

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE



Distinguished Alumnus Shares Expertise

New York’s most famous political consultant addressed a large audience of students, faculty, staff and administrators during his visit on November 14. Henry “Hank” Sheinkopf, a member of the York College Class of 1973, made the much-anticipated return to the college to discuss his favorite topic: politics.

The lecture, entitled “Democracy Needs You. Are You Ready for Democracy?” showed the legendary strategist at his best as the address ran the gamut from the community activism that saved York, to the state of elected politics today



Hank Sheinkopf delivering his talk at York College

through new social movements such as Occupy Wall Street.

Introduced by State Senator Malcolm Smith, a former client, and York student Shameka Headen, Sheinkopf was in his element as he discussed the state of electoral politics today.

“Many people thought that the greatest voter turnout for a presidential election was for

Barack Obama,” he said. “But the greatest voter turnout was in 1952 when Eisenhower ran. Then, neighborhoods like this went fallow for 30 years. Don’t tell me that participation doesn’t matter. When you are not involved in protecting democracy, democracy is put at risk.”

Sheinkopf, speaking in the sun-splashed lobby of the Performing Arts Center in mid-afternoon, also remarked that movements such as Occupy Wall Street and its various spawns are good for democracy.

“There should be more of them,” he said. “The problem is that the people who are talking

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Special points of interest:

- Hank Sheinkopf lecture at York
- 4th Annual Health Fair
- Three year anniversary of Entrepreneurship Club
- Social Work Faculty & Students presenting research

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Italian-American Heritage and Culture Week at York

Over the last two decades, the relationship between Italian-Americans and African-Americans in New York City has been fraught with tension. Despite a generally congenial rela-

tionship between the two groups in the early to mid-twentieth century, several incidents in the 1980s and 1990s that received national attention have created a rift that has never fully been

repaired.

It was the aim of this project to help ameliorate these negative feelings within the diverse southern Queens community. York College is

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Provost Lecture Series

Interrogating girls' violence



Provost Griffith (l.) and Dr. Rivera-Maestre posing with the poster for the lecture

On November 16 the York community gathered to hear the final installment of the Provost Lecture Series for the Fall semester. Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre of York's Department of Social Sciences (School of Health & Behavioral Sciences), presented the results of her work on violence between young women in the inner city, titled "The more fights you have ... the less fighting you have to do: Interrogating girls' violence." In attendance was a large audience of faculty and students.

Dr. Rivera-Maestre's work is a qualitative study, based on interviews with a number of young women, exploring the meaning and consequences of relations, friendships, justice, and respect among peers as contributors to the rising incidence of violence among this population. Previous work has studied violence among males while focusing on white adolescents, and most theoreticians have ignored or trivialized violence among women and girls compared to their male counterparts. Some quantitative studies have addressed violence among women in minority communities, but qual-

itative work is critically important to begin to understand the reasons for these conflicts and how they relate to the quantitative results that have been collected.

We heard that violence among girls rises mainly out of "relational aggression" (gossip, social exclusion, bullying, etc.), and leads to physical violence. Girls use different forms of relational aggression, but these forms manifest in three ways: direct and indirect verbal aggression, such as insults and gossip, through to nonverbal assaults such as eye-rolling and social exclusion. In many cases, these actions over time lead to physical violence. Dr. Rivera-Maestre's work shows that girls resort to fighting over these insults to retain respect, reputation, and out of loyalty to insulted friends.

Her work also established a number of results that may lead to methods usable by social workers in interventional activities to prevent or reduce the prevalence of violence among girls. In those for whom relational aggression is the trigger for violence, relational strength and resiliency can be a strong motivation to avoid fights. Family ties

prove important in girls' reactions to relational aggression: the influence of mothers, grandmothers, and sisters all lessened the likelihood of physical violence. Perhaps paradoxically, most girls fight for respect, but do not respect fighting. These observations may prove helpful in preventing recidivism among those whose violence leads them into the criminal justice system.

The question and answer session that followed the talk was lively and thought provoking. The discussion ranged widely, covering such diverse topics as the influence of television, fighting over men, the impact of self-esteem issues, and the role of mental health issues.

Provost Griffith closed the event by thanking the audience for its involvement and compelling questions: "The value of a good lecture is in [...] questions that are powerful and penetrating." He concluded by addressing the students in attendance, strongly encouraging them to be pursue research of interest to them so that they too can become a part of the conversation among the community of research.



Dr. Rivera-Maestre emphasizing a point during her presentation

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are not sure what they are talking about. They can't come up with a cohesive argument. It is not a very functioning movement. There is a lot of tension, but change only comes when there is tension."

He added that today's political culture values "charismatic leadership over ideology." He also referenced the movement that made York College possible when he was a student, and in so doing, revealed a personal past that is not widely known.

"If you were going to build York College today it wouldn't get built," he said matter-of-factly. "I grew up in foster care, and the only home I had until later in life, was

York College. When there is a fight, people notice. When there is no fight people don't know. Had the community not fought for York there would have been no York College. If I, Hank Sheinkopf, an abandoned child from the Bronx, had started out today there would be no Hank Sheinkopf ... and that is an extraordinary thing to know."

Many people are glad there is a Hank Sheinkopf. Now one of the go-to-guys for political talk programs looking for expert opinion on breaking political news; for candidates in crisis, leaders in trouble and those who simply need advice on

staying or changing course.

His list of clients as a political strategist has included candidates such as former president Bill Clinton, former NYS Governor Eliot Spitzer, former NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson and numerous others as well as candidates and governments in a number of foreign nations.

Sheinkopf got his first paid political assignment in 1969 working on Herman Badillo's campaign for Bronx Borough President. He was still a student at York. But his journey to making a career of it took a more circuitous route.

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Hank Sheinkopf (l.) in conversation with Prof. Robert Parmet

"When you are not involved in protecting democracy, democracy is put at risk."

OT graduating class presents Master's research projects

Congratulations to the OT graduating class of 2011 which successfully presented their master research projects to the College community of faculty, and friends and family, as part of their BS/MS degree.

- Natalya Ryabchenko, Whitney Richard and Elizabeth Gonzalez presented: "The effect of fieldwork experience on Occupational Therapy clinical skills acquisition," Dr. Avi- Itzhak, adviser.
- Robert Hartnett, Celica Campos and Chaima Regragui presented: "The effects of random and blocked practice on learning a complex task in adolescents, young and elderly adults," Dr. Lillian Kaplan, advisor.
- Camille Cummings presented: "The effectiveness of experiential learning in occupational Therapy and social work programs," Prof. Sharon Faust, advisor.
- Natalie Khan and Kseniya Shimunova presented: "Use of interview as screening method by accredited occupational therapy programs," Prof. Donald Auriemma, advisor.
- Miriam Levy, Magdalena Marciniak, Lisa Matrochano and Yefim Khaydatov presented: "Occupational therapy practitioners are using standardized assessment tools when evaluating clients," Dr. Andrea Krauss, advisor.



Dr. Kaplan (r.) posing with her mentees Celica Campos, Chaima Regragui and Robert Hartnett (l. to r.)

Congratulations to all!

York Geology Students conduct Geoscience Research in Colorado



Chiemeka Ihebom (r.) and Rodrigue Payen (2nd r.), with other GRASP participants

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”

Zora Neale Hurston

Geoscience Research at Storm Peak (GRASP) is a program providing mentoring and exceptional field research experiences for diverse groups of undergraduate students. GRASP is funded by the National Science Foundation’s Opportunity for Enhancing Diversity in Geoscience Program, whose mission is to recruit and retain students from underrepresented groups within the geosciences.

Geoscience majors include atmospheric science, hydrology, geography, geology, meteorology, and environmental science. With the participation of geology undergraduates Chiemeka Ihebom and Rodrigue Payen York College became the youngest partner of this program. They conducted a week-long (July 31 through

August 7, 2011) field-based research investigations in Colorado last summer.

Currently the GRASP Program is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and includes Storm Peak Laboratory (SPL), Desert Research Institute, Colorado State University, Tennessee State University, Howard University, Bronx Community College, Hampton University and Adam State College.

Dr. Neal Phillip, Chairperson, Dept. of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Bronx Community College, praised Dr. Marcia Keizs, York College President, highly for being highly instrumental in terms of bringing the GRASP Program to Bronx Community College several years ago

and we are very delighted to join the consortium as the newest partner.

Students selected to participate in the GRASP program assembled initially at Storm Peak Laboratory (stormpeak.dri.edu), a unique facility located on the summit of Mt. Werner near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. It provides an ideal location for hands-on experiences in atmospheric sciences. Cost for all travel to SPL and Howard University was provided by GRASP.

Chiemeka Ihebom and Rodrigue Payen applied to the GRASP Program for the summer of 2011 and were recommended by Dr. Nazrul Khandaker, Geology Coordinator. Both were selected from a pool of undergraduate earth science students across the

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York Faculty Update



- **Olajide Oladipo**, (Dept. of Business & Economics, School of Business & Information Systems) presented a paper “Oil Price Shocks and Macroeconomic Activities: Evidence from an Oil Dependent Exporting Country” at the Northeast Business and Economics Association international conference held at Sheraton Hilton Hotel in Philadelphia, November 3-5, 2011. He also chaired a session on “Monetary Policy Debate.”
- **Bulbul Chakravarti**, Buddhadeb Mallik, and **Deb Chakravarti**, (both Dept. of Chemistry, School of Arts & Sciences) co-published a chapter entitled “Proteomics and Systems Biology: Application in Drug Discovery and Development,” in: Qing Yan (ed.), *Systems Biology in Drug Discovery and Development. Methods and Protocols*, Humana Press 2010, 3-28.
- **Mesfin Araya**, (Dept. of Social Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) gave a talk on Pan-Africanism at Howard University, September 9, 2011.

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an urban campus with a student population representing more than 130 countries and that is more than 40% African or African American. Many of its students are immigrants and/or are the first in their families to attend college; typically under less than advantageous circumstances. The campus is located in Jamaica adjacent to South Ozone Park and Ozone Park often referred to as the "Little Italy of Queens."

Each October the John D. Calandra Institute for Italian American Studies coordinates the many events held in the metropolitan area and by The City University of New York colleges to celebrate Italian Heritage and Culture Month. This year's theme was devoted to the "150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy." As part of this effort, York College held an Italian Heritage and Culture Week (Oct. 24-28).

The theme of unification applied nicely to the aim of opening up a dialogue and creating a sense of fellowship among New York Blacks and Italians. The focus was on events that unify Italian-Americans and Blacks and are part of the shared immigrant

experience such as politics, art, and cuisine. Active participation was sought among attendees who included faculty, staff, students, and members of the surrounding communities. The events planned aimed to allow participants to see that the general welfare of all depends on the cooperation of the individual groups.

The week began with an Italian wine tasting event hosted by the Italian-American faculty and staff showcasing wines from the areas of Italy where their families originate. The week included a film screening with the filmmaker present. *Terra Sogno Terra* (Earth Dream Earth) is a heartwarming short documentary in which four Italian immigrants tell the stories of their uprooting and their passion for, and bond to, the earth/Earth.

The filmmaker, Lucia Grillo, spoke about the film and the general immigrant experience of replanting pieces one's homeland in New York soil. The journalist Maurizio Molinari, who recently published *Italians in New York*, came with Professor Vincent Pascale to discuss the political impact of Italian/Black relations in New York City.

A major event was the Festa Italiana (Italian-style feast). A DJ played Italian and Italian-American songs, vendors were present. Many students were engaged in the game of *bocce* (an Italian game that combines elements of horseshoes and croquet) and *briscola* (a widely played Italian card game similar to bridge). Lavazza Company offered free Italian espresso to all the attendants. A gift certificate was won by a student who will have the chance to spend it at *Eataly*, the most fancy Italian marketplace in New York City.

Additionally, discussions within classes across the curriculum about noted Italian-Americans and their contributions to the various disciplines were held. This was done to foster an informed discourse at the events themselves.

All events were free and advertised in the local communities highlighting the theme of unification among immigrant groups.



L.-r.: Dr. Samuel Ghelli, Dr. Donna Chirico, Laura Bruno, and Dr. William Dinello



Filmmaker Lucia Grillo discussing with students



Prof. Ghelli (c.) with Justin Wesley, winner of the Eataly gift card, and Amiscia Christopher (r.), president of the Entrepreneurship Club



Students enjoying a round of *briscola*

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Entrepreneurship Club celebrates 3rd Year Anniversary



Dr. Daniel Platz during his presentation



Prof. Chau Ou (Business & Economics) and participants

The Entrepreneurship Club at York College is celebrating its third year of existence. Through Dr. Olajide Oladipo's (the club faculty advisor and mentor) initiatives, the club and its student members continue to make giant strides in promoting an entrepreneurial mind-set among students, staff and faculty at York College.

The 3rd year anniversary celebration culminated with a seminar presentation by Dr. Daniel Platz, an Economic Affairs Officer in the Department of Economic

and Social Affairs at the United Nations. Dr. Platz is the United Nations focal point for civil society and private sector engagement in the Financing for Development Office of UN-DESA, which monitors and promotes the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

He has also contributed to many UN publications, particularly in the area of development finance, development cooperation, trade and global economic govern-

ance.

On November 3rd, Dr. Platz discussed "Finance for Growth and Development: Microfinance Development Strategy". He emphasized that the development of a sound and broad-based financial sector is central to the mobilization of domestic financial resources and should be an important component of national development strategies. He encouraged student entrepreneurs to continue to be creative and acquire in-depth knowledge in their academic pursuit.

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nation to participate in the GRAPS program, held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado (elevation of 10,564 feet above sea level). Chiemeka and Rodrigue received a stipend (\$350) for their time at Storm Peak Laboratory.

Both became involved in an intense week of research and data analysis, including incoming solar radiation and trace gas particles in the atmosphere resulting from the Arizona wildfire in June of 2011. The Arizona wildfire in June 2011 was one of the most catastrophic events in the

history of Arizona, with the effects of the smoke felt at the research lab in Colorado. A spike in the concentration of aerosols and carbon monoxide above the lab was recorded for the 5th of June 2011. This spike was correlated to the Arizona fire using HYSPLIT back trajectory to determine the wind direction for the given day and also the increase in diffuse solar against the total solar radiation.

Chiemeka and Rodrigue were very happy to represent York at the Fall 2011 gathering in Howard University and highlighted their experi-

ences with the following feedback:

"The GRASP program was an invaluable experience for us and it opened doors to the vast field of geosciences beyond the classroom. It certainly exposed attending students to various research topics and other research programs available to students in the field of atmospheric sciences and geosciences. The students received guidance and direct mentorship and tips from experts in the field. It was a great opportunity to explore options leading to graduate studies in the geosciences."



Storm Peak Laboratory

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Thursday, Dec. 1	Workshop:	Teaching Strategies for Reading Electronic Texts 12 - 2pm CETL, AC4EA1
	Facilitators:	Cathy Borck, Casey Hale, Timothy Keogh, Molly Pulda, Jonah Westerman, Ashley Williard – York Writing Fellows

Social Work Students and Faculty present at CETL Workshop

A rather unprecedented event took place at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning on November 10. Two senior York College students presented a pedagogical methodology called the Conceptual Matrix Project (CMP). Jeovanna Coloma and Franny Jimenez are about to graduate from York with degrees in social work. The presenting team also included their professor and mentor, Dr. Vadim Moldovan.

The presentation was based on an extensive survey of York College faculty who were asked to submit lists of the 10 most important concepts in their respective disciplines. Social work students (in four cohorts – from 100 through 400 levels) were later surveyed on their understanding of some frequently-identified con-



cepts. Preliminary results of this study had been reported by Franny Jimenez and Vadim Moldovan at the 7th Annual CUNY General Education Conference at York College earlier this year.

The CMP is a product of a frank and bitter conversation which took place in a social work class over a year ago. The professor's frustration with the paucity of fundamental general education knowledge was seconded by students' own admission to the struggles to understand and retain abstract knowledge. Even those students whose performance was deemed excellent bemoaned the

CETL director Dr. Xiaodan Zhang (r.), with social work students Jeovanna Coloma (c.) and Franny Jimenez (l.).

fleeting nature of cognitive gain. A typical student taking the Social Work program course entitled Human Behavior in the Social Environment (with the prerequisite of three courses in psychology) seems unaware of theories in psychology. Consequently, the edifice of the social work education stands on shaky stilts.

Out of the discontent with the status quo came an educational method – the CMP – which is based on the following propositions:

- Theoretical knowledge is best expressed through semasiology – understanding the core abstract concepts.
- Effective teaching is

done around concepts.

- In-depth deconstructionist understanding of concepts is an effective method for interdisciplinary integration.

The conceptual framework developed through the CMP is cumulative, portable, transmittable, and widely applicable – with an expectation that students build a “core concepts” vocabulary along their educational trajectory.

The CMP is also an effective learning assessment method.

An energetic and stimulating exchange of ideas took place in the course of the workshop. The research team will continue to work on developing a practical model of the CMP connecting the liberal arts with the Social Work Program curriculum through conceptual matrix.

Social Work Professor Invited to Present at International Symposium in Korea



Dr. Rodgers during her presentation at the Korea Press Center in Seoul

With only 72 hours notice, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, of York College boarded Korean Air headed for Seoul, Korea to serve as the United States Representative at the Meeting the Challenge of Social Service Delivery Symposium.

The Symposium was co-organized by the Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs following an urgent call to improve the social welfare system in Korea.

Dr. Rodgers embraced the 12-hour time zone difference and 12-hour flight to Asia by reading about Korea's history and customs. After landing at Incheon International Airport in South Korea on November 7, 2011, she joined Gyeonggi Province Governor Moon-Soo Kim along with representatives from Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Sweden for dinner, introductions, business decorum, and an exchange of cultural translations—a prelude conversation to the Symposium.

On November 8, 2011 Governor Moon-Soo Kim opened with

his congratulatory speech and welcomed the distinguished panelists. He remarked that his commitment to social welfare delivery reform in Korea is premised on his investment in the sustainability of human beings and family—"my daughter, son-in-law and sister-in-law are social workers" stated Governor Kim.

The media-covered event was well attended, with over 350 participants and simultaneous translations in Korean, English, and Japanese. Dr. Rodgers presented her invited paper, titled "The Role of Posttraumatic Growth and Social Work in Existing Social Service Integrated Models in New York City," at the Korea Press Center in Seoul.

The first half of the conference was a presentation of domestic and global cases. Her talk reflected Integrated Service Models and emphasized client-driven services, empowerment, cultural competence, and community cooperation with local, state and federal governmental officials. She also emphasized themes of trauma and post-trauma experiences. Korea representative, Professor Seonmee

Hong introduced the Gyeonggi-do's customized integrated service delivery model and the existing partnership challenges between private and public sectors.

Spain representative, Dr. Gosta Esping-Andersen, delivered his video presentation about the relevance of women's roles and human resources. Sweden representative Dr. Sven Hort's paper addressed the Nordic social policy globalization strategy in relationship to Korea and other East Asian countries. Japan representative, Dr. Takayuki Hirano discussed the welfare service delivery with respect to older adults and long-term insurance in Japan. New Zealand representative Ms. Sue Jarvis offered a presentation on Child, Youth and Family social service delivery model.

Chaired by Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation President, Professor Jong Man Paik, the 2nd half of the conference was a ten-panel debate (see photo upper right) and Q&A regarding domestic and global social welfare reform. During this session, Professor Hong commented on Dr. Rodgers' presentation as

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L.-r.: Sven E. O Hort (Linnaeus University, Sweden), Sue Jarvis (Child, Youth and Family, New Zealand), Selena T. Rodgers (York College), Sang-Mok Suh (Chairman, Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation, Korea), Takayuki Hirano (Nihon Fukushi University, Japan), Jong Man Paik (Chonbuk National University, Korea) Kyung Sook Park (Kyonggi University, Korea)

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very professional and expressed how Professor Rodgers' talk offered a widened perspective about cultural compe-

tence, client-centered participation, and empowerment with regard to trauma and immigrant populations – which will

be taken into consideration to improve Korea's existing social service delivery model.



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

Aristotle

Business Professor speaks on global housing market in Dubai

Since the global financial meltdown which occurred as a result of the collapse of the housing market in the United States, many developing countries in Africa are now restructuring their housing markets to avoid similar collapse and ensure optimal performance.

In an attempt to achieve their mandate of providing affordable accommodation to Nigerians, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) in collaboration with sister institutions in Africa organized a workshop on “International Borrowing, Debt Management & Mortgage

Finance in Emerging Markets” in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 23-26, 2011.

Dr. Olajide Oladipo, a Professor of Business and Acting Chair of the Business and Economics Department, was invited to present two papers: “Global Models of Mortgage Market Funding in the United States, Europe and Emerging Markets: Lessons for Nigeria”, and “Housing Markets and Long Term Financing: Global Experiences and Lessons for Nigeria”

Other objectives of the 4-day forum, which had participants from both public and private

organizations, were to sensitize real estate developers, investors and stakeholders in the real estate housing sector on the general framework, processes, guidelines, requirements and benefits associated with the FMBN's estate development concession lending window and to create a veritable forum for the exchange of ideas on the challenges faced by developers in accessing the Estate Development Loan (EDL); and to consider and/or exploit other available opportunities in the drive towards promoting affordable housing delivery in Nigeria.



Dr. Oladipo (l.) during one of his presentations in Dubai



Dr. Oladipo (l.) during a break

4th Annual Health Fair at York



Two students at the Health Fair preparing healthy fruit drinks

“There are so many people with HIV and they don’t even know they have it.”



Provost Griffith during his visit of the Health Fair



Mr. Sheinkopf (l.) and Prof. Cooper in conversation

On November 17th, the Health Promotions Center at York College held its fourth annual Health Fair in the atrium of the Academic Core Building.

The Health Fair had dozens of tables set up throughout the atrium that provided information on a variety of health subjects. Among the topics that were covered were obesity, AIDS/HIV, diabetes, food & nutrition, STD prevention, smoking, cancer and several others.

“The goal of the York College Health Fair is to promote health awareness,” said Dr. David Ajuluchukwu, the chairperson of the Health and Physical Education Department. “It gives us a chance to address all the health issues in the communities. It gives us a chance to have people be

aware of the situation and understand what they can do about it. It’s about awareness, prevention, treatment and care.”

The Health Fair came about because of the presence of the Health Promotions Center at York College, which is overseen by Dr. Ray Marks, the Coordinator for Health Promotions Management, as well Sindamanie Ramsammy, a CUNY-CAP graduate student who received her undergraduate degree from York College.

As part of an internship, students are required to come up with a project related to health promotions. The students came up with the idea for the Health Fair to address certain health issues and help the community. The interns did all the research and obtained all the infor-

mation and pamphlets that were available at the health fair.

In addition to all the information that was provided, there were a number of free services available. Students could have their blood pressure tested and also have a free HIV test.

“There are so many people walking around with HIV and they don’t know they have it,” added Ajuluchukwu. “Being able to do free HIV testing is a blessing. People will know they have the virus and that they need to do something about it.”

Overall, the event was a great success, as there was a great turnout this year. The Health Promotions Center will continue to hold its Health Fair each year, with the hopes of continually making the community a healthier place.

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After graduating he tried other careers, including writing for the Queens Tribune and being a police officer.

The NYPD benefits afforded him the opportunity to continue his education, earning a Masters degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His

love of education has also taken him to the CUNY Graduate Center, where he is working on a Ph.D. Also, he is a freshly-minted rabbi.

At the York lecture, emceed by Professor Donna Chirico (chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences), Mr. Sheinkopf acknowl-

edged his former professors Robert Parmet and Alan Cooper in the audience and later greeted Professor Samuel Hux who hurried over after his class ended. Cooper, as a reminder to the long-ago undergraduate in his class, gave Sheinkopf a copy of an untitled son-

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net he had published in Pandora's Box's now defunct section, "Poet's Grove."

The event came about following overtures by Dolores Swirin, who in

her role as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at York, has been meeting with early alumni to invite their re-engagement with the college.

"One of the most valuable contributions that alumni can make is coming back to tell their stories to current students," said Swirin. "Despite the overwhelming obsta-

cles he faced, he has achieved remarkable professional success, and the turning point for him was his education at York."

York students helping in Africa

Therry Jean-Louis and Cassiany Alexandre are both Clinical Laboratory Science majors, both grew up in Haiti and will graduate from York next spring; but equally important, both are budding humanitarians.

The two classmates recently self-financed a trip to the East African nation of Tanzania where they had a life-changing experience.

"I searched online," said Jean-Louis, "and found a place in Tanzania that is a home to orphaned and abandoned children affected by HIV/AIDS; and seven to ten percent of the [overall] population is afflicted [with the disease.]"

The York students prepared for the nearly month-long trip by getting a laundry list of vaccinations and braced themselves for the emotional impact the experience could have.

"At first I was con-



Cassiany and Therry together with some of "their" children

cerned and prepared myself mentally," said Jean-Louise. "I'm from Haiti, I've seen it all. But sometimes I got emotional. One 11 year-old girl ... she's brilliant; and she really touched my heart."

But tugs on the heart strings were not all the York duo experienced. The journey from where they stayed with a local family, to the center where the children are housed plus additional "community visits," sometimes took several hours per day by foot. Nonetheless, they embraced the gift of giving and even met with two other student volunteers, one from the United States, the other from

Germany.

As Psychology minors, the Laboratory Science majors also found themselves providing psychological comfort not just to the children, but to adults as well.

"It's the little piece that each of us can do that will make change happen," said Jean-Louise, who will visit Haiti next summer.

As their trip drew to a close, they pooled their resources and took the children from the center to a hotel restaurant for pizza and ice cream. It was a final treat for children they may never see again. "This stays with you for the rest of your life," said Alexandre, a Chemistry tutor at York.

For Jean-Louis, who has interned at the FDA under the mentorship of Dr. Deb Chakravarti, the experience was equally transformative.

"My best lesson from this is to keep life simple and love one another,"

she says. "When you make a child feel valued it makes a difference. I know very well the difference that it makes, because I am an orphan myself. Both of my parents passed away when I was at an early age; and the wonderful people in my life who did not stop putting smiles on my face, are those who made me who I am today."

The busy students are also interns doing clinical rotations in their major.

Jean-Louise is based at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx, while Alexandre does his rotations at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn. They will continue their education when they graduate from York; and have dual plans to pursue a Master's in Public Health (MPH); as well as in Physician Assistant Studies, to enhance their ability to serve global health needs.

YORK College

Executive Leadership Breakfast



New York City
Deputy Mayor For Economic Development
Robert K. Steel

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
8:00-9:30AM

York College Faculty Dining Room (2D01)

Academic Core Building
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11451

RSVP: WWW.YORK.CUNY.EDU/BREAKFAST
OR CALL 718-262-2354

SCHOOL of ARTS & SCIENCES



Fall 2011 EXHIBITION
of
RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, and CREATIVE WORK

Agenda

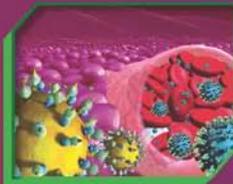
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|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Exhibition (Poster & creative work) Setup | AC 3 rd Floor | 10:00-11:00am |
| 2. Exhibition Viewing | AC 3 rd Floor | 11:00-2:00pm |
| 3. Distinguished Provost Lecture
HIV Vaccine Odyssey: From Lab to Clinic
Dr. Eldridge | AC 2D01 | 12:00-2:00pm |
| Lunch | AC 2D01 | |
| 4. Exhibition break down | AC 3 rd Floor | 2:00-3:00pm |
| 5. Reception – Faculty book publications | AC Undergraduate
Research Office | 3:00-5:00pm |

Tuesday December 13, 2011
11:00-5:00 pm

YORK College

P R O F E S S O R
D I S T I N G U I S H E D S C H O L A R S L E C T U R E

VSV Vectored HIV Vaccine Odyssey: From Lab to Clinic



Viruses such as HIV-1 replicate within cells. Immune recognition of an intra-cellular infection results in a response characterized by both antibody immunity capable of blocking virus entry into cells and Cell-Mediated Immunity capable of killing virus infected cells. This lecture will trace the 10-year development pathway of an HIV-1 vaccine based on a recombinant Vesicular Stomatitis Virus vector, the first replication competent recombinant virus vaccine to enter the clinic. Topics to be discussed will include the research, development, and regulatory challenges in the development of this vaccine candidate.



Tuesday, December 13, 2011
12:00-1:30 PM Faculty Dining Rm.



Dr. John Eldridge
Chief Scientific Officer (Vaccines)
Profectus Biosciences



**DEAR YORK COLLEGE COMMUNITY,
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NY HAS ADOPTED A
CAMPUS-WIDE TOBACCO-FREE POLICY
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2012**

This Policy prohibits tobacco use *on all grounds and facilities* under CUNY jurisdiction, including:

- Indoor locations
- Outdoor locations such as playing fields
- Entrances and exits to buildings
- Parking lots
- University operated vehicles

This policy also prohibits *tobacco promotions*, including:

- Advertising, marketing, and distribution of marketing materials on campus properties
- Tobacco industry sponsorship of athletic events and athletes

The decision to declare York College a tobacco-free campus is based on extensive research, deliberation, and solicitations of community views, and is designed to help protect the health of CUNY students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Across the United States, an ever-increasing number of colleges and universities are instituting tobacco-free policies. If you are interested in a smoking cessation program, please visit the York College Health Services Center, Room 1F01, (718) 262-2050. You may also call 1-866-NY-QUITS or visit nyc.gov/health.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION



On the Move

York College

Office of the Provost
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.,
AC-2H07
Jamaica, NY 11451
Phone: 718-262-2780

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The deadline for submissions to the February issue of Academic Affairs Update is January 20, 2012.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu