

**Special points of interest:**

- **Academic Leadership Retreat**
- **Tax-Saving Program at York**
- **Major donation to Library**

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## Dr. Greg Boutis Lands Big Grants

Assistant professor of physics Greg Boutis recently was awarded two major grants to foster his research. Dr. Boutis, who works on developing and applying novel experimental methods in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to reveal the structure of complex systems, has proposed research projects that will shed some light on one protein in the human body and its structure and function.

He has received a four-year award totaling \$1,069,783 from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program for his project entitled "Probing Dynamics of Water in elastin by q-space Imaging and Multiple Quantum NMR." In addition to this proposal, he was funded under a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER proposal totaling \$485,762 titled "CAREER: Integrating education and research in NMR structure-function studies of mechanically strained elastin."



**Dr. Boutis in his office**

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## Recognizing York Benefactor

Through the efforts of Accounting Professor Mary-Jo Kranacher, York College has received a significant donation from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) to provide an endowment for anti-fraud education. The gift, establishing the ACFE Endowed Professor of Fraud

Examination, will support the College's first endowed professor. The ACFE awarded the endowment as part of its commitment to encourage anti-fraud education and research in institutions of higher learning around the world. This is the first such gift awarded by the ACFE to any college or university.

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## Reflections

### PROVOST LECTURE SERIES

December 2008 Lecture

#### “The ‘Salt’ of Peace”

Dr. Stanley Schleifer

On December 3, 2008, Prof. Helen Andretta of the English Department presented a Provost’s Lecture Series talk about the history of salt and its influence on the history, literature, and culture of people all over the earth, both past and present. Professor Andretta also related the physical reality and spiritual symbolism of salt to her studies on the work of the author Flannery O’Connor, and the universal strive for peace in the past and at the present time.

Flannery O’Connor, in her relatively short life of thirty nine years, published 2 novels and 30 short stories. Some of the characters in her stories were “raggytaggy” people but, with their strong work ethic and morality, they were the “salt of the earth.”

The physical properties and spiritual significance of salt in so many cultures, in so many places, throughout history was discussed and illustrated with many examples. It was pointed out that salt is

indispensable for physical and spiritual survival. Salt is an essential element of life. It represents, for many, the tension between the flesh and the spirit. The universal representation by salt, of positive human values in language, song folk literature as well as its role in history, was discussed at length. As Prof. Andretta mentioned, the term “worth his salt” and, in fact, the word salary, relating to the value of human labor, are example of the word’s salience.

The lecture demonstrated that human culture and values are rich with the symbolism of salt. It is a metaphor for many aspects of the human condition. Salt is related to numerous spiritual, biological, sociological, medicinal and commercial aspects of human life. Its role as a representation of the universal human aspiration for peace was emphasized.

Professor Andretta’s lecture was most informative and interesting and it sparked a lively discussion with many questions and comments.

### Provost Lecture

#### *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*

**Prof. Mark Schuller**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

**Room AC-4M07**

**1:00-3:00pm**



“Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy” is a documentary codirected / coproduced by Prof. Mark Schuller (Social Sciences) resulting from his two-year research in Haiti. Sharing powerful, compelling lives of five courageous Haitian women activists, *Poto Mitan* aims to inspire, educate, and challenge solidarity, global justice, and women’s activists. Each woman’s life history explains an aspect of Haiti’s current crisis: health, rural exodus, gender inequality and violence, offering a personal account of conditions poor Haitian women face.

## State Comptroller at Leadership Breakfast



New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli was the keynote speaker at the December 5, 2008, gathering of the York College Executive Leadership Breakfast Series.

Mr. DiNapoli, who manages the state's \$154.5 billion pension fund, elaborated on the fiscal crisis facing the state – including SUNY and CUNY colleges.

Although sobering, the information he shared was essential and he was able to temper it with plans to blunt the impact on New Yorkers.

"It's important for us to acknowledge tough times," said DiNapoli. "But we've been through tough times before and I am optimistic that we will get through this as well. We are going to make smarter decisions, we are going to invest in small businesses and education and we are going to have an 'open book' policy where New Yorkers can log on and see how their money is being spent."

Open Book New York is DiNapoli's method of introducing transparency to the Office of the State Comptroller. With this, any one wishing to know how their tax dollars are being spent, can log on to the website containing searchable databases on 113 state agencies and in excess of 60,000 contracts.

The Comptroller further explained that many services New Yorkers take for granted will be transformed.

"We are in a crisis," he emphasized. "But we still have to provide services. But look at quality instead of quantity. We will use this time to

streamline our delivery and make smarter decisions."



Front row (l. to r.): Icema Gibbs, Dir. Community Relations, Jet Blue Airways; Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, York College President, Marcia V. Keizs; Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and York College Foundation Board President, George Aridas.

Back row: York College students majoring in Business, Accounting and Aviation Management (l. to r.): Realph Saintil, Christina Ally, Rachel Bridglal, Sabrina Ali, Mical Te wolde, Faiza Parveen, Veronica Carpio, Geraldine Powell and Arlington Aquebor.

And despite the dire picture, DiNapoli still sees value in York's mission to provide its students with training for the job market. The Comptroller, who once worked for the New York Telephone Company's Jamaica office, in the York College neighborhood, graciously proffered an invitation for [York's] Accounting majors focused on forensic accounting, to pursue internships and job opportunities through his office.

(Open Book New York can be accessed at [www.osc.state.ny.us/openbook](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/openbook)).

### SPRING 2009 CONVOCATION

Hold the Date!

*"Leading Change, Expanding Quality"*

Hold the Date!

Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
12:00pm – 2:00pm

## Second Annual Retreat for Academic Affairs Leadership

On January 8, 2009, Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith hosted the second Annual Retreat for the Academic Affairs Leadership at York College. All department chairs and directors were present or had sent a representative in case they were ill or not available for other reasons. The retreat started with a breakfast followed by introductory remarks by the Provost, who pointed out that the retreat theme—Leading Change, Enhancing Quality—was chosen because of several factors. These included the necessity and desirability for change prompted by several factors, including College vision and mission, Middle States accreditation requirements, PMP demands, CUNY policies, and higher education best practices. He noted that change is not being pursued for the sake of change, and that improved quality and outcomes were certainly part of the equation.

In his remarks, Provost Griffith pointed out that whether or not we want it, whether or not we like it, whether or not we are or feel adequately prepared for it, change is an inevitable fact in today's world, and it is better to be managed the more we try to embrace it as a phenomenon that has to be acknowledged and dealt with. Referring to the popular book "Who Moved my Cheese" by Spencer Johnson, the Provost remarked that successful management has to continue to "smell the cheese often, so that you know when it is getting old." Subsequent to the Provost's remarks, the unofficial theme of the day became "Change Happens" or "How to get the Cheese," which stood symbolic for the official theme's issues.

Following the Provost's introduction, all participants got an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about their experience with and attitudes to personal and institutional change. Many of the chairs and directors shared anecdotes and personal lessons, and the exercise served to bring all participants in tune with the day's topics. Next, Dr. Aghajan Mohammadi, Director of the Office for Institutional Research

and Assessment, updated the chairs and directors with current enrollment, student profile information, as well as PMP Goals and Objectives. Following a discussion, all parties agreed that these data were informative and useful, although the College still needs to work collectively on refinement with regard to data collection, coding and analysis.



Chairs and Program Directors at the 2nd Annual Retreat (from left to right): Stephen Tyson, Michael Cripps, David Ajuluchukwu, and Aghajan Mohammadi

The next item of the agenda was a presentation by department chairs Dr. Margaret Ballantyne, Dr. Robert Brugna, and Dr. Coleen Clay, who recounted some of the lessons learned during a leadership conference they attended last summer. The team led the chairs and directors through an exercise on "Leading, Managing, Supporting and Navigating Change," which they themselves had experienced at the conference. Several chairs and directors took the opportunity to explain current changes and challenges within their departments or units, and possible approaches to them. The department chairs' presentation was followed by a directors' presentation led by Dr. Bob Baer, Sharon Davidson, and Fenix Arias, who expanded on the set of ideas and principles behind "Who Moved my Cheese."

cont.'d on p.7

# Major Donation to Library

by Daniel E. Cleary and John A. Drobnicki

The Library had a special reason to be thankful during Thanksgiving week, when economist and author David H. Levey donated 55 boxes of academic books to our collection. Mr. Levey, who is Chairman of the Lehman College Foundation, was persuaded to donate the approximately 1,600 volumes to the York Library by his daughter, Dr. Tania Levey of York's Social Sciences Department (Sociology program).

Mr. Levey studied at the University of Chicago and Harvard University, and taught Economics at Yale University, The New School for Social Research, and Wayne State University. He was Managing Director for Country Risk at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco prior to becoming Managing Director of the Sovereign Risk Unit at Moody's Investors Service. Mr. Levey has been a contributor to *Business Week*, and his 2005 article "The Overstretch Myth" was published in *Foreign Affairs*.

Fortunately for the Library, Mr. Levey amassed a wide-ranging book collection that included the subject areas of American History, World History, Literary Arts, Social Sciences, Economics, Religion, Philosophy, the Natural Sciences, and Mathematics. The vast majority of the volumes were imprints of University Presses, the condition of all titles was *mint*, and the date of publication was rarely prior to 1998.

Approximately ten percent of the books were fiction, and even those were as diverse as the academic monographs, including *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *A Certain Age* by Tama Janovitz about American (New York) conspicuous consumption, *The Final Solution* by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Michael Chabon, and Edward P. Jones' *The Known World*, which is not as poetic as the recent Toni Morrison book, *A Mercy*, but is a great piece of literature

holding back nothing in its story of a former slave in antebellum Virginia.



**David H. Levey and his daughter, Dr. Tania Levey  
(Department of Sociology)**

This is an absolutely wonderful collection of books that will enhance the quality of the York College Library collection. At a time when New York State's financial problems provide much uncertainty about the Library's budget, it is especially gratifying to receive support and donations of good-quality current academic books in excellent condition – especially from someone affiliated with one of our sister CUNY colleges!

Many thanks to our colleague Tania Levey for helping to arrange this donation. And thanks to George Fellows, James Smith, Tim Lane, and the Laborers for transporting the many boxes from the Loading Dock to the Library.



**Dan Cleary is Instructor & Science Librarian, and John Drobnicki is Professor & Chief Librarian, in the York College Library.**

## Dr. Boutis Lands Big Grants

cont.'d from p.1

The goal of this funded research is to research the complex water-protein interaction in elastin, a remarkable biopolymer that gives various vertebrate tissues their elasticity, by a variety of unconventional NMR methods. NMR is the physics that underlies the well-known medical technique of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), often used in clinical work to image soft tissue and diagnose disease or damage. The technique also allows for a sensitive probe of the atom's local environment to characterize structure and dynamics of various systems such as proteins. These proposed methods rely on noncommercial based-hardware that undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral research scientists and he have designed and built in his lab since he joined York College in 2005.



**Dr. Boutis in the lab, standing next to a 200 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) magnet**

Since joining the York College faculty, Dr. Boutis has received a National Institute of Health Minority Biomedical Research Support grant (NIH MBRS) and two Professional Staff Congress of CUNY grants. Through his research, Dr. Boutis has supported the work of several undergraduate CUNY students.

Dr. Boutis developed and honed his skills in magnetic resonance as a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) after attending Cornell University and Stevens Institute of Technology as an undergraduate. At MIT, where his graduate research focused

on the experimental and theoretical investigations of multi-body quantum dynamics in a crystal by solid-state NMR, Dr. Boutis received mentorship from his advisors John Waugh and David Cory.

After his graduate studies at MIT, Dr. Boutis took a position as a postdoctoral research scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. There, his research focused on the design and development of an experimental technique known as magnetic resonance force microscopy (MRFM). In theory, MRFM apparatus would allow for achieving the holy grail of microscopy, i.e. nondestructive angstrom resolution three-dimensional imaging of any solid system. A device like this would be able to image proteins responsible for diseases that plague humans. Ultimately, when funding becomes available, Dr. Boutis hopes to develop a rigorous research program in magnetic resonance force microscopy that will attract undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students of various disciplines to his laboratory.

Dr. Boutis has also tried his hand in industry. He went to work for Northrop Grumman in the Research, Development and Advanced Systems Division where he developed new techniques for adaptive processing of radar data as well as models for antenna geometries. Following this position, Dr. Boutis assumed his current position at York College. Here, he teaches all levels of undergraduate physics courses. Dr. Boutis also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center, and he is a member of the Graduate Faculty in Chemistry and Physics.

In private conversation, Dr. Boutis revealed that he was attracted to science as a child, and considers his current position as a faculty member more of a hobby than a job. Having worked hard to earn his credentials, Dr. Boutis today is a successful member of the York College faculty whom we are proud to have.



## Second Annual Retreat cont.'d from p.4

Following a short break and lunch, which gave an opportunity to reflect and engage in discussion about what had been presented so far, the group listened to a talk given by Dr. Garrie W. Moore, CUNY's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who spoke about the challenges many urban college students are facing in today's socio-economic environment. A lively discussion revolved around some staggering statistics regarding the disconcerting mental health situation of students nation-wide and how faculty and staff could best address these issues. As Dr. Moore pointed out, CUNY is currently studying the mental health situation of its student populations and has launched initiatives to address the issues.

An inspiring presentation was then offered by Hunter College's Provost, Dr. Vita Rabinowitz, who addressed issues pertaining to gender diversity and the situation of mid-career faculty with regard to teaching, research, community-involvement, and opportunities to grow professionally and personally. Recounting her own experiences as a mother, scholar and administrator trying to straddle these competing fields of life and career, as well as initiatives taken at Hunter College, triggered many questions and comments

from the audience present.



**Provost Griffith (left) and Provost Rabinowitz (center) of Hunter College sharing a light moment, with Dean Meleties onlooking.**

The final presentation of the day was offered by City College's Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, Ms. Celia P. Lloyd, who engaged the audience in an exchange about issues of mentorship, leadership and best practices in staff recruitment and development.

Following a closing perspective by the Provost on future issues regarding the organization and structure of the College, as well as interested questions from the directors and chairs, the retreat officially ended, although many stayed on for more informal discussions with others.

## Recognizing York Benefactor cont.'d from p.1

"This is a trailblazing moment for York," said Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, President of the College. "Our first endowed professorship. And from the ACFE, an organization whose work is so important nationally! It is linked to our mission of preparing the next generation of accountants. This is an honor of singular value. We will use this gift to leverage our efforts to develop a niche in anti-fraud education at the Masters level. What an extraordinary commitment to York College students now and into the future."

ACFE Founder and Chairman Joseph T. Wells, CFE, CPA said the endowment is an important demonstration of the ACFE's commitment to supporting the future of fraud examination.

"This endowment for anti-fraud education at

York College will lay the foundation for generations of students to learn the skills needed to fight fraud effectively," said Wells. "As tomorrow's leaders, these future fraud examiners will help safeguard the economy from the ever-present threat of fraud."

**Celebrating the benefactor (l. to r.): VP Jerald Posman, Prof. Mary-Jo Kranacher, ACFE Founder and Chairman Joseph T. Wells, President Marcia V. Keizs**



Founded in 1988 by Joseph T. Wells, CFE, CPA, the ACFE proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary as the leader in the global fight against fraud. The York College visit ended with the presentation of the York College Presidential Medal by President Keizs to Mr. Wells.

## Aviation Club at NBAA Meeting and JetBlue's National Training Center

In Fall 2008, the York College/CUNY Aviation Club attended the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Convention at Orlando, Florida. This event supported the club's mission of exposing students to aviation leaders and a variety of events designed to maximize each student's intellectual, professional and personal growth. Professor Reeves Gandy and ten aviation management students were part of the more than 30,000 NBAA attendees.

York College is a member of the University Aviation Association and that membership gave students the opportunity to attend the "NBAA/UAA Reaching Future Business Aviation Professionals: Business Aviation Career Seminar." This panel session highlighted the benefits of business aviation as a career and provided an introduction to the industry. York students were among the more than 100 students given advice on gaining entry to the industry, what to do in order to succeed in a business aviation career and how to secure employment in this challenging economy. The panelists included Janet Bressler, chief administrative officer of ExcelAire; Jad Donaldson, chief pilot with AvFuel; Daniel Wolf, pilot with Darden Restaurants; and Gary Kiteley, executive director of the Aviation Accreditation Board International, and former director of the UAA.

The students also visited the NBAA Static Display of aircraft held in Orlando's Executive Airport. There were 139 aircraft on display, examples from the product lines of Gulfstream, Learjet, Cessna, Bombardier, Piper, Airbus, and Boeing. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase aircraft and compare and contrast offers. Joe Hart, the static display manager said, "The 2008 static display is full of the kind of innovations that demonstrate our industry's vision, with classic aircraft brought up to modern standards that maximize fuel and operational efficiencies."

This was a highly anticipated event for students, which helped them gain more knowledge in business aviation and gave them the valuable

opportunity to network with aviation industry and government leaders. "This experience was worthwhile to me, it was kind of like going behind the scenes and seeing how business aviation worked," said aviation student, Rachel Bridglal.



Front (left to right): Salvador Saravia, Jenny Chimbo, Rachel Bridglal, Veronica Carpio, Daysi Manzano, Geeta Singh, Eloisa Reyes, Edgar Arteaga  
Back (left to right): Victor Panora, JetBlue's Captain Daniel T. Zack (center), Shivanand Sooknanan, Professor Reeves Gandy

While in Orlando the Aviation Club visited the Jetblue Airways' Training Center. Jetblue employees such as pilots, flight attendants, and other crew members receive initial training and recurrent training at the center. At the facility, all of the York students were able to use both the Airbus A319 and Embraer E190 flight simulators. The best part for students was when they were given the opportunity to use the simulators under the direction and instruction of Jetblue flight instructor, Captain Daniel T. Zack.

Through the generous and continuous support of Jetblue Airways, ten students and their instructor, Reeves Gandy, enjoyed complimentary travel on Jetblue to Orlando. The organization continuously supports York College, the CUNY Aviation Institute and the Aviation Club by being part of events such as the Aviation Club's sponsored Aviation Day. That event featured experts from Jetblue Airways, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the Federal Aviation Administration at an Aviation Career

cont.'d on next page



Round Table. The next Aviation Club Career Day will be held during the coming Spring semester, all York faculty and staff are welcomed to attend.

The Aviation Club students also received financial support from the York College Association Committee. Because of the support from York, the NBAA, and JetBlue, York students got the opportunity to experience the world's largest, purely business aviation trade show and visit JetBlue's Training Center.

Thank you Jetblue Airways, CUNY Aviation Institute, York College Association, University Aviation Association and National Business Aviation Association for helping us accomplish our mission!



Students at the NBAA Static Display: Veronica Carpio(left) and Jenny Chimbo

## General Education Reform News

Argonaut's journey has reached a crucial juncture. Crews of the FIG (Faculty Inquiry Group) ships and their stalwart captains have gathered a rich crop of ideas, methods, and models. The narratives of their accomplishments were recorded and parsed. They have all seen the enemy and the enemy is The Dragon of Ignorance. His hideous heads are those of reading illiteracy, writing illiteracy, and thinking illiteracy. Waging battle on this dragon is the fundamental challenge of general education. What does it mean to read, write and think as a college student, not a high-school kid, not as a member of the laity, but as an acculturated member of an institution of higher learning? Signature pedagogies and systems are being created as we speak.



The new space-worthy Argos has been built, new Faculty Inquiry Groups have been formed to continue the quest for the Golden Fleece of the General Education Reform: Freshman Seminar; Keystone in Sciences; Keystone in Arts and Humanities; Capstone Course; Keystone in the Behavioral and Social Sciences; and Quantitative Literacy Modules.

The Argonauts, infused with the spirit of wanderlust and discovery, will proceed on their journey according to this timetable:

**Spring 2009**

**Building the New: Designing Core Courses**

FIG Reports Due (May 7)

**Fall 2009**

**Implications: Identifying and Developing Resources**

cont.'d on p.14

## York's VITA Program "On the Move"

For the second straight year, Assistant Professor Robert Clovey and a crack team of volunteers have teamed up with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide free tax preparation and filing services for low- and moderate-income residents of Southeast Queens. The services provided include electronic filing and direct deposit. The York College *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance* (VITA) program benefits community residents and students alike. However, Professor Clovey has beefed up the York VITA Program in an effort to expand the program and enhance the services provided.

So what's new with the York VITA Program? First, Assistant Professor George White Jr. has joined Professor Clovey as a member of the project team. Second, the objectives of the York VITA project team are to expand the program, enhance its impact and visibility at the College and within the community, and to make the program a model for recruiting, student retention, service learning/internships, and collaborative research. Third, the project team has sought – and received – sponsorship from New York Community Bank to help reach its goals. In short, the project team hopes to make York VITA a critical, multi-faceted component of York College for years to come. For his part, Clovey's vision for the York VITA Program extends into many areas.

York College is the only college in Queens that has a VITA Program. The existence of the program enhances the experiences of current students and also may serve as a recruiting tool for future Cardinals. Professors Clovey and White – in collaboration with the Director of Admissions Diane Warmsley, Director of the Men's Center Jonathan Quash and Susan Wong – contacted a number of area high schools to make them aware of this innovative program. Their hard work culminated in a presentation at the Queens High School for Teaching and they anticipate increasing direct contacts with more high school guid-

ance counselors. Clovey, Quash, Warmsley, White, and Wong believe that the York VITA Program provides a unique recruiting window by providing an opportunity for high school students to spend time on York's campus interacting with current students, staff, and faculty.

Moreover, the uniqueness of York VITA will help continue the upward trajectory of York's reputation within CUNY. Professor Clovey has netted roughly 50 students from Queens College to volunteer with York VITA. Consequently, it is possible that because of the York VITA Program, York College could become a destination of choice for area students interested in a CUNY education.

Professor Clovey is convinced that the York VITA Program serves as an important service-learning program that can boost retention and satisfaction among current students. Many of last year's volunteers praised Clovey for revitalizing and managing York VITA. York VITA allowed the students an opportunity to learn important skills while offering them an opportunity to give back to their communities. As stated in his most recently published article, Clovey believes that the program can serve as a catalyst for improving accounting education by providing students with the technical and people skills that cannot be acquired from a textbook and that cannot be simulated in a classroom. The project team will begin documenting the experiences of the student volunteers to test the retention hypothesis. Concurrently, the project team will begin designing internship courses to allow high school and college students of all majors the opportunity to earn college credit for their training and participation in the York VITA Program. In addition, the project team is seeking to create internships at the financial institutions that are willing to underwrite the program like New York Community Bank has done.

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In a similar vein, Professors Clovey and White think that the York VITA Program provides unique opportunities for collaborative research and scholarship. These junior faculty members expect to begin work on a series of articles regarding the York VITA Program as a tool for improving professional education and as a valuable service-learning model for colleges and universities that serve poor and working-class communities. Both scholars see the possibility of using the data from each year's tax clients to 1) address issues like the need for culturally-competent financial services or 2) create an economic history of Southeast Queens along the lines of notable works like *Black Wealth/White Wealth* by Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro. To that end, the pair is working on grant proposals for support from government agencies and private foundations. In the meantime, Clovey is preparing his team of volunteers to ensure that this year's tax season is as successful as last year's and that the York VITA Program can help maintain the upward momentum of the College.



**Prof. Robert Clovey**

Last year, the York VITA Program prepared and filed federal and state tax returns for over 550 individuals and families, generating over \$650,000 in refunds for these clients. All of the work was done on campus and met exceedingly high standards for quality. Professor Clovey anticipates that the York VITA Program will grow significantly in its second incarnation. Last year, Clovey

trained roughly 75 volunteers; the volunteers were York Accounting students. York VITA has received increased support from College administrators and staff. Vice President Posman and CIO Peter Tighe have helped secure a much larger space within the Academic Core Building for the volunteers to do their work. In addition, Tighe has helped find computer equipment for the VITA Program to use both on campus and at selected off-campus sites like senior facilities and neighborhood public libraries. At the same time, Jonathan Quash and Flormelissa Johnson of the Men's Center have helped organize the training sessions for the eager participants. Further, Quash has provided equipment and supplies for the program. To date, Clovey has trained a number of volunteers from York College and Queens College and from the following high schools – Robert F. Kennedy, Campus Magnet, Martin Van Buren, Hillcrest, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Adams and Queens High School for Teaching.

Finally, Clovey argues that the York VITA Program is an ideal means for improving and sustaining “town-gown” relationships. Not only does the York VITA Program provide a critical service for taxpayers, but it does so with a high regard for quality. The York VITA Program generated over \$200,000 and \$465,000 in state and federal tax refunds, respectively and has saved clients in excess of \$100,000 in filing fees. If the averages hold from last year, the York VITA Program may create a substantial economic footprint in the community that would allow residents to save and or invest. In this regard, Dawn Hewitt – Director of Sponsored Programs and Research – helped the project team network with the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation. The potential economic activity York VITA can stimulate will be all the more impressive because it comes during an economic recession. All in all, the project team believes that York VITA speaks to the mission of York and CUNY in ways both old and new.



# New Student Group

On December 4, 2008, the newly formed York College Professional Organization of Students for Health (POSH), sponsored by the Department of Health and Physical Education/Gerontological Studies & Services, held its first student/faculty luncheon. POSH's goal is to enrich the interaction and collaboration among faculty members and students and to provide ongoing guidance and support for students of the department. For more information on POSH contact Dr. Nicholas Grosskopf at [ngrosskopf@york.cuny.edu](mailto:ngrosskopf@york.cuny.edu).



Students and faculty at the inaugural meeting of the Professional Organization of Students for Health (POSH)



York College

2008 –  
2009

The Year  
of  
General  
Education  
Reform

**YORKCOLLEGE**CUNY

## New Programs Launch

“New Education Programs,  
Expanded Economic Success”

Hold the Date!

Hold the Date!

Monday, March 9, 2009

Visit us Online:

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Office of the Provost  
website:

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

## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### February 2009 Forums and Workshops

Monday, Feb.9	<p><i>Workshop:</i></p> <p>3:30pm–5:00pm</p> <p><b><u>Presenters:</u></b></p>	<p><b><i>Finding Solutions to Improve Student Proficiency and Skills Required for Passing the Computer Based National Board Certification Exam in Occupational Therapy</i></b></p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> <p>Andrea Krauss &amp; Tamara Avi-Itzhak, Occupational Therapy</p>
Thursday, Feb.19	<p><i>Speaker Forum:</i></p> <p>12:00pm–2:00pm</p> <p><b><u>Guest Speaker:</u></b></p>	<p><b><i>Getting and Keeping Students Engaged through Just-In-Time Teaching</i></b></p> <p>Lecture Hall, AC 4M05</p> <p>Dr. Laura Guertin, Associate Professor, Earth Science, Penn State-Brandywine</p>
Thursday, Feb.26	<p><i>Workshop:</i></p> <p>12:00pm–2:00pm</p> <p><b><u>Presenters:</u></b></p>	<p><b><i>Quantitative Literacy in General Education: Models, Examples, Imperatives</i></b></p> <p>CETL, AC 4EA1</p> <p>Lou D’Alotto, Math &amp; Computer Studies Leslie Keiler, Teacher Education Dan Robie, Chemistry</p>

## Building a Culture of Assessment

As York College continues on its path of General Education reform, it is important to move the curricular conversation increasingly to one of student learning. With that in mind, on January 22nd, the Outcomes Assessment Committee chaired by Dana Fusco, Leslie Keiler, and Shao-Wei Wu conducted an interactive workshop entitled, “Building Assessment into General Education Curricular Reform.” Faculty members who have served on FIGs participated, refining learning objectives and beginning to develop plans for College-wide assessment of student learning.

A presentation on Learning Objectives, led by Dean Fusco and Dr. Leslie Keiler, was followed by four breakout sessions. Faculty had opportunities to discuss “Testing for Critical Thinking,” “Portfolios,” “Performance-based Assessment”, and “Writing Assessments.” Fenix Arias, Director of Testing, also gave a presentation on the CUNY Proficiency Exam (CPE) specifically identifying the competencies assessed by the exam.

Faculty left prepared and motivated to continue these critical conversations into the Spring Semester. Resources provided at the event are available from the Outcomes Assessment Committee.

**General Education News**

cont.'d from p.9

**Spring 2010**

- Convocation (September)
- Task Force Recommendations Due (December)
- Proposing Change: Creating Community Consensus**
- General Education Day: Unveiling the New Curriculum (January)
- Senate Articulation and Vote (April)
- York Hosts CUNY General Education Conference (May)

**Fall 2010 - Spring 2012**

- Phase-in of New General Education Curriculum**
- Stay involved, committed to change, and open to new ideas – New General Education is coming to York!

*“I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.” – Socrates*



Front row (l. to r.): Sabrina Ali, Rachel Briglal, Salvador Saravia, Daysi Manzano, Congressman Meeks, Hanna Mohammed, Veronica Carpio, Geeta Singh.  
 Back row (l. to r.): Michel Hodge (Director, Aviation Institute ) and Devon Phillips.

**Visiting the U.S. Congress**

On January 15, 2009, students of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College visited Washington, DC, for a Transportation Research Board Conference and were personally escorted by Congressman Gregory W. Meeks to witness Congress vote on a number of bills.

The Congressman, whose Sixth Congressional District includes York College, then graciously posed for photos in the Capitol Building with the group.

*“The best teachers assume that learning has little meaning unless it produces a sustained and substantial influence on the way people think, act, and feel.”*

**Ken Bain (What the Best College Teachers Do, p. 17)**



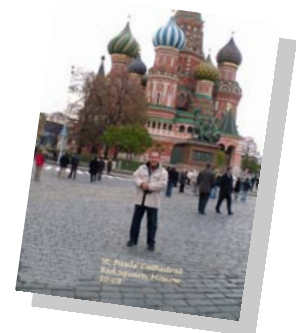
# York Faculty Update



- ◇ **Dr. Basdeo Mangru**, Associate Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, recently published an article entitled “Guiana, 1838: A Critique,” in: *The Arts Journal*, Spring 2008, pp. 149–158. A review of his book, *Impressions of British Guiana, 1930. An Emissary’s Assessment* (which he edited and introduced) by Professor Emeritus Frank Birbalsingh (York University, Toronto) was also published in this issue of the journal.
- ◇ **Dr. Rishi Nath** in the Department of Mathematics was invited to give a talk at Combinatory Analysis 2008, a conference held at Penn State University from Dec. 5–7. This event was held in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of George Andrews, President of the American Mathematical Society (AMS). Professor Andrews is one of the world’s foremost number theorists and an expert on the work of the famed Indian mathematician Ramanujan. Nath delivered a 20-minute lecture entitled “On Diagonal Hooks of Symmetric Partitions.” Other attendees included plenary speakers Ken Ono (Wisconsin), Richard Stanley (MIT) and Frank Garvan (Gainesville). Math publisher Elsevier will be publishing a special edition of the Ramanujan Journal dedicated to George Andrews based on papers presented at this conference.
- ◇ **Dr. Timothy W. Kirk**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, delivered Grand Rounds at the Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute of Mt. Sinai Medical Center in January. The topic of the rounds was: “Palliative Sedation to Unconsciousness for Existential Suffering in Terminally Ill Patients: An Ethical Inquiry.” Professor Kirk chairs the task force on palliative sedation therapy for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and is working on a series of articles addressing the topic.
- ◇ A team of scientists lead by two researchers from UCLA and York College-CUNY discover neurological work-arounds that could offer hope for people with conditions ranging from addiction to schizophrenia. A new article published in the journal *GENETICS* may open doors to entirely new types of treatments for monoamine-related disorders – see **Anne F. Simon**, R. Daniels, R. Romero-Calderón, A. Grygoruk, H.-Y. Chang, Rod Najibi, D. Shamouelian, E. Salazar, M. Solomon, Larry C. Ackerson, N.T. Maidment, A. DiAntonio and D.E. Krantz, “Drosophila vesicular monoamine transporter mutants can adapt to reduced or eliminated vesicular stores of dopamine and serotonin,” in: *GENETICS* (Feb. 2009).

## From Russia with Love

Peter Jackson, Director of York’s Medical Technology Program, recently visited Russia as part of a U.S. delegation of Laboratory Professionals. In Moscow, the delegation visited the Kremlin, Red Square, GUM Mall, Tretyakov Art Gallery, and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. In St. Petersburg, the visitors went to see the Peter & Paul Fortress, Our Savior on the Spilled Cathedral (where we saw the tombs of Peter the Great and Catherine II), Catherine II’s Palace, the Hermitage Museum, and attended the ballet “Swan Lake” at the Hermitage Theater.



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**The deadline for submissions to the March issue of Academic Affairs Update is February 23, 2009.**

*All items should be submitted in MS Word via email to:*  
***AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu***