

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

**YORK** College

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## Spring Symposium Informs and Commends



**L-r.:** York faculty members at the College Spring Symposium

According to York's President Dr. Marcia V. Keizs at the recent College Symposium, the year thus far has been at once the best of times

during the worst of times at York.

The President, speaking at the College's recent 2014 Spring Symposium, pointed out that

the college community has weathered with aplomb, a difficult semester fraught with inclement weather conditions.

"I want to appreciate everybody's work during a difficult semester weather-wise, said President Keizs. "Everyone is working very hard. I especially want to mention Buildings and Grounds and faculty and students who struggle to get here. We just can't fight the weather. But do your best to make up those classes. Make them up through Black

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## York Celebrates Mandela during Black History Month

When Nelson Mandela died in December, York was in the throes of wrapping up the Fall semester with finals and other college matters. But President Marcia V. Keizs knew she wanted the college to celebrate

the life of the South African freedom fighter in a more meaningful way than time immediately permitted.

She called upon Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Ron Daniels to deploy

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Dr. Ron Daniels addressing the audience during the event

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### Special points of interest:

- **Foundations of Excellence Town Hall**
- **School of Business prepares accreditation**
- **York's Men CUNYAC Basketball Champions**

## York Celebrates *Foundations of Excellence* Self-Study



**Dr. Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite and Dr. Henke during their presentation on aspects of the self-study**

After months of meetings, reviews and a college-wide seminar by guest John N. Gardner, president of the nationally recognized Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, York's *Foundations of Excellence (FoE)* participants were recently feted by the Office of Academic Affairs at an afternoon town hall and reception at the college.

Held in Room 3D01, the afternoon event acknowledged committee leaders and members with certificates of appreciation and refreshments.

"The Town Hall event was meant to accomplish at least two things: first, to mark a sort of mid-point and transition from the self-study phase to the implementation of some recommendations suggested by it (as well as by several other committees)," said Dr. Holger Henke, Assistant Provost. "Secondly [it served], to recognize the input by so many faculty, staff, and students from all across the College."

According to Dr. Henke, the first year is

generally recognized as a critical transition period for many or most students.

"How they do in their first year, but also what sort of support and experience they have during this period, sets the tone and trajectory for their subsequent college career," said Henke. "In other words, the way in which we, as a college, support the first year and students' progress towards graduation is a question of student success at York. More administratively speaking, it is hoped that the initiatives and focus emerging from this self-study will translate into continued improvement in our retention and graduation rates."

The idea behind the FoE self-study was based on "The Gardner Initiative and Self-Study" and brought to York's attention by Dr. Frank Sanchez, CUNY Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs. York's President, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs saw the opportunity for York to improve some practices at York.

"More broadly speaking – and as we are aiming to merge suggestions

from this initiative with prior task forces and committees," said Henke, "retention and graduation have been a concern of the Office of Academic Affairs for some time. They are critical indicators that really need to be monitored and worked on consistently."

The President was pleased to see the progress of the committee.

"Welcome to the closure of this part of FoE," said President Keizs, who also thanked committee co-chairs, Dr. Holger Henke and Dr. Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite for their leadership. "We are well on our way. I knew that part of this was for Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to collaborate. As President I am very committed to the tenet of this program and committed to its implementation."

The study took place "over nine dimensions" and participants who completed the two surveys included 271 students and 67 faculty and staff members.

Dr. Cynthia Haller, acting chair of the Eng-



**Dr. Cynthia Haller, recognizing members of the self-study committee**

## Community Health Major Gets Impressive New Scholarship



Stephane Labossiere's York College experience has been one filled with adventure and success. The graduating senior recently received his latest scholarship, a Society for Public Health Education's (SOPHE) Vivian Drenckhahn Scholarship. It is only the latest in many scholarships he has received since arriving at York as a freshman in 2010.

Although modest in sum (\$1,500), the award is prestigious in overall value, and according to Labossiere, a first for York and indeed, for CUNY. It is given to "deserving graduate or undergraduate students." His winning essay was based on research in food and nutrition

A native of – Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Labossiere has been a most prolific young scholar. To fund his education, he has received more than \$20,000 in scholarships during his time at York. They include a Thurgood Marshall College Fund Student Ambassador/Scholar award of \$7,000; a Costco Scholarship Thurgood Marshall College Fund award for \$6,200; a

CUNY Research Foundation Scholarship of \$2,500, a York Student Government Association award of \$1,500 and a York College Alumni Association Scholarship for Juniors. If that's not dizzying enough, he also received study-abroad funding from York and the CUNY STOCS (Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students) program, for his recent trip to China.

Labossiere, who already spoke four languages (French, French Creole, English and Spanish), recently participated in the STOCS program to finance his trip to the Asian nation to learn a fifth: Mandarin. This of course, is in preparation for his future as a global health professional.

He has also participated in numerous research presentations at York and the CUNY Graduate Center. His internships and fellowships include Jamaica Hospital Medical Center's WIC Program; Collaborative Research Group on Health Policy Promotion at the York College Department of Health and Physical Ed-

ucation; and the National Urban League (NUL) where he is an intern under the mentorship of Dr. Noel Manyado, a graduate of the Harvard School Public Health. In this internship Labossiere has also had the opportunity to write, edit, and publish the NUL Community Health Worker newsletter.

For Labossiere, a first generation college attendee, his undergraduate education has to be more than acquiring the 120 credits needed to graduate from York. For him it is important to take additional classes whether in his direct major or to enhance his qualification. Consequently, he will graduate with more than 150 credits. He has also benefited from the mentorship of the college's outstanding faculty.

"York is the best [college] in CUNY that I could have gone to," he said. "Once you find your connection with a professor who inspires you, you can go on to great things. And if you ever want to find resources that you can leverage, turn to the professors."



Stephane Labossiere



## Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



### 2013-14 Theme: Pedagogies that Enhance Connection & Competence

<b>Thursday, March 13</b>	Workshop:	<i>Flipping: Turning the Classroom Inside Out (Part 2)</i>
		12 – 1:45pm    CETL, AC 4EA1
	Facilitators:	Margarett Alexandre, Health Professions Emily Davidson, Health Professions Lidia Gonzalez, Mathematics & Computer Science
<b>Thursday, Mar 27</b>	Workshop:	<i>Re-Thinking Undergraduate Research: Strategies For Creating Effective Assignments</i>
		12 – 1:45pm    CETL, AC 4EA1
	Facilitators:	York Writing Across the Curriculum Writing Fellows
<b>Thursday, Apr 3</b>	Workshop/ Webinar:	<i>Maker-Culture and You: How 3D-Printing and Hands-On Learning Can Augment Traditional Pedagogy</i>
		12 – 1:45 pm    Maker-Space, AC 4M04
	Facilitator:	Dan Phelps, Performing & Fine Arts



## York Faculty Updates



- **George White**, (Associate Professor & Chair, Department of History and Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences), gave a lecture “Building a Church in the Army: Chaplain Robert Dokes, Black Religious Practice, and Racial Resistance in World War II,” at the *Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy*, Temple University, February 19, 2014.
- **Michael O. Sharpe**, (Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) published his new book *Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: The Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization*, (Houndmills, UK: Palgrave Macmillan 2014).

## Women in Math and Computing Day at York

On February 20, 2014, York College kicked off its Women's History Month Activities a bit early with *Women in Math and Computing Day*. This annual event, held for the 5th time this year, was originally called Women in Math Day but this year the title was changed to make the event more inclusive.

The event grew out of the York Tensor Scholar's Program, a math circle at York College funded initially by the Mathematical Association of America and then by the American Association of University Women, in which inclusivity is a key theme.

The program, directed by Dr. Lidia Gonzalez (Mathematics & Computer Science) and co-directed by Dr. Rishi Nath (Mathematics & Computer Science) was created to challenge the underrepresentation of women and others in mathematics. Through academic talks and social gatherings, the program aims to create a feeling of belonging among students in a discipline that is typically known for filtering students out as opposed to bringing them in.

The event kicked off with introductory remarks by Dr. Freya Pritchard (Chairperson, Mathematics & Computer Science) and President Keizs. Both noted the importance of an event aimed at women in mathematics and computing given the challenges that women have historically faced in these disciplines and the inequities that still exist.

Dean Chirico (School of Arts & Sciences) spoke of these inequities from a personal standpoint noting the blatant sexism she encountered as a college student trying to enroll in a chemistry course. Dr. Fabiola Salek (Chairperson, Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities) also made some introductory remarks on behalf of the Women's Studies Program and noted a number of upcoming events to celebrate Women's History Month at York College this March.

The program for the day consisted of five academic talks focused on a number of varied topics in both mathematics and computing. Speaking to a crowd consisting mostly of York College students, Dr. Ziqian (Cecilia)

Dong, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at New York Institute of Technology, spoke on "Estimation of Missing Measurements in Computer Networks: Matrix Completion vs. Compressed Sensing." In addition to describing her work in this area, Dr. Dong encouraged students in attendance to apply for a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates that she will be working with. Her talk was followed by "An Introduction to Quantum Computation" given by Dr. Marianna Bonanome, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the New York City College of Technology.

Following this, the program turned to two general interest talks. Dr. Quanlei (Shelley) Fang, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Bronx Community College, gave a talk titled "Math is Everywhere" in which she highlighted mathematical connections in nature, games and music. Her colleague, Dr. Kealey Dias,

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**L.-r.: Dr. Gonzalez, Dr. Pritchard, and Dean Chirico**

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**Numerous students participated in the event**

## School of Business Prepares for AACSB Accreditation

The School of Business and Information Systems (SBIS) which was established in 2009 has two Departments: Accounting & Finance and Business & Economics.

SBIS prepares men and women from around the world to lead global businesses of the next century, whether those enterprises are big or small, corporate or entrepreneurial.

At the inception, the School's undergraduate degree program offers a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Bachelors of Science in Aviation Management, Marketing and Business Administration (with concentrations in Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, and Finance).

In the last four years substantial progress has been made in revitalizing and strengthening SBIS strategic management. The strategic management is shaped by a variety of driving forces. One of them is the need to provide high

quality education for our main stakeholders – the students. This necessitated a number of strategic decisions related to curriculum enhancements and new program development.

With the leadership of Dr. Olajide Oladipo, the Department of Business and Economics added two new tracks to the Business Administration concentrations: Logistics and Supply Chain Management, & International Business.

Another strategic management in SBIS is also associated with another important group of stakeholders – the faculty. As the SBIS prepares for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation which is regarded as a mark of excellence in educational programs in Business, the College plans to ensure a proper mix of adjunct and full-time faculty, and provide support for conference attendance and training.

To achieve AACSB accreditation, business

programs must satisfy the expectations of a wide range of quality standards relating to curriculum, faculty resources, admissions, degree requirements, library and computer facilities, financial resources, and intellectual climate that are all mission-linked.

York College SBIS is a member of the AACSB and as a first step towards the AACSB accreditation, and with the recommendation of Dean Alfred Ntoko, the College sponsored the chairs in SBIS, Professors Bharosay and Oladipo to attend AACSB Assessment and Business Accreditation Seminars, October 2013 and January 2014, respectively in Tampa, Florida. According to Dr. Oladipo “the AACSB accreditation will open doors to a number of great opportunities not only for the institution but for the students as well.”



Dr. Oladipo and Prof. Bharosay



L.-r.: Professor Bharosay, Dr. Oladipo and Professor Randy Boxx, Dean Emeritus, Harry F. Byrd, Jr. School of Business, Shenandoah University

## Student Completes Tropical Marine Biology Course in Costa Rica

by Ezazul Haque

*Ezazul Haque, a senior in the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences was selected by the CUNY STOCS (Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students) and York College Study Abroad Program to participate and conduct research on tropical marine biology in Costa Rica. He was recommended by both Dr. Khandaker and Dr. Schleifer, and the following account highlights his three-week long experience of academic and cultural richness.*

This winter session I had the opportunity to attend a study abroad program in Tropical Marine Biology in Costa Rica. The program was facilitated through Queens College, the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the USAC branch in Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

The program spanned from December 26, 2013 to January 16, 2014. My courses included a 3-credit class on Tropical Marine Biology, a 1-credit field study, and a 1-credit course on Dance. In the course, we learned about the major diverse groups of marine organisms and their evolutionary history. These include plankton, nekton, algae, porifera, cnidarians, echinoderms, and arthropods.

There were discussions and debates on policy and decision-making for several marine environment issues in Costa Rica. For one of our field study trips we visited a remote is-

land called Isla Venado in the Gulf of Nicoya, where due to the direction of the gulf and oceanic currents a lot of trash from Central Valley, where half of Costa Rica's population lives, washes up. This has an even greater impact on marine organisms. For example, sea turtles ingest plastic bags since they appear similar to jellyfish and they have digestion complications that can lead to death.

Our next field trip was in San Lucas Island, where we went snorkeling and I was able to see sergeant major fish, crabs, and a manta ray. I was also able to go scuba diving in Montezuma, where swam next to an Oceanic White Tip Shark, and saw beautiful varieties of starfish, sea cucumber and puffer fish. Another field trip allowed us to explore mangroves which are a type of forest that has immense environmental and ecological importance. We were able to observe the Rhizophora species of man-

groves, which are the most common in Costa Rica.

They have several methods for salt removal process for maintaining osmosis. There are glands that help in extracting and filtering out the salt. The tough leaves of mangroves also play roles in salt removal. For example, glands in lower part of leaf can extract salt. Another method is that when the leaf is turning yellow and is close to dying a large amount of salt will be sent to it so that when it dies and falls it will take salt with it. Yet another method is reverse osmosis. The roots in the mud have small finger-like structures that will stick out and when the tide goes down get air into the roots.

I also collected several soil and sand samples from the different places I visited. I am currently working with Dr. Nazrul Khandaker and Dr. Stanley Schleifer to analyze these samples and pre-



Ezazul Haque on a scuba excursion in Costa Rica



Getting around in Costa Rica ...

cont.'d on p.13

## CONGRATULATIONS !!!

York's Social Work program recently achieved its re-accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program was re-accredited for the duration of 8 years, until October 2021.

Panayiotis Meleties, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost & VP of Academic Affairs



**L.-r.:** Dr. Bonanome (New York City College of Technology), Dr. Nath (York College), and Dr. Sellers (Penn State University)



York students attending the event dinner

**cont.'d from p.5**

an Assistant Professor in the same department gave a talk on the “The Golden Ratio.” Dr. Bonanome, Dr. Fang and Dr. Dias were all introduced by Dr. Wojciechowski (Dept. of Mathematics & Computer Science) who was instrumental in getting them to speak at York College.

Between talks those in attendance were treated to coffee, juice and assorted snacks. Additionally, it was during these breaks that the York Tensor Scholars Program presented the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science with several prints highlighting the contributions of women in mathematics and computing. These prints will hang in the department. Among these were portraits of famous women in math-

ematics and computing, including Sonia Kovalevsky, Sophie Germaine and Maria Agnesi. The first of these, presented by Dr. Gonzalez, was a print featuring Hypatia, considered the first female mathematician who was brutally stoned to death as her mathematical teachings were considered heresy.

Dr. Shweta Jain (Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science), herself a computer scientist, presented a portrait of Ada Byron of Lovelace, considered the first computer programmer. Dr. Jain was also instrumental in getting Dr. Dong to come speak at York, as the two are collaborating on research.

Dr. James Sellers, Director of Undergraduate Mathematics at Penn State University, gave the last talk of the even-

ing after an introduction by Dr. Rishi Nath (Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science). On this, his second visit to York College, Dr. Sellers gave a talk titled “Revisiting What Euler and the Bernoullis Knew about Infinite Series” which was punctuated with humor and advice.

Over 50 students, faculty and staff members attended the event that ended with a delicious dinner, laughter, and good company at Sangria Restaurant. Sangria Restaurant, located within walking distance of York College on Sutphin Blvd., is no stranger to Women in Mathematics and Computing events, having hosted event participants four of the five years it has been held.



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Labossiere was always a go-getter.

“When I came in 2010 I attended a graduate fair and realized you can’t learn only in the classroom,” he explained. “I saw the diversity too. College opens your eyes. You can’t graduate being close-minded or else you have just wasted four years.”

But he has not wasted a day and has the five-page CV to prove it. Labossiere’s curriculum vitae lists peer-reviewed conference presentations, leadership experiences and research with his mentor, Dr. Nicholas Grosskopf, as well as with Dr. Susan Letteney.

Grosskopf has been “that connection” for Labossiere.

“In the summer of 2012 Stephane was chosen as an undergraduate research fellow with the Collaborative Research Group on Health Policy & Promotion, a group that I co-direct with Dr. Susan Letteney of Social Sciences,” said Grosskopf. “During the course of the fellowship Stephane was exposed

to foundational concepts in the research process and worked with us on several projects prioritizing underserved populations and prevalent health disparities in New York City (e.g., the increasingly high HIV incidence rates of young men who have sex with men [YMSM] of color).”

Dr. Grosskopf added that the work culminated in a peer-reviewed panel presentation at the 5th Annual Health Disparities Conference at Teachers College, Columbia University last year.

“Stephane is an emerging independent researcher and I look forward to his continued mentorship in a graduate program where he will be able to fine-tune his skill set and construct his own independent research agenda,” said Grosskopf.

For Labossiere, his mentor has made all the difference.

“If it weren’t for his help I wouldn’t have succeeded in the ways that I have, as a first generation student,” said

Labossiere, whose parents now live in Florida.

He is also thankful for the study-abroad exposure, which included a trip to the Great Wall.

“The trip to China was the highlight of my college experience,” Labossiere noted. “In addition to studying Mandarin, I visited five cities and examined the public health system there.

A founding member and first president and of Eta Sigma Gamma Epsilon Lambda at CUNY, a national society for students majoring in health education and promotion, Labossiere is now seeking a summer internship before applying to graduate schools, which will include Columbia University, his mentor’s alma mater.

“The Executive Committee felt you are particularly worthy of the Vivian Drenckhahn Scholarship Award,” SOPHE told him in their notification letter.

Indeed!

**When I came to York I attended a graduate fair and realized you can’t learn only in the classroom. College opens your eyes. You can’t graduate being close-minded or else you have just wasted four years.**



Dr. Nicholas Grosskopf

## Honoring the retirement of Professors Hux and Coleman

by Howard Ruttenberg



Dr. Charles Coleman

The two distinguished faculty whom we are honoring on the occasion of their retirement are two of the four Faculty Convocation speakers in the new tradition created by former provost Ivelaw Griffith. All four so far honored are faculty in the humanities. This is no doubt a reminder to choose someone from the social or natural sciences next time and is also explainable to some extent by the fact that distinguished faculty in those areas retired before Ivelaw had his bright idea and the remaining elders were largely in the humanities. But there is a deeper significance made evident by their speeches.



Dr. Samuel Hux

Sam Hux's speech was about conversation and retirement. He said that he had not yet retired, not because of teaching, service, or research, but because of conversation. He characterizes conversation as communication that is not goal-directed or narrow in its scope. He fancies it the way to get to know oneself, to live the life of the mind, and to

interpret technical communications by finding their analogies in other areas of interest and to life in general. He gives such conversation the Spanish name, *tertullia*, praising the *tertullia* that he has participated in at York College along with a rhetorician, literary scholar, philosopher, musicologist, social worker, geologist, nurse, historian, and sexologist. The Romans gave it the name *humanitas*, or humanity defined by its highest achievements, and thus inclusive of all the arts and sciences.

Chuck Coleman entitled his speech, "I am a teacher." After quoting from Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, and commenting on the paradoxical brilliance of humanity who cannot learn to respect each other, he depicts the teacher as an 'invisible man' who is disrespected and ignored despite his love of learning and wish to share it. In the rest of his talk he pays homage to his students who have written about experiments in segregation and desegregation and then shares

with us a view of the earth as mother and her children. The perspective again is humanity and all its achievements and the vital task of learning to appreciate them, i.e. each other.

If education can be general with respect to what and who is studied and by what methods and by whom, then Hux may be said to place his emphasis more on the what is studied and Coleman more on the who is included in the great conversation. But the two are inherently linked. Hux thrilled his students by including them in the tradition and Coleman helped teach them, and us, that the tradition has many strands. If education is to continue to teach not only the means by which given values are to be achieved, but also reflection on how values define our humanity, we must recognize the role of intelligence and study in the understanding of ultimate values. And we must replace these good men.

## York College Wins 2014 CUNYAC Men's Basketball Championship

The York College men's basketball team upset the top-seeded College of Staten Island, 87-84, in a thrilling matchup to win the 2014 CUNY Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Championship on the campus of City College Friday Night.

With the win, York now receives an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III Tournament. The seedings will be announced on Monday.

Michael Woods, the CUNYAC Player of the Year, was the best player on the court this evening as well, as he scored a game-high 36 points to go along with four assists, four steals and two blocks. He also came up big in the final minute of play, forcing a steal on the Dolphins final possession and hitting a pair of free throws to secure the victory. He was named the CUNYAC Tournament MVP for his outstanding effort.

"Woods had the performance we needed him to have today," said head coach Ronald St. John

York, who was the #2 seed in the tournament, got off to a fast start,



The victorious York team with President Keizs (second from right, standing) and VP Student Development Walker-Johnson (right, standing)

scoring the game's first eight points on the strength of three-pointers by Omar St. John (Jamaica, NY/ Martin Van Buren) and Donald Rodriguez (Brooklyn, NY/ Franklin K. Lane). In addition, Staten's Island CUNYAC All-Star Jonathan Chadwick-Myers got into early foul trouble, picking up two fouls in the opening two minutes, helping the Cardinals cause.

After Staten Island scored the next five points, Woods scored 12 points to spark the Cardinals to a 14-0 run, which gave them a 22-5 advantage with 13:59 left in the first half. Woods connected on a set of three-pointers, one of which resulted in a

four-point play.

Staten Island settled down a bit though and got back into the game, thank in large part to Will Fonseca, who scored eight points in a five-minute span, to cut the deficit to 25-15. The Cardinals also saw one of its top players, center Jaron Williams (Bronx, NY/ Newburgh Free), get into foul trouble, and Staten Island used the advantage in the post to cut into the deficit.

Staten Island then began to slowly chip into the York lead and trailed by just six points (31-25) after a Javon Cox lay-up with 6:30 left in the half. The two teams went back and forth from there, but the Dolphins closed the half

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York's Michael Woods in action

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strong and cut the deficit to 40-36 at halftime.

Staten Island continued their resurgence coming out of the locker room and rallied to take the lead in the opening minutes of the second half. An 11-6 stretch put them up 47-46 with 16:40 to go. But as has been the case all year for York, it was Woods and St. John who helped York get back on track. Woods responded with a pair of buckets before setting up St. John on a pair of fast break points on the following two possessions—giving York a 54-47 advantage with 14:35 left.

The two teams continued to go back and forth in an contest full of fast-paced action. A few minutes later a pair of Bloochy Magliore three's put the Dolphins up 66-65, with just over nine minutes left. After York evened up the score, Magliore connected on another three, giving the Dolphins a 72-69 advantage with 7:15 to go.

But in a key turning point of the game, with CSI gaining momentum, Rodriguez put York back on top again when he drained a couple three's of his own, following a media timeout, giving York a 75-73 lead with 6:55 to go.

“That was truly the turning point of the game,” added St. John. “When he hit those two threes that’s when we started to settle down.”

With 3:42 to play and York still nursing a narrow lead, Williams picked up his fifth foul, leaving the Cardinals vulnerable down low again. A few minutes later, backup point guard Justin Garvin fouled out as well. York was already missing starting point guard Du’Quan Lawson, who checked out of the game earlier due to an injury.

The Dolphins took advantage of the short-handed Cardinals, as a Frankie Schettino three-pointer put CSI up 84-83 with just 1:30 to go. But Woods came back on the next possession to put York back in front by one.

On the next CSI possession, the Cardinals forced a turnover and had a chance to extend the lead. They tried to run the clock down as much as possible but they let too much time run down and were called for a shot-clock violation. This left the Dolphins with a shot at one final possession with 17 seconds left. On the possession, Woods forced a steal and then was fouled with just four sec-

onds left. Woods then drained both shots to put York up by three.

On the final play of the game, CSI turned the ball over again and York ran out the clock for the win.

St. John, who was named to the CUNYAC Tournament All-Star team, finished with 24 points and Donald Rodriguez added 11. Jaron Williams added nine points and ten boards despite being limited to just 20 minutes. Staten Island (25-4) got 23 points from Javon Cox and 21 points and 10 boards from Fonseca.

The Dolphins saw its 24-game win streak snapped with the loss. The defeat also ends their two-year reign as CUNYAC Champs. However, the #18 ranked Dolphins still have a good shot of earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The game, which was broadcast live on ESPN 3, definitely made for great television. “We knew it was gonna be a battle and we battled to the end. I’m so proud of these guys. From day one we made this our commitment and we accomplished it. You couldn’t ask for a better game to showcase the conference and Division III,” added St. John

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sent our findings at the upcoming York *Undergraduate Research Day* and also at the Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in October 2014.

I also enjoyed the dance class, where I learned the basics of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cumbia and Chachacha.

Overall, I greatly benefited from my study abroad experience. It served to confirm my career interest in working overseas on environmental issues. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives with Costa Ricans and also my peers who were from all corners of the US. I was the only CUNY student, and interestingly I was

also the only student from the tri-state area. My peers were from University of Nevada, University of Iowa, California Polytechnic State University, Goucher College, University of Massachusetts, Central Washington University, University of Delaware, and University of Maryland.

I am thankful to the York College Student Activities, and also a Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCS) grant for providing financial support for my study abroad program. I would strongly recommend study abroad programs to all York students. It provides fantastic opportunities for personal growth, intercultural development, and multilingual benefits. Partici-

pating in study abroad can help students acquire skill-sets abroad that can help influence their career path and spark an interest in a career direction to pursue after the study abroad experience.

Dr. Khandaker previously supervised two geology students, including Shirley Jackson (geology graduate 2013) and Jonelle Brown (geology senior) and both of them brought back a wealth of hands-on, field-oriented, and up-to-the minute information which couldn't have been achievable through a traditional classroom setting. Through study abroad our students can be out there to be part of the current theme embodying globalization of geosciences.



A wet classroom ...



... and different aspects of culture make a memorable study abroad experience

## New Book Publication

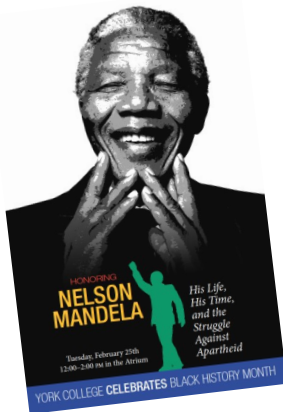
Dr. Michael O. Sharpe (Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Arts & Sciences) recently published his new book *Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: The Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization* with Palgrave Macmillan (Houndmills, UK).

Congratulations!





The panel addressed a sizeable and very interested audience



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his expertise to organize an appropriate event for a feasible date. In the meantime, Dr. Jean Phelps, director of Student Activities pulled together a quick display of Mandela posters and quotes in the atrium of the Academic Core Building to commemorate the former South African president in the aftermath of his death.

Dr. Daniels and a committee decided to make the formal celebration a Black History Month event. On February 25, Daniels and a panel of York College faculty and students gathered in the atrium to discuss, "The Life and Legacy of Nelson Mandela."

Ably moderated by Dr. Daniels, the conversation engaged the audience of nearly 200 attendees, as they discussed the significance of Mandela's role in the Anti-Apartheid Movement and beyond.

For perspective, the discussion was preceded by a viewing of the 1973 documentary, "Last Grave at Dimbaza," which details some of the injustice of the apartheid system.

To add a sense of cultural authenticity, there was also a dance performance by members of the African Students As-

sociation; and African cuisine for the lunch-time event.

Dr. Daniels, a political scientist, reminded the audience that Mandela, an attorney by training, was no peasant agitator.

"Mandela was born into privilege," said Daniels. "He was a son of royalty. He was not uneducated, but highly educated. The revolution was run by people who were highly educated."

Daniels added that the members of the African National Congress (ANC) of which Mandela was a leader, and their fight for justice, was supported by "radical Jews." He also invoked the names of Americans such as Randall Robinson, Esq., founder of the TransAfrica Forum; Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton as important leaders in the Anti-Apartheid movement in the 1970s and 1980s. They were loud voices in the "Free Mandela" movement.

The impressive panel comprised of Chief Librarian Njoki Kinyatti, Dr. George White (History and Philosophy) Dr. Mychel Namphy (English) and students, Bineta Diop (African Students Association

President) and Assietou Atchiba (Senator).

"Nelson Mandela taught me that when you see someone in a position of oppression you have to get involved," said Diop. "The craziest part to me is Africans are born in Africa and they took away your citizenship and you have to apply?! Whether (the oppression) is happening to you or to someone else, don't just sit back and watch it happen."

For Atchiba, who was six years old at the time of Mandela's release from prison in 1990, it took coming to the United States to realize the full impact of who this architect of her country's eventual freedom was.

"I didn't pay any attention to him," she said. "But when I got to the United States in 2005, I was inspired by him and I am majoring in Political Science because of him."

Professor Namphy, who thanked the dancers for "getting us off on the good foot," explained the significance of Mandela while an undergraduate at Columbia University in the 1980s.

"Mandela's effect on me really started at that time," said Namphy, who specializes in African American Literature,

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Native American Literature and Autobiography. "I was fortunate that at an early age I could study Mandela's life. Men who take great risks often suffer great consequences. Mandela incorporated sacrifice into his life. He was somebody who took on the white racist regime. So the thing I would encourage you to do is find your inner Mandela."

Professor White similarly recalled his '80s-era undergraduate activism at Southern Methodist University in Texas, carrying "Free Mandela" posters on his conservative college campus that was "a campus inverse of York" ethnically.

"It was the importance of language," said White, whose scholarly expertise includes United States diplomatic history, with an emphasis on policy toward Africa; African-American history, Modern African history, Public history. "In a conservative college we would be asked if we are supporting a terrorist."

White also recalled the importance of later figures such as Steve Biko to South African youth activism while Mandela was imprisoned.

But for those who may only have known



**L-r.:** Panel members Prof. Njoki Kinyatti, Dr. George White, Dr. Mychel Namphy, student representatives Bineta Diop and Assietou Atchiba, and Dr. Daniels

the post-jail Mandela as the peaceful compromiser who brought South Africa into the modern age, White, Daniels and Namphy reminded the audience that while he was an absolute proponent of peaceful protest, he was by no means a one-dimensional protestor. They made it known that he knew when to be forceful and when to use diplomatic tactics.

"Mandela maintained a revolutionary voice," said White.

Professor Kinyatti, a native of Kenya, added that the struggle for the African continent continues despite strides made in Southern Africa.

"What happens in South Africa is the same as everywhere else," said Kinyatti. "Africa is still struggling to become. The struggle for Africa continues."

The abolition of

Apartheid in South Africa is by no means the end of all oppression in the region, according to the panelists.

One environmental example mentioned relates to South Africa's mining industry. Thus, the mining companies once owned by whites were in theory turned over to blacks, who now have financial responsibility for the damage done by the colonizers. The people are also getting sick from the environmental damage.

In many ways, things in South Africa are not what the ANC Charter envisioned. Nonetheless, the importance of Mandela cannot be overstated.

"Long live Mandela," Daniels chanted with the audience at the end. Long live Mandela! Long live Mandela!"

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

**Nelson Mandela**

YORKCOLLEGE.CUNY

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lish Department, also expressed delight in the success of the initiative after initial trepidation.

“It seems to me that those involved in it may remember some feelings we went through,” said Professor Haller. “I have to admit I was a little skeptical. We were in the middle of Pathways and CUNYfirst, so I was a little concerned it might get short-shrifted in the midst of more urgent [matters]. The nice thing was that there was institutional support.”

For Dr. Horsham-Brathwaite, FoE was a premium opportunity for collaboration across the college.

“Sometimes we operate in silos and don’t know what others are doing,” said Dr. Horsham-Brathwaite, director of the Counseling Office. “A key component of the FoE process is to support collaboration across the college’s divisions. Great strides have already been made in this area. I think from a systems perspective this collaboration will allow for greater awareness of the opportunities the college has for students. But there are more changes to bloom.”

According to Horsham-Brathwaite, those changes waiting to



President Keizs welcomed the audience and used the opportunity to speak about further improving York



Professor Haller during her presentation

bloom include the formation of a committee that represents faculty, staff and administrators

“As part of our main task we will create a plan for implementing the recommendations from the FoE self-study,” said Horsham-Brathwaite. “A timeline has yet to be developed, however it is of note that some of the recommendations from FoE matched initiatives that were in progress and have since been implemented. We now have a new advising model, which was a key recommendation and we have rolled out the *Cardinal Pulse* early alert system which allows us to provide outreach to students.”

Horsham-Brathwaite added that an implementation committee will identify departments and committees “that are best suited to implement the recommendations and present the proposal to the administration.”

She also enjoyed the celebration.

“I thought it was

great,” said Horsham-Brathwaite. “Attendees commented that they enjoyed the event. It was an opportunity to acknowledge all of the work that went into the FoE self-study and the faculty, staff and students who participated. I was pleased to hear that the students who participated in the FoE dimension committees also appreciated collaborating with faculty and staff and having an opportunity to have their voices heard. The celebration was an opportunity for us to come together and celebrate what makes York a unique and special place and to work together to think critically about the changes that will take us to the next level.”

The certificates of appreciation signed by President Keizs, Provost Panayiotis Meleties, and Dr. Geneva Walker-Johnson, Vice President for Student Development, were well received by recipients as recognition for their service to the college.



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Board.”

President Keizs also encouraged the college community to get familiar with the Charter Revision on the college’s homepage; and she reiterated her commitment and need for the continual need for improved “customer service” for students.

“Some things hold us back, however” said Keizs.

Vice President Ronald C. Thomas (Administrative Affairs) brought good news in his report.

“We will end the fiscal year with a small surplus,” said Thomas. “It is a small surplus, but we have been able to fill some positions and we will be posting 13 new positions this fiscal year. Undergirding all this is enrollment. There has been a small decrease in

enrollment; but we are in good shape with respect to the budget.”

Thomas also discussed the Governor’s *Start-Up NY* initiative, for which York is CUNY’s designated senior college site in Queens. The college is now awaiting formal acceptance into the program from the state. Start-Up NY proposes to designate the areas on and around some SUNY and CUNY colleges as tax-free zones to attract new or existing businesses with college resources of land, facilities and faculty expertise for research and development as incentive. York’s Site 9, would be made available for this program.

There were strategic topics of discussions as well. President Keizs and the Academic Af-

fairs team discussed accreditation – Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Clinical Laboratory Science, Physician Assistant, Nursing, Social Work, Teacher Education – and assessment work and the necessity for ongoing preparation for external accreditation.

Dr. Donna Chirico, Acting Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, spoke of the necessity of streamlining and accessibility to what the college and the administrative departments do with regards to assessments and their outcomes.

“The point is, we have to know what we’re doing, who’s doing it and where in the College it is taking place,” said Chirico. “We must have it completed and it must be able to be assessed.”



**Director of Counseling, Dr. Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite, during her presentation at the Symposium**



## Chinese University delegation visits York

During a recent visit to York College, Mr. Likui Zhang, President, Zhengzhou Institute of Aeronautical Industry Management presented a memento to President Keizs.

Seen in the picture (l.-r.) are: Dean of Business & Information Systems Dr. Alfred Ntoko, President Marcia V. Keizs, Likui Zhang, and Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, Director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College

## 5th Annual Undergraduate Research Day

### Notice of Extended Deadline & Call for Abstracts

The Office of Undergraduate Research at York College is pleased to announce the call for abstracts for our 5th Annual Research Day. The conference will take place from 9 to 5pm in the Academic Core building at York College on April 24th, 2014.

Research Day is a celebration of undergraduate research and creative scholarship in all disciplines at York College. The conference also offers opportunities for students to connect with potential faculty mentors. Abstract submission is open for reports of original research and creative scholarship as well as classroom projects that engage students in research-like experiences.

All submissions require sponsorship by a faculty mentor. Submissions should conform to the Student Guidelines for Oral and Poster Presentations. Accepted abstracts will be published in the York College Undergraduate Research Day Proceedings. Consequently, faculty mentors should be careful to review all submitted work.

### Keynote: Charles Duhigg

In 2013 Charles Duhigg was awarded the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting as a member of *The New York Times* staff for the series “The iEconomy,” which examined Apple’s manufacturing practices overseas and what they can tell us about the American economy. Duhigg is also the winner of the National Academies of Sciences, National Journalism, and George Polk awards, and a frequent contributor to television and radio, including the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *Frontline*, *Dr. Oz*, *This American Life* and various programs on CNBC and NPR. He is a graduate of the Harvard Business School and Yale College.

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- ◆ The extended deadline for abstract submissions is March 14th, 2014.
  - ◆ Conference registration for attendees will close on April 1st, 2014
  - ◆ For questions, email: [uresearch@york.cuny.edu](mailto:uresearch@york.cuny.edu)

For abstract submission, please refer to our web page: <http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-research>

For information on scholarships and research opportunities, find the York College Office of Undergraduate Research on Facebook and Twitter.

# *Maldita Pared*

Fotografía y Texto de Cuba  
Jacqueline Herranz-Brooks

March 6 - April 5, 2014

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**The deadline for submissions to the April 2014 issue of Academic Affairs Update is March 21, 2014.**

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

***via email to:***

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