

Academic Affairs Update

Volume II, Number 7

November 2008

Special points of interest:

- York's Library gets Paule Marshall Collection
- General Education Reform
- Aviation Student Internship
- JoeFest

Inside this issue:

Provost's Lecture Series	2
Students and Faculty at Conference in Grenada	3
Aviation Student News	4
Paule Marshall Collection	8
Pots-Election Forum	8
Provost Lecture Application Form	9
Foreign Languages News	10
Grannies for Peace/Justice	11
Advisement Workshop	12
Faculty Art Exhibition	12
Hispanic Heritage Poetry	13
Haiti ... not in the News	14
CETL Workshops	15
JoeFest	15

York's General Education Reform Journey

by Vadim Moldovan

And the ships sail on. To use our on-going metaphors about the General Education reform process, we can now state that the Argonauts have embarked on their journey to find the Golden Fleece of General Education. They are exploring their respective areas of inquiry as they evaluate existing courses; clarify conceptual definitions; discuss students' talents, needs, and challenges; discover best practices and models at other educational institutions; identify the resources; formulate objectives; and develop pilot projects. FIG (Faculty Inquiry Groups) ships are at different points on this journey, and the voyage is occasionally bumpy as the seas of education can be rough and

hide rocks of inertia and turf mentality. Yet the sails are aloft and filled with the wind of change.



Professor Vadim Moldovan



The Argonauts are invigorated by their mission and the excitement of this momentous undertaking. Below (p.5) is the list of FIGs, FIG leaders, and FIG group members. Read the next issue of the AAU for the news of their exciting exploits.

Cont.'d on p.5

York Athletics: Student Success On and Off the Field

York College, with 23 City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Championships, has been producing successful teams on the field of play for several years now. However, the athletics program provides more than just a place for students to compete at high-level. Athletics is helping students

in the classroom as well.

The York College athletics program competes in NCAA Division III competition and is part of the CUNYAC. The school fields 15 varsity programs: men's and women's cross country, men's soccer, men's and women's volleyball, men's and wom-

Cont.'d on p.6

Reflections

Prof. Majerovitz on Family Caregiving

by Lew Lasser

One of the all time favorite things to wish for is to live a long and happy life. Advances in medical technology have enabled more people to live more years than ever before. Still, at some point, the end will come. For some it comes with a relative degree of peace and calm. For others, chronic diseases of mind or body create challenging situations for both the individual and their family and friends. Caring for them may be difficult for all involved.

Deborah Majerovitz, chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and an active researcher, has taken up the challenge of understanding the needs and concerns of family caregivers. Over the course of several studies she has examined a series of questions touching on a number of important issues. For example: what helps people adapt while avoiding depression? And most recently: what can we say about cultural and family attitudes towards family caregivers?

To answer the last question she reached into the York College research pool. A total of 495 students answered her call. By doing so she has not only obtained a rich source of raw data, but she has also en-

gaged the students themselves in active research into a contemporary issue.

Important elements of the study addressed the need of the caregiver to receive respites from the constant need to give care, the likelihood of using elder care services, the acculturation to majority and minority culture, and the importance of culturally sensitive services. The most surprising findings of the study were the things that were not found. For example, there were no cultural differences for using the various services.

The lecture ended in a discussion during which Professor Majerovitz and the audience focused on ways to refine the measurement of caregiver values and ways in which the study could be modified to yield clearer conclusions. Several suggestions were made varying from the pragmatic (extend the study for several semesters) to the theoretical (incorporate elements from other fields of study).

It is safe to say the talk was warmly received and that it provided an excellent example of the importance of research and the need to involve students in it. All in all, it provided a promising start to the Provost Lectures for the current academic year.

Provost Lecture

“The ‘Salt’ of Peace”

Dr. Helen R. Andretta
(Dept. of English)

Wednesday, December 3, 2008
1:00-3:00 pm, Room 4M07



Dr. Helen R. Andretta



Dr. Andretta’s talk reflects an aspect of her research on Southern writer Flannery O’Connor and on a topic of vital interest to our time--survival. With documentation of the history and significance of the common element of salt and with literary (inclusive of biblical) allusions, she develops an association with peace efforts and strivings in our time.

Refreshments will be served following the lecture

York at the Caribbean Academy of Sciences 2008 Biennial Conference

by Rashia Burrell and Pamela Lebrón



The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS), created May 1988 in Trinidad, is an association of Doctors and Scientists who have a Caribbean or African American heritage. CAS is sectioned into five different areas of study: Social Sciences, Engineering, Natural, Agricultural, and Medical Sciences. On October 11-13, 2008 CAS celebrated its 20th anniversary during the 16th General Meeting and Biennial conference, held in St. George, Grenada.

This event illustrated the progress of Caribbean scientists throughout the years to maintain and continue independent research projects despite the financial issues of funding and government support persistent in the developing island nations. The importance of this 20th anniversary demonstrated for young students like us the importance of determination and hard work when pursuing a career in science and technology.



Rashia Burrell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Honorable Tillman Thomas, and Pamela Lebrón (left to right).

There were many outstanding presentations at this conference. However some of the more memorable ones addressed the use of language, science education, management, and climate change. For example, Dr. Ewart Thomas' (Stanford University) presentation put mathematical equations to Creole everyday language heard throughout the Caribbean. His theory suggests that if a Caribbean speaker uses

words such as "nyam," "pickney," or "dem," it is unlikely that they will use the standard English version of those words, namely "eat," "child," and "them." Dr. Thomas's theory, however, does not take into account speakers who have to go between a professional and colloquial society setting.

Dr. Karl Theodore presented how Science Education could be employed in health areas as a catalyst for improving economic development in the region. He argued that for developing countries, such as the Caribbean nations, a more successful approach to tackling problems such as HIV/AIDS would be to focus on preventative measures, such as public health education and safe sex devices, rather than trying to match the huge expenditures of the U.S. and other developed nations on drug therapies and treatment.

Physicist Dr. Michael A. Taylor from the University of the West Indies, discussed climate change in the Caribbean. In his presentation entitled, "We know more than we think we do," Dr. Taylor illustrated the various datasets on temperature, rain fall, and hurricanes already collected about the Caribbean region. He believes that we can use these existing datasets, combined with new innovative methods, to predict natural disasters throughout the Caribbean islands and better manage the different weather patterns that show signs of potential for natural disaster.

York College was represented at the conference by undergraduate student Pamela Lebrón and Dr. Mandë Holford, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Also, Pamela Lebrón a sophomore at York, majoring in Chemistry, presented her independent research that was conducted in the summer of 2008 in collaboration with Dr. Ruel Desamero, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Pamela's research objective was to determine the Pka of the -SH group using vibrational methods.

Cont.'d on page 7

Aviation Student Scores Port Authority Internship

When Aviation Management major, Geeta Singh, signed up for an internship at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey last summer, she might have been expecting a typical internship of grunt work and paper shuffling. But the York College junior was in for a life-changing professional experience.

She was the first of York's Aviation students to intern with "The Port," as she calls it, and they pulled out all the stops to ensure a meaningful experience for the enthusiastic intern.

"I didn't have any experience before," said Singh. "But the internship was well-rounded. I did desk work and field work at the terminal gate. I worked the counter, runway and airport ops area and toured Kennedy Airport."

But that's not all.

The three-month long internship took Singh to LaGuardia Airport under the tutelage of security manager, Lisa Board and Central Terminal Building manager, Chris Rhoads. She also met with Paul Blanco, the Port Authority's Chief Financial Officer who gave her a breakdown of the organization's financial structure — where it comes from and how it is spent.



York Aviation student
Ms. Geeta Singh

"It was a really good experience," said the Rose-dale, Queens-born Singh, of the paid internship. "And not just as an Aviation Management major,

but for any kind of business manager. The high-level folks there don't necessarily have aviation backgrounds, but business in general. The security manager has a Masters [degree] in public administration."

Singh also got a personal tour of the George Washington Bridge, which falls under the purview of the Port Authority. She was taken up to the top of the bridge by elevator, toured the facility and gained insight into the daily operations of one of the Tri-State's busiest bridges.

The York College Merit Scholar gained so much insight she is now willing to impart nuggets from her experience to other aspiring business managers. "Take advantage of internships," she advises. "It is so important to get facilities experience. I learned to self-manage my own projects — from badging analysis to determine what the impact would be if we changed the employee ID expiration date from 18 months to 12, to the delivery of concession goods."

Singh's study resulted in the changing of the expiration date to 12 months. Her project management experience also included maintenance and ramp management gates at LaGuardia's Central Terminal Building.

"I went from elevator to airliner to screening food (meals to be served to passengers in-flight) on the conveyor belt," she explained. "It's different from reading [about] it in a book."

The internship, according to Singh was the equivalent of a full-time job. She worked 40 hours per week 9 am to 5 pm and was compensated competitively on the pay scale.

"I never knew there were so many sides to it," she observed. "And I saw the relationship between the Port Authority and the Airport. It was also a good networking opportunity. You get a foot in the door for when you graduate."

And Singh who will graduate in June 2010 is counting on that door being open to her at that time.

"I love York's Aviation Program," she enthused.

The Gen Ed Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs)

Faculty Inquiry Group	Group Leader	Group Members
Freshman Seminar	Laura Fishman	Marie Carrese Naz Khandaker Deborah Majerovitz Elizabeth Meddeb Bonnie Oglensky George White
Sophomore Experience	Veronica Shipp	Donald Auriemma Colleen Clay Deborah Glaser Tania Levey
Capstone Experience	Howard Ruttenberg	Nina Buxenbaum Donna Chirico Sam Hux Patricia Milanes
Linked Pre-Professional Courses	Ouida Murray & Robert Clovey	Vickie Ashton Andrew Criss Lillian Kaplan Andrea Krauss Ray Marks
English/Writing	Valerie Anderson	Charles Coleman Richi Nath Scott Sheidlower
Collaborative Learning	Xiaodan Zhang	Michelle Gregory Heather Robinson Wenying Huang-Stolte Karin Wolf
Scientific Literacy	Laura Beaton & Ruel Desamero	Kate Foster Leslie Keiler Margaret MacNeil
Linked Existing Courses	Bill Divale	Mark Schuller
Quantitative Literacy	Lou D'Alotto	Cheryl Adams Aegina Brnes Larry Preiser Farley Mawyer Aghajan Mohammadi Vadim Moldovan George White Karin Wolf Tsu-Chin Wu
Foreign Language	Hamid Bahri	Tim Amrhein Richi Nath Fabiola Sayek Lorraine Stern Gaila Weber
Information Literacy	Anamika Dasgupta	Ratan Dhar Robert Ducncan Samuel Ghelli Christina Miller
Experiential Learning	Michael Flynn	Donna Chirico Michael Smith

York Athletics Helps Students

Cont.'d from page 1

en's swimming and diving, men's and women's basketball, men's tennis, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field and softball.

Within the health and physical education complex, there are a number of facilities available for students to use to enhance their collegiate experience, which include a 2,000-seat capacity gymnasium, a six-lane swimming pool, outdoor and indoor tracks, a soccer field, six tennis courts and a fitness center.

The program is led by athletic director Ronald St. John, a former student-athlete at York. For nearly 30 years, he has served the York community either as a basketball coach or an administrator. For the past 20 years, he has been the head coach of the men's basketball team, leading the squad to three CUNYAC titles. "Being a former student-athlete at York has helped me see problems from a student perspective," said St. John. "The most important thing to remember is that we are here to help the student-athletes succeed."

Some naysayers would have one believe that athletics can hurt a student's performance in the classroom, mainly because of the time commitment involved and the conflict it sometimes creates with class. St. John disagrees, however. "Students know they have to do well in class if they want to play. Academics and athletics share the same common denominator. The team reinforces academics and the classroom reinforces their involvement with the team."

John Scarinci, the Sports Information Director at York and a former student-athlete himself, agrees. "The values you learn playing a sport: teamwork, discipline, and hard work carry over into the classroom and can make you better student."

Students who play sports at York, will have more of a challenge staying eligible than most Division III students around the country. That's

because the CUNYAC holds its student-athletes to a higher academic standard than the NCAA. While the NCAA requires that student-athletes hold a minimum of a 1.75 grade point average (GPA) to remain eligible to play, the CUNYAC requires its student-athletes to earn a 2.0 GPA.

In order to help student-athletes meet these requirements, the athletics department at York College has set up an athletic retention center. The purpose of this center is to help keep student-athletes eligible to play, which in turn will not only increase York's success on the field but will go a long way in helping players graduate.

The academic retention center is open to all students but was set up with student-athletes in mind. The school recently hired Michelle Reed, a former WNBA player, to oversee the center. "My ultimate goal is to have all student-athletes graduate with a 3.0 or higher," St. John said. "This is a big step towards achieving that goal."

In the academic retention center, which will be located on the third floor of the health and physical education building, the students will have a common place to study, with computer access, as well as a place to seek advisement for their classes. In addition, Reed will monitor the progress of student-athletes throughout the semester and will secure tutoring for students who need additional help.

"The athletic retention center will help in three ways," noted St. John. "It will reduce the number of student athletes who are ineligible, it will graduate students at a higher rate, and it will help those students who graduate to achieve a higher GPA."

"When I talk to parents," added St. John, "I tell them I want three things from their child: I want them to graduate, I want them to improve in their respective sport, and I want them to become a better all-around person. If I can do that, then I've done my job."



York at CAS Conference

Cont.'d from p.3

Presenting in Grenada was a valuable experience because we received a lot of feedback about our work that will be useful in future research.

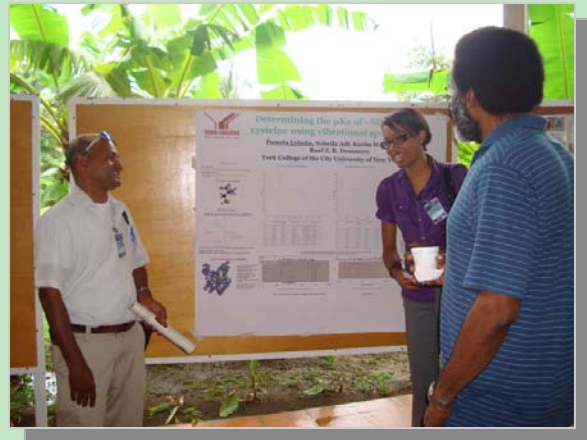
Dr. Holford presented her research involving venomous marine snails. Dr. Holford's presentation illustrated the process of how the biodiversity of the Caribbean could be used as a driver for economic development. Highlighting the potential therapeutic relevance of neurotoxins identified from venomous marine snails, Dr. Holford outlined a strategy for effectively converting knowledge of local biodiversity into potential drug development targets.



Pamela Lebrón, Rashia Burrell, Drs. Balda and Taylor (l. to r.)

We learned several things from the Caribbean Academy of Sciences conference: 1. Independent research is a long, rigorous process; however, it is beneficial not only to other scientists, but the

world around them. 2. Medication for diseases can be found in the sea and on land, but would not be needed in such enormous amounts if the proper health prevention programs were put into place. 3. To find out why people are still being infected with diseases does not start with what we already know, but what we failed to know. 4. Research is never ending and new ideas spark the search for new cures for those in need. While it is possible to get these lessons from our coursework at York, hearing it from the experts directly, and having the opportunity to discuss it further with them was a very effective exercise.



Pamela Lebrón presenting to conference attendees

This Conference was a first for us, but it is now motivation to attend, and even present, at the many more there are to come. The authors would like to extend a special thank you to the President of York College, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, the Provost, Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, the Department of Chemistry, and Drs. Lawrence Johnson and Mandë Holford, for making this trip a reality for young students at York College.



The submission deadline for materials for the December issue is November 24, 2008.

All items should be submitted as MS Word file via email to:

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu

The Paule Marshall Collection

by Sandra Gall Urban (York College, Library)

York College Library recently received a sizeable donation of books from noted author Paule Marshall, who recently retired from her position as the Helen Gould Sheppard Chair of Literature and Culture in the Creative Writing Program at New York University. The donation was facilitated by President Keizs, who has known Ms. Marshall both professionally and personally for many years. In fact, then-Professor Marcia Keizs (while still a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University) published an article on Marshall's work entitled "Themes and Style in the Works of Paule Marshall" in *Negro American Literature Forum* (1975). Years later, they would become friends.



Paule Marshall



Ms. Marshall is the esteemed author of five novels, two collections of short fiction, and numerous short stories. She is known for giving voice to female characters of African-American and Caribbean-American descent and for incorporating these cultures and dialects into her writing.

The collection of books, which contains both fiction and non-fiction, represents African-American, Caribbean-American, African, and minority literature and history. Plays, poetry, catalogs from art exhibits, and anthologies are also included. In addition, Ms. Marshall donated five of her own works: *Brown Girl, Brownstones*; *Daughters*; *Praisesong for the Widow*; *The Chosen Place, The Timeless People*; and *The Fischer King*. These will be available for circulation in the near future, after the collection is processed. Also among the donated materials were signed books, uncorrected proofs, and individual issues of periodicals. Each volume will have a book plate indicating that it was donated by Ms. Marshall, and there will be also be a note to that effect in the book's record in the library catalog.



An Historic Election in a Time of National Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities

A Post Election Forum

Thursday, November 13, 12:00 – 2:00 pm
Lobby of the Performing Arts Center



Panelists:

- **Katrina vanden Heuval**, Editor, *Nation Magazine*
- **Frances Fox Piven**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center
- **Walter Fields**, Senior Vice-President for Governmental Relations and Public Affairs, Community Service Society of New York
- **John Flateau**, Senior Fellow, DuBois-Bunche Institute, Medgar Evers College/CUNY
- **Michael Flynn**, Assistant Professor Behavioral Sciences, York College

Moderator: **Ron Daniels**, Distinguished Lecturer, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, York College

The panelists will assess one of the most extraordinary election campaigns in American history and discuss the significance of the outcome against the backdrop of a deepening domestic and global economic crisis.

York College Provost Lecture Series Request for Proposals

The York College Provost Lecture Series, a forum designed to facilitate a cross-campus conversation among scholars, welcomes applications from York College faculty of all ranks to present their work. Applicants may belong to any academic department, program, or discipline, and may offer presentations or performances individually and in teams. Applications will be peer reviewed and selected by the Lecture Series Planning Committee.

The Provost Lecture Series offers an opportunity to present finished work or work in progress of such quality as to be published in peer reviewed journals, presented at regional or national conferences, or displayed or performed in prominent venues. Presentations should be communicable to a broad audience of peers, students, and other members of the College community.

Application

Name(s): _____

Department(s) or Program(s): _____

Title of Presentation: _____

In an abstract of 100–250 words, describe the nature and significance of the work and what will be discussed in the Lecture.

Please check for equipment needed: Computer Projector LCD VCR CD player
Other

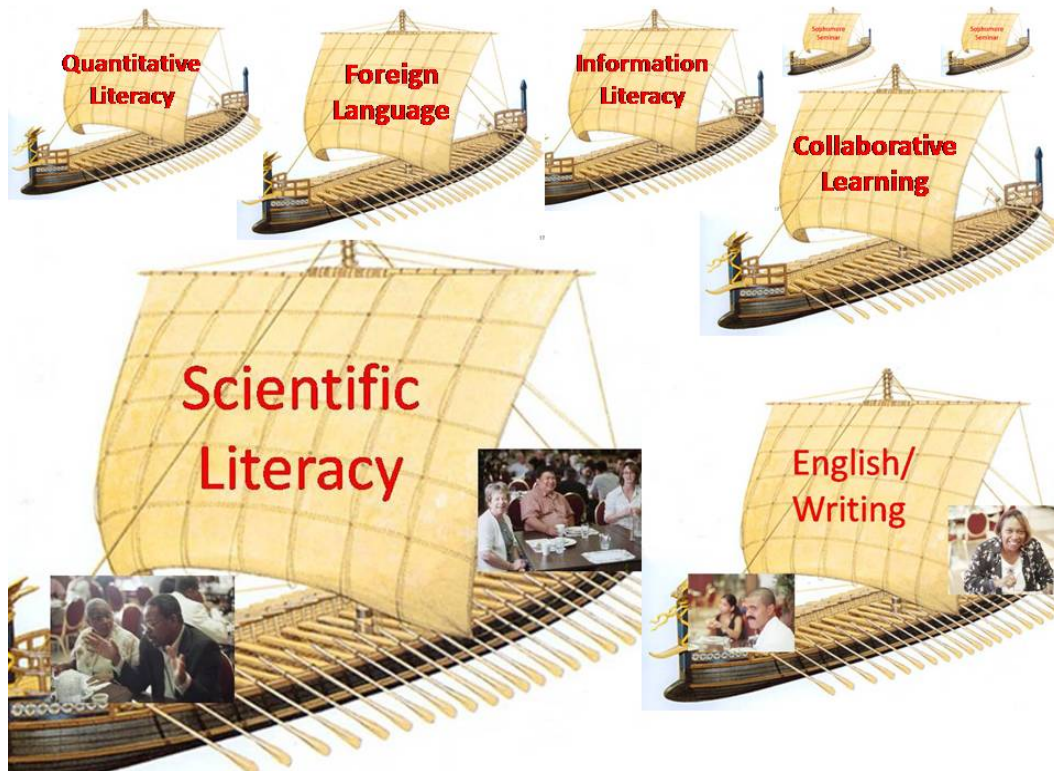
Customarily, lectures will be held mid-afternoon on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays. Please indicate which of the two days is preferred.

Please send completed applications electronically to <fishman@york.cuny.edu> by November 14, 2008 for a *Spring 2009* presentation.

Provost Lecture Series Planning Committee

Ken Adams, Performing and Fine Arts
Laura Fishman, History and Philosophy (Committee Chair)
Holger Henke, Office of the Provost
Linda Grasso, English
Tania Levey, Social Sciences
Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost
Adam Profit, Chemistry
Ronald Thomas, Administrative Affairs
Eva Vasquez, Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities
Francisco Villegas, Behavioral Sciences

Imagining the Gen Ed Reform Journey



York College

2008 –
2009

The Year
of
General
Education
Reform

News from the Department of Foreign Languages

On Friday, November 7, 2008 Editorial Campana will launch the book *Se Vende, Se Alquila O Se Regala*. This book is an anthology of plays by Latino/a Spanish writers in New York and includes two pieces by Professor Eva Cristina Vásquez: “Lágrimas Negras: Tribulaciones de una Negrita Acomplejá” and “Los Cuartos de la Casa.” “Lágrimas Negras: Tribulaciones de una Negrita Acomplejá” was awarded the 2007 HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors) for Best Solo Performance and the 2008 ACE (Asociación de Críticos del Espectáculo) Award for Excellence in Theatre. The launching event will take place at Barnes & Noble Lincoln Tri-

angle (1972 Broadway), at 7:00.

From October 23 to November 9, Prof. Eva C. Vásquez will perform in *La Celestina*, a masterpiece of the Spanish classic literature by Fernando de Rojas. This production by Teatro Círculo, a company where Eva is a founding member and Educational Program Director, has toured in the 2008 Golden Age Theatre Festival in Chamizal, El Paso, Texas (March 2008) and the 44th International Theatre Festival of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture in San Juan, Puerto Rico (October 3-5, 2008). Teatro Círculo is located at 64 E 4th St, New York, New York.

Visit us Online:

**York College —
Office of the Provost
website:**

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

Grannies for Peace and Justice at York College

This group of outstanding seniors led by Joan Wile, the founder of Grannies Against the War, graced York College with their presence on September 24. The panel, organized and sponsored by the Honors Program (Profs. M. Flynn and V. Moldovan) and Foreign Languages Department/Women's Studies Program (Prof. Fabiola Fernandez-Salek), included Joan Wile, Judy Lear, Lillian Pollack, Barbara Walker – grandmothers in their 70s, 80s, and 90s. These remarkable ladies are active and productive as artists, book authors, and academics.



Prof. Michael Flynn introducing the "Peace Grannies."

The event was opened by an energetic introduction of the guests delivered by Prof. Michael Flynn of York College Behavioral Sciences Department and Honors Program who is also Associate Director of the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College. His brief address on the imperative of political engagement was suffused with poetry and passion.

The "Grannies" followed with their personal stories and tales of political involvement. They were recently arrested and jailed for demonstrating in front of the Army Recruitment Cen-

ter on Times Square. One of their members, Judy Lear, is also the head of Grey Panthers in New York. Joan Wile has recently published a book about her political awakening – "Grandmothers Against the War: How We Get Off Our Fannies and Stand Up for Peace." Lillian Pollack is 93 and author of the book published a year ago – "The Sweet Dream: Love, Lies and Assassination" – about her life-long political activism dating back to encounters with Leon Trotsky and support of republicans in the Spanish Civil War. Barbara Walker has been working at the United Nations and has recently joined the Grannies movement.



Lillian Pollak (left) and Joan Wile.

They have provided the large audience consisting of York College students, faculty and staff, with an exciting prospect of being active, creative, and courageous at old age.



York College (CUNY)
Office of Academic Affairs invites faculty and staff to attend

Fostering Student Success through Academic Advisement



Dr. Thomas Grites
Richard Stockton College



Wednesday, November 19
2 Sessions: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
2D01 – Faculty Dining Room

Academic advisors play a central role in the college's teaching and learning process by assisting students to connect to the college, persist in their studies, and move forward through graduation. This workshop will explore the central issues of academic advisement from both a practical and theoretical perspective. It is designed for both faculty members and professional staff who advise students. A focus will be on assisting participants to develop knowledge and skills to enhance their ability to serve as effective academic advisors. Addressing the connections between students' educational, career and personal goals will be an important aspect.

Dr. Thomas Grites is a nationally-recognized expert on collegiate academic advisement. He is a past president of the National Association of Academic Advising (NACADA) and the author of numerous books and articles on the subject. He has offered consultation services and workshops at over one hundred American colleges and universities.

Attendees should RSVP to 410-780-2280

Refreshments will be served

Faculty Art Exhibition



Adjunct Assistant Professor Jeffrey Allen Price is currently featured in a solo exhibition on Long Island, entitled "Gross Domestic Products" showcasing over 40 of his recent drawings and paintings. The exhibition is on view at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, NY until November 24, 2008. In 2008, Professor Price's work has been included in several venues around the state including "Emerging Artists" exhibitions in New York City and Long Island, and in December he will be producing another solo exhibition in Springfield, Missouri.



Also earlier this year Professor Price's video work was shown in Australia in an official U.N. "Year of the Potato" exhibition, and two of his paintings were published in a limited edition "Year of the Potato Art Calendar" printed in The Netherlands. His interest and expertise in "Potato Art" led the College Now Summer program at York to adopt The Potato as this year's theme. Professor Price is the Studio Art coordinator for the York College Now Program and currently teaches Sculpture, 3-D Design, Drawing, Color Theory and Printmaking at York College and other colleges on Long Island. More information about the artist can be found on his website www.jeffreyallenprice.com.

Hispanic Heritage Month

The Department of Foreign Languages/ESL/Humanities cordially invites to a Bilingual:

Poetry Reading-Performance

With



Noel Urayoán (Puerto Rico)

and



Nancy Mercado (Puerto Rico)

Thursday, October 16th
6:00 – 8:30 PM
Room 2MO4

Sponsored by the Foreign Languages Department and the York College Auxiliary Enterprises. For more information please contact Prof. Margarita Drago or Prof. Juana M. Ramos at 718-262-2430.

Noel Urayoán (Puerto Rico), ha publicado *Las flores del mal* (2000) y *Koo / Logic / La lógica Kool* seleccionado como uno de los Libros del año 2006 por *El Nuevo Día*. Colaboró con el compositor Monxo López en el DVD de *Performance Kool Logic Sessions* (2005) y sus ensayos, reseñas y traducciones recientes figuran en *Bomb*, *Mandorla* y *Centro: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*. Radicado en Nueva York desde 1999, actualmente conspira con *Spanic Attack* en el sur del Bronx. En el otoño de 2008 se unirá al Departamento de Inglés de la Universidad de Albany (SUNY), donde enseñará literatura y escritura creativa.

Nancy Mercado (Puerto Rico), her second book of poems *Rooms for the Living: New York Poems* is currently being considered for publication. Her work has been anthologized in (among others): *From Totems to Hip-Hop: A Multicultural Anthology of Poetry Across the Americas, 1900-2002*, edited by Ishmael Reed (Thunder's Mouth Press), and *Identity Lessons: Contemporary Writing About Learning to be American* (Penguin). She has presented her work throughout the U.S., in Canada and Europe.

Haiti ...



This year's destructive hurricane season in Haiti that claimed many hundreds of lives, destroying thousands of homes, and wiped out this year's rice crop—particularly devastating because of an already difficult food crisis—is getting very little attention.

As part of an effort to change this, Prof. Mark Schuller (Social Sciences) is organizing several benefits with Haitian-American Spoken Word Artist GINA ATHENA ULYSSE, “BECAUSE WHEN GOD IS TOO BUSY: HAITI, ME AND THE WORLD” to raise funds for the documentary he’s co-directing—Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy” and grassroots hurricane relief from Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees.

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Suggested donation: \$10-15

Brecht Forum

451 West Street, New York

(212) 242-4201

Visit <http://brechtforum.org>



... *not* in the News

“The Hell of High Water”: Recent Hurricane Destruction in Haiti, Cuba, and other Caribbean Countries



**Prof. Mark Schuller (Dept. of Social Sciences) & Holger Henke, Ph.D.
(Assistant Provost)**

**Tuesday, November 11, 5:00-6:00 pm
Room 3B04 (African-American Resource Center)**

In barely three weeks beginning in mid-August, four hurricanes – Fay, Gustav, Hannah and Ike – lashed Haiti, Cuba and several other countries in the Caribbean causing extremely widespread damage. Preoccupied with the elections in the United States and the unfolding global financial crisis, the international community barely took notice of the Katrina-like conditions now prevailing. With this informational session, the presenters (Note: Dr. Schuller just returned from Haiti) will update York College students, faculty, and residents in the community of the recent havoc, discuss the countries’ different vulnerabilities, and make a case for greater public attention to the dire conditions of our neighbors in the region.

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Fall 2008 Forums and Workshops

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Workshop: *Using Social Software to Build Collaborative Learning Space*

3:30- 5pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenters: Dr. Wenying Huang-Stolte, Educational Technology
 Dr. Bill Divale, Social Sciences

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Workshop: *Advising as Teaching*

3:30- 5pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenter: Dr. Bob Baer, Center for Academic Advising

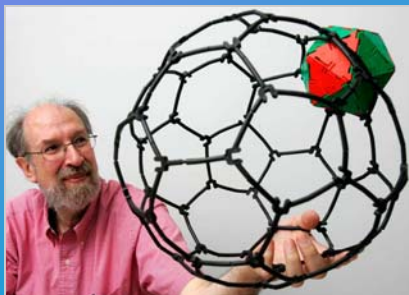
Thursday, Nov. 20

Speaker Forum: *Teaching, Learning and Technology: Fostering Deep Learning through Technology*
 12 -2pm Lecture Hall, AC 4M05

Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Doolittle
 Associate Professor, Educational Psychology,
 Virginia Tech & Executive Editor, *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*

Announcing York College's JoeFest

On November 8th, 2008, York College will be hosting *JoeFest*, a conference honoring the life and work of Joe Malkevitch, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the college. Speakers will include Steven Brams, Professor of Political Science at NYU, author of *Mathematics and Democracy* (Princeton University Press), Janos Pach, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, CUNY Graduate Center, and Donald Crowe, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, author of *Symmetries of Culture* (University of Washington Press). The topics covered at this conference will include geometry, combinatorics, game theory and mathematics education.



The lectures will begin at 9:00am and continue throughout the day until 5:30pm in the faculty Dining Room (AC-2D01). A banquet will follow. A volume of papers in honor of Joe Malkevitch is being published by Boston-based mathematics publishers COMAP in conjunction with the conference. To register, or for more information go to www.york.cuny.edu/joefest or contact Professor Rishi Nath at 718-262-2543.

York College
Office of the Provost
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., AC-2H07
Jamaica, NY 11451
Phone: 718-262-2780
Fax. 718 262-2786

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jamaica, N.Y.
Permit No. 67



The deadline for submissions to the December issue of *Academic Affairs Update* is November 24, 2008.

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