidence in their skills and knowledge,” said Kaplan. “At presentations, research be-

comes exciting in that it allows students to see the infusion and application of research into the profession of Occupational Therapy in multiple ways (e.g., experiencing other presentations, talking to students, researchers and clinicians from around the country.”

Indeed, Hind Mohamed, presented on the topic, “Best practice Occupational Therapy in Early Intervention Program and School-based Setting (a pediatric area) and enjoyed the outcome.

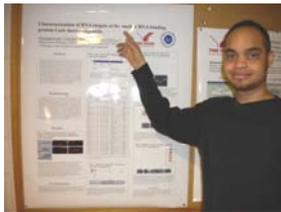
“It was a great experience presenting to actual clinicians in the field,” said Mohamed. “Many were surprised. We looked at clinicians’ years of experience and higher education level and those with a master’s degree or higher in the area of best practice. We found that those with more education were more [inclined to use] best practice.”



L.-r.: Chaima Regragui, Celica Campos, Robert Hartnet, Dr. Lillian Kaplan, Shanelle Fable, Mikel Howard, Jumi Kim and Christina Choi

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

Bio Major Accepted for Ph.D. Program at Brown



Kirk Haltaufderhyde

This program gives students access to research in genomics as part of a large undergraduate consortium

Another prolific York College lab has produced yet another Brown University Scholar acceptance.

According to Dr. Gerard McNeil, Kirk Haltaufderhyde has been accepted into the Rhode Island-based Ivy League University's Ph.D. program in Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biotechnology.

For Haltaufderhyde it has been a circuitous route to this marvelous moment in his education.

Dr. McNeil revealed that his mentee started his undergraduate education at Polytechnic University (now part of NYU) in 1998 majoring in chemical engineering. In 2001, due to financial challenges he was forced to leave school and find a job to support his family. In 2008, he was able

to start school again and enrolled at Queensborough Community College to build his GPA. He enrolled at QCC for a year before he could be admitted to York College – his ultimate goal.

In 2009 Haltaufderhyde was accepted at York, declaring a major in Biotechnology with the goal of going to graduate school. In the summer of 2010, he joined the McNeil lab where he studied early development using the fruit-fly as a model organism. He also became involved in research in genomics through the Genomics Education Partnership.

This program, directed by Dr. McNeil at York, gives students access to research in genomics as part of a large undergraduate consortium.

Current research projects include sequence improvement and annotation of the genomes of several *Drosophilid* species.

“Kirk completed three new research projects on the genomes of *Drosophila mojavensis* and *Drosophila grimshawi* and will be a coauthor on a manuscript currently in preparation,” said McNeil.

The relationship between York and Brown was made official last year when [York] alumnus, Dr. Andrew Campbell, a professor of Medical Science, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at Brown, recruited three biology and chemistry students into the Ph.D. in microbiology program.

cont.'d from p.6

ply change leader and an entrepreneurial mover and shaker as the School of Business and Information Systems and the college as a whole move to the next level.”

The Provost added his thanks to Dean Rosen. “I want to acknowledge the service of Interim Dean Harry Rosen,” he said. “[He] joined us at

a challenging time as we reorganized into Schools, with a view to enhancing academic and service excellence for our students and faculty.”

Born in Victoria (now known as Limbe), Cameroon, Dr. Ntoko earned his bachelors degree in Management Science and Economics at SUNY

Genesco; and the M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at SUNY Binghamton.



**Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith
and
Acting Dean Dana Fusco**

**Congratulate
the Faculty of the
Physican Assistant Program
on achieving
a Five-Year Reaccreditation**

**We look forward
to continued excellence and growth in
the program
and the
Department of Health Professions**

PROGRAM SUMMARY
of the
Seventh Annual General Education Conference
of the
City University of New York College, CUNY

“Journeying Through General Education”

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST (Lobby, Performing Arts Center)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>OPENING PLENARY (Little Theatre, Performing Arts Center)</p> <p>Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, York College</p> <p>Marcia V. Keizs President, York College</p> <p>Alexandra Logue Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, CUNY</p> <p>Karrin Wilks University Dean for Undergraduate Studies, CUNY</p>
10:15 AM – 12:20 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS I & II (Academic Core)
12:25 PM – 2:00 PM	<p>LUNCH and KEYNOTE (Health Education Complex)</p> <p>Pedro Noguera Peter L. Agnew Professor of Teaching and Learning Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Development, NYU “Are You Ready for the Students you Serve? Creating a Climate for Academic Success in Universities & Colleges”</p>
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	<p>CAMPUS LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION Academic Core</p> <p>Jane Bowers, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, John Jay College Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, York College James McCarthy, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Baruch College Judith Summerfield, Dean of General Education, Queens College Stuart Suss, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kingsborough Community College</p>
2:15 PM – 4:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS III & IV (Academic Core)

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The deadline for submissions to the September issue of Academic Affairs Update is August 26, 2011.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu