President Keizs Receives Congressional Award

Congressman Gregory W. Meeks presented President Marcia V. Keizs a Congressional Award for leadership during his Annual Awards Recognition Gala on October 5. Governor Elliot Spitzer was the keynote speaker and Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, was the Special Guest Speaker.

With over 500 guests in attendance, President Keizs graciously accepted the award, shared the recent accomplishments of York College and thanked everyone for their support. President Keizs was joined by members of the York College family which included: Dr. Howard Ruttenberg, Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy and Chair of the Council of Chairs, who represented Provost Ivelaw Griffith, and Earl Simons, Assistant to the President for Institutional Advancement.

Also present were Janis Jones, Vice President for Student Development, Paula Lalande, Dean for Student Development, Nate Moore, Director of Marketing and Communications, Panayiotis Meleties, Dean for Math and Sciences, Cynthia Haller, Dean for the

Research and Retention
by Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

The great, late, American writer Zora Neale Hurston once described research as “formalized curiosity.” She added, “It is poking and prying with a purpose.” I fully endorse this description, conscious that formalized curiosity is not the purview of any single discipline or field of study. There is research in the sciences, the humanities, the social sciences, and in the professions. Moreover, “poking and prying” can lead to

Cont’d on p.7

Cont’d on p.2
Research and Retention  
Cont’d from p.1

outcomes that not only exhilarate the researchers, but also that have powerful real world impact on life and living; in medicine, industry, public policy, sports, culture, and a myriad of other areas.

For a college such as ours with a largely undergraduate student body and where the pursuit of teaching excellence correctly has assumed a place of primacy, research also is important. And, this importance attaches not only to the faculty researchers, the fruits of their work, and the institution’s reputation because of it. It also relates to the excitement the professors can create among undergraduates if these students know of their professors’ research, had an opportunity to collaborate with them in research projects, co-publish their research findings, and maybe become motivated either to pursue career paths that use their research skills or themselves enter the academy to become professors.

“We should view undergraduate research as an opportunity to excite and engage.”

Thus, undergraduate research engagement is a powerful retention tool. The outcome of the work by professors, students, and administrators at institutions that are part of the Council on Undergraduate Research, the Reinvention Center, and other similar bodies, and who participate in the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research and other networks attest to this. Of course, there is much more to undergraduate research than retention.

But for York College, where retention is a challenge and therefore has become a priority, we should view undergraduate research as a wonderful and welcome opportunity to excite and engage; to retain. This already happens, but mostly unconsciously and in a very narrow disciplinary arena.

Thus, my call is for conscious and intentional engagement of undergraduate students throughout and beyond the sciences in “formalized curiosity.” There is much retention value in “poking and prying with a purpose.”

Reflections

Provost Lecture Series

Second Fall Lecture

"Linking Research and Practice in Teacher Education"

Monday, December 3, 2007, 1:15 pm  
Room 4M05

The Department of Teacher Education Presents:
Dr. Coleen Clay  
Dr. Lindamichelle Baron  
Dr. Leslie Keiler  
Dr. Jane Keleher  
Dr. Veronica Shipp

Refreshments will be served
Coleridge's Ancient Mariner lamented, "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

With a thirst for over a billion gallons of tap water a day, New York City (NYC) definitely worries about where its next drops are coming from. The quality of New York's water supply, which was recently disclosed as the source of some bottled water, is being assured for the future with the assistance of Professor Nazrul Khandaker of the York College's Earth and Physical Sciences Department.

Professor Khandaker initiated the Provost Lecture Series with a talk entitled "Water at the End of the Tunnel" to an overflow crowd of more than 100 faculty, students, staff, and guests from outside the College on October 24, 2007. He outlined the history of the NYC water supply and discussed the most recent phase of the work that is designed to maintain the volume and quality of the drops delivered to NYC far into the future. This involves the construction of Water Tunnel 3, one of the longest and largest construction projects in America's history. His delightful presentation ranged from images within the tunnel, the tunnel boring machine used in cutting through the rock to build the tunnel, to the rocks whose characteristics he is studying as a geologist.

The water currently delivered to NYC has a deserved reputation for being among the finest in quality of any major city. The fact that this is so is a tribute to planning done over 100 years ago. However, not surprisingly, time has taken its toll on the distribution of water, delivered by a complex system of water tunnels from reservoirs north of NYC. For example, the existing tunnels—Tunnel 1 completed in 1917 and Tunnel 2 completed in 1936—have developed leaks that siphon off too many "drops," amounting to thousands of gallons of water each year.

The growth in the demand for NYC's water has required planners to think towards the future, as was done so many years ago. It is hard to get one's head around the enormity of the size of this project. Perhaps these statistics will help: the first stage of the project involves the construction of a 24-foot diameter tunnel, and a valve chamber (250 feet below Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx) which is 620 feet, by 43 feet, by 41 feet. As a Geotechnical Consultant to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Professor Khandaker is part of the team involved in ensuring the success of the new Water Tunnel 3 project, which started in 1970 and is scheduled to be fully completed in 2020.

Professor Khandaker's presentation delivered to an attentive audience

Professor Khandaker's presentation embodied the features of scholarship, accessibility, charm, and engaged delivery that Provost Ivelaw Griffith had intended to characterize the Lecture Series. He launched the Provost Lecture Series with a Grand Slam!

Joseph Malkevitch, professor of Mathematics & Computer Studies, is a member of the Provost Lecture Series Planning Committee.
York College Provost Lecture Series

Request for Proposals

The York College Provost Lecture Series, a forum designed to facilitate a cross-campus conversation among scholars, welcomes applications from York College faculty of all ranks to present their work. Applicants may belong to any academic department, program, or discipline, and may offer presentations individually and in teams. Applications will be peer reviewed and selected by the Lecture Series Planning Committee.

The Provost Lecture Series offers an opportunity to present finished work or work in progress of such quality as to be published in peer reviewed journals, presented at regional or national conferences, or displayed or performed in prominent venues. Presentations should be communicable to a broad audience of peers, students, and other members of the College community.

Application

Name(s):

_________________________________________________________________________________

Department(s) or Program(s):

_________________________________________________________________________________

Title(s):

_________________________________________________________________________________

Title of Presentation:

_________________________________________________________________________________

In an abstract of 100–250 words, describe the nature and significance of the work and what will be discussed in the Lecture.

Please check for equipment needed: Computer ___ Projector ___ VCR ___ CD player ____ Other ___

Lectures will be held mid-afternoon on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays. Please indicate which of the two days is preferred.

Please send completed applications electronically to como@york.cuny.edu by November 30th for a Spring 2008 presentation. The Committee anticipates that there will be three regular and one special sessions during Spring 2008.

Provost Lecture Series Planning Committee

Ken Adams, Performing and Fine Arts
Vicki Ashton, Social Sciences
Jim Como, Performing and Fine Arts, Chair
Stephanie Cooper, Office of the Provost
Linda Grasso, English
Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost
Joseph Malkevitch, Mathematics and Computer Studies
Adam Profit, Chemistry
Ronald Thomas, Administrative Affairs
Eva Vazquez, Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities
Have you noticed the three glass display cases in the Atrium, next to the copper airplane in the Academic Core building? They contain some of the many books written or edited by York faculty members over the past 40 years.

In Fall 2006, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Bar- ley asked librarian John Drobnicki to help organize a display to showcase faculty scholarship, a project which was suggested by faculty members on the Yorktalk listserv.

They decided to honor both current faculty and those who have moved on (either for retirement or other jobs), both full-time and adjunct. The exhibit first went up in late September 2006, and Professor Drobnicki then changed many of the books in late June 2007, to include more faculty.

Those faculty members, past and present, whose creative works have been included so far are Vital Komi Adjakey, Helen Andretta, Martin Atangana, Frank Barile, Lindamichelle Baron, Elaine Hoffman Baruch, Joan Baum, Max Bis-


Check out the display cases soon! According to Prof. Drobnicki, now Acting Librarian, there are plans to replace more of the books, around Thanksgiving.

~

“Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.” — Albert Einstein

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York College’s Occupational Therapy Department continues to be "on the move." The department showed a strong presence at the 2007 New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA) annual conference, held in Buffalo.

- Professor Sharon Faust was presented with NYSOTA's Merit Award for Clinical Practice;
- Professors Tamara Avi-Itzhak, Beth Chiariello and Andrea Krauss were presenters on various topics ranging from pediatrics to political action;
- Professors Donald Auriemma and Lillian Kaplan supported their advisees' research poster presentations. These students, Armando Arias, Minhee Park, and Zuleika Toussaint, are also members of the first BS/MS OT graduating class.

According to the American Institute of Physics, York College has one of the highest annual astronomy enrollments in New York State. Of the 60 physics degree granting departments reporting, we only trail such colleges as Cornell, SUNY Stonybrook, SUNY Albany, and Hofstra, based on the 2005-06 figures (which include additional physical science courses not offered at York). Astronomy enrollment at York College has stabilized at nearly 700 students per year since the 2002-03 academic period, just one year after hiring astrophysicist Dr. Tim Paglione to the full-time faculty.

Apparently the Department of Earth & Physical Sciences has found a popular way to fulfill students’ general education science requirements: offer classes on the planets (Astro 101), as well as on stars and cosmology (Astro 102), and a laboratory (Astro 140). Last summer Astro 102 and 140 were part of the College Now program, and astronomy filled the new Friday night and winter sections once they opened.

York College students can minor in Astronomy. Moreover, the College is looking forward to the construction of the York Observatory in 2008. The Observatory Public Open Night program brings hundreds of people from the community to campus each year to view the night sky. Yes, you can see stars from Jamaica, and you can learn about them in class too!
President Marcia Keizs and the York College community welcomed 23 new faculty members during the Fall 2007 faculty Convocation on September 20th. In an effort to aid the acclimatization of the new faculty colleagues, Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith and the Office of Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Committee on Faculty Development have designed and scheduled a New Faculty Development Orientation Workshops.

These workshops will take place over the course of the 2007-2008 academic year. One workshop will be scheduled every month during this fall and next spring. The workshops aim to provide new faculty with an understanding of department, college and university operations, policies, and procedures. They also will introduce new faculty to many college officers in charge of critical services for students and faculty.

The three workshops have been scheduled for this semester. The first, held on October 26, offered an orientation by the PSC CUNY and a discussion on reappointment portfolio preparation. Professor Janice Cline, chair of the York PSC chapter, discussed the nature and operation of the union while Professors Howard Ruttenberg, Chair of History and Philosophy, Gila Acker, Chair of Social Sciences, and Margaret Ballantyne, Chair of Foreign languages, ESL, and Humanities, led the discussion on the preparation of reappointment portfolios.

Student registration and advisement will be the main topic of the second workshop scheduled for November 9. Registrar Sharon Davidson will provide an orientation of the registration process, and Ms. Gale Cunningham, DegreeWorks Coordinator, will demonstrate this modern student advisement instrument. Professor Helen Strassberg of the department of Mathematics and Computer Studies and Chair of the Advisement Committee, will lead a discussion on student advisement.

The last fall workshop term will be on December 7, 2007. Provost Griffith will lead a discussion on research and scholarship. This workshop will conclude with a luncheon to honor the new faculty. The spring 2008 workshops for new faculty will focus on college student services, college administrative services, teaching excellence, and college governance.

President’s Congressional Award
Cont’d from p.1

Humanities, Ronald Thomas, Dean for Administrative Affairs, Dawn Hewitt, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs, Michel Hodge, Director of Special Projects, who represented Vice President Jerry Posman, Jean Phelps, Director of Student Activities, York College students and a host of York College Alumni.

Con Edison Chief Speaks at Leadership Breakfast

Chairman, President and CEO Kevin Burke of Consolidated Edison addressed business and community leaders at a packed Executive Leadership Breakfast at York College on Friday, October 5, 2007, where he shared the power company’s plans for going “green” with eco-friendly products and practices.

Mr. Burke, a Queens native, also demonstrated how consumers can reduce pollution dependency on fuels by using less energy. He commented that there are a number of programs, such as trading in old appliances for cash rebates and purchasing Energy Star compliant ones. By so doing, consumers and energy providers will lessen the damage to our environment.

Attendees also had the opportunity to see a functional plug-in electric car on display on the York College plaza. Burke also donated energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs for distribution to all those in attendance.

The York College Executive Leadership Breakfast Series was launched last year under the guidance of President Marcia V. Keizs as a means of bringing together the preeminent thinkers, movers and shakers from the world of business and government both locally and nationally. Previous speakers have included: Jet Blue founder and former CEO, David Neeleman; New York City Council Speaker, Christine C. Quinn, and City Comptroller William Thompson.

Burke joined Con Edison in 1973 and has held positions of increasing responsibility in system planning, engineering, law, nuclear power, construction, and corporate planning. Notably, he served as senior vice president, with responsibility for customer service and for Con Edison's electric transmission and distribution systems. In 1999, Burke was elected president of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., also a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. He was elected president and chief operating officer of Consolidated Edison Company of New York in 2000, was appointed president and chief executive officer of Consolidated Edison, Inc., in 2005, and elected chairman in 2006.

York College would also like to thank Citibank for their continued support of the Executive Breakfast Series.
Computer Algebra System (CAS) Learning Companion Project

On November 30th, Dr. Louis D’Alotto, Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Computer Studies, and Prof. John Amenyo, will give a presentation at the forthcoming CUNY IT Conference at John Jay College. Their presentation will focus on new computer-based learning programs – the CAS Learning Companion Project – to support students who intend to improve their skills in several areas.

The goal of the CAS Learning Companion Project is to provide computational learning aids – online remedial learning content – in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects that support under-prepared college (and college-bound) students. The Project uses problem-based learning approaches to leverage educational and tutorial technology to help York College students learn Mathematica and other computer algebra systems. The CAS Learning Companion is designed to serve as an “assistant” helping students remedy their weaknesses.

English Department Open House

“Blurring the Boundaries: Journalism and Literature”

Wednesday, November 14
4-6pm, Room 1M07.

For further information, please contact:
CadyAnn Parris-David
English Department
Email: cpdavid@york.cuny.edu
Phone ext.: 2471

Comming Soon:
York College — Office of the Provost
Website:
http://york.cuny.edu/academics

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

Refreshments will be served
Second Research Recognition Luncheon

On Thursday, October 18, 2007, the Second Annual Research and Sponsored Programs Recognition Luncheon was held in the Faculty Dining Room. Several invited guests including, President Marcia V. Keizs, Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith, Mr. Richard Rothbard, President of the Research Foundation (RFCUNY), and Dr. Gillian Small, CUNY University Dean for Research spoke to the distinguished faculty and staff who were being honored that day.

The notion that teachers have the greatest impact on student learning and achievement was articulated with the added concept that research enhances the educational experience. President Keizs urged faculty members to continue to research their respective fields, as it serves to provide opportunities for York College students and gives them a more enriched outlook on their individual disciplines.
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event description</th>
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| Photoshop for Faculty/Staff: Session II        | Photoshop is professional digital imaging software that provides sophisticated tools for image-editing, composing and painting. Participants will learn the basics of the following:  
• Working with tools and filters.  
• Creating layers and working with text.  
• Making selections, cropping and resizing. | Nov. 6, 2007 01:00 PM  
Room: CL 201b  
Contact email: helpdesk@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 5300 |
| Books Presentation (New titles of Editorial Campana) | *Stories of Little Women and Grown-up Girls*, by Sonia Rivera Valdes,  
*So I Won’t Forget*, by Paquita Suarez Coalla, and  
*Memory Tracks. Fragments of Prison (1975-1980)*, by Margarita Drago (in English) | Nov. 7, 2007, 9:00 AM  
Room: T.b.a.  
Contact: Dr. Margarita Drago,  
drago@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 718-262-2436 |
| Course Content in BlackBoard                    | • What types of documents can be posted on Blackboard?  
• What are the advantages and disadvantages of the electronic format of course content?  
• Presentation aspects of the Blackboard course site.  
• Links and other online resources.  
• What are the best practices for posting and organizing course content? | Nov. 7, 2007, 12:00 PM  
Room: AC-4G01  
Contact: Wenying Huang-Stolte  
wyh@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 718-262-2826 |
| Observatory Open Night                         | The Observatory is open to the public every second or third Wednesday of the month, rain or shine at 7:30pm (8:30pm during daylight saving time). | Nov. 7, 2007, 7:30 PM  
Room: 2E01  
Contact: Tim Paglione  
paglione@york.cuny.edu  
Contact Phone: 718-262-2082 |
| Open House                                     | • Talk One-on-One with Admissions Representatives about the Application Process, Admissions Criteria for being accepted into the York College or about any general questions you may have about the college. | Nov. 11, 2007, 12:00 PM  
Room: AC Bldg., The Atrium  
Contact: Nicholas Jones  
njones@york.cuny.edu |

Academic Affairs Update, Vol. 1, Issue 2, November 2007
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| Open House (cont.’d)              | • Interact with Faculty, Staff, and Students. This event is design to accommodate you, a prospective student, to mingle with the people that make up the college. Ask questions regarding the majors that you are interesting in to the people who teach in that respected discipline.  
• Financial Aid Workshops will be available throughout the day. Take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to learn about the financial aid process.  
• Campus Tours at Noon. This will be a student-guided tour in which you will visit State-Of-The-Art Facilities. The facilities include the Art Studio, Library, Laboratories, Performing Arts Center and the Health and Physical Education Building.  
• Scholarships, Honors Programs, and General Information will be distributed throughout the day.                                                                 | The event is open to the general public.                 |
| PowerPoint for Faculty/Staff:     | Powerpoint is a complete presentation graphics package. It offers word-processing, outlining, drawing, graphing, and presentation management tools. This hands-on workshop will show you:  
• Powerpoint basics.  
• How to create a presentation with Powerpoint.  
• How to customize your presentation with drawing, diagrams, charts, pictures etc. How to display your presentation.                                                                 | Nov. 13, 2007, 2:00 PM  
Room: CL 206  
Contact email: helpdesk@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 718-262-5300 |
| Session I                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                        |
| Social Work Program Field        | The purpose is to provide information and updates about the program, and encourage sharing of supervisory concerns and strategies for working through, collegial support, and professional networking.                                      | Nov. 15, 2007, 9:30 AM  
Contact: Prof. Akosua Cobb  
acobb@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 718-262-3755 |
| Instructor Meeting               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                        |
| Center for Teaching and Learning | For faculty and staff.                                                                                                                                                                                              | Nov. 16, 2007, 10:00 AM  
Contact email: dswoboda@york.cuny.edu  
Contact phone: 718-262-2686 |
<p>| Speaker Forum                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                        |</p>
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<td>La literatura actual de las mujeres en Mexico y Nicaragua</td>
<td>Book presentation</td>
<td>Nov. 17, 2007, 1:00 PM</td>
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<td>Room: T.b.a.</td>
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<td>Contact phone: 718-262-2436</td>
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<td>What’s Happening in 2007 with Latinos in the Media: Faculty Forum</td>
<td>T.b.a.</td>
<td>Nov. 19, 2007, 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>PowerPoint is a complete presentation graphics package. It offers word-processing,</td>
<td>Nov. 27, 2007, 2:00 PM</td>
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<td>outlining, drawing, graphing, and presentation management tools. This hands-on</td>
<td>Room: CL 206</td>
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<td>Contact email: <a href="mailto:helpdesk@york.cuny.edu">helpdesk@york.cuny.edu</a></td>
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<td>etc. How to display your presentation.</td>
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<td>Session II is the continuation of Session I</td>
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<td>World AIDS Day 2007</td>
<td>The Queens HIV CARE Network in collaboration with York College Health Services</td>
<td>Nov. 29, 2007, 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>Center and the Queens Regional Committee Faith-Based Project will be holding</td>
<td>Room: The Atrium</td>
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<td>their 2007 World AIDS Day celebration.</td>
<td>Contact: Sharon Hawkins</td>
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<td>Contact phone: 718-262-2050</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Funding targets</td>
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<td>Thrasher Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thrasherresearch.org/sites/www.thrasherresearch.org/Default.aspx?page=37">http://www.thrasherresearch.org/sites/www.thrasherresearch.org/Default.aspx?page=37</a></td>
<td>The Thrasher Research Fund remains open to a variety of pediatric medical research topics. Research projects with the potential to impact a large number of children as well as research projects that address severe problems affecting relatively few children will be considered. The Fund seeks to maintain a portfolio of grants with a balance of both domestic and international research.</td>
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<td>National Science Found-</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5260">http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5260</a></td>
<td>The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) is designed to increase access to scientific and engineering equipment for research and research training in our Nation's organizations of higher education, research museums, and non-profit research organizations. This program seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, and to foster the integration of research and education by providing instrumentation for research-intensive learning environments. The MRI program encourages the development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use and in concert with private sector partners.</td>
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<td>The Samuel H. Kress</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kressfoundation.org/conserve.html">http://www.kressfoundation.org/conserve.html</a></td>
<td>To improve and refine the practice of art history and conservation, the Kress Foundation offers grants that develop and utilize the skills and experience of trained professionals. Emphasis is placed on two program areas: <strong>Essential Resources:</strong> Grants that support the means by which specialized knowledge is created and disseminated, including publications, archives, photography, documentation, databases, catalogues, technical and scientific studies and other materials that relate to art historical research and art conservation.</td>
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<td><strong>The Samuel H. Kress Foundation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cont’d from p.12</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sharing Expertise</strong>: Grants for activities that permit art historians and conservators to share their expertise through international exchanges, professional meetings, conferences, symposia, consultations, the presentation of research, and other structured events.</td>
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<td><strong>National Science Foundation</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5422">http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5422</a></td>
<td><strong>The Law and Social Science Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Law and Social Science Program at the National Science Foundation supports social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules, institutions, processes, and behaviors. These can include, but are not limited to, research designed to enhance the scientific understanding of the impact of law; human behavior and interactions as these relate to law; the dynamics of legal decision making; and the nature, sources, and consequences of variations and changes in legal institutions.</td>
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For more funding opportunities, please refer to the *Research Funding Opportunities Newsletter* published by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

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**Professors’ Books Launched at Barnes & Noble**

From left to right: Margarita Drago, Paquita Suárez-Coalla, Sonia Rivera Valdés and literary critic Susana Reisz
The deadline for submission to the Reflections section of the December edition is November 23!

All items should be submitted via email to: AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu