

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### President Keizs Honored in D.C.



**L.-r.:** Vivian Rogers Pickard, Dr. Marcella Maxwell, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs

Since becoming president of York College nearly five years ago, President Marcia V. Keizs has been honored by numerous organizations and invited to speak at as many events.

In late September she received yet another honor, this one from The Black Women’s Agenda, Inc. (BWA), a

national organization concerned with the issues of black women and girls.

Dr. Marcella Maxwell, international liaison on the board of directors, nominated President Keizs for the “Education Award” during the organization’s 32nd Annual Luncheon in Washington, DC.

The event, a feature of the Annual Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Weekend, had in attendance President Keizs along with Dr. Ron Daniels of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and they ensured that York’s scholarship was on full dis-

play.

President Keizs and Dr. Daniels as well as others from York were well received at the 39th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Weekend by Congressman Gregory Meeks, who was host to the York group. The Congressman’s wife, Simone Marie Meeks, is the CBC Spouses chairperson as well.

President Keizs, in explaining the value of the trip and the Congressman’s support as one of many local elected officials who champion York, said such events are good for York’s image.

*cont.’d on p.5*

### MacArthur “Genius” Danticat Electrifies York

On Monday, September 14, renowned Haitian-American novelist Edwidge Danticat – awarded a prestigious MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Award a week later – shared an intimate evening of her powerful writing at York College’s Per-

forming Arts Center, inaugurating this year’s Provost’s Distinguished Scholars Lecture Series.

Author of many books and recipient of many awards, Danticat’s recent work centers on the politics of memory, self-making, self-representation, and rec-

onciliation. She read from several of her works, including *The Farming of Bones*, a powerful testimony to the 1937 massacres of Haitian people, and her most recent work, autobiographical *Brother I’m Dying*.

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#### Special points of interest:

- Provost’s Triple O’s
- York’s new faculty
- Constitution Day at York

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Provost Ivelaw  
Lloyd Griffith

**“Do not only identify opportunities and take ownership of them; also complete them—to have something to celebrate and to use as motivation for future journeys.”**

## THOUGHTS ON MY TRIPLE O’S

Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

The Roman philosopher Seneca is credited with having said, “Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.” There is much value in this adage. But it revolves around chance, and lacks the kind of intentionality that should define the endeavors of men and women who labor in the academic vineyards, whether as professors, students, or staff.

Approached appropriately, my three O’s—Opportunities, Ownership, and Outcomes—can provide some of this intentionality. Understandably, the “what” and the “how” of the Triple O’s will differ for different members of the academic community. My comments here are confined to faculty, but I invite students and staff to offer their thoughts on the Triple O’s in so far as those groups are concerned.

As faculty pursue this year’s academic journeys related to teaching and learning, research, and service, I encourage intentionality in pondering what might be at least one opportunity to try something new and different. In relation to teaching, perhaps introduce rubrics in your course design and delivery, plan an online course for next semester, or redesign your

course based on ideas garnered at a workshop offered by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning during the last academic year.

Opportunities for research abound: completing that draft article or chapter or book, or painting, or play, or musical score that has been under contemplation or construction for a while; chairing a session or serving as a commentator at a conference in addition to presenting a paper or poster this year; applying for that external grant to support your research endeavors, whether individually or collaboratively, whether with other faculty or with students.

In relation to service, there are opportunities to become a committee leader and not just a member, to extend the perimeter of service beyond your department, to actively engage in the conversations on General Education Reform that are underway, to connect with a community organization that allows you to take your expertise beyond the campus, to serve as a student mentor or a student club advisor, and more.

Yet, while the identification of the Opportunity is necessary for a successful journey, it is not sufficient.

Also needed is Ownership. Individuals need to take responsibility for making opportunities become realized. For instance, do not wait for your chair or dean to provide you with the online teaching information. Find Instructional Technologist Wenying Huang-Stolte or colleagues currently teaching online courses and get their advice and assistance to design and then deliver your online course. Rather than simply filing away the email with the monthly newsletter from Sponsored Research director Dawn Hewitt, review it for items relevant to your field and interest, and go and speak with Dawn about pursuing a grant opportunity.

Keep in mind, though, that these two O’s—Opportunities and Ownership—will not suffice to complete the educational journey; Outcomes are vital. You want not only to identify opportunities and take ownership of them; you also want to complete them—to have something to celebrate and to use as motivational building-blocks for journeys next year and beyond. The outcome could be a draft or completed article, book, grant proposal, etc.

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This latest work is a powerful piece of non-fiction, an autobiography of the man she knew as father for much of her youth, who died in captivity in a Homeland Security detention facility in Florida. There is an active issue of differential treatment of Haitian Americans; some 30,000 people are at risk of deportation because Haitians are not granted “temporary protected status” as other migrants are and as the U.N. requires.

In addition to her readings, Danticat answered many questions from members of the audience. Her answers ranged from things that inspired her, to advice to students wanting to become writers – and budding writers generally – to the role of writing in activism and social change, and her

next projects. She was generous, sincere, and humble with her responses, and she later signed copies of her books, which were on sale.

Interest in the event both at the College and in the Queens community was such that the event had to be relocated from the Little Theatre to the Main Stage Theatre. Moreover, City Council Member Leroy Comrie presented Ms. Danticat with a Proclamation honoring her for her life’s work and contribution to the Haitian community and New York City overall.

Ms. Danticat was brought to campus by the African American Resource Center and the event was co-sponsored by the English, Foreign Languages, and Social Sciences Departments.

There also were several contributors from outside the College. A hearty reception of Haitian food was provided by Good Taste Catering with generous contributions from Fonkoze, HABETAC, Haiti Support Project, Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, the Lambi Fund of Haiti, and Tèt Ansanm Productions.

This event was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Provost and the hard work of the many co-sponsoring groups mentioned above. Special thanks to Assistant Provost Holger Henke, Marketing Director Nate Moore, and Performing Arts Center Production Manager Kwame Clarke, and especially to event co-organizers, Professors Fabiola Salek (Foreign Languages) and Valerie Anderson (English).



**Edwidge Danticat receiving a Proclamation from City Councilmember Leroy Comrie**



**A reception with Haitian food followed the event**



**Ms. Danticat gathering her thoughts shortly before her presentation at York College**

**YORKCOLLEGE CUNY**

## Constitution Day at York

by Robin Harper



Professors (above) and student (below) during the Constitution Day challenge at York College



September 17, 2009 was Citizenship Day at York College! Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, Public Law 108-447 (the most recent iteration of the law on Constitution Day), all educational institutions that receive federal funding are required to sponsor some kind of event to recognize the Constitution on September 17th each year.

At York, we decided to take up the challenge of discussing the Constitution through words, drawing, painting, and images. We posted a banner that asked “What Would YOU Say to the Framers About the Constitution?” We invited students, faculty,

administrators, staff, and visitors to write, paint and draw to respond to the question. Professors Harper, Mokrue, Sheidlower, Urban and White manned the table and encouraged people to add their thoughts. Over the course of the day, we received about 100 independent responses.

The responses ranged from the reflective, the ironic, the optimistic, the pragmatic, the condemning to the funny. Many asked questions why the framers cut the deals that they did or did not mention some rights we consider critical today. Some wondered about the language itself. Others questioned the amount of am-

biguity.

Many students and passers-by said that they were not prepared to respond to the question but that they wanted to take some time to think about it. I am sure that those who wrote as well as those who wanted to “take time out to think about the response” fulfilled the law-makers highest aspirations for the law.

To all those who participated in the project by writing, painting, drawing, thinking or sending your students, thank you for engaging York College in a dialogue about the Constitution.

### Provost Lecture

## How Do Contested Illnesses Become Public Health Concerns?: Understanding Stakeholders and the Process of Transformation

**Prof. Debra Swoboda**

(Department of Behavioral Sciences,  
School of Health and Behavioral Sciences)

**Monday, October 26, 2009**

**Room AC-4M07 1:00-3:00 pm**



Contested illnesses gain medical legitimacy via the complex interaction of sufferers, medical practitioners, and advocates. How do contested illnesses become considered organic illnesses with recognizable causes rather than psychological problems caused by normal life conditions? What does this transformation tell us about phenomena such as the diagnostic process, models of illness identification, and lay conceptions of health and sickness? This presentation investigates these questions in three arenas in which stakeholders make sense of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Gulf War Syndrome (GWS), and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS).

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“It is always important for York to have a presence, whether in the community or ‘on the road,’” said Dr. Keizs. “I am proud of the work we are doing at York and the respect we have earned as a result.”

President Keizs also remarked on the Congressman’s support of the College.

“I am thankful for the efforts of the Congressional Black Caucus and the New York Delegation’s commitment to public higher education,” she said. “Congressman Meeks continues to be a stalwart supporter of York’s many efforts, including our Aviation Institute and our SEMAA program.”

Dr. Daniels, a York College Distinguished Lecturer and founder of Haiti Support Project, hosted two forums, “An Issues Forum on Haiti:

Supporting America’s First Republic,” and “Life in ‘Post-Racial’ America,” updated the power elite at the CBC gathering.

And President Keizs was in good company for the Black Women’s Agenda award.

Among her fellow-honorees were Dr. Dorothy Height, chair and president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. and a legend in black civil rights and women’s issues, Ms. Shirley Sherrod, State of Georgia director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives and a former Kellogg Foundation Fellow, Ms. Andrea Roane, co-anchor W\*USA9 at 9 News Now and “Bright Future Award Honoree,” and Ms. Alexandra Sutton, a doctoral student and National Science Foundation Fellow.

The event featured as keynote speaker, Melody Barnes, President Obama’s Domestic Policy advisor and director of the Domestic Policy Council, which coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House.

“It is a pleasure to be in your company,” said President Keizs in her acceptance speech. “From Kingston, Jamaica, to Jamaica, Queens, that is my story. Gwendolyn Brooks in her powerful poem, ‘The Sermon on the Warpland,’ states, ‘this is the urgency live: Conduct your blooming in the noise and whip of the whirlwind.’ This is what I have tried to do in my life and profession.”

Dr. Keizs also thanked Dr. Maxwell, a fellow-CUNY educator who has served at Brooklyn and Medgar Evers Colleges, for nominating her.



**Prof. Daniels addressing attendees of the forum**



**President Keizs and Congressman Meeks sharing a moment at the Congressional Black Caucus Meeting**

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The likelihood of ownership of opportunity that is translated into outcomes is greater if the list of opportunities is short, if the ownership is genuinely embraced, and if intentionality rather than happenstance guides the pursuit of outcomes. In this respect, it helps to have a time-table and to

engage your mentor, whether at York or elsewhere. And, if at the end of the journey all the desired outcomes are not achieved, do not be dejected. Keep in mind that shortcomings and missteps can provide the basis for defining different if not “better” opportunities in pursuit of more

laudable outcomes in the future.

So, as you journey on this year, keep in mind that luck might be good, but reliance on luck deprives us of the intentionality desired of our enterprise. Connecting the Triple O’s—Opportunities, Ownership, and Outcomes—provides it.





**Dr. Susan Letteney at the WHO in Geneva**

**“Recently published articles by Dr. Letteney were selected and will be included in the final WHO report of policy guidelines”**

## Dr. Letteney Invited Guest at Geneva WHO Meeting

Department of Social Sciences professor Dr. Susan Letteney was an invited guest at a three day meeting sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, in June 2009, to develop global guidelines on counseling children and their caregivers on disclosure of HIV status.

Despite tremendous progress in access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) over the past years, progress in pediatric HIV counseling and testing has lagged behind. The current lack of guidelines and policies for pediatric HIV counseling and testing can lead to substantial pressure on health care workers (HCWs) to meet needs for care for children, especially in resource-limited settings. Thus, guidelines informed by recent empirical research, specific to the needs of HIV-affected children and their caregivers, are needed worldwide.

The purpose of the consultation, attended by experts in HIV disclosure counseling representing countries worldwide affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, was to review a report on published evidence, and to evaluate the quality of the evidence

that serves to inform recommendations on counseling children and their caregivers on disclosure issues.

The specific objectives of the meeting were: 1) agreement on age-appropriate counseling for children; 2) recommendations on whom and how best to disclose to children; 3) other useful counseling for parents, caregivers, and HCWs; 4) estimated costs related to the intervention; and 5) ways of building capacity for provision of this service.

Dr. Letteney has focused her research over the past ten years on the correlates of HIV disclosure to children, and the impact of parental HIV disease on care-giving. As an invited speaker, Dr. Letteney gave a paper presentation of the key findings of her research on the topic of HIV disclosure to children. The presentation, titled “Parents’ HIV Disclosure to Children: Perceptions of Urban HIV+ Parents and HCWs in the United States,” observed:

“Studies in the U.S. of HIV-positive parents’ decisions about whether to disclose their status to their children focus almost exclusively on mothers and primarily

were conducted before 1996, when highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) was introduced. However, not only do HIV-positive fathers grapple with disclosure decisions, the post-HAART context within which they are made is significantly different. The bio-psychosocial issues now facing HIV-positive parents concerning disclosure need to be better understood so that healthcare professionals can provide empirically-informed counseling options. [...] The studies focus on HIV positive custodial mothers’ and fathers’ disclosure experiences, and on social workers’ knowledge and comfort providing services to children in HIV-affected families. The research was funded by PSC-CUNY, The City University of New York.”

Recently published articles by Dr. Letteney were selected from a literature review to be included in the report of published evidence used to inform discussion at the meeting, and will be included in the final WHO report of policy guidelines “Guidance on HIV Disclosure Counseling for Infants and Children” (2009).

## York Students Excel at Law School Prep Program

by Robin Harper

This past summer five York students – four sophomores and one junior – participated and excelled in the highly competitive Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Preparatory Program for College Sophomores and Juniors held at St. John's University Law School. The program is a collaborative effort between St. John's University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Medgar Evers College and a Consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities supported through a grant from the United Negro College Fund. The program helps students from underrepresented groups and/or low income or first generation college students prepare for careers in law. The program is open to students from any major who show academic promise and are interested in law.

Our students performed fantastically. Camille Wynter, an English major, scored the highest score for the legal writing project. Fatou Kanteh, a Political Science major and Honors program student scored the second highest in the program for the Civil Procedure exam. Joseph Grasso, a Political

Science major and Junior scored consistently the second highest in the program on his LSAT preparatory exams. Our two other sophomores, Rose Elien and Rashida Blair, Political Science and English majors, respectively, performed above the average throughout the program.

The program is described by its class members as "intense." The sophomore students meet at the end of May and for three weeks on St. John's campus for pre-law classroom study with law professors at St. Johns University Law School. The students report all-night study sessions and Socratic method-based lessons by the law school faculty. They receive an overview of what they will study (and how they will have to study in order to be successful) in law school.

Professor Harper's group also learns to write legal briefs and to read and understand the law. The program then includes two weeks of judicial internships during which the students are matched with a judge and shadow this judge in his or her work. They then experience four weeks of internships with some of

the top law firms in the country, the public defender's office, the district attorney's office, or with New York City Corporation Counsel. The junior year program is designed to train the students to raise their law school admissions test scores (LSAT), which, with their GPA, is the critical criterion for law school admissions.

The students work with law school professors, test prep professionals, law school tutors and counselors to sharpen their legal reasoning skills, develop their reading comprehension, and understanding of game theory, acquire exam taking strategies and reducing exam anxiety as well crafting a meaningful personal statement and empowering themselves for the intense law school experience.

The York group has promised to participate in panels to inform and recruit other students for the coming summer at St. John's. They are all also participating in leadership roles in the York College Pre-Law Club. Applications for next year's program will be available in December. Please encourage your students to apply!



**L.-r.:** Rose Elien, Rashida Blair, Prof. Robin Harper, Fatou Kanteh, and Camille Wynter

**“The students also learn to write legal briefs and to read and understand the law.”**



## Introducing York's New Faculty (Pt.2)

In Fall 2009 a cohort of new faculty across many disciplines and departments began their work as teachers and researchers at York College. We are proud of the new colleagues joining us and are happy to introduce them (in no particular order) in the following pages of this newsletter. We began the introduction in the September Update and will profile other colleagues in November.

### Bernard Beckerman



Dr. Beckerman is a board certified physician specializing in Emergency Medicine and has spent 30 years practicing in busy emergency departments in the New York region.

Dr. Beckerman earned his M.D. at the Faculty of

Medicine at the University of Brussels after having graduated from Hunter College (CUNY) with a B.A. in Biology and from NYU with a Masters (Biology).

Dr. Beckerman, who was awarded the 2008 "Heroes of Emergency

Medicine" award by the American College of Emergency Physicians, has published widely in his field.

He is thrilled to join York College as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Health Professions.

### Tonya Shearin Patterson



Assistant Professor Tonya Shearin Patterson received her Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University in 1989. The program included a 12 month internship at St. Vincent's hospital where she was hired as a Microbiology Technologist. In 1990 she joined the staff at Mercy Medical Center where she worked in Clinical Chem-

istry, Blood Bank, Hematology and Microbiology.

She continued her career from 1999 to present at Good Samaritan Hospital mainly in Microbiology. Professor Patterson earned her Master's Degree in Community Health Education at Adelphi University while working as a full time technologist. She began teaching as an Adjunct

Lecturer at York during the 2008-09 academic year in the Medical Technology program.

Her training and experience have given her opportunities to train, teach and interact with students and will continue in the same spirit here at York College.

Mrs. Shearin Patterson joins the Department of Health Professions.



## Phebe Kirkham

**P**hebe Kirkham teaches in the English department and the College-Wide Writing Program. Her interests include methods of preventing plagiarism and ways of improving instructor commentary to encourage better editing and revision. She is also co-editor of *The York*

*Scholar*, which publishes outstanding research papers from the Writing 300 courses.

Mrs. Kirkham has an MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from Brooklyn College. She did her undergraduate work at Yale, where she received a BA in Comparative Litera-

ture. Before she began teaching, she worked as an editor at Ballantine Books, acquiring and editing nonfiction titles in health, reference, and history.

Phebe lives in Queens with her husband and daughter.



## Roberto Benedito

**R**oberto Benedito is a lawyer with a Ph.D. in Anthropology (SUNY at Buffalo). His field research area specialty is South East Asia focusing

on human rights, indigenous peoples and the significance of cultural practice in law and legal institutions. Dr. Benedito joins the Department of

History and Philosophy and teaches in the Cultural Diversity Program.



## Virginia Thompson

**B**orn and raised in South Jamaica (Queens New York) as a child of eleven, Dr. Virginia Thompson often would pass by York College, aspiring to be an insider, not just an outsider looking in.

In 1993, her aspiration came to fruition when she was given the opportunity to enter as a freshman at York College, and was encouraged to follow her dreams in studying

mathematics. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from York College in 1998, which laid an excellent foundation for her as she continued her studies at Teachers College (Columbia University). There, she acquired her Master of Arts degree in Mathematics Education in 2000, and went on to complete a doctoral degree in Mathematics Education. Recently York

College invited Dr. Thompson to teach in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

She was eager and elated to return back to her home, and teach along with faculty members who once taught her.

Her hobbies include travelling, exercising and singing.



## James Stolte



Dr. James Stolte, Earth and Physical Sciences department, is a Mechanical Engineer holding Bachelor of Science, Master of Science degrees from Drexel University and a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. His Ph.D. research, funded by the Eastman Kodak Company, mathematically modeled the dynamic behavior of a flexible sheet and included impact of the sheet with a rigid surface.

Dr. Stolte taught as an adjunct assistant profes-

sor at York College in the Spring of 2009. His previous teaching experience was as an adjunct assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program at Temple University.

Dr. Stolte has extensive industry experience including eight and a half years with Seagate Technology in the magnetic recording industry. He also was a civilian employee of the Department of the Navy with two agencies. During his employment at Seagate he

was responsible for designing the air bearing that determines the height of the recording head above the spinning disk in a hard drive. This height is less than 10 nanometers. Computer simulations were used to model the physics.

Prior to joining Seagate, Dr. Stolte spent two years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Army Research Laboratory performing simulations on the vibrations of composite laminate plates and beams.

## Eric Metcalf



Eric Metcalf (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst) is a rhetorician who has taught public speaking and writing courses at York College

and the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Before teaching at the City University of New York, he worked in Silver Springs, Maryland,

for the Discovery television networks, maintaining their online archive of digital photography. Eric joins the Department of Performing and Fine Arts.

**President Keizs (front right) and Provost Griffith (second from left, standing) with some members of the new faculty cohort starting this Fall**



## Professor Jacques New Book on African-American Culture and Literature

Dr. Geoffrey Jacques (Adjunct Assistant Professor), a member of the faculty in the College-Wide Writing Program, recently published his book *Change in the Weather: Modernist Imagination, African American Imaginary* with the University of Massachusetts Press. According to UMass Press, Jacques' book "explores the impact of African American culture on modernist poetic language by placing black literature and culture at

the center of an inquiry into the genealogy of avant-garde poetics."

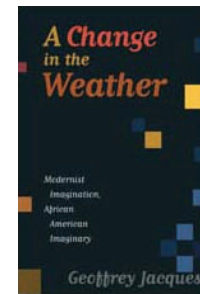
James Smethurst, author of *The Black Arts Movement*, describes the book as "the most exciting work on the development of literary and artistic modernism in the United States that I have read in a long time. Unlike many other scholars who see African American modernism as either distinct from or on the margins of 'high modernism,' Jacques takes a leaf from Mary Helen

Washington's famous question about American Studies and investigates what happens when we put African American expressive culture at the center of modernism."

Professor Jacques earned his Ph.D. at The CUNY Graduate Center and has taught writing at York College for several years. Professor Jacques' book can be purchased directly from UMass Press at [http://www.umass.edu/umpress/fall\\_08/jacques.htm](http://www.umass.edu/umpress/fall_08/jacques.htm).



Dr. Geoffrey Jacques



## York Faculty Update



- **Dr. Laura Fishman** presented her paper "From Canada to Brazil: Comparative Analysis of Seventeenth-Century French Missionary Texts," at the annual conference of the French Colonial Historical Society in San Francisco, May 2009.
- **Dr. Bob Parmet's** book review on Constance Rosenblum's *Boulevard of Dreams: Heady Times, and Hope along the Grand Concourse in the Bronx* (New York: New York University Press, 2009) just appeared on History News Network.com (<http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/116953.html>).
- Dr. Josipa Roksa and **Dr. Tania Levey** presented their paper "What Can You Do with That Degree? Tradeoffs between Strong and Weak Ties to the Labor Market" at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco in August 2009.
- Dr. Patricia A. Aceves and **Dr. Robert I. Aceves**, published an article "Student Identity and Authentication in Distance Education: A Primer for Distance Learning Administrators," in: *Continuing Higher Education Review*, Vol.73 (2009), pp.143-152.
- **Dr. Robin Harper** presented a poster "After the Oath: the Bush Administration's Legacy on U.S. Citizenship Policy" at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Toronto in September 2009.





## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### October 2009 Forums and Workshops

**“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” – Aristotle**

Thur., Oct. 8 (Workshop)

*Enhancing WI Courses: Faculty Collaborations with CUNY Writing Fellows*

12:00–2:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenters:

York College CUNY Writing Fellows  
York College Faculty Collaborators

Thur., Oct. 15 (Speaker Forum)

*Problem-Based Learning: Preparing Millennials to Solve Real World Problems*

12:00–2:00pm Faculty Dining Room, 2D01

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Mark Serva (Asst. Professor, Accounting and MIS, University of Delaware; Board Leader, Institute for Transforming Undergraduate Education)

Monday, Oct. 19 (Workshop)

*Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum: Sharing and Exploring New Methodologies*

3:30–5:00 pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenter:

Mitchell Brodsky, Health and Physical Education

Wed., Oct. 28 (Workshop)

*Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the IRB, But Were Afraid to Ask*

3:30–5:00pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenter:

Deborah Majerovitz, Behavioral Sciences, & Vice-Chair of York College IRB



**YORKFEST  
2009**



## Documentary on Haitian Women Released

by Mark Schuller

After three years of work, documentary *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy* was released in July 2009 by Documentary Educational Resources. “Poto Mitan” means “center post,” referring to the central role Haitian women play in holding up the family, the community, and the country. The York College community lent its support through a Provost Lecture Series screening of a rough cut last February.

The project began when Prof. Schuller (Social Sciences) was conducting dissertation research in Haiti. Knowing the power of film to inspire and to move people to take action, the women activists he worked with implored Schuller to make the film, to share their stories with people overseas who can help them make change. Teaming up with the University of California, Santa Barbara’s Center for Black Studies Research and local filmmaker Renée Bergan, *Poto Mitan* has attracted the support of over 130 individuals and 20 community organizations who have endorsed the film,

including Edwidge Danticat who lent her words and her voice to the project. The film debuted at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in January 2009.

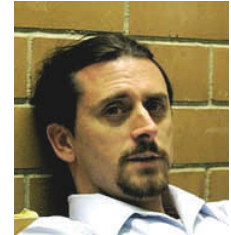
Told through compelling lives of five courageous Haitian women workers, *Poto Mitan* gives the global economy a human face. Each woman’s personal story explains neoliberal globalization, how it is gendered, and how it impacts Haiti: inhumane working/living conditions, violence, poverty, lack of education, and poor health care. *Poto Mitan* also focuses on women’s subjugation, worker exploitation, poverty, and resistance, and demonstrates that these are *global* struggles. Finally, these women demonstrate that despite monumental obstacles in a poor country like Haiti, collective action makes change possible.

The film is being screened in many places, including film festivals in London, Boston, Miami, Santa Cruz, Seattle and New York City’s upcoming African Diaspora Film Festival, among others; scholarly conferences such as the Haitian Stud-

ies Association, National Women’s Studies Association, American Sociological Association, Caribbean Studies Association, and the International Studies Association; and over 20 college campuses. Schuller is also finalizing a screening for policymakers in Washington, DC.

Because of the screenings, over 1,300 people have signed up for a newsletter which highlights community organizations and social movements as well as action alerts to help Haitian women and men in their struggle for justice. The film is accompanied by a website designed by visual artist Alicia St. Rose – [www.potomitan.net](http://www.potomitan.net) – which includes educational and activist resources, links, and action alerts.

Documentary Educational Resources is distributing the film, which includes five language options (English, Haitian Creole, French, Spanish and Portuguese) and DVD extras including histories of grassroots groups in Haiti. All proceeds will be donated to grassroots groups working with women in Haiti’s poor majority.



**“The project was born when Haitian women activists implored Schuller to make the film, to share their stories with people overseas who can help them make change.”**



## Edwidge Danticat at York College

by Karen Clements (*Jamaica Examiner*)



Edwidge Danticat was an apropos choice to open York College's Distinguished Scholars lecture series. Danticat's works, which are far reaching yet representative of the Jamaica Queens Community, struggle with many different themes – racism, displacement, negative images and mistreatment.

For the lecture, Danticat read three short pieces, one as yet unpublished and two from her noted works *Brother I'm Dying* and *The Farming of Bones*. They were brought to life in front of a rapt audience through her tone inflections and the personal history connected to each work. The lecture included questions from participants and neither her noted status nor accolades and awards inhibited her from con-



necting with shared experiences to members of the audience. She graciously received thanks and admiration of participants and encouraged one woman of a similar Haitian background to know her core self as a means to dispel surrounding negativity. She had sound advice for potential writers, shared her own writing processes and administered sage advice thoughtfully and with care. Danticat's presentation was a living testimony to successfully overcoming one's circumstances.

And this event was free! An evening with authors of similar stature would be well worth a high price ticket. Through this event, York College shows they have an ear to what enhances

an education and a connection to the needs and concerns of the community.

The series, as defined by Dr. Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, brings experiences to students which compliment their classes and offer engagement beyond the classroom and to the greater Jamaica Queens Community. Councilman Leroy Comrie, 27th District, was on hand to deliver a proclamation to Danticat confirming her outstanding service to the community. The series is set at York College's Performing Arts Center Theater Building located at 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard.

(Originally published by Jamaica Examiner.com. Reprinted with permission.)

Going Green  
CUNY's Commute Survey  
[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?  
sm=fvR55PrfocbkLQnU1x72QQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fvR55PrfocbkLQnU1x72QQ_3d_3d)

Edwidge Danticat (center),  
faculty students and staff



**YORK COLLEGE  
MINI CONFERENCE**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**DR. MURIEL A. HOWARD**

**PRESIDENT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**PANEL MODERATOR**

**PROVOST IVELAW LLOYD GRIFFITH**

**PANEL**

**DR. LESLIE KEILER**

**TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**DR. GERRY MCNEIL**

**CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

**JAHl ROSE**

**CLASS OF 2010, BUSINESS MAJOR**

**ACTING DEAN HARRY ROSEN**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**DR. DEBRA SWOBODA**

**DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
TEACHING & LEARNING**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009**

**11:30 - 2:30 P.M.**

**YORK COLLEGE FACULTY DINING ROOM**

**ACADEMIC CORE BUILDING**

**94-20 GUY R. BREWER BOULEVARD**

**JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11451**

**RSVP BY OCTOBER 16, 2009**

**EMAIL: JBOBB@YORK.CUNY.EDU**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

***“REORGANIZATION, INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE”***

PROVOST DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS LECTURE

# DR. ELIZABETH NUNEZ

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE,  
READS FROM HER NEW NOVEL *ANNA IN-BETWEEN*



*Anna In-Between* is Elizabeth Nunez's finest literary achievement to date. In spare prose, with laser-like attention to every word and the juxtaposition of words, Nunez returns to her themes of emotional alienation, within the context of class and color discrimination, so richly developed in her earlier novels. In a convergence of craftsmanship, unflinching honesty, and the ability to universalize the lives of her characters, Nunez tells a story that explores our longing for belonging to a community, the age-old love-repulsion relationship between mother and daughter, the Freudian overtones in the love between daughter and father, and the mutual respect that is essential for a successful marriage.



Monday, October 19, 2009  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Faculty Dining Room (AC-2D01)



SCHOOL OF HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PRESENTS  
THE INAUGURAL COLLABORATIVE GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

THE GLOBAL HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF THE  
**H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS**

This inaugural global health symposium will serve as an exposé on the development of Global Health and its definition and will focus specifically on today's emerging global health implications of the H1N1 influenza virus. Participants will learn about the influenza virus and gain information and insight into current concepts in global health and how they might join the quest for improved health care for all the inhabitants of the planet. The H1N1 virus represents a potentially significant threat to human health and provides an excellent example for students of health care to model their impressions of how to view health care and how they fit into the process.



**Dr. Reginald D. Hughes, MD, MAJOR US Army Reserve Medical Corps**

Major Reginald D. Hughes, MD, is attending faculty at the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Queens, New York, where he is Director of the Global Health Program within the Family Medicine Department. His responsibilities include teaching medical students and residents as well as coordinating international medical rotations to Latin America and Africa.

Major Hughes is also a physician in the US Army Reserve, holding the position of Deputy Command Surgeon for the 353rd Civil Affairs Command. He previously served with the 344th Combat Support Hospital performing detainee health care operations in Iraq and participated in Humanitarian Assistance Missions to El Salvador, Central America.

Dr. Hughes has over 20 years experience working in Africa through Operation Crossroads Africa and other organizations and has worked on crosscultural and health care projects in Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya to name a few.

Thursday, October 22, 2009  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Faculty Dining Room (AC-2D01)



The City University of New York  
Aviation Institute • York College

**2009-2010 EXECUTIVE SPEAKER  
LECTURE SERIES**

**Aviation Professionals Panel**  
*“Balancing the demands of an  
aviation career and family”*

**Robert Aceves, Ed.D.**  
*Director, CUNY Aviation Institute*

**Patty Clark**  
*Senior Advisor, Aviation Department  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ*

**Icema Gibbs**  
*Director, Corporate Social Responsibility  
JetBlue Airways Corporation*

**Friday, October 23, 2009**  
**6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

York College Faculty Dining Room, Academic Core Bldg.  
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard  
Jamaica, New York 11451

Register for this event at  
[www.york.cuny.edu/aviation-lecture](http://www.york.cuny.edu/aviation-lecture) or  
Email: [aviation-institute@york.cuny.edu](mailto:aviation-institute@york.cuny.edu)  
RSVP by October 16, 2009

Dinner Provided



PRESIDENT MARICIA V. KEIZS

INVITES YOU TO THE

*York College*  
*Executive Leadership Breakfast*

FEATURING

JOSEPH R. FICALORA

CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT,  
& CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

8:00-9:30 AM

YORK COLLEGE FACULTY DINING ROOM

ACADEMIC CORE BUILDING

94-20 GUY R. BREWER BOULEVARD

JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11451

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT AT  
[www.york.cuny.edu/breakfast](http://www.york.cuny.edu/breakfast)

OR

EMAIL: [events@york.cuny.edu](mailto:events@york.cuny.edu)

OR

(718) 262-5285

RSVP BY OCTOBER 11, 2009



*On the Move*

**York College**

**Office of the Provost**

94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.,  
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Jamaica, NY 11451

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**The deadline for submissions to the November issue of Academic Affairs Update is October 22, 2009.**

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

***via email to:***

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