

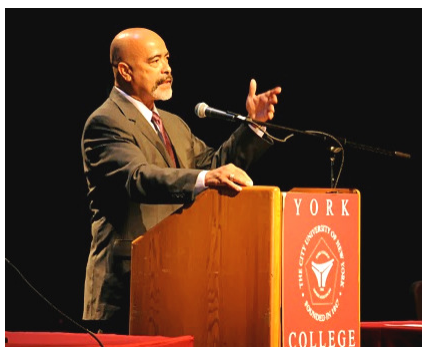
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

YORK College

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 7

NOVEMBER 2013

Black Male Initiative Conference at York



**Keynote Speaker
Mr. Juan Cartagena,
President and
General Counsel
Latino Justice/
PRLDEF**

(Photographs courtesy of
Yuan Yuan Kong)

October 4th, 2013 was York's turn to host the CUNY-wide Black Male Initiative (BMI) Conference; and the college performed with aplomb.

The annual conference, which is now in its eighth year, addressed the topic of "Race, Law, and Justice" during the

day-long event. York's president, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, brought greetings and praised Elliott Dawes, director of the CUNY BMI for his leadership of the initiative founded to support college success for young men of color.

More than 1,000 at-

tendees converged on York's campus, including 383 CUNY students, 71 CUNY alums, 93 CUNY administrators, 34 CUNY full-time faculty members and 31 CUNY adjunct faculty members.

Not to be left out, there were also local public and middle school students from New York City's Department of Education, as well as students, administrators and faculty members from the BMI programs at Fayetteville State University and the Universi-

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Distinguished "Justice for Trayvon" Panel

by Brittney Adamson (York Journalism Program)

On July 13 of this year a Florida jury acquitted George Zimmerman of second-degree murder and manslaughter after he killed a 17-year-old African American male named Trayvon Martin. Since the verdict African Americans and generally

outraged citizens of all stripes have engaged in protest gatherings to show their displeasure with what they consider an injustice.

In response to the verdict and the ongoing controversy about the

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Gloria Browne Marshall and Darius Charney (r.), guest speakers at the Trayvon Martin public forum

Special points of interest:

- **Black male Initiative Conference at York**
- **Collaboration with AMNH on Universe Exhibition**
- **York Becomes *Start-Up NY* Site**

Provost Lecture Series

“Robinson Investigates the Ethics of Grammar Pedagogy” by Dr. Tom Zlabinger



Dr. Robinson (l.) receiving the framed poster for her lecture from Assistant Provost Henke

On October 21, 2013, Dr. Heather Robinson gave her Provost Lecture “The Ethics and Economics of Grammar Instruction: Imagined Communities and Sentence-Level Pedagogy” to a packed lecture hall full of engaged students, faculty, and administrators. Her topic may initially seem not the most stimulating, but that could not be further from the truth!

Before the lecture, I was able to read an article of the same title she is currently working on.

I was surprised how much of her work in language pedagogy resonated with me as a music educator of improvisation. What is “correct” language? And how do we teach a “correct” language without negating or disrespecting a language learner’s cultural background? And what do language learners expect from the experience of learning grammar? Robinson not only investigated these issues, but also took the opportunity to speak with the language learners in her

classroom and ask them why they chose to take her class. Students repeatedly stated that they hoped learning better grammar would increase their employability as well as raise their intellectual maturity. Robinson outlined how this can be done effectively, while respecting a language learner’s cultural background.

At the beginning of her lecture, Robinson referenced Benedict Anderson’s *Imagined Communities: Reflections on*

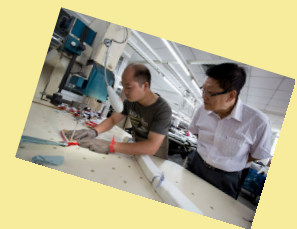
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Provost Lecture Series

Reproduction of Paternalism: Power Relations in Domestic Private Enterprises in China



Dr. Xiaodan Zhang
Associate Professor
Department of Social Sciences
School of Health & Behavioral Sciences



November 12, 2013
3:00–5:00 pm, Rm. 2D01

While some argue that the world is flat today, others depict globalization as a dialectic process of convergence and divergence. This talk, using shop-floor stories in Chinese factories, illustrates how an ideological tradition is reproduced under the influence of other seemingly contradictory ideas from the West.

Chief Forte Attends FBI Summer Training Camp

Anyone who may have wondered over the summer what had become of York's Chief of Security, Tyrone Forte, got the answer when President Marcia Keizs welcomed him back during her Convocation address on September 12th.

As it turns out, Chief Forte was away for extensive training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, which offers "a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders."

Founded in 1935 "to support, develop and enhance" law enforcement leaders, the 10-week program is funded by the U.S. government. Forte was one of 208 graduates from his class, which included men and women from 49 states, 22 countries, three military organizations and one federal civilian organization.

FBI director, James Comey was the keynote speaker.

Forte, a York alum with a Psychology degree as well as a pending master's from Queens College, is no stranger to hard work. He has spent four years in the United

States Air Force, eight years in the Army Reserves; as well as being a graduate of the Officer Candidate School (OCS) for the Army National Guard and a stint as a corrections officer, but he seems most excited about the FBI Academy.

The program, which includes both a rigorous academic curriculum and physical endurance training, earned Forte both an A average for the bachelor's and master's level program developed by and affiliated with the University of Virginia; and "two bricks" for the physical training – a yellow for a 6.1 obstacle course and the blue for the optional 34-mile swim.

"I've been to a lot of training in my life and this is the one I got the most of, not only for me but for the organization I am loyal to," said Forte. "It was an excellent experience – probably the most challenging and most rewarding experience of my life. It has increased my awareness on every level of law enforcement."

Forte was selected by Bill Barry, CUNY director of Public Safety, with the blessing of

President Marcia V. Keizs and Vice President Ronald C. Thomas for the opportunity.

Their faith was well founded.

"This was a great opportunity I was able to embark on and I thank President Keizs and Vice President Thomas for it," said Forte. "I learned a lot in terms of leadership, management, reaching out on behalf of York in the U.S. and the world (on behalf of study-abroad students if necessary), constitutional law, media relations and networking, the way the FBI does it."

As a result of the training, Forte, who had taken to wearing suits on campus over the past several years, can now be seen wearing his uniform around campus again.

"I went back to the uniform to lead my team," said Forte. "When they see me in uniform they see that I identify with them; and when I show up somewhere (on campus), it clearly defines me. I grew up York. I've been here for 17 years from being at the front door asking people for their



Chief Tyrone Forte



A hardworking Chief Forte (ctr.) poses with members of his team at the FBI Academy

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Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



2013-14 Theme: Pedagogies that Enhance Connection & Competence

Thursday, Nov. 7

Panel: Developing Expertise: A Look across Helping Professions

12 – 1:45pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Panelists: Dana Fusco, Teacher Education
Beverly Horowitz, Occupational Therapy
Lilly Matthew, Nursing
Claudette McFarquhar, Nursing
Vadim Moldovan, Social Work

Thursday, Nov. 21

Panel: Lost in Translation: Understanding the Particular Linguistic Needs of College-level ESL Students

12 – 1:45pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Panelists: Aegina Barnes, Foreign Languages, ESL, & Humanities
Linglan Cao, English
Matthew Corcoran, English
Howard Ruttenberg, History & Philosophy



York Faculty Updates



- **Basdeo Mangru** (Dept. of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences), “The Militancy of Indian Women.” *Journal of Indo-Caribbean Research*, Vol.8, No.1 (2013).

Exploring the “Dark Universe”

York Physics & Astronomy professor Tim Paglione has spent the last 18 months on what he calls “some of the most creative and challenging work I’ve ever been privileged to be a part of.” The most ambitious space show ever produced at the American Museum of Natural History, *Dark Universe*, opens to the public on Saturday, November 2.

Narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Dark Universe* is a celebration of the pivotal discoveries that allowed us to understand the history, structure, and makeup of our visible universe.

The “dark” elements of the show are both literal and figurative. The universe contains an abundance of dark matter, actual concrete stuff that we know is there from its gravitational influence, but has otherwise eluded our conclusive, direct detection (for now). Since dark matter doesn’t emit or absorb light, it is literally dark. Dark energy, on the other hand, is so called because we still lack a physical basis for its nature. Put plainly, we know it exists and dominates the universe, but we have no idea what it is. *Dark Universe* specifically explores the

various avenues that independently drove us to these counterintuitive conclusions.

Paglione’s role as Project Scientist was to serve as the vital link between the science and the visual production. He worked closely with the producers, director, technical directors (i.e., CGI wizards), writer, the museum curator-in-charge, and Hayden engineers to not merely check that the physics was correct, but in many cases provide or help access the foundational resources for scenes.

Paglione balanced this work with his other duties as chair of the Department of Earth & Physical Sciences, chair of the CUNY Astrophysics group (which now has ten faculty and six graduate students), and director of the NSF-supported AstroCom NYC mentoring program.

He served as the production team’s liaison to the contributing scientists, which involved helping to find contributors, translating datasets for visualization in the dome, helping to decide the proper levels of accuracy, and conveying the science and pedagogy to the writer and director. “I am particu-

larly proud of the new Milky Way model we’re using in the show,” he says.

This visualization combined an enormous simulation from the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, several vast observational datasets of the local stars and dust clouds from AMNH, France, and elsewhere, plus artistic muscle and Paglione’s astrophysical expertise. Working with Dr. Rosine Lallement (L’Observatoire de Paris) and her group’s data on local dust clouds was especially fruitful since it overlaps neatly with the research of Paglione and his graduate student.

The show’s director, Dr. Carter Emmart, who visited York last year to speak with Teacher Education students, is a true artist, extremely creative and talented, and remarkably well-versed in the science. This is the third production Paglione has worked on at AMNH, including *Journey to the Stars* and the *Big Bang Theatre* show.

Paglione and York College are listed in the credits, which millions of people will see each year. A copy of the DVD will be in the Library when they’re produced.



Dr. Timothy Paglione



York Chemistry Graduate Returns for Impressive Presentation



Azhad Chowdhury (ctr.) with department chair, Dr. Ruel Desamero (l.), and his former mentor, Dr. Jong-III Lee

He has been gone from York a mere two years, but Azhad Chowdhury, '11 already returned to his alma mater for a presentation of his research at Purdue University, where he is working toward a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry.

Introduced by Dr. Jong-III Lee, his primary York mentor, as “one of my babies,” Chowdhury, a native of Bangladesh, admitted that his chosen area of chemistry is new to him and therefore, challenging.

“I am not doing Organic Chemistry, which I studied here,” said Chowdhury. “I am struggling with this, but I have no regrets.”

Chowdhury came back to York as an invited speaker to the Chemistry Department’s weekly Natural Science Seminar Series (NSSS) and discussed his research “Study Of Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (API) and it’s formulation with Non-linear Optical Microscopy.”

The NSSS series provides an opportunity to foster the engagement of faculty, students and staff in the scientific enterprise and to culti-

vate an environment of intellectual discourse and growth by promoting interaction between scientists at every level. Chowdhury is not the first alum to have received this invitation, Dr. Aubrey Smith III, '94, an associate professor in the Biology Department at Montgomery College in Maryland, was a presenter in NSSS series during the fall semester of 2010 as well.

Chowdhury, who in his presentation thanked both York for hosting and Purdue for sponsoring him, is part of Dr. Garth Simpson’s group at Purdue. And despite his claims of “struggling” he recently presented his research manuscript for approval, which was still pending at the time.

The budding “Dr. Chowdhury,” who drove a taxicab to support his family and pay his tuition while a student at York, told current students in his old department that they can expect to work hard and to even cry, in graduate school.

He also had high praises for the nurturing he received at York and credits recommendation

letters from Dr. Lee, Dr. Ruel Desamero and others for his easy acceptance into the Purdue program.

“I didn’t even have to interview to get in,” said Chowdhury. “And Purdue is number two in the country for chemistry.”

The grateful alum told the audience that his mentor at Purdue always asks the question, “Who cares and why care?” “The public will always care,” said Chowdhury.

His York mentor is pleased with his progress.

“I think his presentation was fantastic,” said Dr. Lee. “Every second listening to my student was thrilling. Working at the Argonne National lab, in just two years after graduation from York ... his research will benefit drug developers in the pharmaceutical industry greatly. I am very proud that I am a faculty [member] at York and could touch someone’s life in this favorable way. It seems very clear that he will be a fine analytical chemist who is devoted to technological advances and in helping others.”

“Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.”

Chinese Proverb

Distinguished Cambridge Professor Visits York

On August 5, 2013, Dr. Alan Smith, Emeritus Reader of Earth Science, Cambridge University (UK) visited York College in response to an invitation from Dr. Nazrul Khandaker, Geology Discipline Coordinator. During his visit, Dr. Smith had an opportunity to converse with York geology undergraduates and a few high school students conducting research on various geological and environmental issues.

Dr. Smith is internationally known as one of the prolific and well-established researchers on continental reconstructions with emphasis on tectonics and geodynamics. He is a recipient of the Geological Society of America's prestigious Distinguished Career Award (DCA) in 2007. The citation speech given by Dr. Eldridge Moores (UC Davis) in relation to Dr. Smith's nomination for the DCA Award eloquently endorsed his credentials by saying "Without a doubt Alan Gilbert Smith's contributions to our understanding of orogeny, the geologic time scale, tectonics of the Eastern

Mediterranean, and variations in the Earth's rotation make him a giant of his generation in geology."

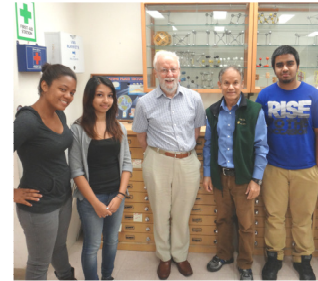
While visiting York's geology laboratories, Dr. Smith noticed an incredible amount of excitement and enthusiasm from the participating high school students many of whom had no prior research experience. Students from Marble Hill High School for International Studies (Bronx) (including Ishmam Chowdhury, Xavier Suarez, Nashid Chowdhury, Neyshmarie Gonzalez, and Jefferson Nopre) worked with Dr. Khandaker and were selected by the In-School Youth Program (ISY), funded by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development.

They also participated in York's summer SEMAA (NASA-sponsored *Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy*) and assisted SEMAA teachers in various phases including preparation of *StarLab*, robotic, flight simulation, 3D-Printing, and aerospace-related experiments. About 350 stu-

dents attended the SEMAA Program this summer and were partly funded by ConEdison.

Former SEMAA teacher Sade Deepan initiated a dialog with Dr. Khandaker and enabled seamless transfer of five students to York College through the In-School Youth (ISY) program. The In-School Youth (ISY) program provides year-round services to high school juniors and seniors who meet certain eligibility requirements.

ISY services are provided by community-based organizations in all five boroughs of New York City. They help participants graduate from high school, pursue college education, and develop career goals. The students' direct involvement associated with sediment analysis culminated in two accepted presentations for the Geological Society of America's 125th anniversary meeting titled "Sedimentology and Geochemical Investigations of the Exposed Ordovician-Devonian Sedimentary Rocks, Rosendale, Ulster County, New York" and



Dr. Alan Smith (ctr.) and Dr. Khandaker (2nd from right), with students from Marble Hill High and Brooklyn Tech. High Schools



Marble Hill High School and In-School Youth (ISY) Program students conducting geological research at York.

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“Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education: they grow there, firm as weeds among stones.”

— Charlotte Brontë,
Jane Eyre

cont.'d from p.7

“Environmental Impact of Groundwater Contamination in Southeast Queens, New York City.”

Students from Marble Hill High School, Bronx, received first hand training about how to budget time, engage in critical thinking aspects, initiate research, read research articles, draw salient conclusions, and overall make a useful contribution to ongoing research in the geology discipline at York College.

Through their six-week long commitment directed towards accomplishing desired objectives, they all felt quite pleased to have this opportunity and acknowledged the support received from the host institution. The visit was very fruitful and Dr. Smith was greatly impressed by the level of engagement and outreach activities York

offers to the community, in addition to imparting well-rounded geology core contents to the students.

Dr. Khandaker explained to Dr. Smith York’s persistent efforts and dedication to reach out to the greater Queens community and how it works as a common thread to blend academia and communities together in order to achieve milestones, particularly in the STEM field. Dr. Smith was quite taken aback by York’s demonstrated track record in this endeavor and deeply appreciated the department’s work beyond the confines of classroom environment.

He commented “I was delighted to be able to see York College at first hand – it is so different from this place (Cambridge). Cambridge University and its Earth Science Depart-

ment do not do very much in terms of outreach. We give occasional talks to schools if requested but, apart from the Museum; do not actively seek out the local community.”

From a professional point of view, Dr. Khandaker (who is the current secretary of the GSA International Section) closely worked with Dr. Smith (past Chair, GSA International Section) for a couple of years and organized recently concluded *Roof of the World China 2013* Meeting, held in Sichuan Province.

This professional relationship ultimately opened the door for Dr. Smith’s visit to York campus and additional future collaboration pertaining to outreach and dissemination of geological knowledge across the Atlantic.

Social Work Major Studies Abroad in Moldova

Social Work student KrystalBella Murnane-Victorelli had the summer abroad experience of a lifetime when along with several classmates, she accompanied Dr. Selena T. Rodgers to the Republic of Moldova, in Eastern Europe.

“It is still a develop-

ing country,” said Murnane-Victorelli of the nation once ruled by Romania, becoming part of the Soviet Union after World War II and gaining independence 1991. “I worked in an orphanage there as part of the curriculum. We had access in the orphanage

and prisons that we would never have here. It was super hands-on; and for a future social worker this is important.”

Murnane-Victorelli, who also backpacked across Europe at the end

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shooting and eventual verdict, York Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Ron Daniels moderated a public forum at the college on September 29th.

The forum, "Justice for Trayvon Martin: Where Do We Go from Here? Change the Stand Your Ground Law, Boycott Florida" brought out a stellar panel of both York speakers and invited guests to discuss the case and its many implications.

"Is there a possibility of achieving justice out of this tragedy or will we retreat back to the normalcy of business as usual, or will we here at York College contribute, or can we contribute, to finding a solution?" Dr. Daniels posed to the panel.

Before the panelists spoke of possible solutions, Daniels asked, Gloria Brown Marshall, Esq., a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, to explain the case as well as the *Stand Your Ground* law that was part of the legal case.

"In Florida they have this law called *Stand Your Ground* that states you can meet force with force," said Brown-Marshall. "That is why George Zimmerman was not arrested at first, because he claimed *Stand*

Your Ground."

Brown-Marshall then stressed to the audience that in order to beat oppression in the future they must retain the information that they would be receiving at the forum.

The discussion then turned to *Stop and Frisk*, and how it violates the rights of many African American males and others. Panelist Darius Charney, a senior attorney at the *Center of Constitutional Rights*, took the lead in this part of the discussion.

"The Trayvon Martin tragedy is a part of the same beast as in New York, which is racial profiling," said Charney. "There have been over 5 million stop and frisk [incidents] that have been recorded by the New York Police Department and 90% of those stops are of black and Latino New Yorkers."

Charney also noted that most of these stop and frisks events ended with no weapons found. In an attempt to remedy this problem, a judge found the New York City Police Department liable for a pattern and practice of racial profiling and unconstitutional stop-and-frisks. This historic case was "Floyd vs. the City of New York." David Floyd had

been stopped and frisked in front of his apartment building in the Bronx for no apparent reason.

Armed with some interesting statistics, Dr. Divine Pryor, executive director of the *Center NuLeadership on Urban Solutions* spoke to the students about the incarceration of black males and how African Americans and Latinos are dying by an unfair legal system.

"Racism married capitalism and produced a child ... the prison system," said Pryor, who has spent time in jail. "There are 2.5 million people in jail, most of them black."

Pryor continued the facts and figures list.

"There have been 313 black kids killed by cops since Trayvon," said Pryor. "Extrajudicial killing of black people is when the police becomes the Judge, the Jury, and the Executioner, because we are considered a threat to society. This is not only about the killing of Martin, but is a nationwide problem."

York College English professor, Mychel Namphy was also part of the panel.

"To be white by definition in the United States requires that you are superior to black



Dr. Ron Daniels, Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences



Gloria Brownne Marshall, Esq., John Jay College

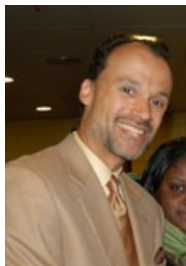


Darius Charney, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Justice

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Mr. Ronald Soutar,
York College Men's
Center



Dr. Mychel Namphy,
Department of Eng-
lish, School of Arts &
Sciences, York College

cont.'d from p.9

people and if you are superior to black people you therefore have the right to police black people," said Namphy. "And this is a good starting place to understand what happened to Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman."

Known for his love of classic soul music, Dr. Namphy quoted some of the potent lyrics of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On:" "Mother, mother, mother, there's too many of you crying,/ Brother, brother, brother, there's too many of you dying ...," he recited.

The panel was rounded out by two York students, Ronald Soutar, from the York College Men's Center, and Xavier Crandle, acting vice president of the York College National Society

of Leadership and Success.

"Stand your ground is not the central issue," said Soutar. "The central issue is the perceived value of the black life and it starts with us. We have to respect Black life before Whites will respect it."

Members of the audience queued up for the Q&A session afterwards to share their own experiences with Stop and Frisk and other practices.

They particularly asked what the students could do to stop the violence from happening. The panel also suggested that Florida and its products should be boycotted and that the York students should help one another by getting involved in activities that could benefit African

American liberation.

Overall, the forum was a success. Many felt the discussion-raised awareness of key justice issues.

Khayriyyah H. Ali, Executive Director of the Educational Opportunity Center, brought a large number of students from her organization to the event.

"It was truly an informative and enlightening event with a lot of positive energy," said Ali. "I expect that panelists from their respective fields will be prepared and deliver, so I want to underscore how wonderful it was to have Xavier and Ronald (York students) on the panel! Their input/perspectives were powerful additions."

Inter-Professional Education Session



Dr. Robert Brugna (l.),
social worker **Linda**
Wright (ctr.) and **Prof.**
Renee Wright (r.)

On October 22 approximately 75 students, enrolled in the York Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant programs, came together to attend an inter-professional teamwork training session in the Science Building. The respective programs were represented by

York professors Donald Auremma, Renee Wright and Robert Brugna, who were joined by a guest speaker, social worker Linda Wright.

The recent congressional stand-off over raising the national debt ceiling by a small group of Republican Senators attempting to link that action to defund the Af-

fordable Care Act illustrates the national debate regarding our health care system and provided a discussion topic to introduce the importance of inter-professional teamwork training. As one of the few methodologies proven to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare sys-

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York Professors host Cuban Colleagues for Global Education Conference

by Brittney Adamson (York Journalism Program)

A CUNY Global Education Conference, focusing on social work in Cuba and the Republic of Moldova was held on October 1 at York College. Associate Professor Vadim Moldovan hosted the first installment of a two-part conference that also discussed many aspects of global education offered at York.

“The purpose of this forum is to discuss academic exchange, study abroad programs, and international collaborative initiatives as well as to report on our progress with Project Casa Mare,” said Moldovan.

Moldovan has traveled regularly in the past several years to the Republic of Moldova, the place of his birth. With his colleagues from York, including Dr. William T. Divale, Director of the Anthropology Program, he has conducted several studies at psychiatric institutions in Moldova. In 2012, on the foundation of the prior collaborative work with universities and connections with ministries in Moldova, Project Casa Mare was launched, with a mission to develop and promote

the social work profession in countries with “transition” economies. Such countries include 17 nations that were included in the Soviet bloc up until the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Republic of Moldova is serving as a test site for developing and implementing a program preparing strong professional cadre of social workers.

Dr. Moldovan and Dr. Selena Rodgers of York College’s Social Work Program made a connection with Cuban exchange professors, Prof. Lourdes de Urrutia Barroso and Prof. Mariana Munoz, who opened up the conference with the discussion of contemporary social work in Cuba.

“So far we [Cuba] have been able to establish a link between this professor [Moldovan] as well as other universities in the United States because we are interested in your curriculum and how you are able to arrange fieldwork for your students,” said Prof. Barroso, who teaches at the University of Havana. Professors Barroso and Munoz will be traveling to other cities in the United States to get bet-

ter insight into social work programs that might work in Cuba.

During the past two summers, the York College study-abroad program has allowed York College students, mostly from the social work program to study for one month in Chisinau, Moldova. They interned in mental hospitals and in centers for abandoned children. Each student was paired with an English-speaking Moldovan student as they conducted field research and worked with clients.

Irene Hanna, a social work major, came to the conference to speak about her experience in the study abroad-program in Moldova in the summer of 2012

“It was truly an investment for me,” said Hanna. It [has] put me so far ahead in the program. It was an incredible life changing event.”

Before bringing Dr. Divale to the podium, Hanna encouraged everyone to attend the third annual trip to Moldova for next summer.

“Moldova it is very poor,” said Divale. “We visited psychiatric hospitals and began to research the burnout

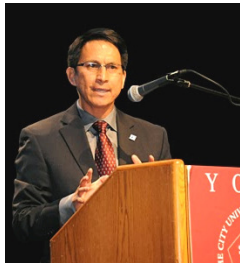


Prof. Lourdes de Urrutia Barroso and Prof. Mariana Munoz during their presentation



Professors Rodgers (l.) and Moldovan during their 2012 visit in Havana

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CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez



Speakers and audience debated passionately ...

cont.'d from p.1

ty of Maryland.

Among the best attended seminars of the day was the one on substance abuse, which drew students and faculty alike.

Speakers included Dr. Ron Daniels, a York Distinguished Lecturer; Juan Cartagena, president and general counsel, Latino Justice/PRELDF (Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund); Paul Butler, professor of law

at Georgetown University Law Center; and New York City Councilman Leroy Comrie, who participated in several seminars.

Project-managed by Jonathan Quash, director of York's Male Initiative Program, the BMI Conference attracted various local news outlets as well.

"The event was a tremendous success," said Quash, who, along with his student Ajani Brown,

also appeared on ABC TV's *Here and Now* with Sandra Bookman, to promote the event. "Students and faculty really came out in great numbers and the substance of the discussions is what really had the greatest impact. York College really demonstrated its relevance in pertinent issues, as well as its ability to host such an important event."



... and topics cut across gender lines



NYC Councilman Leroy Comrie also participated in the conference

York chosen as Borough's *Start-Up NY* Site



Governor Andrew Cuomo

York College was recently selected as CUNY's designated Queens campus to participate in Governor Andrew Cuomo's Start-Up New York tax-free zone.

The statewide initiative is mostly centered around SUNY and CUNY institutions as an economic development engine to power the local economy. The enterprise, scheduled to

launch in January, will attract and permit businesses to operate without paying state or local taxes for 10 years. It promises to be mutually beneficial (to the college and the business community).

The college is now poised to lead.

"We are excited by this tremendous opportunity," said Dr. Marcia Keizs, president of York College. "We look for-

ward to working with our partners to bring emerging or expanding businesses to downtown Jamaica, Queens."

The other CUNY campuses chosen for the program are City College, Bronx Community College, College of Staten Island and Medgar Evers College.

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ID ... and I'm not done yet. I'm always looking for ways to improve myself and York."

Ronald Thomas, York's vice president for Administrative Affairs to whom Forte reports, is delighted Forte took the challenge.

"I believe Chief

Forte's service to York College and to the broader university community has been exemplary," said Thomas. "His selection to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's training program from a national pool of highly qualified candidates is

further evidence of his demonstrated leadership. The training, I am sure, will help him and the college's public safety team to continue to keep the campus a safe place for students, faculty, staff, and visitors amid an ever changing environment."

cont.'d from p.10

tems, teamwork training curricula and collaborative practice opportunities are now required of all accredited Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant programs. New accreditation standards for all three programs clearly state the requirement to prepare students to function as effective healthcare-team members.

Professors Wright and Brugna are members of a CUNY-wide working group on Inter-Professional Education, convened by the CUNY Office of the University Dean for Health and Human Services, and had both attended a training program for a national

initiative to encourage implementation of team training strategies known as Team STEPPS (Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) which is currently utilized by the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, one of York's clinical training affiliates.

The session at York started with an introduction of basic concepts of Team STEPPS relating team performance to effective communication, leadership, mutual support and the need for a shared mental model. This was followed by introductions to the roles of the Occupational Therapist, Occupational

Therapy Assistant, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Social Worker and Physician Assistant. After all, the first step in building an effective team is to understand the roles of participants!

The session concluded with a team-building exercise where students worked in small groups. The simple task was to create a paper chain with the caveats of using only one hand and no communication once started to reinforce concepts such as pre-task communication and clear role delineation. The session was well received by students and faculty alike.

cont.'d from p.11

among psychiatric and general medical personnel among other subjects."

Moldovan encouraged students to get

more information on the study abroad program at part two of the conference which was scheduled for October 29.

Students interested in studying in Moldova should contact Dr. Vadim Moldovan at moldovan@york.cuny.edu.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela



The sessions was well attended

YORK COLLEGE IS CUNY

cont.'d from p.8

of her academic obligations through the Free University of Moldova, was deeply moved by the poverty she witnessed in Moldova.

“Here (in the U.S) you see it too, she said. “But here you turn around and see a shiny new building. There it’s (poverty) all around you. But there is so much potential. The people are basically good. But Moldova has the highest rate of alcoholism in the world. The children have endured more hardships than anyone should endure in 12 lifetimes, all due to the culture of alcoholism.”

According to the Huntington, Long Island resident, not all the children in the orphanage, built but not funded by



Back (l. -r.): York student Theresa Hopf and Moldovan student M. Babici; **Middle (seated, l. -r.):** ULIM students L. Egrova, I. Gutu, M. Raileanu, Dr. Pricilla Gibson (Univ. of Minnesota), Dr. Rodgers, ULIM student I. Dabija, York student Erica Boyce, ULIM student S. Socolovschii, Dr. Jami Curley (St. Louis University), and KrystalBella Murnane-Victorelli; **Front (seated):** York student Lachanda Moor

UNICEF, are orphans. “Moldova is a nation of three million people and one million of them are working overseas,” said the promising social worker who volunteers at a dog shelter in her hometown. “But the bond between siblings in the orphanage is very strong. One little boy

walked three miles per day to his grandmother’s house to get milk from her goat to bring back for his brother (in the orphanage).” The experience was so transformative that Murnane-Victorelli now wants to pursue a master’s degree as an international social worker

after graduating from York next spring. As part of this goal, the former paralegal will be going to Brazil during the upcoming winter break (December/January) to work in a favela-based children’s center. She also hopes to return to Moldova where not only was she taken with the children, but with the overflow of abused stray dogs.

Murname-Victorelli marvels at the turn of events in her life, thanks in part to York.

“I thought I was done with school,” she said. I was a paralegal who worked in a law firm for five years. But I have enjoyed my experience at York. I am really glad York has the study-abroad scholarship.”

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York's First Distinguished Professor Dies

Famed film critic, Stanley Kaufmann (1923 – 2013) recently died; and while the many newspaper obituaries did not mention it, between the years 1973-76 he served as an English professor at York.

Following, is a recollection by Dr. Alan Cooper, who served a lengthy tenure as York's English Department Chair and became close friends with the revered film critic.

I hired him when CUNY made available, on a competitive basis, some extra dollars to support distinguished professorships. Our administrators knew of him from his Channel 13 interview program with authors and performers.

He agreed to teach two courses, one in drama criticism and one in film history. We were still in our old 150th Street and Jamaica Avenue location, and we set aside a theater-like class-

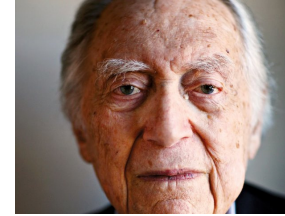
room for the film course. I would drive to Yonkers to the Janus film distribution center and rent films (this was before the invention of the VCR!) and our technician would show them with stop and start controls as the lecture and discussion proceeded. Faculty often sat in, as did students with free periods at the time.

Kauffman left York when the mid-seventies retrenchment made it necessary for me to choose between keeping our visiting professors and keeping our remedial English teachers. Open-enrollment had just made it clear that we would have many new underprepared students, and some upper classmen were deserting for Queens and Hunter, etc. The department was to lose more than half of York's decreed number of retrenchees. So Kauffman, along with several others unfortunately had to go.

The last time I saw

him, earlier this year, he pointed to his bookshelves and said, with a smile to make it a quip, "Take any you want. I won't be needing them soon." I demurred but took one book, his recently published (2012) *Ten Great Films*, which pretty much covered the course he had taught for us in the seventies.

Perhaps nothing can attest to Kauffman's humanity more than last year's Hurricane Sandy. He lived on the upper floor of a building in the blacked out area of Manhattan and was without power, and therefore without water, which could not be pumped to the tank atop the building. Devoted friends walked the stairs to bring him pots of water for essential needs.



Stanley Kaufmann



* York College Journalism student Jarrett Jones contributed to the introduction

“My students are workers in the new, flexible economy, and this means they are participants in the global linguistic economy. They are direct about the necessity of learning the rules of Standard Written English in order to ensure their place in the upward shift that education seems to promise.”

cont.’d from p.3

the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (1983/1991) with the idea that many language learners have a preconceived idea of how a group of “correct” English speakers may act and sound. After speaking with her students, the imagined group broke down into two types of language users: Idealized Native Speakers and Professional Knowledge Workers. And it was the hope of many of Robinson’s students that they may become members of the latter by learning from the former.

Robinson suggested that in order to meet this expectation while ethically acknowledging a language learner’s cultural background, educators must:

- 1) Teach grammar generatively; and,
- 2) Teach with social and professional application in mind.

Educators should empower students and nurture the skills needed in making sound language choices (as opposed to

simply following the “correct” rules). And educators should also realize that students want to improve their writing in order to gain access to certain communities and potential places of employment.

What thrilled me most about her lecture is that Robinson put herself in the position of the language learner. But she did not speak for the students, but rather listened to their voices. In her article, she concluded:

“My students are workers in the new, flexible economy, and this means they are participants in the global linguistic economy. Fast capitalism has forced education past the post-colonial sensibility ... While the various languages and the dialects of English ... are still alive, ... my students are direct about the necessity of learning the rules of Standard Written English in order to ensure their place in the upward shift that educa-

tion seems to promise.”

During the question and answer period following her lecture, issues of imperialism and post-colonialism were raised and how they intersected with language learning in the twenty-first century. Could one view an idea of a “correct” Standard Written English as a result of imperialism and how do we navigate such a terrain in a post-colonial world? As a music teacher I was concerned about how this related to teaching improvisation by creating a balance between the knowledge of a tradition and the skills necessary to expand (and maybe even innovate) that tradition.

Robinson is correct: we must teach students how to do what they have chosen to learn to do, while always remembering why they wanted to learn what they wanted to learn in the first place. Not making that connection is a disservice to students.

Editor’s Correction:

In the October 2013 issue and error crept into the article about Professor Coleman’s Convocation Speech.

The correct sentence should have read:

“Professor Coleman, whose late wife, Charlene, was also an educator, concluded by reading from his own writing, a ‘warm-up’ piece he wrote as a participant in one of the freshman English classes he has

taught (English 125), imagining earth as ‘alive and female.’ In the informal piece he expresses the grief, outrage, alarm and resultant price of man’s abuse of earth.”

CUNY Campaign: York Aims for Repeat Goal Buster

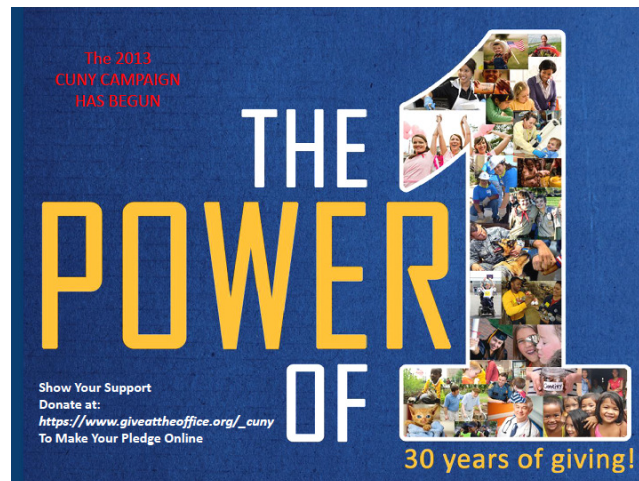
On Tuesday, October 15, a luncheon was held to officially kick off The CUNY Campaign for Voluntary Charitable Giving for 2013. This year's theme is "The Power of 1, 30 years of giving!"

At this year's kick-off, Sheila O'Connor, from *EarthShare*, attended to lead the training for York's CUNY Campaign Captains. *EarthShare* is the fiscal manager for the City University of New York Campaign.

A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of York's Goal Buster Award. For the past five years, York College has successfully equaled or surpassed its campaign goal. Last year, *EarthShare* made adjustments to the college goals to compensate for Super Storm Sandy. York's original goal was \$37,000. With the new goal, we made Goal Buster. But, York only missed its original goal by \$266.

York College is aiming to make it six years in a row as a Goal Buster.

Faculty and staff, please go to



www.giveattheoffice.org/_cuny/ to give your donation to the CUNY Campaign and help York College make its 2013 goal of \$37,000. The campaign closes on December 16th.

York College thanks its 2013 Captains (as of 10/18/2013):

- *Rilla Adams* (Institutional Advancement)
- *Sharda Arjune* (Financial Aid)
- *Lindamichelle Baron* (Teacher Education)
- *Linda Jo Dill* (Health Professions)
- *Kim Glickman* (Social Sciences)
- *Michele Hardy* (SEEK)
- *Reginald Madden* (Office of the President)
- *Phoebe Massimino* (Business and Economics)
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- *Rajendra Persaud* (Admissions)
- *Jean Phelps* (Student Activities)
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The deadline for submissions to the December issue of Academic Affairs Update is November 22, 2013.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

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