

in this issue >>>

Student Development: Muhammed Khattar

Staff in the Spotlight: Paola Veras

Development in Action: STAR Program

The Cardinals Closet



The Division of Student Development

VISIONS

Did You Know?

Vice President for Student Development

Dr. Geneva Walker-Johnson

Studies show that student success in college is directly linked to their involvement in academic and co-curricular activities.

By providing a deeper understanding of the theory that undergirds our profession, the role of the co-curriculum in the education of the student, as a whole individual, will become clearer.

A highly involved student is one who, for example, devotes considerable energy to studying, spends much time on campus, participates actively in student organizations, and interacts frequently with faculty members and other students.

Dear Members of the York College Community, Finally, we will introduce a series of articles by noted student development theorists on the historical and philosophical foundations of student development theory. It is my pleasure to introduce you to the first issue of VISIONS, the Division of Student Development Newsletter.



The goal of the newsletter is to introduce or reintroduce you to the twelve departments and programs that comprise the Division of Student Development. Each issue will focus on a department and its programs and services.

By providing a deeper understanding of the theory that undergirds our profession, the role of the co-curriculum in the education of the student, as a whole individual, will become clearer.

All too often, we find ourselves caught up in the busyness our roles and responsibilities require that we forget to take time to celebrate the many good things happening around us. Included in each issue of VISIONS, we will take just such a moment and recognize one of our York College student's accomplishments feature cultural events holidays, and special programs sponsored by the Division.

Of equal, if not greater, influence are the vibrant and active partnerships that help shape the curricular and co-curricular domains of the student experience of college.

Best,
Geneva M. Walker-Johnson, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Development

Active involvement also includes:

- Sports/Athletics
- Sorority/ Fraternity
- Honors
- ROTC
- Undergraduate research project
- Part time job on campus/FWS
- Student Government
- Other cultural/social/academic clubs and Organizations

Astin Alexander W. "Student Involvement: A Developmental Theory for Higher Education." Journal of College Student Development Volume 40.Issue 5 (1999): p.518-529. Print



Describe your department's responsibilities

The STAR (*Specialized Testing & Academic Resources*) Program, formerly the **Office of Students with Disabilities**, provides supportive services to students with disabilities that include: developing and/or reviewing individualized educational plans, conducting academic and programmatic needs assessments, and the development and provision of academic support services and accommodations.

Through CUNY LEADS (*Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services*), students with disabilities develop skills that prepare them for realistic and successful employment outcomes.

What types of assistance do you provide to students? We ensure access and facilitate academic success of students with disabilities through the provision of appropriate educational support, including the organization and delivery of reasonable accommodations; such as extended testing time, note taking, use of adaptive technology, remedial activities and tutoring, as well as academic advisement and registration. Students with disabilities are also provided with personal and educational counseling; in addition to advocacy, and referrals to community resources. Through CUNY LEADS, students with disabilities are provided with career counseling, job seeking skills, job placement assistance and internship assistance.

What are some of the challenges facing your department?

The STAR Program cannot actively recruit students with disabilities, they must self-identify to the program in order to receive services.

At this time, the number of students registered does not accurately reflect the number of students with disabilities on campus. Due to lack of empowerment and self-advocacy, students who have disabilities may never receive services and/or accommodations that will mitigate their limitations or difficulties and enhance their academic performance. We are also currently facing space challenges for an appropriate ADA compliant Computer and Testing Lab.

What else should we know about your program/department?

That the STAR Program and CUNY LEADS' staff are dedicated, committed, and passionate about working with students with disabilities and are always engaged in appropriately meeting the needs of disabled students and enhancing the delivery of supportive services. We are interested in promoting disability awareness and guaranteeing access to all students with disabilities on the York College campus.

Student Development > Muhammad Khattak/Junior Aviation Management

List your academic achievement and successes at York:

Award of Academic Excellence- Dean's list- York College 2012. Recipient of the National Aircraft Finance Association (NAFA) Scholarship 2012 (\$3400)

What student activities and groups are you involved with:

President of Aviation Club 2012, Chairperson of Women in Aviation Club 2012, Member of AAAE (American Association of Airport Executives) Club, Cardinal Crew Member, Finance Club member.

Has York College helped to shape your life? If yes, How?

Yes, York has helped me in my general growth. I am more mature and can find a realistic approach to my problems or help any one of my club members. York College welcomed me as a family within Aviation Institute and Business Department.



Maintaining a good G.P.A and still being involved in other activities is something most students find hard to balance, how do you manage your time?

Management of time is one of the most important aspect of a successful person.

I go by rules and priorities. For example, at the moment my first priority is getting an education- doing my homework, study for exams in advance etc. If anything comes in between my education or academics that can affect my ability to perform better, I will isolate it from my way.

My focus is getting my degrees and there is nothing I allow to come in between. Second is to take care of my Aviation Club and third, is to split my time among other activities.

I believe the main problem is that students are wasting time and not giving any attention to their studies. For example, lets not go to party every week or every other week.

Instead study for your class, which is the only way to make your future better. Do not go to classes with the assumption that the professor will drop the lowest grade. etc

What advice would you give to students who aspire to have the same successes?

There are no short cuts to getting good grades and take your GPA above 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 etc. You have to invest time in your education and give it first priority. You have to ask yourself that whatever are you doing at that particular moment or time, would it benefit you in the future or not. If everyone else can do it, you can do it as well and you don't need to be genius to get good grades.

Any other information you want to share?

I will just add that many people/students tell me "you are smart", but I believe there is no such thing as smart. I believe in hard work and see it as the only way to achieve my goals. If you don't read what you are supposed to, or practice your homework, how can you learn the material and how can you become smart. So my main point is that if you are willing to work hard, it will pay off and you become smart automatically.

STAR Program continued...

What would you like York students to know about your department?

We would like York College students to know that if they are a qualified individual with a disability, they are entitled to receive accommodations and/or supportive services that will be instrumental in improving their academic performance. The STAR Program would also like the students to know they have to be accepting of who they are and what their disability is, as well as being knowledgeable about their needs and limitations, in order to be successful and achieve their academic and career goals.

Who are the staff in the department

The STAR and CUNY LEADS is made up of the following staff members:

Paola Veras, LMSW

Truett Lee Vaigneur Jr., ABD

Lisa Maycock

Starr Ferrens

Amira-Maria Mills

Randall Easterling

Coordinator

CUNY LEADS Counselor

Disability Accommodations Specialist

Disability Accommodations Specialist

Program Assistant (College Assistant)

Program Assistant (College Assistant)



Making it Work...Staff Spotlight: Paola Veras

The college has a wealth of supportive programs and services that are underutilized... students should take full advantage of all York College has to offer.



Educational background:

Columbia University School of Social Work
Master of Science. Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice. Concentration: Family & Children Services

SUNY Albany Bachelor's of Arts
Major: Psychology. Minor: Latin American Studies

Hobbies/favorite past time:

I love to read books, in particular memoirs and novels. I also love to dance merengue, bachata, and salsa.

Chosen career:

I chose Social Work as a career because of my passion for working with people and helping people in need, a value which was instilled in me as a child. I was raised in a household that prized giving back to people (service), that helped underprivileged Dominicans who were facing difficult challenges (social justice), and helped in a respectful and caring manner (dignity and worth of people). These are some of the core values of the social work profession. I was destined to work in a field where I was helping individuals overcome challenges and meet their needs to improve their quality of life.

Describe your role in the department that you work:

I coordinate the STAR (Specialized Testing & Academic Resources) Program, which provides accommodations and supportive services to students with a documented disability, such as physical, learning and/or psychological, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. I also oversee CUNY LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services), which helps students with disabilities make realistic academic and career choices that will result in successful career outcomes.

What will be your legacy at York:

That all students with disabilities have equal access and are able to successfully attain their full academic potential and achieve their career goals.

Advice for York College students:

The college has a wealth of supportive programs and services that are underutilized, which can be extremely helpful when confronted with both academic and personal challenges. Also, that it is important to take advantage of all these services which can be instrumental in achieving academic and career goals. In other words, students should take full advantage of all York College has to offer.

Job Title:

Coordinator of the STAR (Specialized Testing & Academic Resources) Program, formerly the Office of Students with Disabilities

Number of Years at York: 3 years

Describe yourself in three words:

Passionate, Generous, Empathetic

My passion in one word is...Helping

The Cardinal's Closet

The hours of operation are Monday-Fridays 11am-2pm. We are open during the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4pm-6pm.
The Cardinal's closet will be in operation until January 31st 2013.



Following Super Storm Sandy, Med Tech major Alysia Singh wanted to find a way to help York College students impacted by the storm. Shortly thereafter she met a fellow student from the Rockaway's who was impacted by the storm and had lost everything including clothing. That is when she came up with the idea of doing a clothing drive to collect clothing to distribute to students in need.

Ms. Singh approached the York College Helping Hands Club, a student club, whose mission is to support and advocate for students with disabilities on campus. Ms Singh, who is also a Helping Hands club member, discussed the clothing drive initiative. The club members unanimously agreed and Dr. Jean Phelps, Director of Student Activities and VP Walker-Johnson spearheaded the wonderful effort.

Dr Phelps and VP Walker-Johnson showed much enthusiasm about the idea of the clothing drive. In fact Dr. Phelps provided the Book Bank (1F03) as a space to organize and distribute the clothing.

VP Walker-Johnson came up with the clever name "The Cardinal's Closet". Lisa Maycock one of the faculty advisors of the Helping Hands Club has been instrumental in supervising and scheduling volunteers for the clothing bank. Lisa also made sure that the donations were of exceptional quality and that the space was organized and welcoming.

Thanks to the generous donations from the York college community, the Cardinal's Closet is open for business. All who are in need are welcome to take advantage of our fully stocked closet. The clothing bank is currently being manned by Helping Hands Club members.

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Division of Student Development: Offices & Programs

The Division of Student Development		2F01	718-262-2152
Career Services	3M01	The STAR Program	1G02
Child & Family Center	160th Street	CUNY LEADS	1G02
Counseling	1G02	ROTC	2F01
EOC	Archer Ave	Student Activities	1E01
Health Services	1F01	TRiO Student Support Services	3E03
Jumpstart	1E01	TRiO York Enrichment Services	1G02
Men's Center	3M02	Veteran's Affairs	1G02
The Percy Sutton SEEK Program	1C08	Women's Center	3C01

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