

Special points of interest:

- York Hosts CUNY Assessment Workshop
- Women's History Month at York
- Celebrating Math Professor Emerita
- York's New Fund-raiser

Inside this issue:

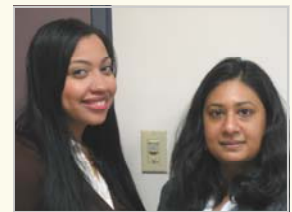
| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Provost Lecture | 2 |
| York's New Fundraiser | 3 |
| Women's History Month | 4 |
| Outcomes Assessment Workshop | 6 |
| Student Wins Art Prize | 6 |
| | |
| Celebrating York's Math She-roe | 7 |
| Social Work News | 9 |
| News from Occupational Therapy | 12 |
| | |
| Social Work on the move | 12 |
| CETL Workshops | 13 |
| Faculty Update | 13 |
| CETL Grantees Speak | 14 |
| New Sociology Scholarship | 14 |
| | |
| Beginning Teachers Workshop | 15 |
| | |
| Winners on Track & Field | 16-17 |
| | |
| New Book Announcement | 18 |

Students Intern with Grameen Bank Affiliate

Two York College students, Thelma Suarez Ortega and Katherine Vidal, have been selected for internship opportunity at Grameen America. Grameen America is a microfinance organization whose goal is to alleviate poverty through entrepreneurship. Grameen offers loans, savings programs, and other financial services to its clients in the United States. This organization is an affiliate of the renowned microfinance institute Grameen Bank, whose founder, Nobel-Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus, had visited York last year.

Grameen America started its operations in November of 2007 and has already distributed \$1.2 million to more than 500 borrowers in Queens, NY. In the last few months Grameen America's success story has been fea-

tured by ABC, CNN, CNBC, BBC and the NY Times.



Student intern Katherine Vidal (l.) and Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan

Thelma and Katherine started their internships at the Grameen America office in Jackson Heights (Queens) in January 2009. The internship program is coordinated by Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan of York's Department of Accounting and Business and Mr. Shah Newaz, Grameen America's Senior Vice President and General Manager. Grameen America has offered Thelma and Katherine full time positions after their graduation.

cont.'d on p.5

New Journalism Major Makes Media Splash

The Office of Academic Affairs and the English Department presented a high-profile Community News Mini-Conference on March 9 to celebrate the successful launch of York's Bachelor of Arts in Journalism Degree, and it made headlines. Several

Queens-based newspapers, the Daily News and WBAI Radio all did glowing stories on the event and York's Journalism Program. In addition, more than 130 media leaders, current students, top prospects, professors and staff filled the Faculty Dining Room to take part in the event.

cont.'d on p.8

Reflections

Provost Lecture inspires critical dialogue

Mark Schuller (Dept. of Social Sciences)

Monday, March 23, was the second in this spring's Provost Lecture Series. Nicholas Grosskopf discussed his research on online HIV prevention. Following major strides in the 1990s, HIV is back on the rise in the past decade, mirrored by the experience in New York City (except for the borough of Staten Island). Particularly vulnerable are men of color and their female partners. One in four men who have sex with men (sometimes called "the down low") in Chelsea are infected with the virus. One possible explanation for this rise is people's increase use of the Internet for seeking sexual contact, bringing into relief the critical importance of online prevention methods.

Prof. Grosskopf presented his dissertation research assessing the importance and feasibility of online HIV prevention. Based on a two-month sample (almost 200 people) of data collected through an on-line survey of men who cruise the Internet looking for sex, his research explored three questions. First, should internet-based pre-

vention methods be modeled after more traditional, in-person efforts? Second, what is the feasibility of these online prevention methods? Third, what is the impact of this research on health promotion in general?



Provost Griffith (l.) and Professor Grosskopf following the lecture

Cont.'d on p.6

Provost Lecture

Using MRI to Measure Individual Differences in Behavior and the Brain's Response to Injury

Prof. Robert Duncan

Assistant Professor (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences)

Monday, April 27, 2009

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



This presentation will broadly outline the need for studying individual differences in brain anatomy and physiology. Several curious examples from the neuropsychology literature will be considered, including phantom limbs, blindsight, and the Capgras delusion. A description of how neuroimaging techniques are used to study healthy individuals will be provided. Particular attention will be directed at how neuroimaging methods can be used to study optic neuropathies, and how glaucoma in particular can serve as a model for brain plasticity.

York Hires Fundraising Veteran

In January Mondell A. Sealy started her position as interim director of Development at York College. The timing is fortuitous on many levels.

Mondell Sealy is a seasoned development and event planning professional with over 15 years of experience. Her areas of expertise include major gifts, capital campaigns, board development, proposal writing and special events/meeting planning. She has organized and coordinated golf outings, commencement exercises, black tie dinners, and annual conferences.

Among Ms. Sealy's first responsibilities in her new position is the spearheading of the April 21 York College Foundation Gala, featuring Tony Award-winning Broadway performer, Brian Stokes Mitchell. The event, which will salute the Legendary WWII fighter pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen, and honor Congressman Gregory Meeks and Christopher A. Ward, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will test Sealy's mettle immediately.

A life-long resident of Queens, Sealy brings to the position, a wealth of experience honed over 15 years in the field of development at diverse organizations and institutions such as New York Methodist Hospital, The National Conference of Christians and Jews and New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and CARE, among others. She has also been director of Advancement and Alumni Relations with A Better Chance, the national organization, which places academically gifted sixth through eleventh grade students into some of the nation's finest private and public college preparatory schools.

A product of early Catholic school education in Queens, Sealy would go on to graduate from the High School of Performing Arts in New York City, where famous performers such as Ben Vereen and Bernadette Peters are also

alums.

She was accepted into both the Dance and Music programs but decided to focus on music. With plans for a career as a music therapist, Sealy earned a degree in Music and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, but was drawn to development and since all roads seem to lead to York, Sealy is settling into her new position with aplomb.

"I got into this because I was always made the social chairman for AKA, my sorority," said Sealy. "So I got into fundraising."



Mondell Sealy

A member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater New York Chapter, Sealy has built an impressive career, which, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York, sees as fitting into her plans to raise the College's bottom line right along with its academic profile.

"The York College Office of Development is of paramount importance as we seek to accelerate our fundraising and alumni outreach efforts," said President Keizs. "This is an area where we have not yet reached critical mass; and Ms. Sealy's expertise will play a pivotal role in taking us there."

As Sealy who has also been a business owner, settles in at York, the College's alumni base can also expect to hear from her as she seeks to re-engage them with their alma mater.

Women's History Month at York College

During the month of March, York College hosted a number of events in recognition of Women's History Month. The events were directed by Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek, the Coordinator of Women's Studies. The impressive line-up was sponsored by the Women's Studies Program; the Women's Center; and the Department of Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities; and made possible by funding from the Auxiliary Enterprises Program, Inc., and the Office of the Provost.



The theater group performing "Expanding Wing ... Stretching Space" posing with Nikki (2nd from right) and Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek (3rd from the right).

The theatrical event, "Expanding Wing ... Stretching Space: Creating Room 'tween a Rock and a Hard Place," took place on Wednesday, March 4 in the Little Theater of the Performing Arts Center. This interactive presentation included music, poems, and stories written by survivors of domestic violence. Organized by Dr. Charles Coleman, Dr. Cheryl Adams, and Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek, it was a lively, involving show that drew a standing-room-only audience. Both the drama itself, conceived and directed by Nikki, and the reception that followed garnered enthusiastic appreciation. The event was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and

the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Women's Center, the Cultural Diversity Program and the Department of Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities.



L. to r.: Prof. Laura Fishman, Assist. Provost Holger Henke, Prof. Fabiola Fernandez Salek, President Marcia V. Keizs, Lidia Falcon, and Dr. Gloria Waldmann, prior to Mrs. Falcon's lecture.

On Tuesday, March 10, the Dr. Gloria Waldman Inaugural Annual Lecture for Women's History Month was held in the Performing Arts Center lobby. Lidia Falcon, a founding member of the feminist movement in Spain who was imprisoned under Francisco Franco, spoke to an overflow audience about "Mi vida comprometida/A Committed Life." Ms. Falcon, the author of over 40 books, was introduced by President Keizs and Assistant Provost Henke, and she answered questions from the audience in a session following the lecture. Dr. Gloria Waldman, recently retired, flew up from Florida to witness the lecture she endowed and to be interviewed by CUNY-TV about the Women's Center at York, which (along with the Women's Studies Program) she helped to create. Fittingly, the first annual lecture bearing her name was delivered on her birthday. The event was organized by the Women's Center, Dr. Margaret Ballantyne, and Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek.

Cont.'d on p. 11

York's Grameen Interns

cont.'d from p.1

In Thelma's words, "This internship is a wonderful and exciting opportunity. It is an honor to work with people who help unfortunate and poor people to improve their lives. After borrowing from Grameen, these entrepreneurs can invest in their own small businesses and ultimately be financially self-sufficient. Also, this experience has allowed me to explore areas in which I did not have experience before – such as customer service, sales and marketing."



Thelma Suarez, York College student, and Shah Newaz (Senior Vice President and General Manager, Grameen America)

As Katherine points out, "At Grameen America I have discovered opportunities that I never thought existed. I was introduced to microfinance when I was offered an internship at Grameen America. During my internship at Grameen, I worked with poor women with dreams and desires of utilizing their entrepreneurial skills to better themselves. I helped them go through the process of receiving their loans, trained them and gave them a layout of Grameen's program. Witnessing their excite-

ment is a beautiful experience for me because I know I've made a positive impact on their lives. I am grateful for this opportunity and I am currently in the process of expanding this program to Brooklyn, so that the unbanked in that borough will be banked."

Outcomes of this internship program are:

- Students are exposed to the theory of microfinance: How microfinance works, how to identify and motivate the prospective borrowers, what are the group formation techniques etc.
- Training in the practice of microfinance: Thelma and Katherine worked as Assistant Center Managers. They helped in recruiting/identifying borrower groups, disbursing loans and collecting repayments, and representing Grameen America on different occasions.
- Great networking opportunity: Students met some of the center (branch) managers, and participated in Open House events and borrowers meetings.
- Students are part of a humanitarian organization: Thelma and Katherine appreciate the fact that they are members of an organization that helps alleviate poverty.
- Jobs: Both of the students have been offered permanent positions at Grameen America after graduation.

This internship is open to all students of York College irrespective of their majors. For further information please contact Dr. Rahnuma Ahsan, at rahsan@york.cuny.edu, or 718-262-2512.



The deadline for submissions to the May issue of Academic Affairs Update is April 22, 2009.

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

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu

York Hosts CUNY Assessment Workshop

As part of the Title III Grant, York College hosted a CUNY-wide two-day assessment workshop on March 19-20, 2009. Ms. Linda Suskie, Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, was the key presenter. Ms. Suskie is a renowned expert on assessment in higher education with nearly 30 years of experience in educational institutions.



Ms. Linda Suskie making a point during her presentation.

The themes for the two days workshop were “Assessing Institutional Effectiveness” and “Assessment in General Education.” Ms. Suskie addressed the importance of assessment and the various measurements in Higher Education. She also discussed the relationship between institu-

tional goals and student learning outcomes and how it impacts the curriculum. In addition, representatives from CUNY Colleges shared their experiences from the Middle States visits in a panel discussion.

Faculty and staff from 15 other CUNY colleges as well as the central administration were present at the workshop. There was a large contingent from York, including senior administrators, faculty and staff who took advantage of this on-campus event, stopping in between classes and other obligations to catch parts of the presentation. President Marcia V. Keizs made the opening remarks. Additionally, University Deans David Crook (Institutional Research and Assessment) and Judith Summerfield (Undergraduate Education), as well as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, addressed the group on several occasions. The meeting was well received by all participants providing valuable information and provocative insight for this timely topic.

Student Wins Art Prize

On Saturday March 14, 2009, the AHA Conozca Su Corazon initiative sponsored by the Queens Museum of Art held the Annual Art Contest in which High School and College students in the area of Queens were awarded prizes for their art submission depicting heart healthy messages.



York art student Raquel Coy (l.) and Prof. Pina Fonti

As part of Professor Maria Elena Pina Fonti's (nursing faculty at York College) vision of forming bridges between the Nursing Program and different disciplines at York College, Junior level York College art student, Raquel Coy, became aware of the contest and submitted her art work entitled “Dos Hermanas” to the AHA Art Contest. On Saturday she was awarded first prize (for the College level) a \$500

dollar award for her submission. Additionally, her art will be on display for two weeks at the Museum and her painting will be highlighted, for one year, on all AHA Conozca Su Corazon correspondences. Her artistic work will help to disseminate heart healthy information in an effort to help ameliorate the eyebrow-raising statistics related to heart disease, such as: heart disease is the number one and (manifesting itself as a stroke) number three cause of death in the U.S.; one in three deaths in Hispanics is related to cardiovascular disease; approximately, 200,000 deaths a year are related to heart attacks; yearly, 600,000 people die from a stroke and forty percent of the deaths in the U.S. are attributed to heart disease.

“I believe everyone can learn volumes from this young lady, Raquel Coy, and all the young people that participated in the event. That is, we can all help to build the health profile of our nation by applying our talents to society in our very own individual way. Let us all fight to reduce these hair raising statistics,” said Professor Pina Fonti.



Celebrating one of York's She-roes

Dr. Lidia Gonzalez

On March 16, in a room filled with her students, colleagues, administrators, friends and other guests, Dr. Helen Strassberg, Professor Emeritus at York College, was honored with a lecture bearing her name. The lecture was the culmination of an event that began with welcoming remarks from Dr. Rishi Nath (Mathematics and Computer Studies) who organized the event jointly with Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek (Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities) and the Women's Center.

In his welcome remarks, Provost Ivelaw Griffith reminded us of the words of Maya Angelou, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes" and that at this event, those in attendance did just that. They recognized and celebrated one of York's she-roes, Dr. Helen Strassberg who was presented with an award by Dr. Lou D'Alotto (Chairperson, Math and Computer Studies) for her over two decades of service to the York College community as a professor in the Mathematics and Computer Studies department. Dr. Strassberg was thanked personally by one of her former students, now a doctoral student in Mathematics, and introduced formally by Dr. Laura Fishman (History & Philosophy).



Dr. Helen Strassberg (l.) and Dr. Laurel Cooley

The lecture itself, known as The Dr. Helen Strassberg Women's History Month Annual Lecture, was one of a month-long series of events sponsored by the Women's Center this March as part of Women's History month. This

year's lecture was given by Dr. Laurel Cooley, associate professor of Mathematics at CUNY's Brooklyn College, a former colleague of Dr. Strassberg's at York College. The informative lecture, titled "Stories of Some Prominent Women in Mathematics," traced the history and contributions of several female mathematicians and was punctuated with both humor and drama.



Dr. Strassberg receiving an award handed to her by Dr. Lou D'Alotto (r.), Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies; looking on, Dr. Rishi Nath.

Both the lecture and the event as a whole were well received and attended. It is the hope of the organizers that next year's lecture will be part of a half-day event aimed at celebrating the contributions of women in Mathematics and supported by a recently awarded grant from the Mathematics Association of America. That grant that will also support the development of a Math circle for students' at York College called the York Tensor Scholars. Students interested in applying for the Math circle are encouraged to speak to either Dr. Lidia Gonzalez (Mathematics and Computer Science) or Dr. Rishi Nath, who will jointly administer both the Math circle and the grant that supports it. Female students interested in Mathematics are especially encouraged to apply.



New Journalism Major

cont.'d from p.1

Provost Ivelaw Griffith joined English Department Chair Valerie Anderson in welcoming the crowd and describing the long years of hard work it took to bring the Journalism Major to fruition. Judith Watson, Associate Dean of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, then encouraged students in the audience to pursue Journalism at York. She noted that the coursework would prepare the student journalists well for careers in media or a number of other related fields. Michael Arena, University Director of Media and Marketing, lauded York as “very much a cutting-edge institution” that would provide the facilities and instruction needed to teach students about the use of all the new technology in demand.



Prof. Glenn Lewis (at the podium, right) addressing the audience at the journalism major launch

The actual program for the Mini-Conference kicked off with an all-star panel discussion on “Opportunities and Challenges in Community News Coverage.” The panelists included some of the most influential journalists in New York, each representing a different news audience and approach. Robert Sapio, Senior Executive Editor of the *Daily News* spoke for “mainstream” dailies, while Alberto Vourvoulias talked about addressing the Spanish-speaking population as Editor-in-Chief of *El Diario*. Michael Nussbaum of the Queens Tribune provided a strictly local take on the news, *Gotham Gazette* honcho Gail Robinson offered insights into reporting only online, and Rosalind McLymont of *The Network Journal* gave her perspective as the head of an African-American business publication.



Michael Arena, CUNY Director of Media and Marketing, welcoming the audience

Professor Glenn Lewis, Director of Journalism at York, acted as moderator for the panel. He began by asking panelists to examine the special mission of their respective organizations, the audiences they served, and how those factors colored news coverage. The conversation then moved from the role of advocacy reporting in community news to methods for localizing national or international stories. Panelists finished up by giving students advice about how to prepare for a journalism career and break into their specific end of the business. Students responded with resounding applause and a barrage of their own questions.

Jere Hester, Director of the NY City News Service at the CUNY Journalism School, then came on to give a Breaking News Workshop. The former City Editor of the *Daily News* took the students in the audience through a dramatic simulation of how his old publication or the *New York Times* might report a huge story at every step along way. Students got to formulate reporting strategies, prioritize assignments and even pitch appropriate headlines.

In the end, the event produced some remarkable results beyond great lessons learned by the audience and news coverage gained for York. Lewis and Professor William Hughes met with a number of high school and community college students interested in exploring York’s Journalism major. All the media guests on the panel and in the audience discussed internship opportunities for York students – with a couple of internships arranged on the spot. And many of these news organizations expressed interest in working closely with York in the near future to enhance the Journalism Program.

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 Oglensky (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 Oglensky** (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.

YORKCOLLEGECUNY

Provost Lecture Inspires Dialogue

cont.'d from p.2

After an explicit methodological conversation that proved highly suggestive and instructive, Dr. Grosskopf presented his major findings. Men of color and particularly African-American men tended not to participate in the survey, mirroring a national trend that possibly has its roots in distrust of the medical-scientific establishment (Grosskopf mentioned the Tuskegee syphilis experiments, for example). Interestingly, typical demographic variables such as age, level of education, or socioeconomic status were not significant predictors of engaging in higher-risk behaviors. The two variables that had a positive correlation with said unsafe behaviors were a proclivity towards adventurous activities and an optimism regarding contracting and/or surviving HIV.



A very attentive audience followed Dr. Grosskopf's lecture.

Prof. Grosskopf showed that the majority of participants do believe that online education can be a valuable and accessible tool. However, showing the audience a couple of examples, he sounded a cautionary note with online prevention efforts' effectiveness and reach. Before investing large sums of ever-more scarce funding into such efforts, we need to know if they are effective in changing behaviors. If not, we need to find out what will work through further research on potential users. Dr. Grosskopf theorized that a holistic approach is best – culturally specific and asking questions about underlying mental health

and wellness, asking why for example some people tend towards risky sexual behavior.

The conversation – from students, faculty, and community members – was similarly lively and engaged. Several people asked about the risk factors and how they intersect with racial and class marginality. Some community leaders made impassioned pleas to the local African-American community to address this issue, that leaders should be open and accepting, and speaking out about the importance of safer sex education.



The Deputy Chair of the Department of Health & Physical Education, Dr. Mitchell Brodsky, introducing Dr. Grosskopf.

As the Provost noted, Dr. Grosskopf's research is a prime example of just the kind of engaged research grappling with important social issues that York faculty are involved in. The Provost commended Grosskopf's honesty for engaging questions of research methodology and ethics, which provided an inspiration and a useful road map for students and other members of the York community to follow.

Professor Laura Fishman, the chair of the Provost Lecture Series committee, announced the next and final event for the semester: on April 27, Prof. Robert Duncan will present "Using MRI to Measure Individual Differences in Behavior and the Brain's Response to Injury." Faculty were also reminded that the deadline to submit proposals is fast approaching.



Women's History Month

Cont.'d from p.4

Two more figures of international renown spoke at York on Wednesday, March 11. Alicia Partnoy, who was imprisoned in Argentina during the 1970s, spoke about her experiences and signed copies of her book, *The Little School*, which recounts her ordeal. Her daughter, Ruth Irupe Sanabria, the author of *The Strange House Testifies*, a book of poetry, also addressed the audience. Dr. Michael Flynn, an expert on torture, introduced the event, entitled "From the Little School to the Strange House: A Mother/Daughter Journey Writing against State Terrorism," and Dr. Margarita Drago of the Foreign Languages Department introduced the speakers. Dr. Drago was also imprisoned in Argentina during the same period and even held in the same location, although not at the same time, as Ms. Partnoy. Dr. Drago has written of her experiences in the memoir *Memory Tracks: Fragments from Prison*.

The CUNY Aviation Institute, headed by Michel Hodge, the Women's Center and the Women's Studies Program presented a Women in Aviation Luncheon on Thursday, March 12. We were fortunate to have Susan M. Baer speak to the assembly. Ms. Baer is Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, Aviation Department, of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the first person to manage all of the airports for The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Before accepting this position, Ms. Baer managed LaGuardia Airport, Newark International Airport, Teterboro, and John F. Kennedy Airport. In her current role, Ms. Baer oversees all five area airports—the four above, plus Stewart International. Ms. Baer, one of the early female pioneers in the field of aviation, spoke of the challenges of finding an appropriate management style and of balancing work and family. She was given a commemorative plaque by the Aviation Institute and answered questions from the audience.

On Monday, March 16, another inaugural lecture was held, The Dr. Helen Strassberg Women's History Month Annual Lecture. Organized by Dr. Rishi Nath, Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek, and the Women's Center, the talk was given by Dr. Laurel Cooley of Brooklyn College, who once taught in York's Math Department. The lecture, "Stories of Some Prominent Women in Mathematics" was an entertaining Powerpoint presentation that focused on

both women's contributions to the field of mathematics and juicy behind-the-scenes anecdotes. Dr. Strassberg was honored with a plaque and tributes by her colleagues.

The daughter of a current President of Ethiopia, Ms. Ghenett Girma, spoke on Thursday, March 19 about "Gender and Politics in the Horn of Africa: The Ethiopian Experience." Ms. Girma spoke powerfully about the problems faced by Ethiopian women and girls and about what her organization, the International Women's Association, is doing to help. Confronted with such difficult issues as female genital mutilation and the widespread use of child brides, many of whom suffer damaged health as a result of their experience, Ms. Girma's organization provides clinics, tries to raise awareness, educates the population both at home and abroad, and fights for legal equality for women in Ethiopia. Ms. Girma stressed the importance of female participation in politics, and received many questions from the audience. She referred people who are interested in learning more to the organization's website, www.aesed.org.

Students in the ESL program participated in a luncheon organized by the Women's Center, Dr. Fabiola Fernandez Salek, and Professor Aegina Barnes on Monday, March 23. The students, who had read about the creation of the White House Council on Women and Girls, wrote letters to the President and First Lady sharing their views about what challenges women face in the United States today and what can be done to help them. The Women's Center plans to collect students' work so that it may be bound and sent to the White House.

A final event, a concert by bassist Kim Clarke organized by Professor Tom Zlabinger, is planned for Monday, March 30 in the Performing Arts Center lobby. Ms. Clarke is a writer and producer as well as a musician and has co-produced Lady Got Chops: Women's Month Jazz Festival. She has performed internationally and has received such honors as the EAA Satchmo Music/Entertainment Award 2008, the Certificate of Congressional Recognition 2008 and the New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit 2008.

All in all, this wide variety of events testified to the scope of women's achievements in the arts, sciences, business and politics as well as providing education and entertainment for all. Women's History Month at York College was a stunning success.

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.



Visit us Online:

York College —
Office of the Provost
website:

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

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

April 2009 Forums and Workshops

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, April 1 | <p><i>Workshop:</i> Critical Thinking in General Education: Models, Examples, Imperatives 3:30–5:00pm Presenters: Jim Como, Performing & Fine Arts Conrad Dyer, Behavioral Sciences Veronica Shipp, Teacher Education</p> |
| Monday, April 6 | <p><i>Workshop:*</i> Writing in the Field: WAC Work in Professional Programs 12:00–2:00pm Presenters: Bonnie Oglensky, Social Sciences Jennifer Worth, Writing Fellow in WAC</p> |
| Monday, April 20 | <p><i>Workshop:*</i> Sticking with WAC: Teaching with Writing over the Long Haul 12:00–1:45pm Presenters: CETL, AC 4EA1 Faculty Panel</p> |
| Wednesday, May 6 | <p><i>Workshop:</i> Ethical Issues in Teaching 3:30–5:00pm Presenters: Bill Ashton, Behavioral Sciences Tim Kirk, History & Philosophy Mary-Jo Kranacher, Accounting & Business Vadim Moldovan, Social Sciences</p> |

* A Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop Co-sponsored by CETL



York Faculty Update



- ◆ **Tania Levey & Josipa Roksa**, “Tied In or Tied Down? Links between College Credentials and the Labor Market” has been accepted to the 2009 American Sociological Association Regular Education Session panel entitled “Transitions to and from College.”
- ◆ **Robin Harper**: A grant proposal to the Nippon Foundation was accepted which will make the College a recipient of 100 books about Japan for the library. The books give a wonderful overview of modern Japanese politics, economics, business, society, art, cross-cultural psychology and theater.
- ◆ **Xiaodan Zhang**, “Trade Unions under the Modernization of Paternalist Rule in China,” *Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society*, Vol. XII, Number 3 (forthcoming, June 2009). Oxford: Blackwell.

CETL's Title III Grantees Speak

On March 24th, three former/current Title III Grantees convened a panel to discuss their experiences and provide tips to potential applicants for this year's grant competition. The workshop, entitled "Doing SoTL: Participating in the Title III Faculty Grant Program," featured Associate Professor – and Associate Director – Emily Davidson of the Physician Assistant Program, Assistant Professor Leslie Keiler from Teacher Education, and Assistant Professor George White, Jr. of the Department of History & Philosophy. The panel was sponsored by the *Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* (CETL). Davidson and Keiler were Title III grantees in the first year of the program; White is in the current cohort of grantees working in CETL. Workshop participants engaged in an open, thought-provoking dialogue with the panelists and left with an "insider's guide" to the process.

Davidson began the proceedings by defining the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning ("SoTL") and distinguishing it from contemplative teaching and the scholarship that faculty ordinarily produce within their disciplines. White discussed the benefits and challenges of participation in the CETL program. Keiler spoke about the application process and the strengths and weaknesses of past applications. The workshop ended as the panelists identified the requirements for the 2009-10 application

process, the exciting benefits of participation in the program, and the cross-fertilization between the work done in CETL and the work done within and across academic disciplines.

The panelists kept their presentations brief in order to facilitate a conversation amongst the entire group. To that end, following each topic, the panelists opened the floor for questions and comments from the workshop participants. Workshop participants asked for specific examples of SoTL scholarship, expectations of the grantees, technical questions regarding the application process, and for an assessment of the time commitment required of Title III grantees. The workshop ended on a high note as panelists and participants bantered about the positive, long-term impacts of CETL work on both teaching and research, making it ideal for tenure and promotion evaluations.

The program theme for the 2009-10 Faculty Grant Program is "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century: New Students, New Learning Styles." The deadline for complete applications is May 1, 2009. Anyone interested in the process and the work of CETL should feel free to contact the panel participants or Debra Swoboda, Director of CETL. The "Doing SoTL" workshop generated quite a buzz among the participants, so make sure to submit your application on time!



New Sociology Scholarship



The Sociology Program is pleased to announce the 2010-2011 Odenyo Scholarship for Excellence in Sociology, in honor of the late Dr. Amos Otieno Odenyo (1935–2007), York College Professor of Sociology.

Professional Development for Beginning Teachers

During the Fall semester teachers from area secondary schools attended a professional development series designed for beginning teachers. Dr. Jane Keleher, York Department of Teacher Education, designed and implemented the series based on experience working with, and evaluating, public school teachers. While teachers entering the profession through a traditional preservice route have had methods courses, the content becomes more meaningful to the inservice teacher facing daily challenges in the classroom. At the same time, the beginning teacher feels isolation in the classroom at a time when there is a need to ask questions and share experiences.



L-r.: Ruth Loomis (John Adams HS), Chia, Mizutani (York College – Early College Academy), Mark McHugh (John Adams HS), Lindsay Rosenthal, Louis Petrocelli, Crystal Walthall, and Rob Heiss (all from York College)

Dr. Keleher shared her vision for beginning teacher inservice with several area principals. The series, titled “Conversations on Teaching Practice,” focused on the opportunity to share in a supportive environment. The principals provided input and focus topics were included for each session, including: Hints for Beginning Teachers, Review of Good Teaching Practice, Student Centered Instruction (Monitoring and Assessment) and Let’s Talk about State Testing.

At the end of each session each participant submitted topics “I would like suggestions/help with.” Each session began with all participants providing “a share” about the week’s classroom experience and time addressing concerns identified the previous week. Organizing concerns into categories, Dr. Keleher identified class management as the primary challenge for beginning teachers. Also

evident was the benefit of being able to discuss student behavior in context, challenging personal beliefs of how students should behave and replacing those beliefs with teacher responses to how students do behave. The last session included a role play with participants acting out student behavior(s) and the designated teacher demonstrating strategies discussed during the inservice sessions. Workshop evaluation responses included “it did help each time I had classroom management concerns and concerns were addressed.”

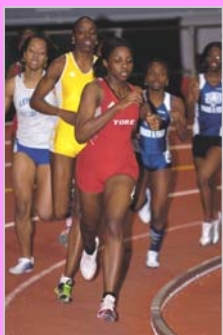
Developing a working relationship with area beginning teachers was an enriching experience for Dr. Keleher and the Department of Teacher Education was pleased to host teachers on site, providing area teachers’ information about the resources and facilities available at York College to support inservice teachers in their practice. The final evaluations indicated that the beginning teachers benefited from the professional development.

- ◆ *This was time well spent. Professional Development has always meant something boring that takes too long. This was anything but boring!*
- ◆ *It was good to hear the things the other new teachers were doing and methods they were practicing.*
- ◆ *I expected this workshop to be a refresher and I enjoyed it. Things we talked about made me feel better about what has been going on in my class. I basically enjoyed it.*
- ◆ *It makes me not feel so alone in my struggles and they (other teachers) had lots of good ideas.*

The participant feedback indicated that the objectives of the workshops were met as well as providing suggestions for modification, including a request for more sessions. Dr. Keleher plans use the initial experience providing “Conversations for Beginning Teachers” to modify and expand the offering to new teachers in the fall.

Congratulations to Alex and Taneisha !

York College junior Alexandra Nkrumah has been named the 2008-09 CUNYAC Track Athlete of the Year and York head coach Thomas Pope has earned CUNYAC Coach of the Year Honors. In addition, juniors Taneisha Renaud and Shanine Bogan were named to the CUNYAC All-Star team. On the men's side, sophomore Kenny Jacquet was tabbed as a CUNYAC All-Star as well.



Alexandra Nkrumah leading the pack



Taneisha Renaud in action

Nkrumah, was the top-performer at the CUNYAC Championships medaling in six events, winning the 55m hurdles (9.42), placing second in the 800 meter run (2:31.53), long jump (5.05) and triple jump (10.35) and finishing third in the 400-meter dash (59.74) and high jump (1.37m). She was named Most Valuable Performer at the championships. Nkrumah has now earned Athlete of the Year honors in two straight seasons. She won the outdoor track and field award in 2008.

Earlier in the season, Nkrumah placed second in the 800-meters at the Colgate Women's Games at Madison Square Garden. She also qualified for three events at last week's ECAC Championships.

Head coach, Thomas Pope led a team that scored the most points at the CUNYAC championships. However, York was not declared the champion because they did not meet the

minimum CUNYAC team requirements. It is Pope's first Coach of the Year Award for women's indoor track and field.



Coach Thomas Pope

Renaud, a distance runner, is making her second consecutive appearance on the CUNYAC All-Star Team. She won the 3000-meters (13:02.04) and placed second in the 1500 meters (5:23.16) at the CUNYAC Championships.



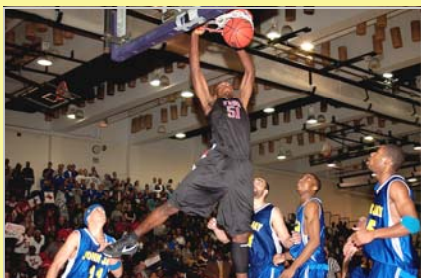
Kenny Jacquet aiming at the finish line.

Shanine Bogan also makes her second straight appearance on the team after winning the shot put (11.70m) and finishing second in the weight throw (12.39m) at the CUNYAC Championships. Bogan qualified in the shot put for the ECAC Championships.

For the men, Kenny Jacquet, last year's Rookie of the Year, was the lone bright spot for the men's squad this season. Jacquet won the 1500-meters (4:19.75) and was second in the 5000-meters (17:02.37) at the CUNYAC Championships.

York's Esonwune Named to *D3hoops.com* All-Region Team

D3hoops.com released its All-Region teams Wednesday and York College sophomore Marcel Esonwune (Lagos, Nigera/ Marist Brothers) has been selected to the 2008-09 Atlantic Region Second Team.



Marcel Esonwune

Esonwune, a center, had a breakout year for the Cardinals squad in 2008-09. He ranks among the nations elite in several statistical categories. As of March 15, Esonwune is sixth in the country in rebounds per game (12.0), seventh in blocked shots

per game (3.0), and 28th in field goal percentage (58.8). He led the CUNY Athletic Conference in blocks and rebounds and was third in points per game (18.2). Esonwune also averaged 1.9 steals per game, which ranked ninth in the CUNYAC.

Prior to his award, Esonwune had already been selected to the All-CUNYAC First Team and the All-Tournament Team at the CUNYAC Championships.

Players were nominated for D3hoops.com All-Region Team by the Sports Information Directors at the various schools, who were contacted multiple times as the season wound down to remind them to make their players eligible. There were 662 players nominated nationwide, a new high. The ballot was then made available to SIDs, who voted for 10 players in their region. SIDs voted for six frontcourt players and four backcourt players, to ensure balance.

York Freshman is *D3hoops.com* Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year

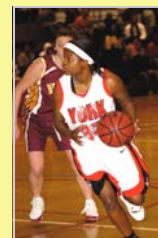
York College freshman women's basketball player, Justina Boatwright (Queens, NY/ Martin Van Buren), has been selected as the D3hoops.com Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year for the 2008-09 season. D3hoops.com released its All-Region Teams Wednesday.

Boatwright, a guard, was already selected as the City University of New York Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year. She can now claim the title of top rookie in the region.

Boatwright immediately made an impact on the Lady Cardinals, leading the team in points per game, averaging 13.0 per contest. She also averaged the most points and assists (3.2) among fellow CUNYAC rookies during the 2008-09 season. In addition, Boatwright averaged 4.1 rebounds, 2.0 steals and shot 64 percent from the field.

Players were nominated for D3hoops.com All-Region Team by the Sports Information Directors

(SIDs) at the various schools, who were contacted multiple times as the season wound down to remind them to make their players eligible. There were 662 players nominated nationwide, a new high. The ballot was then made available to SIDs, who voted for 10 players in their region. SIDs voted for six frontcourt players and four backcourt players, to ensure balance.



Justina Boatwright

It is the second straight season York has had a student-athlete named D3hoops Regional Rookie of the Year. Last season, on the men's side, Omari Phipps was tabbed as the Rookie of the Year.

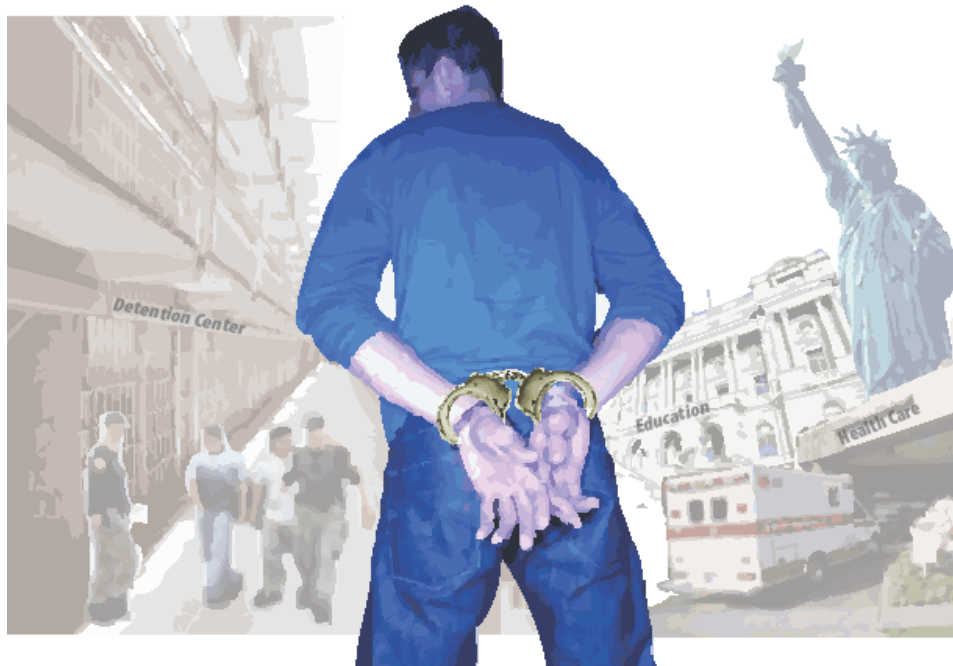
Congratulations!

Prof. **Martin Atangana** (Dept. of History and Philosophy) recently published his book *French Investment in Colonial Cameroon: The FIDES Era (1946-1957)* (New York: Peter Lang). This book offers not only a description of the economic structure of colonial Cameroon, but also an analysis of French public and private investment in Cameroon, the Franco-Cameroonian economic and financial relationship, the contribution of Cameroon to the dynamic of French capitalism, and the role played by French capitalism in the economic development of Cameroon.



Between the Dream and the Nightmare

Immigration, Social Exclusion, and the Criminal Justice System



May 15, 2009

9:00am - 5:00pm

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
899 Tenth Avenue New York, NY, 10019



Sponsored by
York College Office of Academic Affairs,
Department of Sociology, Department of Research
Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice



YORK COLLEGE

SALUTES

TO BENEFIT THE YORK COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS



Brian Stokes Mitchell

The Tuskegee Airmen

Starring
Brian Stokes Mitchell

York College Foundation

2nd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert

York College Performing Arts Center
94-45 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, New York

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Concert: 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Concert VIP Conversation with The Tuskegee Airmen at 6:00 p.m.
(special ticket purchase required)

Post-Concert VIP Reception with Brian Stokes Mitchell and The Tuskegee Airmen
(special ticket purchase required)

Box Office: (718) 262-5281
Information: (718) 262-3750

Tickets available on theatremania.com

Honoring
Gregory W. Meeks
US Congress

Honoring
Christopher O. Ward
PANYNJ

Event Chair
Peter M. Meyer
*President—NYC Market
TD Commerce Bank*

Honorary Chair
Spike Lee

Honorary Committee:
**Dr. Maya Angelou
Laurence Fishburne
John Lithgow**

Master of Ceremonies
Soledad O'Brien
*Anchor and Special
Correspondent, CNN*

YORK COLLEGE IS 

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 May issue of Academic Affairs Update is April 22, 2009.

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