

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Third Academic Leadership Retreat



President Marcia V. Keizs addressing participants of the Academic Leadership Retreat

On January 22, Provost Griffith called on York College's academic leadership – both departmental chairs and program coordinators, as well as academic administrators in the Provost's Office – to convene for the Third Academic Leadership Retreat. For one day,

the group of nearly 40 college leaders met and shared in formal presentations, discussions, and through informal commentary during lighter and social parts of the retreat, their perspectives, concerns and achievements. Ideas about administrative and academic improvements and best practice experiences were part of these discussions, as well as giving an opportunity to identify weak areas and to frankly acknowledge the distance we still have to cover on the road to endemic practices of sustained excellence.

The day began with brief welcome remarks by Provost Griffith setting the stage for these exchanges and supporting both the recognition of achievements and identification of areas requiring attention. The first panel "Enhancing Some of the Fundamentals: Opportunities, Ownership, and Outcomes in Math, English, and Writing" focused its attention on specific examples in three prominent disciplinary areas affecting practically all York students at some point. In her introductory

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New Year, New Grants for York Faculty

York College faculty members across the disciplines have started the new calendar year the way they left the old one – with research grants pouring in to fund their impressive scholarship.

Dr. Ruel Desamero was recently awarded a grant of nearly half a million dollars from the National Institutes of

Health/National Institute of General Medical Sciences through the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program.

The assistant professor of chemistry will use the grant toward his study of "Dihydropterindine Reductase: Mechanism of Enzyme Action."

"Enzyme-substrate interactions have long been recognized as representing an extreme expression of structural complementarities in biological chemistry," he explains of the research geared toward, "understanding the inner workings of an enzyme system like dihydropyridine reductase (DHPR)."

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Special points of interest:

- **Third Academic Leadership Retreat**
- **Art & Sciences Student Research Exhibition**
- **Health Fair**

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Dr. Rodgers Wins Social Workers Award

Dr. Selena T. Rodgers recently received the 3rd Annual Emerging Social Work Leaders Award by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) New York City Chapter.

The annual award recognizes early career social workers who demonstrate exemplary leadership, expertise, and dedication to the profession and to the improvement of social and human conditions at the local levels through contributions to services, resource development, political efficacy, cross-cultural and anti-racist practices, teaching, research, and practice knowledge.

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Darakshan Ahmed:

“The Health Fair was very informative on the subjects of HIV, flu, diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure and cervical cancer. This is the first time I have attended a health fair in the health building. The coordinators of the booths were very helpful and informative on the subjects of preventative measures. I really liked the idea of conducting blood pressure testing of the participants and providing information on

Dr. Rodgers’ significant contributions to the profession include her research focusing on the intersection of posttraumatic growth, social support and spiritual well-being in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic groups who have experienced forced migration and childhood sexual abuse. In 2010 she co-authored a book chapter, “Our Survival, Our Strengths: Understanding the Experiences of African-American Women in Abusive Relationships,” published in L. Lockhart & F. Danis *Domestic Violence: Intersectionality and Culturally Competent Practice*. Dr. Rodgers

how to reduce risk factors.

I also participated in the informative lecture on HIV & Aids given by Professor Grosskopf. He explained his research on the distribution of condoms in NYC and its relationship to the topic of HIV. One of the great aspects of the fair was the HIV testing that was being conducted upstairs in the Health Promotion Center.

I learned a great deal of information from both the hand washing and

also spearheads mentoring opportunities for students and alumni, inspiring in them a sense of service, professionalism and leadership.

Dr. Rodgers was nominated by York College’s Dr. Mark Schuller (Dept. of African American Studies / Anthropology) and congratulated by President Marcia Keizs, Safe Horizon’s Chief Executive Officer, Ariel Zwang and Chief Program Officer, Beatrice Hanson. Several colleagues, students, family and friends were among 325 people who attended the awards dinner in celebration of the 2009 honorees.



Patricia Brownell (President of NASW-NYC) (l.) and Selena T. Rodgers (Honoree/ Assistant Professor of Social Work)

food portion control. The giving away of hand sanitizing samples and healthy snacks was very helpful in showing me how to prevent over-eating. I especially liked the pamphlets explaining how to create portion control in daily intake of food at home. Some of the pamphlets which included hand washing, breast examination, diabetes control, and stroke were very educational.”



Lots of useful information was disseminated during the health fair