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## Undergraduate Research Day Informs and Inspires Delight

The Sixth Annual Undergraduate Research Day was one for the record books, according to Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Robert Duncan, PhD.

Dr. Duncan, a neuroscientist in the department of Behavioral Sciences whose research “uses fMRI to compare measurements of neuronal activity and blood flow throughout the retino-cortical pathway to standard clinical measures of visual function,” says this year’s event

brought out an even larger group of student researchers than in previous years.

Although Undergraduate Research is intended for students across the academic spectrum, students in the sciences still dominate Research Day at York. Featured students include Zainab Almuhausen, Alisher Mukhamedov, Arban Nichols, Ariel Rosario, and Soraya Williams, who studied a wide variety of topics including discrimination in the workforce, computer networking protocols, and the effects of eye disease on the human brain.

Business is another discipline that is always well-represented in research at York. Deoanand Deodat, for example,



Undergraduate Research Day 2 ▶

## Deadline!

All items for the **September 2015** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted in MS Word to [AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu) by **September 4, 2015**.



Students discussing their research

# Undergraduate Research Day

Continued from 1

looked at “Poverty in New York State 1970-2013” under the guidance of Dr. Olajide Oladipo. In his abstract, Deodat says the purpose of the research is to “analyze and identify why so many citizens in New York State are poor” and what the contributing factors are to that condition.

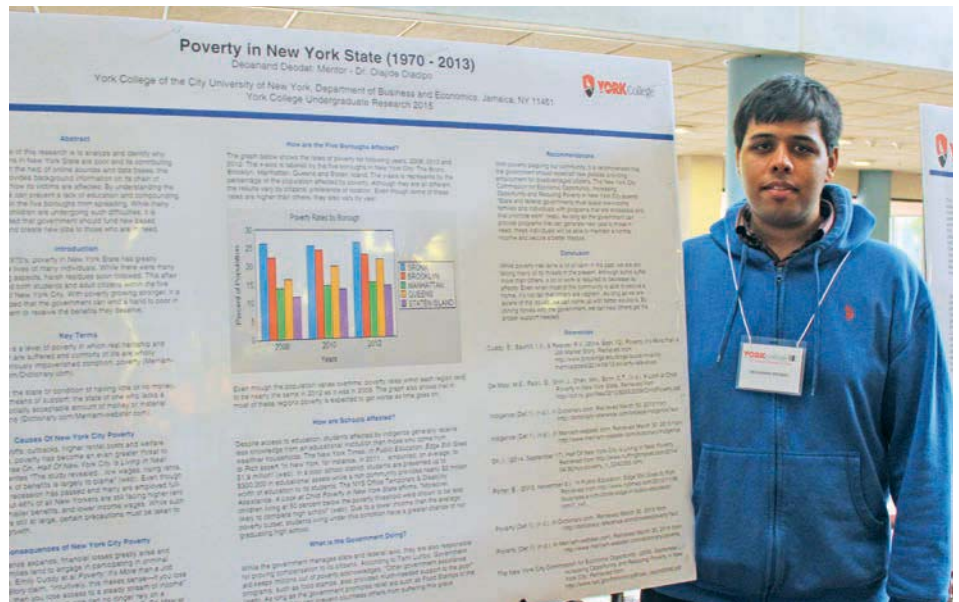
Deodat says some causes of poverty in New York can be traced to “layoffs, cutbacks, higher rent; and welfare shortages,” and while “the great recession” has mostly ended, nearly 46 percent of New Yorkers are still struggling due to higher rent, lower wages and benefits.

Dr. Duncan couldn't be more pleased with the growth of the program, as he noted during the May sixth event.

“Undergraduate research at York College is an emergent property of the culture of the college,” said Duncan. “In 2010 (the inaugural year) we had 150 participants. Today we have nearly 250 students presenting and close to 300 registered students in attendance. Our goal is to infuse research experiences and creative scholarship into every classroom, starting in the freshmen year.”

President Marcia V. Keizs was also delighted with what she saw.

“People are ready to share knowledge,” said Keizs. “When I came to York (in 2005)



Deoanand Deodat researched the causes of poverty in New York

there was a lot of research going on in the sciences, thanks to early faculty such as Dr. Leslie Lewis and Dr. Jack Schlein, who got research on the agenda of our students. But a number of students were inquiring (about more) research. But the idea grew under “Provost [Ivelaw] Griffith.”

During the luncheon session of the day, Dr. Keizs also announced that the CUNY Board of Trustees and the state had approved two new master's programs for roll out for fall 2016 enrollment: an MS in Pharmaceutical Science and Business and an MS in Physician

Assistant Studies. The college already offers programs in these areas on the undergraduate level.

Taking the long view, Dr. Duncan told the students that he expects great success from them.

“We are here to get you excited about research,” Duncan told the students during lunch. “We plan to expand in the next year. Our goal is to train you to replace us.”

As always, Earth Science was well-represented as was Computer Sciences, under the guidance of Dr. Shweta Jain, whose student, Arba Nicholas, described her mentoring style as “no pain, no Jain.” Nicholas and his group's research involved wireless communication, including GPS's inability to work in congested areas such as Midtown, Manhattan where the devices don't work because they bounce off the buildings. The Computer Science group



Student researchers and admirers enjoy the scholarly displays



Nicholas D. Weir, an aspiring M.D./Ph.D., explains his research



Nursing students enjoyed the day showing off their research outcomes

also researched static connections and disconnected networks. Aviation, under the guidance of Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, was also on display.

This year's keynote speaker, Ainissa Ramirez, PhD, a self-proclaimed "science evangelist" with a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Stanford University, gave an engaging presentation about Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), sprinkling in anecdotes from both her profession and childhood.

"If you're already in STEM you're ahead of the curve, said Ramirez. "You're a creative problem-solver; you don't ever stop asking 'why'. Everything will be touched by

STEM. If you're an artist, you'll be touched by it. STEM is like an ATM, meaning that for every dollar the United States puts into STEM they get back \$141,000.

Ramirez, who taught at Yale University, also discussed the lack of diversity in STEM faculty at the Ivy Leagues.

"Everyone at Yale was male, pale and went to Yale," she said was the running joke at the time, adding that there were only nine Black Ph.D.s in Engineering the year she graduated from Stanford University.

Ramirez, in addition to teaching, has worked for Lucent Technologies at Bell Lab and received an award from MIT. She's listed in the 35 top engineers in the

United States; and told the students to "use stumbling blocks as stepping stones."

She ended her presentation by telling the young researchers, "You are your own greatest experiment. See what lights you up. My brain, my heart, my gut... were all on fire."

The science and science talk were complemented by presentations of student research focusing on humanities topics. Additionally, cast members from Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, which was in production at York's Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center (see review elsewhere in this issue), entertained with a sublime performance of "The God's Love Nubia," the show's pivotal song. ■



Dr. Robert Duncan, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research



Keynote speaker, Dr. Ainissa Ramirez, makes the case for STEM



# Spotlight on School of Business and Information Systems

## New Finance Club Welcomes First Distinguished Speaker

As part of the preparation for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation, the School of Business and Information Systems continues to actively engage its students both inside and outside the classroom. In pursuit of this goal, Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe, Assistant Professor of Finance, initiated and formed the York College Finance Club in Fall 2014.

The finance club aims to provide an environment that will foster interaction among students interested in investing and finance. Its main purpose is to provide networking, learning, and career opportunities, offering extensions of what is available in the classroom. The club plans to sponsor guest speakers, make educational tours to investment and finance organizations, and host career events and networking opportunities with companies in the financial services industry. The club is a great place to build finance students' resumes and an excellent opportunity for those interested in networking.

The club's first speaker, Mr. H. Roy Bhiri, a retired USAF officer and currently a Loan Originator with Prime Lending (A PlainsCapital Company), spoke recently on "The Top 10 Mistakes in Mortgage Lending." Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe welcomed the staff, faculty and students to the seminar and emphasized the need for such seminars to help students better relate what they learn in the classroom to real life situations based on experiences of the experts in this field of study. He also informed the students that more of such seminars are in the making and that staff, faculty and students should make time to attend when these unfold.



Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe and Finance Club members

Mr. Bhiri delivered an elaborate and extensive lecture, using real life and on-the-job experiences and illustrations with some humor to enumerate the various mistakes that many people make in mortgage lending/financing. He summarized the top ten mistakes of mortgage customers as follows:

1. Letting the bank decide how much house you can afford, not figuring out how much you can afford
2. Failing to get preapproved for a home loan, and not receiving a total cost analysis upfront
3. Not getting a fixed-rate loan or understanding Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs)
4. Chasing rates and assuming all the risks or not locking your mortgage rate or getting it in writing
5. Not checking and fixing your credit: for example, applying for a mortgage with charge offs and collections, especially medical collec-

tions, on your credit report, or not establishing your credit history

6. Buying a home without professional inspections
7. Trying to get a mortgage without a documented 12-month housing history or your own verifiable assets
8. Acting like the loan is final before closing; or, applying for new credit simultaneously or shopping around
9. Ignoring or not understanding the difference between Interest Rate and APR
10. Not understanding Down-payment and Earnest Money Deposit requirements

Dr. Amaghionyeodiwe is currently planning a visit to the Federal Reserve in Fall 2015 with the Finance Club members and his Business and Economics students, as well as inviting a presenter from the New York School of Finance for another seminar. ■

## York College Alum speaks on *Keys to Financial Success* to School of Business and Information Systems (SBIS) Students

York College Entrepreneurship Club was formed in Fall 2009 through the initiative of Dr. Olajide Oladipo of the School of Business and Information Systems. The primary aim of the club is to serve as a conduit through which York College students can access relevant entrepreneurial resources, network with prominent community entrepreneurs and share business ideas. The club seeks to stimulate interest in entrepreneurship among York students and the members of the York community, and to provide students with the seedbed for developing and testing entrepreneurial talents. It is passionate about helping students and members of the community build sustainable ventures and providing members with a lifelong learning support platform to minimize business risks while maximizing success in ventures. According to Dr. Oladipo, the club “promotes an entrepreneurial mindset through various annual activities which include Entrepreneurship Conference, Startup Idea Assessment contest and Distinguished Speaker series.”

In Fall 2014, Dr. Oladipo and his students also formed the York College

Economics Society, which aims to provide students with the tools necessary to succeed in careers within international organizations such as International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB) and United Nations, among others. Dr. Oladipo mentioned that the Club provides a “platform to cultivate and develop the public understanding of important economic, social, and political issues.”

As part of the Entrepreneurship Club’s 6th year celebrations, and the establishment of the Economics Society at York College, Mr. Ennaji Benhammou, Class of 1991 and Vice President, Business Banking and Relationship Manager at JP Morgan Chase, was invited to speak on “Keys to Financial Success.” Dr. Oladipo welcomed staff, faculty and students to the seminar and encouraged students to attend seminars and conferences to complement classroom engagements: “seminars and conferences are designed to give you a plethora of usable content on a variety of relevant subjects, and will keep you up-to-date with the latest changes that are occurring within the industry—which we all know happen on almost a daily basis

nowadays”. Dr. Oladipo also thanked the Office of Student Development for partnering with the School of Business and Information Systems and for providing refreshments for the event. Ms. Belva Tatum, President of the Economics Society, introduced and thanked the guest speaker for honoring their invitation.

Mr. Benhammou emphasized to all participants, most especially students, the need to “be accountable and responsible, plot their course, understand their income flow, continuously save and invest, borrow smart, manage credit cards wisely, review and understand credit reports and protect oneself from identity theft.” According to the speaker, all students should be actively involved in their financial decisions. He mentioned that “Investing is a great way to have your money work for you, but comes with risk. Before you start investing, it is important to understand the different options and the risks involved. Don’t think you are too young to invest. The best time to invest is when you are young, as you have more time for your investments to grow and weather the ups and downs of the stock market and the economy”.

Dr. Oladipo is currently organizing a visit to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in the Fall 2015 semester with his Business and Economics students. A networking event on “Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs” is also planned. ■



In the picture from L-R: Racquel Stewart, Maria Gutierrez, Belva Tatum, Dr. Olajide Oladipo, Mr. Ennaji Benhammou, Aaisha Joseph, and Wilson Chavannes.

Spotlight on SBIS 6 ►

## Spotlight on SBIS

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# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Provides Service to Community

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is now in its ninth year at York College. This IRS-sponsored program is available to assist low-to-moderate income individuals in preparing their income taxes free of charge. At York College, some faculty, staff, and students make use of the program to get their taxes prepared as well, as the VITA program at York College is conveniently located in the Academic Core building on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and is supervised by faculty members from the Accounting and Finance Department.

VITA students, mainly from the School of Business and Information Systems, are recruited over the summer and trained during the fall semester each year. Business and Accounting stu-



Professor Bhoomdat with volunteers at the VITA center

dents from other CUNY colleges volunteer at the York College VITA program as well. Volunteers are required to take and pass several tests in order to prepare tax returns. The actual tax preparation takes place during the months of January through April, but a lot of time is spent planning, recruiting, and training student volunteers—not to mention the logistics that come into play to run a program of this magnitude. Training material needs to be ordered from the IRS, classrooms to conduct software and tax law training need to be reserved, office supplies for the actual tax preparation need to be replenished, and other like preparations made. All of this hard and dedicated work is done by a team of adjunct professors led by Professor Bhoomdat from the Accounting and Finance Department at York College.

VITA takes pride in providing a service that stands out in quality rather than quantity. Thus, the York College VITA program has one of the lowest rejection rates when it comes to tax returns filed with the IRS and NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. The past three tax seasons, the program was able to keep its rejection rate below 5%. About 2,300 tax returns on average are prepared by 149 trained and certified volunteers each season at York College. Thirteen weeks with a total of 416 clock hours are dedicated to preparing, quality reviewing, transmitting, and taking care of rejected tax returns. Imagine the amount of dollars saved by clients making use of the services. The VITA program gives exposure to the college in the community as well. Many clients testify of the great work done by the volunteers, and hundreds of clients return each season. Even though there are many other VITA programs located throughout the boroughs of NYC, these individuals prefer to make use of York College's services.

In addition to providing a service to the community, the VITA program also provides opportunities for York students to develop their knowledge and abilities. Students from the School of Business and Information Systems, mainly accounting students, take independent study courses associated with the VITA program to satisfy electives within their major. Theoretical knowledge is put into practice, and volunteers get to experience a real tax practice while still in college. Aspects such as marketing, customer relations, HR, and tax research and planning, to name a few, are covered. Student volunteers get valuable hands-on experience under the guidance of their own professors and get to network with other future professionals. Many VITA volunteers who graduated have been able to land jobs in taxation due to their involvement with the program. They proudly list their volunteer work on their resumes, and faculties involved in the program are excited to write recommendations on their behalf.

As York College is an academic institution, the VITA program has the potential to become a tax research center within the School of Business and Information Systems in the future. Thus, the College might strengthen and expand educational opportunities even further for students within the School. Since York College is an Empire State Development STARTUP New York site and it hosts the Small Business Development Center, a tax research center would not be farfetched, though funding will be necessary to support research projects in accounting and related taxation issues and to disseminate research findings to students, faculty, and other interested parties. For now, the York College administration has been very instrumental and supportive of the VITA program, and hard-working volunteers continue to provide tax services to the surrounding community. ■

## Women in Aviation Conference

Women in Aviation held their 26th Annual International Conference in Dallas, Texas on Tuesday, 3 March, 2015. The conference had over 5,000 delegates,

which included 10 students accompanied by Dr. Annansingh-Jamieson representing York College. The event was hosted at the prestigious Hilton Anatole

Hotel. Many companies from all over the world were in attendance, including multinational corporations such as American Airlines, Boeing, UPS, and FedEx, amongst others.

The theme for the conference was “Connect - Engage - Inspire”



From top left: MD Limon, MD Islam, Michael Stankiewicz, Bottom left to right: Michelle Estrella, Jennifer Valencia, Dr. Annansingh-Jamieson, Yulissa Menendez, Gloria Guaman, Sabirah Siddiq, Thinley Wongmo and Rong Jiang

**CONNECT**--The sessions ran over a four-day period from 8 am to 9 pm. The first day was dedicated to registration and a number of tour opportunities, such as the American Airlines Flight Academy and DFW Line and Base Maintenance, DFW Air Traffic control, and the Southwest Facility Tour. Over the remaining three days the topics offered were diverse and thought-provoking with something for everyone. Students participated in workshops and seminars on topics such as “Leadership,” “Imposter Syndrome,” “Women in Corporate Aviation,” “Technology Infrastructure Role in Aviation,” “After the Crash,” “Flight Attendant Careers,” “You can be an effective leader” and “The Best Aviation Job You Never Heard of,” amongst others.

Four of the students and Professor Annansingh-Jamieson attended the FAA Maintenance Recurrent Training and received their certification from the FAA, which has a value of over \$300.

**ENGAGE**—Students were given the opportunity over a three-day period to network and engage with industry leaders, potential employers and representatives from all areas of aviation. A number of companies were actively recruiting for different vacancies, internships and scholarships and encouraged the students to register their interest with the organization as well as to keep up-to-date about recent and relevant job postings. York students and Professor Annansingh-Jamieson also had the op-

portunity to fly a helicopter and airplane simulator, which was exciting and telling as Professor Annansingh-Jamieson crashed the airplane three times!

**INSPIRE**—Conference attendees were treated to a group of prestigious and inspirational leaders in the field of aviation. The list of keynote speakers included:

- Colleen Barrett, President Emeritus, Southwest Airlines;
- Pat Blum, Founder, Cooperate Angel Network;
- Ravi Chaudhary, FAA Executive Director for Regions and Center Operations;
- Amelia Rose Earhart, youngest woman to circumnavigate the world in a single engine aircraft;
- Donna Hrinak, Boeing President, Brazil and Latin America;
- LT. Col. Jen Nothelfer, US Marine Corps
- Heather Penny, Director, USAF Air Superiority Systems, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics

These highly experienced and successful speakers encouraged the attendees not to give up on their dream and to support each other in the process and development of their careers.

Students were sponsored for the conference dinner by American Airlines and were also treated to a live jazz band concert. Numerous scholarships were given out to the sum of over \$50,000. The students found the conference to be an inspiring and definitive experience as they continue their aviation journey. ■

## Aviation Students Get Miles Out of Frequent Scholarships

York’s Aviation Management students are among the college’s most aggressive scholars and Muhammad Khattak and Evelyn Valentin just proved that once again.

Valentin and Khattak recently won scholarships from the National Aircraft Finance Association (NAFA). For Valentin this is a first from NAFA but it is a “three-peat” for Khattak. He has received the scholarship for the third consecutive

year for a total of approximately \$12,000.

Both students credit the support available at York for leading them to great opportunities.

“To be honest, York is the best school I could have gone to,” said Khattak, a transfer student from Queensborough Community College who recently completed his York studies. “I am a person who can go directly to the president (of

York College). There is a different image outside, but inside there is so much support with extremely qualified people ready to help you 24/7.”

For Valentin it’s about prioritizing.

“There are lots of opportunities; as long as you prioritize your school work you can have many doors open to you,”

## Spotlight on SBIS

Continued from 5

said Valentin. Her GPA, which is in the high threes, helped earn her \$3,567 from

NAFA. “There are plenty of organizations and companies that are willing to help us students, because we are the future of their industries.”

Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, director of the Aviation program, agrees.

“We are not like the well-endowed schools,” said Dr. Hsu. “So I am glad we can go out to get other resources as long as they are willing to get involved in the program.” ■

## Aviation Management Students Tour Air Traffic Control Facilities

Dr. Mavis Green, associate professor in the aviation management program, Business and Economics Department, and the students in her BUS 281 Air Traffic Control class toured the New York Terminal Radar Control (TRACON) facility on Wednesday, May 6. The host for the tour was Mr. Eddy Sosa, Facility Director, who had previously been a guest speaker at York.

Mr. Sosa began the tour with a history of the facility and an explanation of the work accomplished there. The students toured training laboratories as well as the technical center of the operations. Mr. Jim Brazel from Technical Operations also spoke with the students and gave a description of his work, along with details of the requirements for employment. He was extremely enthusiastic in encouraging students to consider a career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The highlight of the tour was being brought onto the floor with the work-



Mr. Eddy Sosa, New York TRACON Facility Director, with Dr. Mavis Green and York College aviation management students

ing air traffic controllers. The students agreed that witnessing the material they had discussed in class in actual operation was a value-added. They were very appreciative of the time and effort Mr. Sosa expended on their behalf. Mr.

Sosa, in turn, was very appreciative of the York College students, stating that he was impressed with their dedication and that he planned to continue his connection with the Aviation Management program. ■

## Information Systems Management Society Launched with York Alumnus

The newly formed Information Systems Management (ISM) Society with faculty advisor Dr. Annansingh-Jamieson started its first in a series of presentations on Data Security on the Internet. The ISM society aims to:

- foster academic excellence;
- focus on educating its members about new and evolving technologies;
- expose students to career opportunities in the field of ISM.

All students are welcome, as the society's objective is to develop future industry leaders by exploring the impact of emerg-

ing technologies, engaging with technology experts, networking with leading professionals and facilitating workshops and seminars. Since technology is not neutral, the ISM society will also examine the global changes brought about by technology.

The ISM society had as its invited guest speaker York College alumnus Mr. Omar McKenzie who gave his presentation on Data Security and Cloud Computing. Mr. McKenzie is the Chief Information Security Officer for Gravitas and former Vice President for security at Citigroup. Mr. McKenzie delivered an elaborate and riveting lecture on the numerous security risks to

which individuals and businesses are exposed as a result of cloud computing or being on the Internet. The major themes that emerged from the discussion were:

- Someone else is looking after your data when it is in the cloud. By putting your data in the cloud you are revoking responsibility for this data.
- It is difficult to deleted uploaded files as they are stored in separate locations on the Internet. Students were advised to be careful what they upload onto the cloud or the Internet as it could affect future employment.



- The threats to security networks as a result of cyber-attacks are getting more sophisticated. Rather than blanket attacks of viruses or worms, hackers are targeting specific cooperate networks via spear phishing and whaling.
- Specific software based on insider attacks can shift and retrieve specific information about individuals in ways that remain undetected in the cloud.
- Free apps can be highly intrusive as they

search through all the contents stored on any technological device to which they are downloaded. This information can then be passed or sold to third party companies without your knowledge. Students were advised to read the small print of the terms and conditions before downloading certain apps.

- Antivirus software should be used to protect devices as they help prevent spyware and malware.

- There is a lack of standardization in the cloud computing industry. Hence it is difficult to assess what is safe.
- It is often difficult to trace and prosecute hackers as in some cases they are state sponsored or operate out of a specific country for which the US has no jurisdiction or treaty.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the topic of Internet Security, Mr. McKenzie will return in Fall 2015 to demonstrate a number of vulnerabilities in a ‘chosen’ system. He will also highlight the security and preventative measures which can be employed to protect the system.

In addition, Dr. Annansingh-Jamieson is planning to host a number of other industry leaders and a trip to the software leading company during the coming academic year. ■



ISM society members

## Aviation Major to Pursue M. Phil Degree at Cambridge University

Muhammad Khattak was always one step ahead in his quest for excellence at York. The recent B.S. graduate in Aviation Management received three scholarships from the National Aircraft Finance Association and has now been accepted into the M. Phil in in Real Estate Finance program at Cambridge University.

An internship obtained as a student in the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College opened Khattak’s eyes to career options in aviation that he had not previously known; and it led to his application and subsequent acceptance into Cambridge University.

“I did my internship with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) in properties and commercial development,” said Khattak. “It’s one of their Aviation Department units so I worked on lots of property like the Ramada (built on Airport property) so the Port Authority is looking for new developers for the property.”

According to Khattak, it was Don Free, his manager and mentor at the Port Authority who first told him that



Muhammad Khattak

“aviation is more than planes;” it is property as well.

“Doing this specialty (in graduate school) will help me use my aviation background and show how to maximize aviation return on investment properties,” said Khattak. “Business is about having something different to solve the problem. Aviation is like any other business, it’s just that [some of] our asset flies in the air.”

Asked how York prepared him for the next phase of his education and eventual career, Khattak had high praises not just for York, but for the industry professionals who are friends to the college and the Aviation Institute.

“Dr. [Chun-Pin] Hsu, Dr. [Olajide] Oladipo, Don Free (PANYNJ) and David Lombard (Alliance Manager at American Airlines at JFK) were all my mentors,” said Khattak. “They all helped me with my application (to Cambridge) and in fact, Mr. Lombard is still mentoring me right now. I met him the first day I started at York. He’s created a monster [of me]—but in a good way.”

Khattak added that education involves both the efforts of the the student and the support of the College community .

“Going to university is not one person’s task,” he explained. “And it’s not always about the school, it’s about you. It’s what you put into it. You don’t have to go to Ivy League to get into Harvard or Cambridge. But it’s been everybody’s support here. To be honest, York is the best school I could have gone to.” ■

## Coming in Fall 2015...York's First-Year Common Reader

In Fall 2015, all entering first-year students will receive a free copy of *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* (Norton, 2010).

Written by Dr. Claude M. Steele, currently Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at the University of California, Berkeley, *Whistling Vivaldi* presents social psychology research about stereotypes in accessible and personal ways. Chapters can be studied and discussed individually, allowing interested faculty to tailor study and discussion of the book into first-year courses.

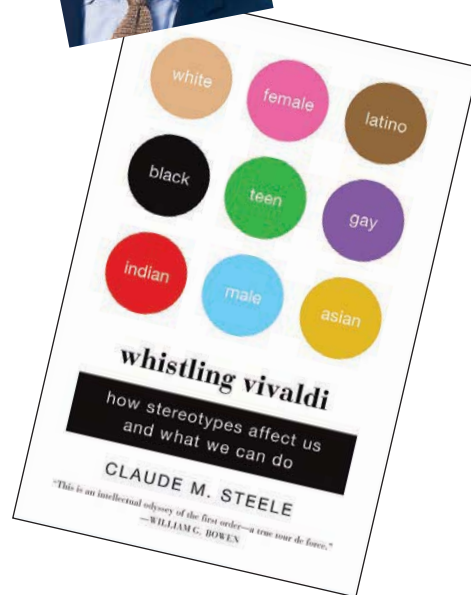
At the beginning of the book, Steele describes his own experiences as a young boy as a way of understanding stereotypes. As the book progresses, he describes his research as a social psychologist into this subject, explaining how he goes about his inquiry and why he and his colleagues look at first one question and then another. Thus, students can see the journey of Steele's thinking and research. Each chapter includes discussion of several specific studies, cited in the endnotes, which enables comparison of this popular text to the academic source materials on which it draws.

During the coming academic year, themed student activities will provide

venues for students to read, talk, and write about the book. It will be introduced and distributed at the August 12 new student orientation, and a social get-together with book-related activities will be held September 8, 12-2 pm as part



Author  
Claude M. Steele



of York's Week of Welcome. A student contest related to the book theme is being developed, and an author visit is already scheduled for Wednesday, November 4. Be sure, too, to check out the York College Library, which is creating a special display featuring the book.

Faculty interested in incorporating the book (or parts of it) into first-year courses can contact Professor Cynthia R. Haller at [challer@york.cuny.edu](mailto:challer@york.cuny.edu) (Ext. 2468) to receive a review copy, which they can then keep should they decide to use the book.

The common reader program is a collaborative 2015-2016 first-year initiative of the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Development. The program aspires to enable first-year students to:

- Identify, describe, and compare a variety of disciplinary perspectives on an issue of importance
- Understand how the issue presented in the book relates to academic disciplinary work and their personal lives.
- Participate in student activities related to the common reader's theme.
- Appreciate and enjoy the book and program experience with their fellow first-year students ■

## Professors Rodgers and Alexandre Awarded Grant for Simulation Project with African American Aging Adults

Faculty members—Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Department of Social Work and Professor Margaret Alexandre (Department of Nursing)—from the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College, City University of New York received a Professional Staff



Dr. Rodgers

Congress CUNY - 46 Research Award in the amount of \$3,500.00. This award aims to promote sustainable health disparities prevention through assessment and intervention in African American aging adults and joint simulation educational trainings and workshops between a



Prof. Alexandre

small team of older adults, helping professionals in the South Jamaica, Queens community, York College social work and nursing student scholars. Professors Rodgers and Alexandre are invested in President Obama's Affordable Care Act, the historic reform bill, and Healthy People 2020 Initiatives, which are aimed at reducing health disparities by investing in prevention and wellness, and giving individuals greater independence over their own care. ■



## York Astronomer Uses Giant Japanese Telescope

Tim Paglione, professor of physics and astronomy, Chair of the Department of Earth & Physical Sciences, and chair of CUNY Astronomy & Astrophysics, traveled to Japan in March to work at the Nobeyama Radio Observatory (NRO). Paglione and colleague Bill Wall from the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica, y Electrónica (INAOE) were granted time to utilize the NRO 45-meter diameter radio telescope to observe massive star-forming clouds in nearby galaxies. Paglione has used the 45m and another array of smaller telescopes at NRO many times before, but had not been back to Nobeyama in 16 years. That previous trip was for an engineering experiment to measure the wind loading effects on the pointing accuracy of the enormous 45m dish. For that unique experiment, he and his collaborators had the rare and harrowing opportunity to actually climb inside the back structure of the enormous dish antenna, walk on its surface, and even scale the support beams up to the towering instrument platform. At the time, Paglione worked at INAOE helping to develop the 50m Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT), which is now in operation in Puebla, Mexico. Paglione and Wall have been applying for time at the extremely competitive Puebla LMT in its early days of operations and decided to pilot their study at Nobeyama, which is a similar size and has comparable instruments.

The trip in March was much more conventional than the wind experiment. After their telescope proposal was accepted on scientific and technical grounds, and they were granted time on the 45m, Paglione and Wall met in Tokyo and traveled together on the roughly three-hour train journey west to Nobeyama. They were scheduled a total of 13 hours of telescope time over three nights (a radio observatory works perfectly well during the day, but the galaxies they studied happened to be over the horizon near midnight this time of year). The project goal was to detect emission from rare, tell-tale molecules in the disks of several nearby galaxies. These particular gal-



axies, known as starbursts for their high rates of massive star formation, are rich sources of emission from vast reservoirs of molecular gas. Most of that gas and consequent star formation activity is concentrated at the starburst center, and not much is known about a starburst's general disk properties. The 45m project was an attempt to search for gradients and variations in the emission from center to disk in a few bright and extended galaxies using molecules that characteristically trace the dense and warm gas associated with active star formation. The unique spectrometers at the NRO conveniently allow astronomers to simultaneously search for many molecular lines at once.

The weather was quite favorable for the entire trip (radio telescopes can see through clouds, but not rain), and Paglione and Wall obtained some great data to start their project. They expect to engage some students, both at CUNY and INAOE, to help reduce and analyze the complicated spectra, to hopefully gain time at the larger and more sensitive LMT to continue their studies of starburst galaxies, and to publish the results in the near future. ■

## Graduate Recognized

Subiena Jamnadas RN, a graduate of the 2014 Cohort of RN-BSN Students, was one of 22 graduating students selected from nursing schools throughout the state to become the first recipients of the Future Nurse Leader award, given by the American Nurses Association of New York. The award honors nursing students entering the profession and encourages them to continue to develop their leadership skills in the profession. Ms. Jamnadas is currently working part-time in the Department of Nursing as a Non-Teaching Adjunct, assisting the professors and nursing students in the nursing department's state-of-the-art laboratories.

Ms. Jamnadas has acquired an abundance of knowledge and skills throughout her ten years in the profession. She currently works in the post-anesthesia unit and stated "As a Registered Nurse, there is nothing more comforting than seeing my patients satisfied and grateful for the care that I have rendered. For it is my duty to deliver holistic care to all my patients, while at the same time ensuring a safe and vigorous recovery from surgery."

Link to the article: <http://www.theamericannurse.org/index.php/2014/11/04/award-recognizes-nursing-students-for-outstanding-leadership/> ■



# York Hosts Record-Breaking Benefit for Merit Scholar Funds

It was an evening to remember as The York College Foundation held its annual Merit Scholarship Dinner on May 21st, changing the format and taking the event off campus for the first time.

Held at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, the event was a resounding success for the college, raising more than \$300,000 in net revenue for scholarship and breaking the record for a York College fundraising event. The well-attended event featured a who's who of philanthropists, artists, politicians, community supporters and members of the college community.

The dinner honored Mattone Group, LLC; Ntozake Shange, the ground-breaking playwright of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*; and Paul Williams, immediate past president and CEO of the Dormitory Authority of New York (DASNY). All were in attendance and gave inspiring acceptance speeches. Members of the larger CUNY family who attended included First Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson, who served as a co-chair of the event, and trustees Phillip Berry and Rita DiMartino. William C. Thompson, former New York City Comptroller, as well as Michael Garner and (former) Governor David Paterson, were also in attendance.

Presenters included (former) Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, who presented the award to real estate developers and philanthropists Mattone Group, LLC; Governor Paterson presented to Paul Williams, his DASNY appointee; and Tony Award-winning choreographer George W. Faison presented to playwright, novelist and poet, Ntozake Shange.

Michele Chow-Tai, president of the Foundation Board and a York alumna of the Class of 1999, shared her remarkable story of survival as a young immigrant orphaned by the death of her mother while she was still in high school. She thanked the crowd for heeding the call to support York's students.



From left: Errol Louis, Hank Sheinkopf, Michele Chow-Tai, Jay Hershenson, David Paterson, Rita DiMartino, Ed Rhodes, Phillip Berry and President Marcia V. Keizs



From left: Michele Chow-Tai, Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. and Claire K. Shulman



George W. Faison, Ntozake Shange and President Keizs



David Paterson and Paul Williams

"It is no secret that inadequate financial resources create barriers for our students," said Chow-Tai in her journal message. "When students have the means to attend college, they obtain a wide range of personal, financial and other lifelong benefits. Likewise, society as a whole also

gains a multitude of benefits including lower levels of unemployment and poverty replaced by a drive for innovation."

Chow-Tai is living proof of the value of education. Hers has served her well as she has climbed the corporate ladder in the banking and investment sector.

Other distinguished alumni members in attendance included Foundation Board members Dr. Hank Sheinkopf, '73, and Judge George Grasso '80, whose son, Joseph, an attorney, is also a York College graduate (Class of 2011).

The delightful evening was emceed by journalist Errol Louis, host of NY1 News' *Inside City Hall*. Music was provided by The Q&A Experience, a band headed by York Music Professors Jonathan Quash (Q) and Mark Adams (A). ■

## Nursing Lobby Day

On April 21st 2015, 16 York College Department of Nursing students and faculty (Dr. Heather Gibson and Professor Margarett Alexandre) traveled to Albany for the annual New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) Lobby Day. This is the third

year that the department has traveled with Queensborough Community College students and faculty for this event. The group continues to advocate for safe staffing numbers for their nurses to provide safe compassionate care to all patients. Lobbying for New York State Universal Health care was also an additional agenda item.

The students had the opportunity to meet with several legislators including Tobinsky and Senator Leroy Comrie who are supporters of the key Safe Staffing bill. The students had the opportunity to voice their views on the importance of adequate staffing and quality patient care delivery. ■



L to R: Dr. Heather Gibson, Dr. Barbara Blake-Campbell, Prof. Barbara Rome and Prof. Margarett Alexandre



Senator Leroy Comrie and Prof. Alexandre with York Department of Nursing Students in Albany

## Occupational Therapy Students Attend National Conference

There was a terrific YORK College Occupational Therapy (OT) presence at the National American Occupational Therapy Association Conference this past April 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Masters (MBPI) and the York College Study Away/Study Abroad Program supported a large contingent of OT Students to represent York College OT, CUNY. They attended workshops, presentations of current research, talks by the prominent scholars in the field, posters, current technology and of course mingled with other OT students from all over the country. Additionally, they enjoyed a networking evening with York OT alumni and faculty at our second OT alumni event held during the profession's national conference.

Students attending the conference (not all represented in the group picture) included: Nina Santilius (2nd Year), Firmause Payen (2nd Year), Diann Rahim

(2nd Year), Netu Goberdhan (2nd Year), Allison Teitelbaum (2nd Year), Joann LaGreca (2nd Year), Anna Zayenchik (2nd Year), Tiffany Cordero (3rd Year),

Emel Kaya (3rd Year), Laxmi Gurung (3rd Year), Sarbjit Kaur (3rd Year), Nataly Murillo (3rd Year), Krystal Warner (3rd Year). ■



# School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs (SHSPP) Distinguished Lecture Series Kickoff

Dean Clark and the SHSPP Committee on Comprehensive Faculty Development launched its inaugural *Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series* lecture on Friday, April 17, 2015 with a writing workshop entitled, *Writing for Publications: Tips For Success*. This workshop was presented by Dr. Marilyn Oermann PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN. Dr. Oermann is a Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing and Director of Evaluation and Educational

Research at the Duke University School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina. She is the editor of *Nurse Educator* and the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*—and a gifted writer and educator.

Twenty-five faculty members from York College and ten faculty members from other CUNY campuses, SUNY and private colleges participated in this workshop. A diverse group of health-oriented faculty members were

in attendance, including educators in the nursing, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, health science, health education, movement science, physical therapy, and dental hygiene disciplines. Additionally, faculty members from outside of the health professions were in attendance, representing the business and accounting disciplines.

Dr. Oermann presented strategies to assist faculty as they begin writing for publication and as they consider furthering their publication portfolios. Authorship guidelines, journal selection, predatory journals, copyright issues, query letters, submission guidelines, editorial decisions and internet resources were discussed. Dr. Oermann included active participation to engage faculty in attendance.

The York College buildings and grounds department, IT, and food services created a welcoming venue in the faculty dining room that made York faculty proud. A bountiful continental breakfast buffet was available throughout the workshop for refreshments. Dr. Shawn Williams and Dr. Bernadette Amicucci worked diligently to make the event a success. Special thanks to Dean Clark and her administrative staff and all the members of the SHSPP Committee on Comprehensive Faculty Development for their hard work and support. ■



From left: Dr. Shawn Williams, Dean Clark, Dr. Marilyn Oermann, Dr. Bernadette Amicucci and Lilly Matthew

## Kudos!

Student **Jessica Miranda** (Biology) has been awarded a 2015 Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship from the Hudson River Foundation. Per the research proposal she submitted for the fellowship, she will study eel DNA in the Hudson River this summer. She will present the results of her study in late August at The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York.



**Tim Paglione** (Professor, Earth and Physical Sciences) recently published the following article with R. D. Abrahams, one of his graduate students.

Abrahams, R. D. & Paglione, T. A. D. 2015, "High-Latitude Clouds as Probes of Local Cosmic Rays," *The Astrophysical Journal*, 805, 50

**Selena T. Rodgers** recently published a book chapter on the scholarship of engagement: Rodgers, S. T. (2015). Being of Some Scholarly Service: A New Take On The Scholarship of Engagement in Academe. In F.A. Bonner, II, C.W., Rosie M. Banda, P. A. Robinson, Lewis, F. A., & B. Lofton (Eds.). *Priorities of the Professoriate: Engaging Multiple Forms of Scholarship Across Rural and Urban Institutions*. (pp. 67-88). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

# A New Mentorship Program in the Occupational Therapy Program

**JANINA SAINTILUS, OTS**

Occupational therapy is a health profession that aims to improve the quality of life of others by improving functional ability to engage in meaningful activities. Therapists start with an assessment to determine areas that need to be addressed and then develop a treatment plan. Upon entering York College's Occupational Therapy Program in the spring of 2013, the freshman class started their occupational therapy career. By the end of their first semester, the needs of the program were assessed and it was found there was segregation between the students within different cohorts. There was limited interaction between first year students and upperclassmen as every year congregated with their own cohorts. There was much anxiety of the unknown but limited interaction with graduate students to assuage anxiety.

Upon election to the York Student Occupational Therapy Association (YSOTA) Executive Board, Janina Saintilus, OTS developed and spearheaded a new program to bridge this gap by starting a Mentorship program run by YSOTA. The Mentorship program began with four volunteer mentors, but quickly increased to more than 10 second year students by fall 2014. Upon learning about the program, several third-year students also volunteered to join and mentor second-year students. As of Spring 2015, there are 15 mentors from both second- and third-year classes.

The program has upperclassmen who mentor underclassmen, with third-year mentors for the second-year class and second-year mentors for the first-year class. The mentorship program does not offer tutoring; rather, mentoring involves advice and encouragement. There is transfer of knowledge with respect to resources such as scholarship and grant opportunities. Upperclassmen have also encouraged membership in outside occupational therapy organizations and serve as a resource for additional information to supplement Department programs. Finally, the program supports

interactions with other professionals within occupational therapy.

Since the start of the program, interactions between all occupational students, regardless of cohort, have increased. During the first-year orientation, second year mentors were on hand to offer advice and encouragement, and personal connections were made that have been nourished and maintained.

Similar relationships have developed between the second and third year classes. As a result, a greater number of occupational therapy students are working together to support each other through this rigorous academic program. The pilot program will continue in 2015-2016 as a means of mentorship and support for incoming occupational therapy students. ■



Kneeling: Vera Carlisi, Anna Zayenchik First row: Allison Teitelbaum, Joann Lagreca, Janina Santilus, Rachel Mendoza, Alexandria Touris, Heather Mitchell, Firmause Payan, Mabel Perez, Diann Rahim Back row: Tim Dunne, Michael Penhasov, Mayra Quizhpi

## Social Work Tides That Bond

During the spring 2015 semester, U.S. Fulbright Specialist Program Awardees Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor, Social Work) and Dr. Linda Wermeling (Associate Professor, Northern Kentucky University) co-lectured to an exuberant group of student scholars on the important role of social work advocacy to help empower urban and rural communities in instances of [anti]flooding catastrophes. Dr. Wermeling's family and other residents were forced to abandon their town as a result of flooding, as depicted in "As the Water Rises: the Search for Bowlingtown", a documentary of the history of Bowlingtown, Kentucky 1800 -1960. Similarly, Spike Lee's documentary "When the Levees Broke" captures the powerful survivor responses of New Orleans, post-Hurricane Katrina. ■



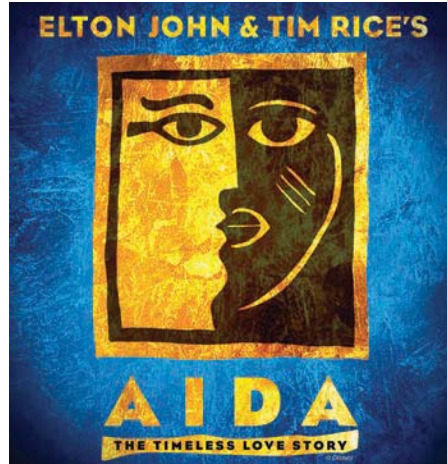
# Aida – A Timeless Love Story Enchants at York

By **TERANDEROSE RUSSELL**, York Journalism Student

Professor Timothy Amrhein's production of the famed Broadway play *Aida* is relentless in the way it entertains. For two hours, the audience is gripped by the dramatic love story of a Nubian princess enslaved by the Egyptians. York College student actors give a brilliant take on the musical by Elton John and Tim Rice.

*Aida* becomes the muse of Radames, an Egyptian captain who is set to marry Amneris the pharaoh's daughter. But Radames falls in love with Aida, who struggles to keep her identity as a princess a secret. Radames and Aida are in love with each other despite their obstacles and differences. It is a love challenged by class, race, status and a prearranged marriage.

"It's a universal love story," said Amrhein, director of the play. "The audience should take away an understanding of love transcending all boundaries. The theme is universal and has roots in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. You have two groups of people (the Nubians and Egyptians) who aren't supposed to be with each other. And yet, you have



two people who go against what society dictates and follows their hearts."

Professor Amrhein, chair of the Performing and Fine Arts Department, whose expertise includes stage design and theater direction, has been directing on-and-off for the past 20 years. He has directed a play every semester at York since 2008.

"My philosophy on the profession of directing is that the director is the one with the vision," said Amrhein. "It is up to the director to work very closely and

collaboratively with the other members of the production to make that vision become a reality on stage. It is really one of the few forms of art that involves multiple talents coming together to create one final product on stage."

The scene "The Niles Edge" and others take place in the gardens, palaces and catacombs. The backdrops are particularly detailed and colorful. The lighting constantly sets the appropriate mood to match the emotional aspects of the scenes, and the costumes are culturally accurate and alluring.

The performance by Miya "Mayo" Bass as Aida and Taso Mikroulis as Radames were compelling. Their musical numbers were moving and engaging, and they seemed to reach out to the audience on every note. The supporting cast was highly energetic and seemed to truly enjoy their roles. The emotional involvement of the cast was evident in every scene.

Amrhein's vision was gracefully realized in this rendition of *Aida*.

"The audience should also take away the beauty and fun of the musical numbers, combined with the message of hope and karma—especially during all these instances of social injustice that we are seeing in the media," said Amrhein. ■

## Nursing Club Activity

On May 9th 2015, the York College Nursing Club participated in a community event "Girlz Talk: Empowerment for Mothers, Daughters & Guardians" at Hofstra University, Hempstead NY. York

College nursing students offered nursing services in the "wellness clinic," which included blood pressure screenings, education on eating disorders and sexually transmitted diseases. Students were su-

pervised by their professors Lilly Mathew, Claudette McFarquhar and Renee Wright. Student nurses made a difference in the community as they empowered young teens, mothers and guardians. ■





## PSC-CUNY Award Winners, Department of Performing and Fine Arts

The Department of Performing and Fine Arts congratulates three faculty members who have received PSC-CUNY Awards to pursue their creative work.

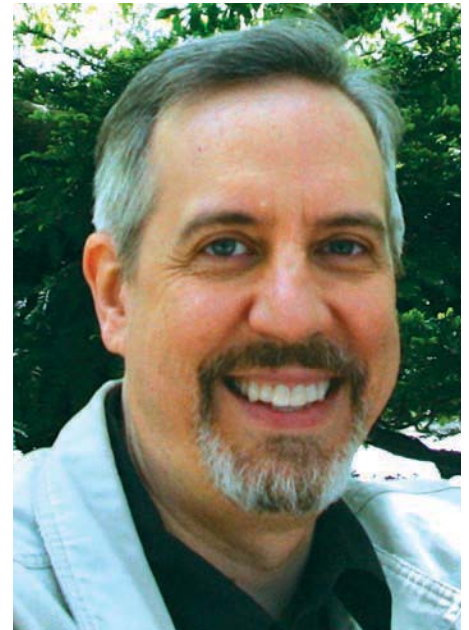


Dr. George Lam (Assistant Professor of Music) has been awarded a PSC-CUNY Research Award to support a new chamber music work titled *The Emigrants* for viola, cello, percussion and digital playback, commissioned by the chamber ensemble New Morse Code. *The Emigrants* will be a documentary work based on recorded oral history interviews with various residents of New York City's borough of Queens, one of the most ethnically diverse urban areas in the world. *The Emigrants* will explore how the experience of an immigrant-as-emigrant has come to shape their identity in the United States, and why they have chosen to stay. The new work will combine recorded oral history with music inspired by the rhythms of the recorded speech. The PSC-CUNY Research Award

will support the purchase of audio recording equipment to produce the high-quality oral history recordings that will serve both the research for the piece and as part of the live performance.



Maki Hajikano (Associate Professor of Fine Arts) has received a PSC-CUNY Research Award that will support her new series of artwork entitled "Art In A Transient World." She has been investigating the intricate relationships between Japanese cultural characteristics and their visual representation. The ephemeral concept that "Transient World" echoes, and which is embraced in Japanese classical literature and art, predominates and is purposefully reflected in this new series. Various materials including glass, are utilized in order to construct complex visual layers. The research award will enable Maki to obtain the necessary and basic equipment essential for the glass-casting process that is also an integral part of her concept.



Assistant Professor Tom Marion has received a PSC CUNY Traditional-A grant for the development of his theatre project, *Langston Hughes in Harlem*. Originally performed as a reading in 2006 and performed by six actors and two musicians, the 55-minute performance weaves together over 50 of Langston's poems into a musical and spoken word montage celebrating the history, exuberance, and spirit of Harlem. Bob Holman, poet and proprietor of the bowery club, has given permission to quote him: "The best retrospective of Langston Hughes' work I've ever seen—by far." The *Culvert Chronicles* stated: "Great poetry [with] a wide range of emotional and intellectual content." A fifteen-minute selection was subsequently featured at BAM's *Expression in the Right Direction* in 2006 with Will Powers. ■

## Cheers for the Occupational Therapy Graduates

The pass rates for the 16 New York schools that house entry level OT Programs are posted on the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) website, <http://www.nbcot.org>. Only 6 of the 16 schools had a reported 100% pass rate on the certification exam for 2014, and York College was one of those 6.



# York Graduates Largest Class to Date

On Friday, May 29th York College hosted its 45th Commencement Exercises with three outstanding guest speakers and a 19-year-old valedictorian.

The ceremony for the School of Business and Information Systems featured State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli as keynote speaker. The School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs' ceremony featured Ms. Yvonne J. Graham,

associate commissioner, director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, New York State Department of Health; and The School of Arts and Sciences' graduation featured Dr. Belinda S. Miles, president of Westchester Community College and a York alumna of the Class of 1983.

Distinguished speaker for the School of Health Sciences and Professional Pro-



Associate Commissioner Yvonne Graham was the speaker for Health Sciences and Professional Programs



State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli addresses the graduates of the School of Business and Information Systems



Dr. Belinda Miles, '83 addresses the School of Arts & Sciences



Amina Sutherland, the Distinguished Student speaker for the School of Business and Information Systems, receives an award from President Keiz



Kristina Nickoless, the Distinguished Student speaker for Health Sciences and Professional Programs, receives an award from President Keiz



President Keizs and Valedictorian Muhaned Mohamed



Steven McCartney literally jumps for joy at his accomplishment

grams was Kristina Nickoless, a Social Work major and the distinguished student speaker for the School of Business and Information Systems was Amina Sutherland, an Accounting major.

The valedictorian, 19 year-old Muhaned Mohamed, a double major in Chemistry and Psychology, is the fourth of five siblings to graduate from York, with the youngest set to enroll in 2016.

“We did not get here by ourselves,” Mohamed said to his classmates. “As Sir Isaac Newton said, we have ‘stood on the shoulders of giants’—our professors, our parents....”

Comptroller DiNapoli used his own experience as an example to the graduates of the School of Business and Information Systems.

“Be flexible and welcome new challenges,” said DiNapoli. “Never let the fear of failing stop you from finding out where the train of opportunity may take you. Never let the fear of failing stop you from trying. No one expected me to succeed as comptroller.”

Graham, an immigrant from Jamaica, told graduates from the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs that as college graduates much is now expected of them.

“You must unleash your skills to make the changes you want to see,” said

Graham, who mentioned minimum wage, women’s health and gender inequality among the list of ills that need addressing. She encouraged students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and work on their own development.

Dr. Miles, who addressed the School of Arts and Sciences, talked about her

experience as a fully engaged student at York before the college even had a permanent campus.

“Opportunity favors a prepared mind,” said Miles, who, as a York undergraduate, served on York’s Student Government. “Connect thoughtfully with others and invest in the CEO of you.” ■

## York Students Visit National Action Network

Dr. Ron Daniels and students from Political Science 211 (Leadership, Organization and Empowerment Field Experience) recently attended the National Action Network. ■



Dr. Daniels, far right, rear, and class members with Rev. Al Sharpton

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs>

## Quash and Adams Release New CD

Jonathan Quash (Director, Men's Center) and Mark Adams (Adjunct Lecturer, Performing and Fine Arts) recently released Q&A, a new CD combining Adams' passion for playing and Quash's love for singing. The two musicians have developed a sound that attempts to please listeners on both levels. The title also has a double meaning. Q&A stands for Quash and Adam, but Q&A, which some think of as Question and Answer, attempts to answer with music the many questions life has to offer. The album, a follow-up from the artists' previous collaboration "Embellishments," features Bill White on guitar, Gerald Lindsey on bass, and Chris DeCarmine on drums. George White, Roy Ayers and Ron Carter are also featured as special guests.

Q&A, a combination of smooth jazz and adult contemporary, tries to tell a story in every song. Sometimes that story is told with a single melody from the piano and sometimes it comes from the mellow delivery of a vocal line. There are tracks that will make listeners tap their feet and there are tracks to make them think. Overall, the album tells a story of conflict followed by resolution, experiences that both musicians are sharing with the world. The story begins with "Here We Go Again," chronicling the struggles in life that seem to often repeat themselves, followed by several songs that represent challenges. The resolution begins with "Better Day," suggesting that in time a better day will come. The artists' end their story with a piano and vocal duet that affirms "Life Goes On." ■

