



Greetings Alumni!

As you well know, York College has been a fixture in Jamaica, Queens for 50 years. As we march on towards the next 50 years, I'm taking this opportunity to reach out to alumni and friends to provide an update on where we are and what we're accomplishing.

Widely acclaimed for its Liberal Arts curriculum, York has nearly 50 major disciplines including: African-American Studies, Biotechnology, Communications, Economics, Nursing, and Theatre Arts. The college's student body mirrors the community's rich diversity: currently 44% of students are African-American, 27% Asian, 22% Latino, and 7% Caucasian. Many of these students are "first-generation students," the first in their families to pursue a bachelor's degree. In 2018, York graduated its largest class to date at 1,206 with students ranging in age from 19 to 60. Our valedictorian, 20 year-old Clinton Ehidom, received eight acceptance letters from medical schools ranging from Boston University to Albert Einstein and Hofstra University. He is now approaching his second semester of medical studies at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (Hofstra University).

I was also delighted at Commencement 2018 to welcome the Graduating Classes of 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008 in attendance here for your reunion. In 2019, I look forward to seeing the Classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 on May 31. On the facilities front, you will be pleased to know that we are about to begin extensive interior upgrades to the Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center and elsewhere throughout the college.

After many years of planning, York College launched its Master of Social Work (MSW) program in the fall 2018 semester. This brings our total current Master's programs to four thus far: Occupational Therapy, Pharmaceutical Sciences & Business; and Physician Assistant Studies. We have several others, including the MS in Nursing Education and MS in Aviation Management in progress.

In September 2018, York was ranked #15 on U.S. **News & World Report's** List of the Best Colleges. CUNY's Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz described the accolade as evidence of **"our progress in increasing academic momentum and graduation rate and success in developing cutting edge strategies to help students achieve their goals."**

York's commitment to faculty development continues to result in significant accomplishments in faculty scholarship—research and creative endeavors. During the past year, faculty members presented work at conferences around the world including Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Moldova, China, Denmark and Japan. Several of these presentations included students as co-authors.

Like many regional colleges, York is facing very real funding concerns brought about by a combination of rising operating costs, increased competition for limited charitable dollars, and unforeseen challenges. In addition to a series of budget relief initiatives, including hiring freezes and across-the-board cost-cutting measures, the College, through its Foundation, is implementing an extremely ambitious 5-year Strategic Plan. This roadmap will guide the Foundation in fulfilling its mission of maximizing private sector support by instilling a culture of philanthropy across the institution. As alumni, your gift would be a tremendous endorsement of these efforts. *Visit www.york.cuny.edu/give to make your gift TODAY!*

Best,

Marcia V. Keizs,
President

DID YOU KNOW?

Get updates about York College and the impact the alumni are making throughout the world by liking us on **Facebook** at York College Alumni Network (YCAN)

and following on **Instagram** at @ycanyorkcollege

Dear Alumni,



After celebrating York College's Golden Anniversary in 2017, we knew we had to ask ourselves, "What's next?" Fifty years as a fixture in Jamaica, Queens, preparing thousands of students for meaningful lives full of achievement and service is of course, a tremendous milestone. But we knew we had to set our sights on new accomplishments that would keep York at the forefront. Here are just a few recent triumphs:

- In 2018, we graduated our largest class to date, with 1,204 students earning their degrees—many of whom were the first in their families to do so. As it has done throughout its history, York continues to be a place that successfully nurtures and develops first-generation college students.
- In September 2018, we launched the new Master of Social Work program, with a class of 24 pioneering scholars. It is the only such program in the borough of Queens, and is in keeping with New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray's Mental Health Care Initiative, ThriveNYC.
- York recently ranked #15 among the top 50 colleges in the north on **U.S. News & World Report's** List of Best Colleges. CUNY's Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz described the accolade as evidence of **"our progress in increasing academic momentum and graduate rate and success in developing - cutting edge strategies to help students achieve their goals."**

How are we going to keep adding to this list of accomplishments? In part, through the generous support of our loyal alumni, individuals who know firsthand the value and impact of a York education. We're so committed to the meaningful engagement of our alumni that we've set an extremely ambitious goal of increasing the level of alumni giving from its current **0.5% to 30%** by 2023.

Your gift to the 2018-2019 Annual Fund starts us on the path to meeting that goal. It will allow other ambitious students to develop to their fullest potential through needs-based scholarships, classroom and equipment upgrades, faculty recruitment and development, and other institutional components that support a vibrant and fulfilling educational experience. Please know that your investment in the place that facilitated your path to success also speaks volumes to other potential funders.

Whether you graduated from York in the last year, or four decades ago, **Once a Cardinal, Always a Cardinal!** Please join us as we work to support other Cardinals on their journey to academic enrichment and lifelong success!

Best,

Shereitte C. Stokes III, ACFRE
Vice President, University Advancement

New Dean of Health Sciences and Professional Studies

Dr. Maureen Becker is the new Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Health Professional Programs at York College. She previously held faculty and administrative appointments at the College of Staten Island.

Dean Becker joined the College of Staten Island in 1992, where she served as the director of clinical education and deputy chair in the physical therapy department for 22 years. From 2014-2017, Dean Becker served as the Interim Founding Dean of the CSI



Professional Programs. "Faculty development; the creation of more student opportunities, which includes, inter-professional education, scholar-

ships, increased career exposure and experiences; and building upon what we have. For example, the MSW program just started, The Masters of Nursing is close at hand, and in the not so distant future, the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy will be a reality."

"I have a three-prong plan," she said of how she will grow the School of Health Sciences and

Professional Programs. "Faculty development; the creation of more student opportunities, which includes, inter-professional education, scholar-

ships, increased career exposure and experiences; and building upon what we have. For example, the MSW program just started, The Masters of Nursing is close at hand, and in the not so distant future, the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy will be a reality."

Dean Becker is a licensed Physical Therapist and holds the Ph.D. in Physical Therapy, and an MS in Exercise Physiology (Queens College, CUNY), and a BS in Physical Therapy (Down Medical Center, SUNY).

York College Shines at Geological Society of America Conference

Dr. Nazrul Khandaker, Professor and Discipline Coordinator of Geology at York College, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Geological Society of American (GSA) at their

Professor Scores Second Fulbright Scholar Award

Dr. Vadim Moldovan, associate professor of Social, Work, was awarded a second Fulbright Fellowship to continue his scholarly and humanitarian work in the Republic of Moldova.

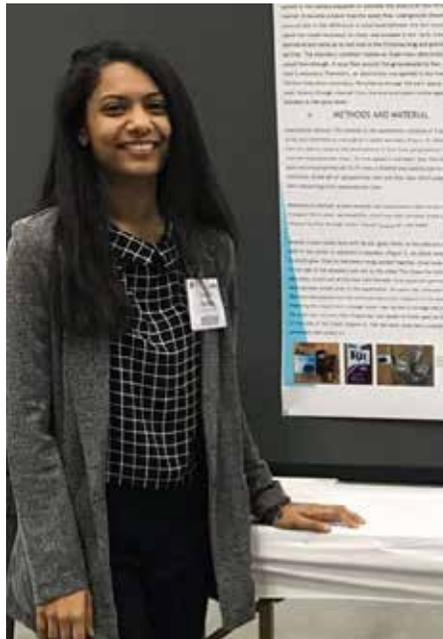


Dr. Moldovan stated that, "the Fulbright Scholar will be utilized to

investigate and promote best practices for social work reform in Eastern Europe on the platform of a long-standing and productive relationship between York College and the Free International University of Moldova. "As before, The Fulbright experience will enrich social work pedagogies, curriculum innovation, and program development at York College," said the native of the Republic of Moldova.

November Conference in 2018. Close to 6,000 geoscientists were in attendance.

The keynote address was given by Robbie Rice Gries, president of the GSA. According to Dr. Khandaker, Ms. Gries acknowledged his students, expressing her appreciation for York's "academic and outreach endeavors" and encouraged the students for playing a part of "building the geoscience community domestically and internationally."



Jasmine Budhan presents her research on hydrogeology at the annual GSA conference.

Jasmine Budhan was among the students accompanying Dr. Khandaker at the GSA conference.

Ms. Budhan, a student of the SEEK program, presented her research on hydrogeology, which deals with the distribution and movement of ground water in the soil and rocks of the Earth's crust. She stated that she received great feedback on her presentation and cannot wait to get to work on future research for next year's GSA conference.

*SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) is a higher education opportunity program offered in the senior colleges of the City University of New York.



Dr. Nazrul Khandaker receives award from Robbie Rice Gries, president of the GSA

York Freshman Named NYC Youth Poet Laureate for 2019

Camryn Bruno, a Queens native, has been named the NYC Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) for 2019. She is a freshman at York College majoring in Communications Technology. As the NYC Youth Poet Laureate, Bruno will perform her poetry throughout the city.

Bruno was born in Queens, NY and attended P.S. 270 before moving to Trinidad and Tobago, where she grew up and began writing and performing slam poetry in 2014. She is the recipient of several literary and leadership awards includ-

ing the Ms. Tobago Heritage Personality Competition and several Trinidad and Tobago National Literary Youth awards.

In receiving the prestigious honor as NYC Youth Poet Laureate, Bruno said, "I'm



looking forward to working with both Urban Word NYC and NYC Votes to reach a broader audience through my poetry, and to further

encourage youth of New York to understand the effects that voting and social change- or a lack thereof- can have on our everyday lives."

The YPL program was developed through a partnership between NYC Votes, the nonpartisan voter engagement initiative of the NYC Campaign Finance Board, and Urban Word NYC. It is designed to identify young writers and leaders committed to creating change through civic engagement and literary excellence.

Alumni Professionals on Campus

Talented York alumni professionals returned to their alma mater to share their wealth of experience and skills with current students.

York is proud to recognize the exceptional alumni members, who spoke to student groups during the Fall 2018 semester.

OCTOBER 2018

A panel featuring York alumni: Ennaji Henhammou '95, Dr. Thami Smires '95, Esselien Pika-Winter '03, Soroya Williams '16 and Sean Richardson '12 discussed the topic "Networking Today for the Leaders of Tomorrow, for a program co-sponsored by the Division of Student Development and the Department of Business and Economics.

Robert Anderson '01, presented a lecture for the National Association of



Ennaji Henhammou



Dr. Thami Smires



Esselien Pika-Winter



Soroya Williams



Sean Richardson



Robert Anderson



Patrick Pierre Louis



Matthew LeBris



Dr. Rashida Cheatham



Joseph Grasso

Music Education on "Music Production Magic." Mr. Anderson is a recording engineer who specializes in capturing musicians in their natural environment.

York alums, Patrick Pierre Louis '16 and Matthew LeBris '17, led a program for Accounting students called "YOURK IMPACT" to encourage them to live life with a purpose.

Dr. Rashida Cheatham '05, and a 2012 graduate of the NYU School of Dentistry, spoke to students of the Cardinal Pre-Med Club. She shared her inspiring story on having determination to rise against the odds to achieve success.

Assistant Queens District Attorney Joseph Grasso '11, gave advice to Pre-law students for getting into law school and starting careers, at a workshop presented by the Political Science Department.

NOVEMBER 2018

Patrick Pierre-Louis '16, Cary Shi '18, Joseph Preval '18, Andrea Pryce '94, and Esselien Pika-Winter '03 participated in

the networking mixer sponsored by the United Accounting Society.

The Women's Center sponsored a Speed Networking Event for students. Alumni served as table hosts representing their career areas, and assisted students with their networking skills. Alumni table hosts were: Dwayne Andrews, Esq. '96, Rashida Cheatham, DDS '05, Krystal Davy '15, Ashley Desvarieux '98, Dwainette Gordon '03, Joseph Grasso, Esq. '11, Judge George Grasso '80, Mary C. Lawhorn '09, Iona Lewis '08, Jessie Mathieu '08, and Serena Stanley '01.

York College is very grateful for the donation of time and talent that our alumni gave to help current students.

If you are a York alum who is interested in speaking to students and sharing career advice, please send an email inquiry to Mondell Sealy, Manager of Alumni Affairs at msealy@york.cuny.edu. Your information will be passed on to the appropriate academic department for outreach.



Alumni table hosts for Speed Networking Event in November

Get Ready for the 2019 Class Reunions

On Friday, May 31 2019, the alumni classes of 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 will celebrate their Class Reunions. It will be a day for alumni to “Reminisce” about student life at York; “Reconnect” with classmates that they haven’t seen in many years; and “Rediscover” York College in learning about student success and growth in programs.

Reunion alumni will have the opportunity to participate in York’s 49th Commencement Exercises and march into the tent holding their class banners. Following Commencement, the celebration continues at a luncheon in the Faculty Dining Room where alums can pore over their yearbook and visit with some of the retired and longstanding faculty who attend this annual event. Dr. Lewis Lewis, Professor Emeritus, Biology was the retired faculty speaker at the 2018 reunion luncheon.

It’s a day of celebrating your alma mater and we hope you will attend!

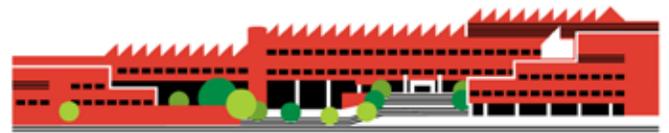
We do need alumni volunteers to serve as Class Agents to reach out to classmates and encourage them to come back

and celebrate their reunion. For more information about being a Class Agent, please contact Mondell Sealy at alumni.classreunion@york.cuny.edu or by calling (718) 262-2305.

York College looks forward to welcoming our 2019 reunion class alumni!

SAVE THE DATE Friday, May 31, 2019

 **YORK** College **CLASS REUNION**



1974 • 1979 • 1984 • 1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009

With pride and joy, we invite you to celebrate your class reunion with alumni from the classes of **1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.**

We look forward to welcoming and reuniting you with your alma mater, York College. A formal letter of invitation will be sent at a later date.

Help spread the word about your reunion with other York classmates that you are still in contact with. Ask them to go to the Alumni Affairs area on the York College website to submit the “Contact Information Update” form to insure receiving future reunion communication.

For more information email Alumni Affairs at alumni.classreunion@york.cuny.edu.

You can also connect with your classmates by joining the **York Cardinal Alumni Network (YCAN)** Facebook page.



Save the Date!

THURSDAY,
APRIL 11, 2019

*Merit
Scholarship
Benefit*

Each year, the York College Foundation highlights the success of Merit Scholarship recipients and honors its top donors and philanthropists who make an impact within the community.

Visit www.york.cuny.edu/meritreception for updates and registration.

York College Launches M.S.W. Program

York College officially launched the Master of Social Work Program with a ribbon-cutting reception held on May 13, 2018. A cohort of 24 students entered the inaugural class in September.

The M.S.W. Program “seeks to recruit and prepare scholars from the diverse surrounding communities to become highly educated, skilled, culturally competent and compassionate professionals so they can provide highly competent services to underserved urban areas.”

York faculty, staff, Social Work students and alumni attended the MSW launch event. York alumna, Tina Reynolds, '02, Co-Founder and Chair of WORTH (Women On the Rise Telling Her Story), an advocacy group of formerly incarcerated women who have been empowered by their own experiences, was keynote speaker for the well-attended event.

Distinguished guests who participated in the ribbon cutting included NY State Assemblymember Vivian E. Cook, NY State Senator Leroy Comrie, NY State Assemblymember and York alumna, Jamie R. Williams '10 and Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz.

Dr. Selena Rodgers (below, center) is the Founding Director and Associate Professor of the M.S.W. Program at York College.



Dr. Selena Rodgers (center), Founding Director of the M.S.W. Program, with York Provost Panayiotis Meletis (left) and Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz (right)

In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus, Stuart “Stu” Bailin

Stuart Bailin was a charter member of York’s faculty. For many years he chaired the Department of Health and Physical Education and for decades was the Director of



Athletics. He served York College from 1967 through 2006.

Janet Weinberg '83

Janet Weinberg graduated from York in 1983 with a degree in Occupational Therapy. She worked as an occupational therapist for a decade until she



accepted an offer to join the board of the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center in Manhattan. Ms. Weinberg then became an activist for people with disabilities hoping one day to help a population still affected by the AIDS epidemic.

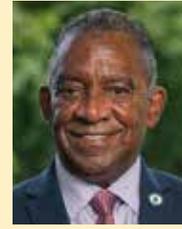
Dr. Arleen Schreiner

Dr. Schreiner served the York College community from 1982 until her retirement in the mid-2000s. As Coordinator of Students Activities, she was beloved by students.



Vincent W. Clark '83

Vincent Clark graduated with a B.A. in political science from York in 1983. He was vice president for administration and finance at Lehman College when he passed away. Mr. Clark joined Lehman in July 2010



after a long career in the New York City public school system rising from the ranks of assistant accountant to the Department of Education’s Senior Chief Executive for Field Services.

Victor E. Richards '79

Victor E. Richards was an art history major at York College, graduating



in 1979. He bequeathed a large portion of his African Art Collection to York and presented a number of his pieces in York’s art gallery in an exhibit called “God, Oracles, Ancestors” in spring 2016.

Adolphus (Al) Frazier

Al Frazier started his career at York in 1969 and retired in 2006 as Dean of Students. In addition to his career in academia, Frazier was drafted by the Chicago Bears and later played football for the Denver Broncos, as well.



George M. Bailey

In 1968, York College’s first President, Dr. Dumont Kenny, recruited and appointed George M. Bailey to become York’s first Chief Librarian. Professor Bailey left York in 1971 and became Associate Director



of Libraries for The Claremont Colleges from 1971 until his retirement in 1989.