



# Academic Affairs Update

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## York Bids Farewell to Dean Clark

**D**r. Lynne W. Clark, the Founding Dean of York College's School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs (SHSPP), has retired from the College effective June 2, 2017.

Prior to coming to York College in the fall of 2011, Dr. Clark served as Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Western Connecticut State University and as the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at CUNY's Hunter College. Dr. Clark is a graduate of Elmira College (B.S.), Columbia University (M.S.), and CUNY's Graduate Center (Ph.D.). She also holds several post-doctoral certificates, as such as HERS/Bryn Mawr College Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration, and Harvard University's Institutes for Educational Management.

After professionally practicing as a speech-language pathologist and a consultant in gerontology at various medical and rehabilitation centers, and extended health care facilities, Dr. Clark became a full-time instructor at Queens College.

She then joined the full-time faculty at Hunter College in 1984, where she served for 10 years as Chairperson of the Communication Sciences Department, and received tenure and eventual promotion to Professor. In 1994, she was elected to the Doctoral Faculty in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Program at CUNY's Graduate Center. She also served on the faculty of the Hunter-Mount Sinai Geriatric Education Center for 12 years, and as a Fellow of the Brookdale Center on Aging.

Dr. Clark is nationally known for her expertise and clinical research of adults with neurologically impaired communication disorders, with emphasis on the communication changes associated with Alzheimer's disease. Her research also

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## Deadline!

All items for the **September/October 2017** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted to Cynthia Haller (challer@york.cuny.edu) or Marcia Comrie (mcomrie@york.cuny.edu) by **September 22, 2017**. Text should be sent in MS Word. Photos should be sent as separate hi-res files (preferably not less than 1MB).



Dr. Lynne W. Clark decked out in celebratory head gear, with President Keizs

## Dean Clark Retires

*Continued from previous page*

encompasses the study of effects of normal aging on communication. She has authored over 40 journal articles and book chapters, and written two books, *Communication Disorders of the Older Adult* and *Faculty and Student Challenges in Facing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity*. Dr. Clark has an impressive record of research and development grants, totaling over 8.0 million dollars of funding (e.g., U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Health and Human Resources Administration). She has held various leadership positions in national and state discipline-specific and women's professional organizations (e.g., American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, American Council of Education's Office of Women in Higher Education Leadership).

Dr. Clark served as a board member of several educational and health organizations (e.g., Western Academy of International Studies, Connecticut Department of Education's Academic Program Review Board). She is the recipient of several national and state honors and awards (e.g., NYSSLHA's Distinguished Achievement

Award, CT DOE's Partnership Awards in High School Education, Mature Media's National Award for *Stay Tuned: The Challenge of Hearing Loss*) and graduate fellowships (e.g., Case Center for Urban Gerontology). While at York Dean Clark continued her active research and scholarly engagement by mentoring and serving on Ph.D. thesis committees.

Dean Clark brought with her to the York College School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs her experience and expertise on local, regional and national health care and professional programs growth and needs. She quickly recognized the promise and potential of York's faculty and departments, and designed and implemented a school-wide strategic plan to secure resources and to promote the growth of its programs. Under her leadership the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs created two new academic departments (Nursing and Social Work); earned accreditation and reaccreditation for the Physician Assistant, Social Work, Nursing and Teacher Education programs; and initiated and earned first accreditation for the Clinical Lab Science and the Movement Science programs.

Dean Clark promoted student support and streamlined student retention and

progression requirements, increasing the passing rates in professional licensing exams. In securing resources for the school's programs, Dean Clark expanded the partnerships of the departments within CUNY and beyond with health care facilities. She also oversaw the implementation and growth of the York Early College Academy, taking great pride in the success of its students and their transition to college with as many as 60 college credits. Following success in program accreditation and re-accreditation, Dean Clark was instrumental in program development. She oversaw the development of two BS programs in public health and health sciences, and three MS programs in Social Work, Nursing Educator and Physician Assistant Studies. Dean Clark promoted and supported the organization of several scholarly events and conferences on York College campus with nationally known speakers and instituted annual recognition events for faculty and students.

The achievements of Dean Clark and the many dedicated faculty who have worked tirelessly for the success of SHSPP programs and students are especially evident in this issue of Academic Affairs Update, which spotlights many recent SHSPP events and achievements. ■

# Hunger, Health & Aging: A Queens Food Insecurity Forum

By **JAMES C. O'NEAL**, State Society on Aging of NY, Chair, Diversity Committee

**F**ood insecurity can be defined as having an insufficient household budget to be able to purchase food that will provide the nutritional content needed for good health.

The State Society on Aging of New York partnered with The Aging in New York Fund, Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, the NYC Department For The Aging (DFTA), United Neighborhood Houses of New York, and York College (CUNY) to host an April 6th

Forum to discuss food access issues for older New Yorkers in Queens.

In spite of torrential rain all day, Hunger, Health & Aging: A Queens Food Insecurity Forum was successfully attended by approximately 170 community leaders and food experts, service provid-

ers to older adults, seniors, and students at York College in Jamaica, New York.

According to the New York Coalition Against Hunger (2015), approximately 14% of New York City seniors are food insecure. Poverty is the variable most highly associated with food insecurity (according to Dr. Craig Gundersen of the University of Illinois). In the US, 28% of those living below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level experience food insecurity, and 48,396 Queens older adults live below the Federal Poverty Level. The effects of food insecurity are multi-faceted and include poor nutrition with associated poor health and higher mortality. Also, the need to devote a large percentage of income to food purchases can cause pressures in paying rent and medical care.



The Forum examined key issues of food insecurity for older adults.

After Dean Lynne Clark (School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs) welcomed the gathering to York College and indicated that the College will become more involved in community activities like the Forum, Commissioner Donna Corrado, DFTA, presented opening remarks and an introduction to the afternoon's activities. The featured Food Insecurity Panel was then convened, consisting of: Joel Berg, Chief Executive Officer, Hunger Free America; Nick Freudenberg, Director CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute; Jenique Jones, Director, City Harvest Program Operations; and Amy Richards, Partnership for Healthier Queens Coordinator, Make The Road NY. Barbara Turk was the Forum Moderator and is the Director of Food Policy, Office of the Deputy

Mayor for Health & Human Services. The Forum was concluded by reflections from Terry Kaelber, Community Engagement Projects Director of United Neighborhood Houses of New York.

The Panel explored the moral challenges for addressing food insecurity. What would it take to make hunger in NYC history? How do the growing immigrant communities get access to food? Will meals-on-wheels be shutting down, and how will the thousands being served by the program be fed? What will be the effect of making SNAP a block grant program?

This was the fourth food insecurity forum in the past three years in New York City. As policies change and more people have to seek alternative means to eat, more forums like this can be expected. ■



Dr. Alex Costley (top row, second from left) and other SHPSS faculty worked closely with community organizations to create a robust event at York.

## Pre-Forum Discussion For Students

On April 6, 2017, prior to the Forum Hunger, Health, and Aging, York College students were given the opportunity to attend and participate in a pre-Forum discussion whose aim was to identify issues, discuss community initiatives, and to examine the American Heart Association and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center For Nutrition Policy and Promotion nutrition programs for older Americans. Approximately 75 students, primarily from the gerontology, nursing and physical therapy departments, attended the pre-event.

James C. O'Neal, Chair of the Diversity Committee of the State Society on Aging of New York, led the discussion. He emphasized the importance of good nutrition, exercise and socialization for older New Yorkers. Based on the 2015 Community Health Profiles of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Queens Community District 12 (Jamaica, Hollis, North Springfield Gardens, Rochdale, South Jamaica, and St. Albans), where 43% of the census is foreign born and one in seven adults 16 years old and older is unemployed, poverty limits healthy lifestyle choices and makes it difficult to access health-care and resources that can promote health and prevent illness.

Government programs, including the My Plate program of the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, the Oldways Preservation and Exchange Trust's Mediterranean Diet Pyramid, and Food Stamps (SNAP) were discussed.

Dr. Beverly Horowitz (Department of Occupational Therapy) and Dr. Alex Costley (Department of Health and Physical Education) arranged the pre-session for students. ■

# OT Department Celebrates 100 Years of Occupational Therapy

By **BEVERLY P. HOROWITZ**, PhD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapy Department

From March 30th through April 2nd 2017 the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) celebrated 100 years of occupational therapy at the AOTA Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia.

Approximately fourteen thousand people attended the conference, including international occupational therapy clinicians, educators, and researchers. Hundreds of sessions took place during conference, including sessions addressing pediatric practice to mental health, adult and gerontology practice, vision rehabilitation, health care policy, and occupational therapy education. Special sessions such as the International Breakfast brought together World Federation of Occupational Therapists international occupational therapy leaders to address international partnerships. The American Occupational Therapy Foundation's research symposium addressed resilience and the role of occupational therapy to help clients cope with adversity, and AOTA's Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture, "Technology and Occupation,"

by Roger Smith, PhD, OT, FAOTA focused on the 100-year history of occupational therapy (OT) and technology. Scientific research panels, Tech Day sessions, poster sessions, and programs celebrated occupational therapy history from its founding until 2017.

Twenty-four York College OT students and four OT faculty members, Dr. Lillian Kaplan, Dr. Tamara Avi-Itzhak, Dr. Beverly Horowitz, and Professor Sharon Faust attended the conference. Professor Faust participated in a Pre-Conference Institute titled, "(AOTA) Promoting a Diverse Workforce in Occupational Therapy through Student Recruitment and Retention." The Institute explored "best-practice strategies and resources to enhance diversity in the profession by supporting student success from under-represented backgrounds in occupational therapy programs. Dr. Kaplan represented the Occupational Therapy Program at the annual Director's meeting, and Dr. Tamara Avi-Itzhak and Dr. Beverly Horowitz presented their research. Dr.



A window into future OT careers: (left to right) Students Jacqueline Del Ciello, Lisa Howe, Randa Elgamal, and Stephanie Fava

Doris Obler of Long Island University and Dr. Avi-Itzhak presented research titled, "Concurrent Validity of the Beery VMI and the BOT-2 in the Assessment of Children ages 5 to 12" and Beverly Horowitz, PhD, LMSW, OTR/L, FAOTA, and colleagues Alexander Lopez, JD, OT/L, Pei-Fen Chang, PhD, OTR, and Cristina Reyes Smith, OTD, OTR/L presented a short course, "Occupational Therapy for All: Addressing the Needs of Diverse People and Communities across the Life Span." A Special Student Session Series provided an opportunity for students to meet each other, learn about clinical topics of interest and attend sessions on transitions from student to practitioner and strategies to land their desired job. Having the conference in Philadelphia was a "gift" for New York and east coast occupational therapists and students. York College occupational therapy students reported being thrilled and grateful to be able to participate in this historic conference, attend sessions aligned with their interests, meet other students from around the country, and learn from national and international scholars and clinical experts. ■



Fiona Serjanaj, Professor Tamara Avi-Itzhak, D.Sc., Tonya Vythilingum, and Dolores Calle.

# Rising Student Scholars: Mentoring, Thriving, Making A Difference

by **DR. SELENA T. RODGERS**

On April 7, 2017, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, an Associate Professor of Social Work at York College of the City University of New York, partnered with Supervising Social Worker Odessa Antoine and Supervising Attorney Germaine Auguste from The Legal Aid Society Queens County Criminal Defense Practice to organize classroom presentations between York College student scholars and 9th & 12th graders at the Academy of Medical Technology High School in Far Rockaway, New York. The collaboration was part of the STAR Track Anti-Violence Program, in which the Queens District Attorney's Office, along with The Legal Aid Society, Queens Public Defenders, private legal representatives and social workers, mentor students who attend elementary, middle, and high schools in Far Rockaway. According to the Queens District Attorney's website, the STAR Track Anti-Violence Program is part of The Special Prosecutions Division. Assistant District Attorneys voluntarily participate in and work with Far Rockaway students in an anti-gun violence program. The curriculum deals with gun violence, drug and gang awareness education, and focuses on self-esteem, peer mediation, and conflict resolution.

"Speaking to the freshman, junior, and senior level high school student scholars from the Academy of Medical Technology



Left to right: Standing Charles R. Clink, Jr. and Durrell Washington



Charles R. Clink, Jr. [York College/CUNY Student Scholar], Durrell Washington [York College CUNY '16 Alum], Rolonda Rogers [York College/CUNY Student Scholar], Dr. Selena T. Rodgers [York College/CUNY Social Work Faculty], Odessa Antoine [The Legal Aid Society/Criminal Defense Practice Supervising Social Worker]

was a humbling moment," said Durrell Washington. "Growing up in a community like the students we talked with, I understood the importance of hearing testimonies from individuals who could help to make the transition from high school to college smoother. Passing on knowledge that has been shared with me on the importance of college preparation, networking, mentoring, and the importance of getting involved, not only within the school, but in the community is important to ensure the success of our future generation. It was rewarding to speak with the classes, receive praises from the principal and teachers [though not in attendance]. To know that the students received something from our conversation and spread their enthusiasm around the school so quickly showed me the importance of the service we are doing and the difference we are making. I appreciate the opportunity I was given and look forward to paying it forward."

Durrell Washington is a December 2016 graduate (Magna Cum Laude) from the Department of Social Work at York College of the City University of New York and a former Vice President of S.W.E.E.T. (Social Work Empowering Encouraging Together) club. Mr. Washington will be pursuing his MSW degree at Columbia University in fall 2017, which has offered him a \$24,000 scholarship.

"Speaking with the high school freshmen and seniors at the Academy of Medical Technology, located inside Far Rockaway High School, was both emotional and inspirational for me. On the emotional spectrum, it felt good coming back to a place where I once walked up and down the hallways and stairwells with many of my peers heading to the classrooms, cafeteria, counselor's office, bathrooms, gym, etc. I hadn't been inside that building since 2000. Nostalgia best summarizes my feelings. The inspirational part for me was knowing that I was able to use myself as an example to show that no matter how low at the bottom a person might be, one can and will rise to great heights as long as one is willing to work hard academically, stay focused on both short-term and long-term goals, and have a strong support system" said Charles R. Clink.

Charles R. Clink Jr. is an undergraduate student at York College of the City University of New York in the Department of Social Work. He is an active member of the Social Work Empowering Encouraging Together (S.W.E.E.T.) club, a member of the Fatherhood Initiative Program (Men's Center), and the Male Initiative Program (Men's Center). He has served as a guest speaker for York Early College Academy (Y.E.C.A.). Mr. Clink was born and raised in Far Rockaway and attended Far Rockaway High School. ■



## York College's CUNY-Wide Conferences, 2016-2017

Two highly successful, health-focused, educational conferences were hosted in collaboration with Dean Lynne Clark's Distinguished Lecture Series and the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs (SHSPP's) Committee on Comprehensive Faculty Development during the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Fall 2016 conference on November 2, 2016, titled *"Health Reform is Transforming the Healthcare Landscape: Implications for Higher Education in Ensuring the Workforce Reflects the Realities of the Healthcare Delivery Systems,"* was led by guest speaker Jean Moore, DrPH, MSN, Director of the New York Center for Health Workforce Studies based at the School of Public Health, SUNY-Albany. Dr. Moore has a wealth of experience in health administration, research and policy development – and provided a fantastic overview of health reform and workforce innovation. The conference offered valuable information on the potential impact of federal and state health reforms on the healthcare workforce and the role of educators in preparing students. Dr. Moore stressed the emerging models of multidisciplinary teams and the positive impact on patient

outcomes. She challenged the educators in the audience to consider how training of the health workforce can shift to team-based practice, rather than in disciplinary silos as it traditionally occurs in education for the health professions. Dr Moore described the goals of health reform focus on increasing access to healthcare services and a shift away from acute care to primary and preventive care and a better coordination of care. Participants were introduced to the social determinants of health and the factors involved with increased utilization of services. This topic was a natural segue to the second conference of the 2016-17 academic year.

The Spring 2017 conference, held March 8, 2017, featured York College's very own Drs. Nicholas Grosskopf (Health and Physical Education/Gerontological Studies) and Ratan Dhar (Earth and Physical Sciences), both of whom discussed innovative topics affecting the *"Social and Environment Determinants of Health: Challenges of NYC."* Dr. Grosskopf gave an overview of the social determinants of health, defining these as the economic and social conditions that influence the health of individuals and com-

munities. He further categorized these determinants as biological/genetic, behavioral, political, and environmental. Dr. Grosskopf also described a social ecological model for health promotion that spans across individuals, communities and policy. Dr. Dhar's presentation focused on his research on the frequent flooding and its impact on southeast Queens. He provided an overview for attendees by contrasting natural and urban stormwater drainage. Dr. Dhar classified the impacts of urban flooding into socioeconomical, communication, health and environmental factors. He concluded his presentation with the results of a survey of homeowners in Jamaica regarding frequency of flooding and groundwater issues.

The speakers insights and discussions on health disparities served as a catalyst for a lively interactive scholarly event; and collectively, these conferences highlighted research from multiple disciplines in public and environmental health and health workforce administration.

Each conference hosted well over 80 attendees, including faculty, clinicians, administrators and students. As a re-occurring outcome, these educational seminars proved very relevant to faculty and students in the health professions and related programs with emphasis on an integrated model of health education. The formats of both conferences were very interactive, with relatively short presentations interspersed with group activities. There were ample opportunities for interaction among attendees and sharing of ideas. Attendees provided very favorable feedback in the evaluation of both conferences and expressed continued interest in future events on related topics. Through a well-orchestrated blend of presentations and discussion, the conferences delineated the strategies needed to better prepare the workforce for emerging models of healthcare.

These conferences are part of a series of inter-professional conferences broadly



Left to right: Dr. Shawn Williams; Dean Lynn Clark; Jean Moore, speaker and Executive Director, The Center for Work Force Development, SUNY Albany School Of Public Health; Vice President Ron Thomas, who welcomed participants to the Fall 2016 event.

geared toward health-related issues. The series has addressed a variety of topics during the past three years. Each of the conferences offers a platform for presentation of wide-ranging, highly relevant topics in healthcare. Participants at all of the conferences hailed from a broad variety of disciplines and ranged from students to faculty and seasoned practitioners. The varied perspectives brought forth by the attendees fostered lively discussion. The conferences have been developed through the support of Dean Clark's Distinguished Lecture Series and the work of the SHSPP Comprehensive Faculty Development Committee. For the 2016-17 academic year, the committee is chaired by Helene DePalma (Health Professions), with committee members Shawn Williams (Health Professions), John Graffeo (Health Professions), Shirell



Provost Panayiotis Meleties, Dean Lynne Clark, Nicholas Grosskopf, Ratan Dhar, Helene DePalma, and Shawn Williams (left to right) at the Spring 2017 Dean's Distinguished Lecture.

Roebach (Social Work), Claudette McFarquhar (Nursing), Nicholas Grosskopf (Health and Physical Education/Geron-

tological Studies), Nick McNickle (Movement Science) and Elise Henry (Occupational Therapy). ■

## Movement Science Majors Excel at ACSM Quiz Bowl

At the Greater NY Quiz Bowl organized by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and held at Queens College Saturday, April 1st, 2017, York College movement science majors Yesenia Echevarria, Alana Johnson, and Greg Klimaytis answered the most questions correctly to win the jeopardy-style quiz bowl. This is the second year in a row that York has taken first place at the contest. Other participating colleges were Queens, Mercy, Manhattan, and the Swedish Massage Institute.

The questions were drawn from eight categories of knowledge: anatomy, cardiovascular physiology, cardiovascular risk factors, electrocardiography, metabolism, muscle physiology, nutrition, and pathophysiology.

This year's contest at Queens College provided the students, their faculty, and the spectators with a dramatic ending, as York College and Queens College were tied with 1100 points at the end of the

25 questions. After another question was posed, the teams were still tied. The final question, from the pathophysiology category—"What are the implications of S-T segment elevation of 2 millimeters?"—was missed by Queens, but answered correctly by York. The York team and supporters celebrated with a reduction



Left to Right: Chair of the Quiz Bowl Committee, Prof. Mark Caselli, Prof. Reinold McNickle (Team Faculty Advisor), Yesenia Echevarria, Olana Johnson (Track & Field), Greg Klimaytis (Cross-Country).

in blood pressure and a return to normal metabolic measures. (The answer was "It is a positive ECG test, probably indicating a previous myocardial infarction.")

Track all-stars Johnson and Klimaytis, along with Movement Science senior Echevarria, next moved on to the May 31st national ACSM competition in Denver, Colorado, where York College placed 4th out of 12 teams. York's Movement Science Program Director Dr. Werber-Zion accompanied the students to Denver and noted "We are enormously proud of our three students. The eleven other teams were all well-prepared. Many of the questions were quite difficult. Last year we made 7th place, this year 4th, maybe we could move up three more places in 2018? We'll see."

York's Movement Science Program is coordinated by Professor Galila Werber-Zion. Professor Reinold McNickle serves as faculty advisor for students who participate in the Quiz Bowl. ■

# York Physician Alum Returns to Discuss Book and Reconnect

Dr. Vickie Mabry-Height, M.D., a member of the York College Class of 1977, recently returned to her alma mater to discuss her recently-published book, *White Coat Secrets, Still Standing: A Doctor's Story*.

Introduced by Dr. Leslie Lewis (Biology), her York mentor, Dr. Mabry-Height held the audience rapt at the March 2 event with her compelling presentation—complete with props.

“I was certain that I had done everything necessary to ensure a life of success as a physician,” Mabry-Height says in *White Coat Secrets, Still Standing: A Doctor's Story*. “Following the completion of my internship and residency training in internal medicine, I started sending out my resume. I was interviewed for several full-time positions. However, despite impeccable academic credentials I found myself unable to land a job.”

Mabry-Height in *White Coat Secrets* and in her York presentation recalls going in for an interview for a staff physician job in the employee health clinic of “a major oil company.” The interviewer blanched when he saw that the candidate was African-American and a woman to boot (experience had taught her to leave her first name off her resume to avoid would-be gender prejudices against her, she said). When he finally regained his composure, the executive told her that he had promised his predecessor that he would never hire a black person.

Forced by discrimination and the limited opportunities available to black women physicians (in Los Angeles in this case) in the 1980s and beyond, Dr. Mabry-Height did what women and minorities have historically done across the employment spectrum: she created her own opportunities. “I had to put on my thinking hat,” she said, literally donning an elaborate chapeau to the delight of the audience, to explain how she decided that a traditional career in a hospital, clinic or as a company physician was not for her.

She gave up that path and applied for a loan to open her own practice. But that too, was difficult at first. Banks were not lining up to lend to African-Americans. Added to that, her business



Dr. Mabry-Height (right) with her mentor Dr. Leslie Lewis (Professor Emeritus, Biology)



*White Coat Secrets* provides an inspiring story of Dr. Mabry-Height's journey as a medical doctor.

plan was shaky given that despite her numerous degrees, she had had no business training. But the enterprising physician would not give up. She eventually found a banker who gave her tips to improve the plan, which led to a loan large enough to open the business and carry her through until the business stabilized. She wisely also began investing in real estate and was able to pay off her medical school debt and build the practice. For this reason, she advised aspiring physicians in the audience that rather than an MPH (Master of Public Health), which she herself had done following medical school, they might be better served in the long run by an MBA (Master of Business Administration).

Mabry-Height's presentation at York was sponsored by the Provost Distinguished Lecture Series and the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs. The event was well attended by students in the pre-med program under the direction of Dr. Andrew Criss. Other health career programs, faculty, staff and administrators were also in attendance.

Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York College, purchased several copies of the doctor's book for students at the event. Her kind gesture did not go unnoticed by the guest.

“The icing on the cake was the opportunity to meet President Marcia V. Keizs, who not only attended but also provided hands-on support,” said Dr. Mabry-Height in a note later. “Her leadership is exceptional and her kindness as well as genuine support for the students at York College is obvious.”

Dr. Lynne Clark, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs, was also pleased with the outcome of the visit.

“It was a pleasure to attend the event and see how excited and interactive our York students were with [Dr. Mabry-Height]



and her message,” said Dr. Clark, who has sponsored several engaging events organized through her school.

As for Dr. Lewis, who in addition to Dr. Mabry-Height has an extensive list of students who passed through his famous York lab and who are now physicians and (PhD) researchers, it was a rewarding day.

“I am particularly pleased by the response that the students, staff and administration had to Dr. Mabry-Height’s presentation,” said Dr. Lewis, Professor Emeritus. I don’t think that it could have gone over any better than it did. York has done, and continues to do, really great work in helping our students succeed beyond their wildest dreams.”

Despite its focus on her medical career, *White Coat Secrets* is not entirely about Dr. Mabry-Height’s career. It is also the

compelling narrative of a child born to a teen mother in the South, moving to New York City, and the love and support from her mother and the great-grandparents who shaped her early life.

When a black physician made a house call on the family, the child, then known only as Vickie Mabry, barely out of toddlerhood, declared to him that she would like to be a physician as well. It did not go over quite as she had expected. The doctor instead told her she’ll make a fine nurse someday.

Were it not for her nurturing great-grand parents and mother, Dr. Mabry-Height may have believed that doctor and, later on, her teachers in New York City and not followed her dream. Her family told her that if she worked hard she could be whatever she wanted to be. Their voices and her own drive won. ■

## Value Based Experience: Health Science at York

By **PUNU NAGRA**

As a senior at York College, my time has been fulfilling. I have also had the pleasure of creating wonderful relationships with my fellow students and faculty, which served as the necessary positive social support that was needed to grow as a Health Science major. As time advanced further into my endeavors to become a health care professional, I completed a challenging field-based externship experience that forced me to utilize time-management, knowledge in the healthcare industry, and all the passion a person could have for helping others. As I began my experience at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in the Ambulatory Surgery Unit (ASU), under the tutelage of Nurse Cheryl Galotta-Dimassi, the practices relating to agile management and service development were slowly introduced to me for attaining the methods to run a very active department and recognize the importance of patient communication.

After having many months of involvement with the ASU, the honor to co-write the nomination submission for Jamaica Hospital Medical Center’s Pinnacle Award for Quality & Patient Safety was presented to me, and it would prove to be the most educational and professional experience during my time as a student in the health field. This respon-

sibility pertained to much of the curriculum learned during my time as a health science major and helped me learn even more about the various aspects of health science as it is related to healthcare deliverables, strategic planning, analytics and organizational leadership, which come with creating a successful health care business and environment. Based on the quality work given for this submission, I was given an opportunity to assist and lead for culture change concepts, along with design implementation in developing a more positive atmosphere for the patients and other clients visiting the hospital. This current role is creating a chance to find out how to work cohesively with many professionals concurrently, and to learn even more about the objectives of proper delivery



Punu Nagra with his Ambulatory Surgery Unit mentor, Nurse Cheryl Galotta-Dimassi

and development as a future professional in the industry.

I was elated to see the unlimited possibilities that align themselves with health care careers, which I’ve explored during my time at York and at Jamaica Hospital. This in turn has developed many more post-graduate options that were not entirely considered in the past during extensive research for possible career goals. Based on choosing concentrations that positioned themselves with both a clinical and administrative education, multiple careers such as health analyst, coordinator, recruiter, records manager, consulting lead, population research and home care were options that came from various post-graduate studies. Personally, having chosen to move on to my M.B.A. in Healthcare Management at Western Governors University, I have the option for many great careers in this area of expertise as my education continues to advance, putting me in a position to rise within my future organization upon completion.

I am grateful for the direction provided by counselors and professors such as Ms. Gale Cunningham in the Advisement Center and Dr. Shawn Williams in the Health Science Department, who made life easier with constant guidance on how or what to strategically accomplish in order to achieve the goal of being a successful student. ■

# SHSPP Honors Alumni and Adjunct Faculty

On November 30th, 2016, the Dean of the School Of Health Sciences And Professional Programs (SHSPP) and the School's Department Chairpersons honored five of its alumni at the 2016-2017 SHSPP Distinguished Alumni reception and formal ceremony. The five alumni honored included:

*Nursing:* **Modupe Adedeji-Fajobi**, RN, BSN, RAC, MSN, DNS

*Health & Physical Education:* **Daisy Bernard**, BS

*Health Professions:* **Andrea Urgiles-Pizarro**, PA-C

*Occupational Therapy:* **Janet Weinberg**, BS/MS OTR

*Social Work:* **Tina Reynolds**, MSW

As part of the ceremony, each alumnus gave a brief presentation reflecting on their professional journey toward becoming leaders in their own professional disciplines.

On April 5th 2017, the SHSPP Dean and the School's Department Chairpersons honored all of its part-time course instructors and clinical faculty with a reception and ceremony. President Keizs, Provost Meleties and Dean Clark wel-

comed and congratulated all the School's adjuncts. Each of the School's six Department Chairpersons honored one of their adjuncts as their 2016-2017 Distinguished Adjunct, speaking about their adjunct as a true member of their faculty team, for their real world knowledge that they apply toward their exceptional teaching and clinical supervision, and being excellent experts and leaders in their own professional discipline. These six adjuncts included:

*Nursing:* **Magalie Alcindor**, RN, BAN, MSN, PNP

*Health & Physical Education:* **Robert Johnson Jr.**, BS, MS

*Health Professions:* **Elmer Ariza**, BS, MS, MT(ASCP)BB

*Occupational Therapy:* **Dragana Micic**, MA, MA, PhD

*Social Work:* **Parthenia Brown**, BS, LMSW, MSW

*Teacher Education:* **James Mattel**, BS, MS, MA

In turn, each of these Distinguished Adjuncts spoke about York College's exceptional and diverse student body who highly appreciated their health and related education. ■

## Kudos!

Faculty in the Department of Behavioral Sciences have won three PSC-CUNY research grants



**Dr. Ian Hansen's** project, "Between Trump's Republicans and the Standing Rock Sioux: The ambiguity of North American religiosity," will extend

his previous investigation of the extent to which religiosity and conservatism—in spite of being positively intercorrelated—make opposing independent predictions of religiously and politically important attitudes and policies.



**Dr. Jacob Apkarian** will examine networks of university governing boards to determine the extent to which university board overlap contributes to institutional trends in higher education.



**Dr. Deborah Majerovitz** will investigate "Weight, body image and stereotype threat."



Provost Meleties, Dean Lynne Clark, SHSPP faculty and alumni at the Distinguished Alumni reception.

# Women's Health Empowerment Symposium

by **DR. SELENA T. RODGERS**

On March 18, 2017, The York College Women's Center and Office of Student Activities of the City University of New York (CUNY) partnered with Hon. New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, 1199 SEIU, Healthfirst and Elizabeth Madison Nutrition to present the 2017 Women's Health Empowerment Symposium. The event was held at York College (CUNY) and moderated by Ms. Marcelle M. Dinnall. Presenters and an expert panelist focused on the interaction of health and mental health non-communicable diseases—diabetes, cardiology and cancer research, Alzheimers, intimate partner violence—disproportionately impacting women's health. According to Ms. Ebonie Jackson, Director of the York College Women's Center, the event was very much worth the effort.

"The Women's Health Symposium was a wonderful and informative event for women at York College and the larger community," said Jackson. "It represent-

ed a true collaboration between York College, Senator Leroy Comrie's office and some of Queens' finest community health organizations. Together, we were able to give women practical knowledge to promote optimal health for the mind, body and spirit! Experts from York College and beyond shared tips on heart health, diabetes management, mental self-care, and healthy nutrition. The response was so overwhelmingly positive that we are looking to make this an annual event so that we can continue to impact the college and larger community in a positive way."

Recognizing that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 83% of adults in the United States are not functioning at their optimal mental health, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, an Associate Professor of Social Work at York College (CUNY) panel presentation titled, "Am I My Neighbor's Keeper? Yes I Am!", offered a supportive and



Left to Right: Symposium Participants and Councilman I. Daneek Miller [27th Council District]

engaged space to discuss mental health issues, health disparities, and wellness resources. The afternoon session concluded with Ms. Elizabeth Madison's dynamic presentation on Nutrition.

The symposium was packed with women, practitioners, health advocates, students, scholars and community stakeholders seeking prevention and wellness approaches in women's health. Councilman I. Daneek Miller [27th Council District] and Assemblymember Clyde Vanel [Assembly District 33] stopped by in support of Women's Health. Amiee Dunn, a York College Social Work student scholar and work study associate in the YC Women's Center, was among the attendees. The event also provided opportunities for networking and professional development.

"Having informed knowledge from these women of various walks of life at the Women's Health Symposium motivated me and others to want to advocate for those who are disenfranchised said Ms. Dunn. "[The] event also inspired me to continue breaking down doors or at least have the strength to create new ones if I have to."

For helpful mental health resources, please contact:

English: 1-800-LIFENET  
(1-800-543-3638)

Spanish: 1-877-AYUDESE  
(1-877-298-3373)

1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355)

Text: NYC Well texting services (text WELL to 65173)

The hotlines are confidential and staffed 24 hours a day. ■



Symposium Panelists, Presenters, Organizers, Sponsors l to r: Ms. Eve Vaval [NYC Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association], Ms. Tonya Whitmore [Healthfirst], Deborah Evans [Healthfirst], Ms. Elizabeth Madison [Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist/Wellness Consultant], Dr. Jean Phelps [York College/CUNY], NYS Senator Leroy Comrie [14th Senatorial District], Ms. Marcelle M. Dinnall [Healthcare Education Project-1199/SEIU-GNYHA], Ms. Ebonie Jackson [York College/CUNY], Dr. Selena T. Rodgers [York College, CUNY], Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny [Queens Cancer Center of Queens Hospital], Dr. Barbara J. George [Winthrop-University Hospital], Ms. Orobosa Owie [Mistress of Ceremonies], Dr. Alyson Myers [North Shore University Hospital]. Not in picture, Ms. Marissa Beckett [Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence at New York City Family Justice Center, Queens].

# With Great Philosophy Comes Great Responsibility

by **DR. ANDIE SILVA**

On March 7, Dr. Howard Ruttenberg (Department of History, Philosophy, and Anthropology) delivered a well-attended talk titled, “What is Philosophy,” the second Provost’s Lecture in the 2016-2017 Provost Lecture Series. Dr. Ruttenberg provided his audience with a detailed overview of the history of Western philosophy, reflecting on how philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Heidegger, among others, contributed to shaping philosophical “revolutions,” igniting different ways of thinking about the world, the self, and even God. While some early philosophers pondered the existence of the divine, their ultimate goal was to understand the nature of wisdom, virtue, and “good” in relation to human behavior—and, we might say, the very existence of humanity itself. Aristotle, for instance, posed that wisdom came from moral and intellectual virtue: according to him, the reason why an individual chooses to take action should be because they know it is virtuous to do so. A virtuous person therefore is one who has the wisdom to make (morally) good decisions.

According to Dr. Ruttenberg, this drive to understand knowledge as a theoretical concept eventually led philosophers to contribute to fields such as astrophysics and even quantum physics, thanks to their debates about matter and motion, and their reflections on what might be the smallest possible fragment available within reach of human understanding. For instance, as Dr. Ruttenberg explained, philosophers like Spinoza pro-



Dr. Howard Ruttenberg

posed that while only one being can exist in and of itself, it can be considered in infinite ways. Debates concerning the existence of the vacuum similarly contributed to new discoveries in physics. Moving through later philosophers like Kant and Hume, Dr. Ruttenberg discussed the role of experience and perception within philosophical concepts of nature and reality. These propositions signaled a shift, or revolution, in philosophical thought: rather than try to understand the world and the existence of a universal virtue, the “epistemological revolution” claimed that philosophy should examine its own tool (the mind) before it could begin to understand the world around it. These considerations, however, were often entangled in practical and political issues such as the matter of sovereign rule.

Yet another revolution came in the form of “practical philosophy” which,

Dr. Ruttenberg explained, focused on the role of government and politics in shaping human behavior. John Stuart Mill, for example, proposed that individuals were free to do as they wish so long as their actions did not harm others. Such freedom, however, was not always possible within the “tyranny of the majority,” wherein the government held the power to control individual choices. Finally, we arrive at a philosophy of responsibility: in order to act in the world, we must take into consideration how our actions (and our selves) relate to others. This may have been the greatest takeaway from Dr. Ruttenberg’s lecture: in a world in which politics really do appear “tyrannical” and encourage the alienation, destruction, and dehumanization of others, philosophy reminds us of the burden of responsibility: our actions not only affect other human beings, but they shape the realities of the world in which we live. To understand wisdom, virtue, or truth without understanding the other may indeed carry little value.

Dr. Ruttenberg’s lecture was followed by a lively and thought-provoking discussion, with questions ranging from the role of sovereignty and virtue in regards to the colonization of Africa, to reflections on the audience’s own call to action implied by their professional titles, “PhD.” As one attendee wondered: what does it mean that we [faculty] are “Doctors of *Philosophy*”? To answer this, Dr. Ruttenberg returned to one of his earlier points: philosophy is not merely about thought and reflection, but about the need to take action. In other words, to “do” philosophy one must go beyond theoretical debates—we must use our knowledge to achieve some form of common good. Those who attended Dr. Ruttenberg’s lecture certainly left with a lot to ponder, both in terms of the power of thought to change social and political perspectives and (perhaps most crucially) in terms of the deep, undeniable responsibility we carry whenever, by encouraging new ways of thinking, we start a new revolution. ■

## Kudos!

### MOVEMENT SCIENCE PROGRAM ACCREDITED

York’s Movement Science Program (Department of Health and Physical Education), recently received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Congratulations to Professors **Galila Werber-Zion** and **Reinold McNickle** for their leadership in the accreditation process.



## A Photographic Odyssey of East Africa with Dr. Demetriou Demetrios

**MYCHEL NAMPHY**, Director, York College AARC and Professor of English

Life is hard in East Africa these days. There is not a lot of money flowing around, and basic resources are scarce. Centuries of colonial domination by several European empires have ravaged the region economically, politically, and socially. A baby born in Tanzania today has a 20% chance of being malnourished by the age of five, and more than half of Tanzania's 45 million people will live their entire life trying to survive on \$1/day.

One of the region's biggest challenges is healthcare. The majority of East Africans don't have it, and basic healthcare and hospital infrastructure throughout the region is scarce. Dr. Demetriou Demetrios is a Greek Cypriot urologist, trained and based in Athens. He is the Director of the Urology Department at Health Melathon TYPET, one of Athens' most influential hospitals. Dr. Demetrios is an active medical scholar and clinician, and five years ago a colleague encouraged him to look into some of things Greek doctors were doing in East Africa to bring the achievements of Greek medicine to the African people. The result was a long odyssey of service that has brought Dr. Demetrios to missions in Uganda and Tanzania and produced numerous innovations in the methods for getting good healthcare to people living in poverty.

Dr. Demetrios is also an excellent photographer. Over the years he has compiled an impressive collection of photos documenting his and his colleague's work. On April 20 Dr. Demetrios presented his photos to a standing-room-only audience of students at the York College African American Resource Center (AARC). The pictures tell a disturbing story. They are graphic evidence of what happens to poor people's bodies when they are not properly cared for. At the same time, the pictures tell an inspiring story of what is possible when



Dr. Demetriou Demetrios (left) with Professor Mychel Namphy, AARC director.

a courageous spirit of generosity is applied to a real-world problem. The medical missions in Tanzania and Uganda where Dr. Demetrios worked have made concrete improvements to health care delivery in the region, and have been invaluable in the lives of individual people who, for example, have now seen a doctor for the first time in their life. But that is not the whole story. This could not have happened if the African people did not support it and build it with their hands and hearts. Dr. Demetrios told the students, "When people don't have much to give, but they give everything anyway, something happens that cannot be measured by academic data. This is the generous spirit that made the work possible." And after the program, as Dr. Demetrios was informally talking with the students, he said, "I was especially pleased to share this work with you, the students, and your participation today was very active. Your willingness to learn about African missions sends a hopeful message to us older people. This

effort will be sustained only because of the courage and strength of the young people. And we are obligated to present work to students that helps them engage the world as it is. I hope that our work in Africa helps people understand that the reality of this world is not only 'bon vivant.' It is also a desperate struggle for survival."

The AARC is deeply grateful to Dr. Demetriou Demetrios for bringing his medical work and his photography to the York College community. We also send our appreciative acknowledgment to Adjunct Professor of Chemistry Dr. Thomas Mavromoustakos for coordinating and moderating the event, and to Provost Panayiotis Meleties for initially connecting all of us. Thanks as well to Jessica Powell for her beautiful work on our event flyer. And a special thanks to all the students who attended and made this event what it was with their participation.

Asante Sana to all! ■



Dr. Demetriou Demetrios' photos document the effects of poor healthcare on the human body.

# Governor Cuomo's Excelsior Scholarship Provides Free Tuition

By **JESSICA LAU**,  
York Journalism Student

On February 7, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo arrived at the Student Union of Buffalo State College to introduce his proposal for free tuition. U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders accompanied him to the Buffalo State College event. Senator Sanders originated the idea for universal free college tuition during his presidential campaign in 2016.

The Excelsior Scholarship proposed by Governor Cuomo and now passed by the state legislature in the 2017-2018 Budget is a college tuition-free program for New York middle-class families at all SUNY and CUNY two- and four-year colleges. "A college education is not a luxury—it is an absolute necessity for any chance at economic mobility, and with this first-in-nation Excelsior Scholarships, we're providing the opportunity for New Yorkers to succeed, no matter what zip code they come from and without the anchor of student debt weighing them down," said Cuomo on the Governor's website.

College students who have been accepted to a state or city university college in New York, including two-year community colleges, are eligible if they meet the financial and other requirements of the scholarship, as well as students currently enrolled at a SUNY or CUNY college. The program will roll out this fall starting with students whose families earn \$100,000 per year or less. The maximum family income for qualification will eventually reach \$125,000. Prospective Excelsior students must have resided in New York for one year prior to the term of enrollment. To continue to receive Excelsior scholarship aid, students also must complete 30 credits per academic year. And, students must complete a post-graduate

residency requirement: for each year of Excelsior money they receive, they must work for one year in New York state after graduation, or their Excelsior scholarship money will convert to a student loan.

Currently, 80 percent of New York households make \$125,000 or less and therefore would eventually be eligible for the Excelsior program. The whole plan will cost \$163 million per year and will be introduced over three years in three phases. The first part of the plan will begin in the fall of 2017. It will cover New Yorkers who are making up to \$100,000 annually. Then, this will increase to \$110,000 in 2018. Finally, the amount would rise to \$125,000 in 2019.

Whether students can qualify for Excelsior funding depends on how much other student aid they may already be receiving. Students receiving maximum federal and state aid based on their FAFSA filings (TAP, PELL, SEOG, and academic scholarships) will not qualify financially for the scholarship, as



it is not intended to go on top of the maximum aid students are receiving from other sources. Students may also need to pay money out of pocket for food, shelter, and student fees while attending college. For students who have work study, the Excelsior Scholarship does include a "stepping out" provision so that they will be able to pause and restart the work study program.

Students must also meet non-financial requirements to qualify and remain eligible for Excelsior. They must have been New York State residents for at least a year. They must complete 30 credits per year to retain their eligibility, thereby completing 120-credit hours in four years. Finally, Excelsior students are required to work one year in New York State for every year they receive the scholarship. Otherwise, the Excelsior scholarship becomes a student loan that must be repaid.

"I believe, if the government has the resources, why not," said Professor Ola-

jide Oladipo, Chair of the Business and Economics Department. "If they don't have the resources, they would have to look at ways in which they can help. It might not be 100 percent tuition free, but no one is left behind. If we leave anyone behind, I think the government will lose such a person's contributing to the economy. Education is the key and power. We should be in a society where we rise together, will grow together. We are all here because of education."

During the Democratic Primary debate of April 15, 2016, Bernie Sanders' offer of universal free tuition drew huge support. The press and the majority of students were excited by the plan. As stated in the 2016 Annual Report produced by The Institute For College Access And Success, the average undergraduate student faces \$30,100 in debt from loans. This was a four percent increase compared to the previous year. This means students would have to pay \$300 a month over ten years, in order to pay off their loans.

Senator Sanders also wanted to cut student loan interest rates down to 2.37 percent. To provide the funds for the free tuition program, he suggested taking money from the Wall Street speculators who "destroyed the economy." Sanders planned to impose a tax of a fraction of a percent on the speculators. After he lost the nomination, Sanders continued to work with Governor Cuomo as an extension to his original dream.

"What stood out to me was that the scholarship is a tuition-free program that will encourage more students to graduate on time and alleviate the stress of loans or any financing," said Yerusha Salway, from the Central Office of Student Affairs at CUNY. "Its intent is in the right place because it provides an opportunity to middle-class New York students and their families. I think the program is a good strategy that gives light to the American Dream to a student who doesn't have strong backing but has the ambition to succeed."

According to CUNY, full-time undergraduates at community colleges pay \$4,800 per year for tuition, a little

over \$1,500 less than full-time senior college students. But, there was a time when most undergraduate colleges at CUNY were tuition-free. As stated on the CUNY website, tuition was free for qualifying students from 1847 until 1976. An article from The Village Voice reports that tuition was free for full-time students that graduated from high school with at least a B average. In 1976, the tuition-free era ended when students and faculty members organized boycotts and hunger strikes because tuition-free programs only benefited a certain group of students, instead of all students.

“I think it’s great because of the way tuition is now and how many people who can’t afford a higher education would be eligible to go,” said Jeff Hicks, a social work major at York talking about the new free tuition plan. “It will work as long as no one abuses it to the point that others who need it don’t get it; like when CUNY was free, but some didn’t like only the middle class or minorities benefiting from it and tried to use it, causing CUNY to no longer be free.”

While free tuition benefits many CUNY and SUNY students, private colleges raised their concerns that their students might transfer to public colleges because of the plan. A study done by Georgetown University in the Washington, D.C. area, weighed the impact of the plan. It found that this would boost enrollment at public universities by nine to 22 percent. However, private institutions would have an enrollment decrease from 7 to 15 percent.

Currently, only two states, Tennessee and Oregon, offer free tuition. However,

these two states only offer free tuition for community colleges. “I do think it’s a great opportunity and incentive for students who are managing to finish college and work at the same time. It takes the pressure off of them from having to worry about paying their tuition and being dropped from courses,” said Ashley Persaud, psychology major at York College.

Further information about Excelsior Scholarships at CUNY is available at <http://www2.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/excelsior-scholarship-faqs/> ■



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

# York Student Wins CUNY Startups Smart Pitch Competition for Mobile App Invention

York Business major Matthew LeBris is graduating from York College on top of the world, having won one of CUNY’s most coveted awards for its student inventors.

“My team and I came up with a mobile application to revolutionize the way social media marketing gets done,” said Mr. LeBris. “We went through IBM’s ‘Design Thinking’ program, which helped us develop the idea through a problem statement derived from potential users.”



The competition was over a course of four weeks on Saturdays and Sundays. LeBris pitched the idea on Friday, April 21 in front of a panel of judges from IBM, Baruch College’s Small Business Development Center, and CUNY Start-ups.

“We were the first team to present, which had us nervous hearing all the other great ideas,” said LeBris. “We prevailed and were rewarded a \$2,000 cash prize, three-month membership to a co-working space in downtown Manhattan, and automatic entry into CUNY Startups Fall 2017 Startup Accelerator Program.”

LeBris, who transferred to York after graduating with his associate’s degree from Queensborough Community College in Spring of 2015, had planned to attend Baruch College, but was instead directed to York College. At York, he studied Entrepreneurship with a minor in Accounting. He has high praises for his York experience.

“The journey has been nothing short of amazing,” the newly minted graduate said of being a York student. “I have been surrounded by everything a student can ask for—from mentorship to resources. Because of York College, I have landed myself an internship doing Business Development with Daymond John at his marketing and advertising company, “The Shark Group,” that I am looking to turn into a job opportunity. I have been able to live up to my favorite entrepreneurial quote by Gary Vaynerchuck ‘Legacy over Currency,’ by being the President of the Entrepreneurship Club at York for the past year.”

LeBris also explained that “being able to lead great groups of students that share like-minded passions has been everything” he [could ask for].

“I have made countless lifetime friends here at York,” he says. I can’t wait for the day that I achieve the level of success I dream about to be able to give back and continue to create my legacy.” ■

# Information Systems and Technology in Supply Chain Management

On April 25, 2017, Mr. St. Claire Gerald, the founder and principal of Harambee Logistics Solutions, a management consulting firm specializing in operations and supply chain management, addressed the ISM society, discussing the contribution of Information Systems and Information Technology (IT) in supply chain management. Before founding Harambee Logistics Solutions, Mr. Gerald served as Director, Supply Chain Management for Foot Locker Inc. In this capacity, he held a leadership role in developing strategies, processes, and systems for improving the flow of merchandise across all areas of the global and domestic supply chains.

Mr. Gerald described Supply Chain Management (SCM) as all the activities that must take place to get the right product into the right consumer's hands in the right quantity and at the right time – from raw materials extraction to consumer purchase. SCM focuses on planning and forecasting, purchasing, product assembly, moving, storage, distribution, sales and customer service. SCM is involved in every facet of the business process as it strives to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage by building and delivering products better, faster and cheaper. Different areas of SCM include purchasing, logistics, new product development, global sourcing and procurement, quality management, inventory control or traffic

analysis, operations and supplier relationship management.

Owing to competitive pressures and sophisticated customers who are now demanding innovative and speedy solutions, understanding and optimizing business processes is a cornerstone of success. As the internet, email and other technologies have become ubiquitous, the expectations of consumers have grown correspondingly. Today's companies are increasingly global and complex, with competition growing on every front and acquisitions that change business processes taking place with astonishing frequency. With new technologies, skills have become more precise, and the supply chain itself has become increasingly complex, with a broader and more comprehensive base of suppliers. It's clear that monitoring the path of goods using tracks on a map no longer works. Indeed, technology has crept into SCM step by step, beginning with electronic invoic-

ing, computerized shipping and tracking, and automated notifications that were advanced by companies like Amazon, FedEx, and UPS. Initially intended for business-to-business interactions, it took time to bring that level of tracking and accountability to consumers. But even in the early days of SCM, it was clear that the ability to notify everyone along the chain was important. This tracking and accountability can be applied to virtually every link in the supply chain to provide a moment-by-moment snapshot of how goods are moving around the planet.

There are four major areas where SCM technology with notification is helpful:

- **Computerized Shipping and Tracking.** With the aid of modern technologies and web-based software, such as a transportation management system (TMS), businesses can simplify the supply process and dramatically reduce shipping errors. Utilizing systems like TMS, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), and even Customer Relationship Management (CRM) enable organizations to consolidate all aspects of their supply chain in one place. These systems allow businesses to digitally organize inventory data, monitor and manage shipping and tracking information, and create electronic bills of lading or invoices with ease. Through the use of supply chain



Mr. Gerald presenting to the ISM Society



## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

### York Alum Awarded Major Fellowship for PhD Studies

York College alumna, Bianca Regina Brown '15, has been awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship, worth \$138,000 toward her PhD studies at Brown University, to be parsed out over a three-year period.

Working with fruit flies, barnacles and rodents, Brown studies how envi-

ronmental changes affect the microbiome (the microbes that symbiotically live in other creatures, particularly bacteria in the gut). Ms. Brown, who is completing her second year at the Rhode Island-based Ivy League university, was mentored at York by Dr. Elizabeth Alter, an expert in evolutionary genetics,

marine biology, vertebrate biology and ecology, conservation biology and environmental DNA.

Brown, a native of Jamaica, West Indies, was an active undergraduate researcher at York, presenting her findings at Undergraduate Research Day on campus as well as elsewhere. ■



management technologies, organizations can significantly reduce the time spent shipping, receiving, tracking, and compiling order data, which saves companies both time and money. Supply chain technology improves the operational efficiency of the supply chain, and it also greatly enhances the customer experience by providing consumers with the ability to continuously track the status of their orders. Through digitalized tracking, companies can significantly reduce shipping errors and more rapidly respond to the mistakes that do occur.

- **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).** RFID is a vital piece of technology that can provide innumerable benefits to the business owner. RFID chips are placed on every product and provide a way for business owners to easily track their inventory. Due to the increased visibility RFID chips provide, they substantially improve supply chain efficiency by detecting any order anomalies as they occur, enabling employees to immediately correct mistakes. Also, RFID allows for easier and more consistent tracking, enabling business owners to have maximum control and visibility over their products at all times. Since RFID chips provide computerized product management, they can eliminate the potential for errors, simplify the supply chain, and reduce operating costs.
- **Reverse logistics.** Reverse logistics is the process of managing the return of goods, recycling of batteries and other components, disposal of products coming off lease, and the auctioning of those items, etc. When there is a sudden influx of new goods, manufacturers have to offload outdated goods quickly. Notification can help alert a variety of recyclers and other parties at once, allowing them to respond with times they are available to remove redistributed goods.
- **Supply chain execution.** When a delivery arrives, staff has already been notified to be on standby to receive it immediately. If a staff member is not available, it's easy to alert trucks to deliver to an alternative store and

to reroute staff, saving both time and money.

As business complexity and global competition increases and consumer loyalty becomes more tenuous, more and more

companies are exploring SCM technology to gain operational efficiencies. Using technology complemented with a reliable notification solution, they can establish a foundation for consistent leadership and secure a strong competitive edge. ■

## Barbershop Program Features York Talent

By **ALSHANETTE MOODIE**, Journalism Student

On November 21, 2016, The Male Initiative Program/Men's Center hosted an event in the Faculty Dining Room to showcase the musical talents of current and former York College students. Included at this event was an award ceremony to honor people who had contributed to the college community and a discussion from experts about the music industry.

The term "Barbershop" is not what one would expect—it's not about getting paid for haircuts. Sponsored by the Men's Center where Mr. Jonathan Quash is the director, the concept of the Barbershop is simply a monthly forum where both men and women students can discuss any topic. It is an informal setting based upon the cultural dynamic often found in venues like literal barbershops.

The first performance was from Orael Sanchez who sang two songs. She played the piano for one of the original songs and the other was accompanied by a guitar. Jelitza Delgado sang, "Nothing Compares to You," and Steven Pink did a duet with Miya Mayo Bass singing "Beautiful," by singer Mali Music. Bass played the piano while Pink stood up to sing. Alyssa Marie sang two of her original songs as well entitled, "Rock with You" and "Bash his Windows In."

Other performers were Rachel Sharples, Samuel Guilame and Solomon Peck. Guilame sang "Were you There When They Crucified My Lord;" and played piano accompanying an original song "Love Yourself," which gave comic relief and encouragement. Peck, a young father and former student at York sang a song he wrote about a relationship he had with an older woman entitled, "Propinquity." Sharples sang "Unbreak My Heart," mimicking Toni Braxton's

deep sultry voice. Adebayo Fayemi, a senior at York, introduced a trumpeter. Fayemi had a music recital at the Performing Arts Center where he worked last semester.

Success stories were told by Dr. Anthony Andrews, Bryan Graves (lead operator of YC Radio), Warren McCrary (an engineer and musician), and Poet/Comedienne Sheener Bailey.

Professor Andrews told the story of how he met late DJ "Stan the Man" years ago at a fashion show held at York College. Andrews appeared on Stan the Man's radio show where many of the listeners liked Andrews and demanded to keep him on air. At the time, Andrews was running for election as a politician and was also working at York College as the Student Activities assistant director and political science teacher.

Bryan Graves has worked in radio by interning at several radio stations in New York for over 15 years. Graves brings his expertise to YC Radio assisting students with radio shows, public service announcements, school events when they need a DJ to fill in, etc.

Sheener Bailey, the niece of the late entertainer, Pearl Bailey, does poetry accompanied with music. She recently converted to comedy, and she told a few jokes about online dating, Bill Cosby, and "baby daddies." Bailey has worked at McDonald's Gospel Fest, Black Spectrum theater and HB Studios. She performed one of her poems, "Can you Learn to Love Me?" while Alyssa Marie and Miya sang in the background.

Warren McCrary has worked with a variety of celebrities such as Mary J Blige and Kellis. He plays bass and grew up in Jamaica, Queens. ■

# York College, CUNY Celebrates Golden Anniversary



On the evening of May 10 (2017) York College, CUNY celebrated its golden anniversary with a gala at Guastavino's. The honorees were the Catsimatidis family, Icema Gibbs, a Jet Blue founder and executive, and Dr. Ashok Nigalaye, most recently the CEO and Chairman of Epic Pharma.

John Catsimatidis is founder, chairman and CEO of Red Apple Group and several other businesses. Mr. Catsimatidis, a 2013 mayoral candidate in New York, is also the host of a radio talk show, "Cats Roundtable," and publisher of The Hellenic Times, a Manhattan-based publication.

The gala was attended by more than 400 guests, including faculty—both current and retired—students, alumni, Foundation Board members and friends of the college such as the extended Bassin family (wife, children, grandchildren and son-in-law) of the late former president Milton G. Bassin. ABC Television Meteorologist Bill Evans served as emcee for the delightful event. Other guests included former New York Governor David Paterson, political strategist Hank Sheinkopf, PhD, an alumnus of the college, and Judge George Grasso, a Criminal Court justice in the Bronx and also an alumnus of the college.

Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York since 2005, presided over the event with pride.

"A half a century mark is a fitting time to look back on our history—one brimming with success stories in keeping with our mission: 'To enrich lives and enable students to grow as passionate, engaged learners with the confidence to realize their intellectual and human

potential as individuals and global citizens,'" said Dr. Keizs.

Founded in 1966, York opened its doors to the first cohort of students in the fall of 1967 on the campus of Queensborough Community College in Bayside, Queens. The College moved to rented spaces in Jamaica, Queens in 1971 and in 1986, moved to its permanent campus, also in Jamaica.



Dr. Ashok Nigalaye addresses the crowd of more than 400 guests at Guastavino's



VP Shereitte C. Stokes III, President Marcia V. Keizs and Master of Ceremonies Bill Evans



Colin Bobb, Jr. '17, Dianna Rodriguez '17, President Keizs, and Valedictorian Grace Rajendra '17



## York Social Work Major to Pursue Graduate Studies at Columbia University

Durrell Washington, a member of the York College class of 2017, has accepted an offer from Columbia University's School of Social Work.

Mr. Washington came to York College in 2014 with an associate's degree in liberal arts from Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York. He grew up in the South Bronx and played football in community college before "blowing out" his knees.

"Before I blew out my knees my GPA wasn't that high," he said. "But after my surgery and I realized I couldn't play football anymore I thought, *now what? I'm going to have to start getting better grades.*"

Washington, the single father of a three year-old son, says he has received "great family help," throughout his life and educational journey. He describes himself as "first generation everything." He is the first to graduate from high school without having been held back and first to earn college degrees.

In addition to his parents and aunts, Washington credits his York College mentor, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, with helping

him to grow as a scholar and encouraging him to pursue co-curricular engagements to make himself more appealing to graduate schools.



"When my GPA was a 3.0 she took me into her office and told me that it needed to be higher in order to get into the graduate schools I wanted to apply to," said Washington. "She also told me I needed to be active on campus."

He heeded the advice and became vice president of the Social Work Club and member of the Male Initiative Program, served on the York College advisory board for the Master in Social Work program (state approval pending), was inducted into Pi Eta Kappa and started speaking at commencements for the York Early College Academy (YECA), a high school affiliated with the college. He also attended a social work conference in Washington, D.C. in 2016, one of only three undergraduates at the conference (all from York College), which was designed primarily for graduate students.

As for his GPA, that currently stands at an impressive 3.721. At first he had his

sights set on attending graduate school at Hampton University in Virginia or at the University of Pennsylvania, but thought better of it in deference to his toddler son.

"He's young enough where I could have gone, said Washington. "But I asked myself, 'do I really want to be away from him for 10 months?' The answer was 'no.' But I've always wanted to go to Columbia University from when I first visited the campus when I was in junior high school."

So he applied to Columbia, NYU and Fordham University for the one-year program. All three accepted his application and offered him scholarship funds. Columbia's \$18,000 offer was the highest; but he decided to appeal it and they raised their offer to \$24,000.

He says he will also continue going to high schools and encouraging students to be the best they can be.

"The knowledge I get I never want to hold it for myself," said Washington, whose scholarly interest is mass incarceration. Columbia is giving me the opportunity to focus on mass incarceration and policy The people who make the decisions (for the prison system) don't come from where I come from. I also plan to do a PhD and already have a concentration in mind. I want to look at the international prison system. They are different from ours." ■



The Q&A Experience, featuring York's own Music instructors Jonathan Quash and Mark Adams provided live music.

To date, York has graduated more than 27,000 students and counts among its proud alumni, hundreds of physicians, attorneys, educators, nurses, business executives and much more. ■



Chair of the York College Foundation Board Michelle Chow-Tai, the Catsimatidis family and President Keizs

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs>

## Remembering Borough President Helen Marshall

This semester York suffered a great loss with the passing of former Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall. Ms. Marshall, who served as Queens Borough President from 2002 until the end of her third term in December 2013, was a staunch supporter of York's numerous capital projects, including The Cardinal Walk—the walkway that veers off from the 159th Street walk to 160th Street and the Academic Core Building; the Chapel of the Sisters/The Illinois Jacquet Performance; and the state-of-the-art Nursing Lab, complete with simulated patient mannequins, where our nursing students receive realistic training leading to successful careers.

We remember Helen Marshall as having been amongst our borough's most admired women. Starting her working life as a school teacher, Ms. Marshall later became a co-founder of the Langston Hughes Library and was elected to the New York State Assembly, the New York City Council and finally, the Queens Borough Presidency for three four-year

terms. Her love and leadership for the Borough of Queens—its people and its institutions—was expressed in her passionate and unwavering commitment to the borough's parks, libraries, public schools, colleges and universities and more. All were prime targets of her funding support and she took great pride in their accomplishments. ■



The late Helen Marshall (center in orange jacket) at the ribbon-cutting to the Nursing Lab in 2013. Ms. Marshall is joined by York College President Marcia V. Keizs, York administrators and students, local elected officials and others.