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## York Breakfast Speakers Talk Trump Presidency

By **NKOSI NURSE**, York Journalism Student

Two days after Donald Trump's election to president stunned the world, York College held a panel discussion on post-election analysis. To speak on this topic, York invited a former political consultant of Bill Clinton's and the host of a progressive radio show. Having worked on more than 700 political campaigns worldwide, Hank Sheinkopf, York alum and president of Sheinkopf Communications Ltd., brought unique insight to the event. He was joined by activist and host of Sirius XM's *Make It Plain*, Mark Thompson. The event was moderated by Dr. Ron Daniels of York's Behavioral Science Department.

Asked how he expected Trump to govern, Sheinkopf said that because re-election is very important to the members, Congress will not take risks. Despite the media's notion that Paul Ryan and Trump would "go to war," Sheinkopf said Trump has already put Ryan on notice and the threat alone would be enough to keep Ryan in line for at least the first hundred days. "Donald Trump will get what he wants because if you can frighten people you will get your way," said Sheinkopf at the Executive Leadership Breakfast.

Since the election, there has been the recurring question of what may have led to Hillary's surprise defeat despite polling suggesting her as the likely winner of the election. Thompson believes that a Bradley effect may have skewed the data. This theory posits that in an election where a white and a non-white candidate are running against each other, some voters will lie to pollsters in order to avoid accusations of racism. In this case it was a woman versus a man,

*Continued on next page* ▶

## Deadline!

All items for the **January/February 2017** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted to Cynthia Haller (challer@york.cuny.edu) or Marcia Comrie (mcomrie@york.cuny.edu) by **February 15, 2017**. Text should be sent in MS Word. Photos should be sent as separate hi-res files (preferably not less than 1MB).



## Breakfast Speakers

*Continued from previous page*

and sexism rather than racism may have come into play.

Thompson also noted that Hillary's campaign was hobbled by Bernie Sanders during the primary, although he made it clear that he didn't believe Bernie was wrong to run or that his followers shouldn't have supported him. "Was it worth it to take her out from the left and enable someone who is literally in the one percent to take over the Supreme Court?" said Thompson. "We don't have either house now. Was it worth it? Is the perfect the enemy of the good?"

Throughout the discussion Sheinkopf lamented the loss of institutions as a societal influence. He argued that institutions such as religion and labor unions used to keep the population informed. Sheinkopf stated organized labor should have been working to oppose Trump but instead chose to simply cut Hillary a check. To this effect Sheinkopf compared the top layers of organized labor to both Republican and Democrat hierarchies and their inability to do anything. "They don't take risks," said Sheinkopf, who was one of the early students who fought for York's existence. "They don't fight. You cannot win a battle unless you're prepared to make a fight."

While Thompson agreed that organized labor was an important factor in the election, he added that it needed members who were more dedicated. He



From left: Irshaad A. Ismail, Dupah Gobin, President Marcia V. Keizs, Mark Thompson, Rachele Antione, Hank Sheinkopf, and Dr. Ron Daniels

stated that interest in organized labor was generational and people don't see it as a priority anymore. "Some of these organizations, all they can do is write a check because the boots on the ground don't take it as seriously," said Thompson.

The pair also tackled the notion of voter apathy when a student asked how they could encourage the youth to see the power behind voting. Thompson noted that voter apathy was by design. He also criticized President Barack Obama for buying into the notion that only presidential elections are important. "Barack Obama, through organizing for America, had one of the most powerful machines," said Thompson "You do not shut that down." Thompson feared that because of gerrymandering Democrats would be unable to retake the house.

"We must be politically active," said Thompson. "The power of Dr. King was he was in season 365 days a year. Wheth-

er it was an election year or not, LBJ couldn't go to sleep at night. We need to recreate that atmosphere and make sure Trump can't go to sleep at night." Sheinkopf responded by telling people to rip up the political machine. He urged the audience not to simply accept their elected officials but to force them to be responsive by staying on top of them. "You've got to make politicians uncomfortable," said Sheinkopf. "If they're not uncomfortable they don't perform."

Wrapping up the event, Dr. Daniels, a political scientist, stressed the importance of creating a culture of civic participation that would continually show up to vote and influence politicians. He also spoke about the danger of a new coalition being formed and reminded everyone not to dismiss all Trump voters. Instead Daniels advocated the creation of an outreach strategy to bring those in pain into the Democratic fold. ■



## Spotlight on Accounting and Finance

### "On the Move" for York's 50th Anniversary

#### NABA CONFERENCE UPDATES

Eight York College accounting students, accompanied by Department Chair and Professor Robert Clovey, attended the 2016 National Convention and Expo of the National Association of Black Ac-

countants (NABA) in Hollywood, Florida from June 22-24, 2016. Support for the trip was provided by the Study Away program, the York College Alumni Association, and other fundraising activi-

ties. One of the main highlights of this annual event is that accounting students (primarily minority students) from across the nation, gather to network with professionals in the accounting

field and build leadership skills. In addition, some of the most prominent employers of accounting majors attend this event to recruit talent, including the four largest global accounting firms, known as the Big Four—PWC, EY, KPMG and Deloitte. Five of the eight students who attended the conference were able to secure internships or full-time job offers with these prestigious firms. Some students even received multiple offers.

Student	Job Offer From	2nd Job Offer From
Carvin Lawrence	KPMG	PWC
Georgia Brown	KPMG	PWC
Keera Gomez	KPMG	Deloitte
Lisa-Marie Baksh	KPMG	
Tamika Taylor	JP Morgan Chase	KPMG

York's goal is to bring 25 students to the NABA 2017 National Convention and Expo.

### ALUMNA ON THE MOVE

Kateryna Kats graduated with honors from the accounting program in the summer of 2015 and accepted a position with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) as an Examiner in July of the same year. FINRA is a non-governmental organization that regulates member brokerage firms and exchange markets, including the New York Stock Exchange. This organization was so impressed with her technical knowledge, skills, and abilities that they established a partnership with York's accounting program to recruit our students. Kateryna also teaches Advanced Accounting as an adjunct in the Accounting & Finance department.

### ACCOUNTING & FINANCE CAREER FAIR

The Accounting & Finance Department organized the first of what will be an annual Career Fair for students majoring in accounting or finance. The event was by invitation only to those students with GPAs of 3.0 or higher. ACFE Endowed Professor Mary-Jo Kranacher was the lead person organizing this event. High-profile employers, such as the In-



Left to right: Students Carvin Lawrence, Georgia Brown, Lisa-Marie Baksh, Sabrina Arnold, Tamika Taylor, Eunice Sena, Keera Gomez and Patrick Pierre-Louis attended the NABA conference in Florida.

ternal Revenue Service (Criminal Investigation Division), FINRA, the Federal Reserve, Office of the NY State Comptroller, NYC Department of Finance, Alliance Bernstein, Merrill Lynch, and Giambalvo, Stalzer & Co., CPAs, came to York to recruit our students for internships or full- or part-time positions. To date, two students have received internship offers and several others have been invited by the organizations for on-site interviews in the coming weeks.



Georgia Brown and Keera Gomez recently attended a welcome event for new interns at KPMG's Park Avenue office.

### NEW PROGRAMS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

On the curricular front, the department has created two new minors—a minor in Accounting and a minor in Finance. It has recently submitted a proposal for a third minor in Financial Planning and Wealth Management, expected to be available to students in the fall of 2017. The department, which has not had a registered program at York since 2004, has also submitted a proposal for creating a 150-credit accounting program, which will be registered with the NYSED and will enable our students to satisfy the NY state education requirements for CPA licensure. Also on the horizon is a BS degree in Finance.

The department has also created a new finance course open to all students from various disciplines. This course, FINC 101, Financial Planning and Wealth Management, is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of money and finances. Some of the topics addressed include establishing and improving your credit, legally avoiding taxes, maximizing 401k benefits, using effective ways to establish and grow wealth, and saving for education and retirement.

### OPEN HOUSE

The Accounting & Finance department held an Open House for York students on

## Spotlight

*Continued from previous page*

October 18th. The purpose of this event was to provide program information to majors and potential majors. In addition, former graduates of the program returned to provide career guidance to our current students. The guest speaker at this semester's open house was Reza Khan, a York accounting alum, who is a senior manager at BDO USA, a global accounting firm.

### VITA PROGRAM

The York Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program prepared more

than 2,000 tax returns during the 2016 tax season ended April 18, 2016. That was more than a 50% increase over the previous year. The program is expected to prepare more than 3,000 tax returns for the 2017 tax season. During the tax season, the VITA program serves students and staff on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Services are provided to the general public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. All services are provided on York's campus on the fourth floor of the Academic Core building.

The Accounting & Finance Department received a multi-year grant from the IRS to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This is the first external grant received by a de-

partment within the School of Business & Information Systems since its inception in 2010.

### LOOKING FORWARD

The Accounting & Finance department's immediate focus is on improving its students' passing rate on the Uniform CPA Examination, which will support recruitment and retention efforts for York's accounting program. Part of this initiative will include raising funds to provide support and resources for a CPA exam preparation program. The significant costs of applying and preparing for this exam should not be an obstacle to our students who intend to pursue CPA licensure. ■

## Gianni Gustave Receives HNIP Internship

Gianni Gustave, a French Studies and Business Administration major and president of the Hispanic Society Club, was one of two York students who secured a competitive HNIP (Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities National Internship Program) internship this past summer. Gianni carried out his paid role at American Students' Assistance (ASA) in Boston, MA. There, he worked on ASA's salesforce database, took part in focus groups, and gave a

presentation to the senior executives of the company. Gianni was also mentored by Andrew Marley, and attended professional development workshops.

Gianni made sure to stand out from the 15 other interns by arriving one hour before his supervisor, learning everybody's name on the floor, and engaging in small talk with his co-workers. As a result, Gianni was invited to return for a second internship session in 2017. Several ASA interns who have completed 1–1.5 years have been offered full-time positions.

"My successful experience with HNIP shows that there are plenty of opportunities outside the bubble I live in," says Gianni. "As I was willing to take the risk by venturing out to a new state, I showcased my skills and did my assignments diligently. As a result, I was rewarded by my peers and the company."

Gianni, a proud Haitian son, is fluent in Spanish and is a strong believer in multi-culturalism. Gianni, who is one of York's DREAMers (not eligible for financial aid due to limited legal documentation), was sent by his parents to study in the U.S., and has not seen his mother for five years. Never a quitter, Gianni experienced two application attempts at



Gianni Gustave outside the ASA building



(left to right) Sue Nathan, COO, ASA; Gianni Gustave; and Sandy Holt, Chief Development & Marketing Officer, HACU

HNIP, and several phone interviews before being selected this summer. Since his internship, Gianni has received a full scholarship to attend the 29th Annual HACU Conference this October, in San Antonio, TX. Gianni's past extracurricular involvements that helped him secure the internship and scholarship are: VP Communications, CUNY DREAMers, and member, Haitian Students Association. ■

# Sociology Professor Gregory Publishes New Book

Michele Gregory's book, *The Face of the Firm: Corporate Hegemonic Masculinity at Work* (Routledge, 2016) was the topic of a book talk held at the York College African American Resource Center (AARC) on September 29, 2016. The Director of the AARC, Mychel Namphy, organized the event, and the book discussant was Xiaodan Zhang. The audience of faculty and students engaged in a lively discussion with the author, covering such topics as the role of ethnography, gender, sexual and racial embodiments at work, structures of power and feminism in the corporation.



Michele Gregory



Mychel Namphy



Xiaodan Zhang

## BOOK OVERVIEW:

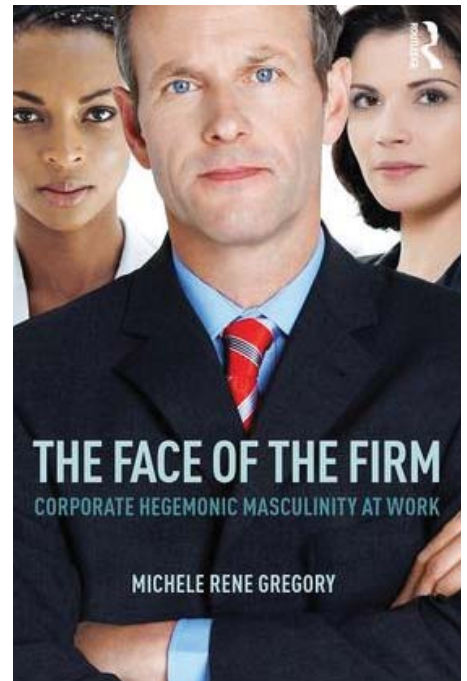
Why has gender inequality at work been so persistent in Western countries despite significant social changes during the past 30 years? Why in 2015 were women only 5% of those running major corporations? Why are the most important jobs largely male-dominated, even in organizations where women are 50% of employees? What types of white masculine embodiment exist that help to maintain the status quo in the workplace? And how is gender part of the production process in white-collar organizations?

*The Face of the Firm* answers these questions by highlighting new critical perspectives on the mechanisms—including workplace “locker rooms,” sexual spaces, bases of structural power, and abuses of power—that have made male domination in the workplace so

resilient. This study focuses on two key industries—advertising and technology—and draws upon multiple methodologies, including over 100 interviews, mainly with female and male executives working for American and British companies based in the UK. Analyzing data from the Thatcher era to the present, the study demonstrates that pursuing gender and other forms of equality in many Western countries is just as vital today.

The book refocuses the gender inequality debate on the intersection of gendered bodies and power. Bodies, especially hegemonic ones, are part of the construction of power, knowledge, and merit. The study examines how hegemonic men (largely white, middle class, heterosexual men in power) use their bodies within organizational spaces to create privileged echelons, with real effects on workplace opportunities for women and non-hegemonic men. For example, tech jobs requiring abstraction, math, and control are often constructed as white masculine embodiments. Similarly, in key areas of creative industries, including advertising, certain forms of “masculine” humor and wit are equated with the bodies of white men.

The bodies of female professionals are often constructed as both problematic, especially for working mothers, and sexually desirable in companies where women's sexuality is considered part of the organizational culture. Although a key argument in the book is that employees select work that embodies their gender and sexuality, the sexual agency of female executives is often performed with caution—they are careful “not to invite” sexual harassment. The book also examines men's sexual behavior at work, from physical gestures and language—in an attempt understand this under-researched phenomenon. Thus, bodies and the cultural capital associated with them are equated with levels of risk, acceptance, and knowledge in the workplace. Those whose bodies are “other” are more likely to lose out.



Michele Rene Gregory, *The Face of the Firm: Corporate Hegemonic Masculinity at Work*. New York and London: Routledge, 2016. <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138189003>

*The Face of the Firm* also examines how women and men can and do resist sexism by calling out bias and double standards, and by creating and supporting women's networks. As bodies at work do not always fall neatly into a gender binary, the book also looks at what happens to men and women who perform gender in non-normative ways. Although the focus is on gender, the study also offers useful analyses regarding the intersection of race and class and perceived “suitability” for different sorts of jobs. The book makes a contribution to body, masculinity, gender, and work scholarship by illustrating just how fluid masculine cultures and embodiments are at work. In addition, the case studies, advertising and technology, and theoretical framework are designed to appeal to academics and students studying management, organizations and gender, as well as to white-collar professionals. ■

# York College's Finance Club Financial Literacy Seminar

As its own contribution to York College's 50th anniversary celebration, as well as part of its fall 2016 activities, the Finance Club, with Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe as the club adviser, organized a Financial Literacy Seminar titled "Steps Guide to Financial Success" and delivered by Ennaji Benhammou, who is an experienced banker and former vice president of JPMorgan and CitiBank.

He summarized the Steps to Financial Success as follows:

**Step 1:** Be accountable and responsible

**Step 2:** Plot your course

**Step 3:** Understand your income

**Step 4:** Open a checking account

**Step 5:** Start saving and investing

**Step 7:** Borrow smart

**Step 8:** Manage your credit cards wisely

**Step 9:** Review and understand your credit report

**Step 10:** Protect yourself from identity theft

Furthermore, he stated that one's credit score hinges on six factors which include: If you pay your bills on time; the total amount of debt you have and how close to your credit limit that amount; the number of accounts recently opened; the number of recent inquiries about your credit score; the different types of accounts currently open; and the length of time you have been building credit.

He warned against using credit cards to finance vacations but encouraged participants who might use credit cards to take advantage of the reward points. According to him "make sure to pay them off according your budget and if possible restrict the use of credit to purchase large ticket items like education or [a] car or house." He opined that before applying for a credit card, one needs to find out the APR; APR adjustment periods; interest calculation method as it affects how much interest one will be charged; annual fees, late fee, transaction fee, over the limit fee, cash advance fee, and foreign transaction fees; and whether the credit card has fees for rewards programs, as well as the terms and conditions of redeeming points and fees/taxes.

He advised that participants should make inquiries about credit score once or twice a year, from the relevant companies that compile credit reports in the USA, namely Equifax, Trans Union and Experian. He mentioned that the credit report is important especially for any financial transaction that we intend to undertake. And, most negative information like bankruptcies last for between seven and ten years before being expunged from our record.

Another important factor in personal finance is setting a goal (knowing where you want to get will help you plan getting

there). He stated that "No body plans to fail but often enough people fail to plan." In setting a goal, people need to:

- **Be specific:** define what they want to achieve and when. Goals can be short term (a few days, months, or a year) and long term (five, 10, or 15 years).
- **Be realistic:** make certain that goals are attainable. Setting unattainable goals will only lead to disappointment when they are not achieved.
- **Write them down:** keep records of goals and celebrate key milestones as they are achieved.

Writing down goals, reviewing them, and recording progress keeps people on track and motivates them. The best coach is oneself, as long as one knows what the benchmarks are and is honest with oneself.

Mr. Benhammou also emphasized the importance of savings and investment. Before starting to invest, it is important to understand the different options and the risks involved. People are never too young to invest: the best time to invest is when one is young, as it allows more time for your investments to grow and withstand the ups and downs of the stock market and economy. He advised that participants should always remember to pay themselves first, and that depositing money into a savings account should take prior-



Mr. Ennaji Benhammou (right side, suit and tie) with Dr. Lloyd Amaghionyeodiwe and attendees of the Financial Literacy Seminar

ity over any additional spending. Here are some ideas to help: when paying monthly bills, set money aside to deposit into savings; automatically transfer money from checking to savings once or twice a month; request a direct deposit from employers for a portion of the paycheck to be deposited into a savings account; and invest wisely. In addition, Mr. Benhammou emphasized the importance of having a

budget in one's bid to meet his/her financial goals, and borrowing responsibly to maintain financial stability and credibility. Before borrowing for an expense, ask: Is this necessary or can I save for it?

He asked students to consider how much they are involved in their financial decision making. Who completes the college financial transactions and all the documentation involved? If not themselves,

what is the extent of their involvement in this process? He advised students they are not going to be accountable if they don't appreciate the importance and the ramifications of their financial obligations and delivering on them. A credit report is a score card to prospective employers, landlords, "significant others," and financial institutions, so students should manage it wisely. ■

## Occupational Therapy Students Present at NYSOTA Conference

Six Occupational Therapy students presented posters at the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA) Annual Conference in Syracuse, NY on November 4 through 6. The posters drew the interest of a large number of people and the students were actively engaged in answering questions and providing further explanations. In addition, the students attended a number of conference sessions. The poster titles featured were:

Effectiveness of Occupation-Based Interventions for Individuals Post-Stroke. Faculty advisor, Dr. Beverly Horowitz.

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork II: Perceived Exposure to Frames of Reference that Guide Treatment. Faculty advisor, Dr. Tamara Avi-Itzhak.

Benefits of Occupational Therapy Interventions for School-Aged Children with Autism Spectrum disorder. Faculty advisor, Dr. Andrea Krauss

Benefits of Occupational Therapy Early Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Faculty advisor, Dr. Andrea Krauss ■



OTS students attending the NYSOTA conference, shown here with Professor Tamara Avi-Itzhak, D.Sc., (third from left), included (left to right): Vera Montefusco, Dianna Rahim, Yury Londono, Anna Zayenchik, Joann LaGreca, and Allison Teitelbaum (not depicted).

## Kudos!

**Dean Donna Chirico** was recently honored at the 2016 Queens Italian Heritage & Culture Month Ceremony, a joint effort of the Honorable Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President and the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of Queens. Dean



Chirico received her award at the ceremony, held at St. John's University on Tuesday, October 25th.

Dean Chirico was selected as an honoree because of her special connection to Queens, her service as the President of ILICA (Italian Language Inter Cultural Alliance), and her professional accomplishments as a Dean of York College, CUNY.

PhD student **Nathan Morris**, who works in the laboratory of Professor Liz Alter (Department of Biology), won the prize for best graduate student poster at the annual meeting of the NY Marine Science Consortium, held October 2016 at State University of New York, Maritime.



Morris's poster, titled "Assessing salt marsh bacterial biodiversity at various stages post-restoration," investigated the condition of the salt marshes in Jamaica Bay, NY, which provide natural habitat and protection against storm surges.



## Dr. Vincent Banrey Appointed as VP of Student Development

Dr. Vincent Banrey has been appointed as Vice President for Student Development at York. Dr. Banrey earned the PhD in Higher Education Administration from New York University, the MPA in Public Administration from Baruch College, and the BS in Business Administration from the CUNY Baccalaureate Program of The Graduate School and University Center.

Dr. Banrey has wide-ranging administrative and managerial experience in student development and is committed to student success. He has served as the Interim Dean of Student Development at York College since 2015 following the retirement of former Vice President Geneva Walker-Johnson. Prior to assuming the role of Interim Dean, Dr. Banrey served CUNY for more than thirty years in various roles of increasing responsibility at York College, Medgar Evers College and LaGuardia Community College.

In his time at York, Dr. Banrey has developed an effective administrative and leadership team through selection and professional development sessions for staff; established mission, goals and assessment strategies for all units under his purview with a goal to improving delivery of services to students; collaborated with the division of academic affairs and other divisions on engagement, retention and academic success of students; and led the effective working relationship between the student government and administration.



## Alicia Franqui joins Compliance and Legal

Alicia Franqui, Esq., assumed the position of Interim Chief Diversity Officer in the Office of Diversity and Compliance in May 2016. Ms. Franqui, a member of the New York Bar, holds a BS from Mercy College, an MS from New York Institute of Technology and a JD from St. John's University School of Law. She brings to the college sixteen years of experience in a variety of sectors including higher education, government, and health. She has also practiced law in the private sector, including her own practice in New York State.

## New Business Manager at York

Ms. Suzette Foster-Jemmott has joined York College as its new Business Manager.

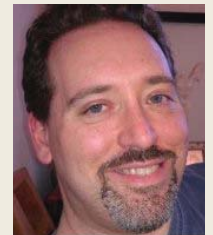
She brings more than twelve years of progressive accounting and finance experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit arenas, with her last eight years working in higher education as the Director of Budget and Finance at the newly-established CUNY Graduate School of Journalism (SOJ).

Ms. Foster-Jemmott played an instrumental role at the SOJ, handling all financial aspects of the tax levy and non-tax levy operations as well as helping to establish the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism Foundation during her tenure. Suzette, as she likes to be called, holds a Master's degree in Executive Management from SUNY's Empire State College and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from CUNY's Baruch College.



## Russell Platzek Appointed at York

In May 2016, Russell Platzek, Esq., assumed the position of Executive Legal Counsel to the President and Labor Designee in the Office of Legal Affairs and Labor Relations. Mr. Platzek, a member of the New York Bar, holds the BS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the JD from the University of Minnesota Law School. He has had almost two decades of experience in both the public and private sectors. He has served as Deputy Director/Supervising Attorney in the Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining at the New York City Department of Education. Additionally, he has practiced in private sector firms in Minnesota and New York, which specialized in civil rights, labor discrimination and employment related litigation.



## New Chief of Institutional Advancement

Mr. Shereitte Charles Stokes III has been appointed at York College as Chief Advancement Officer. His official title, upon approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees, will be Vice President of Advancement. Mr. Stokes has wide-ranging experience in Institutional Advancement in Higher Education settings with more than 25 years of experience. He has a comprehensive background in directing and leading capital campaigns; major gifts and annual fund programs; marketing and communications; government, corporate, alumni and foundation relations; and advancement services. He has raised more than \$400M, and was





awarded the fundraising industry's highest professional designation: Advanced Certified Fund Raising Executive (ACFRE).

Mr. Stokes most recently served as Vice President for Advancement at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. Prior to that position, he served as Vice President of University Relations and Development at Tennessee State University in Nashville;

Vice President of University Advancement at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL; and as Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Spelman College in Atlanta.

Mr. Stokes received his B.A. from Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, OH, and holds a M.Ed. degree from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix AZ.

## York Hosts Town Hall on 'Race and Rage'

By **NKOSI NURSE**, York Journalism Student

On October 18th York College held a panel discussion on stopping the murder of minorities by police, retaliation against officers, the state of police reform and what can be learned from communities across the country. Dr. Ron Daniels, a Distinguished Lecturer in Political Science at York, organized the "Race and Rage" event, along with the Office of Student Development, and served as moderator.

The diverse panel included the executive director of a non-profit think tank, The New York Representative of Blacks in Law Enforcement of America, and a retired black police officer. Joining them were leaders of two of York's biggest student organizations: Student Council President Rachelle Antoine and Ashley Oliver, Editor-in-Chief of York's award-winning student newspaper, Pandora's Box.

Dr. Daniels asked the panel why black people tended to die in confrontations with the police when white criminals, including terrorists, were often taken into custody alive. In response Dr. Divine Pryor, executive director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, stated that there was never a time when black lives were respected in America. He argued that black people would have to create a model of what black respectability looked like by taking a more active role in keeping the community safe and following the models of how other minority communities in New York function.

"There are communities right here in New York City where police officers

would never pull their weapons and shoot indiscriminately, endangering the lives of children, women and [other] citizens," said Pryor. "There are models for how our communities can be, but it really has to start with us."

This sentiment was later echoed by New York Representative of Blacks in Law Enforcement of America, Damon Jones. Jones stated that if the politicians in charge of black communities aren't drafting legislation that protects their citizens they should be voted out of office. "If you put the mayor in office he picks the commissioner," said Jones. "So if the commissioner is not doing his job, vote the damn mayor out," said Jones.

The panel also discussed how a change in police tactics could help prevent the spate of police killings. For example, former Deputy Inspector, Corey Pegues, stated that the officers in the Terence Crutcher case should have placed themselves behind their car. Pegues argued that the added protection

would have allowed the officers a few more seconds to see what Crutcher was reaching for.

Pegues urged attendees to comply with officer demands and register complaints when necessary, after they are safely away from the situation. While he stressed that he wasn't victim-blaming, he stated that the onus was on minorities to ensure they live to see another day.

"I know people are always saying 'why do we have to do that,'" said Pegues. "Because we're black and that's just the way it is!"

Daniels rounded out the discussion by stating that although it is happening slowly, progress is being made. He reflected on his time as the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the struggle to get the Justice Department to track police use of force.

"The New York Times said the other day the Justice Department will track use of force by police across the nation for the first time," said Daniels. "I left the Center for Constitutional Rights in 1995. I was there for 12 years. That's how long we've been making that demand. Progress is being made." ■



Dr. Ron Daniels moderating the Race and Rage Town Hall at York.

# Flight Simulator Ribbon Cutting

By **NKOSI NURSE**,  
York Journalism Student

A state-of-the-art flight simulator was donated to The York College Aviation Institute by the Volunteer Services for Children Foundation. The simulator, dubbed the “Redbird,” was demonstrated for faculty and students at a ribbon cutting on September 16th.

After the ribbon was cut, York’s aviation management students took turns trying their hands at the new simulator. York students and faculty alike let out excited oohs and ahs as the machine rose up and to the right, paused for a moment, then ever so slowly evened out and slid back into place. Through the simulator’s doorways the crowd looked on with excitement as the pilot navigated his “plane” back to the ground for a bumpy but ultimately successful landing.

One aviation management student who was thrilled by his chance to experience “flying” was David Oscar of Queens Village. “It was very difficult, especially if this is your first time flying an airplane,” said Oscar. “It’s very nerve wracking. I was lucky and managed to land successfully, but I had a lot of help.”

The school was able to obtain the Redbird thanks to the work of Dr. Chris Hsu, director of the CUNY Aviation institute. With American airlines facing a shortage of professional pilots, Dr. Hsu hopes the Redbird will help introduce students to another potential career path. The Redbird is fully licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and will provide students with realistic training. Once a licensed instructor is found, students can begin logging the simulated flight hours they would need in order to fly a real plane.

Inside its “cockpit” the screen displayed a virtual representation of John F. Kennedy International Airport. It even possesses a hydraulic system that emulates the direction the plane moves and



Official ribbon cutting ceremony

the angle it takes, to heighten the “pilot’s” immersion. Inside the simulator, the first thing one notices is the knobs, buttons, numerous graphs and panels that litter the machine. There are two seats, and the left is for the pilot. Pilots-in-training have access to the steering wheel or yoke and can control the breaks with the pedal at their feet. Above the dashboard, screens provide a 180-degree view of your virtual surroundings.

When the simulation starts the pilot is transported to a virtual reproduction of John F. Kennedy airport. Outside the “plane,” the pilots find themselves on a taxiway. The occasional patches of grass lie to the sides of the runway, while the JFK building itself sits a couple hundred feet away, off in the distance. Cars go zipping down the highway, and these are the only other signs of life in the simulation.

As the throttle is pulled, the plane begins to move. Student pilots must maneuver their way to the runway. As the plane heads down towards the runway, the simulator sways left and right, matching the movements of the virtual plane and helping to further the feeling of immersion. Upon reaching the runway, student pilots pull the throttle and the plane builds more and more speed until finally, with a light tug on the yoke, the plane pulls away from the ground and the greens and grays of the airport are replaced with 180 degrees of blue. This sea of blue both

excites and disorients. Without any static reference point it becomes hard to determine speed or positioning.

York’s Aviation Institute was founded in 2003 by a grant from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In the thirteen years since, it has proven a great success, helping numerous students to move into internships and jobs in the aviation field. “The CUNY Aviation Institute is the first university-level educational and training program for the aviation industry designed in the aftermath of 9-11 at the City University of New York,” said the University Research Transportation Center, one of the Institute’s partners. ■



Left to right: Dean Charles Gengler, Greg Wiske from Volunteer Services for Children Foundation, and Dr. Chris Hsu with the “Redbird” flight simulator

## Middle States Accreditation Update *from* Mary Osborne



Happy New Year from the Executive Committee for Middle States Re-affirmation!

York College is about half way through the Middle States accreditation process: The committees on each of the seven standards and the one committee for the compliance verification continue to work on their respective reports. Two of the committees, Standard III and Standard IV, have submitted their preliminary report outlines. The remaining committees continue to gather and analyze data and information from the campus com-

munity for their reports to the Executive Committee. As this process continues throughout the spring semester and into the summer, please continue to give the committee members every support for this work. Accreditation is vital to the life of York College and your cooperation is the foundation from which we will achieve accreditation. This process will culminate in a visit from the Middle States Visiting Team due in spring 2018.

One of the major events of the accreditation process is the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) annual conference held each December. This year the annual MSCHE

conference was held in Philadelphia, December 7–9, 2016 and York College was able to send five members of the Steering Committee (Mary Osborne and Gerry McNeil, co-chairs, Margaret Balantyne, Richard Stuckhardt, and Ismael Perez) and President Keizs. The conference presentations included three keynote speakers, an update on the new accreditation process being proposed, and 32 concurrent sessions. For a complete summary of the sessions and the materials shared at the conference, please follow the link <https://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2016.01.01&Nav3=PresentationMaterial> ■



## Kudos!



**Susan Letteney**, Department of Social Work, recently published an article on disclosing HIV diagnosis:

Krauss, B., Letteney, S. & Okoro, C. (2016). Why tell children: A synthesis of the global literature on reasons for disclosing or not disclosing an HIV diagnosis to children 12 and under. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 4.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2016.00181>



**Selena Rodgers**, Department of Social Work, has recently published an article on the relationship between womanism and Afrocentricity: Selena T. Rodgers (2016):

Womanism and Afrocentricity: Understanding the intersection, *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2016.1259927> Published online: 16 Dec 2016

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

## CUNY Salute to Scholars Features York's Professors Popp and Lynch

Professors Kevin Lynch (left) and James Popp (right), Department of Earth and Physical Science, were featured in a special issue of CUNY's Salute to Scholars that honors CUNY faculty who have recently received external teaching and research awards. Under a \$300,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Popp and Lynch are investigating methods of radiation detection that may be useful at U.S. ports to prevent the smuggling of nuclear contraband. The full article may be found on page 14 at <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/news/publications/includes/salute-to-scholars/Salute-to-Scholars-Faculty-Awards-2016.pdf> ■

