



Academic Affairs **Update**

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 4

MAY/JUNE 2015

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Undergraduate Research Day Informs and Inspires Delight

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

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

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

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

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



Undergraduate Research Day 2 ►

Deadline!

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



Students discussing their research

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

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

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

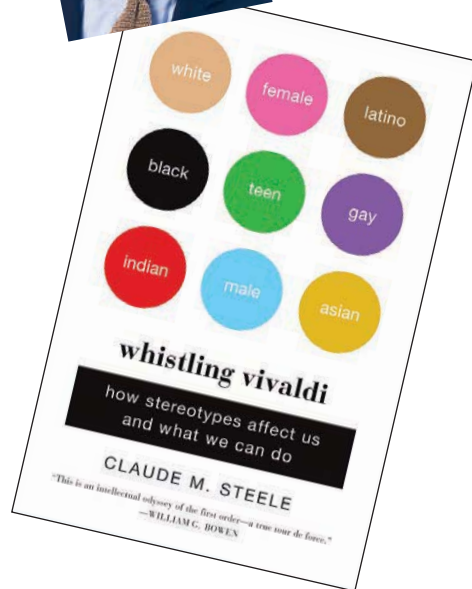
At the beginning of the book, Steele describes his own experiences as a young boy as a way of understanding stereotypes. As the book progresses, he describes his research as a social psychologist into this subject, explaining how he goes about his inquiry and why he and his colleagues look at first one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

During the coming academic year, themed student activities will provide

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



Author
Claude M. Steele



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

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

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

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

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

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



Dr. Rodgers

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



Prof. Alexandre

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Kudos!

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



Tim Paglione (Professor, Earth and Physical Sciences) recently published the following article with R. D. Abrahams, one of his graduate students. Abrahams, R. D. & Paglione, T. A. D. 2015, "High-Latitude Clouds as Probes of Local Cosmic Rays," *The Astrophysical Journal*, 805, 50

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

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

A New Mentorship Program in the Occupational Therapy Program

JANINA SAINTILUS, OTS

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

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

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

interactions with other professionals within occupational therapy.

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

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



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

Social Work Tides That Bond

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





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York Participates in Selma March

By **TERANDEROSE RUSSELL**, York Journalism Student

A contingency of York College students, faculty and staff members recently took part in the recreation of the "Bloody Sunday" march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous Civil Rights march.

Led by Dr. Ron Daniels, a York distinguished lecturer, nearly 30 students, four faculty members and numerous staff and administrators—including Ronald C. Thomas, vice president for Administrative Affairs—helped to mark the golden anniversary of the 1965 freedom march.

Dr. Daniels had taken other York students to Selma to previous Bloody Sunday anniversaries before. Indeed, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York College had even taken the pilgrimage with Daniels and a group of students one year.

"I wanted to take a larger group of students for the 50th anniversary," said Daniels, who had faculty colleagues such as Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Ian Hansen

and Jonathan Quash along for the ride this time. "This is a dream fulfilled with the blessing of President Keizs and many other people."

The York participants had the opportunity to march alongside a number of civil rights icons, activists and politicians from across the United States. Among the attendees were President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, Representative John Lewis, actors Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte and Ms. Amelia Boynton-Robinson, one of the "foot soldiers" who also participated in the march 50 years ago.

Selma March 2 ►

Deadline!

All items for the **May 2015** issue of **Academic Affairs Update** should be submitted in MS Word to AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu by **April 30, 2015**.



Successful crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge

Selma March

Continued from 1

John Lewis was one of the original activists who led the Bloody Sunday march on March 7, 1965. He was among those beaten by police that day 50 years ago.

Amelia Boynton-Robinson was another original member of the 1965 marches. At age 103, she might have been the oldest person to participate in the 50th year anniversary.

York students also had the opportunity to interact with students and faculty from other colleges and universities.

"I felt like I was re-living the moment walking across the bridge," said Rachelle Antione, a Social Work major who got to take a photo with Congressman Lewis, who was beaten almost to death on the

bridge 50 years ago. "I felt nervous. I felt 'Oh my God, I'm meeting them!'"

The original march supported a petition to the State of Alabama for voting rights for African Americans in that state. African Americans had to go through a series of unfair procedures just to have the right to vote. They were subjected to great indignities such as literacy tests, economic intimidation, and physical violence.

The initial attempt to march across the Pettus Bridge on March 9th, 1965, failed due to the brutality of Alabama state troopers and local police on horseback who had beaten the marchers with billy clubs and almost trampled some to death. Altogether there were three marches, but only one got all the way to Montgomery.

Many people around the United States were moved. Thousands of people, white

and black, traveled to Selma to take part in the next attempt to march two days later. The march now had more high



Dr. Daniels and Anthony Browder



Rev. Jesse Jackson addresses the crowd



Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Ian Hansen and some York students with George Patrick Evans, Mayor of Selma at center



Assembled group of original "foot soldiers" who participated 50 years ago



Some members of the York delegation pause at the Freedom Flame Awards Gala



Dr. Ian Hansen and students, faculty and administrators were moved by the experience

profile figures take part, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and took five days to complete. It started in Selma and ended in Montgomery, the state capitol. It was a great success and eventually moved President Lyndon B. Johnson to sign the Voting Rights Act in August 1965.

The York students attended many of the Jubilee events. These included the Freedom Trail historical tour, the Jubilee Street Festival and Freedom Flame Awards Gala. They also took part in several discussions and a unity breakfast.

"I am very grateful I got to see how much people sacrificed their lives and fought for their rights," said Shaikh

Amin, York Student Government president who was on the trip. "I see students at York take certain opportunities for granted, but going to Selma showed us we should appreciate the little things. Not only did we touch history, but we're now part of it, too."

The experience literally brought Fatima Mabrouk to her knees.

"To be there first of all meeting the foot soldiers was such an honor," said Mabrouk, an Egyptian-American majoring in Social Work. "There was an 86 year-old woman...I couldn't even stand up to talk to her. I was kneeling. I told her 'Thank you!' She started to cry. She

took my face in her hands. I was in the moment. Now I have to take on issues."

The honor of capturing the five-day trip in pictures was given to York Communications Technology major/Studio Art minor, McAlexander Ciceron, and he was both thrilled and humbled by the experience.

"The last picture I took was of John Lewis," he said. "Goose bumps happened to me. Goose bumps happened to me the whole trip. Everything we went through to get there was working. We didn't have to worry about getting beaten, getting killed. We got there on buses with toilets...!" ■



Hoisting York's name at the march



York Student Rachelle Antoine with Civil Rights icon Rep. John Lewis



The Empress Has No Clothes: Conquering the Imposter Syndrome

by Selena T. Rodgers

On March 25, 2015, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, was invited by Ms. Ebonie Jackson, Manager of the YC Women's Center, to join the 2015 Women's History Month Colloquium, *The Imposter Syndrome*. Joyce M. Roché, featured keynote and author of *The Empress Has No Clothes: Conquering Self-doubt to Embrace Success*, CUNY Trustee & President CEO of Legal Momentum Carol A. Robles-Roman, and journalism student Allyson Gill engaged the packed room of attendees in a lively discussion.

Psychologists Dr. Pauline Rose Clance and Suzanne Imes coined the term "im-

poster phenomenon" to designate an internal experience of intellectual phoniness which they identified as particularly prevalent in high-achieving women. Dr. Rodgers emphasized the importance of changing the empirical language to emphasize positive narratives to overcome feelings of the

"imposter syndrome." She also discussed additional barriers which can foster feelings of extreme self-doubt, eloquently discussed in Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs and Yolanda Flores Niemann (Eds.) book, *Presumed Incompetent: The Intersection of Race and Class for Women in Academia*.



From left to right: Joyce M. Roché, Carol Robles-Roman, Ebonie Jackson, Selena T. Rodgers and Allyson Gill

York 'Woman in STEM' Host Symposium

By **TERANDEROSE RUSSELL**, York Journalism Student

This year's Women's History Month provided many opportunities to focus on women and careers. It is to this end that a group of York College women professors in Science, Technology, [Engineering] and Mathematics (STEM), recently conducted "The Woman in STEM Symposium," an event geared toward encouraging more women to choose the path of STEM occupations.



Dr. Yolanda Small



Dr. Elizabeth Alter

Speakers at the March 26th event—held in the African American Resource Center—included Dr. Freya Pritchard, a mathematics and computer Science specialist at York College; Dr. Yolanda A. Small, a chemistry professor at York and the CUNY Graduate



Dr. Shweta Jain

Center; Dr. Elizabeth Alter, who teaches biology at York and the Graduate Center; Dr. Shweta Jain, a mathematics and computer science specialist at York and the Graduate Center; and guest speaker Dr. Susan L. Epstein, professor of computer science at CUNY's Hunter College and The Graduate Center.

Dr. Epstein specializes in research using various fields of interest such as psychology, geography, linguistics, robotics and urban planning in her research and problem-solving methods.



Dr. Susan Epstein

Epstein brought a level of excitement by explaining her research in artificial intelligence. She ex-

plained how she used the simple commonly known game tic-tac-toe and how it led to discoveries about robots and people.

Dr. Jain also explained the lack of persistent engagement by women in STEM. "STEM is like a leaky pipeline, for women," said Jain. "We start early in elementary school and middle school; then by early retirement most of us leave."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Women in the Labor Force: A Datebook*, 2014, women make up 47% of the workforce, but are greatly under-represented in STEM occupations.

Women make up 39% of chemists and material scientists, 27.9% of environmental scientists and geoscientists, 15.6% of chemical engineers, 12.1% of civil engineers, 8.3% of electrical and electronics engineers, 17.2% of industrial engineers, and 7.2% of mechanical engineers.

STEM is also a feature of President Barack Obama's policy on immigration and a focus of economic growth and stability since the decline in US manufacturing jobs. ■

Social Work Paves the Way for Change

by Selena T. Rodgers

In 1984, The White House officially established March as National Professional Social Work Month. Each March, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, an Assistant Professor of the Social Work Department and Faculty Advisor for the Social Work Empowering and Encouraging Together (S.W.E.E.T.) Club, joins together with student scholars and colleagues to organize diverse activities that recognize, celebrate, and promote social work. In honor of the National Association of Social Workers 60th anniversary, the 2015 Social Work Month theme is “Social Work Paves the Way for Change.” This year’s events focused on opportunities in which student scholars were able to enrich their knowledge and skills in areas embedded throughout the Code of Ethics Preamble of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW, 1996; 2008)—service, importance of human relationships, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, and competence. In service, Dr. Rodgers and S.W.E.E.T. club members volunteered their time on Saturdays to engage older adults who attend the Technology Learning Center at Rochdale Village. It is aimed at helping the technology users gain digital knowledge and improve cognitive functioning, as well as restore and strengthen inter-

generational human relationships using social media.

On March 3, 2015, 32 York student scholars, social work faculty, Professors Rodgers and George-Moses, and York College President Dr. Marcia V. Keizs participated in the Social Work Annual Legislative Day in Albany, NY to advocate for social justice with several honorable elected officials—New York State (NYS) Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook, NYS Assemblywoman Michele Titus, NYS Senator Leroy Comrie, NYS Assembly Member William Scarborough and NYS Assemblywoman Bar-

bara Clark. During scheduled meetings with elected officials, student scholars advocated for social justice initiatives, including an increase in New York City and New York State minimum wage and loan forgiveness for social workers. The York delegation also urged NYS elected officials to restore and allocate funding for critical resources identified as York College/CUNY 2015-2016 State Budget Priorities—the Black Male Initiative, childcare, and the York College Academic Village/Conference Center to support state-of-the-art space for students.

On March 12, 2015, S.W.E.E.T. held its annual Social Work Graduate School

continued on opposite page ►



9th Annual Social Work Lobby Day with Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, Albany, NY, March 3, 2015



Social Work Selma Scholars, Bridge Crossing Jubilee, Selma, AL, March 4 - 9, 2015



MSW Graduate Fair at York College, CUNY, March 12, 2015



Intergenerational Technology Learning at Rochdale Village, Inc., March 21, 2015

Fair. The event included representatives from Social Work graduate schools in the Tri-state area, who offered brief highlights about their academic establishments and enrollment guidelines to prospective student scholars. The fair was well attended by baccalaureate student scholars who diligently strive to enhance their level of competence and expertise and the faculty members from the Department of Social Work. The Department is proud to report that several student scholars have been accepted into M.S.W. programs at Hunter College, CUNY (Silberman School of Social Work), NYU Silver School of So-



32nd Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations, March 23, 2015

cial Work, Fordham University School of Social Work, Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare and Adelphi University School of Social Work.

On March 23, 2015, U.S. Fulbright Scholars, Specialist Program—Dr. Linda Wermeling (Associate Professor, Northern Kentucky University) and Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor, York College/CUNY)—along with 11 student scholars enrolled in Introduction to Social Work, Social Welfare Programs and Social Work Generalist Practice III—attended the 32nd Annual Social Work

Day at the United Nations, New York, NY. Student scholars, social workers, and educators filled a large meeting room at the United Nations. The well-attended themed event—“Advocating for Dignity and Worth of All People,” a half-day of panel discussions—celebrated the accomplishments of social workers globally as well as raised awareness about critical issues and initiatives worldwide. York attendees had the opportunity to meet and take a picture with National Association of Social Workers Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Angelo McCain. ■

President Keizs Feted on 10th Anniversary

It was a misty spring evening when faculty, staff and friends gathered at Resorts World Casino to salute Dr. Marcia V. Keizs on her 10th anniversary as president of York College.

Emceed by Jacqueline Arrington, a former York Foundation Board member, the event, held in the Casino complex, gave President Keizs the opportunity to acknowledge founding and early faculty members such as Dr. Robert Parmet and Dr. Howard Ruttenberg (both from History and Philosophy), as well as newer faculty scholars.

Introduced by Jonetta Moody, a York student fresh off a trip to commemorate Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, Presi-

dent Keizs noted that among her most important achievements are her graduates.

“In 10 years’ worth of graduations we have sent nearly 10,000 students into the job market; to medical schools, law schools, schools of social work; journalism schools, MBA programs; and so much more,” said Dr. Keizs. “Some have returned to visit and share their success; others write or connect with us on Facebook, but these last 10 years have been among the most rewarding of my career.”

Among the guest speakers at the March 25th event, were CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken; the Rev. Dr. Floyd H. Flake, senior pastor of Allen AME Church; and Carlisle Towery, out-going president of



Michelle Stoddart, Jonetta Moody, Rev. Floyd Flake, Chancellor James Milliken, Jacqueline Arrington, and Carlisle Towery during the celebration for Dr. Keizs’ 10th anniversary as president of York College

the Greater Jamaica Development Corp. Several York Foundation Board members were in attendance as well. ■



Community Health Scholar Studies Abroad and Envisions Global Health Career

Among York's busiest and brightest seniors this year is Community Health major Malika Jones, who recently returned from a study-abroad experience in the Dominican Republic.

Jones, who studied there under the temporary mentorship of Dr. David Simmons, a professor based at the University of South Carolina, is glad she took advantage of the resources of international research.

"This experience has definitely strengthened my resolve to pursue a career in global public health and [to work] to improve communities in underserved areas," said Jones. "My research is 'The Global Challenge of Water and Public Health.' When I visited the bateyes [Haitian ghettos in the Dominican Republic] where Haitian migrant workers live, I was able to interview many people to test their knowledge of what is clean water. They told me, 'clear water.' But that doesn't take into account any microbes that could be in the water."

Jones, York's Thurgood Marshall College Fund ambassador, visited five different bateyes, comprised of "very, very



poor people," many of them hold-overs or decedents of Haiti's immigrant workers from the island's sugar plantation past. Many of them were born there but still don't enjoy full citizenship due to discriminatory laws.

"Everybody should get this experience," said Jones of her international experience. "It is socially, academically and personally enriching. There is no substitute for experiencing a new environment. It is enriching in all aspects and forced me to grow beyond my comfort zone."

Jones got other bonuses from the experience as well.

"It has allowed me to see the value in what I am studying," said Jones, who is president of York's Health Promotion Club. "I'm studying in a global context and learning (or enhancing) another language. My Spanish has really improved."

Jones' study abroad was funded in part by York College and allowed her to see the problems of the community where she did her research through the eyes of another young person.

"You speak to a community leader and you find out what they don't want,"

she noted. "I spoke to a young man, an activist, and he told me, 'we don't want to be given food nor clothes. We want education.' It is the only thing that is going to produce sustainable change. You empower them to exercise their own personal agency."

Dr. David Ajuluchukwu, Chairperson of Health and Physical Education and Gerontological Studies and Services in York's School of Health and Behavioral Sciences, is pleased with his star pupil's success.

"Malika Jones is exceptional as a leader both in academics and in service," said Dr. Ajuluchukwu. "She has also turned out to be an excellent researcher, who is very dedicated. I strongly believe that she will be an asset to her discipline and will be making tremendous contributions to her community and the world. She is the kind of student who will always be an ambassador for York College."

Jones, who is president of the York College chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, Epsilon Lambda, started a partnership with the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) for York and will graduate in May 2015. She plans to postpone graduate school for a year so she can pursue a research fellowship and study to pass the certification test in community health. ■

Selma Revisited

Upon their return to campus, Dr. Ron Daniels, who organized and led the York contingency on the Selma anniversary march, conducted a debriefing session for the college community. Titled "Selma: Beyond the Bridge," the event gave participants the opportunity to reflect on their experience. Participating students invariably expressed gratitude for having had the opportunity to go to Selma and experience the 50th anniversary observance. They all in one way or another said it was a transformative experience that will impact their lives and community activities for the rest of their lives. ■



On Tuesday, March 31, Selma pilgrimage participants discussed how to extend their trip experience into the future.

2015 Innovators of Change

On March 18, 2015, J. Walter Thompson New York held the 5th Innovators of Change Documentary Screening and Awards event in celebration of Black History. Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor in the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs, Department of Social Work, was one of the five invited cast members. "To be an innovator of change you must be willing to change yourself and what's around you to make impactful change in others. All of the 2015 Innovators of Change have done this with incredible grace, style and courage. I am eternally grateful to these individuals and for the position I'm in to highlight the achievements and stories of positive people of color," said Keni Thacker, Executive Producer for Differenter at J. Walter Thompson. The 2015 Innovators of Change Documentary is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-EtOLpJWYE> ■



Innovators of Change Cast: Francis Carrero (Torch Program), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College/CUNY), Quentin Walcott (CONNECT), Manoj Raghunandan (Johnson & Johnson), Meschida Philip (J. Walter Thompson) and Keni Thacker (J. Walter Thompson)

Kudos!

To **Earl Simons** on the successful completion of his doctorate degree. He is now Earl Simons, Ed.D.



York College Theatre &
The Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center

SPRING 2015

Produced by
MATTHEW KATZ

Directed by
TIMOTHY J. AMRHEIN

Musical Direction by
JONATHAN QUASH

Choreography by
LISA HILLIARD

ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE'S



AIDA
THE TIMELESS LOVE STORY

Music by
Elton John

Book by
Linda Woolverton
and
Robert Falls & David Henry Hwang

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

May 1 at 7pm
May 2 at 7pm
May 3 at 3pm

May 5 at 12pm
May 8 at 7pm
May 9 at 7pm

May 10 at 3pm

TICKETS:
General Admission - \$20
Group Sales - \$15
Students/Seniors - \$10

BOX OFFICE: 718-262-2840
For more information call or visit
us online at www.AIDAatYork.com

YORK College

Borough President Melinda Katz Celebrates Black Heritage at York College

By **ANDREW P. JACKSON** (Sekou Molefi Baako) and **SELENA T. RODGERS**

If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile traditions, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and stands in danger of being exterminated

CARTER G. WOODSON (1875-1950)

On February 23, 2015, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Deputy Borough President Melva M. Miller, the African American Heritage Committee, co-sponsors and guests, came together to honor African American student scholar recipients and outstanding community members during the Black History Month celebration at York College, CUNY. York Alumnus '90, Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) served as the Master of Ceremonies for this exquisite occasion. Borough President Katz bestowed Jackson—Adjunct Lecturer in Black Studies and Cultural Diversity at York College and Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, the Executive Director of Queens Library's Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center—with the Lifetime Achievement Award in "recognition and appreciation of his lifetime dedication to African history and culture, and his work as an activist librarian, and in celebration of African American Heritage Month 2015." Professor Jackson acknowledged the role that York College, Queens College and the Langston Hughes Library have played in his professional development, passion to serve the Queens community and dedication to education as a vehicle to transform students into change agents.

Adorned in her sacred African attire, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College/CUNY received the Education Award for her

"achievement and commitment to the educational advancement of Queens and African American Heritage Month 2015." During her acceptance speech, Dr. Rodgers addressed the audience and expressed an abundance of gratitude to the village of elders, family, friends, alumni, student scholars and community members for their extraordinary support. Dr. Rodgers affirmed her purposeful vision to cultivate and edify the rich legacy of Blacks in America, across the nation and throughout global societies.

Professors Jackson and Rodgers also received certificates of recognition from Senator Leroy G. Comrie in acknowledgment of their "leadership and commitment to the community." The honor-

ees were pleased to have an outpouring of support from York administrators—Provost Panayiotis Meleties, Vice President Ronald C. Thomas, Associate Dean Vincent Banrey (Office of Student Development), Dean Lynne W. Clark (School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs), Dean Donna Chirico (School of Arts and Sciences), Director of Government and Community Relations Earl G. Simons (Office of the President)—at the standing-room-only merriment gathering. As an investment in student scholars, co-sponsors—Citi-Bank Community Development, Con Edison of New York, Cricket Wireless, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Queens Alumnae Chapter, Jamaica YMCA, Jet-Blue, Queens Youth & Senior Funding Corp—awarded eight (8) scholarships. York Early College Academy (YECA) Mekai Ruddock and Asia Matthews were among the African American History essay scholarship recipients. ■



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz with York Honorees Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) and Dr. Selena T. Rodgers

York College Social Work Alumni & DSM-5 Training

Social Work Alumni returned to York on this past fall for a York College Alumni Association, Inc. sponsored training facilitated by Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health and Professional Programs at York College, City University of New York. “A 7-hour training to view and discuss Dr. David Mays’ video, *Using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5®) for Effective Assessment and Treatment*, was a perfect opportunity to reconnect and reinvest in our students’ professional development by sharing job announcements, peer-reviewed articles, social work labor statistics, York updates and reinforce our mission to the profession to uphold social justice” noted Dr. Rodgers. All participants were highly attentive and engaged in discussions. In addition, the training provided an opportunity for attendees to engage in impactful conversations about the implications of the DSM-5 for culturally diverse populations, trends in diagnosing and lack of strengths-based approaches. Four student scholars enrolled in Dr. Rodgers’ *Social Research II* class also participated in the service-learning training. One student scholar, Kristina Nickoless said, “This training has sparked my interest to pursue practice-informed research using the DSM-5.” Ms. Nickoless, President of York College Social Work Empowering & Encouraging Together Club was accepted to New York University, Silver School of Social Work MSW program for fall 2015. Other participants found the video infor-



Social Work Alumni, Social Work Supervisor and Social Research II Student Scholars

mative and appreciated the opportunity to process each section of the video with attendees. Social work educators reported that they found the training especially relevant, because it informed their practice, scholarship and accountability to their nationally recognized, accrediting body—Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)—to help students master core competencies, pass the NYS Social Work License examination and emerge as leaders to meet the demands and social issues of the 21st Century.

Notably, the forecast for the social work profession looks bright. Hanover Research website found that social work is among the most popular master’s degrees nationally. According to CUNYFirst data, a robust 880 students graduated from York’s social work program over its 30 plus year history (summer ’85- summer ’14). Among its legacy and promise and in attendance at the DSM-5 training were alumni—Artis Harry ’09, Lystra Lessey ’09, Daicia James ’09, Elaine Co-

per ’10, Toni Luck ’11, Kamau McDonald ’13, Kimiesha Mcleish ’11, Lachancha Moor ’14, and faculty alumnae from earlier years. Several workshop participants have gone on to earn MSW degrees from Adelphi University, Columbia University, Hunter College/CUNY, Lehman College/CUNY Fordham University, with a handful of them passing the licensing exam. Countless York Alumni have made a significant contribution to the labor force. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.

Among the attendees at the DSM-5 training were York College, CUNY alumnae and part-time social work faculty members: Nicole Benjamin ’94, Parthenia Brown ’85 and Rana Ryan-Begin ’93 teach a variety of social work courses. Between offering their clinical expertise and commentary about the DSM-5, the dedicated alumni/faculty pledged continued support to students and their alma mater. Professors Benjamin, Brown and Ryan-Begin echoed their appreciation for York’s nurturing environment and their valued education, which provided the foundation for their careers.

The success of this training was not accomplished alone. Professor Rodgers offers a heartfelt thanks to Michelle D. Mack, President of the York Alumni Association, Inc. and members for their sponsorship as well as other volunteers who contributed their time to help organize this training. ■



Dr. Rodgers and Social Work Alumni/Part-time Faculty



Spring 2015 CETL Workshops and Presentations

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Thursday, Feb 26</p> <p>WORKSHOP</p> <p>12 – 1:45pm</p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> | <p><i>Strategies for Encouraging Academic Integrity: Keep Calm and Prevent Plagiarism</i></p> <p>PRESENTERS: Writing Across the Curriculum York Writing Fellows</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Mar 12</p> <p>PANEL</p> <p>12 – 1:45pm</p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> | <p><i>Tenure Track/Parent Track</i></p> <p>PANELISTS: Heather Robinson, English</p> <p>Timothy Amrhein, Performing & Fine Arts</p> <p>Laura Beaton, Biology</p> <p>Stephen Fearnley, Chemistry</p> <p>Elizabeth Meddeb, Foreign Languages</p> <p>Michael B. Smith, Performing & Fine Arts</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Mar 26</p> <p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>12 – 1:45pm</p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> | <p><i>Using the Learning Sciences and Design-Based Research to Develop Undergraduate Research Experiences in the Classroom</i></p> <p>PRESENTER: Robert Duncan, Behavioral Sciences</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Apr 30</p> <p>WORKSHOP</p> <p>12 – 1:45pm</p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> | <p><i>Simulation as Teaching Pedagogy: Implementation and Evaluation</i></p> <p>FACILITATORS: Renee Wright, Nursing</p> <p>Lilly Mathew, Nursing</p> |



dare, discover, dream
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Kudos!

Congratulations to **Drs. Nazrul Khandaker, Stanley Schleifer, Alan R. Slaughter, Masud Ahmed, and Belal A. Sayeed** on their recent publication in the *Journal of Earth Sciences and Geotechnical Engineering*, vol. 5, no.14, 2015, p. 35-67.

The article, “Geoengineering Constraints on Foundation: Case Study from Queens, New York City, USA,” is accessible at http://www.sciencpress.com/Upload/GEO/Vol%205_1_3.pdf Complete with eye-catching photos and graphics, the paper deals with regional geologic information, coupled with geo-engineering and soil characterization aspects of a facility site to be developed by New York City Agency in Maspeth (40° 43’ 28” North, 73° 55’ 10” West), Queens. This current publication, deemed to be very comprehensive and thorough by many geotechnical personnel, was certainly aligned with the geology

discipline’s overall mission pertaining to imparting practical and field-based knowledge on what’s happening with the geosciences as related to Urban Geology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Selena T. Rodgers** (Social Work) on being selected by Queens Borough President Melinda Katz’s African-American Heritage Committee to receive the Education Award at the Annual Black History Month celebration!

“Your unique contributions and dedicated service to the Queens community make you an especially worthy honoree,” the announcement states.

Borough President Katz will present Dr. Rodgers with a Citation of Honor during the program, which will be held in the Faculty Dining Room at York College on February 23 at 6 pm.

Ray Rice Tape Serves as Catalyst for York's Latest Anti-Domestic Violence Forum

By **ALMA SACASA**, York Journalism Major

The Ray Rice domestic violence video inspired a town hall meeting at York College with a diverse group of women including York Psychology Professors Donna Chirico, Kathariya Mokruue, Social Work professor Selena T. Rodgers; and special guests Tanya McLeod, of Voices of Women Organizing Project; actress Madeline McCray, and author and activist Terrie M. Williams.

Moderated by Dr. Ron Daniels, York Distinguished Lecturer in Political Science, the event covered many facets of the problem. According to Safe Horizon's website, one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.

McLeod, a domestic violence survivor, says victims remain in the home with their abusers because they are either in love or have nowhere to go because their abusers are the breadwinners, thus making it harder for them to fight back and leave at any time.

The panel's advice to victims was plenty, but the main one was that they shouldn't just leave the abusers for their own safety, but also for their family's as well.

During the question and answer portion, audience members shared their own experiences or expressed outrage that domestic violence continues. One young man admitted to having been violent with his significant other. He

was cheered for his bravery in publicly admitting such an ugly secret; and applauded for taking the first step in stopping; as well as showing his child what a loving relationship without violence is, as McCloud and others observed.

"What is going on in a child's life seeing abuse and seeing the rage [that leads to one parent abusing the other] comes out later on in their life" said the actress Madeline McCray.

There are other perceived consequences for the children as well. Another young man at the forum explained that he had a stuttering problem, which he believed developed as a result of witnessing his father abusing his mother. He said it gave him conflicting feelings because here was a man he loved, and who gave him whatever he wanted, but was hurting his mother.

"Anger is not the only issue," said Dr. Kathariya Mokruue. "Men are able to manage their anger in certain situations."

Panelist Terrie M. Williams agrees.

"We often ask 'what's wrong with that person,'" said Williams, a social activist and author of the seminal *Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting*. "But the real question we should be asking is 'what happened to that person' because it tells us the real history."

Often time the issue of domestic violence is seen as something only women go through. But there are many men suffering through abuse as well. Men are victims of nearly three million physical assaults as stated on the Safe Horizon website. However, shame keeps them from speaking out.

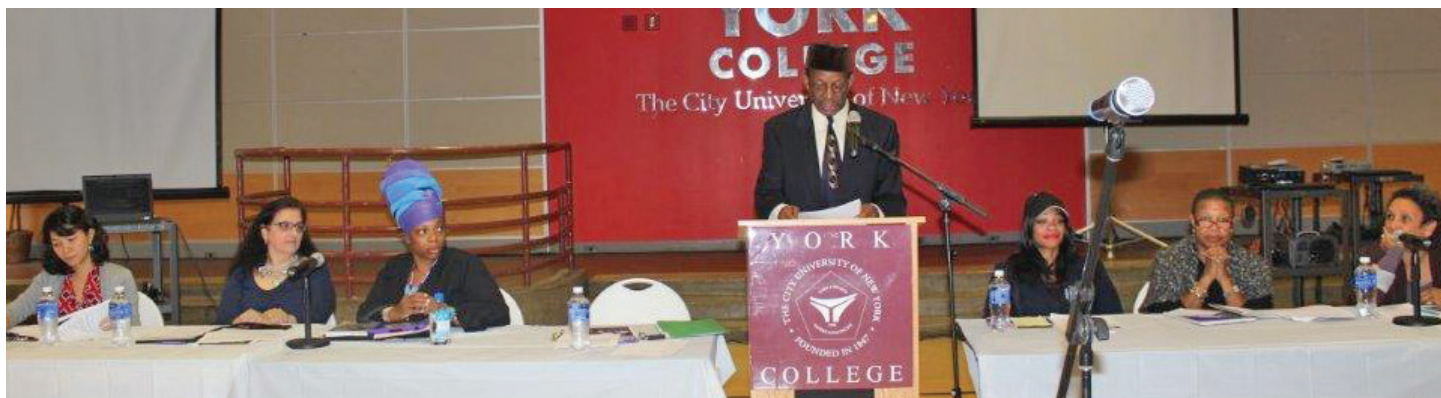
Domestic violence has always been a part of society's secret.

"What has changed in 2014 is social media's involvement in domestic violence by shutting down communication between caregivers and children," said Dr. Chirico, who in addition to being a Psychology professor, is currently serving as the Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences for York. "We must talk to children because we are losing the opportunity to connect to the next generation and help them understand that violence is not acceptable."

Held on October 21, the well-attended event, which took place in the Atrium of the Academic Core Building, took advantage of the fact that October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month. This fact was not lost on Dr. Rodgers.

"Just because it's October doesn't mean it's the only time we should advocate against domestic violence," said Dr. Rodgers, a Social Work professor and Fulbright Specialist award-winner. It (domestic violence) happens all the time. We have to rise up people!"

Safe Horizon is one of the largest victims' services agencies in the United States and their mission is to provide support, prevent violence and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse. ■



L to R: Dr. Kathariya Mokruue, Dr. Donna Chirico, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Ron Daniels (podium), Tanya McLeod, Terrie M. Williams and Madeline McCray

CUNY Chancellor Milliken Hosts York Fulbright Awardees

Dr. Linda Gerena, Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at York College, Dr. Linda Perry, Associate Professor in the Department of Business and Economics and Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, commemorated Veterans Day by attending a reception for the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) who sponsored Fulbright program Scholars, Specialist and Students at CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken's residence, in New York City. It was an opportunity to meet other Fulbright awardees, and to share information on the vast array of research studies and academic projects that have been supported by the Fulbright program.

Approximately 85 participants across the 24 CUNY institutions attended the reception in honor of CUNY Fulbright recipients.

Another highlight of the celebration was to receive acknowledgement from Chancellor Milliken who tweeted a photo which captured three York College Fulbright awardees—Gerena, Perry and Rodgers. The Chancellor's tweet certainly helps raise the visibility of York College. York College, CUNY faculty from the School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs and School of Business and Informational Systems are On The Move... For three consecutive academic years: 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, respectively, York college faculty members have won the prestigious United States designation as Fulbright Scholars and Specialists. They have represented their respective disciplines, schools, the college and university locally, nationally and globally.

In 2011-2012, Dr. Linda Gerena was a Senior Scholar in residence in Madrid, Spain and worked collaboratively with



From left to right: Dr. Linda Gerena (Associate Professor, Teacher Education), CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken, Dr. Linda Perry (Associate Professor, Business and Economics), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor, Social Work)

the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid researching bilingualism and bilingual educational programs in the Community of Madrid's public schools. Dr. Gerena's research agenda was to investigate perceptions of bilingualism, and to record evidences of program quality and instructional effectiveness. Dr. Gerena's research included school observational visits, electronic surveys, and teacher, assistant, administrator and student interviews. To accomplish this, original electronic surveys, a classroom observational, and interview protocols were developed. Dr. Gerena has published two peer reviewed academic journal articles based on this research, with a third article entitled *Voices of Bilingualism: A Case Study of Bilingual Learners in Madrid, Spain*, currently in progress.

During the inaugural Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) sponsored Research Delegation in 2011 to Cuba, WI, a fortuitous conversation occurred between Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Vadim Moldovan, Associate Professor at York concerning Cuba

and the Republic of Moldova political and economic reforms. The aforementioned occurrence led to Dr. Rodgers spending the summer of 2013 as a U.S. Scholar participating in the Fulbright Specialist program at Free International University (ULIM) of Moldova in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova. Professor Rodgers provided co-training and workshops to the ULIM faculty, and administrators. Also participating in the workshop was the Minister of Labor and the Social Protection and the Family Republic. A Fulbright Specialist, Professor Rodgers piloted courses with two Moldovan cohorts and students who participated in the York/CUNY summer 2013 Study Aboard program in Moldova; Dr. Rodgers concurrently participated in a co-teaching curriculum between Moldavian and U.S. Faculty. Her peer-reviewed article entitled, "Trauma pipeline in baccalaureate social work students enrolled in field education at urban public colleges" published in *The National Journal of Urban Education* &

continued on opposite page ►

Practice: Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education, Special Edition, 6(3), 174-187 was designated as one of the readings for the Global Social Work: Multiculturalism, Trauma and Posttraumatic Growth course. A subsequent article written by Dr. Rodgers, entitled, "Posttraumatic growth" in: C. Franklin (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Work Online (ESWO)*, 21th Edition published by NASW Press and Oxford University Press, Inc. was added to the course readings. The readings were used as a means to help raise awareness for tolerance and respect for difference about cross-cultural trauma experiences and strengthened-based responses.

Dr. Rodgers has lectured about her Fulbright endeavor at professional conferences and universities which span four continents—Africa, Australia, Europe and North America. She serves as an invited peer-reviewer for the Romanian - U.S. Fulbright Commission. Ad-

ditional information about Dr. Rodgers' global agenda and other professional endeavors is available at: <https://www.york.cuny.edu/Members/srogers>.

During the academic year 2013-2014, Dr. Linda Perry and Dr. Vadim Moldovan were awarded Fulbright designations. Dr. Moldovan, Associate Professor of Social Work, is completing his Fulbright Scholar assignment in Moldova, Eastern Europe. Dr. Linda Perry, Assistant Professor of Business and Economics, hopes to complete her Fulbright Specialist assignment at the University of Oviedo in northern Spain to help develop academic courses in marketing during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Committed to sustaining a robust Fulbright legacy at York College, Professors' Gerena, Perry and Rodgers are exploring mentoring alliances to help cultivate a rich cross-disciplinary group of students

and professors who express an interest in global opportunities. "Dr. Rodgers encouraged me to move forward on my application for the Fulbright and assisted me in doing so. I would welcome the opportunity to assist other faculty members and students in that way so we can have even more awardees in the coming years" commented Professor Perry.

York College Fulbright awardees wish to express their sincerest gratitude to CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken and Nana Smith for hosting and honoring CUNY faculty and student Fulbright recipients. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues from across the 24 CUNY campus University. To learn more about Fulbright programs, visit: <http://www.iie.org/fulbright>. ■

Submitted by Dr. Selena T. Rodgers

Chinese Delegation Visits York for Fraud Prevention Seminar

A delegation of nearly two dozen high-level Chinese government officials recently participated in a three-day seminar at York College, learning from York experts.

The seminar, "Government Procurement Procedure and Fraud Prevention," was led by Accounting Professor Mary-Jo Kranacher, a specialist in fraud and forensic accounting; and Professor Chiao-Han Lin of the Business and Economics Department.

But the visiting dignitaries were not the only ones who gained from the experience arranged by Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College. Teachers learned as well.

"It was certainly a learning experience for me, said Kranacher. "I shared my knowledge of fraud prevention and I learned a lot about Chinese culture."

The group took time out of their training to visit with President Marcia V. Keizs, who told them through an in-

terpreter, about her time as a Fulbright Scholar in China in the early 2000s. Acting Provost Panayiotis Meleties and Vice President Ronald C. Thomas also met with the group to extend greetings from the broader York Community.

The visit to York was inspired by a trip Dr. Hsu made last year to the China Annual Conference for International Education and Expo 2013, where he was one of more than 30,000 attendees. Hsu made a presentation about York and mentioned several of the college's special

programs: Aviation Management, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Finance; and Accounting and Fraud Prevention. Members of the Chinese government were interested in the subject areas but chose Fraud Prevention as the first foray into their York experience.

"When I went to the conference in China, my purpose was to increase York's visibility," said Dr. Hsu. "[But] this didn't just increase our visibility. It shows our students that our teaching quality has been recognized internationally." ■



Seated: Professor Chiao-Han Lin, President Marcia V. Keizs and Professor Mary-Jo Kranacher With Chinese officials at York

Intergenerational Technology Sharing: It Takes A Village

On November 14, 2014, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences and Professional Programs at York College, City University of New York (CUNY) and the York College Empowering & Encouraging Together (YC SWEET) Club attended the Rochdale Village Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to commemorate the official launch of the newly upgraded *Computer Technology Learning Center* dedicated to Rochdale Village Community by NYS State Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook. York College social work alumnae, Elaine Cooper '10, Nirquette Guillaume '04, and Nadine Robinson '04 were among the attendees (NORC Social Workers). Ms. Guillaume and Ms. Robinson have since earned their Master's Degrees in social work from Stony Brook University.

In her multifaceted roles—Educator, Faculty Advisor to YC SWEET Club, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R), Researcher, Rochdale Village resident—Professor Rodgers has helped uphold and strengthen the professional and collaborative partnership between two pillars in the Queens Community, Rochdale Village: The Jewel of Jamaica (second largest housing cooperative in the United States) and York College of the City University of New York (CUNY), which is the largest university system in the world. “My service to York College, CUNY is rooted in social work values which link student academic excellence with rigorous classroom and experiential learning to urban and global communities,” said Dr. Rodgers. Affirmed by an intergenerational, technological sharing initiative—which began in 2013—Sherba Austin, Director of Rochdale Village (NORC) and Dr. Rodgers collaborated to recruit students to volunteer and provide technology instruction (emailing, texting and Smartphone interfacing) to Rochdale NORC older adults. Social work alumni, Dania William '14 and Jason Brooks '14 were the first to volunteer. Later the same year, Mr. Brooks began his internship at Rochdale Village NORC. Concurrently,



Back row left to right: YC SWEET Faculty Advisor, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, York College Social Work Alumnae/Rochdale NORC Social Workers, NORC Director Sherba Austin and YC SWEET Club members (seated) wearing apparel donated by York College Student Development

Ms. Austin and Rochdale Village Social Services, Inc. President John C. Scott remained indefatigable in their efforts to secure state funding to bring existing computers into the 21st century. In July 2013, they were approved for a NYS Capital Grant.

Intergenerational Technology Sharing: It Takes a Village! York College social work faculty member and students, Rochdale Village, Inc. Board Members, Rochdale Village Social Service Board Directors, community partner stakeholders, representatives from NYS Senator James Sanders Jr. office and other notable New York elected officials—Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, NYS Senator Elect Leroy Comrie, Councilmember Rubin Wills—applauded the Honorable New York State Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook for her approval of NYS Capital Funds to replace outdated computers in the Senior Center computer lab and the New Technology Learning Center. The program has since expanded to also target Rochdale Village afterschool youth.

A very important highlight of this momentous celebration was the salute

to Assemblywoman Cook with a beautiful wall plaque honoring her steadfast support to Rochdale Village. ■

Watch for York's Winter Health Campaign Posters Around Campus



Global Social Work is on the move ...



Dr. Rodgers presenting at Joint World Conference in Melbourne



Posing at the United Nations: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Angelo McClain (National Association of Social Workers Chief Executive Officer), and YC social work students

On July 11, 2014, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Fulbright Specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Social Work, presented her paper titled, "Fulbright Specialist's Report on revising social work education in Europe's most impoverished country: Global perspectives, post-Soviet pedagogies, curriculum development" at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development: Promoting Social and Economic Equity, held in Melbourne – originally called Kulin Nation by Aborigines of Australia.

According to the Organizing Committee, 1,500 social work and social development practitioners, researchers, educators and consumers from the international

community attended the conference.

Another significant reason for Dr. Rodgers' travel to Australia in July 2014 was to attend the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) General Assembly and IASSW North America and Caribbean Regional meeting, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. As an individual member of IASSW and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), Dr. Rodgers and other members exercised their vote at these historical meetings which approved the Global Definition of Social Work. To read the approved definition, please visit: <http://ifsw.org/get-involved/global-definition-of-social-work/>

Dr. Rodgers' work on

Global Social Work situates well with experiential learning opportunities for York College students.

On April 28, 2014, Professor Rodgers and students who were enrolled in her Introduction to Social Work and Social Research II classes attended the 31st Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations. Students enthusiastically shared their experiences about the 2014 conference theme, Social Work Practice and Education: Voices on the Post-2015 Development Agenda with classmates. Rodgers affirms that she will continue to provide students with innovative learning opportunities and sustainable knowledge that will help contribute to communities locally, nationally, and globally.

York Students at 3rd Annual Westchester Undergraduate Research Conference

Mercy College recently hosted the 3rd Annual Westchester Undergraduate Research Conference, sponsored by Manhattanville College and Mercy College, and York College Geology and Environmental Health Science

students were in the mix. The event showcased the outstanding original research and service learning projects that undergraduates from two- and four-year colleges undertook under the direction and mentorship of dedi-

cated faculty members. The conference opened up with guest-speaker Dr. Stephanie Le Melle, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University, who provided insight about proper ca-

cont.'d on p.17

Fulbrighters Present at Social Work Conference

On March 20, 2014, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor of social work and Dr. Linda Wermeling, associate professor at Northern Kentucky University co-presented about their Fulbright Specialist experience. The professors of social work spoke at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD) 2014 Annual Conference of the Association of Social Work held in Louisville, Kentucky.

The conference theme was "The Changing World and the Face of Social Work Education." Drs. Rodgers and Wermeling's paper was entitled "The World of Moldova: Social Work Education in a Transitional Political Climate." Both are internationally recognized social work scholars and educators and have won the designation of Fulbright Specialists. They

spoke about their experiences with the University of Havana, Cuba and the Free International University of Moldova. The workshop described their research in Cuba and their consultations in the Republic of Moldova.

Dr. Rodgers was invited as a Fulbright Specialist lecturer to two international universities – Free International University (ULIM), Moldova, and North-West University, South Africa.

Following standards defined by *The International Association of Schools of Social Work* (IASSW) Curricula Competencies, *The European Qualifications Framework* (EQF) for Lifelong Learning, and the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (EAQAHE), Dr. Rodgers' talks have focused on providing co-training and workshops to ULIM faculty and administrators, and the

Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family. She has also piloted courses with two Moldovan cohorts and students who participated in the York/CUNY summer 2013 Study Aboard program in Moldova. In addition, Dr. Rodgers participated in a co-teaching curriculum between Moldovan and U.S. faculty. She provided overview of recommendations for course revisions provided to Dr. Vadim Moldovan, Founder and President of Project Casa Mare International Center for Advancement of Social Work in Countries with Transition Economies.

Since her designation as a Fulbright Specialist Awardee in 2013, Dr. Rodgers was invited by the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission to serve as a scientific consultant in Social Work for the ongoing Fulbright Senior Award competition.



Members of the Inaugural Council on Social Work Education (2012) Delegation to Cuba l to r: Sabrina W. Tyuse (Social Work Program Director, Saint Louis University), Linda Wermeling (Fulbright Specialist, Northern Kentucky University), Lucy A. Lawrence (Social Work Program Director, Warren Wilson College), Selena T. Rodgers (Fulbright Specialist, York College of The City University of New York)



Impressions from the 5th Undergraduate Research Day



Weaving a Tapestry of Dignity and Worth ...

On April 18, 2014 at Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor of social work presented her PSC-CUNY funded research project. The annual forum, the *National Association of Black Social Workers* (NABSW) 46th Annual Conference, was hosted in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Aligned with the conference's theme "An African Tapestry: The Blackprint for Physical, Psychosocial and Spiritual Wellness," Dr. Rodgers' research presentation titled, "‘You Don't Know Me...’ Black Women Perceptions of Contemporary Stereotypes" focused on African-centered models to answer questions associated with health and wellness, specifically, trauma-stressor exposures and posttraumatic growth outcomes identified by Black women who participated in the study.

During the presentation, Dr. Rodgers issued a call to action for the NABSW's Health and Wellness Committee and Political Action Task Forces to engage in discussions and issue a position statement tied to the importance of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – thus ensuring that Black women who exist at the intersection of multiple forms of oppression based on race and gender are included in global conversations and policy agendas.

Professor Rodgers is preparing several manuscripts to report study results and has recently received a PSC-CUNY award to explore potential relationships between stereotypic roles, mentoring, and posttraumatic growth in Black adolescent females.

Dr. Rodgers has remained steadfast in weaving a tapestry of dignity and worth at national and global levels.

In September 2013, Dr. Rodgers presented at the *National Association of Social Workers – South Africa*, in association with the *International Federation for Social Workers Voices for Development Conference*, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Anchored in the National Association Code of Ethics, Ensuring the Dignity and Worth of the Person, Rodgers' presentation titled "Ensuring Black Women are [A]part of the Global Agenda: Perceptions of Posttraumatic Growth in the Aftermath of Historical and Contemporary Trauma" emphasized the study's findings and a call to the international community to raise awareness about authentic respect and culturally-specific interventions when working with Black women who endure racial stereotypes and other forms of gendered and institutional racism.



Dr. Rodgers presenting her research findings

"I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence."

- Frederick Douglass

In the Field ... at Social Work Legislative Day

The journey to Social Work Legislative Day in Albany (NY) began much earlier than the bus departing York College at 6:30 a.m. It began with learning in the classroom!

For York's social work students, preparation for Legislative Day begins with a liberal arts education and core competencies embedded in the social work curriculum (accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education, 2014-2021). York College faculty members teach undergraduate social work classes – policy, practice, research, human behavior and social environment, and field education.

These courses help students prepare for lobby day by examining the Foster Care Independence Act (FICA) of 1999 effect on youth. Students are able to identify theories to understand adolescent development, identify evidence based practice models, as well as discover social policy and strategies for establishing coalitions among nonprofits within communities.

Preparation for lobby

day continued with the collective efforts of faculty, students and staff who volunteer their time outside the classroom. In mid-February 2014, Professor Crystal George-Moses engaged social work club officers – President LaChanda Moor and Vice President Amir Khan – engaged in initial conversations about their policy interests. Professor George-Moses also helped the officers identify relevant policy such as FICA, which outlines services available to adolescents. Professor George-Moses' mentoring was also a major contribution towards helping social work students pinpoint specific aspects of the Act that warrant nuanced attention and additional funding.

Ms. Moor used this helpful information to coordinate phone conferences with parent advocates and case planners who provide foster care services to youth aging out of care. Ms. Moor also spoke with a representative from *Represent Magazine*, a quarterly publication founded in 1993 to provide a voice for youth in foster care. In addition, Ms. Moor, alongside Mr. Khan,

conducted fundraising efforts to supplement the delegation's travel to lobby day in Albany, NY.

Subsequent trainings for students planning to attend lobby day were facilitated by Dr. Rodgers (via video conferencing), Mr. Amir Khan (Vice President, York College Social Work Club), Ms. Isabelle Hubert, and Mr. Earl Simons (York College Director of Government and Community Relations). Trainings provided an opportunity for students to frame their advocacy agenda and practice lobbying skills for their visits with NYS legislators.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Advocacy Toolkit was especially helpful with these efforts. The journey to Social Work Legislative Day in Albany every March ends with preparation for the next year. Social work faculty members use post-lobby day discussions during scheduled classes to assist students plan for another year of advocacy. York College social work courses enact poli-

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Dr. Selena Rodgers on the bus to Albany

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Social Work Students Lobby Day in Albany



R. to L.: New York State Senator James Sanders, Jr., President Dr. Marcia Keizs, York College Social Work Club Vice President Amir Khan, and York College Director of Government and Community Relations Earl Simons



Group picture of the student delegation in Assemblywoman Vivian Cook's office

In 1984, the White House officially recognized March as National Professional Social Work Month. This year's Social Work Month theme was, "All People Matter." Aligned with this year's theme and social work's *respect for the dignity and worth of the person*, a diverse York student delegation lobbied for youth who age out of foster care, without achieving adoption or independent living at the time of their discharge.

On March 4, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Faculty Advisor for the York College Social Work Club, Amir Khan (Vice President, York College Social Work Club), and Isabelle Hubert (Stony Brook MSW student) led 17 social work students to Social Work Annual Legislative Day in Albany, NY. Social work students alongside York College President Dr. Marcia Keizs and Mr. Earl Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations, engaged in a productive day of meetings with NYS Assembly and Senate members and their senior staff. It was especially rewarding for students to meet with legis-

lators who chair and/or hold memberships with standing committees invested in addressing youth who age out of care – New York State (NYS) Assemblywomen Vivian Cook (Housing, Ways and Means), Assemblywoman Michele Titus (Foster Care, Children and Families, Social Services), and Senator James Sanders, Jr. (Social Services, Economic Development).

Youth who have aged out of foster care endure challenges in obtaining housing and employment. The student delegation lobbied to enhance resources in this area.

Students also lobbied for additional funding. Students also urged elected officials to support the CUNY 2014-2015 State Budget Priorities. In particular, they advocated for funding to support the York College Academic Village & Conference Center to support state-of-the-art space for students.

Child care and the Black Male Initiative were also strong advocacy points. Students thanked legislators for their continued support.

Amir Khan, Vice

President of the Club, said, "This was the best experience I ever had meeting local legislators. It was a great learning experience to advocate for youth in foster care who age out of care and to lobby for York's new academic building. I was also very pleased with the positive response we received from the legislators." Mr. Khan plans to recruit political science students to participate in future lobbying experiences.

The York College Social Work Club wishes to extend a special thanks to York College Student Government Association (SGA) President Shaikh A. Amin and members for their support in helping secure sponsorship to travel to Albany, York College Office of Marketing and Communications for preparing materials that promote the institution, and York College Director of Government and Community Relations Earl Simons for helping to schedule appointments and coordinate a successful day in Albany, NY.

cont.'d from p.1

through the slides he showed about the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

Labossiere spoke about his experience when he visited Washington D.C. as a Thurgood Marshall College Fund ambassador and the vast amount of knowledge that he gained in the seminar.

"You have to apply for as many scholarships you can," said Labossiere. "Make sure you have 3.0 GPA or better and apply for scholarships."

Labossiere also spoke about his recent acceptance to the master's program in Community

Health Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and scholarships he hopes to get.

"I will be applying for two scholarships from the National Society of Leadership and Success," said Labossiere. "You cannot attend college for four years and don't participate in clubs do research papers and have a solid resume. I update my resume monthly."

Labossiere also stressed the importance of mentorship.

"I would not accomplish anything without my mentor here at York," said Labossiere.

"Every student should have a mentor in their respected area of study."

Punter agreed and was pleased with the presentation.

"This young man is a leader," he said as he listened to Labossiere from the back of the room. "Everyone should aspire to be a leader, a person that can command attention when he speaks. And can articulate the way this young man can. The career center has helped many students in the past and we are here to help many more students that come for assistance."



Stephane Labossiere

cont.'d from p.5

cy frameworks throughout its intentional connection with the Council on Social Work Education Core Competencies.

In reflecting on her *scholarly service* as a Faculty Advisory for the York College Social Work club, Professor Rodgers affirms, "I hope

to inspire the next generation of emerging social work leaders to embrace macro-level advocacy. For me, Social Work Legislative Day is a lifetime of sustainable learning, political justice and social movements at local and global levels!"

Dr. Rodgers and social work students are gearing up to attend the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools 31st Social Work Day at the United Nations in April 2014.

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reverse transcriptase stage in the HIV life cycle. One more highlight worth mentioning is the discovery that the reverse transcriptase, the phosphorylation of the protein, is site-specific. It suggests that in the

reverse transcriptase sequence, only the Threonine 216 site is strongly phosphorylated and highly conserved, which can be the potential target for drug treatment. As a next step, the team will continue

their project by further exploring how CDK phosphorylation of RT interface with other aspects of HIV biochemistry and what are therapeutic possibilities to control RT phosphorylation.



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17,598 ft) and Xiling Snow Mountain (5,164 m or 16,942 ft) are the loftiest mountain ranges. The western mountainous area is also home to a large primitive forest with abundant biological resources and a Giant Panda habitat. East of Chengdu stands the low Longquan Mountain and the area bordering to the west is comprised of the hilly middle reaches of the Min River. Since ancient times, Chengdu has been known as owing to its fertile soil, favorable climate, and novel Dujiangyan Irrigation System.

The weather was hot and humid and early morning showers kept humidity at a high level for both Tuesday and Wednesday (June 18 and 19, 2013). The conference venue was comfortably located in a downtown setting with lots of eateries (including Starbucks) within walking distance. The nearby

Funan River walk was a pleasant break for many participants after the meeting, and it was quite peaceful. Lots of local residents were enjoying the scenery and doing physical activities: dancing, meditation, and other forms of aerobic exercises even close to midnight. Many residents easily get around the city on scooters. It was quite interesting to see several dozen scooter riders waiting patiently for traffic light turning green. Everyone followed their designated path with no apparent conflict with pedestrians!

The Geological Society of China was founded in Beijing on 27 January 1922. It is one of the earliest scientific organizations in China, whose predecessor was the Chinese Society of Earth Sciences formed in Tianjin in 1909. The earliest geological map ever produced in China (that of

the former Zhili Province, covering the present Hebei Province, Beijing, and Tianjin) was published in the founding issue of the Journal of the Chinese Society of Earth Sciences in 1910. Currently GSC has well-over 80,000 members. Apart from the GSC, the International Professionals for the Advancement of Chinese Earth Sciences (IPACES) coordinates with other geological agencies in China. The IPACES is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 and registered in the State of Michigan, USA. The missions of the IPACES are a) to promote cooperation in earth sciences between China and the US, and between China and other countries, and b) to advance earth science research and education in China.



Dr. Khandaker (ctr.) with CUNY & Columbia University Professor Dr. Yan Zheng (r.)

**“Be not
afraid of
growing
slowly, be
afraid only
of standing
still.”**

Chinese Proverb



On May 11, Dr. Selena Rodgers was honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award from the York College Alumni Inc. at their 25th Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner Gala. The event also honored York staff members Claudette Small and Bakary Jammeh (posthumously) with Meritorious Service Awards. In the picture, Dr. Rodgers (l.) is posing with York College president Dr. Marcia Keizs.

YORKCOLLEGE CUNY

Another Fulbright for York

For the second time in three years, a York faculty member has been granted a Fulbright award. Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, an assistant professor of Social Work in York's School of Health and Behavioral Sciences, is the second professor to earn Fulbright designation in that school, following in the footsteps of Teacher Education professor, Dr. Linda Gerena, who was granted the Fulbright Fellowship in 2010.

Dr. Rodgers, whose home unit is the Department of Social Sciences, has been designated a Fulbright Specialist Grantee of the US Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. As a Fulbright Specialist she will prepare several manuscripts for peer-review and conduct presentations at professional conferences based on her Fulbright experience.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R) with a specialization in social work administration, Dr. Rodgers has been among York's busiest professors with her research on post-traumatic growth in diverse populations.

In addition to presentations nationally, her research has taken her to Brazil, Cuba, and South Korea. Her expertise in posttraumatic growth will become part of curricular development for academic institu-



tions in Moldova, where she will fulfill part of her Fulbright services.

Dr. Rodgers sees the honor not so much as her own but for York.

"Consistent with the social work global agenda and York College diversity goals, I view the ultimate value of my participation as a Fulbright Specialist as being relevant to enhance social work curriculum and to cement York College/CUNY's visibility, raising our pro-

file to the social work profession, global and international partners," said Rodgers.

"In addition to developing Global Social Work syllabi on conflict, trauma and resilience and ethics of social work practice in the global world: perspectives of multiculturalism, spirituality and ecology, I am looking forward to co-training university educators on the graduate curriculum and offering comprehensive assessment and recommendations for the proposed graduate program."

Over the years numerous other York professors have been honored with the prestigious award and in 2010 York alumnus, Ormond Brathwaite '82, a chemistry professor in Ohio also received the Fulbright Fellowship.

"This is an outstanding professional achievement," said Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith, provost and senior vice-president for Academic Affairs. "We celebrate this outstanding achievement with Dr. Rodgers."





In Celebration of National Older Adults Month

Ms. Sherba Austin, Rochdale Village NORC Director
Dr. Charlene Lane, York College of The City University of New York
Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, York College of The City University of New York

cordially invite you to a panel discussion
Rochdale Village NORC Seniors are 'Having Their Say'
about 2012 Healthy Indicators Survey and "aging in place"

Friday, May 17, 2013
York College African-American Resource Center - AC 3B04
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us! Light refreshments will be served!



York faculty team presents at Columbia University conference

On Saturday, March 16th 2013, Drs. Charlene Lane (Assistant Professor of Gerontology & Health Education) and Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor of Social Work) presented their collaborative work at Columbia University Teachers College Fifth Annual Disparities Conference.

This joint venture focused on "Disparities in Mental Health Care Older Adults Receive." Among participants were student members of the Collaborative Research Group on Health Policy & Promotion (CRG-HPP) research fellows working with Dr. Nicholas Grosskopf (Assistant Professor of Health & Physical Education) and Dr. Susan Letteney (Professor of Social Work).

The presentation evolved from research data obtained during summer 2012 where both Dr. Lane and Dr. Rodgers assisted Rochdale Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) representatives and members from the Department of Aging examine health care indicators. The Rochdale Village NORC Health Indicator 2012 Survey was administered to 330 older adult residents.

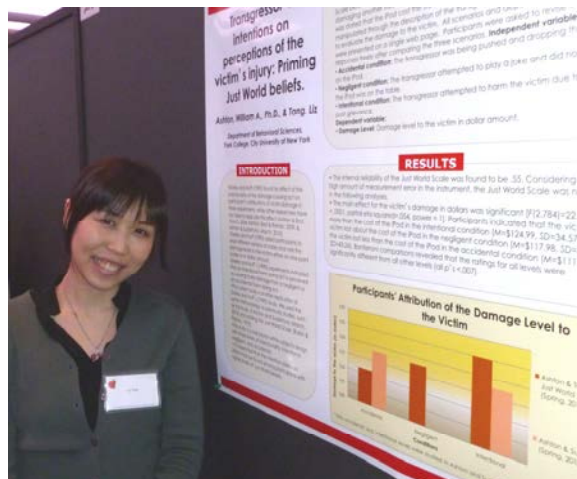
Professors Lane and Rodgers, and NORC Director Sherba Austin have submitted their manuscript titled "A Brief Report: Exploring Healthy Trends in Rochdale NORC Seniors" for peer-review. The article describes various health issues and other risk factors discovered among the identified population.

The fastest-growing population in the United States is people 65 and older, and it is imperative that helping professionals understand their unique health care needs and recognize the dynamics that surround older adults who are aging in place in NORC residential communities. The results suggest salient and crucial issues faced by older adults of predominately African American descent who reside in Rochdale Village, located in a Jamaican community in Queens, New York. The article concludes with practice implications for NORC housing programs. To learn more about Rochdale Village NORC, please visit www.rochdalevillage.com/norc.html.



Dr. Lane (standing left) and Dr. Rodgers (standing right) during their presentation

Psychology student Liz Tang Tang (r.) presented a poster based on her research work with Dr. William Ashton at the 2013 Eastern Psychological Association Conference in Manhattan. The poster, titled "Transgressor's intentions on perceptions of the victim's injury: Priming Just World beliefs" was based on a data-set collected by her mentor, Dr Ashton. Ms. Tang is a coauthor of the poster and her contribution to the poster was over 80% of the total project.



YORK COLLEGE IS CU NY

Former Field Education Director Honored

The Office of Field Education of the Social Work Program marked its first “Social Work Matters” Special Brunch on, Wednesday, May 23, 2012. The event was a way to introduce the forthcoming Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) assessment trainings and to acknowledge social work supervisors, seminar instructors and field education advisory council for their dedication to mentoring and supervising our students.

The CSWE is a non-profit national associa-

tion representing more than 2,500 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education.

Presenters at this special brunch included York College administrators, social work program representatives, field education supervisors and alumni.

The keynote address was delivered by our former Field Director, Dr. Alma Norment (1985–86) and (1996–2003). She gave a riveting account of how the

program and field education progressed to solidify itself in the college. Dr. Norment was awarded a “Special Recognition Award” in appreciation for helping to establish the Office of Field Education, Social Work Program at York College and for her invaluable contributions and leadership to students, faculty, and community partners.

York College President Marcia Keizs attended and offered her heartfelt thanks to an estimated 50 attendees.



L. to r.: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith (Provost & Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs), Lynne Clark (Dean, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences), Alma Norment (York College Former Field Education Director), Selena T. Rodgers (Field Education Director), Vadim Moldovan (at the time Social Work Program Director)

Environmental Science Major Scores Big Internship

Ezazul Haque, a senior majoring in Environmental Health at York College/CUNY, had an inspiring spring and summer this year.

Haque recently wowed the College community with his presentation on using the nutrition from New York City's waste water for processing as bio fuel. Equally important, he is concerned with the damage being caused to humans by toxins in the

water supply in developing countries such as his homeland of Bangladesh. So between fuel and drinking, his academic focus seems to be all water all the time.

His faculty mentor, Dr. Ratan Dhar, whose expertise includes biogeochemistry, environmental science and hydrogeology, explained that New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was sending waste water

to the University of Tennessee for the process.

“I asked them, ‘Why are you sending it all the way to Tennessee when York is right here,’ said Dhar. “[So] we’ve brought it to York. We [have] found lots of toxic metal in it. After this we’ll send it back to DEP.”

Haque's research, which he presented at York's Third Annual Undergraduate Research



Ezazul Haque

cont.'d on p.9

York College Social Work Professors in Cuba

by Vadim Moldovan



Dr. Moldovan (4th from the right) and Dr. Rodgers (5th from the right) during their Cuba visit with the *Council on Social Work Education*

Early this June, Drs. S e l e n a R o d g e r s (Director of Field Education) and Vadim Moldovan (then Program Director) had the honor of visiting Cuba with a group of American social work scholars and administrators. It was the first such delegation sponsored by the *Council on Social Work Education*. The itinerary consisted of meetings with agency administrators, social work practitioners, faculty, and other academics. Among places visited by the delegation were the University of Havana, a model housing project in the country, a senior citizen center, a community center, a psychotherapy center, and an after-school program.

Clearly, Cuba is a country in transition. This can probably be said about most countries in the world. Stability is a rare luxury of closed regimes and prosperous states. Yet, the Cuban transition is particularly important to an American observer as it is long-expected. The United States has been doing its best for the past 50 years to isolate

Cuba, damage its economy, and ultimately effectuate a political turnaround.

For five decades Cuba has stood up to the American economic blockade and even prospered as a client state of the late Soviet Union. The early 1990s, however, were calamitous. With the demise of the Soviet Union, vast economic assistance has suddenly stopped. Sensing that the Cuban regime is on the ropes, the United States government has attempted a coup-de-grace by imposing additional economic sanctions and tightening the embargo via the Helms-Burton law in 1996. Standards of living plummeted and Cubans experienced hunger and malnutrition for the first time since the Revolution.

Despite the recent developments that have led to some improvements in the economy, the country is gearing up for more hardship and its leadership is planning significant economic reforms, such a wholesale reduction in the public sector workforce, in the hope that the new-

ly unemployed would be absorbed by the growing private sector. It was particularly telling to hear from a prominent Cuban academic that the old socialist model has "exhausted" itself.

As the entire Cuban society is in crisis, so is the profession of social work. In the 1980s and 1990s, Cuban universities prepared 40,000 social workers creating such a glut that currently universities have closed their social work programs altogether. What concerns Cuban social workers even more is the role and status of social workers in the Cuban society. In the state-controlled society, the profession of social work lacks autonomy and suffers from an ill-defined identity. Low status of social workers stems from the fact that social work is not considered a bona fide profession on par with that of medical doctors, nurses, lawyers, etc. but an auxiliary service to other professions – a cadre of para-professional helpers so to speak.

Consequently, the profession is fragmented



Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Moldovan visiting Plaza de la Revolución in Havana

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New Women's Volleyball Head Coach



Head Coach Ashley Greene

York's Athletics Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Greene as the new Head Women's Volleyball Coach at York College.

"After an extensive interview process, Ashley truly stood out as the candidate that we believe can get the job done," said York Athlet-

ic Director Ronald St. John.

Greene comes to York after a stellar playing career at SUNY Old Westbury where she graduated in 2011 with a degree in Secondary Mathematics Education and made the Dean's List for three straight years. A three-year member on the women's volleyball team, Greene

earned Skyline Conference Second-Team All-Star honors in both 2010 and 2011 after leading the Panthers in kills and ranking second in hitting percentage both seasons.

Over the past year, Greene has also served as the head coach of the Performance Volleyball Club in Long Island, as well as the Assistant Coach for the Bay Shore Middle School team.

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– scattered among different areas of application and lacking cohesiveness and integrity. The lack of social work tradition is typical for all socialist and post-socialist states as they have been sole providers of direct social remedies in the form of free education, medical care, child care, cheap housing, etc. Besides, the very existence of social problems in a socialist state is somewhat of a taboo because socialism as an ideology derives its credentials from the purported ability to eliminate social problems.

Yet social problems abound in Cuban society – poverty, prostitution, substandard housing, and substance abuse. One of the main official concerns is ageing popu-

lation. Cuba boasts one of the highest life expectancies in the developing world – 79 years – quite an accomplishment when compared to 73 years in the Dominican Republic and 63 in Haiti. However, this accomplishment has turned into a demographic crisis against a plummeting birth rate that simply cannot support the growing elderly population.

The emerging mixed socialist/capitalist economy will claim its victims, but the social work profession in Cuba should be responsible for mitigating the effects of growing economic inequality. Whereas the Cuban socialist state, due to fiscal constraints, is reneging on some responsibilities for welfare of the people, the social work profession can step

up as an advocate and a policy-maker, particularly due to the fact that social work ethics are socialist in character.

It is also up to the American social workers to attempt to export an integrated value-based brand of social work to Cuba. Our Cuban counterparts are hungry for such collaboration, and we should hope that the connections we have made will evolve into much more than academic tourism. At the same time, American social workers have much to learn from our Cuban counterparts – from their struggles, successes, and resilience in the face of global oppression and economic adversity.

Each One, Teach One Blueprint



Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor of Social Work at York College/CUNY) and **Tiffany Cudjoe** (l.)

On April 19th, 2012, Tiffany Cudjoe, student research assistant to Dr. Selena Rodgers presented a segment of their research project, titled “The Duty of Self-Care: Vicarious Trauma and Coping Strategies in Social Workers” at York College’s 3rd Annual Student Research Day.

Invited by Office of Undergraduate Research Director, Dr. Rishi Nath, Ms. Cudjoe and her Research Advisor, Dr. Rodgers also participated in the lunch session panel discussion.

Ms. Cudjoe summarized her presentation experience as a thrilling opportunity to talk about her rigorous research journey alongside her mentor. “Undoubtedly, York’s Student Undergraduate Research Day was highly interactive. In addition to showcasing important research findings, I was able to engage in positive dialogue with many students and faculty from various departments”

highlighted Ms. Cudjoe.

In April 2012, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers and Ms. Cudjoe co-presented at The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) 44th Annual Conference. The annual forum was hosted in Atlanta, GA. Aligned with the conference’s theme “A New Era of Social Justice and Civil Rights,” their presentation, “Rise Up Social Workers: From Vicarious Trauma to Posttraumatic Growth” focused on the preliminary findings based on a year-long, PSC-CUNY 42 funded national study involving social work field education supervisors.

Ms. Cudjoe is especially grateful to The Percy E. Sutton SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) staff and Office of the Provost Undergraduate Research Fund for the financial support she received to travel to her first national conference.

Professor Rodgers and Ms. Cudjoe are currently

completing a manuscript titled, “Each One, Teach One: A Blueprint for Postsecondary Student Scholars’ Search of Education, Elevation and Knowledge.” The article aims to discuss a student “Each One, Teach One” initiative created by Dr. Rodgers almost 10 years ago, the critical role of undergraduate research in students’ professional development, and core tips for a successful faculty/student mentoring relationship.

Cudjoe’s excitement for research has taken off. She is already looking forward to collaborating with her mentor on a grant-funded research project about perceptions of historical trauma among African-American women. Additionally, Ms. Cudjoe is involved with an independent photo research project examining hip hop and its socio-cultural effects in African-American and Afro-Caribbean young adults.



Dr. Rodgers (l.) and Ms. Cudjoe addressing attendees at NABSW conference in Atlanta, GA.

“To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say.”

George Santanyana

Social Work Professor Receives Another Award



Honorable Helen M. Marshall (Queens Borough President), Executive Director Joan Serrano Laufer (Queensboro Council for Social Welfare), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College of The City University of New York), New York State Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse), and President Thomas L. Tedeschi (Queensboro Council for Social Welfare)

On March 30, 2012, Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, Inc. (QCSW), the Honorable Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, United Way of New York City, and the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers co-hosted their 21st Annual Reception Honoring Queens' Social Workers. The reception was held at Queens Borough Hall.

As part of the ceremony, Borough President Helen M. Marshall presented four special awards: Eighth Annual Nita Henick Award, Eleventh Annual Fred Kuo, Jr. Memorial Award, Seventeenth Annual Evelyn Pliego Memorial Social Work Student Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, employed with York College of The City University of New York as an Assistant Professor of Social Work was selected to receive the Eleventh Annual Fred Kuo, Jr. Memorial Award, which is presented each year at the QCSW reception to a Queens' social worker who fosters respect and understanding in human diversity. Fred Kuo, Jr. of Great Neck, NY, was a 53-year old Engineer who perished in the World Trade Center, Tower 2, 91st Floor on 9/11/2001. "I never had the privilege to meet Mr. Kuo, Jr., but I am devoted to commemorating his legacy of respect and understanding in all humankind," said Rodgers.

To have Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall present her

Declaration of Honor in recognition of Rodgers' years of dedicated service to the borough of Queens, the social work profession, and research on posttraumatic growth in diverse populations is a highlight of Professor Rodgers' career. Unforgettable was Borough President Marshall's designation of Friday, March 30th, 2012 as "Dr. Selena T. Rodgers Day." "It is rare to be bestowed with such a tribute and I am extremely humbled to be acknowledged with distinguished honorees" stated Rodgers.

The ceremony closed with Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez' (also a social worker) presenting 12 Queens social workers with Outstanding Service Certificates.



York Faculty Update



- **Duncan R.O.**, Sample, P.A., Bowd, C., Weinreb, R.N., & Zangwill, L.M. (2012). "Arterial spin labeling fMRI measurements of decreased blood flow in primary visual cortex correlates with decreased visual function in human glaucoma," in: *Journal of Vis Res.* 60C:51-60.

A Health and Behavioral Sciences Alliance



Dr. Charlene Lane (l.) and Dr. Selena Rodgers (r.)

On March 23, 2012, Dr. Charlene Lane and Dr. Selena T. Rodgers of the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences presented their PSC-CUNY funded research papers at the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education National Conference of Blacks in Higher Education in Atlanta, GA.

The 2012 Conference theme focused on *Healthy Communities through Access, Education, Research and Collaboration*.

Dr. Lane's paper, titled "Community Dwelling Seniors Perceptions of Aging & Healthcare Experience," emphasized the extent to which seniors internalize ageists' beliefs and attitudes, and the relationship of these to their health care providers visits.

Dr. Rodgers presented her research about the "Lived Experiences of Vicarious Trauma, Coping, and Posttraumatic Growth in Undergraduate Social Work Stu-

dents who Attend Urban Public Colleges." The study considers pedagogical implications for Social Work Field Education.

The American Association of Blacks in Higher Education "pursues the educational and professional needs of Blacks in higher education with a focus on leadership, access and vital issues impacting students, faculty, staff, and administrators" (see www.blacksinhighered.org).

"To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say."

George Santanyana



York Faculty Update



- **O. S. Oladipo**, (Dept. of Business and Economics, School of Business & Information Systems), "Estimating the Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Exports: Evidence from Mexico's Trading Relationship with the United States," in: B. I. Vásquez-Galán, M. A. Jurado Montelongo and J. L. Castro Ruiz (eds.), *Procesos Economicos, laborales y Urbanos en la Frontera Noreste en el Contexto de la Apertura Economica* (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, 2012), pp.29-54.
- **O. S. Oladipo**, "An analysis of sectoral exchange rate pass-through effects on a small open economy using the Leontief Input-Output technique," in: *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*, Vol. 5, No 1 (2012), pp. 47 - 65.
- **O. S. Oladipo**, "Oil Price Shocks and Macroeconomic Activities: Evidence from an Oil Dependent Exporting Economy." Paper presented at the Annual Conference on Innovations in Business and Management (CIBM), Senate House, The University of London, London (UCL), February 27, 2012.
- **Tania Levey** & Dina Pinsky, (Dept. of Social Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences), "Skill and Creativity in the Life Stories of Professional Dominatrixes," *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society*, New York, NY., February 25, 2012.

“Social Work Matters” to Rochdale Village NORC

According to the National Association of Social Workers, the White House first officially recognized March as National Professional Social Work Month in 1984. This year’s theme was “Social Work Matters.”

On March 20, 2012, Rochdale Village *Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities* (NORC) honored their very own Dr. Selena T. Rodgers – presenting her with the Rochdale Village NORC Award in recognition of Social Work Month for her Outstanding Leadership in Education and Research in field of Social Work. Professor Rodgers is a 15-year resident of the Rochdale Village Community and a former Rochdale Village Social Services, Inc. Board Member.

Selena T. Rodgers, Ph.D., LCSW-R, is Assistant Professor and Field Education Director of Social Work in the Department of Social Sciences, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences at York. She has strengthened the pro-

fessional and collaborative partnership between Rochdale Village NORC and York College/CUNY. In her role as Field Education Director, Professor Rodgers is instrumental in securing field internships and employment opportunities for students.

Dr. Rodgers and Dr. Charlene Lane (Department of Health & Physical Education, Gerontological Studies & Services) were recently invited by Rochdale Village NORC Director Sherba Austin to offer technical assistance during the summer of 2012 on the Health Indicators Survey for Advancing Healthy Aging in Communities (United Hospital Fund/Department of the Aging Sponsored). The aim of the survey is to determine health risks for Rochdale’s aging population.

Ms. Austin presented NORC social workers, Elaine Cooper (York Alumna ‘10), Nirquette Guillaume (York Alumna ‘04), and Nadine Robinson (York Alumna ‘04) with Certificates of Appreciation for their

dedication and commitment to the Social Work Profession and the Seniors of Rochdale Village.

Ms. Austin’s indefatigable commitment to York College and students is undeniable. She provides invaluable support and mentorship to everyone she encounters.

Stephanie Jeanty is expected to graduate in June 2012. Ms. Guillaume and Ms. Robinson earned a Master in Social Work (MSW) from Stony Brook University.

During the recognition breakfast, Professor Rodgers reflected on her 17-year journey as a professional social worker. She stated, “As a social worker who remains steadfast to serve individuals, families and communities with empathy and respect, my purpose and passion is awakened with each sunset and moonrise – I’m grateful that the profession chose me.” To read more about why “Social Work Matters” to Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, visit: www.york.cuny.edu/Members/srodgers



L.-r.: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College/Social Work Program) and Sherba Austin (Rochdale Village NORC Director)



NORC Social Workers (l.-r.): Elaine Cooper (BSW), Stephanie Jeanty (York College social work student), Nirquette Guillaume (MSW), Nadine Robinson (MSW), and Sherba Austin (LMSW)

Social Work Professor Invited to Present at International Symposium in Korea



Dr. Rodgers during her presentation at the Korea Press Center in Seoul

With only 72 hours notice, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, of York College boarded Korean Air headed for Seoul, Korea to serve as the United States Representative at the Meeting the Challenge of Social Service Delivery Symposium.

The Symposium was co-organized by the Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation and Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs following an urgent call to improve the social welfare system in Korea.

Dr. Rodgers embraced the 12-hour time zone difference and 12-hour flight to Asia by reading about Korea's history and customs. After landing at Incheon International Airport in South Korea on November 7, 2011, she joined Gyeonggi Province Governor Moon-Soo Kim along with representatives from Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Sweden for dinner, introductions, business decorum, and an exchange of cultural translations—a prelude conversation to the Symposium.

On November 8, 2011 Governor Moon-Soo Kim opened with

his congratulatory speech and welcomed the distinguished panelists. He remarked that his commitment to social welfare delivery reform in Korea is premised on his investment in the sustainability of human beings and family—"my daughter, son-in-law and sister-in-law are social workers" stated Governor Kim.

The media-covered event was well attended, with over 350 participants and simultaneous translations in Korean, English, and Japanese. Dr. Rodgers presented her invited paper, titled "The Role of Posttraumatic Growth and Social Work in Existing Social Service Integrated Models in New York City," at the Korea Press Center in Seoul.

The first half of the conference was a presentation of domestic and global cases. Her talk reflected Integrated Service Models and emphasized client-driven services, empowerment, cultural competence, and community cooperation with local, state and federal governmental officials. She also emphasized themes of trauma and post-trauma experiences. Korea representative, Professor Seonmee

Hong introduced the Gyeonggi-do's customized integrated service delivery model and the existing partnership challenges between private and public sectors.

Spain representative, Dr. Gosta Esping-Andersen, delivered his video presentation about the relevance of women's roles and human resources. Sweden representative Dr. Sven Hort's paper addressed the Nordic social policy globalization strategy in relationship to Korea and other East Asian countries. Japan representative, Dr. Takayuki Hirano discussed the welfare service delivery with respect to older adults and long-term insurance in Japan. New Zealand representative Ms. Sue Jarvis offered a presentation on Child, Youth and Family social service delivery model.

Chaired by Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation President, Professor Jong Man Palik, the 2nd half of the conference was a ten-panel debate (see photo upper right) and Q&A regarding domestic and global social welfare reform. During this session, Professor Hong commented on Dr. Rodgers' presentation as

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L.-r.: Sven E. O Hort (Linnaeus University, Sweden), Sue Jarvis (Child, Youth and Family, New Zealand), Selena T. Rodgers (York College), Sang-Mok Suh (Chairman, Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation, Korea), Takayuki Hirano (Nihon Fukushi University, Japan), Jong Man Paik (Chonbuk National University, Korea) Kyung Sook Park (Kyonggi University, Korea)

cont.'d from p.8

very professional and expressed how Professor Rodgers' talk offered a widened perspective about cultural compe-

tence, client-centered participation, and empowerment with regard to trauma and immigrant populations – which will

be taken into consideration to improve Korea's existing social service delivery model.



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

Aristotle

Business Professor speaks on global housing market in Dubai

Since the global financial meltdown which occurred as a result of the collapse of the housing market in the United States, many developing countries in Africa are now restructuring their housing markets to avoid similar collapse and ensure optimal performance.

In an attempt to achieve their mandate of providing affordable accommodation to Nigerians, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) in collaboration with sister institutions in Africa organized a workshop on “International Borrowing, Debt Management & Mortgage

Finance in Emerging Markets” in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 23-26, 2011.

Dr. Olajide Oladipo, a Professor of Business and Acting Chair of the Business and Economics Department, was invited to present two papers: “Global Models of Mortgage Market Funding in the United States, Europe and Emerging Markets: Lessons for Nigeria”, and “Housing Markets and Long Term Financing: Global Experiences and Lessons for Nigeria”

Other objectives of the 4-day forum, which had participants from both public and private

organizations, were to sensitize real estate developers, investors and stakeholders in the real estate housing sector on the general framework, processes, guidelines, requirements and benefits associated with the FMBN's estate development concession lending window and to create a veritable forum for the exchange of ideas on the challenges faced by developers in accessing the Estate Development Loan (EDL); and to consider and/or exploit other available opportunities in the drive towards promoting affordable housing delivery in Nigeria.



Dr. Oladipo (l.) during one of his presentations in Dubai



Dr. Oladipo (l.) during a break

A Global Network Agenda in Brazil



L. to r.: Conference presenters Sandra Trejos (Clarion University of Pennsylvania/Economics Department), Selena T. Rodgers (York College/Social Sciences Department) and Anju Aggarwal (University of Delhi/Political Science Department).

In July 2011, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to present her research paper titled, *Exposing the Hushed Latina Immigration Experiences: The Global Reality of Refugee-like Situations in America* at the Fourth Global Studies Conference, Latina America and Globalization: Emerging Societies and Emancipation. Over two hundred participants attended the conference. It was a great opportunity to network with conference presenters from twenty nine countries.

Dr. Rodgers also has a peer-reviewed journal article (in press) *The*

Global Studies Journal based on her research with Latina immigrants in refugee-like situations.

While in Brazil, Dr. Rodgers traveled to Salvador de Bahia, Brazil – the historical Pelourinho District. Among her stops was Bahia Street, a social welfare non-profit institute aimed at educating mostly underprivileged girls – preparing them to improve themselves and their communities.

Dr. Rodgers also toured the Steve Biko Cultural Institute. Established in 1992, the Institute was named after South African leader Stephen Bantu Biko (1946-1977) in response to educational and

racial disparities experienced by Afro-Brazilians.

During her visit, Dr. Rodgers visited with Dr. Maria Luiza Valente (in above photo), a Professor of Social Work at the Catholic University in Rio (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro – PUC) and a social activist in the Family Court in the judicial system. They communicated about international trends in social work. Some of these movements include: Refugee-like experiences and advocacy for human rights within the legal system. During the discussion, it became clearer that there is a need for social work networking at international levels.

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Carly Gieseler



Carly Gieseler studies rhetoric and its implications for gender, media, and cultural studies. She earned her M.A. in Communication from Hawaii Pacific University and her B.A. in Journalism and Mass Media from Rutgers University; her doctoral work at the University of South Florida focuses on the intersection of gendered representation and liminal performances in extreme sporting culture.

Her current publications include *Killing the Vamp: Analyzing the Silent Film Vamp as Gendered 'Other' and Embodiment of the Psychoanalytic Death Drive* and “Sturgis 2.0: A Docu-Web Dialogue,” which focuses on mobile cultures in the forthcoming text *Popularizing Research: Engaging New Media, New Audiences, New Genres*. She has taught public speaking, persuasion, and women and communication.

Carly joins the Department of Performing and Fine Arts (School of Arts & Sciences) as a Lecturer.

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

- Aristotle

Social Work Change Agents

March is *National Social Work Month* and a time to reflect on the enormous contributions of the profession.

The National Association of Social Workers' theme in celebration of Social Work Month for March 2011 is “Social Workers Change Futures.” There are about 35 participating social work field change agents in our field education program.

Dr. Selena Rodgers, Director of Field Education of the York College Social Work Program wishes to salute the Social Work Field Education Supervisors for their unwavering dedication to our students, the program and the profession.



(L.-R., back): Nicole Benjamin (York College), Anthea Blyden (Diaspora Community Services), Cristina Osoria (Center for Nursing Rehabilitation), Selena Rodgers (York College), Cynthia Guy (Southern Queens Park Association/Beacon), Andrea Raphael (VIP Health Care Services);

(L.-R., front): Reuben Jimenez (New Spirits II), Phillip Rofrano (Martin de Porres), Shirell Roeback (York College), Pat Riley (Crossroads Connection/Sobro), Linda Booth (Elmcot Youth and Adult Services)

Students receive diverse and enriching practicum opportunities,

supervision and mentoring from experienced administrators, clinical practitioners, community activists, educators, program developers, researchers and trainers.

The photo to the left includes some of the Change Agents who attended the last Social Work Supervisory Group Meeting.

Dr. Rodgers wishes to extend a special salute to York College Alumni, Nicole Benjamin '94. Professor Benjamin is the Assistant Director of York College of Social Work Field Education. She has remained a part of the profession's mission, the program and the vision of York College.

Panel Discussion on the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

On March 11, 2011, the Geology Club and the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences conducted a panel discussion on the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Northeastern Japan. The session was held in the atrium and included as presenters:



L.-r.: Prof. Nadine Donahue, Dr. Donna Chirico, Dr. Charles Kidd, and Dr. Stanley Schleifer during their panel discussion of the disaster in Japan

Dr. Stanley Schleifer (Earth and Physical Sciences), Dr. Charles Kidd (Earth & Physical Sciences), Dr. Donna Chirico (Behavioral Sciences), and Prof. Nadine Donahue (Health Professions).

Heal the Village, Sustain the Pillars, and Strengthen the Academic Collaboration

Heal the village! Rochdale Village: "The Jewel of Jamaica" is the second largest housing co-operative in the United States and a cornerstone located in the heart of Jamaica, Queens. Since 1963, Rochdale has been home to 25,000 cooperatives.



Dr. Rodgers addressing Rochdale Village residents

On March 20, 2011, Dr. Selena Rodgers was one of the invited distinguished guests and presenters at Rochdale Village's *Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Women's History 3rd Annual Forum*. Approximately 175 seniors along with many other Rochdale Village residents attended the event.

Dr. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Social Sciences Department) pre-

sented her research findings about African-American adult survivors sexually abused as children. The information was very well received and also regarded as especially timely in view of the recent outpouring of disclosures by sexual abused victim-survivors.

Considerable time was devoted to offering recommendations to help the village heal from scars that extend from childhood into adulthood. Rochdale Village Board President Janine Cross has invited Dr. Rodgers to participate in future forums focusing on raising awareness about sexual abuse and the healing process.

Sustain the pillars! Rochdale Village and York College are pillars in the Jamaica community. This year's projected financial cuts to social services and public education has implications. For the past seven years York College Social Work Program's partnership with Rochdale's NORC's has afforded countless undergraduate students field practicum opportunities. Rochdale Village

Social Services, Inc. is the parent agency for two senior citizen programs including NORC and Rochdale Village Senior Center. The social work interns engage with individual clients and families to provide clinical assessments, case management services and support counseling. Also as part of their internship assignments, students facilitate weekly support groups, conduct weekly program outreach into the buildings and network with various agencies and community partners.

It is urgent that these two pillars, Rochdale Social Service programs and York College, work together through the economic crisis to sustain the legacy and the village for our seniors and emerging student leaders.

Strengthen the Academic Collaboration!

The number of transfer students arriving from LaGuardia College who enroll in York College's Social Work Program has increased significantly over the years. Dr. Rodgers is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Director of

Social Work Field Education at York College (CUNY).



L-r: Elder Tarsha S. Baston (Women Impacting Next Generation of Sisters), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Department of Social Sciences/School of Health and Behavioral Sciences) and Elder Dr. Michael A. Baston (LaGuardia Community College, Office of Academic Affairs)

During the Rochdale Village forum, she had the opportunity to engage in a productive discussion with Elder Dr. Baston, the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) concerning the need to strengthen the collaboration between the two CUNY colleges.



Social Work Club goes to Albany



Students posing with President Keizs and Prof. Rodgers during their visit to Albany

The Social Work Club at York College sponsored its annual trip to Albany for Social Work Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. This is an important opportunity for social work students at York to be involved in advocacy efforts toward social change.

The Club organized 23 students from the Social Work Program to attend Lobby Day. They were led by Dr. Selena Rodgers, Professor Crystal George-Moses, and Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre, faculty advisor the Social Work Club.

In Albany, students met with key New York City and State Legislators, including Assemblywoman Vivian E.

Cook, Senator Shirley L. Huntley, Assemblywoman Michele R. Titus, and Council Member Rubin Wills. The legislative action agenda items included:

- Support for allowing higher education to meet TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements at 4-year colleges;
- Funding for The Safe Harbor Act – legislation to provide housing, legal, educational, and other services for commercially sexually exploited youth. Students advocated for funding to build safe houses for these victims;
- Funding for the York

College Academic Village Center. On behalf of the student body at York, students thanked Assemblywoman Cook and Senator Huntley for their generous support for the College. Students called for continued funding support to build the new Academic Village Center at York

A special thanks to President Keizs for meeting with the students in Albany and listening to them share their experiences. Students greatly valued this learning experience and look forward to the opportunity to engage in future advocacy efforts with President Keizs.



NEW CD !

Embellishments: The Q & A Project., starring Mark Adams and featuring Jonathan Quash.

This is the fourth solo project by pianist Mark Adams and the third collaboration with Jonathan Quash.

The album also features Jazz vibraphonist, Roy Ayers.

Social Work Professor presents work at Columbia U.

On November 15, 2010, Dr. Selena Rodgers (Dept. of Sociology and Social Work) presented a paper at the Columbia University "Women and Society" Seminar, co-chaired by Dr. Michele Gregory (Dept. of Social Work). Dr. Rodgers' paper, titled "Child Sexual Abuse in Men and Women of African Ancestry: Engendering Spiritual Well-Being and Posttraumatic Growth," is based on a number of years of social research and has been supported

by grant funding for over the last 17 months.

Dr. Beryl Satter (Rutgers University), who has written about the historical perspective of the sexual abuse paradigm, offered comments which included, "I want to commend Dr. Rodgers for taking on this immensely important topic that has never been conducted before. The framing is hugely important; the desire to look at how one's historical past, culture, and post-traumatic growth molds the story that men and women use to respond to childhood

sexual abuse is very much breaking new ground in both the academic and clinical practice environments."

The Columbia University Seminar is a multi-discipline roundtable dedicated to exploring and advancing scholarly issues which have an impact on women's lives. The seminar holds monthly meetings at Columbia University, hosting local, national and international scholars, members of the community and students.

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L. to r.: Dr. Beryl Satter (Rutgers University), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Dr. Michele Gregory



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graduate studies at Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He has also been offered a full-time position with Episcopal Social Services (his current social work practicum) to provide foster care and adoption services to children and families. Jaime has submitted her appli-

cation to Fordham University's Master of Social Work Program. What is more, Jaime received the 2010 Outstanding Service Award from the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, Inc., United Way of New York City, and the NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for her

service to people of Queens and to the Social Work Profession. Additionally, the York College social work program presented Jaime with the Vera Douthit Memorial Award – this tribute is given to students who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to service.

YORK COLLEGE CUNY



L.-r.: Nadine Robinson, Jaime Rivas-Williams, Andreau E. Charles, and Tiffany Cudjoe



Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (2nd from left) and social work Students (l. to r.: Courtney Peele, Jaime Rivas-Williams, Annette Rivera, Tiffany Cudjoe, Kristina Berrios, Jessica Beauvias, Nicole O'Meally, Alexandra Mompremier)

“Students were offered a unique opportunity to participate in a transformative learning experience outside of the classroom.”

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The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) asserts that Field Education is the Signature Pedagogy of the social work curriculum! York College's Social Work program contends that Field Practicum is the cornerstone of social work education and joins many facets of previous course work, including the articulation of core competencies through research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Recognizing the collective benefit to unite research, the Signature Pedagogy (Field Education), and mentoring, Dr. Rodgers, Director of Field Education, invited students enrolled in her Social Work Field Placement and Seminar II course to participate in the Columbia University Seminar. For social work interns and graduating seniors, the Seminar is innovative and an enriching learning option they can employ as future practitioners. As Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre (Social Work Program/Social Work Club Faculty Co-Advisor, York College) stated, “students were offered a unique opportunity to participate in a

transformative learning experience outside of the classroom. They were able to engage in a dialogue about relevant research, in an interdisciplinary context of faculty from social work, sociology, anthropology, and history, which illuminated significant issues for students in social work education: critical thinking and the application of knowledge in a collaborative learning environment.”

Dr. Mark Schuller (African-American Studies/Anthropology, York College) along with Barbara Ellis and Kimmi Herring from Safe Horizon were among the attendees present at the Columbia University Seminar. They offered invaluable insight to the discussion in which Dr. Rodgers linked gender, historical trauma, and cultural dimensions in men and women of African ancestry who are sexually abused as children.

Social work educators serve the profession through teaching, research/scholarship, and service. Dr. Rodgers upholds and extends the obligatory role of social workers and academics to include mentoring students. Dr. Rodgers is

helping students to meet the threshold for professional competence, preparedness for graduate education, and ultimately emerging leaders in the social work profession.

For example, Tiffany Cudjoe, a social work student, is one of many students mentored by Dr. Rodgers. When asked about her mentoring experience, Tiffany affirmed that, “Dr. Rodgers encourages me to embrace all learning opportunities; she has inspired me to mentor others; I am a mentor/counselor with the Planting Roots In Dynamic Education (PRIDE) program.” Tiffany is also affiliated with York's Social Work Club, Cardinal Crew, CUNY Project Change, and the Seek Society. What is more, Tiffany works as a research assistant with Dr. Gila Acker, Professor of Social Work and Chair of Social Sciences Department.



In the Spirit of Collective Work and Service



L. to r.: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Department of Social Sciences), Carey Quay (Director, Association for the Advancement of Blind and Retarded, Inc.), Michele Danowitz (Assistant Director, AABR), Nadine Robinson (York College Social Work Alumni), Jaime Rivas-Williams (Vice President, York College Social Work Club), Andreau E. Charles (President, York College Social Work Club), and AABR consumers.

Exemplary leadership, commitment, innovation, integrity, passion, and service are synonymous with these students.

In the spirit of collective work and service, Dr. Selena Rodgers, member of the York College Early Academy (YECA) Planning Team Committee and Michele Neuhaus, YECA Liaison, collaboratively mentor Nadine Robinson (York Social Work program graduate 04' and a student in the Social Welfare Program at Stony Brook University).

The YECA initiative was established at York College in 2006. YECA's mission is to provide a highly supportive and academically challenging learning environment for traditionally underserved, but strongly motivated students with high potential for future academic and career success.

As part of her community development field practicum, Nadine works closely with Ms. Neuhaus and the students at YECA to build the Junior Leadership Program. She also participates in big brother/big sister group activities, as well as a workshop for parents and students to help coordinate other college and career exploration experiences. In addition, Nadine has worked closely

with the Social Work Club to implement several successful projects, including, Social Work School Graduate School Fair and a Breast Cancer Walk. In her role as Field Instructor, Dr. Rodgers provides weekly clinical supervision for Nadine.

In the spirit of collective work and service and upholding the primary mission of the Social Work Profession, enhancing human well-being and helping meet the basic human needs of all people, on November 24, 2010, Dr. Rodgers, Nadine, Andreau E. Charles, President, York College Social Work Club and former employee, AABR; Jaime Rivas-Williams, Vice President, York College Social Work Program and other club members joined with the Director, Carey Quay and staff members at the Association for the Advancement of Blind and Retarded, Inc. (AABR) to serve holiday lunch to 120 consumers.

AABR is committed to accomplish its mission; following the lifespan of people served while providing services including education, training and housing with the support

of their family, agency staff and communities in which they live. The agency offers an array of programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities and autism and their families.

During the Fall 2010 semester, the Club has been involved in several service activities that are linked to the Club's mission; service, scholastic, and professional development, namely; the collection feminine products to be donated to Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Inc., participation in 2010 Breast Cancer Walk. The Club also hosted an edifying Economic Forum featuring Dr. Richard D. Wolff, entitled "When Capitalism Hits the Fan: A Marxian View," as well as the 6th Annual Social Work Graduate Fair (approximately 45 students and seven graduate schools were in attendance).

The words exemplary leadership, commitment, innovation, integrity, passion, and service are synonymous with Andreau and Jaime. These club officers are on the move ... Andreau has applied

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A Global Social Work Agenda in the Millennium

On March 29, 2010, Dr. Selena Rodgers and five York students were among 400 social workers, students and educators who participated in the 27th Annual United Nations Social Work Day.

The event was co-chaired by two main representatives to the United Nations in New York, Janice Wood Wetzel (International Association of Schools of Social Work) and Michael Cronin (International Federation of Social Workers). Helen Clark, the adminis-



Social Work Students: Teresa Orr, Andreau Charles, Can (John) Onaler, Serah Aminatabh, Jewel Dey (l. - r.)

trator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the third highest ranking official in the United Nations was among the presenters; she encouraged social

workers to become more involved in campaigning to challenge inequality and injustice, and to work towards a sustainable environment.

Dr. Rodgers' interest in global social work emerged from her grass-roots community-based experience coupled with extensive teaching in the classroom, but it was the mentoring relationship with Dr. Wetzel that sparked her interest to advocate for the voiceless global community.



L.-r.: Dr. Janice Wood Wetzel, Chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health; Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program); Professor Gary Bailey (Simmons College School of Social Work)



Impressions from a choir and band clinic for the students of Northome and Kelliher High Schools, of Kelliher, Minnesota conducted on March 20th, by Professor Tom Zlabinger and Adjunct Instructor Jonathan Quash. About 45 students from the high schools were on a bus tour and had requested the opportunity to study at a college in New York, that had both a choral program and a band. Their first choice was York College.



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Comments from the student panelists and attendees reflect the positive impact of the experience on them. Many said that they truly treasured the opportunity, which not only boosts their self-confidence but also enables them to better understand social research in terms of its purposes, functions and practice. One student said it was

"one of the most nerve-wrecking (yet) exciting days" of her life. Another indicated that "... we met students from different schools. I thought students were not interested in research. I was wrong. Attending this conference changed my perception about research ..."

Some also expressed their gratitude to Dr. Rosenthal and their team-

mates. While all of them were proud of representing York College, one student stated, "I was happy to see that York was there. I do wish that we had more presenters. York is ... on the move, but we need more representation at functions like these."

York College is On the Move in Albany

Selena T. Rodgers & Earl Simons

On March 9, 2010, twenty-four York students majoring in Social Work and Sociology, and two York College faculty members joined President Marcia V. Keizs and Earl Simons (Director of Government and Community Relations) in Albany, New York for the annual Legislative Action Day. The York College delegation was engaged in a full day of meetings with NYS Assembly and Senate members and their senior staff.

Dr. Selena Rodgers (York College Social Work Club Faculty Advisor), Andreau Charles (President of York College Social Work Club President), and Jaime Rivas-Williams (Vice President of York College Social Work Club) worked diligently with Earl Simons (Director of Government and Community Relations) to coordinate our meetings with legislators. Our day in Albany started with stu-



L.-r.: Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, Dr. Selena Rodgers, President Marcia V. Keizs, and Prof. Crystal George-Mosses

dents participating in a working brunch meeting hosted by Assemblywoman Vivian Cook. The discussion, which was productive and engaging, addressed the many issues that impact student learning, the Social Work Profession, and the college community.

York College Students were professional and succinct in their expression of sincere appreciation for President Keizs and legislators for their continued leadership and support. "It was validating to see students excited to integrate their knowledge and skills learned in the classroom with themes of public service,

economic empowerment, political activism, and community involvement," acknowledged Dr. Rodgers. Additionally, another legislative aide discussed several internship possibilities for York students in New York State government at the legislative level.

York College students thanked New York State Assemblywoman Vivian Cook for securing \$5 million, with the support of the state legislature, for the building of the *York College Child and Family Center*, which is now officially opened. The students also expressed gratitude to Assemblywoman Cook for securing \$11 million for enhancements and repairs to the Academic Core Building (for example, benches outside, student common space renovations) and as a down payment for the construction of the York College Academic Village (student union building).



Assemblywoman Vivian Cook (center, seated), with President Keizs, Dr. Rodgers, Prof. George-Mosses, and York College students



May 8, 2010 Mary-Jo Kranacher (center) was honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award from the York College Alumni Association. Alumnus Dr. Andrew Campbell (l.) received the Distinguished Alumnus award. In the picture both award recipients are joined by President Marcia V. Keizs

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.

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

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)

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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

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

food portion control. The giving away of hand sanitizing samples and healthy snacks was very helpful in showing me how to prevent overeating. 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

News from the Occupational Therapy Department

1. On Tuesday, February 10, an informed, energetic, and determined group from the Occupational Therapy Department of York College headed to Albany for Lobby Day. This is an annual event sponsored by the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA). Occupational Therapists from all over the state gather in Albany to lobby for legislation that enhances practice, and that promotes services to the community.

The students and their advisor, Prof. Sharon Faust (in the picture below, first row, far right), gathered at York at 6:30 am on that day to depart. Having been prepared by Jeff Tomlinson OTR (NYSOTA's legislative liaison), students were on their way with a heightened sense of purpose, and political and social awareness. Students practiced what they would say to their legislators in order to urge them to support bills that would benefit consumers across the lifespan.

It was a wonderful experience which served to give the students a sense of accomplishment. Students such as Shamica Seeparsaud also submitted articles to local newspapers to inform the public of Occupational Therapy, and legislation which might be important to them. In the words of one student Hind Mohamed, "I really feel like we made a difference in our profession". York College Occupational Therapy students really are ON THE MOVE!!!

2. SAVE THE DATE!!! On May 4, 2009 graduating students in the Occupational Therapy Department will be presenting their research projects. We invite you to join us for this very special event. Formal announcements will be available in the coming weeks.



York College

2008 –
2009

The Year
of
General
Education
Reform

York College's Social Work Program is on the move ...

In honor of National Professional Social Work Month, Dr. Selena Rodgers, an invited presenter at York College's Information Session, aimed to recruit new students enrolled at the College seeking a career filled with service, activism, diversity and research. She highlighted the benefits of York College's Social Work Program and the myriad of career opportunities offered in the Profession.

Dr. Rodgers (see picture, standing in the center) informed students that the demand for social workers needed to respond to global economic challenges is on the rise, referring to The Federal Bureau of Labor of Statistics report that the Social Work Profession is expected to growth 22 percent by 2016.



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**[http://york.cuny.edu/
academic-affairs](http://york.cuny.edu/academic-affairs)**

News From Social Work

March is National Professional Social Work Month and a time to salute Social Workers on the move. Dr. Selena Rodgers (Instructor of Social Work/Co-Faculty Advisor for York College's Social Work Club), Dr. Bonnie Oglesky (Assistant Professor/Director of Social Work Field Education), Professor Akosua Cobb (Assistant Director of Social Work Field Education), and the faculty members of the Social Work Program wish to thank and celebrate the York College Social Work Field Education Supervisors for making a difference in the lives of York College Social Work students and in the Social Work Profession.



Celebrating Social Workers (l. to r.): **Beth Lerner** (Ozanan Hall of Queens Senior Citizen Program), **Sherba Austin** (Rochdale/Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Services), **Catlin Dower** (Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Inc.), **Linda Booth** (Elmcore Youth and Adult Services), **Selena Rodgers** (York College/City University of New York), **Sidney Moshette** (820 River Street, Inc.), **Lee Stone** (Freeport Pride/Youth Services Counseling Division), **Cynthia Guy** (South Queens Partnership of New York), **Asantewa James** (Department of Education), **Donna McFarlane** (Queens Educational Opportunity Center), **Akosua Cobb** (York College/City University of New York), **Bonnie Oglesky** (York College/City University of New York), **Craig Collins** (Safe Space), **Henry Arroyo** (H & L Counseling Service), **Vera Stokes** (Community Healthcare Network/Dr. Betty Shabazz Health Center), **Marie Josette-Crevecœur** (Community Healthcare Network/Dr. Betty Shabazz Health Center), **Tracie Theotokas** (AHRC Adult Day Services), **Ivette Fuentes** (Martin Luther Court), **Carl DeGennaro** (InterFaith Hospital) not in photo.

The need to recognize Social Work Field Education Supervisors is many-fold. York College Social Work Field Education Supervisors have

remained dedicated to providing professional guidance and support to York College Students who strive to attain academic excellence. Perhaps most importantly to highlight is the three York College Social Work Alumni (Carl DeGennaro '00, Marie Josette-Crevecœur '92, Ivette Fuentes '03), the priceless photo that illuminates over 100 years of experienced administrators, clinical practitioners, community activists, educators, program developers, researchers, trainers, and the 40-50 diverse community-based organizations that welcome our students into a professional environment each semester. The rewards for field supervisors and York College faculty are the commitment to mentor students, prepare them to successfully complete their undergraduate degree, pursue graduate studies, and to ultimately embark on a career in Social Work in the 21st Century and beyond.

Social Workers have a unique understanding of the complexities posed by the global economy, the voice to lead change culturally inclusive paradigms that address underserved multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual communities, and the professional expertise required to meet the projected growing demand of the Profession. Despite the anticipated rise of employment opportunities in the field of social work, we know, too, that funding cuts are impacting a myriad of service providers throughout the nation. This has resulted in the loss of resources and the increase of responsibilities York College's Social Work Field Education Supervisors are experiencing. Nevertheless, they have remained unyielding in the effortless amount of energy, validation and training they provide to the sixty social work students currently participating in the two-course sequence field placement and seminar.

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