

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### York Reorganizes For Academic Excellence



Reorganization for the benefit of our students: York Graduates

In its 43-year history York College had never organized its academic departments into the Schools model as is de rigueur in many other institutions of higher learning. But Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, recently an-

nounced to the college community that the CUNY Board of Trustees has approved York's restructuring.

"This organization has several main aspects, said Provost Griffith. "[It creates] two new departments of the existing Department of Accounting and Business, the establishment of three Schools and the academic identification of the academic leaders for the Schools."

The School of Business and Information Systems, which includes the newly-named "Department of Accounting and Finance," the "Department of

Business and Economics," the [existing] CUNY Aviation Institute and the Information Systems Program, will be under the direction of Dr. Harry Rosen, until recently, a professor of Management in the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, where he served as department chair for 13 years.

Dr. Rosen who earned his succession of degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University and Cornell University, respectively, has played leadership roles in several national professional societies and in the accreditation

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### Best Educator Award for York Professor

The 2009 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' Educator of the Year award went to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in developing anti-fraud education at the university level.

This year's recipient, Mary-Jo Kranacher, Professor for Accounting and Finance at York College, demonstrates her tremendous effort, tireless energy and passion. She inspires her students to expand their

horizons beyond the accounting profession and fosters an interest in the fraud profession. Many of her students, due to her encouragement, make a decision to pursue the CFE credential.



#### Special points of interest:

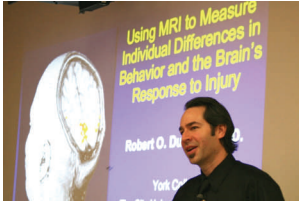
- York's new faculty
- Prof. Popp to Fermilab
- Gen Ed Reform
- Prof. Levinger receives grant

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## Reflections: Provost Lecture Series

by Nicholas Grosskopf (Department of Health & Physical Education)



Prof. Duncan presenting his lecture

**By monitoring possible loss in visual function and retinal nerve fibers, practitioners may be able to treat glaucoma early.**

Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> signaled the last of the Provost Lecture series presentations for the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Robert Duncan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences presented his research on how MRI could be used to measure individual differences in behavior and the brain's response to injury. Specifically, his research sought to explore three specific aims: 1) Determine the relationship between cortical function and perception; 2) Determine the relationship between cortical function and damage to the optic disk; and 3) Measure damage throughout the visual pathway.

Professor Duncan began his presentation by sharing with the audience several interesting instances of documented brain injuries, including neglect, blindsight, and prosopagnosia, all of which trick the brain into seeing something that is not actually there. Individuals with these various forms of brain injuries have atypical perceptions of sensory stimulation, often believing everything they perceive to be true and normal. Dr.

Duncan then presented the audience with a very detailed and enlightening description of the anatomy and physiology of the brain, intricately describing how the eye, neurons, and parts of the brain all work together to produce the images we see.

A discussion on how MRI methods are used to assess brain activity followed, in which Professor Duncan illustrated the power of the technology in measuring differences in perceptual ability and their correlation with differences in brain area. Using several visual exercises, Dr. Duncan showed how the size, positioning, and magnification of images, for example, can trick even a healthy brain into believing a visual falsehood.

Dr. Duncan asserted that the more one uses a body part for exploration and sensation, the more likely the part occupies a larger proportion of the brain's cortex (e.g., our hands vs. our nose). Describing how many species, including humans, adapt based on visual and tactile acuities, the professor briefly discussed the star-faced mole whose hands, used for digging,

occupy 52% of its cortex. Human beings can also vary greatly in their visual and tactile acuity. He stated that MRI methods are sensitive enough to detect such variations.

Concluding the discussion, Professor Duncan briefly spoke about plasticity and the measurement of neuronal function and degeneration in eye disease. Highlighting the MRI methods discussed previously, Dr. Duncan emphasized that using such technology in prevention and screening of diseases such as glaucoma could prove to be a reliable method for monitoring progression of the disease. By monitoring possible loss in visual function and retinal nerve fibers, practitioners may be able to treat glaucoma early.

Upon the conclusion of the lecture, Professor Duncan fielded a few questions from the audience. Relying on his data, Dr. Duncan assured attendees that this technology could benefit those suffering from degenerative eye diseases such as glaucoma and that future research should dig deeper into investigating these advantages.

## Teacher Ed. Professor Scores Big Grant

Dr. Leslie Keiler, an assistant professor in York College's Department of Teacher Education, recently received a nearly \$1 million grant to create a program called the "Robert Noyce Mathematics and Science Teachers (MaST) Scholars program at York College."

According to Dr. Keiler, the bulk of the grant is designated for scholarships for student teaching for science and mathematics majors in the Adolescent Teacher Education Program.

The remainder of the funds, she says, will support various experiences for these Teacher Education students, including expanded field experience, research in science and mathematics teaching and learning at the secondary level, and travel to conferences.

When the MaST Scholars graduate and begin teaching, they will participate in professional development funded by the grant.

"This grant program will allow students who may not have been able to afford to support themselves and their families during student teaching, to complete the program and become highly quali-

fied teachers," Dr. Keiler said.

Dr. Keiler explained that the proposal was submitted in cooperation with four of York's sister CUNY Colleges -- Bronx Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College as well as LaGuardia and Queensborough Community Colleges -- in order to facilitate their students applying to the program and transferring to York.

"Ultimate success with this grant program required a great deal of time and persistence," said Keiler. "We applied for the first time in 2007 and then again in 2008. Both times we received very positive reviews, but were not funded. With each application, we incorporated the recommendations and considered the critiques from the previous reviews."

Keiler came to York in 2006, armed with a succession of four degrees: A.B. in Human Biology and M.S. in Biological Sciences (both) from Stanford University; M.S. in Secondary Science Education from Teachers College, Columbia University; and a D.Phil. in Educational Studies from University of Oxford, approached the process

professionally.

"I spoke to colleagues across the city who had been successful in receiving funding," she said. "[And I] attended an NSF training session to get further insight into what made a successful application."

Provost Griffith expressed his delight in the successful outcome of Keiler's efforts. "Leslie's grant is evidence of both what counts and what can be counted, said Dr. Griffith, in a nod to an Einstein quote. "I look forward to notable outcomes that push the envelope of knowledge and service in this crucial area."

Asked what advice she would give to colleagues pursuing their own grants, Keiler responded that, "persistence is vital to success."

"Listen to what the granting agency wants and then be true to what you want to create within that framework," she said. "Don't listen to anyone who thinks York can't do it!"

Dr. Keiler who, in her still-young career, has been a prolific off-campus presenter has also participated in the (York College) Provost Lecture Series, developed by Dr. Griffith.

*Point of  
Pride*

YORKCOLLEGE.CUNY



Professor  
Leslie Keiler

**"This grant program will allow students, who may not have been able to afford to support themselves and their families, to become highly qualified teachers,"**

## Prof. Popp joins Fermilab



Professor James Popp

**“The result of this experiment will have a profound effect on our understanding of the fundamental laws of Nature and the origin of the Universe.”**

Four years ago when Dr. Marcia V. Keizs became president of York College she branded the college as being, “on the move.”

Dr. James Popp, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences, is the latest faculty member who has given literal meaning of sorts to that mantra, taking the York scholarship on the road.

Popp has accepted an offer as a guest scientist at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL) in Batavia, IL, for the upcoming academic year.

“This opportunity would allow me to advance the Muon-to-Electron Conversion Ex-

periment (MU2E). This is an exciting opportunity for me as a York faculty member as no one else in CUNY is doing this type of research,” said Popp.

Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith agrees. “Dr. Popp’s invitation from the Fermi National Lab to be a guest scientist for a year is an outstanding tribute to the remarkable talents of this young scientist and a reflection of the growing research strength of the College,” said Dr. Griffith. “It augurs well for the strengthening of the research pursuits not only of the School of Arts and Sciences but of York College overall, which is part of my general intent.”

Professor Popp, whose research area is experimental elementary particle physics, has taught physics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels over the course of his career. His topics have included mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, optics, quantum mechanics, solid state physics and elementary particle physics.

“This prestigious opportunity (will) increase the visibility of York College and its faculty as well as its students’ contribution to an important international elementary particle physics experiment,” said Popp. “The

Cont’d on next page

### Provost Lecture

## The Birth of York College: Higher Education and Politics at the State and Local Level

**Prof. Robert Parmet**

Professor of History

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

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



York College is very much a child of the 1960s, when the City University founded it and designated Jamaica to be its home. During the next decade, as the young college rented facilities with few students in a multi-ethnic setting, York struggled to demonstrate its academic viability and survive. Combining steadfast leadership with strong support from political, business and residential sources, and fighting the effects of a devastating fiscal crisis, York eventually won the day and moved onto a new, permanent campus.



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Mu2e experiment at FNAL is a world-class project to search for the rare and as-yet-unobserved decay of a **muon** (an elementary particle) directly into an electron in the field of nucleus.”

According to the physics professor, the search for **muon** to electron conversion has been carried out for more than half a century, with the current limit at less than one event in  $10^{13}$  decays.

Popp, a senior member of the

Mu2e Collaboration, has over a decade of experience working on the development of the Mu2e apparatus and is a co-author of the simulation software for the experiment.

“The result of this experiment will have a profound effect on our understanding of the fundamental laws of Nature and the origin of the Universe,” he explained.

“I am delighted that Dr. Popp’s students here at York will be

beneficiaries of his engagements at Fermi,” said Provost Griffith. “He will continue mentoring them during the year he’s there.”

Popp is also proud of the work the college is doing in the field.

“York College offers graduate students throughout CUNY the special opportunity to carry out research in experimental elementary particle physics,” he revealed.

## York Faculty co-organize international Conference at John Jay College

On May 15, 2009 the conference “Between the Dream and the Nightmare: Immigration, The Criminal Justice System and the ‘Bulimic Society’” was held at John Jay College. The conference was a joint effort by York and John Jay, and was well-attended (over one hundred and fifty students, professors, and community members). The organizing committee included Fénix Arias, David Brotherton, Fabiola Fernández Salek, Michael Flynn, and Jock Young.

The international contingent of speakers in-

cluded academics, activists, filmmakers and policy makers; the panels were dedicated to explore issues such as the predicament of the modern urban immigrant, the global economic recession, the communal and individual consequences of America’s high rates of incarceration, and the structural deficiencies of the public education system.

Those wanting further information about the conference are invited to visit the conference website at [www.bulimicsociety.us](http://www.bulimicsociety.us).



**L.-r.:** Chris Geer, Ivelaw Griffith, Stanley Aronowitz, and Michael Zweig



**L.-r.:** Fénix Arias, David Brotherton, Michael Flynn, Fabiola Fernández Salek, and Jock Young.



York faculty members



**“I look forward to the existing leadership in Academic Affairs to continuing to provide able stewardship of our teaching, research and service.”**



York graduates

## York Reorganizes

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of schools of business. His scholarship has examined important issues such as the impact of payment incentives on professional behavior, the effect of regulation on institutional management, and the application of operations management techniques in healthcare organization.

Rosen has also examined the effects of patient scheduling options and, along with colleagues, has won “Best Paper in Service Management from the Decision Sciences Institute.

A nationally recognized scholar in the management of healthcare organizations, Professor Rosen has published numerous articles in scholarly and professional journals and is author of the book, *The Consumer and the Health Care System*.

For many years Business has been the most popular major for York students but when Dr. Griffith arrived at York two years ago, he dedicated much of his efforts to boosting its value and prestige. Recruiting from Baruch, which has the premiere business school within CUNY and one of the most popular business schools in public higher

education, was essential.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to benefit from the human capital within CUNY, said Provost Griffith. “Harry has certainly proven himself as utilizing innovative education in business at Baruch and [he] will rally the skills and talent to help pursue excellence in business education at York.”

Not one to encourage resting on laurels, Dr. Griffith added that he also looks forward to his team’s continued efforts in York’s growth.

“On balance, I also look forward to the existing leadership in Academic Affairs continuing to provide able stewardship of our teaching, research and service,” he said. “This (reorganizing) is setting the stage for excellence. It also sets the stage for vital fundraising and for the enhancement of York’s overall image.”

The School of Health and Behavioral Sciences covers the Department of Health and Physical Education, Department of Health Professions, Department of Occupational Therapy, Department of Social Sciences includes the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and the Department of Teacher Education. It will be

headed by Dr. Dana Fusco, formerly Acting Associate Dean for Professional Programs at York.

Over the [two-year] tenure of her role as dean, Dr. Fusco has supported several new and developing programs, including the Generic Nursing degree, degree in Health Science and a Masters in Business.

A scholar in youth studies, she has directed and produced a documentary (“When School Is Not Enough” – a video-documentary of the role of after school programs in New York City), she has published articles on the subject and her current research focuses on developmental opportunities during summertime from the perspective of parents.

Dean Fusco also serves as an advisor to the Department of Youth and Community Development in the development of Core Competencies for Out of School Time (OST). She has been invited to serve on a panel of national researchers in OST to discuss policy implications and set [the] research agenda for the next five years.

The School of Arts and  
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Sciences, coming under the leadership of Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, includes the Departments of Biology; Chemistry; Earth and Physical Sciences; English, Foreign Languages; Humanities and ESL; History and Philosophy; Mathematics and Computer Science and Performing and Fine Arts.

Dr. Meleties also holds the rank of Professor of Chemistry at York and the CUNY Graduate School. A scholar in aromatic and carbohydrate chemistry and the synthesis and study of novel molecular entities with potential biological activity, Dr. Meleties in the three years since he has been at York has brought in more than \$3 million in research funding to the College.

In elucidating other reasons for the restructuring, Dr. Griffith, an expert in

Caribbean and Inter-American Security; Drugs, Crime and Terrorism issues, who has published extensively in his field, explained that the restructuring also opens the door to opportunities other than the obvious.

“This is architecture for naming opportunities for the Schools, for scholarships and for endowments,” he said. “There will also be a leveraging of alums, business ... part of the trajectory.”

He further noted that the reorganization is “not an end in itself, but a way of leveraging curricular innovation,” student research and more interdisciplinary research by faculty.”

“What is it that the biologist does and the chemist does, that “art” needs to be part of,” he said. “And what is it that we do great that we could do [even] better? We will

recognize where we’ve got strengths, but could do better by being stronger.”

According to Dr. Griffith, the adoption of the School model, “does not alter the core functions” of the College faculty nor does it change the ways in which departments organize to facilitate the execution of their functions. The “fundamentals of faculty governance and administrative management,” are also likely to remain the same.

“This is a transformative moment for York,” said Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president. “The reorganization of the College into Schools will distinguish us as a competitive institution of higher learning, positioning us for an accelerated march toward excellence in academic outcomes for our students and graduates.”



**Dean Panayiotis Meleties (School of Arts and Sciences)**



**Dean Harry Rosen (School of Business and Information Systems)**



**Dean Dana Fusco (School of Health and Behavioral Sciences)**



**Congressman Rangel (l.); Dr. Daniels (r.)**

Congress Members Charles B. Rangel (l.), John Conyers, Jr. (l.) and Sheila Jackson-Lee (r.) joined York College Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Ron Daniels (l.) at the African American/Haitian American Briefing on Haiti which he recently convened on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. Dr. Daniels, who is also President of the Institute of the Black World 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Founder of the Haiti Support Project, is currently working on Pilgrimage to Haiti, October 8-12, to visit the Citadel and other important cultural/historical sites.





## Introducing York's New Faculty (Pt.1)

In Fall 2009 a cohort of new faculty across many disciplines and departments will begin their work as teacher 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 the newsletter. In the next newsletter, we will list the remaining members of the new cohort.

### Chun-Pin Hsu



Dr. Hsu received his doctoral degree from The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Previously, he worked in the finance department of an international airline company. Dr. Hsu taught at Queens College and Hunter College since 2005, where he instructed several Finance and Economics courses, including

Corporate Finance, Investment Analysis, Financial Markets and Institutions, Statistics, and Microeconomics.

His research interest is in quantitative finance and its applications in risk management and investment. He has been acknowledged as a lifetime member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the highest honor

of the AACSB accreditation universities, and has been awarded the Golden Key medal. He has presented his research papers at several major conferences, and he serves as a referee for the *Journal of Future Markets*. Dr. Hsu joins the Department of Accounting & Finance in the School of Business and Information Systems.

### Ali Sadighian



Dr. Sadighian received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and an M.B.A. in General Management from Sharif University of Technology located in Tehran, Iran. He received a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He recently completed his doctorate in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from Columbia University.

Dr. Sadighian received

the Fu Foundation Extraordinary Teaching Assistant Award, and was a finalist for the Columbia Presidential Graduate Student Teaching Award. He has a clear understanding of classroom management and course development issues.

Dr. Sadighian will fill an important need in the teaching of Operations Management which will become one of the Business Core Courses in our revised B.S. business curricula. We also look for-

ward to his role in reworking the required math courses for all of our business majors.

Finally, even though he has just recently completed his doctorate, he has an article accepted in *Production and Operations Management*, an 'A' class journal. Dr. Sadighian joins the Department of Business & Economics in the School of Business and Information Systems.



## Olajide Oladipo

Dr. Oladipo hails from Nigeria, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Economics from the Darwin College at Cambridge and completed his doctorate in Economics and International Finance at the University of Birmingham in the U.K. in 2006.

In the same year, Dr. Oladipo served as a Re-

search Consultant to the World Bank Institute in Washington D.C., and was also a Senior Consultant with KPMG in Nigeria. His honors and awards include serving as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Democracy and Development in the U.K., and as a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society.

Over the past two years, he has taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor

at both Adelphi University and Medgar Evers College, (CUNY).

We are also pleased to hire Dr. Oladipo because he developed an interest in Entrepreneurship by serving as a consultant to York's Small Business Development Center. Dr. Oladipo joins the Department of Business & Economics in the School of Business and Information Systems.



## Shawn Williams

Dr. Shawn Williams is a 2004 graduate of New York Chiropractic College, and a Ph.D. candidate at Seton Hall University. Dr. Williams has earned subspecialty certifications in Clinical Biomechanics of Posture, Pediatric Chiropractic,

and Sound Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization.

Dr. Williams is also certified USA Track & Field coach, and has spoken at many conferences, including the USA Olympic Training Center, on performance enhancement and injury prevention issues.

Beyond serving the health care needs of patients, Dr. Williams is a Sport Medicine adviser for many local NYC running clubs. Dr. Williams joins the Department of Health Professions in the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences.



## Susan Austin

Dr. Susan Austin earned a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Adelphi University. Her Ph.D. was in Experimental Social Psychology where her research focused on the role of self-esteem on feelings of envy and *Schaden-*

*freude*. Previously, she was an adjunct assistant professor in the Behavioral Sciences department at York. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Adelphi University and Nassau Community College. Her teaching inter-

ests are in the areas of research methodology, child development, personality, and abnormal psychology. Dr. Austin joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences.



## Robert I. Aceves



**Dr. Robert I. Aceves** was born and raised in a family of migrant workers beneath the crop dusters in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley, California. In high school he enlisted in the Air Force where began his aviation career as an aircraft mechanic and then flight engineer, where he flew the C-5A Galaxy and the KC-10A Extender.

After 20 years of service, with over 10,000 flight hours, Dr. Aceves retired as a decorated aviator. He earned his Bachelor and Masters degrees in Aerospace and

Aeronautics Operations and Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (1995) and his Doctorate (Ed.D.) in School Administration from Oklahoma State University (2006). He holds a Commercial Pilot & Flight Instructor License on Single and Multi-engine Land aircraft and Single Engine Sea aircraft, and an Airframe and Powerplant license.

Dr. Aceves is currently working on diversity in aviation initiatives and writing a textbook chronicling the history of Diversity in American Aviation with funding and support

provided by the U.S. Air Force, the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, and the Alfred L. and Constance C. Wolf Aviation Foundation.

His research interests include Chicanas and Chicanos in Aviation, Aviation Education and Online Program Accreditation, and Circadian Dysrhythmia (Jet Lag) in flight crews. Dr. Aceves joins the Department of Business and Economics in the School of Business and Information Systems. He will also be the new Director of the CUNY Aviation Institute.

## Linglan Cao



Linglan Cao got her bachelor and master degrees in China majoring in English language and literature. After teaching at Soochow University and Nanjing Normal University, she came to the U.S. pursuing an Ed.D. at

Teachers College, Columbia University. She has been teaching reading and writing courses at York College as an adjunct assistant professor and as a substitute doctoral lecturer. An active member of TESOL, she is

experienced in helping the non-native speakers surmount language barriers in English reading and writing. Dr. Cao joins the Department of English in the School of Arts and Sciences as a doctoral lecturer.

## Wayne Forrester



Wayne Forrester has been an adjunct Lecturer at York College for the last 14 years. He has an BBA in Finance and Investments from Baruch

College and an MBA from Adelphi University majoring in Corporate Finance. Wayne has been with the New York Times for 15 years where he has

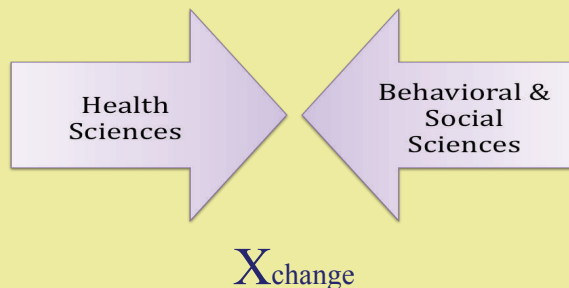
been an Analyst. Wayne will be a member of the Department of Business and Economics in the School of Business and Information Systems.

## School of Health & Behavioral Sciences

Our School's unique combination of the health sciences, education, behavioral and social sciences positions us to think globally and holistically. It encourages us to abandon a myopic view of the world and to revolutionize how we think about 21<sup>st</sup> century undergraduate education. Interdisciplinary perspectives help students to form deeper shared understandings of the complex issues we face. Such a view towards undergraduate education not only broadens students' capacity to succeed in their chosen professions but to affect change in their communities and around the world.

**Knowledge is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do. — Goethe**

My goal is to support and nurture ideas for curriculum, learning experiences, co-curricular activities, student and faculty research that deals with the exchange of ideas across disciplines and that fosters a sense of social responsibility. In the Fall 2009, I will work to create the **Xchange Network** that will offer a vision of new possibilities for our School.



If you are interested in joining the Xchange Network, please contact me:

Dana Fusco, Ph.D.  
Acting Dean, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences  
[dfusco@york.cuny.edu](mailto:dfusco@york.cuny.edu)  
(718) 262-2698

**YORK COLLEGE CUNY**

**Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith (l.) presenting a poster to Prof. Nicholas Grosskopf (r.) during his Provost Lecture Series presentation.**



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

## York Students Shine at Case Study Competition

At the 2009 AAHE Case Study Competition in Tampa, Florida, Community Health Education majors Marie Benjamin, Desmay Holness, and Mary Lawhorn, adapting the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships” planning model, proposed a two-day training conference. Designed to develop new collaborations among community-based Wisconsin health care professionals and service providers, the York College case study highlighted evidenced-based fall reduction pro-



L.-r.: Marie Benjamin, Dr. Linda Barley, Mary Lawhorn, and Desmay Holness



grams, collaborative planning, and grants writing skills. York College placed fourth with its proposal entitled, “Achieving success through building collaboration: Reducing falls in Wisconsin.”

### Team York:

*Marie Benjamin*, Community Health Education

*Desmay Holness*, Community Health Education

*Mary Lawhorn*, Community Health Education

*Linda R. Barley*, Faculty Advisor

## Physician Assistant News

On August 7, 2009 the York College Physician Assistant Program commemorated the completion of 2 years of hard work with a ceremony. Eighteen students had completed a rigorous two-year training program to become PAs which included a year of academic studies followed by a year of clinical rotations.

**L.-r.:** Esther Leviev, Marina Khaimov, Gita Rani, Robert Robenov, Kayanna Morrison, Belinda Theophilus, Uzaima Rizwan, Moshe Ovoidov, Janelle Harrison, Geovanna Erazo, Svetlana Ilyasova, Nikeisha Stephens, Iram Sultan, Luis Gaston, Jimmy Chandhok, Candece Reid, Michael Bergman, Albina Aylyarova

All of the students are looking forward to taking their national boards prior to beginning their work careers, most of whom already have job offers.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> group of students to complete the PA Program at York College. We currently have 25 students doing clinical rotations and 30 students in our first year class.





## General Education Reform: A Progress Report

by Vadim Moldovan

York College Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs) have accomplished another milestone in their relentless progress toward the new general education curriculum. Thus, the FIGs recent work resulted not only in greater clarity with respect to the objectives of the reform but also in methodologies of content integration, prototypes of interdisciplinary core seminars, and strategies for implementation. The multiplicity of directions pursued by the FIGs speaks to the complexity of the undertaking. While some groups concerned themselves with conceptualization of integrating multidisciplinary content into a coherent course structure, others explored specific requirements of the integrated curriculum.

The FIG headed by Dr. Majerovitz made some key decisions on course structure and identified texts, topics, and themes for course design. The FIG led by Dr. Fishman developed a list of learning objectives that would be generic across various sections so that skills and content could be integrated regardless of a particular seminar topic or instructor. The Logic and Explanation FIG headed by Dr. Ruttenberg delved into the mysteries of combining such disciplines as Literature, Social and Natural Sciences into an exciting topical course design. They have also identified readings from a range of sources to support these new configurations. The Science FIG under the joint leadership of Drs. Beaton and Desamero focused on the principle of active-learning pedagogy in planning applications of prospective course designs. The Human Behavior FIG headed by Dr. Zhang has been working to identify learning objectives in the context of the General Education Reform principles and identified four: 1) the content should be interdisciplinary – not multidisciplinary; 2) the topics discussed should be current in nature; 3) the content should be controversial; and 4) the teaching approach should be case-based. The English Composition FIG led by Dr. Hall

worked on reconceptualizing composition to suit the contemporary world and the requirements of the integrated core curriculum. The FIG headed by Dr. Anderson addressed some key issues related to administrative aspects of integrating the new Gen Ed.

Only one year into the General Education Reform journey we have accomplished significant progress: we are closing on the overall structure of the new General Education at York as well as specific strategies of academic collaboration and implementation on the administrative level. Most importantly, we are ready to proceed with development of prototypes of a large number of topical interdisciplinary core courses that will be ready for pilot implementation in the Spring of 2010.

Future progress of the reform is contingent on the continuing support from the College administration and the will to consider new ways of teaching the part of the faculty. To quote Dr. Fishman, “an interdisciplinary core curriculum will require a new way of thinking about how courses are taught – a paradigm shift.” Task Force members are also in agreement with Dr. Ruttenberg’s dictum that the new Gen Ed “must be faculty-driven versus driving the faculty.”

We are poised for rejuvenation and success. The new Gen Ed at York is a unique opportunity for the whole College community to fuel the “York on the Move” transformation, bring this reform effort to fruition in the form of an innovative and stimulating core curriculum, and elevate York College to the status of a premier educational institution.



**Prof. Vadim Moldovan**

**We are developing prototypes of a large number of interdisciplinary core courses that will be ready for piloting in Spring 2010.**

**A York student has become the 34,000<sup>th</sup> graduate of the LeaderShape Institute**

## Aviation Majors at Inaugural LeaderShape Institute

During the week of August 16-21, 2009, 37 students and seven staff members had the opportunity to be part of the first LeaderShape Institute in CUNY's history. The program was sponsored through grant funding secured by the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College. The LeaderShape Institute was conducted at The Country Place Retreat Center in White Haven (PA). It was a six-day life-changing program that enhanced student's leadership skills, helped them create career visions, strengthened the bonds between the aviation majors and most importantly showed them the importance of leading with integrity.

The LeaderShape Institute was established by the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity in 1986. Now in 2009, a York student has become the 34,000<sup>th</sup> graduate of the Institute and will join the thousands of students from more than 200 different colleges, universities, companies and other organizations across the U.S. and abroad, who have completed the leadership program. Some of the participating colleges

and universities include Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Penn State, Ohio, Purdue, Wisconsin, MIT, Florida State, Nebraska, and now, York College/CUNY.

LeaderShape is a six-day educational program with non-stop self-discovery and learning from practical experiences that build leadership concepts and abilities. It is a go, go, go 12 hours a day program, which everyone loved. Prior to attending the Institute it was described to students as an "intensive, energizing, and unique experience that builds leadership skills no other program can match." York students confirmed this description from the first day they took part in the LeaderShape Institute (for more information on the LeaderShape Institute visit [www.leadershape.org](http://www.leadershape.org)).

Throughout the six themed days of the LeaderShape Institute students participated in highly interactive sessions and focused on the themes below.

*Building Community* was the beginning of it all, when everyone came together in the "Learning Community" and explored what leadership meant and discussed its

core components. Leadership involves living in a state of *possibility*, making a commitment to a *vision*, developing *relationships* to move the vision into *action*, and sustaining a high level of *integrity*. Effective leadership takes place in the context of a *community* and results in *positive change*.

Day 2, *The Value of One, The Power of All*, started with outdoor team building activities. Students discovered how relationships, trust, and problem solving are enhanced in a supportive group setting. Students then completed a behavioral style inventory assessment, which added a new dimension to their self-awareness.

*Challenging What Is, Looking to What Could Be* saw the students' visions put on paper. Later, that evening, a Guest Leader Forum and reception took place where Philippa L. Karteron, (Executive Director of the Council for Airport Opportunity), Cruz Russell (Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives for the Port Authority of NY and NJ), Jerald Posman (Vice-President of York's Administrative Affairs

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Division), and Harry Rosen (Dean of the School of Business and Information Systems at York) shared their thoughts and experiences on leadership with the participants.

In order to reach a vision, *Bringing Vision to Reality* taught the participants that relationships must be built. An individual needs help in order to bring a vision to reality. The day closed with an unforgettable simulation exercise which emphasized how power is used by an individual or a group in a transactional situation.

Integrity and core values were discussed in depth during *Living and Leading With Integrity*. The participants were able to identify the Six Pillars of Character that are critical for an ideal community and society to function. They are trustworthiness, fairness, respect, caring, responsibility, and citizenship.

Day 6, *Staying in Action*, was graduation time! The students prepared to return home and face responsibilities as a LeaderShape graduate committed to leading with integrity.

### York aviation students and staff at the LeaderShape sessions



YORK COLLEGE IS CU NY





Prof. Louis Levinger

**Dr. Levinger's research is so significant that he has brought in over \$2 million in "extramural funding" and has collaborated with colleagues in Japan, Finland, Germany and France.**

## New Levinger Grant, More Student Research

Dr. Louis Levinger, a professor in York College's Department of Biology, has received a National Institute of Health total award of \$248,894 for a three-year period for the project "Regulation on Substrate Binding and Catalysis in tRNase Z."

With the additional funds, Dr. Levinger can pay his lab assistants – qualified York scholars in the biological sciences.

Levinger, who mentored Salk Scholar, Angela Hopkinson, '06, is currently mentoring three more such students – Sabina Paul, Kyla-Gaye Pinnock and Christopher Wilson, whose research interests in biophysics most closely mirrors his mentor's. The award, also known as an R15 Award, will support the research interests of these particular students.

On the proposal for the grant, Professor Levinger stresses the necessity of the grant to give students early research experience. He says of Pinnock, the named candidate for this particular grant, "The ability to participate in a research project can be accelerated and enriched by early involvement .... Full understanding of a project requires about

three years of training accompanied during the last two years by the upper division coursework in the major."

According to Levinger, paying students for working in the lab is of importance for more than [the] obvious reasons. "When I was an undergraduate working in a lab I got paid and it was important to me; and I had bills," he said. "Getting paid for what you do is important."

Dr. Levinger's latest grant is one of many York faculty members have brought in this past academic year, setting the stage for the success of the newly-formed School of Arts and Sciences.

"Professor Levinger's prowess in cutting-edge RNA enzyme research is matched by his dedication to mentor and promote his students' success," said Dean Meleties. "The continuous funding is a testament to his work."

Levinger who came to York in the Fall of 1990, has brought in millions of dollars in research grants to the college; he has published prolifically in his field, including a paper earlier this year in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC)*.

His current research

interests in Eukaryotic tRNA End-Processing, includes research on the molecular biology of RNA and concerns the activity of an enzyme involved in the processing of transfer RNA (tRNA).

The professor, whose students routinely proceed to medical school or into Ph.D. programs in the biological sciences, says that mutations in tRNA can cause mitochondrially transmitted diseases including diabetes, deafness, blindness, epilepsy and heart disease, making the research in this enzyme biomedically significant.

So significant, in fact, that he has brought in over \$2 million in "extramural funding" to investigate this and related topics and has collaborated with colleagues in Japan, Finland, Germany and France.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Levinger has trained nearly 40 students and technicians in biomedical research in preparation for careers in this vital field.

Levinger also takes pride in campus-wide co-curricular activities such as springtime's Green Fest, where last May he helped plant some of the 180 trees.



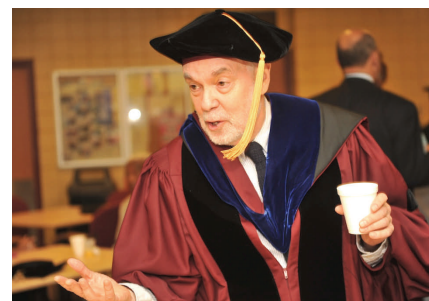


## York Faculty Update



- Professor **Linda M. Grasso** published a review of Love and Marriage in Early African America. Ed. by Frances Smith Foster (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2008) in *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, 26:1 (2009): 171-172.
- **Timothy W. Kirk**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, delivered a plenary address at the International Philosophy of Nursing Conference in Bristol, UK on September 9th. The talk, “Developing A Philosophy of Palliative Care: Contributions from, and Implications for, the Philosophy of Nursing,” lays the groundwork for a planned book proposing a comprehensive philosophy of palliative care. Dr. Kirk has also received the Werner and Elaine Dannheisser Scholarship for 2009-2011, which provides tuition and financial support to continue his part-time studies in public health at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. His work takes a public health approach to ethical issues embedded in aging and chronic illness.

## Commencement 2009



PROVOST LECTURE SERIES

“THE BIRTH OF YORK COLLEGE  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND POLITICS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL.”

York College is very much a child of the 1960s, when the City University founded it and designated Jamaica to be its home. During the next decade, as the young college rented facilities with few students in a multi-ethnic setting, York struggled to demonstrate its academic viability and survive. Combining steadfast leadership with strong support from political, business and residential sources, and fighting the effects of a devastating fiscal crisis, York eventually won the day and moved onto a new, permanent campus.



Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
1:00 - 3:00 PM Room AC - 4M07



Professor Robert Parmet  
Department of History & Philosophy



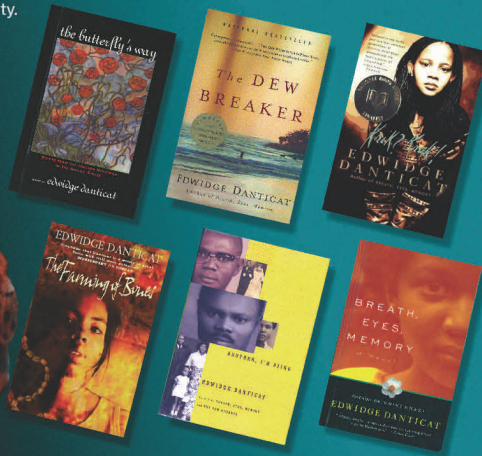


PROVOST DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS LECTURE

AN EVENING AT YORK COLLEGE  
WITH  
**EDWIDGE DANTICAT**



Born in Haiti, Danticat moved to the U.S. when she was twelve. She is the author of several books, including 2007 Books Critics Circle Award winning *Brother, I'm Dying*; Oprah Book Club selection *Breath, Eyes, Memory*; National Book Award finalist *Krik? Krak!*; American Book Award winner *The Farming of Bones*; *After the Dance*, and *The Dew Breaker*. She is also the editor of *The Butterfly's Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the United States* and *The Beacon Best of 2000: Great Writing by Men and Women of All Colors and Cultures*. Danticat has a degree in French Literature from Barnard College, winning the 1995 Woman of Achievement Award, and later an MFA from Brown University.



Monday, September 14, 2009  
Performing Arts Center  
94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

*On the Move*

**York College**

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

*All items should be submitted in MS Word via email to:*

*[AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu)*