

**Special points of interest:**

- **York Hosts CUNY Assessment Workshop**
- **Women's History Month at York**
- **Celebrating Math Professor Emerita**
- **York's New Fund-raiser**

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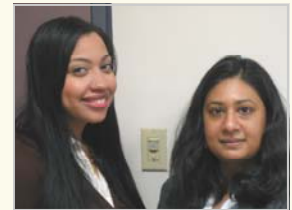
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## Students Intern with Grameen Bank Affiliate

Two York College students, Thelma Suarez Ortega and Katherine Vidal, have been selected for internship opportunity at Grameen America. Grameen America is a microfinance organization whose goal is to alleviate poverty through entrepreneurship. Grameen offers loans, savings programs, and other financial services to its clients in the United States. This organization is an affiliate of the renowned microfinance institute Grameen Bank, whose founder, Nobel-Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus, had visited York last year.

Grameen America started its operations in November of 2007 and has already distributed \$1.2 million to more than 500 borrowers in Queens, NY. In the last few months Grameen America's success story has been fea-

tured by ABC, CNN, CNBC, BBC and the NY Times.



**Student intern Katherine Vidal (l.) and Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan**

Thelma and Katherine started their internships at the Grameen America office in Jackson Heights (Queens) in January 2009. The internship program is coordinated by Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan of York's Department of Accounting and Business and Mr. Shah Newaz, Grameen America's Senior Vice President and General Manager. Grameen America has offered Thelma and Katherine full time positions after their graduation.

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## New Journalism Major Makes Media Splash

The Office of Academic Affairs and the English Department presented a high-profile Community News Mini-Conference on March 9 to celebrate the successful launch of York's Bachelor of Arts in Journalism Degree, and it made headlines. Several

Queens-based newspapers, the Daily News and WBAI Radio all did glowing stories on the event and York's Journalism Program. In addition, more than 130 media leaders, current students, top prospects, professors and staff filled the Faculty Dining Room to take part in the event.

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## News From Social Work

March is National Professional Social Work Month and a time to salute Social Workers on the move. Dr. Selena Rodgers (Instructor of Social Work/Co-Faculty Advisor for York College's Social Work Club), Dr. Bonnie Oglensky (Assistant Professor/Director of Social Work Field Education), Professor Akosua Cobb (Assistant Director of Social Work Field Education), and the faculty members of the Social Work Program wish to thank and celebrate the York College Social Work Field Education Supervisors for making a difference in the lives of York College Social Work students and in the Social Work Profession.



Celebrating Social Workers (l. to r.): **Beth Lerner** (Ozanan Hall of Queens Senior Citizen Program), **Sherba Austin** (Rochdale/Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Services), **Catlin Dower** (Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Inc.), **Linda Booth** (Elmcore Youth and Adult Services), **Selena Rodgers** (York College/City University of New York), **Sidney Moshette** (820 River Street, Inc.), **Lee Stone** (Freeport Pride/Youth Services Counseling Division), **Cynthia Guy** (South Queens Partnership of New York), **Asantewa James** (Department of Education), **Donna McFarlane** (Queens Educational Opportunity Center), **Akosua Cobb** (York College/City University of New York), **Bonnie Oglensky** (York College/City University of New York), **Craig Collins** (Safe Space), **Henry Arroyo** (H & L Counseling Service), **Vera Stokes** (Community Healthcare Network/Dr. Betty Shabazz Health Center), Marie Josette-Crevecœur (Community Healthcare Network/Dr. Betty Shabazz Health Center), **Tracie Theotokas** (AHRC Adult Day Services), **Ivette Fuentes** (Martin Luther Court), **Carl DeGennaro** (InterFaith Hospital) not in photo.

The need to recognize Social Work Field Education Supervisors is many-fold. York College Social Work Field Education Supervisors have

remained dedicated to providing professional guidance and support to York College Students who strive to attain academic excellence. Perhaps most importantly to highlight is the three York College Social Work Alumni (Carl DeGennaro '00, Marie Josette-Crevecœur '92, Ivette Fuentes '03), the priceless photo that illuminates over 100 years of experienced administrators, clinical practitioners, community activists, educators, program developers, researchers, trainers, and the 40-50 diverse community-based organizations that welcome our students into a professional environment each semester. The rewards for field supervisors and York College faculty are the commitment to mentor students, prepare them to successfully complete their undergraduate degree, pursue graduate studies, and to ultimately embark on a career in Social Work in the 21st Century and beyond.

Social Workers have a unique understanding of the complexities posed by the global economy, the voice to lead change culturally inclusive paradigms that address underserved multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual communities, and the professional expertise required to meet the projected growing demand of the Profession. Despite the anticipated rise of employment opportunities in the field of social work, we know, too, that funding cuts are impacting a myriad of service providers throughout the nation. This has resulted in the loss of resources and the increase of responsibilities York College's Social Work Field Education Supervisors are experiencing. Nevertheless, they have remained unyielding in the effortless amount of energy, validation and training they provide to the sixty social work students currently participating in the two-course sequence field placement and seminar.

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## News from the Occupational Therapy Department

1. On Tuesday, February 10, an informed, energetic, and determined group from the Occupational Therapy Department of York College headed to Albany for Lobby Day. This is an annual event sponsored by the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA). Occupational Therapists from all over the state gather in Albany to lobby for legislation that enhances practice, and that promotes services to the community.

The students and their advisor, Prof. Sharon Faust (in the picture below, first row, far right), gathered at York at 6:30 am on that day to depart. Having been prepared by Jeff Tomlinson OTR (NYSOTA's legislative liaison), students were on their way with a heightened sense of purpose, and political and social awareness. Students practiced what they would say to their legislators in order to urge them to support bills that would benefit consumers across the lifespan.

It was a wonderful experience which served to give the students a sense of accomplishment. Students such as Shamica Seeparsaud also submitted articles to local newspapers to inform the public of Occupational Therapy, and legislation which might be important to them. In the words of one student Hind Mohamed, "I really feel like we made a difference in our profession". York College Occupational Therapy students really are ON THE MOVE!!!

2. SAVE THE DATE!!! On May 4, 2009 graduating students in the Occupational Therapy Department will be presenting their research projects. We invite you to join us for this very special event. Formal announcements will be available in the coming weeks.



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## York College's Social Work Program is on the move ...

In honor of National Professional Social Work Month, Dr. Selena Rodgers, an invited presenter at York College's Information Session, aimed to recruit new students enrolled at the College seeking a career filled with service, activism, diversity and research. She highlighted the benefits of York College's Social Work Program and the myriad of career opportunities offered in the Profession.

Dr. Rodgers (see picture, standing in the center) informed students that the demand for social workers needed to respond to global economic challenges is on the rise, referring to The Federal Bureau of Labor of Statistics report that the Social Work Profession is expected to growth 22 percent by 2016.



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