

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### FDA Commissioner Hamburg visits York College

President Barack Obama’s FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg paid a commemorative visit to York College for the tenth anniversary of the partnership between York and the FDA, which houses its North Eastern Regional Laboratory on the college’s 50-acre campus.

Her speech, “The New FDA in the Global Age,” was followed by a town hall and poster contest with students in the Academic Core Building.

“When President Obama goes to put someone in high places he goes to the very top,”



**Dr. Hamburg in discussion with York students**

said Congressman Gregory Meeks by way of introducing Hamburg who served as New York City Health Commissioner under then-mayor David Dinkins.

The daughter of two physicians, Dr. Hamburg praised the CUNY College and leaders such as former Congressman Flake and former

Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, who both were in the audience, for their foresight in working with York and the FDA to establish the partnership between the two entities.

“For the past 10 years you have hosted our scientists and researchers on your campus,” said Hamburg. “There is much more we can do together. This partnership is testament to the foresight of [the people who made it happen]. An essential public health agency affects all our lives in very intimate ways.”

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### Freshman wins Math Scholarship

Bebi Rajendra is that rare college student. Only one month into her first semester at York College/CUNY, the Mathematics major was able to nab a \$3,000 scholarship.

Add to that, although she’s just now in her

freshman year of college in the United States, nine of Rajendra’s former students from when she taught in middle school in her native Guyana, are attending CUNY colleges – including one at York.



**President Keizs, Provost Griffith, Profs. Nath and D’Alotto (l.-r.) congratulating scholarship winner Bebi Rajendra (center).**

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#### Special points of interest:

- **Provost Lecture Reflections**
- **Office of Undergraduate Research opens**
- **York Faculty directs Study Abroad program**
- **York Alumnus returns for Guest Lecture**

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## Provost Lecture: Chicanos and Chicanas in Aviation

Identifying and recording the stories of Chicanos and Chicanas who achieved successful careers in the aviation industry is a professional challenge for Dr. Robert Aceves, associate professor of Business & Economics and director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College. His goal is nothing less than to capture and hold a moment in history.

But his oral history research is also a very personal quest, he told colleagues and students at the first Provost Lecture of the Fall 2010 semester on September 20.

Aceves, son of migrant workers, shares many of the qualities he found among his subjects, he said. Among them:

- *Love of airplanes at an early age.* With his family in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley, he saw crop dusters at close hand. He got to sit in an airplane at a local airstrip when he was six. His grandfather asked for permission. It was love at first sight.
- *A commitment to family sacrifice,* especially to give children an education. His parents paid for his first flying

lesson.

- *Determination.* In high school, he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. He became an aircraft mechanic, then a flight engineer and finally a flier and flight instructor. Aceves spent 20 years in the Air Force, saw active duty in the Gulf War and recorded more than 10,000 hours of flying.

- *Support and encouragement from mentors.*

Aceves' Diversity in Aviation research was developed as part of the U.S. Latino and Latina World War II Oral History Project at the University of Texas Libraries. He describes the work as rescuing the lessons of heroes and role models and recognizing their contribution to the history of flight. "By claiming their place as Americans," he said, "they bequeathed a legacy greater than words."

The barriers they faced in the military echo throughout the aviation industry, in part because 75 percent of commercial pilots come from the military.

Aceves set out to identify Chicanos who were and are successful in aviation. Using the techniques of an historian and biographer, he plans to publish his sto-

ries as a textbook and as a children's book. The project has the support from the Air Force, the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum and the Alfred L. and Constance C. Wolf Aviation Foundation.

Approaching his work as "oral history works for underrepresented groups," he said, "you find uncovered angles, especially when few written records exist." Complaining about discrimination in the military would have killed any chance for a career in the air, so most of his subjects found other ways to overcome the taunts and the limited opportunities for advancement.

"The first-person perspective provides an enduring record. It is a living people's testimony of their own experience that is placed in historical context by the researcher," he said. "The variable, of course, is human memory ... We lose historic opportunity as World War II veterans pass away."

From his cohort of 25 subjects, Aceves offered four stories:

**Reynaldo Gallardo** washed airplanes as a teenager, fell in love with flying and became a captain in the mostly

Mexican Esquadron 201 Aztec Eagles during the war. After flight training in Idaho, he was sent to Greenville, Texas. A banner placed across Main Street proclaimed Greenville as "the blackest land and the whitest people." Landlords would not rent to the wives of squadron members. Gallardo eventually flew low across downtown and "took out" the banner. Flying combat missions from a base in the Philippines, he was called "a crazy Mexican" once too often and found himself in a fight with an American pilot. Standing up to the insults broke the tension, he told Aceves.

**Lt. Col. Hector M. Santa-Anna** was the only Latino among 97 cadets in San Antonio. (imagine, Aceves said, a descendant of the Mexican Gen. Santa-Anna training in the shadow of the Alamo). He flew 35 combat missions, participated in the Berlin airlift and worked for NASA as an operations chief. He was 84 when Aceves interviewed him. Life is like flying, he said. You have to lay out a flight path for yourself and stick to it.

## York Anthropology Adjunct Professor publishes new book

*Point of  
Pride*

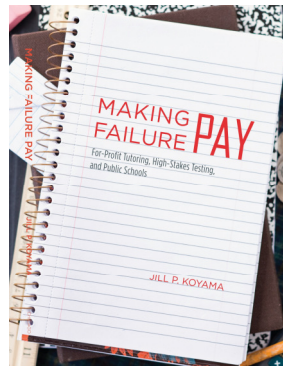
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York Adjunct Anthropology Professor Jill Koyama published a new book, *Making Failure Pay: For-Profit Tutoring, High-Stakes Testing, and Public Schools* (University of Chicago Press) which is the result of three years of fieldwork in the New York City public schools. Dr. Koyama teaches Anth 406 Anthropology and Education online at York. This is an important book for policy planners and by those planning careers in primary and secondary education.

A little-discussed aspect of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is a mandate that requires failing schools to hire after-school tutoring companies – the largest of which are private, for-profit corporations – and to pay them with federal funds. *Making Failure Pay* takes a hard look at the implications of this new blurring of the boundaries between government, schools, and commerce in New York City, the country's largest school district.

As Jill Koyama explains in this revelatory book, NCLB – a federally legislated, state-regulated, district-administered, and school-applied policy – explicitly legitimizes giv-

ing private organizations significant roles in public education. Based on her three years of ethnographic fieldwork, Koyama finds that the results are political, problematic, and highly profitable. Bringing to light these unproven, unregulated private companies' almost invisible partnership with the government, *Making Failure Pay* lays bare the unintended consequences of federal efforts to eliminate school failure – not the least of which is more failure.



Dr. Edmund T. Hamann (University of Nebraska–Lincoln) says “This is a rare and powerful take on the role and work of supplementary educational services. In investigating these services, Koyama has staked out a whole new domain for closer inquiry, successfully convincing us that they deserve scrutiny and often

perpetuate failure. Making Failure Pay should be shared and should inform future research and policy making.”

Dr. Peter Demerath (University of Minnesota) writes: “A riveting and highly disturbing account of the unforeseen effects of NCLB in the New York City Public Schools, *Making Failure Pay* demonstrates the full force of new anthropological approaches to the examination of educational policy. It exposes NCLB’s hidden public-private ‘liaisons’ that enable companies to profit from the provision of substandard and poorly regulated services that perpetuate student failure. Conceptually sophisticated and lucidly written, this book is indispensable reading for educational policy-makers, policy researchers, and all who have a stake in U.S. urban schools.”



Prof. Jill P. Koyama

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Jill P. Koyama is assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

## A Special Journey to China

by Xiaodan Zhang



**Prof. Zhang (l.) and her group of students at Wuhan University**

**My students were able to see a China that is more representative of the country as a whole.**

I visit China once every two or three years to do research or see my family and friends. This summer, however, I went there for the first time to teach, as a faculty director of a study abroad program “Pitt in China”. I led a group of eight undergraduate students from the University of Pittsburgh and spent seven weeks there, mostly in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province in central China. This trip was a very different experience from my previous trips, and I would like to share it with my colleagues in the York community.

“Pitt in China” is co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh (UP) and Wuhan University (WU), founded in 1893 and now one of the top ten in China. The students paid UP tuition for six credits for two courses in six weeks: one course included learning Chinese languages and culture taught by teachers at WU and another is Chinese Political Economy by me. Students’ airfare, boarding and excursion expenditures in China were covered by a scholarship from the Confucian Institute of China, a government-financed NGO. Since China launched its

economic reform in the late 1970s Americans have been awarding scholarships to Chinese students to study in the States, but American students getting scholarships from Chinese is a very recent thing, which says as much about China’s rise as an economic powerhouse as about the country’s desire to be understood by America’s future leaders.

Wuhan, with a population of 9,100,000, is on the bank of the Yangtze River, often referred to as one of the “three furnaces” due to its hot and humid climate during summer. It is one of China’s biggest cities with a long history. About 300 years ago, Wuhan was already one of the top four trading towns. In 1911, the famous “Nationalist Revolution” took place there ending China’s last dynasty and ushering in the modern nation-building that has been in the Communist Party’s hands for the last sixty years.

Under Communism, the city has kept its reputation as one of China’s earliest industrialized bases as well as a center of science, technology and education in the region. Currently, for ex-

ample, France alone has about fifty conglomerates investing there. Despite its geographic, economic and political importance, Wuhan, in the reform era since the 1980s, has been falling significantly behind coastal cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou. There are plenty of skyscrapers and large shopping malls, but under all the shining neon lights lies the seamy side of a third-world city: pigeon-hole apartment buildings, polluted air and waters, and migrant workers eking out a living below the poverty line.

My students, witnessing these problems firsthand, were able to see a China that is more representative of the country as a whole. In cafeterias and on streets, they had a chance to interact with average Chinese, from middle-class students to poor migrant workers from all over China. People’s daily struggle with poverty reveals to them how a huge population competes for very limited resources, and how the regional and class disparities effect a dangerous imbalance in a country that has seen more than its share of sociopolitical calamities for the last 150 years.

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## Two Geology Adjunct Professors on Research Missions

With the grant from York, Geology instructor Robert Alvey traveled to Montana where he participated in a paleologic excavation through the Judith River Dinosaur Institute.

During the excursion, he worked with a team to help unearth fossil remains of a stegosaurus as well as a sauropod from the Upper Jurassic period of time. The conditions were demanding as the group lived in tents and was battered by occasional thunderstorms.

The results of a field investigation by Dawn Roberts-Semple, adjunct professor of geology, were presented at the fifth International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (ICEST), sponsored by the American Academy of Sciences (AAS) from July 12-16, 2010 in Houston, Texas.

The research fulfilled a major objective in geoscience and put into perspective, the core purpose of the Geology 110 course taught: a study of the earth environment and its relationship to human affairs. The findings of

The recovered fossils were brought back to a laboratory and Alvey helped with some of the clean-up and preparation of the samples. He then went across the state driving and backpacking to attempt to locate an outcrop marking the end of the age of dinosaurs, did some research at the Museum of the Rockies, and was able find and collect samples of the "Z-coal" that formed at the extinction event when a giant bolide (meteor) crashed into the planet 65 million

the study will further enhance the course content, especially understanding of the geologist's role in the proper planning for use of earth resources and the maintenance of the quality of the environment. The knowledge gained will be incorporated into the curriculum for instruction in the classroom and for future field applications. In addition, a paper written on this study is currently under review for publication in a scientific journal.

As focus of the project, the relationship between local meteorological con-

ditions and air pollution was assessed as a plausible explanation for respiratory health problems in Newark, New Jersey on the US east coast. From August to October 2009, a total of 184 samples of particulate matter (PM) with an aerodynamic diameter of  $\leq 2.5\mu\text{m}$  ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ) and  $2.5\text{-}10\mu\text{m}$  ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) were collected at Rutgers University, downtown Newark. Samples were collected at 24-hour intervals with a Partisol Dichotomous Air Sampler mounted on the roof of a building at ~20 m above the ground.

years ago causing catastrophic damage and climate change. Based on some of his research, Alvey believes a section of the meteor broke off before impact and actually landed in Montana.

In addition to being an instructor at York, Alvey is a geologist with the USEPA's Superfund program and current head of the EPA's Ground Water Forum scientists.



**Prof. Robert Alvey**



**Prof. Dawn Roberts-Semple**

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Simultaneous collection of meteorological data, primarily temperature and wind speed, was made with the Davis Vantage Pro2 Unit, also mounted on the sampler platform. Maximum 24-hour ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) values and daily total respiratory hospital admissions obtained from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Saint Michael's Medical Center, respectively, were incorporated into the data analyses.

Particulate matter and O<sub>3</sub> originate both from natural and anthropogenic sources; naturally, PM is derived from earth materials such as volcanic dust and mining, and O<sub>3</sub> is produced from chemical reactions of molecular

oxygen in the stratosphere. In urban areas, however, fossil fuel combustion for transportation and electricity generation produces thousands of tons of primary pollutants that transform into fine aerosols and O<sub>3</sub> on a larger scale in the atmosphere. The generation of secondary pollutants seriously degrades local air quality and poses a threat to public health.

The burning of fossil fuels has gained increasing attention among environmental geologists and in the wider scientific community, partly due to its impact on the deterioration of the environment but especially due to the production and adverse health effects of ambient air pollutants.

The results from this pilot study demonstrated a positive association between O<sub>3</sub>, PM and hospital admissions, suggesting that exposure to these ambient air pollutants, even at levels below the current EPA standards, may be associated with increased risk for respiratory illnesses.

The study contributes to a fundamental understanding of the key characteristics of the meteorological parameters (primarily temperature and wind speed) and anthropogenic factors that influence the levels of ambient PM and O<sub>3</sub> and the potential risk to public health in urban areas.

**PROVOST LECTURE****“Women’s Empowerment and the ‘New Immigration’: York’s VITA Program”**

**Prof. Robert Clovey** (Dept. of Accounting & Finance, School of Business & Information Systems)

**Dr. Michael Flynn** (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences)

**Dr. Fabiola F. Salek** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, School of Arts & Sciences)

**December 2, 2010****Rm. 2M04, 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

This presentation will draw from a phenomenological, interview-based study of the experiences of thirty Caribbean and Hispanic immigrant women. Additionally, a quantitative survey-based study (400 surveys) measuring attitudes on women's empowerment has been conducted. All research subjects filed their 2010 federal and state income taxes at York's VITA program (the presentation will also include a discussion of York's Vita Program). This research project describes these women's assimilation and acculturation experiences, familial economic decision-making, and attitudes toward the "American Dream."

## Provost Lecture: On Star Formation

On October 21, 2010, Dr. Timothy Paglione delivered a presentation at the Provost Lecture Series, titled “Star Formation from One End of the Spectrum to the Other.”

Dr. Paglione is concerned with massive stars, in general, and with star-forming galaxies, in particular. He described both of these entities.

Massive stars are about three times the size of our sun, their birth and death are “instantaneous,” they “live fast, are hot and bright” and they break up, alter and churn parent clouds of gas and dust. Massive stars “die young and energetically.” The explosion of a massive star results in a supernova. Dr. Paglione used props to demonstrate a super nova and its effects and stated that super novas enrich the stellar environment with heavy elements and that their effect on galaxies is “immediate and profound.”

Star-forming galaxies are huge expanses of space containing stars and molecular gas and dust. They are particularly rich in molecular gas and dust from which massive stars are being continuously formed. These galaxies give off radio and far-infrared waves. The entire nucleus of such a gal-

axy is “engaged” in star formation and star destruction and it emanates great amounts of energized rays. An example of a star-forming galaxy is NGC253 which Dr. Paglione studies. Dr. Paglione explained that NGC 253 gives off various types of rays, including radio, infrared, optical and X-rays.

Dr. Paglione referred to the launch of the EGRET Telescope into space which was followed by the launch of the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. Fermi was launched in 2008 and gives much better pictures than did EGRET. Dr. Paglione worked with a York student in analyzing data from Fermi. Because of the way the telescope scans the North Pole and then the South Pole, the data are difficult to read. Nevertheless, Dr. Paglione and his student were able to obtain starburst results.

Dr. Paglione has developed a model for the processes of star-forming galaxies and found that his model fit the data for NGC253; this is a major accomplishment. His model includes a “pion bump” which indicates that the cosmic rays may be acting differently from what would be expected; this is an important find-

ing.

Dr. Paglione also referred to his study of NGC 4945, the next brightest starburst after NGC253 and M82. He has found that the starburst is not entirely responsible for the gamma ray emission; thus, this galaxy is still a mystery.

Dr. Paglione summed up his presentation by stating that cosmic rays from massive star formations comprise emissions across the entire electromagnetic spectrum, including optical rays, radio waves, FIR processed radiation and gamma rays; and that gamma rays depend on all other rays.

There was much interest in the presentation and many questions were asked; two examples are:

Question: How is the study of astronomy organized? Answer: There are three branches: theory, observation, experiment; and by the specific part of the electromagnetic spectrum studied. Dr. Paglione studies star formation by studying gamma rays.

Question: Are we made of cosmic matter? Answer: We are made of cosmic starburst; reference to Carl Sagan’s statement, “We are all star stuff.”



Prof. Timothy Paglione



**“The Department is pleased that Bebi has been selected for this prestigious award. We have high hopes for her future here at York and beyond.”**

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Rajendra taught integrated science and mathematics “back home” in both public and Muslim schools before coming to the United States four and a half years ago.

The mother of three, whose husband is a New York City school teacher, “kept bugging the Scholarship Center” at York for a scholarship for which she would qualify to apply. She’s grateful for their patience and surprised they “didn’t walk the other way when they saw me coming.”

As a non-American citizen Rajendra does not qualify for Thurgood Marshall and many other scholarships available to American citizens. The Office had to find an opportunity which had no citizenship qualifier.

And then the Math Department found one.

“Professor (Rishi) Nath came across this scholarship and sent it to the Scholarship Center,” Rajendra explained of her stroke of good fortune. “I didn’t have to be a citizen to qualify. And I haven’t even taken a class with Professor Nath yet.”

The American Mathematical Society (AMS Awards), “the nation’s largest mathematical organization,” are intent to help talented students pursue their undergraduate studies in mathematics. The scholarships are

funded by a bequest from the estate of Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliet Trjitzinsky.

With York being an AMS member and Rajendra being a declared Math major the stage was set for this match-made-in-heaven event.

Nath explained how it happened.

“Last spring, our Department chair, Professor Lou D’Alotto, received notice from the AMS that York had been selected for a Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky Award,” he recounted.

“He then asked me to form a committee to advertise and evaluate potential candidates. Professors Farley Mawyer and Linda Gonzalez joined me in putting out a call to various sections of the York community. Although there were several worthy candidates, we agreed that Bebi’s application was the most compelling. As part of her award she will be joining the Tensor Scholars, a York group designed to combat the underrepresentation of women in mathematics.”

Professor Nath further explained that Rajendra will also be encouraged to find a mentor with whom she can conduct an undergraduate research project to showcase at [York’s] annual Student Research Day.

“The Department is

pleased that Bebi Rajendra has been selected for this prestigious award,” said Nath. “[We] have high hopes for her future here at York and beyond.”

“Persistence paid off,” said Rajendra. “I’m just very grateful to everyone.”

The \$3,000 check was presented to the young mathematician during the opening celebration for the Office of Undergraduate Research (Room 3E07b), for which Professor Nath is the director.

Rajendra will in turn “pay it forward,” by resuming what she did in Guyana, here in the United States – teaching.

Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky was born in Russia in 1901 and received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1926. He taught at a number of institutions before taking a position at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he remained for the rest of his professional life. He showed particular concern for students of mathematics and in some cases made personal efforts to ensure that financial considerations would not hinder their studies. Trjitzinsky was the author of about sixty mathematics papers. A member of the AMS for 46 years, he died in 1973.



## Pre-Law Happenings ...

This year, York will provide a new civil court internship opportunity, courtesy of York alumnus Judge Jeremy Weinstein. Through the auspices of Judge Weinstein's office, students will be paired with individual justices and judges in such areas as malpractice, family, foreclosure, etc. as well as in the Office of Pro Se, helping people understand the process if they want to represent themselves in court.

Earlier this year, pre-law students visited Queens Criminal Court. Students met with court officers, visited arraignments and sat in on a trial. Afterwards, the students were treated to a private session with York's own Adjunct Professor of Political Science, New York State Supreme Court Justice William Erlbaum, and his colleague New York State Supreme Court Justice Daniel Lewis.

Justices Erlbaum and Lewis explained how they became judges and spoke about the role of the courts in the US. The students were able to pose questions about how to become attorneys and opportunities within the law.

Students from all majors were invited by the Queens County Bar Association to join their group for a visit to meet Albany lawmakers and get to see state government close up. The students boarded busses early in the morning and shared seats with judges, prosecutors, defense and a spectrum of other attorneys. They were hosted throughout the day by the Bar Association.

One of our students, Eva Aquino, described her trip to meet law makers as "My time at Albany was so amazing! We went to the Court of Appeal, the Senate room, the Assembly and the blue room etc., met so many people like Supreme Court Justice Lewis, Lieutenant Governor-Richard Ravitch, Counsel to the Governor Peter J. Keirman, Chairman of the Insurance (Department) James J. Wryn, and the list goes on. We were going to meet the governor but we didn't have time."

We hope to be able to send more students on trips to meet law makers in this coming year.

We are beginning to recruit students for the summer Ronald H. Brown Summer Pre-Law

Preparatory Program at St. John's. This program is intended for minority and first generation college students to prepare them for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and the admissions process for law school and eventually, the rigors of law school and a legal career.

Students experience simulated law school classes on St. John's campus over the summer with St. John's faculty and then have internships with judges, district attorneys and private law firms.

If you have an outstanding student, from any major, who is interested in law, please contact Prof. Robin Harper (Department of Behavioral Sciences) and encourage the student to apply to the Ron Brown program. (Applications will be posted on the Behavioral Sciences Pre-Law webpage.)



**York student Eva Aquino and Supreme Court Justice Lewis**

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The students' experiences aroused their compassion and humanitarian concerns. One of the students told me that after being in China for two weeks, he concluded that China is still a developing country. Students also observed how the consumer culture, a new fad in China, has shaped the younger generation, and wondered aloud why young Chinese at once embrace certain American values and a fierce brand of nationalism.

Seeing American brand names everywhere in China's giant shopping malls and fancy boutiques, just as we see "Made-in-China" labels everywhere here, the students now have a different view on the trade deficit between the two countries and understand that China is not the only beneficiary of the high volume trade.

I should include a note here about teaching a political economy course on China. I had taught similar courses before; but teaching the course in China gave me a strong sense of relevance, perhaps because students can incorporate their own observation into class discussion, making it more engaging

or even intriguing. For example, when we discussed the "guanxi" (social network) phenomenon and gift economy in today's China, students shared the confusion and curiosity that they got from their interaction with Chinese. One student asked why a Chinese student they just met gave everyone a small book as a gift: how could the gift-giver be so nice without a hidden agenda? Another student was puzzled over that a Chinese student let her professors, instead of herself, choose her major for her.



Yangshuo, China

There were many "unthinkable things" since the students' only reference was their life experience and behavioral norms in the United States. These kinds of questions enabled us to see through the surface and explore the complexity of the "guanxi" phenomenon, especially in comparison with the "network" and gift giving practice in the U.S.

Through comparing scholarly research and journalist reports with their own observations, students developed their own critical views on China, replacing the often simplistic "China image" that they got from the Western media. For their final paper, students were able to "contextualize China" both in theoretical and personal terms, allowing them from a new perspective to reexamine issues such as the "China-threat", the trade deficit, the Chinese authoritarian state, human rights in relation to the family planning, and the consumer culture that is taking shape along with the enduring Chinese tradition.

I shared their enthusiasm throughout the course and truly enjoyed our productive intellectual exchanges.

While students were awed by their new experience in a country that bears few similarities to the U.S., I was caught by many unexpected happenings there as well. The first challenge was the regional food, well known for its tongue-searing spicy noodles and duck's necks. Students had a hard time with hot and

greasy dishes there. Almost everyone, including myself, had digestive issues in the beginning.

Less than a week before returning to the States, the students invited me on a two-hour bus ride to a restaurant, Hawaiian style, in the French district, for a dinner of spaghetti and peanut butter sandwiches.

Although I know the power of the so-called "acquired taste" and still remember my own embarrassment for not being able to distinguish the difference between salad dressing and tartar sauce when I just arrived in New York years ago, I did not anticipate their bodies' resistance to local food. Their health became one of my primary concerns.

For most students, this trip is either the very first trip abroad or the first time abroad without their parents. I found that helping them overcome all the difficulties, language barrier included, is an indispensable duty as a director of the study abroad program. Through the process, they learned their own potential in dealing with fear and frustration living in a completely new environment.

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The program had a few glitches. For example, students came to me to complain that some of the courses taught by the WU graduate student instructors treated the students like elementary school children – one session they were taught paper cutting. Through working with the WU instructors to improve the quality of their teaching, I found that the problem was not about the instructors' lack of preparation or knowledge but their teaching philosophy and pedagogy. They tended to give overwhelmingly detailed information without giving much analysis of the information by asking challenging “why” questions. I was glad that I had a chance to share with WU instructors the training and experience I have gained in the American higher education institutions.

Another problem was

about some undesirable excursions to tourist attractions mostly outside Wuhan as part of the program scheduled by travel agencies. Understandably, the primary concern for travel agencies is to turn in profits. This is obviously different from my goal of providing students more opportunities to meet Chinese people. My negotiations with the tour guides won us some free time to do things other than those a tourist often does.

An improvised visit to the home of a friend of mine in Shanghai, for example, proved that for students to socialize with people is as important as their classroom learning while in a foreign country. Through these direct interactions, students all felt that Chinese people are friendly, curious about America and eager to know more about American people, even though sometimes

the curiosity manifested itself in an awkward manner. By communicating directly with average people, students came to the conclusion that China is more of a partner to the U.S. than an enemy.



Wuhan, China

As a self-claimed New Yorker in this increasingly globalized age, I almost took for granted that people understand and respect cultural differences. I learned from this study abroad program that the sensitivity of cultural differences, though important, does not always automatically remove actual barriers between cultures. Even as a person with the experience of living in two different societies, I was

not able to give satisfactory answers to all the questions from both my American students and their Chinese counterparts (e.g. I was asked by a few Chinese why the male American students did not help their female classmates carry their luggage – “are they supposed to act as ‘gentlemen’?” they were bewildered since most of them thought that Chinese men learned how to serve ladies as a code of behavior from the west).

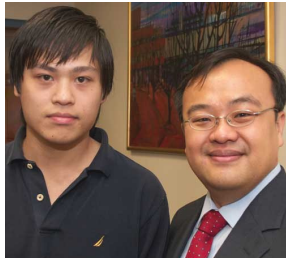
However, this kind of challenge makes me more aware of how important it is to continuously know more about specific historical and social contexts. It also makes the trip more interesting and fruitful.

**Acknowledgement:** I thank my colleagues in the Social Sciences Department for suggesting that I write this article and Dr. Vicki Ashton for her comments on the early drafts.

**Application forms for the Provost Lecture Series can now be filled out online at:**

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/provost-lecture-series-1/proposal-application>

## The [York College] World According to GARP



York student Yiu Wong (l.) and Prof. Hsu

**“Yiu Wong’s scholarship puts our new School of Business & Information Systems in the right kind of company.”**

**Dean Harry Rosen**

**B**usiness major, Yiu Wong, may be a new American, but his scholarship has put York College on the map as a player among an international list of colleges and universities.

Wong, an upper junior in York’s School of Business and Information Systems, applied to the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP) for their scholarship award to business majors with interest in risk management.

To his delight and that of his mentor, Professor Chun-Pin Hsu, the future businessman received the scholarship, modest in figure (under \$500) but monumental in value.

Professor Hsu introduced the Financial Risk Manager (FRM) program as an exam and professional certificate program to his students and Wong was immediately interested.

“I think Yiu is the right person for [a career in] financial risk management,” said Hsu, a native of Taiwan, who embarked on his York career in Fall 2009. “I used to work in the industry and I know his

personality is the right fit for this profession.”

Wong for his part is glad he chose York.

“York is a really a diverse place,” said the young scholar, who will graduate about a year early from York for having earned an extra 15 credits by taking the College-level Proficiency Examination, last summer. “And you get the professors’ attention all the time. The professors here are very good. Their attitude is better than at other places.”

Dr. Harry Rosen, Dean of the School of Business and Information Systems agrees.

“One of the reasons we hired my young colleague, Chun-Pin Hsu, was his energy level, and his comfort in working with undergraduates, Dr. Rosen explained. “Even though he is only in his first year at York, he has taken the initiative to sponsor and promote co-curricular events, and act as the advisor to student clubs. His mentorship of Yiu Wong fits the pattern Chun-Pin established from day one.”

And Dean Rosen sees the GARP association as a coup for York.

“The quality of the other business schools

whose students received the award is an indication of their respect for GARP,” said Rosen. “This means that Yiu Wong’s scholarship puts our new School of Business & Information Systems in the right kind of company.”

Rosen further explained that this latest development is setting the right course for the School of Business.

“We are pleased to see that York’s general approach to teaching finance qualified Yiu Wong for the GARP scholarship that recognizes capability in a specialized area within the finance discipline,” he said. “But this scholarship suggests that, as we continue to develop our finance curriculum, we may want to pay more specific attention to financial risk management.”

York is now on the same list (GARP) as Fordham University, University of Michigan; Australian School of Business, UNSW; George Washington University; Indian University of Technology, University of Maryland, HEC Paris, and the National University of Singapore, among others.





## York Faculty Update

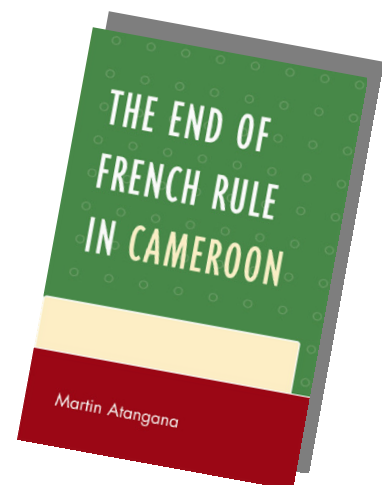


- Dr. **Marguerite Schneider** (Dept. of Business & Economics) presented a paper “‘Too big to fail’ in the U.S. Commercial Banking Industry: Re-Calibrating Corporate Governance Mechanisms to Reduce the Risk of Failure” at the Conference “Corporate Governance & the Global Financial Crisis” held at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, September 24-25, 2010. The paper is authored by Dr. Schneider, Fariborz Damanpour of Rutgers U. and J. Daniel Wischnevesky of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Dr. Schneider also moderated the session in which the paper was presented.
- Dr. **Lindamichelle Baron** (Dept. of Teacher Education) was presented an award by the Nassau reading Council for being “A Friend of Literacy for All Children.”
- On Thursday, August 19, 2010, Dr. **Roberto Calderin** (Dept. of Teacher Education) was the recipient of a special recognition award from the New York League of Puerto Rican Women for his career achievement and outstanding service to the Hispanic community.
- Dr. **Sarah Kate Gillespie** (Dept. of Fine & Performing Arts) was recently awarded a one-month Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship from the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. She was the designated fellow in Visual Culture, and was in residence in Philadelphia in July 2010. While in residence, she conducted research on her book manuscript, “‘One Thing New Under the Sun’: The Cross-Currents of Art, Science and Technology in the Early American Daguerreotype, 1839-51.”

## New Book by York Professor!

*The End of French Rule in Cameroon* is a study of the decolonization movement in the West-African country of Cameroon. In the book, Prof. Martin Atangana (Department of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences) analyzes the reforms introduced by France in Cameroon after World War II, the circumstances surrounding the unsuccessful attempt of the UPC to seize independence by force, and the subsequent eradication of this party by an alliance of Franco-Cameroonian forces.

The book shows the length that the French were prepared to go in order to leave Cameroon in the hands of a government that would be sympathetic to their interests. The research is based upon documents found in Cameroon, France, and the United States. It will expand the existing limited literature in English on the historiography of Cameroon and will also be useful for instructors teaching courses related to modern and contemporary Africa in general and decolonization in (French) black Africa in particular, as well as all interested in these subjects.





**York College President Dr. Marcia V. Keizs and FDA Commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg**



**Congressman Gregory Meeks in conversation with Dr. Hamburg**



**Prof. Chakravarti (2nd from left) and Dr. Hamburg with students at the FDA Building**

cont.'d from p.1

Hamburg elucidated the meaning of partnering with York in the era of the shrinking world.

“We live in an increasingly globalized world and there is need for [local and] international collaboration and the sharing of comprehensive support,” she said.

Hamburg who is a graduate of Harvard University Medical School, revealed that under her tenure, tobacco products will now be regulated for the very first time as well.

“We will make it an agency that Americans can trust,” she said. “As a public health agency we must balance risks and benefits. We must find meaningful and sustained solutions.”

The Commissioner added that after 10 years at York the time is now ripe for the agency to expand the partnership with the College.

“Centers of excellence in regulatory science are most likely housed in academic settings,” she said. We will find new ways to develop new approaches.”

Members of York’s science faculty have long enjoyed a collaborative relationship with the FDA on campus and some FDA scientists have also enjoyed adjunct status at the College.

And students are an integral part of the equation. There is an FDA Scholarship program, which allows for York scholars with interest in chemistry and biology to intern at the facility. Some graduates have been hired there and many others have gone on to medical and Ph.D. programs. One former intern, Alonza Cruse is now district director, FDA, Los Angeles.

Hamburg views York’s proximity to JFK Airport as an opportunity whose time has come for the FDA to exploit. She envisions an even richer relationship with York, given its strong science programs, its many excellent faculty doing cutting-edge research with students, and the willingness of President Marcia V. Keizs and her admini-

stration to explore the possibilities.

FDA-regulated products, according to Hamburg, are currently being brought in from more than 150 countries from 300,000 foreign facilities. According to the Commissioner, about 80 percent of sea food consumed by Americans “comes from outside our borders.”

She also disclosed that about 80 percent of aspirins used in the United States are imported from China. Because of the dramatic increase in imported consumable goods, the FDA has had to extend its own reach into Asia, Africa, Europe and nations in the Americas.

President Keizs was delighted at the Hamburg presentation and the potential for an expanded partnership.

“She was our most significant guest this year,” said Keizs. “It is important to the stakes that we are claiming.”

## York Poli Sci students visit the Schomburg Center ...

On October 27, 2010, Dr. Michael Sharpe and students from his new course Advanced Topics in Political Science (Pol 311): *Life in Debt: the Politics of the Caribbean* went to Harlem for a presentation by senior librarian Ms. Alison Quammie on how to do research at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Dr. Sharpe arranged and planned this trip both to show students some of the resources available for doing the research for their class presentations and research papers, and to expose them to the wonderful world of the Schomburg Center located in historic Harlem.

At the end of the evening, Dr. Sharpe and his students had the pleasure of meeting Schomburg Director Dr. Howard Dodson (see picture), who, at the invitation of Professor Valerie Anderson, English, had spoken at a York African American Resource Center event on October 13, 2010.



**Prof. Sharpe (r.) and his students at the Schomburg Center. Also in the picture, the Center Director, Dr. Howard Dodson (l.).**

## ... and Fine Arts students the Museum of Modern Art

Professor Sarah Gillespie and her 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art class visited the Museum of Modern Art on April 20, 2010. Each student in this class has been working on a semester-long research project on a late 20<sup>th</sup> century artist. In the Print Room of the Museum, Curatorial Assistant Emily Talbot pulled prints, sculptures, and other objects from the Museum's collection that related to each student's chosen research topic.

This was a rare opportunity for the students to closely examine, in person, works by the artists they've been studying. The students were also treated to a private tour of the exhibition "Picasso: Themes and Variations" (the museum was closed to the public that day).



**Prof. Gillespie's class in the MOMA Print Room**



**Prof. Gillespie (r.) explaining paintings to her class**



Numerous students attended Dr. Aceves' lecture

cont.'d from p.2

In elementary school, **Enrique “Hank” Cervantes** was inspired by reading about Charles Lindbergh's flight. Rejected by a Navy flight school, he said, because he was a Mexican, he resolved to prove the bigots wrong. He passed the Army pilot test, but discrimination – the constant slurs and comments – nearly pushed him off his dream. Although he flew 25 missions over Germany and was a decorated pilot, he told Aceves, younger officers did not want to take his orders. His message: Don't be reluctant to admit your ethnic background. Learn to speak Spanish well and be proud of who you are.

NASA's first Hispanic Astronaut **Jose Moreno Hernandez** was born in a migrant worker camp in California and did not learn to speak English until he was 12. Already an accomplished engineer, he received 11 rejection notices from NASA before he was admitted to training. It took him eight years to be placed on a Shuttle mission. He flew on the Discovery to the International Space Station, a mission covering 217 orbits of the Earth and more than 5.7 million miles.

His research suggests that barriers exist even today. Hernandez the astronaut could not get into the Spacelab pro-

gram, so he and his wife manage a small Mexican restaurant outside the NASA headquarters. It's called *Tierra Luna Grill*, which is Spanish for Earth Moon Grill. “If you're a white male in charge, what is the benefit of diversity,” Aceves asked.

Aceves said that the mentoring relationship is one important way to help young people over those barriers. “It opens doors for students when they know you believe in them,” he said. Make the most of your opportunities, he tells students, even in an industry that you know discriminates.

## York Professor interviews acclaimed Italian author



Prof. Ghelli and Roberto Saviano (l.)

**Professor Samuel Ghelli** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities, School of Arts & Sciences), after many months of difficult arrangements, this summer in Rome, had the chance to personally meet and interview Roberto Saviano, the well known author of *Gomorrah*.

Roberto Saviano is currently one of the most famous and read Italian writers in Italy and abroad. Since he published his first book *Go-*

*morrah*, where he describes the clandestine particulars of the Camorra business, Saviano has been threatened by several Neapolitan “godfathers” and is forced to live under protective custody, to move from one place to another in order not to become an easy target.

Roberto Saviano writes for the most prestigious newspapers around the world (*New York Times* and *Washington Post* in America);

he collaborates with cinema, theater, TV productions; he recently published *La Bellezza e l'Inferno*, which will be available next fall in the U.S. with the title of *Beautiful and Damned*;

Professor Ghelli was probably the first scholar in the United States who has had the opportunity to have a conversation which lasted two hours about literature, journalism, cinema and Saviano's personal belief in the power of the words.



## “Bright Idea” Wins Award For York Professor

Business professor Marguerite Schneider is new to York College but not new to accomplishments.

She arrived at York at the start of the 2010 academic year as Acting Department Chair and Associate Professor of the Business and Economics Department in the School of Business & Information Systems. Very shortly thereafter, she received news from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, from which she is on leave, that she had been chosen for a “Bright Idea Award in Business.”

The award is a joint effort by the New Jersey Policy Research Organization (NJPRO), Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University and *New Jersey Business Magazine*.

Dr. Schneider was selected for the honor based on her paper, with Fariborz Damanpour of Rutgers University, “Characteristics of Innovation and Adoption in Public Organizations: Assessing the Role of Managers.” The article was published in *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*,

one of the top peer-reviewed journals in the field of public administration. This is the second time in seven years that she has received the award for her scholarship in business management.



**Dr. Marguerite Schneider**

“Marguerite has been interested in the management of innovation in public sector organizations and has published articles on that topic,” said Dr. Harry Rosen, Dean of the School of Business and Information Systems. “She enjoys a national reputation for her scholarship in corporate accountability and we are pleased that our colleagues at the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall recognize Professor Schneider’s work as a ‘Bright Idea,’ extending York’s reputation to the academic business community, at least across the

Hudson River.”

Schneider’s manuscript was among 130 submissions from business faculty from institutions across New Jersey. Hers was one of 10 selected for the prize.

“This study develops hypotheses regarding direct and moderating variables of the relationship between innovation characteristics, manager characteristics, and innovation adoption in public organizations,” she says in the abstract of the 28-page document.

The professor and her colleague “tested the hypotheses using survey data on the adoption of 25 innovations in 725 local governments in the United States and data from a panel of experts.”

They found that the personal characteristics of local government managers, orientation toward new ways of thinking about their work, and a liberal politician orientation, were positively related with the adoption of administrative innovations. This, according to Schneider, is really the contribution of the study.

They also found that decentralization, or having a council-based form

of government, encouraged innovation adoption, as did size and economic well-being of the county or city. Urban local governments tended to be more innovative than suburban rural ones.

And Dr. Schneider’s plan for the Department reflects Rosen’s opinion of her expertise.

“I am working to assist Dean Rosen to enhance the Business curriculum to modernize it to reflect current business concerns now,” she said. “There are national needs that need to be addressed now. It’s a moral imperative. Government and Business need to work together for the good of the society. And it is necessary that we produce well-trained business professionals who are characterized by humility and hard work, not hubris.”

Schneider, who has published and presented prolifically in her field, added that it is important to teach not only traditional “large corporation” business, but to prepare students for the new market place.

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## Office of Undergraduate Research Launched

To judge from the opening-day audience that filled York College's new Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and spilled into the hallway of the Academic Core Building's 3D corridor, the idea has been popularly established that students at York should have the opportunity to do first-rate academic research.



**Dr. Nath in the newly launched Office of Undergraduate Research**

The October 30 ribbon-cutting at Room 3D07b provides a space for York scholars to take the relationship between faculty mentors and undergraduates to the next level, says the office's first director, Dr. Rishi Nath, of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the School of Arts and Sciences.

"The office is a place where students can meet with their faculty mentors and where research can be shaped and presented," Dr. Nath says.

"Researchers can meet to discuss interdisciplinary grant applications and to do strategic planning around institutional research initiatives."

According to Dr. Nath, the commitment began by Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith – which led to the first Student Research Day last April – and expands research opportunities for students, provides one-on-one relationships with faculty members and helps emphasize the role of academic inquiry in the intellectual life of the campus.

"It makes research the third R," said Prof. Nath.

The office is open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Faculty interested in meeting students or using the room as a research base should send a note to: [uresearch@york.cuny.edu](mailto:uresearch@york.cuny.edu) or call x2812.

OUR is represented on the York College Web site, too. Plans for the web include research blogs from faculty and students and an in-depth look at the construction of a research poster. The site could also serve as an archive for Student Research Day findings. The page will be found

at [york.cuny.edu/uresearch](http://york.cuny.edu/uresearch).

Dr. Nath is preparing to issue a call for papers, posters and projects to be presented at the second annual Student Research Day, April 14, 2011. He also represents York College in activities of the national Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR).

The Office of Undergraduate Research also plans a series of lectures, seminars and multimedia events between now and April.

A new Research Conversations Series kicks off Nov. 16 with Provost Griffith speaking on "Punishment and Crime in the Caribbean." Dr. Griffith is an internationally recognized scholar on security issues in the Caribbean.

In December, Dr. Martin Atangana, Associate Professor in the History and Philosophy department, will present a multimedia introduction to Fela Kuti, the Nigerian musician, civil rights activist and pioneer of Afrobeat music whose life is portrayed in "Fela" on Broadway. Dr. Atangana has an international reputation as an African guitarist and leader of the group Afri-

can Blue Notes.



**An enthusiastic audience witnessed the launch**

To encourage participation in undergraduate research activities, Dr. Nath has recruited a faculty advisory committee representing a variety of disciplines: Basdeo Mangru, History & Philosophy; Ivica Arsov, Biology; Mande Holford, Chemistry; Nazrul Khandaker, Earth & Physical Sciences; Mychel Namphy, English; Rahnuma Ahsan, Accounting & Finance; Samuel Ghelli, Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities; Xin Bai, Teacher Education; Beth Rosenthal, Social Sciences; Nicholas Grosskopf, Health & Physical Education; Ali Sadighian, Business and Economics; Robert Duncan, Behavioral Sciences; Shawn Williams, Health Professions, and Tom Marion, Performing & Fine Arts. Orando Simpson, a Mathematics and Computer Science undergraduate, serves as the office's student assistant.

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## York Students Recognized in National Competition

Five York College students in Mark Schuller's "Intro to Anthropology" class, Debora Toussaint, Kevin Ramratan, Karla Sanchez, Maria Lovita, and Christina Torres, won the Public Anthropology Award. The students participated in Public Anthropology's Fall 2010 Community Action Project. The competition involved over 4,000 students from 21 schools across North America using a special software program to draw students together into an intellectual community.

Dr. Rob Borofsky, founder of the project, states "Prof. Schuller is to be commended for how he takes classroom knowledge and applies it to real world challenges,

**cont.'d from p.17**

"We need to educate people to start businesses... to be entrepreneurial and to be creative in addition to being ana-

**cont.'d from p.18**

When the Provost introduced the undergraduate research program last year, he said the goal was "to foster and strengthen undergraduate research throughout the college as a key aspect of enhanc-

thereby encouraging students to be responsible global citizens." Borofsky adds, "In actively addressing important ethical concerns within anthropology, Prof. Schuller is providing students with the thinking and writing skills needed for active citizenship and a productive life after graduation."

Public Anthropology's Community Action Website Project seeks to provide students with key skills they will need to be successful in their future careers: objectivity, critical thinking and effective communication.

Prof. Schuller is a prominent scholar working in Haiti with Haitians to revitalize their country, especially after

lytic," Dr. Schneider pointed out. "We also need to generate more businesses not just to improve students' per-

ing student retention and graduation and enabling students to be more competitive for graduate schools and the workforce."

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Griffith offered this definition from

the recent devastation. He also co-directed/co-produced the documentary *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy* (2009, Documentary Educational Resources). Schuller is also a recognized editorial writer with the Huffington Post: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-schuller/>.

As a testament to this activist research, he recently completed a detailed and ultimately sobering analysis, *Unstable Foundations: Impact of NGOs on Human Rights for Port-au-Prince's Internally Displaced People*, found on the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti's website: <http://ijdh.org/archives/14855>.

sonal lives, but that of the whole economic (structure)."

the American writer Zora Neale Hurston: "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."



Tent camps in Haiti

YORK COLLEGE IS CU NY



Pres. Keiz (l.) cutting the ribbon, while Dr. Nath and Provost Griffith are looking on



## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### November 2010 Forums and Workshops

Thursday, Nov. 11	<b>Panel:</b>	<b><i>Not All Excellence is Expertise: A Panel Discussion of General and Specialized Education</i></b>
	12 - 2 pm	CETL, AC 4EA1
	<b>Presenters:</b>	Howard Ruttenberg, History & Philosophy Samuel Hux, English Tania Levey, Social Sciences Casandra Silva-Sibilin, History & Philosophy
Thursday, Dec. 9	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Re-Taken Courses: Justice, Academic Integrity, and Student Success</b>
	12 - 2pm	CETL, AC 4EA1
	<b>Facilitators:</b>	Timothy Kirk, History & Philosophy Cynthia Haller, English

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





## York Alumnus returns for Chemistry Lecture

In late October York College welcomed a distinguished member of the Class of 1994 as a guest of the Chemistry Department.

Aubrey A. Smith III, Ph.D., came back to his alma mater as a speaker in the Natural Science Seminar Series, as a professional peer to Dr. Mande Holford and Dr. Emmanuel Chang, and current members of the Chemistry Club, where Dr. Smith was once a member.

Dr. Smith, an associate professor in the Biology Department at Montgomery College in Maryland, had met Dr. Holford while both were students at York. Holford and Chang involved the Chemistry Club.

Dr. Smith earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at Howard University and was more than ready for this visit to his alma mater. His research interests are in biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, genomics and proteomics, and he has received a fellowship from the Eli Lilly Company.

His dissertation culminated in the isolation and sequencing of the phosphoenolpyruvate car-

boxylase (pepc) gene of *Synechococcus* PCC 7002.

The results of the research project will be presented for publication; and he is also working on another project involving comparative sequence analysis of proteins from marine and fresh-water cyanobacteria. He currently teaches Principles of Biology and is engaged in research and in publishing and presentations.

Smith's topic for the visit as part of the Natural Science Series at York College was "Isolation and Sequence Analysis of the Pepc Gene of a Marine Cyanobacterium." Current students in the audience were fully engaged and offered their own ideas for Dr. Smith's future research.

"What he represents is, 'this is your future,'" said Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. "When he was a student here he may not have anticipated this kind of future. This is what I call 'outcomes beyond the realm of possibility.' As you listen to him, think about your own futures. It should be more than getting a

baccalaureate degree and getting a job."

Ironically, a Bachelor of Science and a job were the extent of Smith's initial dream until Dr. Paul Young showed him a more fulfilling future.

"At first I was just washing the dishes [in the lab] and decided the whole thing was really cool," said Smith. "This was unbelievable. And coming back here today was thrilling."

The Aubrey Smith story in at least one way, reads like almost any other York College success story. He came to York almost by happenstance, found a great mentor, in his case, chemistry professor Paul Young who, for every doubt Smith expressed in his own ability, in effect said "yes, you can."

Aubrey Smith III was born in New York City and grew up in Haiti. While a student at York he met his future wife, Physical Education major, Nori Duran, whom he describes as having been, "an outstanding student athlete. But Smith was also a well-rounded student. He was a scholar athlete who played volleyball for York for three years.



**L-r.: Prof. Aubrey Smith, Prof. Mande Holford, Prof. Emmanuel Chang, VP for Institutional Advancement Dolores Swirin, and Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith**



**Students attending Dr. Smith's lecture**





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