

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### President Keizs Takes York Priorities to Capitol Hill

On March 17, 2011, York College and CUNY federal budget priorities were articulated in the “halls of Congress.” York College President Marcia V. Keizs and Earl Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations, met with members of New York’s Congressional delegation to discuss continuing federal funding opportunities for York, especially with the elimination of earmarks. The meetings in Washington, DC, coincided with a special meeting of more than 31 college and university presidents who convened in Washington with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for a federal briefing on higher education issues pending in Congress.



**L.-r.:** Congress Member Gregory Meeks, Legislative Assistant Michael Cox, Earl G. Simons, President Marcia V. Keizs

President Keizs met with Congress Member Gregory Meeks and senior higher education advisors to Senators Kirstin Gillibrand and Charles Schumer. During each meeting, President Keizs provided updates on the York College/U.S. Food and Drug Administration Partnership, the Aviation Institute, the new Facilities Master Plan and the proposed Academic Village and Conference Center and current state-related

budget challenges.

In addition, President Keizs briefed the members on the recent \$250,000 awarded to the Small Business Development Center at York College for a Global Trade Export Initiative in Queens. The funding was allocated through the Federal Jobs Act.

President Keizs also discussed the need for Congress to fully fund the Pell Grant. The bill, proposed by the House of Representatives, would reduce the Pell Grant Scholarships to students from \$5,500 to \$4,705. The call to fully fund the federal Pell Grant was echoed throughout the day by college and university presidents during meetings with their respective congressional delegation members.

### Master Plan and Budget Update for Elected Officials

In late February, South East Queens elected officials convened at York College at the invitation of President Marcia V. Keizs, to hear the good

news about the recently-approved Master Plan. In an unprecedented show of support for the college, there was outstanding participation in

the meeting. The legislators present were New York State Assembly Members Vivian Cook, Barbara Clark, Michelle

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#### Special points of interest:

- York alum pursuing Princeton Ph.D.
- Women in Math conference
- Physician Assistant Program reaccredited
- History major to Law School

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## Provost Lecture

## “Mapping and Managing the Earth from Space”



Prof. Bhaskaran (r.) and Provost Griffith posing with the event poster

Students and faculty gathered on March 16, 2001, for the second session in the Spring semester of the Provost Lecture series. Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, from the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences, delivered an eye-opening presentation on the technologies that make “geo-spatial” mapping possible. As more sophisticated data-systems come together in this rapidly growing field, our ability to observe, document, and analyze life on Earth is no longer “science-fiction,” as Dr. Stanley Schleifer, Chair of the Department,

remarked in his introduction of the speaker.

It was not that long ago, according to Dr. Bhaskaran, that our ability to gather visual images of the earth was limited primarily to aerial photography. Today, “Geographic Information Systems” (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and “remote sensing” technologies allow researchers in diverse fields to document changes in human populations, urban development, urban planning, and the natural environmental. In one striking example, early in his talk, Dr. Bhaskaran used before-and-

after “LandSAT” satellite images to show how much “green cover” (vegetation and tress) and land mass (buildings and other structures) were lost after the recent earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan.

The applications and uses of these different systems are multiplying quickly, he argued, as new hardware and software emerge to help us discover “new relationships, patterns, and trends” in different types of data that can be expressed through maps and visual reports. In one study that he conducted in New South Wales, Australia, for exam-

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PROVOST LECTURE

## “The Trickster in Pop Culture and Politics”



**Dr. William Ashton**  
Department of Behavioral Sciences,  
*School of Health & Behavioral Sciences*

**April 28, 2011**  
**Rm. 1M07, 12:00 – 2:00 pm**

In Jungian psychology, synchronicity is the term applied to a category of events which have at their foundation meaningful coincidences. The same week that President Bush signed the Iraq War Resolution into law, the first fan festival to celebrate the 1998 movie *The Big Lebowski* was held. I’ll explore the connection between the Iraq War, *The Big Lebowski* and the archetype which ties the whole thing together: the trickster.

## Chem Scholars Have Right Mix For Ph.D.s

*Point of  
Pride*

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Once again York College is proving that it is among the best buys in higher education as two graduating Chemistry seniors have so far this year been accepted into Ph.D. programs.

**Dhabih Chulhai**, has been accepted on a fellowship to Penn State Graduate School, where he will pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

His advisor, Dr. Ruel Desamero, has equally high expectations of his latest mentee.

“His prospect is very high,” said Desamero. “He can do a lot. He’s patient and meticulous ... meticulous to the point of being... ‘crazy’.”

Chulhai, who transferred to York from the University of Guyana in 2009, says York has been a great place for his career interests.

“They didn’t have this type of research at the University of Guyana,” he said. York College is great. It has a very high level of research opportunities.”

Chulhai, who holds a GPA of 4.0 applied to five universities and was accepted and offered fellowships to all. He chose Penn State University’s (University Park campus)

and will receive a \$21,000 per year stipend plus healthcare and tuition.

Asked what advice he would give to other York students interested in research, the future Dr. Chulhai, who seems rather reserved, was quick to help.

“Students considering grad school need to be aggressive,” he said. “Work on your resume and find an aggressive mentor who pushes you.”

According to Dr. Desamero, his mentee is a prolific researcher and presented at several external conferences during his two years at York.

“Ph.D. is a research degree,” said Desamero. “So if you do a lot of undergraduate research and presentations plus [maintain] a 4.0 you get this .... He could have gotten into the Ivy Leagues, but he didn’t apply.”

Desamero speaks from experience. In 2007 he mentored Vanessa Crevecoeur into Yale University where she is wrapping up her own Ph.D. in chemistry. He now sees her at conferences presenting her research like the colleague she is becoming.”

Chulhai applied to

Stony Brook University, University of Massachusetts, University of Florida and the University of Connecticut, his mentor’s alma mater.

**Azhad Chowdhury**, a mentee in Dr. Jong-Il Lee’s Chemistry Lab, is also celebrating his decision to enroll into the Ph.D. program in organic photo chemistry – at Purdue University.

“This is the research I’ve been doing in Dr. Lee’s lab since fall 2007,” said Chowdhury, who came to York with an Associates degree from his native Bangladesh. “Dr. Lee is the man. He is so passionate about his work and always ready to help his students. All the professors’ doors at York are always open; and they don’t tell you, ‘that’s not my class’.”

Chowdhury, who works the 5 pm to 5 am shift as a taxi driver to support his family, added that his experience at York has been rewarding. Despite his busy schedule, he has served as executive director of York’s Student Government and in that role, met and interacted with college administrators.

He has high praises for President Marcia V.



**Dhabih Chulhai (l.) with his mentor, Dr. Desamero**



**Azhad Chowdhury (l.) and Dr. Lee**

YORK COLLEGE IS CU NY

**“Before coming here I would never have thought I’d get all this at York.”**

**YORK COLLEGE CUNY**

## History Major Fields Law School Offers

Camille Wynter, a graduating History major with an interest in law, is in a good place. She is graduating with honors from York and heading to law school later in the year.

Thus far the history scholar has received four acceptance letters with another 16 to go while she finishes up an internship designed for King Manor Museum by York professor, Dr. Laura Fishman.

Wynter, who immigrated to the United States from Jamaica at the age of 12, met Professor Robin Harper, who holds a Ph.D. in political science and had succeeded the legendary Shirley Ostholm as director of the pre-law program at York. Like Dr. Ostholm before her, Dr. Harper seems to be a pre-law student’s best friend.

“Professor Harper’s door is always open and she’s always available,” says Wynter. “She sort of takes on your dream; and is extremely passionate about seeing you live out [that] dream that can seem so far-fetched.”

With a minor in Philosophy, she brags of having taken all of Dr. Howard Ruttenberg’s classes and describes him as “an amazing professor.” Dr. Fishman, chair of the De-

partment of History and Philosophy, is also a favorite professor and valued advisor and she also sings the praises of Dr. George White, a History Professor with a J.D. from Harvard Law School, who has also been an important advisor.

“I think York College is highly underestimated,” Wynter says. “Before coming here I would never have thought I’d get all this at York.”

Wynter came to the college because her cousin, Craigon Campbell, who graduated from and works at York, gave her a tour and extolled its virtues.

In her sophomore year, Dr. Harper encouraged Wynter to apply to the Ronald H. Brown Scholarship for pre-law students, a program based at St. John’s University. The three-week program provides a foundation for aspiring law students. Wynter would return in her senior year for the intensive three-month component of the program, which uses the *Princeton Review* model to prepare students for the LSATS. Additionally, it provides on-campus housing in the St. John’s dorms for program participants. Wynter ex-

celled and won the award for outstanding legal brief.

“Professor Harper was adamant that I apply to the program in the first place,” she explained. “It’s the best program of its kind in the country.”

Not surprisingly, St. John’s University School of Law was among the first to send Wynter an acceptance letter this spring, but she is also contemplating an offer from Northeastern University Law School. Theirs is a four-year program, which includes a Master’s degree in International Law plus the Juris Doctorate.

Asked about Wynter’s prospects as a law student and attorney, Harper was confident. “Law school is long and hard and being an attorney can be rewarding, but it is a difficult job,” said Dr. Harper. “Camille has the skills and the drive and imagination to make this opportunity a reality. I look very much forward to hearing about her successes in the future.”

Wynter confirmed that the application process can be cost-prohibitive in the aggregate, but she was able to receive an income-based waiver, enabling her to apply to numerous schools.

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Titus, and William Scarborough, New York State Senator Malcolm Smith, New York City Council Members Leroy Comrie and Ruben Wills. Also in attendance was Jeff Gottlieb, representing NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., Donovan Richards, representing NYC Council Member James Sanders, Jr., and

Jason Hilliard, representing U.S. Congress Member Gregory Meeks.

The comprehensive presentation for the legislators included: an academic update by Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President; a fundraising update by Dolores Swirin, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; the Facili-

ties Master Plan by Ronald Thomas, Dean of Administration; remarks from students, led by Khaden Nurse, Vice Chair of the University Student Senate, followed by a description and request for support of the FY 2012 capital priorities by Earl G. Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations.



**L-r.:** NYS Assembly Member Vivian Cook, Assembly Member Michelle Titus, NYS Senator Malcolm Smith, (Standing) Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith.

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

## Physician Assistant Program Reaccredited

On November 18-19, 2010, York College hosted a site visit from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the independent accrediting body for PA programs. The site visit team interviewed faculty, students, alumni, and clinical preceptors as well as program and college administrators. They also toured the program and college facilities, teleconferenced with partner hospitals, and poured over reams of documents utilized in the program's self-study process.

The November visit capped an intensive 18-month period of programmatic self-evaluation (conducted in tandem with the routine, continuous self-study process required of all accredited PA programs). All program faculty were involved in the effort, as were the Office of Institutional Research, Library Liaison Daniel Cleary, and Dean Dana Fusco. The findings of the site visitors were reviewed this month at a meeting of the entire Commission which granted re-accreditation for 5 years – an outcome that all con-

cerned should be proud of, especially considering that the program graduated its first class of Physician Assistants in 2006!

Congratulations on a job well done to the Physician Assistant Program team: Robert Brugna, Program Director, Emily Davidson, Assoc. Program Director, Linda Jo Dill, Academic Coordinator, John Graffeo, Clinical Coordinator, Edward Rampersaud, Doctoral Lecturer, Professor Bernard Beckerman, Barbara Orłowski, HEO and our Admissions Coordinator and COAIII, Eileen Garcia-Corredor.



Physician Assistant Class of 2011 with Prof. Brugna (ctr.) and Prof. Graffeo (back row, left)



Joanna Haye-Coradin

**“The fact that my professors were so accessible made York a nurturing environment in which I could grow as a student.”**

## **“York to Princeton”**

### **Keynote address at the 2011 Dean’s List Reception**

**by Joanna Haye-Coradin**

It is an honor to speak here today. Thank you, President Keizs, Dean Meleties and Dr. McNeil for inviting me. I always like to find excuses to come back to York. I don’t know if he remembers this: On one of my visits I popped into Dr. McNeil’s office, and he asked, “Are you still here! I thought we got rid of you?” No. He did not get rid of me when I went to Princeton; I will keep coming back, and I am always happy to give back in any way I can. And thank you, Dr. Arsov, and faculty for showing me the better way when I got to the crossroads. Now I wish to show my footprints from York to Princeton to you brilliant students. And I do so with great pleasure.

Before I proceed, I must thank my family for their support: My mother and my surrogate grandfather Mr. Crooks are here today; they have always been my greatest supporters in my academic journey.

While I was here at York, being on the Dean’s List was very important to me. It’s nice to see all of you

here and obviously it is a big deal to you too. This, of course, reflects another critical point – that optimal performance and academic success are important to all of us who are here today.

There are several professors who made my experience at York College an especially memorable one: Dr. Ivica Arsov, Dr. Gerard McNeil, Dr. Jack Schlein, Dr. Ruel Desamero, Dr. Louis Levinger and Dr. Jong Lee. (Anyone here who has taken Dr. McNeil’s Genetics class or Dr. Lee’s Organic Chemistry class knows they were very challenging and impossible to forget.) These professors were not just great instructors; they also helped define the “class” of professor I know I want to become. These professors are very interested in seeing their students succeed. They are scientists; they are role models; and they are available to you here at York College.

I was not sure what I wanted to do or how to go about making decisions for my career, but these professors knowingly and unknowingly

steered me in the right direction.

As a York College student, I found that it was the support and interest that I received from my professors (especially in the Biology department) that made a difference. The fact that the department was so small and my professors were so accessible made it a nurturing environment in which I could grow as a student.

Independent study was the initial platform that sparked my interest in doing scientific research. I started with Dr. Schlein with whom I studied horseshoe crabs using electron microscopy. I remember being enamored of the fact that we could see such small structures with such detail, and this just made me more curious about scientific research. That first exposure created a desire for more lab experience. My next step in my journey here at York was Dr. Arsov’s lab. Dr. Arsov’s work in immunology was very intriguing! While doing independent study with Dr. Arsov I also became a Minorities Access to

Research Careers (MARC) trainee, which gave me the opportunity to be more involved in research. A genomics class I took with Dr. McNeil allowed me to work more independently than I was accustomed to in typical classes and this was a useful experience that I valued even more when I began graduate school.

Here at York, it was through hard work, challenging courses, research in Dr. Arsov's lab, and the exposure gained through the MARC program that I gained access to the world of research and entry into a prestigious institution such as Princeton University.

I presented a poster at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minorities (ABRCMS), which was possible because I was involved in the MARC program here at York. My poster judge, Dr. Alison Gammie, a professor at Princeton University, told me to stop by the Princeton booth later. When I was done with my presentation, I did, and Dr. Gammie encouraged me to apply to Princeton. I remember thinking it would be impossible to get into a University like Princeton because I attended a small college in Queens.

But, with a fee waiver, I had nothing to lose; I wasn't paying for the application, so I applied. I also applied to Brown University and two other schools (Stony Brook University and New York University). I got rejected by two and was accepted by both Brown University and Princeton University (that was a tough choice!). It was like: Should I grab 50 cents or half a dollar? A win-win decision.

I am sharing the doubt and disbelief I experienced with you because I want you to understand that if you work hard, you should take the chance and aim high, tackle self-doubt. Fortunately, I had a supportive mentor like Dr. Arsov who had more confidence in me than I had in myself. Thank you.

Everyone here worked hard; that's why you are being honored at this reception. York is the first step. While you are here, take advantage of what it has to offer, then aim even higher. Do not doubt your ability to excel when you leave York College, whether in the working environment, computer or technical field, graduate school, or medical school. Take the chance and aim high because you are capable.

I must emphasize,

however, that it only got harder after graduate school began. I remember when I called a friend excited and said, "I got accepted to Princeton!", he said, "When you were at York, you were king among your friends. At Princeton you will be in the land of giants." I thought, "ummm, ok." But HE WAS VERY RIGHT. Like all of you sitting here, I was performing very well in my classes and I felt smart. I still have all my certificates for each semester I was on the Dean's List. However, my friend's words started to make sense within my first few days at Princeton. I no longer felt so smart. On a more positive note, I hung in there – it got even harder before it eventually got easier.

When I look back on my undergraduate education, I'm glad I attended a school like York, where I developed relationships with supportive faculty members. This experience allowed me to seek out the help I needed to get through the first difficult months of graduate school. Now I've finished my required courses, passed my qualifying exam, and am immersed in a cutting-edge research program. I now work with

Dr. Gammie who had encouraged me to apply to Princeton.

My advice to you, while you are still here at York is, utilize all the resources that are available to you. Continue to establish a good foundation, and keep working hard because the grades you receive are essential for the next step (whatever your next step may be.) The relationships you build with your professors are also very important (a good letter of recommendation goes a long way). Especially for those considering graduate school, PLEASE REMEMBER THIS: When you leave here don't let "initial failures" shake your foundation. You can still measure your success, based on "academic success," but not only on this. Measure your success on the time and effort you invest into accomplishing your goal.

To all of you, stay inspired, stay motivated! Keep working hard and pursuing your goals.





## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### April 2011 Forums and Workshops

<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	Workshop:	The Role of the Instructor in Group Work: More Heads are Better than One  2 - 2pm CETL, AC 4EA1  Facilitators: Janice Capuana, WAC Fellow WAC Writing Fellows Kostrzewa, Harris, Mckelligan, Fragopoulos, & Alsop  <i>Co-sponsored by the Writing Across the Curriculum Program</i>
<b>Thursday, April 28</b>	Workshop:	Stop the Whining! Effective Grading Practices that Increase Clarity and Decrease Aggravation  2 - 2pm CETL, AC 4EA1  Facilitators: Gila Acker, Social Sciences Lidia Gonzalez, Mathematics and Computer Science Shawn Williams, Health Professions  <i>Co-sponsored by the Outcomes Assessment Committee</i>



President Marcia V. Keizs and Elinor Tatum (r.), Editor-in-Chief of *The New York Amsterdam News*, posing for a picture during the Executive Leadership Breakfast on March 25, 2011

**“Only the curious will learn and only the resolute overcome the obstacles to learning. The quest quotient has always excited me more than the intelligence quotient.” — Eugene S. Wilson**



## New play by Foreign Languages faculty member

Carmen Loisaída, a new play by York's Eva Vazquez (Dept. of Foreign Languages, School of Arts & Sciences), is mostly based on the novella by Prosper Merimee, using musical references from Bizet's famous opera. It also explores a variety of film versions such as: Saura's *Carmen* (Spain); *U-Carmen* (South Africa); *Carmen Gei* (Senegal); and *Carmen Jones* (U.S.A.), among others.

The play will use Bizet's music as a guideline for emphasizing dance and rhythm in the piece, not singing. Carmen is a story about passion, unrequited love, the underworld, and fate, among other themes.

In this particular version, the well-known love story will be measured against the back-

ground of human trafficking and illegal migration. The Lower East Side will be the playground for a group of people who live as illegal immigrants trying to survive a diversity of personal, social, and economic reasons that make them settle in New York City in search for a better life.

Carmen's world is the world of illegal workers, squatters, arranged marriages in exchange for citizenship, intercultural relationships, bohemia, and a hectic night life. The story takes a twist when Carmen gets emotionally involved with a migration officer who unwillingly gets seduced to help her advance her sometimes questionable social agenda in exchange for love/lust.

The story is never the same for those who are

struggling to survive, those that will be exploited and yet not included, those who work more for less. A clash between what is socially promoted vs. human ethics will ensue.

Inspired by the vast variety of versions that have appropriated the story of the outlaw seductress and the authority figure fallen out of grace, Professor Vazquez's interest in this project arises from her curiosity in how this seemingly universal story reads in an urban environment resulting from the demands of globalization — demands that foster a brutal migration and the survival of the fittest.

(see also Advertisement on p. 18)



YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

## York Delegates at Legislators' Conference in Albany

A delegation from York College traveled to Albany, NY to participate in the 40th Annual New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislators' Conference. The conference was held February 18-20, 2011. During the

event, York students participated in a NYS budget briefing convened by President Marcia Keizs.

Students also attended a luncheon sponsored by the City University of New York and attended policy workshops. President Keizs

served as a panelist on the higher education workshop which focused on getting back on track to career and college readiness.

The conference concluded with a scholarship dinner where York students had the oppor-



President Keizs (front row, ctr.) with a group of students and administrators visiting at the Albany conference

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ple, GIS technology allowed him to map spatial patterns of illness outbreaks against the locations of emergency treatment centers in the region. Knowing this relationship, he argued, can reveal not only how far someone

has to travel to get help, but also whether the location of these centers should be changed to reduce fatality rates.

As the capabilities of “different satellites” designed for “different purposes” are combined, he added, the

potential for merging and “mapping” geographic data onto demographic data is rapidly increasing. In his current research, Dr. Bhaskaran is working with a company called “Geo Eye” to document objects and features (in

areas as small as 1 by 1 meter), in order to develop more specific programs and algorithms for spatial analysis, and to improve the accuracy of existing GIS and GPS methods of data classification.



## York Faculty Update



- Huang, Chin-Wen and **Chun-Pin Hsu** (Dept. of Accounting & Finance, School of Business and Information Systems), “Are They the Same? A Comparison of Narrative and VAR Monetary Shocks,” in: *The Empirical Economics Letters*, 10 (2), February 2011: 163-170.
- **Timothy W. Kirk** (Dept. of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences), “The Meaning, Limitations and Possibilities of Making Palliative Care a Public Health Priority by Declaring it a Human Right,” *Public Health Ethics*, 4, no. 1 (2011): 84-92.
- Prof. **Martin Colucci**’s (Counseling Center) text book *Addiction, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Studies* is scheduled for publication with McGraw Hill during May 2011.
- Professors **Nadine Donahue & Susan Glodstein** (Dept. of Health Professions, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) gave a presentation at Farmingdale State College on Friday, March 4, 2011. Their topic was entitled “Addressing the Needs of the Multi Dimensional Learners.”
- Dr. **Linda Gerena** (Dept. of Teacher Education, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) presented at the 2011 Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International conference in New Orleans. Dr. Gerena was an invited speaker in a National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and Mathematics In TESOL colloquium titled “English Language Learners Achieving Academic Success in Mathematics.” Dr. Gerena also presented two individual sessions titled, “Developing Comprehension Skills Through Content Area Reading Activities,” and “Developing Vocabulary To Increase and Improve Second Language Acquisition.”
- **Sarah Kate Gillespie** (Dept. of Performing & Fine Arts, School of Arts & Sciences) delivered a paper entitled “Technology versus Art: The Daguerreotype’s Confounding Status in Philadelphia, 1839-45,” at the Library Company of Philadelphia on March 23. Gillespie is the current William H. Helfand American Visual Culture Fellow at the Library Company.
- Dr. **Hamid Bahri** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, Humanities and ESL, School of Arts & Sciences) was the main speaker in *As the Region Explodes: Forum on the Revolution in the Arab World*, March 16, in the Faculty Dining Room, York College.
- Professor **Nadine Donahue** (Dept. of Health Professions, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) is now a National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator.
- **Sandra Gall Urban** (Library) was appointed as an Assistant Professor effective Feb. 1, 2011, after successful completion of her terminal degree.

## Library Faculty Publications on the Polish-American Experience

Several York Library Faculty were among the scholars and researchers who contributed to the recently published *Polish-American Encyclopedia*, edited by James S. Pula (McFarland, 2011).

- **Anamika Dasgupta** (Instructor) contributed entries on social historian John J. Bukowczyk and literary scholar Alex Kurczaba.
- **John Drobnicki** (Professor) wrote articles on artist and journalist Henry Archacki, pianists Mieczysław Horszowski and Byron Janis, historians Jerzy Jan "George" Lerski, Frank Mocha, Richard Pipes, and Frank Anthony Renkiewicz, genealogist Edward Alan Peckwas, actor Robert Prosky, conductor and composer Stanisław Skrowaczewski, football coach Hank Stram, and the Polish Anti-Defamation Committee.
- **Christina Miller** (Instructor) contributed an entry on physician and scientist Stanisław Burzyński.
- **Scott Sheidlower** (York) wrote articles on actress Carole Landis, author/illustrator Maurice Sendak, and author Roger Zelazny.
- **Robert Parmet** (Professor of History/History & Philosophy Department) contributed the article on labor leader David Dubinsky.



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Keizs, Provost Ivelaw Griffith, Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences all of whom, he says, took an interest in his success.

"He's a very special one," said Dr. Lee, who earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University." I picked him. I had taught him in my Chemistry class. Many times it is the students who approach me about working in my lab. But Chemistry can be abstract and he has a good mental model and that is important. He absorbs things well. He's able to observe and understand the molecules."

Chowdhury, now the married father of a six-

month old son, flourished under Dr. Lee's training.

He applied to Purdue, he says, because Dr. Lee told him cost of living is less expensive in the mid-West and his fellowship funds would go further given that he has a family. Equally important, he discovered that Purdue has two or three Nobel Laureates in Chemistry among their faculty members. Chowdhury has boldly sent a request to one of those professors to be his mentor when he gets to the university this summer. He may be somewhat spoiled from the nurturing he has received at York.

Dr. Lee is like a father to us," says Chowdhury.

"He is always ready to help."

The professor concedes as much.

"I stay in touch with my students and have a website and Facebook page to connect my students with one another," says Dr. Lee who has taught at York for the past seven years. "I am not just teaching them Chemistry; but how they can succeed as well.

I can be like a big brother trying to improve their lives. They need extra help. They work, [some] manage households. In my country of Korea, students' parents support them so they just study. I don't want to see my students fail for the lack of support."



## Social Work Club goes to Albany



Students posing with President Keizs and Prof. Rodgers during their visit to Albany

The Social Work Club at York College sponsored its annual trip to Albany for Social Work Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. This is an important opportunity for social work students at York to be involved in advocacy efforts toward social change.

The Club organized 23 students from the Social Work Program to attend Lobby Day. They were led by Dr. Selena Rodgers, Professor Crystal George-Moses, and Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre, faculty advisor the Social Work Club.

In Albany, students met with key New York City and State Legislators, including Assemblywoman Vivian E.

Cook, Senator Shirley L. Huntley, Assemblywoman Michele R. Titus, and Council Member Rubin Wills. The legislative action agenda items included:

- Support for allowing higher education to meet TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements at 4-year colleges;
- Funding for The Safe Harbor Act – legislation to provide housing, legal, educational, and other services for commercially sexually exploited youth. Students advocated for funding to build safe houses for these victims;
- Funding for the York

College Academic Village Center. On behalf of the student body at York, students thanked Assemblywoman Cook and Senator Huntley for their generous support for the College. Students called for continued funding support to build the new Academic Village Center at York

A special thanks to President Keizs for meeting with the students in Albany and listening to them share their experiences. Students greatly valued this learning experience and look forward to the opportunity to engage in future advocacy efforts with President Keizs.



### NEW CD!

*Embellishments: The Q & A Project.*, starring Mark Adams and featuring Jonathan Quash.

This is the fourth solo project by pianist Mark Adams and the third collaboration with Jonathan Quash.

The album also features Jazz vibraphonist, Roy Ayers.

## Heal the Village, Sustain the Pillars, and Strengthen the Academic Collaboration

**Heal the village!** Rochdale Village: “The Jewel of Jamaica” is the second largest housing cooperative in the United States and a cornerstone located in the heart of Jamaica, Queens. Since 1963, Rochdale has been home to 25,000 cooperatives.



**Dr. Rodgers addressing Rochdale Village residents**

On March 20, 2011, Dr. Selena Rodgers was one of the invited distinguished guests and presenters at Rochdale Village’s *Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Women’s History 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum*. Approximately 175 seniors along with many other Rochdale Village residents attended the event.

Dr. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Social Sciences Department) pre-

sented her research findings about African-American adult survivors sexually abused as children. The information was very well received and also regarded as especially timely in view of the recent outpouring of disclosures by sexual abused victim-survivors.

Considerable time was devoted to offering recommendations to help the village heal from scars that extend from childhood into adulthood. Rochdale Village Board President Janine Cross has invited Dr. Rodgers to participate in future forums focusing on raising awareness about sexual abuse and the healing process.

**Sustain the pillars!** Rochdale Village and York College are pillars in the Jamaica community. This year’s projected financial cuts to social services and public education has implications. For the past seven years York College Social Work Program’s partnership with Rochdale’s NORC’s has afforded countless undergraduate students field practicum opportunities. Rochdale Village

Social Services, Inc. is the parent agency for two senior citizen programs including NORC and Rochdale Village Senior Center. The social work interns engage with individual clients and families to provide clinical assessments, case management services and support counseling. Also as part of their internship assignments, students facilitate weekly support groups, conduct weekly program outreach into the buildings and network with various agencies and community partners.

It is urgent that these two pillars, Rochdale Social Service programs and York College, work together through the economic crisis to sustain the legacy and the village for our seniors and emerging student leaders.

**Strengthen the Academic Collaboration!** The number of transfer students arriving from LaGuardia College who enroll in York College’s Social Work Program has increased significantly over the years. Dr. Rodgers is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Director of

Social Work Field Education at York College (CUNY).



**L.-r.:** Elder Tarsha S. Baston (Women Impacting Next Generation of Sisters), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Department of Social Sciences/School of Health and Behavioral Sciences) and Elder Dr. Michael A. Baston (LaGuardia Community College, Office of Academic Affairs)

During the Rochdale Village forum, she had the opportunity to engage in a productive discussion with Elder Dr. Baston, the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) concerning the need to strengthen the collaboration between the two CUNY colleges.



**“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”**

**- Aristotle**

## Social Work Change Agents

March is *National Social Work Month* and a time to reflect on the enormous contributions of the profession.

The National Association of Social Workers' theme in celebration of Social Work Month for March 2011 is “Social Workers Change Futures.” There are about 35 participating social work field change agents in our field education program.

Dr. Selena Rodgers, Director of Field Education of the York College Social Work Program wishes to salute the Social Work Field Education Supervisors for their unwavering dedication to our students, the program and the profession.



**(L.-R., back):** Nicole Benjamin (York College), Anthea Blyden (Diaspora Community Services), Cristina Osoria (Center for Nursing Rehabilitation) Selena Rodgers (York College), Cynthia Guy (Southern Queens Park Association/Beacon), Andrea Raphael (VIP Health Care Services);

**(L.-R., front):** Reuben Jimenez (New Spirits II), Phillip Rofrano (Martin de Porres), Shirell Roeback (York College), Pat Riley (Crossroads Connection/Sobro), Linda Booth (Elmcors Youth and Adult Services)

Students receive diverse and enriching practicum opportunities,

supervision and mentoring from experienced administrators, clinical practitioners, community activists, educators, program developers, researchers and trainers.

The photo to the left includes some of the Change Agents who attended the last Social Work Supervisory Group Meeting.

Dr. Rodgers wishes to extend a special salute to York College Alumni, Nicole Benjamin '94. Professor Benjamin is the Assistant Director of York College of Social Work Field Education. She has remained a part of the profession's mission, the program and the vision of York College.

## Panel Discussion on the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

On March 11, 2011, the Geology Club and the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences conducted a panel discussion on the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Northeastern Japan. The session was held in the atrium and included as presenters:



**L.-r.:** Prof. Nadine Donahue, Dr. Donna Chirico, Dr. Charles Kidd, and Dr. Stanley Schleifer during their panel discussion of the disaster in Japan

Dr. Stanley Schleifer (Earth and Physical Sciences), Dr. Charles Kidd (Earth & Physical Sciences), Dr. Donna Chirico (Behavioral Sciences), and Prof. Nadine Donahue (Health Professions).

cont.'d from p.9

tunity to meet NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, and a number of other federal, state and local elected officials. During the scholarship dinner the students met with Jay Hershenson, CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations.



Scholarship dinner with Jay Hershenson, CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations (center)

The York College delegation included:

- President Marcia V.

Keiz;

- Earl G. Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations;
- Dr. Jean Phelps, Director of Student Services;

**York College Students**

**Student Government Association**

- Ahnaf Alam, President
- Jara Henry, Treasurer
- Jarelle Henry, Senator
- Khan Hasan, Day Vice President
- Shirley Jackson, Student Programming President
- Tameika Edwards, Senator
- Noor Muyeed, Club Council President
- Khaden Nurse, Vice

Chair, University Student Senate

**Student Club Representatives**

- Tiffany Daniels, National Society for Leadership and Success
- Kimberly Osborne, NAACP
- Jennifer Munoz, Latin Caucus
- Giselle Manon, Latin Caucus
- Jeffrey Morneau, Brotherhood and Sisterhood Society
- Marion Byrd, Blue Diamond
- Sanjida Sonya, Bangladesh Students Association
- Chaperone: Lazane Stanley

**“Learning without reflection is a waste, reflection without learning is dangerous.”**

**– Confucius**



Dr. Donna Chirico during her presentation on the consequences of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan

## Women in Mathematics Two-Day Conference at York College



Dr. Nath (l.) and student



Dr. Wang during her presentation



Attendees following a presentation



Attendees enjoying lunch

The third annual Women in Mathematics Event was held at York College on March 11th and 12th.

The two-day event was organized as part of the York Tensor Scholars Program, a mathematics circle at York College, funded by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and aimed at challenging the under-representation of women in mathematics. In addition, it was one of a number of events that formed part of the Women's History Month calendar of events put forth by the Women's Studies Program.

The event brought five female speakers to York's campus to share their research in the areas of mathematics and computer science as well as their experiences as women in these fields, and a sixth speaker whose talk focused on a well-known female mathematician of year's past: Maria Agnesi.

The speakers included Dr. Olympia Hadjialiadis of Brooklyn College who spoke about her work in sequential on-line detection and classi-

fication in 3-D computer vision, Katherine Bird of the University of Illinois who gave a gentle introduction to finite unitary groups and as well as our own, Dr. Vivien Wang who recently joined the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at York College and who spoke of the application of control theory in coordinating risk management.



Dr. Gonzalez (2nd from left) with students

This year the event grew from a Women in Math Day that had been held for the part two years to a two-day mini-conference with the support of an additional grant from the CUNY Diversity Fund Project. The event was attended by just under forty people including faculty, staff and students from York College. Each day ended with lunch at Sangría, a local restaurant within walking distance of York College that those in attendance

surely recommend.

The main source of funding for the York Tensors Program, a grant from the Mathematics Association of America has been successfully renewed for the coming academic year.

This brings to \$20,000 the amount of funding received by this program over the past three years. Further, it means a full slate of activities for York Tensor Scholars in the 2011-2012 academic year including scholarly talks, trips to the graduate center, mentoring and research opportunities.

The program is open to all students with an interest in mathematics and computer science (they need not be mathematics or computer science majors). Students interested in being part of the program for the coming year are welcomed to complete a registration application.

They should contact the program's director, Dr. Lidia Gonzalez at [lidia.gonzalez@york.cuny.edu](mailto:lidia.gonzalez@york.cuny.edu) or the program's co-director, Dr. Rishi Nath at [rnath@york.cuny.edu](mailto:rnath@york.cuny.edu).



YORK COLLEGE MENTORING PROGRAM—SELECTED CAMPUS EVENTS  
CALENDAR

**April 2011**

- Monday, April 4: "Jazz in the Chapel Film Series: 'Jazz in the Present Tense'" at York College in the African American Resource Center (3B04) at 7pm.
- Wednesday, April 6: "The Minority Reporter: A Conversation with Frederick Gooding" at York College in the African American Resource Center (3B04) at 6pm. For more information, please contact Professor Elgin Klugh (African American Studies and Anthropology) at [elginklugh@york.cuny.edu](mailto:elginklugh@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-5302.
- Thursday, April 7: "African Diaspora Film Series" at York College in the African American Resource Center (3B04) at 6pm. Professor Mychel Namphy (English) will show part one of "Lone Star." For more information, please contact Dr. Namphy at [mychel@york.cuny.edu](mailto:mychel@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-2477.
- Thursday, April 14: "Second Annual Student Research Day" at York College throughout campus. The purpose of this event is to promote and facilitate student engagement in research and other creative activities in order to demystify research, increase knowledge about its nature and methodologies, and secure competitive advantage for graduate and professional school and the workforce. Students from all academic disciplines are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Professor Rishi Nath (Mathematics and Computer Science) at [math@york.cuny.edu](mailto:math@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-2535.
- Tuesday, April 18: "The Trickster in Pop Culture and Politics" at York College in the Academic Core Building, room 1M07 from 12-2pm. This event is part of the Provost Lecture Series with Professor William Ashton, Associate Professor, (Behavioral Sciences). For more information, please contact Dr. Holger Henke at [henke@york.cuny.edu](mailto:henke@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-5338.
- Thursday, April 28: "African Diaspora Film Series" at York College in the African American Resource Center (3B04) at 6pm. Professor Mychel Namphy (English) will show the second part of "Lone Star." For more information, please contact Dr. Namphy at [mychel@york.cuny.edu](mailto:mychel@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-2477.



APRIL 14, 2011

# 2ND RESEARCH DAY

**THE FUTURE IS NOW**

10:00AM TO 3:00PM  
LUNCH SESSION: FACULTY DINING ROOM (2000)  
POSTER SESSION: SOUTH ATRIUM  
PANEL SESSIONS: SA15, 2B07, 2D07

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: BENVENGA WIRIYAMA**  
BARD FELLOW & THE DIRECTOR OF THE GRINDA ACHERE CENTER  
FOR AFRICAN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES AT BARD COLLEGE

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**The deadline for submissions to the May issue of Academic Affairs Update is April 22, 2011.**

***All items should be submitted in MS Word***

***via email to:***

***AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu***