

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Dean's List Reception Honors York's Brightest

On March 22, 2012, York College held a reception at the Health and Physical Education Center in honor of students who excelled academically and made it onto the Dean's List. There was an array of speakers including Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith, who gave students words of encouragement.

"As the standards rose at York, the students rose with the standards as well," said Dr. Griffith, expressing how proud he was and that "excellence is not



Provost Griffith (r. at the podium) addressing students during the Dean's List Reception

an act; it's a habit."

Other speakers included Merit Scholar Christina Geffard, a Psychology major who will also be inducted into the National Honor Society. She noted that "great opportunities happen

unexpectedly."

Reno Rafly, of York's Class of York in 2007, was the keynote speaker. She shared her story of hardships overcome by determination. Rafly graduated Magna Cum Laude from York and was accepted at Polytechnic Institute of New York University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in Organizational Behavior. She was valedictorian of her class (in the discipline). Impressed, the university hired her in its

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York Student Receives CUNY's "Nobel Science" Award

York College senior and chemistry major, Daryl Ramai, recently placed third in the annual CUNY Nobel Science Challenge.

The competition asked interested CUNY undergraduates to submit an essay in the following categories, physiology and medicine, physics, chemistry, and economics that described the



Daryl Ramai showing his Nobel Science Award

science behind one of the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Ramai based his es-

say on the late Rockefeller University biologist Ralph Steinman's discoveries of immune cells formed in mammal immune systems called dendritic cells. The awards were distributed at a ceremony held on February 29th at CUNY's Central Office located on East 80th St. in Manhattan.

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Special points of interest:

- **PoliSci Student wins Ralph Bunche Internship**
- **Business Students visit United Nations**
- **English Prof. publishes Poetry Book**

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Dr. Anne Simon (l.) receiving a copy of the poster for her lecture from Provost Griffith

Why study fruit flies? Because of their genetic similarity to humans (we share about 80% of our genes with the flies) and the relative ease of manipulating their genomes, answered Dr. Anne Simon, the most recent presenter in the Provost Lecture Series.

The flies are also a favorite of genetic biologists because of their rapid life cycle – a mere ten days. Fruit flies produce proteins closely resembling human proteins linked to neurological disorders. These similarities led Dr. Simon to a

Provost Lecture Series

Studying the Fruit Fly to understand Social Interactions

new paradigm for understanding behavioral characteristics. She pointed out that all species tend to aggregate.

One facet of aggregating behavior or sociality is a normal proximity or spacing among members. Much of our knowledge of human behavior has derived from a close examination of deviations. There are many examples of aberrant social behaviors. Autism is one illustration of such a dysfunction. Individuals with autism demonstrate a disinterest in social interaction and avoid the touch

of others. At an opposite extreme, individuals suffering from Williams syndrome seem to have no social boundaries and appear unafraid of strangers.

The question Dr. Simon's research poses is whether or not these abnormal human behaviors can be seen in a population of fruit flies and if there might be specific genes involved. Previous research has also established a genetic component in the behavior of fruit flies. Experiments have shown that the flies will avoid locations

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Provost Lecture Series

“‘Can we come in?': Foreign Workers and the Israeliness-Jewishness Dilemma”



Dr. Robin Harper
Assistant Professor
Department of Behavioral Sciences
School of Health & Behavioral Sciences



Wednesday, April 18, 2012
4:00-5:30 pm
Room 1M06

Over the last twenty years, more than 300,000 non-Jewish, non-Arab migrants (known as “foreign workers”) and their children have taken up residency in Israel and become increasingly part of Israeli quotidian life. Their presence challenges the State of Israel, Israeli society and the migrants themselves to think about the borders between Jewishness and Israeliness. The study of the Israeli case can potentially provide insight for other ethnic states with burgeoning migrant populations.

York College Student Selected for Prestigious Internship



York College Political Science major, Dominga Vasquez Loreno, has won a fully-funded spot as a participant in the American Political Science Association Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University for summer 2012. Dominga is one of 20 students selected from colleges across the country.

“As a political science major and someone interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in political science with specializations in international relations and comparative politics, this is an excellent opportunity for her,” says Dr. Michael O. Sharpe, Ms. Loreno’s mentor at York College. “She already has research interests in international development, environmental politics, and the politics of conservation.”

According to Dr. Sharpe, Loreno recently had an Edward T. Rogowsky Internship with New York City Councilman Leroy Comrie, and participation in the York College National Leadership Society and York College Latin Caucus.

The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute is named in memory of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former APSA

President, Ralph J. Bunche. The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) program goal is to encourage students to pursue academic careers in political science by helping to:

- Enhance participants’ writing, research, and analytical skills and make them more competitive applicants for graduate school admissions and financial assistance;

- Improve the students’ use of computers for statistical analysis of research data used in the study of political science;

- Expose interested and engaged students to issues in the discipline and profession of political science;

- Introduce participants to leading political scientists;

- Inform promising students about political science career opportunities and encourage applications to Ph.D. programs in political science.

Each summer, the Institute gives 20 students a look at the world of graduate study with a program of two transferable credit courses, one in quantitative analysis and one in race and American politics, to introduce the intellectual demands of

graduate school and political science research methods. For a final project for both courses, students prepare original, empirical research papers, and top students are given the opportunity to present their research at APSA’s Annual Meeting, with all expenses paid by the association.

Classes are held on the Duke University campus, where students have access to a fully equipped computer laboratory, library collections, and other university facilities. Educational activities range from formal classroom settings to informal dinners and lunches with prominent political scientists and Duke University faculty. A strong ethics component is included with readings, cases, debates, and lectures on issues within an academic setting.

“I think this is another great example of York students pursuing excellence,” said Dr. Sharpe. “I have seen Dominga’s interest in politics and analytical skills really blossom over the time I have had her as a student. It looked like a program from which she would really benefit.”



Dominga Vasquez Loreno



Prof. Michael Sharpe

A Health and Behavioral Sciences Alliance



Dr. Charlene Lane (l.) and Dr. Selena Rodgers (r.)

On March 23, 2012, Dr. Charlene Lane and Dr. Selena T. Rodgers of the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences presented their PSC-CUNY funded research papers at the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education National Conference of Blacks in Higher Education in Atlanta, GA.

The 2012 Conference theme focused on *Healthy Communities through Access, Education, Research and Collaboration*.

Dr. Lane's paper, titled "Community Dwelling Seniors Perceptions of Aging & Healthcare Experience," emphasized the extent to which seniors internalize ageists' beliefs and attitudes, and the relationship of these to their health care providers visits.

Dr. Rodgers presented her research about the "Lived Experiences of Vicarious Trauma, Coping, and Posttraumatic Growth in Undergraduate Social Work Stu-

dents who Attend Urban Public Colleges." The study considers pedagogical implications for Social Work Field Education.

The American Association of Blacks in Higher Education "pursues the educational and professional needs of Blacks in higher education with a focus on leadership, access and vital issues impacting students, faculty, staff, and administrators" (see www.blacksinhighered.org).

"To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say."

George Santanyana



York Faculty Update



- **O. S. Oladipo**, (Dept. of Business and Economics, School of Business & Information Systems), "Estimating the Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Exports: Evidence from Mexico's Trading Relationship with the United States," in: B. I. Vásquez-Galán, M. A. Jurado Montelongo and J. L. Castro Ruiz (eds.), *Procesos Economicos, laborales y Urbanos en la Frontera Noreste en el Contexto de la Apertura Economica* (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, 2012), pp.29-54.
- **O. S. Oladipo**, "An analysis of sectoral exchange rate pass-through effects on a small open economy using the Leontief Input-Output technique," in: *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*, Vol. 5, No 1 (2012), pp. 47 - 65.
- **O. S. Oladipo**, "Oil Price Shocks and Macroeconomic Activities: Evidence from an Oil Dependent Exporting Economy." Paper presented at the Annual Conference on Innovations in Business and Management (CIBM), Senate House, The University of London, London (UCL), February 27, 2012.
- **Tania Levey** & Dina Pinsky, (Dept. of Social Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences), "Skill and Creativity in the Life Stories of Professional Dominatrixes," *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*, New York, NY., February 25, 2012.

York College Business Students attend Lecture at the United Nations

On March 2nd 2012, Dr. Olajide Oladipo, took 17 York College Business students to attend a lecture on the Global Compact and a tour of the United Nations. The excursion was a part of the annual School of Business and the Entrepreneurship Club activities that commenced Fall 2011 with the invitation of Dr. Daniel Platz of the Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations to York College.

The UN Global Compact lecture was delivered by Dr. Jonas Haertle, Head of Principles for Responsible Management Education Secretariat. It was an interactive lecture.

During his presentation, Dr. Haertle told the students that the “United Nations global compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.” According to Dr. Haertle, through the Global Compact, the

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is able to call on the “U.S. and global business leaders to embed sustainability principles in their strategies and operations and join forces with the UN in advancing sustainable development.”

Dr. Haertle went further to highlight several UN-backed initiatives including Women’s Empowerment Principles; Water, Energy and Food Security among others. He explained the need for companies to participate and publicly report on sustainability performance; engage in responsible lobbying and advocacy; work with governments to adopt smart regulatory frameworks; and partner with the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programs.

York College student Mr. Sean Richardson asked Dr. Haertle to explain the consequences for member companies that failed to publicly report their sustainability performance. Dr. Haertle replied that the “Global Compact has expelled a total of 3,123 companies since 2005

for failure to communicate progress on their efforts to implement the Global Compact’s sustainability principles.” He said that the UN Global Compact Office recently issued a statement highlighting this development and calling on current business participants to broaden their implementation efforts.

Interestingly, the General Assembly was in session. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was at the podium leading a discussion on the Middle East and North Africa spring uprisings. The Business and Economics class was allowed in to listen to deliberations on the floor of the UN General Assembly from the UN press gallery.

Dr. Oladipo is currently planning a visit to the New York Stock exchange in the Fall 2012 semester with his business students.



Dr. Oladipo (r.) and his group of students during their visit to the UN



Dr. Jonas Haertle during his presentation to the York students



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

Zora Neale Hurston

YORK COLLEGE CUNY

Psychology Major Presents Research at CUNY Pipeline Conference

During a recent conference sponsored by the CUNY Pipeline Program Danish presented his senior thesis research, titled “Rat Model of Alzheimer’s Disease with Measures in Sleep-Wake Alterations and Deficits in Short Term Memory.” The Conference was held at The Graduate Center on March 9, 2012.

The thesis research project involved research on literature reviews, writing papers, and assisting in the Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory. This practice also aided in writing his research proposal.

Throughout Mr. Dan-

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where earlier generations have experienced stress. At the genetic level it appears that the expression of specific genes may play a part in some patterns of behavior.

Aggregating behavior can be replicated in laboratory experiments that introduce flies into a confined space. In less than a half hour the flies have explored their new environment and settled into regular spacing patterns which can be measured. The con-



Danish Bissessar (l.) with his mentor, Prof. Francisco Villegas

ish Bissessar’s senior year at York College, Dr. Francisco Villegas has mentored him while in the CUNY Pipeline Program.

Dr. Villegas guided Danish in the graduate application process and his senior thesis research project. The graduate application process involved researching Ph.D.

sistency of these patterns of proximity rule out coincidence. Mutant flies – whose genes have been altered – are introduced. Genetic changes that increase or decrease dopamine levels produce more or less sociability or a willingness to “clump” with the rest of the flies.

Several interesting lines of investigation have followed from these experiments including an examination of the role of sleep in the production of neurotrans-

mitters linked to mental illnesses.

Just days after Dr. Simon’s lecture many audience members were reading reports on the front page of the *New York Times* about other research with fruit flies. Those findings associated alcohol use with stress and the rise and fall of a neuropeptide level, suggesting a clear relationship between genetics and behavior.

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Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Thurs., April 5	Roundtable:	Next Generation Course Design (Book Discussion)
	12:15 – 1:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
	Facilitators:	Alex Costley, Health and Physical Education Lidia Gonzalez, Math Shawn Williams, Health Professions
Thurs., April 26	Workshop:	Plagiarizing Plagiarism: Integrity and Learning Process
	12:15 – 1:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
	Facilitators:	York Writing Fellows

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The 4th Annual Trip to Albany for Social Work Legislative Action Day

The Social Work Club at York College sponsored its 4th annual trip to Albany for Social Work Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

The trip was an exciting opportunity for social work students to learn advocacy skills and lobby for important social issues and the York College academic agenda. This year, the Club organized 23 students from the Social Work Program to attend Lobby Day in Albany. The event was led by two faculty members in the Department of Social Sciences, School of

Health and Behavioral Sciences, Social Work Program: Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre, Assistant Professor and faculty advisor of the Social Work Club; and Dr. Selena Rodgers, Assistant Professor.

In Albany, students met with key New York City and State Legislators, including Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook and officials from Senator Shirley L. Huntley's office. The legislative action agenda items included:

- Support passage of the Anti-Cyberbullying Bill (S6132/A8978) which

prohibits cyberbullying of minors;

- Support for the New York Dream Act (S.4179/A.6829) allowing undocumented students (an estimated 146,000 youth in New York) to access state financial aid to help pay for college.

Social Work students also advocated on behalf of York College and the CUNY 2012-2013 Operating State Budget Priorities, including:

- Restore funding for Student Services: CUNY LEADS Program

- Restore funding for the 17 licensed CUNY campus-based child care programs currently providing services to over 1,600 student parents and 2,400 children.

- Funding for the York College Academic Village Conference Center. This project intends to create a new Academic Village and Conference Center at the current site of the Classroom Building. The Center would be a hub for student life activities, providing students with classrooms, of-

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English Department Professor Publishes Profound Poetry



Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, an adjunct professor in York's English Department, recently published her first book of poetry.

Karma's Footsteps (Flipped Eye Publishing, 2011), while small in page numbers, packs a wallop in content. It covers a range of topics so perfectly constructed it announces that a profound new voice has just been detonated in the canon of contemporary literature.

Themes range from "blinded compromise" in "Her Voice" to lynchings in Mississippi in "I Was There" and are poignant and evocative. "Forced Entry," powerfully employs metaphor to address the psychological damage of rape and induce empathy with the victim in the poem:

"He broke into me-/ stole something,/Brazen thief/Never charged with forced entry,/and no one sees the bruise prints/the scratch marks on my spirit-these don't make police reports./The dignity missing from my step/doesn't qualify as physical evidence...."

And while Tallie started life as a girl in Lefrak City housing in

Queens, her sensibilities as an adult have also been shaped by a larger world view. She has taught at Rundu College of Education in the African nation of Namibia; and participated in poetry readings in Amsterdam where she has also lived for a year and a half. She has worked in London as a poetry coach at Hackney Secondary School, and in Belgium. Back in the United States she has taught at Medgar Evers College and taught a course at Pratt Institute, before coming to York.

The book was a labor of love for its enchanting author.

"It took six years between acceptance [of the manuscript] and publication," said Tallie. "I had a baby, then moved from Belgium back to New York."

Ekere Tallie studied radio, TV and film at Clark Atlanta University where she earned her undergraduate degree. She later earned a Master of Fine Arts in Fiction Writing from Mills College in Oakland, California. At York she teaches English 125 and fittingly, English 200, Understanding Literature.

"The York College

English Department is privileged to have Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, a powerfully talented poet and teacher, on our faculty," said Dr. Linda Grasso, chairperson. "Professor Tallie's passionate belief that writing matters because it enables creativity, hope, healing, and historical memory, inspires students to care about language, and what language makes possible. 'It is writing/despite the facts/to create new ones.'"

Tallie, a budding herbalist, has received funding for her research from Queens Council of the Arts, and traces her literary influence to the Black Arts Movement, among others. But before the publication of her first collected works, some of Tallie's poems had already been featured in several anthologies, including Listen Up! and Def Jam Poetry.

The mother of two young daughters also produces poetry videos with her husband. Her productivity bodes well for her department according to Grasso.

"Professor Tallie is a wonderful role model, showing students that



“Social Work Matters” to Rochdale Village NORC

According to the National Association of Social Workers, the White House first officially recognized March as National Professional Social Work Month in 1984. This year’s theme was “Social Work Matters.”

On March 20, 2012, Rochdale Village *Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities* (NORC) honored their very own Dr. Selena T. Rodgers – presenting her with the Rochdale Village NORC Award in recognition of Social Work Month for her Outstanding Leadership in Education and Research in field of Social Work. Professor Rodgers is a 15-year resident of the Rochdale Village Community and a former Rochdale Village Social Services, Inc. Board Member.

Selena T. Rodgers, Ph.D., LCSW-R, is Assistant Professor and Field Education Director of Social Work in the Department of Social Sciences, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences at York. She has strengthened the pro-

fessional and collaborative partnership between Rochdale Village NORC and York College/CUNY. In her role as Field Education Director, Professor Rodgers is instrumental in securing field internships and employment opportunities for students.

Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Charlene Lane (Department of Health & Physical Education, Gerontological Studies & Services) were recently invited by Rochdale Village NORC Director Sherba Austin to offer technical assistance during the summer of 2012 on the Health Indicators Survey for Advancing Healthy Aging in Communities (United Hospital Fund/Department of the Aging Sponsored). The aim of the survey is to determine health risks for Rochdale’s aging population.

Ms. Austin presented NORC social workers, Elaine Cooper (York Alumna ‘10), Nirquette Guillaume (York Alumna ‘04), and Nadine Robinson (York Alumna ‘04) with Certificates of Appreciation for their

dedication and commitment to the Social Work Profession and the Seniors of Rochdale Village.

Ms. Austin’s indefatigable commitment to York College and students is undeniable. She provides invaluable support and mentorship to everyone she encounters.

Stephanie Jeanty is expected to graduate in June 2012. Ms. Guillaume and Ms. Robinson earned a Master in Social Work (MSW) from Stony Brook University.

During the recognition breakfast, Professor Rodgers reflected on her 17-year journey as a professional social worker. She stated, “As a social worker who remains steadfast to serve individuals, families and communities with empathy and respect, my purpose and passion is awakened with each sunset and moonrise – I’m grateful that the profession chose me.” To read more about why “Social Work Matters” to Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, visit: www.york.cuny.edu/Members/srodgers



L.-r.: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College/ Social Work Program) and Sherba Austin (Rochdale Village NORC Director)



NORC Social Workers (l.-r.): Elaine Cooper (BSW), Stephanie Jeanty (York College social work student), Nirquette Guillaume (MSW), Nadine Robinson (MSW), and Sherba Austin (LMSW)

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER SPRING 2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL / MAY 2012

FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ALL EVENTS ARE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER (3B-04) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Thursday, April 19: noon-2 p.m. **OPEN HOUSE / LAUNCH** of new Black Studies Major.

Wednesday, May 2: 2-3:30 p.m. – **AFRICANA COLLOQUIUM SERIES** – Jasmine Mitchell, African American Studies, Imagining Race in Telenovelas in Brazil. Paper draft to be circulated April 25. E-mail kjosephs@york.cuny.edu or gywhite@york.cuny.edu

Monday, May 7: 6-8 p.m. – **CURRENT EVENTS IN BLACK STUDIES: THE BLACK AGENDA** – Housing, Employment, Education – moderated by Ron Daniels

CENTER HOURS – STOP BY THE CENTER (3B-04) FOR A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY OR TO RESEARCH

Mondays – Thursdays, 10a.m.-8p.m.
Fridays 10a.m-4p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS (as of September 7, 2011):

Tuesdays, noon-2 p.m. African American Studies Club
Wednesdays, 6-8p.m. Yoga and Meditation Club



The York lobby group in Albany

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ices for student government clubs, lounges, conference rooms, a bookstore and a coffee shop. The conference rooms would be open to the community.

Students thanked members of the New York State Legislature for their previous support of York College, including Assembly Member Vivian Cook, with the support of the state legislature (1) for

securing \$5 million for the building of the landmarked York College Child and Family Center, now officially open; and (2) for securing \$11 million, for enhancements and repairs to the Academic Core Building (e.g., benches outside, student common space renovations) and as a down payment for the construction of the York College Academic Village (student union building).

A special thanks was given to President Keizs and Mr. Earl Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations – President’s Office, who advocated alongside the students in Albany and provided a valuable learning opportunity to join them in their advocacy efforts on behalf of York College students, faculty, staff and administrators.

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they can succeed academically and creatively if they are ‘like bamboo,’ bending and not

breaking, bouncing back ‘not always graceful/but taller/always taller,’ ultimately realizing

they can ‘choose to stand again.’”

“NO PLACE CALLED HOME”

On a Mission to Interview Iraqi Refugees, Playwright Discovers Tragedy and falls in Love

The Cultural Diversity Program in the History and Philosophy Department announces a performance of *No Place Called Home*. This new play is written and performed by Kim Schultz, with amazing live music by Amikaeyla Gaston, directed by Sarah Cameron Sunde. A performance will be given on Thursday, April 26th 2012 at 12:00 noon in the Academic Core Building, Lecture Hall 3D01.

Falling in love with one of the refugees was never part of Schultz's plan, but an Iraqi man named Omar changed all that. *No Place Called Home* is that unexpected story – a true story about an American woman and an Iraqi man, a story about one refugee out of 4 million, a story that isn't supposed to be a love story.

No Place Called Home was commissioned and originally produced as part of the Iraqi Voices Amplification Project (IVAP), a global initiative started by *Intersections International* to use the power of the arts to call atten-

tion to the displacement of more than 4 million Iraqis as a result of the US military involvement in Iraq. Since 2006, an estimated 2.2 million Iraqis have fled their country, living as illegal migrants abroad – unable to work, access health or social services, or obtain an education for their children, with another two million displaced internally.

Intersections led a delegation of eight American artists, including Schultz and Gaston, on a three-week immersion trip to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria where they talked to hundreds of refugees. Upon their return, the artists began creating a series of pieces designed to humanize the crisis and give voice to the millions of refugees whose plight has yet to enter broad public consciousness. *No Place Called Home* is the centerpiece of this effort.

Kim Schultz, playwright and performer, is a New York-based actress/writer and has performed for The Hamptons Shakespeare Festival, Oberon Theatre, Themantics Group, Mid-

town International Fringe Festival and The Zipper Factory Theatre. Nationally, she has performed at The Guthrie Theatre, Childrens' Theatre Co., Chicago Improv Fest, The Brave New Workshop and in a HBO Comedy Showcase in LA. Internationally, she wrote and performed a show for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Kim wrote and performed a critically acclaimed autobiographical solo show performed off-Broadway called, *The F Trip*. In addition, Kim is also an improviser and runs Kim Schultz Improv, a school in New York.

Other members of the production team include the lighting and design talents of Jeanette Oisuk (*The Closest Farthest Away*, *Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant*) and set and costume by Jian Jung (*The Marriage of Figaro* and *Die Fledermaus*).



Playwright Kim Schultz

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY



Kim Schultz on stage and in character



Daryl Ramai (l.) during a visit in Ghana last summer

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Ramai is currently conducting research in laboratories in two places – on mass spectrometry at Rockefeller University in Manhattan and bio-mass spectrometry at York College.

With specialized research in pediatric eye care and a health fellowship in Ghana under his belt, Ramai edged out over 42 other applicants in the physiology and medicine category. Third place winners in all categories received an Amazon Kindle Fire along with a certificate awarded from CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

Ramai chose the dendritic cell discovery as the topic for his entry essay to help the general public understand the importance and implications of Steinman's cell discovery. He explained his work "describes how our immune system, a complex biological instrument, recognizes pathogenic microorganisms, defends against invasion (by an innate response), while developing specific immunity through the production of memory cells and antibodies which will rapidly respond to similar and future attacks."

According to CNN, Steinman "discovered the immune system's

sentinel dendritic cells and demonstrated that science can fruitfully harness the power of those cells and other components of the immune system to curb infections and other communicable diseases."

The word dendritic derives from the Greek word for tree. It accurately describes the cell which has branch like structures protruding from its body, explained Ramai.

"[It] allows the cell to interact with other cells and organ systems," Ramai said. "We are all aware of the presence of human personality, but as a student of science - after careful study of this cell - I must say that it too has a distinct character. It mediates molecular interaction between the innate and adaptive arms of the immune system, is involved in a bi-directional "dialogue" with T and B-cells, and all the while works as a sentinel patrolling the blood stream."

Ramai believes the discovery of dendritic cells by Steinman has positive implications and effects on the future on how scientists will think about the immune system as well as future treatment for various ailments.

"This cell has trans-

formed our thinking of the immune system and has integrated what once existed as a dichotomy – innate and adaptive immune systems," he said, adding that "with this new approach comes a better understanding of many diseases such as cancers and autoimmune disorders." Today, there are over fifteen clinical trials using dendritic cells to treat such diseases with great results, Ramai stressed.

Controversy over the announcement of Steinman's award arose late last year. The 68-year old immunologist and cell biologist suffered from pancreatic cancer and passed away on September 30, 2011 - days before the announcement from the Nobel Foundation. Using his discovery on dendritic cells, he managed to create a treatment for his cancer and succeeded in extending his life. If Steinman had lived, he would have received a \$750,000 award.

"It's easy to become enthralled when one reads of the mysterious universe inside the human body," Ramai said.

Reprinted with permission from Pandora's Box, York College's student newspaper. Article written by Marissa Collado.

YORK College **CU NY** The City University of New York

3rd ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

APRIL 19, 2012

10-4PM, HEALTH EDUCATION COMPLEX
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
LRESEARCH@YORK.CUNY.EDU OR 718.262.2812



STUDENT RESEARCH DAY 2012 LUNCHEON

"THE WEB OF CHANGE, CURRENT GLOBAL REVOLUTIONS"
KEYNOTE SPEAKER - HARI KUNZRU
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING,
NEW YORK TIMES EDITOR'S CHOICE LIST AUTHOR
"GODS WITHOUT MEN", "MY REVOLUTIONS" AND
"THE IMPRESSIONISTS"

HEALTH EDUCATION COMPLEX 12-2 PM



Reno Rafly, Class of 2007 Valedictorian, returning to York to address Dean's List students

cont.'d from p.1

Human Resources division.

The honorees left the ceremony inspired and determined to maintain their Dean's List status. In order to graduate with honors from York, a GPA of 3.5 or higher must be sustained by the student.

Dean Meleties explained the importance of recognizing excellence.

"The Dean's List reception is hosted in order to recognize and to congratulate the students who achieved academic

excellence fulfilling the criteria and earning the Dean's List designations for their work in the previous two academic terms," said Dr. Meleties, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at York. "Although they receive information and certificates at the end of each term, the reception is an opportunity to extend the recognition and honor to the many people that contributed to their success, including faculty, staff and the students' family and friends."

The Dean added that the criteria for Dean's List distinction changed last Fall.

"The Fall 2011 Dean's List was determined with the revised criteria," said Dr. Meleties. "However, applying the previous criteria (Spring 2011) the number of Dean's List students had been increasing, following the increase of the admission standards of the college. I am looking forward to similar trend using the revised criteria (effective Fall 2011)."

"The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself."

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

Distinguished Alumni Panel

*A Personal and Professional Odyssey
From the York College/CUNY BS
to an Advanced Professional Degree
And Beyond*

Christopher Wilson (Brandeis University)
Melissa James, Ph.D. (Postdoc, Kitsis Lab, Cell Biology, AECOM)
Srinivas Kolla, MD (SUNY Health Sciences Center)
Alexander Birk, Ph.D. (Weill College of Medicine)

**12 - 2 p.m. • Thursday, April 26, 2012
Biology Smart Lab 4E07**

REFRESHMENTS!



Pluralizing Plagiarism: Integrity and the Learning Process



**Cathy Borck
Casey Hale
Timothy Keogh
Molly Pulda
Jonah Westerman
Ashley Williard
(York College Writing
Fellows, WAC Program)**

**Thursday, April 26, 2012
12:00—1:45 PM
CETL Office (AC-4EA1)**

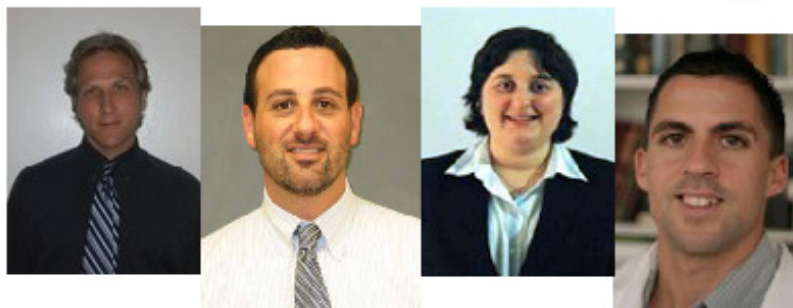
*Light refreshments will be
served*

Have you ever received a student's paper with no references, excerpts copied from other sources, or an essay that is strikingly similar to a Wikipedia article? In this CETL presentation, the Writing Fellows will address the various forms of plagiarism we encounter in the classroom and what we can do about it.

Sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Next Generation Course Design



Alex Costley, Health and Physical Education

Andrew Criss, Biology

Lidia Gonzalez, Mathematics

Shawn Williams, Health Profession

Thursday, April 5, 2012

12:00-1:45 PM

CETL Office (AC-4EA1)

Light refreshments will be served

How can you make a large Gen Ed lecture course more dynamic? Can all Gen Ed courses be “redesigned” to target and assess higher-level learning, increase student engagement, and find a careful balance of large-group, small-group, and online activities to promote cognitive development? Can they promote reflection and cognitive development and help all students to learn more effectively even in challenging environments? What does it take to make sure that no student fails a Gen Ed course? The authors of *Next Generation Course Design* (P. Turner and R. Carriveau, the University of North Texas) explore these questions and ask: under common budget constraints, what institutional resources are needed most? Four faculty members from different disciplines will lead a discussion of this thought-provoking book.

Sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE & the York College Performing Arts Center

SPRING 2012

RENT

no day but today

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Produced by
Matthew Katz &
the York College
Performing Arts Center

Directed by
Timothy J. Amrhein

Musical Direction by
Jonathan Quash

May 04 at 7:00pm
May 05 at 7:00pm
May 06 at 3:00pm
May 11 at 7:00pm
May 12 at 2:00pm & 7:00pm
May 13 at 3:00pm



Teaching Mathematics to a Digital Generation T³ Regional Conference Jamaica, Queens, NYC

Where: York College/CUNY
When: June 8th and 9th, 2012

Sponsored by Texas Instruments

Conference Description:

Join us at York College of the City University of New York (CUNY) in Jamaica, Queens one of the most diverse neighborhoods in New York City for a 2-day T³ Regional Conference. Sponsored by Texas Instruments, the conference is open to all teachers (grades K – university) interested in incorporating the use of technology in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Sessions will include presentations, demonstrations and workshops aimed at providing attendees with activities, strategies and knowledge that they can bring back to their classrooms.

T³ Regional Conference Highlights:

- **Attend** beginner through advanced sessions
- **Learn** from experience educators
- **Choose** from hands-on and demonstration sessions for new and experienced educators
- **Network** with other educators from your region
- **Receive** lots of great classroom activities and ideas
- **Exchange** ideas with others who are trying new techniques in their classroom
- **Acquire** the latest news on TI's educational products
- **Return** to your classroom with a renewed enthusiasm for teaching

Keynote speaker

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Frank Gardella, Executive Director of the Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning & Teaching and a recipient of the 2010 Hall of Fame Award for New York State Outstanding Mathematics Educator will give the keynote address.

For more information and registration, visit the conference website at:
www.york.cuny.edu/t3

For additional information contact Dr. Virginia L. Thompson at (718) 262-2548 or via e-mail at vthompson@york.cuny.edu

Save the date → June 8th and 9th, 2012
T³ Regional conference at York College Jamaica, Queens, NYC



S A V E T H E D A T E

Regulation of Pharmaceuticals: A Global Perspective

June 6-8, 2012

New York City

York College and U. S. Food and Drug Administration

This three-day conference features presentations from FDA, the pharmaceutical industry, and USP on the global challenges and opportunities facing manufacturers, producers and regulators to ensure that drugs are being manufactured and distributed to established quality standards.

Partial List of Speakers:

Murray Lumpkin M.D., Commissioner's Senior Advisor for Global Issues, FDA
John M. Taylor, III, Counselor to the Commissioner, FDA
Vicki Seyfert-Margolis, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Science Innovation and Policy, FDA
Robert B. Clark, Vice President, Worldwide Regulatory Strategy, Pfizer Inc.
Karen A. Russo, Ph.D., Vice President, Small Molecules, USP

Topics include:

FDA's international activities • Drug manufacturing requirements
• What's hot in compliance • Global supply chain issues
• Inspectional Issues • NDA and ANDA Approval Issues

Who should attend:

• Manufacturing directors and supervisors • QA/QC personnel • Regulatory affairs staff
• Consultants • Managers • Pharmaceutical scientists • Personnel new to the industry

For further information visit www.yorkfdaworkshops.org
Or call 718-262-2790.

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

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu