

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Provost Inaugurates Student Research Conversations

The York College community witnessed the inauguration of a new feature of the student research program on November 16, when Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith tapped into his field of expertise to launch the *Research Conversations* series.



Students and staff attending the lecture

This series is the latest started at York to showcase the scholarship of York’s world class faculty and distinguished administrators and to boost student engagement in research across the college.

Provost Griffith’s talk, “Punishment and Crime in the Caribbean,” was engaging and well attended, bringing a new topic to the fore at York, where there is a rather large Caribbean and South and Central American student population.

Sponsored by the Of-

fice of Undergraduate Research, the well-attended Conversation covered prison reform, drugs, murder, rape and vigilantism, and the importance of foolproof evidence to conviction and punishment. It even cited cases in which the police and even the government may be complicit.

Accordingly, the Provost also touched on “The Dudus Affair,” a development which badly tarnished the image of the island of Jamaica in the eyes of the world. Christopher “Dudus” Coke was being sought by authorities in the United States for drug trafficking to the US. Political interests were thought to be at stake should Coke be extradited for trial. What followed in Jamaica was a standoff between the suspect, his supporters, the police and the armed forces which led to the death of more than 70 citizens within two weeks.

Dr. Griffith also discussed the death penalty as part of the response to

the high incidence of violent crimes in the Caribbean and in Latin American countries.

“The response by the public,” he says, “is lock ‘em up and lock ‘em up for longer periods. Hang ‘em and hang em high.”

He revealed that in Guyana, his own native country, the government has decided to keep hanging on the books, but to not exercise it if certain criteria of a given crime are not met. And he discussed prison reform and the conditions under which prisoners are held and for those charged with supervising them there.

Well-known and respected in the area of Caribbean security, crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, Dr. Griffith is an in-demand speaker across the Caribbean and the United States. He testified in Congress in fall 2009 before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the security situation in the Caribbean and President Barack Obama’s plan to help deal with it.



Special points of interest:

- Geology team at national conference
- York Prof. presents social work research
- In the Spirit of Collective Work & Service

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Under the Veil Packs Lecture Theater

by Kay I. Neale

Students recognized themselves and their world – their fears, stereotypes, and everyday relationships.

On Thursday, November 4th, the atmosphere in Lecture Hall 3D01 was electric. The energy from the many students who were entering the hall told of something exciting. Obviously, the room was too small to accommodate everyone who wanted to be part of this event sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Program in the History and Philosophy Department. Students had to be turned away from this Cardinal Experience Event. The buzz was about the TE'A Project's (TE'A stands for Theatre, Engagement and Action) production of *Under the Veil: Being Muslim (and Non-*

Muslim) in America, Post 9/11.

The TE'A Project uses interactive theatre to inspire the desire and the will of young people to cross the barriers of race, class, culture and religion in America's communities. According to their mission statement, "The TE'A process is specifically designed to help build the awareness, foster the curiosity, trigger the insights, and diffuse the feelings of threat that young people need to transform – within themselves – the forces of fear and enmity unleashed by the events of 9/11." TE'A Project's mission is in keeping with the

objectives of our Cultural Diversity Program.

The many scenes incorporated the Muslim and the non-Muslim experiences in post 9/11, New York. Students recognized themselves and their world – their fears, stereotypes, and everyday relationships. Those who have had or are currently enrolled in a Cultural Diversity 101 course saw concepts studied there being played out right in front of them. Most were able to relate to those concepts that their professors are constantly reinforcing in class.

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PROVOST LECTURE

"Women's Empowerment and the 'New Immigration:' York's VITA Program"

Dr. Fabiola F. Salek

Dept. of Foreign Languages
School of Arts & Sciences

Prof. Robert Clovey

Dept. of Accounting & Finance
School of Business & Information Systems

Dr. Michael Flynn

Dept. of Behavioral Sciences
School of Health & Behavioral 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."

Geology Students and Faculty Reaching New Peaks in Geosciences

*Point of
Pride*

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Three faculty members and nine students from the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences presented their professional research at the 2010 International meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado. Presenting were faculty members Ratan Dhar, Nazrul Khandaker and department chairman Stanley Schleifer. The nine students were active participants in all of the research done. In many cases, they were the lead authors. The research groups presented and explained their work at the conference.

Students presenting at the conference included Iheanyichukwu Agbor, Zarine Ali, Wilfrid Beazile, Darlene Defabio, Sumaiya Abedin (a chemistry major), Coryen Goddard, Feng Chan Liang, Kathy Robbins, and Malek Shami. Also participating in the conference, on a PSC CUNY grant, was Keshaw Narine, geology CLT.

The entire group was met by York College geology alumni who, among other things, took students, faculty and staff on a field trip into the Rocky Mountains. On the itiner-

ary were Red Rocks Park, the continental divide at Loveland Pass (elevation 11,990 feet), dinosaur fossils in the Morrison and Dakota formations, Central City (where the 19th century Colorado gold rush is said to have started), the famous (or infamous) "Oh my God Trail" and, of course, views overlooking the Denver Basin and the Coors Brewery in Golden.

Two of our students are interested in attending the Colorado School of Mines after graduation. A faculty member from "Mines" was invited to a dinner we had planned with the alumni and our students had the opportunity to meet and talk with him about applying to the school. The alumni discussed with our current students their experiences going from being students at York College to the professional world.

The students had a number of impressions they took with them. As Coryen Goddard put it: "My experience at the 2010 GSA conference was really awesome. This was my first year, and I attended the conference in hopes of presenting my research poster well, networking with other geology students

and professors, and gaining information regarding potential Graduate Schools. In the end I made new friends, obtained a lot of information on graduate programs in my field, and I got positive feedback for a job well done for presenting my research. This conference was an extraordinary learning experience, which helped me develop my abilities to carry out those tasks."

Malek Shami shared the following impressions with his mentors: "This year's GSA meeting in Denver Colorado was an outstanding event, and I am very glad to have had the opportunity to attend it. I presented my research to several Graduate and Undergraduate students. Furthermore, the majority of my audiences were professional geologists and geoscientists who were amazed to see our research projects and objectives. We got the chance to hear their comments and recommendations, as well as see their current work and expand our knowledge on the latest developments in the geoscience profession.



L-r.: Gary Pagan (York graduate), Wilfrid Beazile, Darlene Defabio (York graduate), Coryen Goddard, Iheanyichukwu Agbor, Dr. Stanley Schleifer, Sumaiya Abedin (Chemistry major), Feng Chan Liang (York graduate), Zarine Ali, and Malek Shami

“Professional geologists and geoscientists were amazed to see our research projects and objectives.”

YORK COLLEGE IS CUNY

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In the Spirit of Collective Work and Service



L. to r.: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Department of Social Sciences), Carey Quay (Director, Association for the Advancement of Blind and Retarded, Inc.), Michele Danowitz (Assistant Director, AABR), Nadine Robinson (York College Social Work Alumni), Jaime Rivas-Williams (Vice President, York College Social Work Club), Andreau E. Charles (President, York College Social Work Club), and AABR consumers.

Exemplary leadership, commitment, innovation, integrity, passion, and service are synonymous with these students.

In the spirit of collective work and service, Dr. Selena Rodgers, member of the York College Early Academy (YECA) Planning Team Committee and Michele Neuhaus, YECA Liaison, collaboratively mentor Nadine Robinson (York Social Work program graduate 04' and a student in the Social Welfare Program at Stony Brook University).

The YECA initiative was established at York College in 2006. YECA's mission is to provide a highly supportive and academically challenging learning environment for traditionally underserved, but strongly motivated students with high potential for future academic and career success.

As part of her community development field practicum, Nadine works closely with Ms. Neuhaus and the students at YECA to build the Junior Leadership Program. She also participates in big brother/big sister group activities, as well as a workshop for parents and students to help coordinate other college and career exploration experiences. In addition, Nadine has worked closely

with the Social Work Club to implement several successful projects, including, Social Work School Graduate School Fair and a Breast Cancer Walk. In her role as Field Instructor, Dr. Rodgers provides weekly clinical supervision for Nadine.

In the spirit of collective work and service and upholding the primary mission of the Social Work Profession, enhancing human well-being and helping meet the basic human needs of all people, on November 24, 2010, Dr. Rodgers, Nadine, Andreau E. Charles, President, York College Social Work Club and former employee, AABR; Jaime Rivas-Williams, Vice President, York College Social Work Program and other club members joined with the Director, Care Quay and staff members at the Association for the Advancement of Blind and Retarded, Inc. (AABR) to serve holiday lunch to 120 consumers.

AABR is committed to accomplish its mission; following the lifespan of people served while providing serves including education, training and housing with the support

of their family, agency staff and communities in which they live. The agency offers an array of programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities and autism and their families.

During the Fall 2010 semester, the Club has been involved in several service activities that are linked to the Club's mission; service, scholastic, and professional development, namely; the collection feminine products to be donated to Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Inc., participation in 2010 Breast Cancer Walk. The Club also hosted an edifying Economic Forum featuring Dr. Richard D. Wolff, entitled "When Capitalism Hits the Fan: A Marxian View," as well as the 6th Annual Social Work Graduate Fair (approximately 45 students and seven graduate schools were in attendance).

The words exemplary leadership, commitment, innovation, integrity, passion, and service are synonymous with Andreau and Jaime. These club officers are on the move ... Andreau has applied

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Social Work Professor presents work at Columbia U.

On November 15, 2010, Dr. Selena Rodgers (Dept. of Sociology and Social Work) presented a paper at the Columbia University "Women and Society" Seminar, co-chaired by Dr. Michele Gregory (Dept. of Social Work). Dr. Rodgers' paper, titled "Child Sexual Abuse in Men and Women of African Ancestry: Engendering Spiritual Well-Being and Posttraumatic Growth," is based on a number of years of social research and has been supported

by grant funding for over the last 17 months.

Dr. Beryl Satter (Rutgers University), who has written about the historical perspective of the sexual abuse paradigm, offered comments which included, "I want to commend Dr. Rodgers for taking on this immensely important topic that has never been conducted before. The framing is hugely important; the desire to look at how one's historical past, culture, and post-traumatic growth molds the story that men and women use to respond to childhood

sexual abuse is very much breaking new ground in both the academic and clinical practice environments."

The Columbia University Seminar is a multi-discipline roundtable dedicated to exploring and advancing scholarly issues which have an impact on women's lives. The seminar holds monthly meetings at Columbia University, hosting local, national and international scholars, members of the community and students.

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L. to r.: Dr. Beryl Satter (Rutgers University), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Michele Gregory



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graduate studies at Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He has also been offered a full-time position with Episcopal Social Services (his current social work practicum) to provide foster care and adoption services to children and families. Jaime has submitted her appli-

cation to Fordham University's Master of Social Work Program. What is more, Jaime received the 2010 Outstanding Service Award from the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, Inc., United Way of New York City, and the NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for her

service to people of Queens and to the Social Work Profession. Additionally, the York College social work program presented Jaime with the Vera Douthit Memorial Award – this tribute is given to students who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to service.

YORK COLLEGE CUNY



L.-r.: Nadine Robinson, Jaime Rivas-Williams, Andreau E. Charles, and Tiffany Cudjoe



Jubilant Dr. Schleifer standing on the Continental Divide (approximately 13,000 feet above sea level)

“When I hire scientists, good formal training is useful, but does not substitute for scientific creativity and innovation, which we find are the rarest skills.”



Geology students in the Rocky Mountain. Far left: Jay Halpern (1980 York graduate), now residing in Denver, conducted a field trip for the York participants.

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Another important aspect at this year's GSA convention was meeting York's Alumni. We got a chance to talk to them about career opportunities, job market, and their personal experience after graduating from York College. They illustrated the importance of presenting research and getting involved in national conferences. After all, we now stand where they stood a couple of years ago.

Moreover, the GSA annual meeting is a great place to obtain information regarding graduate schools across the nation. There were numerous graduate school booths lined up with representatives from each school. I got a chance to meet and speak with prospective graduate school advisors and get the inside scope on graduate admission, funding, and current research projects.

The GSA annual meeting is a very important place of collaboration and research presentation. Furthermore, meeting with our very own York Alumni provided me with a sense of professionalism and projected to me the possible career opportunities that I can pursue; and meeting with the graduate schools representatives educated me about the

current graduate in the schools that I am applying to. Examples of such universities are the University Nebraska, Colorado School of Mines, and South Dakota School of Mines.”

In keeping up with their professional outreach endeavor, Drs. Khandaker and Schleifer co-chaired a topical session titled “Participation of Undergraduates and K-12 Students in Environmental and Geoscience-Related Research: A Critical Tool for Experiential Learning Technique,” sponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, GSA Geoscience Education Division, and the GSA Geology and Society Division. This session had 25 presentations and they received wonderful feedback from the participants.

As Dr. Joseph M. Fukumoto, Senior Scientist, Aerospace Research Laboratories/Northrop Grumman Corporation, (CA) pointed out: “Your session seemed especially successful this year with a lot of visitors to the posters, and I hope the number of submissions will continue to increase. The high school students I spoke with seemed very enthusiastic about their work and these types of opportunities are one of

the most important educational experiences for this level of student. Therefore, I really believe your session represents a unique forum that can demonstrate to younger students the importance of their work, and at the same time, allows them to interact with professionals to get a first hand view of what the geological sciences can offer.

A classroom environment alone has very limited relevance to what good research is all about, since it cannot directly demonstrate the application of knowledge.

When I hire scientists into our group, good formal training is useful, but does not substitute for scientific creativity and innovation, which we find are the rarest skills. I think positive, early research experiences are one of the best ways to develop these skills, but these opportunities are uncommon.”

Faculty and students attending this conference greatly acknowledge the financial and logistical support rendered to them by the Provost, the Dean of Arts & Sciences, and Director of Sponsored Programs and Research at York College.

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One student remarked that she was in attendance because it was an assignment – but she was so happy she came because it didn't feel like an assignment: it was a great performance and a fantastic experience.

This is a very timely production especially in the midst of the anti-Muslim sentiments around the building of the Mosque/Cultural Center near Ground Zero. Some of our Muslim students

and others who “look” Middle Eastern have continued to experience discrimination and other prejudicial acts. *Under the Veil: Being Muslim (and Non-Muslim) in America, Post 9/11* challenges students to work with those who differ in values and opinions, yet find common ground to resolve conflicts and find solutions to common problems.

In the United States of America today, there

seems to be a climate of suspicion, fear and anger which has intensified with the current state of the economy. *Under the Veil* opened up channels of dialogue to resolve some of those conflicts and the students used their experience to continue their discussions in class.

This was a well-attended, enjoyable piece of theater of engagement and action.



A packed Auditorium

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Asked why there would be a new series in addition to the Provost Lecture Series and the Distinguished Scholars Series, Dr. Rishi Nath, director of Undergraduate Research, explained that this was a logical next step in the development of the undergraduate research program, and that the pro-

vost was the logical first speaker.

“Provost Griffith, as an active researcher and the person responsible for the vision of the undergraduate research program here, was an obvious choice. I believe it was his first academic lecture at York,” said Dr. Nath.

Yet, the idea is not to

have only faculty members leading Conversations. The series also is intended to have faculty and their research students lead joint presentations.

The presentation is available on the York College website at <http://www.york.cuny.edu/student/yorktv>.

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



York Faculty Update



- **John Drobnicki** (Professor, Library) published “Holocaust-Denial Literature: A Sixth Bibliography,” in *Journal of Hate Studies* 8 (2010): 103-129.
- **Scott Sheidlower** (Assistant Professor, Library) contributed the entry on “Procter and Gamble” to Julie Willett (ed.), *The American Beauty Industry Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press, 2010), 235-237.
- **Sandra Urban** (Instructor, Library) published “Technology, Cognition, and the Academic Librarian: A Conference Report,” in *Library Hi-Tech News* 27, no. 4/5 (2010): 1-4.
- Dr. **Ray Marks**’ guest-edited volumes “School Health,” Volume 2 was published in July, and Volume 3 will be published in December 2010 in *Health Education* (UK).



Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (2nd from left) and social work Students (l. to r.: Courtney Peele, Jaime Rivas-Williams, Annette Rivera, Tiffany Cudjoe, Kristina Berrios, Jessica Beauvias, Nicole O'Meally, Alexandra Mompremier)

“Students were offered a unique opportunity to participate in a transformative learning experience outside of the classroom.”

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The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) asserts that Field Education is the Signature Pedagogy of the social work curriculum! York College's Social Work program contends that Field Practicum is the cornerstone of social work education and joins many facets of previous course work, including the articulation of core competencies through research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Recognizing the collective benefit to unite research, the Signature Pedagogy (Field Education), and mentoring, Dr. Rodgers, Director of Field Education, invited students enrolled in her Social Work Field Placement and Seminar II course to participate in the Columbia University Seminar. For social work interns and graduating seniors, the Seminar is innovative and an enriching learning option they can employ as future practitioners. As Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre (Social Work Program/Social Work Club Faculty Co-Advisor, York College) stated, “students were offered a unique opportunity to participate in a

transformative learning experience outside of the classroom. They were able to engage in a dialogue about relevant research, in an interdisciplinary context of faculty from social work, sociology, anthropology, and history, which illuminated significant issues for students in social work education: critical thinking and the application of knowledge in a collaborative learning environment.”

Dr. Mark Schuller (African-American Studies/Anthropology, York College) along with Barbara Ellis and Kimmi Herring from Safe Horizon were among the attendees present at the Columbia University Seminar. They offered invaluable insight to the discussion in which Dr. Rodgers linked gender, historical trauma, and cultural dimensions in men and women of African ancestry who are sexually abused as children.

Social work educators serve the profession through teaching, research/scholarship, and service. Dr. Rodgers upholds and extends the obligatory role of social workers and academics to include mentoring students. Dr. Rodgers is

helping students to meet the threshold for professional competence, preparedness for graduate education, and ultimately emerging leaders in the social work profession.

For example, Tiffany Cudjoe, a social work student, is one of many students mentored by Dr. Rodgers. When asked about her mentoring experience, Tiffany affirmed that, “Dr. Rodgers encourages me to embrace all learning opportunities; she has inspired me to mentor others; I am a mentor/counselor with the Planting Roots In Dynamic Education (PRIDE) program.” Tiffany is also affiliated with York's Social Work Club, Cardinal Crew, CUNY Project Change, and the Seek Society. What is more, Tiffany works as a research assistant with Dr. Gila Acker, Professor of Social Work and Chair of Social Sciences Department.



November events @ York



Prof. Deb Chakravarti (3rd from left) and Dr. Margaret Hamburg (3rd from the right), FDA Commissioner, and York students during Dr. Hamburg's recent visit to York.



Provost Griffith (l.) delivering his presentation "Punishment and Crime in the Caribbean" in the first *Research Conversations* series event sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research



President Keizs officially opening the new Math Learning Center. Looking on, Provost Griffith, Dean Meleties, Dept. Chair D'Alotto, and Prof. Sunmonu.



Dr. Aubrey Smith (l.) a recent guest-speaker in the Natural Science lecture series, with Prof. Holford (2nd left), Prof. Chang (center), VP for Institutional Advancement Dolores Swirin (2nd, r.), and Provost Griffith (r.)



School of Arts & Sciences Exhibition

December 2, 2010





York College, Friday, May 13th 2011

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

General Education is a journey that shapes and enriches students' intellectual growth through the study of a wide range of subjects. The habits of mind and heart developed in this journey cultivate a critical and creative intellectual capacity that students employ during and long after college, in the pursuit and the fulfillment of meaningful lives in their communities and the world. 'Gen Ed' is a journey of expression in many artistic, oral and written forms and thrives on the debates of the most difficult questions about human experience to prepare students to face life challenges.

The CUNY General Education Conference is intended to invoke the images of this journey throughout CUNY. The focus this year is on documenting how students are taken on this journey in a way that impacts their intellectual and creative capabilities. We view this year's expression of the journey as pushing the boundaries of content and context; moving beyond the traditional classroom to learning that happens experientially, virtually, in the field, and through cross-disciplinary experiences. Thus, we invite all CUNY colleagues to submit proposals for individual and group sessions, including ones that capture and replicate students' experiences in this journey. We will consider all aspects of undergraduate education but especially welcome attention to the following:

- Undergraduate Research: Value and Outcomes in Strengthening Educational Journeys
- Interdisciplinary Teaching: Challenges and Opportunities
- Online and Hybrid Teaching: Models of Success
- Mathematics and Science: Noteworthy Pedagogies and Practices
- Civic Engagement and Service Learning: Challenges and Opportunities
- Enhancing CUNY "Seamlessness" through Transfer and Articulation Policies and Practices

We encourage students as co-presenters. Proposals on these and other topics will be accepted no later than **March 11, 2011**. Please **email** the following information to the Conference Coordinators at 2011GenEd@york.cuny.edu.

- Presentation Title
- Presenter(s) Name and contact information
- College and Department/Division
- Narrative (up to 500 words)
- Audiovisual equipment requests

Also please look out for further information on the CUNY Academic Commons and on our website: <http://york.cuny.edu/gec>. We look forward to journeying with you in May!

In the Spirit of the Holidays
The SCHOOL of ARTS & SCIENCES

Cordially Invites You to the Fall 2010

EXHIBITION
of
**FACULTY and STUDENT
RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP
and
CREATIVE WORK**

Thursday, December 2, 2010
12:00-2:00 pm
AC 4E Corridor

RSVP by Monday, November 29, 2010
To: CadyAnn Parris-David (2471) or cpdavid@york.cuny.edu
Pauline Miles (2654) or pmiles@york.cuny.edu

York College
Executive Leadership Breakfast



FEATURING
JONATHAN MARINER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010
8:00-9:30AM—FACULTY DINING ROOM
9:30-10:00AM—Q&A 2C03
RSVP: WEB: WWW.YORK.CUNY.EDU/BREAKFAST *
EMAIL: YORKSPECIALEVENTS@YORK.CUNY.EDU

On the Move

York College

Office of the Provost
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.,
AC-2H07
Jamaica, NY 11451
Phone: 718-262-2780

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The deadline for submissions to the February issue of Academic Affairs Update is January 21, 2011.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu