

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Convocation '11 celebrates the Present and plans the Future

This year's Fall Convocation at York was a cause célèbre for the Class of 2015 as well as for new faculty and administrators.

Founding Professor Dr. Samuel Hux, who is this year's Convocation Professor, gave an engaging presentation that added to the import of the day.

Dr. Hux who has for decades taught in the English Department and now also shares his gifts teaching in the Department of History & Philosophy, discussed the topic "Conversation and the Life of the Mind."

"The great conversation is the history and experience of human thought and creation," said Dr. Hux. "And the



Professor Hux delivering his address at the Fall Convocation

invitation to undergraduates to join the conversation amounts to the curriculum ..."

President Keizs for her part shared the top five accomplishments and the top five goals from a larger list to Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and, borrowing from Forester's *Howard's End*, implored the freshman class and transfer students to "only connect" for success at York and beyond.

The President also had high praises for the English Department for the improved pass rate in Freshman English with a C or above, but had a sobering message on the issue of the tightened budget while asking for support in improving graduation rates and calling for a task force to tackle the issue.

"I will be asking a small group of our college community to lead us in some discussions on two issues," said President Keizs. "I am issuing a call for volunteers: task group #1 will focus on our graduation rate. We have a lot of data and we need some fresh perspectives in understanding our performance. Task group #2

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York's Student Development Gets New VP

Following an extensive national search, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York College/CUNY is pleased to welcome Dr. Geneva M. Walker-

Johnson as Vice President for Student Development.

Dr. Walker-Johnson, who has just arrived to begin her tenure at York,

has built an impressive career in the area of student advocacy with appointments at institutions of higher education in

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Special points of interest:

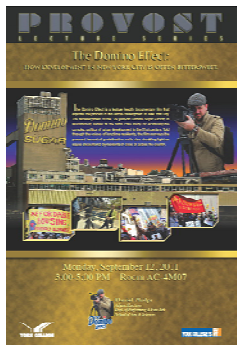
- Faculty/student research in Haiti
- Chemistry student fights Blindness in Ghana
- Faculty Honored for Outstanding Scholarship
- Jazz treasure in York's Library

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Provost Lecture Series

Documenting urban change in New York City



On September 20 the College community was invited to attend a dynamic presentation by Daniel Phelps, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Performing & Fine Arts, and the College Television Studio Manager.

Phelps recently concluded a film documentary project on the historic Domino factory in Williamsburg section of New York City, and to demonstrate how the adjacent community had been and continues to be affected by the closure and subsequent investment schemes to renew this urban neighborhood.

The project started in February 2010 as a part of

an interdisciplinary course between Hunter College's Urban Planning Program and Hunter's Integrated Media Arts MFA Program where Phelps met two journalists who shared his passion for the Borough of Brooklyn. They knew of initiatives to rezone this area from industrial to residential and decided to do a 7-minute story about this parcel of land. So they just started shooting. 18 months, 30 interviews, and 86 hours of footage later their documentary began to grow into a feature-length documentary which they now intend to become a community advocacy tool for the neigh-

borhoods around the nation. But they also have the goal of telling the story of a neighborhood in transition – not only that of gentrification (a story often told without asking “why”) but looking at the partnerships and politics of the urban landscape.

Showing parts of the brilliantly executed documentary, and narrating about the challenges and intentions behind it, Phelps held his audience captured for well over an hour, before many began to ask pertinent questions, or sharing different perspectives or similar interesting experiences.

As Dan explained, the

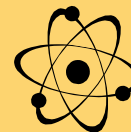
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Provost Lecture Series

The Muon Diaries: One Particle's View of the Coming Revolution in Physics



by Kevin Lynch
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Earth & Physical Sciences
School of Arts & Sciences



Tuesday, October 25, 2011
2:00-4:00 pm
Faculty Dining Room

Particle physics sits on the threshold of a revolution: our current theory is phenomenally accurate and successful, but is known to be incomplete. All attempts to fix these known problems predict new particles and effects that will be observable in the coming generation of experiments.

Chemistry Major Fights Blindness in Ghana



As a prolific undergraduate researcher at York College, Daryl Ramai had studied two therapeutic drugs/molecules among various other areas in biochemistry. Ciprofloxacin and Tetracycline. Fascinating, but it wasn't until he spent the summer 2011 in Ghana, West Africa that the full implication of these two molecular agents came into focus.

Ramai, a chemistry major and graduating senior, spent seven weeks in the Sub-Saharan nation as a Global Health Fellow with *United for Sight*, an American organization, which helps to fight blindness in developing countries. He was selected to join the group's trip to Ghana. And that is where he had his "aha" moment.

"Being curious about the eye drops being used and the main medicinal agents involved, I began reading the drug description and to my utter surprise, I saw the two molecules I had been studying in the lab," he said. "It was a translational experience indeed. Going from bench top (in the lab) to witnessing application in the field. These

drugs are potent wide-spectrum antibiotics, my studies centers around the interaction at the protein level in the human body."

Ramai, a former FDA intern under the guidance of Professor Deb Chakravarti at York, and winner of the Frances Kelsey award 2010, worked in the department of Microbiology in the detection of harmful food-borne pathogens. In addition to this, he was trained for the Ghana mission in the office of Dr. Wilson Ko, a Flushing, Queens-based ophthalmologist who also provided him with donations of implant lenses for cataract patients. Dr. Ko gave Ramai the opportunity to shadow him and his staff as he treated patients in his office and during eye surgeries in the theater.

Ramai also took 350 pairs of eye glasses in addition to the 100 eye implant lenses for the correction of sight and poor vision in patients which he collected from Vision USA.

Ramai, who is originally from the island of Trinidad, will be applying to medical school for the fall

of 2012 and has an interest in global health delivery and research. And at York he has had plenty of research opportunities both on and off campus with members of York's outstanding faculty.

Under the guidance of Dr. Julio Padovan, a specialist in hemoglobin studies and mass spectrometry, Ramai was able to conduct research at Rockefeller University in a state-of-the-art nationally recognized laboratory during his sophomore and junior years year at York. Dr. Padovan, an adjunct professor at York, was Ramai's first Chemistry professor at and graciously provided the opportunity at his home institution.

Ramai also studies and collaborates with the York College labs of Dr. Ruel Desamero, Dr. Emmanuel Chang (mentor), Dr. Louis Levinger (Biology), and others. He has also worked collaborated with other CUNY colleges such as Queens College and said the experience has been phenomenal.

"We have a great system here at York," he



Daryl Ramai (2nd left) during his visit in Ghana



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York College Unveils Research on Haiti's Homeless Camps

by Mark Schuller



Professor Schuller's student research team in a camp in Haiti

On September 20, 2011 York College hosted a discussion, "Building Walls, Tearing Tents: Applied Research in Haiti's IDP Camps." Over 250 people, including York students, staff and faculty and members of New York's Haitian community attended the event.

Twenty months after Haiti's devastating earthquake, an estimated 600,000 still live under tents or tarps as Internally Displaced People (IDP). IDPs have become increasingly targeted for eviction as conditions deteriorate: in the summer of 2011, contracts for life-saving services such as water or toilets began to expire.

IDPs have become living symbols of the frustrations and failures of the recovery effort. They have become a hot-button political issue within Haiti's government, the United Nations, and international donor agencies, NGOs, and media.

Despite increasingly disparaging accounts wherein IDPs are declared "not real victims," very little about life in the camps – and the impact

of the aid – is known. Shedding light on this increasingly critical issue, York College faculty and students teamed up with their peers from the State University of Haiti in conducting long-term fieldwork in eight IDP camps during June-July 2011. The methods, experiences, challenges, and results from a 56-question survey of 800 people were revealed to the public at this event.

Prof. Mark Schuller, who chairs the Society for Applied Anthropology's Human Rights and Social Justice Committee, led a team of five Haitian-American students from York College – Sabine Bernard, Sandy Nelzy, Adlin Noël, Stephanie Semé, and Tracey Ulcena – and eight students from the State University of Haiti.

Each student team conducted five weeks of research in an IDP camp, chosen around the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, comparing camps with or without official NGO management agencies.

Research included 800 household surveys with 56 questions, 80 recorded interviews with individu-

als, direct observation, and focus group interviews, complemented with interviews with camp committee, NGO, and international agencies. Questions ranged from changes within families' livelihood strategies, their living arrangements and ties to communities; participation and awareness of formal aid; intentions to stay or leave; continued challenges preventing people from leaving the camps; and their assessment of NGOs, the Haitian government, and the U.N. troops.

Students gave passionate testimony about their experiences in the field. It was the first time all of them had been to Haiti since the earthquake. One of them who was born in Brooklyn to two Haitian parents had never been to Haiti before.

Students discussed their experience of being labeled "Diaspora" – or foreign – and what that meant about their freedom of mobility. All of them noted difficulties in doing fieldwork, gaining trust given the string of broken promises by agencies conducting research

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2nd Annual Summer Research Program a Success

Summer season is best known for vacations, Independence Day celebrations (4th of July), the heat, water activities and most of all outdoor (barbecues). But for 68 students (39 high school, 26 undergraduate and 3 graduates) the summertime was spent investigating, exploring, discovering, and analyzing research at York College of The City University of New York (CUNY).

The 2nd Annual York College Summer Research program provides faculty who conduct research the chance to mentor students and provide graduates with access to CUNY facilities during July and August. The facilities at York College have some of the latest and best equipment to conduct an array of scientific research along with a support team for institutional advancement makes the program potentially one of the summer best kept secrets for stu-

dents to construct and gain new knowledge in leadership while conducting research.

After great success and demand in the 2010 season this year proved to be even better. Typically, students had responsibilities in active research for an eleven week period Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. The faculty ratio to students is 1:1 up to 1:4. With over 26 faculty conducting research from Behavioral Sciences to Chemistry and Physics, every student was assigned to one study (of interest) and reports to various sites to lead certain aspects of faculty study. Students interacted with each other every Tuesday and Thursday for one-hour group lectures conducted by faculty on topics that cover background of a given study. Students gained new understanding about different topics and learned how scientific research affects one's life

and environment making a social connection. The closing ceremony consisted of students and faculty poster presentations: this year over 50 (see attached list). All students completed a research report to explain research abstracts and discuss data analysis and results. Upon completion students were presented a certificate of participation from the College president Dr. Marcia Keizs.

Under the leadership of Ms. Dawn Hewitt, Director of Research and sponsored Programs, and Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, Dean for the School of Arts and Sciences, diversity and equity is transparent in every aspect of this initiative providing minority students active roles in research. The goal of York College Undergraduate Summer research initiative is to provide access and encourage lifelong learning skills.

Impressions from the Summer Research Program



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will be focusing attention on online instruction.

At York we have made incremental progress over the years, but it may be

time for something more drastic. This task force will engage that discussion."



Faculty and students attending the Convocation

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Homeless camp in post-earthquake Haiti

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in the past: “What will this do for me?” On the weekends, students and Schuller went to various locations outside of Port-au-Prince, attending a guest lecture as part of the CUNY collaboration with the Public University of the South in Les Cayes; visiting Jacmel, a seaside tourist town that was also impacted by the earthquake, and Cap-Haïtien, with the famous Citadelle, one of the oldest and certainly largest standing forts in the Caribbean.

In all the travels, students encountered U.N. troops, most of whom did not speak French, but some managed to question the York students about their presence. This had a profound impact on the students, as all five of them noted it in their presentations.

Students came back changed, energized to get involved in Haiti solidarity efforts, be they for IDPs, regarding the U.N., or justice for artists whose work is sold in the U.S., including Macy’s.

The study, funded by grants from the National Science Foundation,

the Chancellor’s CUNY Haiti Initiative, and the PSC-CUNY, also yielded some very timely results. For example, despite the discourse about not being “real victims,” only there for the free services, 92% of people preferred to leave the camps, and only 3.5% came since the earthquake. Also, on average, families lost 0.8 people in the earthquake, which would suggest that higher estimates of Haiti’s official death toll are plausible.

One of the longest-lasting impacts of the aid delivery is the fissuring of Haiti’s households: average size went from 5.37 to 3.36. This was likely because of policies from aid agencies to distribute aid (food, hygiene kits, tents, etc.) to heads of households. So, following this reward structure, many families decided to split up to maximize their access to life-saving resources. But this has a downside: Haiti’s extended family ties are the first and last resort for solidarity, which explains how Haiti’s people can survive in very difficult

times. Whether this rupture in solidarity ties is repairable in future disasters remains uncertain. The qualitative interviews and the focus groups will prove invaluable in this effort.

These and other results were discussed, and will be published in blogs and a large report directed at the U.N., aid agencies, and the U.S. government.

Policy recommendations will be distilled and shared as Schuller and the student team meets with members of Congress beginning in October.

The presentation and discussion were videotaped, and are available for watching on YouTube.

Schuller will be taking students to Haiti again in the summer, and possibly over winter break. He can be contacted at mschuller@york.cuny.edu if interested in joining. Schuller is joined by colleagues Vadim Moldovan (Social Work) and Bill Divale (Anthropology) in offering study abroad/research opportunities.

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” — Zora Neale Hurston

cont.'d from p.3

said. “The instrumentation is first class. My roommates (also chemistry majors) in Ghana were students from Johns Hopkins and Carnegie Mellon and they did not know about certain instruments and techniques that I learnt here at York.”

What took him half-way around the world according to Ramai was his desire for a meaningful experience that would be at once humanitarian and a contributing element to his education and research back at York. He did not want the usual two-week study-abroad summer program that is usually the lot for undergraduates in summer.

“I was looking for a volunteer experience that would be culturally immersive and educational,” he explained. “I searched online and found several. Then I found *Unite for Sight* which conducts a Global Health Delivery certificate program under its

Global Health University. My pre-departure training involved course work in topics such as global health, community eye care, ethics and professionalism, social entrepreneurship, and much more. Certification in Global Health Research, which Ramai also acquired, also contains an intensive curriculum.

“The patient interaction is invaluable”, he says “I made it my goal to ensure that the patients understood that I was there for them if they had any questions or concerns, and that they understood all treatment if given.

He added that he quickly learned phrases of two popular local languages, Twi and Ewa so he could communicate more effectively.

According to Ramai there are only 45 ophthalmologists in the nation of nearly 26 million people. *United for Sight* is successful because, according to Ramai, they

invest in local infrastructure and human capital. They believe their role is to assist and empower the locals to improve life and healthcare for themselves.

“We believe that the locals know best,” said Ramai. “They know the signs and subtleties so we must seek their guidance rather than them seeking ours. I made my first diagnosis in Ghana. I diagnosed a patient with immature cataract and suspected glaucoma and when the Ghanaian doctor I was assisting examined the patient he gave me a high-five, I got it right!”

The future physician is now ready to have another similar experience.

“I realize there’s a lot more work to be done and I would like to be an agent for social change in these developing countries,” said Ramai who is considering an opportunity to do a study-abroad in global health in India this winter. “I know we can do better.”



Daryll (c.) with friends in Ghana

“My roommates were Johns Hopkins and Carnegie Mellon students, and they did not know certain instruments and techniques that I learnt here at York.”



Professor Richard Arum (New York University) during his recent lecture at York College



York Professor assumes Endowed Chair at University of Minnesota

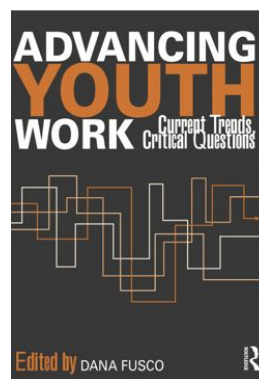


Dr. Dana Fusco

Dr. Dana Fusco, associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, and until recently Acting Dean of the School of Health & Behavioral Sciences, assumes a Howland Endowed Chair for 2011-12 at the University of Minnesota's Center for Youth Development.

In her role as a Howland Endowed Chair the Center welcomes her presence and is looking forward to her focus on youth worker preparation as well as program accreditation of community youth programs. Her work will involve activities with a cohort of practitioners focusing

on youth worker perspectives, on youth worker expertise systems, as well as a work group examining accreditation.



The Center is excited about the work presented in Dr. Fusco's recently released book and looks forward to helping inform and learn about her

ideas for a second based on a theoretical model that builds from the concept of developmentally-responsive practice. Dr. Fusco's work will be highlighted in a spring Howland symposium.

While she resides at the Center Dr. Fusco will connect with their faculty and staff in 4-H youth development, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation, and the Youth Work Institute as well as others around the larger University.

Dr. Fusco's edited book *Advancing Youth Work. Current trends, Critical Questions* was released earlier this year by Routledge.

U.N. Economist to Visit York's School of Business

The annual seminar series of the School of Business and Information Systems & Entrepreneurship Club will host its 3rd Annual Seminar on Thursday November 3rd 2011 between 12 - 2pm (AC/2M05).

Dr. Daniel Platz from the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs will be the guest speaker, addressing the topic, "*Finance for Growth and Development: Microfinance Development Strategy.*" Interested students among the participants will attend a United Nations session on Finance in the spring 2012 semester.

For further information contact: **Olajide S. Oladipo, Ph.D., Business and Economics Department/School of Business and Information Systems – Tel.: 718-262-2515; Email: ooladipo@york.cuny.edu**



Dr. Daniel Platz

cont.'d from p.1

numerous states. She joins the administration at York College directly from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia where she was Dean of Student Life.

The new VP's CV boasts an expertise in inter-cultural student development and in "the importance of curricular and co-curricular partnerships in the education for the student as a whole individual."

Dr. Walker-Johnson has honed these skills in a number of student development positions at the Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York; Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina, Wellesley College in Massachusetts and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia that will stand her in good stead in an environment such as York, which prides itself on its rich diversity.

And VP Walker-Johnson says she is looking forward to the challenge.

"I first have to get a sense of the culture," she says. "I want to get to

know the students and to know what they want to see. I will try to forge strong partnerships with faculty and focus on [each] student as the whole person."

To that end she promises to have an emphasis on curricular and co-curricular needs and trouble-shoot problems with financial aid and other areas of potential stumbling blocks to student success.

The VP also hopes to work closely with the Development Office and wants parents to be part of the equation in the students' college life.

"I want the parents in this partnership," she says. "Parents know if their children are not going to bed and not doing their work. They can say, 'Hey, don't you have a biology test tomorrow?'"

Walker-Johnson, who says she has never lived and worked in an urban setting as large as New York City before, is looking forward to life in New York and at York College.

"It's going to be a

huge cultural transition," she says. "But I will take challenges and turn them into opportunities."

She has done presentations and workshops throughout the United States as well as in England and Norway; and given keynote addresses at various institutions throughout the state of New York, at Harvard University and the US Marine Forces.

"I am delighted Dr. Walker-Johnson has accepted our offer to lead the Student Development area," said President Keizs. "She comes to us with over fifteen years of executive experience honed at institutions as varied as Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY, Wellesley College in Massachusetts and Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. Members of the search committee, the executive cabinet, the Student Development area, as well as our students, are energized by the prospect of her leadership. We welcome her to York College."



Dr. Geneva Walker-Johnson

"I will try to forge strong partnerships with faculty and focus on [each] student as the whole person."

**"Learning is like rowing upstream:
not to advance is to drop back."**

Chinese Saying

YORKCOLLEGE.CUNY

Welcoming New Faculty Colleagues (Pt.2)

With the Fall 2011 semester, several new faculty members will assume teaching, research and service responsibilities at the college. The college takes great pride in this further expansion of its faculty and in the following pages we briefly introduce the new professors (in no particular order).

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Donna Johnson



Dr. Johnson joined the York College faculty this year as a Clinical Professor in the Department of Teacher Education (School of Health & Behavioral Sciences). Her role is to serve as Director of the Teacher Education Department's Field and Clinical Programs, where she is responsible for all program operations, building partner relations with community schools and agencies, and . She also teaches a Bilingual Education course, and serves as the professor for York College's Student Teaching Practicum course. Donna brings a great deal of experience and expertise in the field of education. She has worked in Education as a teacher of English at the secondary education level for over a decade, and is an experienced school and district administrator. Dr. Johnson previously worked as an Associate Professor at Medgar Evers College.

John Smith



John Smith recently joined the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College as a substitute lecturer and he will be teaching a variety of courses in aviation management. John has an Ed.S. and an M.S. in Aviation Safety both from the University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg). He is the author of *Aircraft Performance Explanation for Takeoff from a High Altitude Airport* (VDM Verlag, 2008) and has many years of experience in the airline industry, and has previously worked with businesses such as LTU, Condor, TWA, American Airlines and Lufthansa. He is also certified as a flight engineer on large aircraft such as Boeing 727, DC-10, and Lockheed 1011.



York Faculty Update



- **Michael Efthimiades**, Adjunct Lecturer (Department of History & Philosophy, *School of Arts & Sciences*), published an article entitled "The Papacy of Benedict XV During World War I As A Transnational Organization" in the peer-reviewed journal *Diakonos* (2011), which is published by Saint John's University (Jamaica, NY) Theology Department. Mr. Efthimiades is a doctoral candidate in World History at Saint John's University.
- **Beverly Horowitz**, (Dept. of Occupational Therapy, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences), was invited in July to do a guest lecture in Korea at Yonsei's University's Occupational Therapy Department, entitled, "Occupational Therapy Practice to Support Aging Communities."
- Foldi, N.S., **Kaplan, L.R.**, Ly, J.J., Nikelspur, O., Lucy, L.O, Jeffrey, J.T, (2011), "ADL functions and relationship to cognitive status," in: *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 7(4), Supp. S244. (Prof. Kaplan works in the Dept. of Occupational Therapy, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences).

York Professor Discusses Autism At Recent UN Forum

The *Eng. AJA EZE Foundation* recently asked York College/CUNY professor, Dr. Andrea Krauss to be part of an Autism Life-Saving Awareness event at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Dr. Krauss, chairperson in the Department of Occupational Therapy, was invited by the organization dedicated to gender equality, children's rights, empowerment of women and girls invited Dr. Krauss "to voice [your] expertise on the subject of autism." The panel discussion held on September 8th, 2011, in conjunction with the Israeli Society for Autistic People, addressed the imperative to raise awareness among healthcare providers, therapists, parents, schools and the general public.

Krauss' invitation to participate at the UN hearing came from Ugoji Eze, founder and president of the foundation. Eze, an international attorney, praises Dr. Krauss' expertise in the field of autism and explained in her letter that in Africa where she was born, care and ac-

ceptance for those with autism is well behind what it is in the west.

"While there is an emerging prevalence of autism in African, there is also still a stigma attached to Autism in Africa," said Eze. "[This] is a strong intimidator to parents from seeking advice or information about the disorder. There is a need for collaboration and cooperation between countries with more advanced services for people with autism and countries in which these services are less advanced or non-existent in order to share experience and knowledge, increase awareness, reduce negative opinions and stigmas, strengthen capacities and help with the allocation of financial support to provide proper diagnosis and early intervention treatments of children with autism all over the world."

Dr. Krauss' expertise was honed over many years as a clinician, teacher and researcher with MSW and DSW degrees from Adelphi University as well as an undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy from New York University.

Known for her expertise in the areas of pediatric occupational therapy, autistic spectrum disorders, sensory processing disorders and naturalistic and developmental treatments of children with autistic spectrum disorders, Dr. Krauss spoke at the UN on "the science of autism – what the causes are and how families can help."

"Family training is the most effective method in treating children with autism," she said. "Autism is a neurological disorder caused by an interaction between a genetic propensity and the environment, but we don't know what causes it to express itself. But there are new tools."

In her presentation Krauss, a clinician for the past 25 years, showed videos and discussed the literature.

"I saw an opportunity to represent my college and do a community service," said Krauss, who has published and presented extensively in her field.



Dr. Andrea Krauss



Ugoji Adanma Eze

Al Sears' Saxophone at York Library

by John A. Drobnicki

On August 1, 2011, a question came in to Prof. Anamika Dasgupta through the Library's email reference service. It was sent by Sally Adams, a reporter with the *McDonough County Voice* (Macomb, Illinois), who requested a photograph of Al Sears' tenor saxophone.

Al Sears, who played with the likes of Fats Waller, Lionel Hampton, Duke Ellington, and Johnny Hodges, was born in Macomb on Feb. 21, 1910, and in doing research for the city's annual Al Sears Jazz Festival, Ms. Adams came across the page on the Library's website about the York College-Black American Heritage Foundation Music History Archive (<http://www.york.cuny.edu/library/about-the-library/music-history-archive>), which mentions that the College has a tenor saxophone that belonged to Al Sears.

Although the web page had a photo of the saxophone in a glass case, Prof. Di Su took some digital photographs to send to Ms. Adams, and Prof. John Drobnicki



Al Sears

YORK COLLEGE CUNY

6

Al Sears Jazz Festival 2011

A piece of Sears history sits at York College

By Sally Adams

The Black American Heritage Foundation was founded by Clarence L. Irving, Sr. in 1984. Its purpose is to document, preserve and disseminate information about the accomplishments of African Americans, help young people, and infuse good citizenship and awareness of the African American cultural heritage.

Irving was born in Virginia and moved to Brooklyn in the late 1950s, where he played baseball for the Brooklyn Black Sox. Now in his 80s, Irving is not only responsible for the creation of the BAHF but was also instrumental in convincing the United States Postal Service to issue the Black Heritage Series of stamps in 1978.

He also helped to establish the Black American Heritage Trail, which honors the achievements of African Americans in southeast Queens.

Irving describes the archives as "a hobby that turned into research and devotion. I started collecting memorabilia reflecting the creativity of the Jazz Age and southeast Queens



musicians, and before I knew it, the collection was enormous."

He has played with such jazz greats as Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald.

On May 2, 1994, the BAHF opened the first exhibit for its Music History Archive. Its purpose is to collect documents, music manuscripts, memorabilia, recordings, and artifacts pertaining to African American musicians and composers who lived in southwest Queens.

Creation of the Archives was announced by York President Milton G. Bassin on Oct. 18, 1989.

Housed in the York College Archive, the archive is home to scores to five of trumpeter and composer Wilbur "Buck" Clayton's compositions, his trumpet case and mutes, a flute that belonged to inventor Lewis Latimer and the tenor saxophone of Macomb's own Al Sears. Sears' saxophone was added to the collection of the Archives in the late 1990s. It was presented to York College's then-President Josephine D. Davis by Sears' wife, Ruth.

York College is located in Jamaica, N.Y.

gave Ms. Adams contact information for the Music History Archive's founder, Mr. Clarence Irving, Sr.

Drobnicki also recalled seeing a photo of Al Sears' widow presenting the saxophone to York College, and after some unsuccessful searching in the Library's archive was able to obtain a copy of it from Prof. Robert Parmet.

The photo was one of many that had been scanned a few years ago by Mr. Eric Tyrer of the Information Technology Department as part of a digitization project, and Dr. Parmet had copies of them in order to select some for his forthcoming book.

That photo of Mrs. Ruth Sears with York's

then-President Josephine Davis was added to the Library website along with Prof. Su's photos, and reporter Sally Adams used both the archival photo and information from the Library website (as well as her interview with Mr. Irving) for her article, "A Piece of Sears History Sits at York College," which appeared in the 2011 Al Sears Jazz Festival's book (also available online at http://www.pbiprinting.com/flaash/view_flipbook.php?quote_id=3431).

The 10th Annual Al Sears Jazz Festival was scheduled to be held in Macomb, Illinois from September 23-25, 2011.

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old Domino factory was closed down in 2004 and sold to *The Refinery LLC.*, the CPC Group (the developer) and Isaac Katan. Their plans for a "New Domino," include 2,200 residential units, a waterfront esplanade open to the public, and 220,000 square feet of ground floor retail, commercial, and community facilities. Indeed, the New Domino is a mega-development the size of 5 Chrysler buildings.

As often in urban redevelopment, changes on this scale cause displacement and resentment.

Dan's documentary captures some of these sentiments on camera. As one resident put it: "Despite the corporation's image as a developer of affordable housing, analysis of the City's public ACRIS (Automated City Register Information System) property records reveals that since 2007 more than 65 percent of the \$701 million invested in Brooklyn (including new loans and refinancing), have gone to market rate development."

In this first Fall 2011 Provost Lecture, the au-

dience was both entertained as well as provided critical information and perspectives about redevelopment in New York City. The lecture also resonated with another lecture given in the previous academic year, which had focused on urban development in Jamaica, Queens, and how aging populations are affected by it.



A 19th century view of the sugar factory



cont.'d from p.10

Gerri B. Chanel

Gerri Chanel joins York as an associate professor in the Department of Accounting and Finance (School of Business & Information Systems). She is a certified public accountant who has held managerial positions in public accounting firms, including Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Professor Chanel also has a background in industry, where she served as the manager of U.S. Taxes for a Fortune 500 corporation. Most recently before joining York College, she instructed courses in financial accounting, management accounting and taxation in Paris, France. She has written extensively on taxation and business topics, and is a recipient of the Distinguished Author Award of the Connecticut Society of CPAs. Holding an MBA, she is also a member of the American Institute of CPAs.



Virginia Thompson

Dr. Virginia Thompson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from York College in 1998, which laid her foundation for her studies at the Teachers College (TC) of Columbia University. At the Teachers College, she acquired her Master of Arts degree in Mathematics Education (2000), and a doctoral degree in Mathematics Education (2009). Virginia is elated to return back to her home institution, and teach along with faculty members who once taught her. She will work in the Department of Mathematics & Computer Science (School of Arts & Sciences) as a Doctoral Lecturer.



Faculty honored for Outstanding Scholarship

During the Fall 2011 Convocation, three faculty members received a Presidential Award for Scholarship:



Prof. MacNeil (c.) posing with President Keizs (r.) and Provost Griffith



Prof. Oladipo (c.) with President Keizs (r.) and Provost Griffith



Prof. Schuller (c.) posing with President Keizs (r.) and Provost Griffith

Margaret MacNeil

“Midge” MacNeil studies the structure and microcircuitry of neurons in the vertebrate retina. Recently promoted, she is a full professor, and this year is acting chair of the Department of Biology. Her research has significance in the context of diseases of the eye’s retina — diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and retinitis pigmentosa, which damage subsets of these retinal cells.

To support her research Dr. MacNeil has received several grants – most recently a \$490K grant from the NIH (2009-2013) to study the shape and circuitry of neurons in the retina and a \$131K supplemental grant for a research technician. Known for her involvement and mentoring of students in her lab, she recently published an article, co-authored with another York faculty member (Ivica Arsov) and several others, in the *Journal of Immunology*.

Among other things, she’s currently working on an article a coauthor of which is York’s 2009 student winner of the prestigious Salk Scholarship, Sheryl Purrier.

Olajide Oladipo

Assistant Professor Oladipo, who joined us in 2008, is serving this year as Acting Chair of Business & Economics. Between 2009 and this year he has published five papers in refereed journals, including *Journal of Applied Economics*, the *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, and *Problemas Del Desarrollo Revista*. Moreover, he’s presented and published seven papers in the proceedings of conferences nationally and internationally.

Dr. Oladipo received two grants – from PSC-CUNY and CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences – and has been integrally involved in securing a \$100K grant from the SBDC Portable Assistance Project and a \$250K grant from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish a Global Trade Initiative at York College.

Finally, Dr. Oladipo mentored four students and had them present their research at the 2010 Student Research Day, and did the same for 12 students at 2011 Research Day 2010.

Mark Schuller

Dr. Schuller, an anthropologist who also joined us in 2008, coproduced the highly-acclaimed documentary *Poto Mitan*, which deals with the role of Haitian women in the global economy. Based on the documentary, he gave numerous invited talks about the issues raised in the documentary at Harvard University, Tulane, NYU, University of Toronto, George Washington University, University of Miami, Dickinson College, FIU, UCLA, and other places.

He was also was selected by his peers to present in our Provost Lecture Series.

Between 2008 and this year Mark published four articles in refereed journals: the *Journal of Humanitarian Assistance*; *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*; *Caribbean Quarterly*; and *Political and Legal An-*

cont.’d on p.15

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Wednesday, Oct. 5 *Discussion:* ***The Joys and Sorrows of Writing Program Assessment Reports: Sorting Out the Elements***

3-5pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Facilitators: Linda Barley, Health and Physical Education
Debra Glaser, Health and Physical Education

Thursday, Oct. 13 *Poster Session:* ***4th Annual Day of Assessment & CETL Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Poster Session***

12-2pm Faculty Dining Room, AC 2D01

Presenters: Ten York Faculty Members including 2010-11 Title III Faculty Grant Recipients

Co-sponsored with the Outcomes Assessment Committee



Fall 2011 Convocation: A cheerful administrative trio being honored by President Keizs (r.) for their work at the college: Cathy Michaels (Financial Aid Office), Yvette Williamson (Bursar's Office), and Sharon Davidson (Registrar's Office) (l.-r.)



cont.'d from p.14

thropology Review. Plus he has three forthcoming books. One, *Killing with Kindness: Development Aid and NGOs in Post-Coup Haiti*, authored for Rutgers University Press, and two co-edited ones with Left Coast Press and Kumarian Press. Moreover, he published three book chapters and maintained high national visibility through his blog in the Huffington Post.

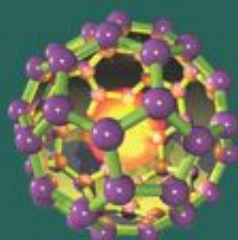
Earlier this year Mark won a \$98K research grant from the National Science Foundation, which he used for his research in Haiti. For this project he also invited five Haitian-American students from York College, to support his work as research assistants (see also p.4). Presentation with his students on September 20 in Atrium. He also has won grants from the Haiti Education on Displacement Issues Project, PSC-CUNY grants, and the John F. Kennedy Junior Foundation, among other places.

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

P R O V O S T
L E C T U R E S E R I E S

The Muon Diaries

ONE PARTICLE'S VIEW OF THE COMING REVOLUTION IN PHYSICS



Particle physics sits on the threshold of a revolution: our current theory is phenomenally accurate and successful, but is known to be incomplete. All attempts to fix these known problems predict new particles and effects that will be observable in the coming generation of experiments.



Tuesday, October 25, 2011
2:00-4:00 PM Faculty Dining Room



Kevin Lynch
Assistant Professor
Department of Earth and Physical Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences





How Do You Know What They Know?

**Increasing Formative Assessment
4th Annual Day of Assessment and CETL
Poster Session**

**Thursday, October 13, 2011
12:00—2:00 PM
Faculty Dining Room AC-2D01**



York Faculty and Title III Grant Recipients will present:

- **What is Formative Assessment**
- **Concept Mapping**
- **Calibrated Peer Review**
- **Using the Tuning Protocol as An Assessment Tool**
- **Using Clickers to Assess Learning**
- **Matching Assessments to Course Objectives**
- **Using Serious Games to Develop Critical Thinking Skills in College Freshman**
and a lot more ...

Co-sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
and the Outcomes Assessment Committee

ITALIAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH

Research and Praxis

Friday, October 14, 2011
2–5 pm

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (Queens College, CUNY) announces a symposium to present and discuss current research findings, as well as treatment methodologies, concerning Italian American students and families. Dr. Donna M. Chirico will discuss her research on Italian American racial and ethnic identity and the critical influence it exerts on psychological development. Three panelists, Drs. Anthony F. Tasso and Dana Kasperveen-Guidici Pietro of Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Jennifer L. Turvi of Trinitas Medical Center, will present clinical case vignettes that examine psychotherapeutic work with three different Italian American clients. The case presentations will illuminate Italian American cultural factors that are relevant to treatment.

PROGRAM:

The Importance of Self-Identification in a Multi-Ethnic Social Environment

DONNA M. CHIRICO, PhD, York College, CUNY

Psychotherapy with Italian Americans: A Clinical Examination of the Role of Ethnocultural Themes in Treatment

ANTHONY F. TASSO, PhD, ABPP, Fairleigh Dickinson University

DANA KASPERVEEN-GUIDICI PIETRO, PhD, LPC, Fairleigh Dickinson University

JENNIFER L. TURVI, MA, Trinitas Regional Medical Center

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

All events are free and open to the public. To register, call: 212-642-2894.

For further information, contact:

Dominick Carielli, PhD, 718-951-5000, dominick.carielli@qc.cuny.edu.



John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, New York, NY 10036



**DEAR YORK COLLEGE COMMUNITY,
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NY HAS ADOPTED A
CAMPUS-WIDE TOBACCO-FREE POLICY
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2012**

This Policy prohibits tobacco use *on all grounds and facilities* under CUNY jurisdiction, including:

- Indoor locations
- Outdoor locations such as playing fields
- Entrances and exits to buildings
- Parking lots
- University operated vehicles

This policy also prohibits tobacco promotion, including:

- Advertising, marketing, and distribution of marketing materials on campus properties
- Tobacco industry sponsorship of athletic events and athletes

The decision to declare York College a tobacco-free campus is based on extensive research, deliberation, and solicitations of community views, and is designed to help protect the health of CUNY students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Across the United States, an ever-increasing number of colleges and universities are instituting tobacco-free policies. If you are interested in a smoking cessation program, please visit the York College Health Services Center, Room 1F01, (718) 262-2050. You may also call 1-866-NY-QUITS or visit nyc.gov/health.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION



On the Move

York College

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

All items should be submitted in MS Word

via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu