Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

Celebrating 45 Years of York College



It was an event 45 years in the making and worth every year of the wait.

York College used the occasion of its 45th birthday to honor its longest serving president, Dr. Milton Bassin, who retired 20 years ago after 20 years of service to the college.

Seated on the stage of the Performing Arts Center, Bassin, his wife, select alumni, and two political figures from his era at York, was humbled by the adulation being heaped upon him.

"You are the embodiment of the dream of York College," said Administrative Judge, Jeremy Weinstein, a York alumnus of the Class of 1971. "You helped students to participate in the American dream."

Weinstein, whose father taught as an adjunct at York, was in good company on the platform with fellow alumni, George Grasso, '80, a Criminal Court judge, who emceed the event; Donald Vernon, Esq. '90 and Andrea Kazlas, '87, who composed the York College Alma Mater anthem. "Hail which begins, York College;" Tracey Bowes, '91 and now president of the Alumni Association; and Trudy Rowe, '11, who is pursuing a Master's of Social Work at New York University all spoke.

"I discovered things not only about others," said Rowe. "I discovered myself as well. At York you don't just learn to fly. You soar." Each of the former students, in turn, praised York for the nurturing, intellectually stimulating environment in which they were groomed for life.

Calling the fight for York "an honorable cause," Weinstein who was York's first Student Government president, praised Bassin for his vision in inviting the external community to join forces with the college community to fight for its existence and then convinced governors and mayors that indeed York was worth saving. Donald Vernon, praised Bassin for his patience with protesting students who took over the campus in the late '80s and early led '90s, some by

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Dr. Ron Daniels Gives Community Lecture

Dr. Ron Daniels, York's Distinguished Lecturer, recently gave a compelling campus-wide lecture to an audience of students, faculty, staff members and the external community in the Atrium of the Academic Core Building.

The wide-ranging lecture entitled, "Joblessness, Crime, Fratricide, Jail/Prison: The Crisis of Black Men in America's Dark Ghettos," demonstrated why

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Special points of interest:

- Provost Griffith delivers keynote address
- York Professor publishes math textbook
- PoliSci Professor gives lecture at Villanova University

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Provost Lecture Series York's cutting edge physics research on the Muon particle



Provost Griffith (r.) and Dr. Lynch posing with the poster for the lecture

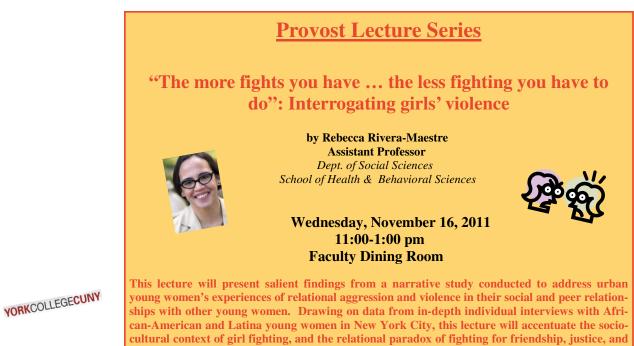
On October 25, 2011 the College community was treated to a "smashingly heavy" presentation by Kevin Lynch, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Earth & Physical Sciences (School of Arts & Sciences).

Contributing with researchers from around the globe, Kevin's investigation into the Muon particle improves our understanding of the "Standard Model" equation of the universe. This Standard Model is used by physicists to predict the outcomes of interactions between particles and forces in the perceivable uni-

verse. By testing theories against the Standard Model of the universe, physicists are constantly trying to prove themselves wrong in their research. When an outcome that deviates from the Standard Model occurs. physicists work to correct and better understand that model, gathering more precise assessment of the world around us.

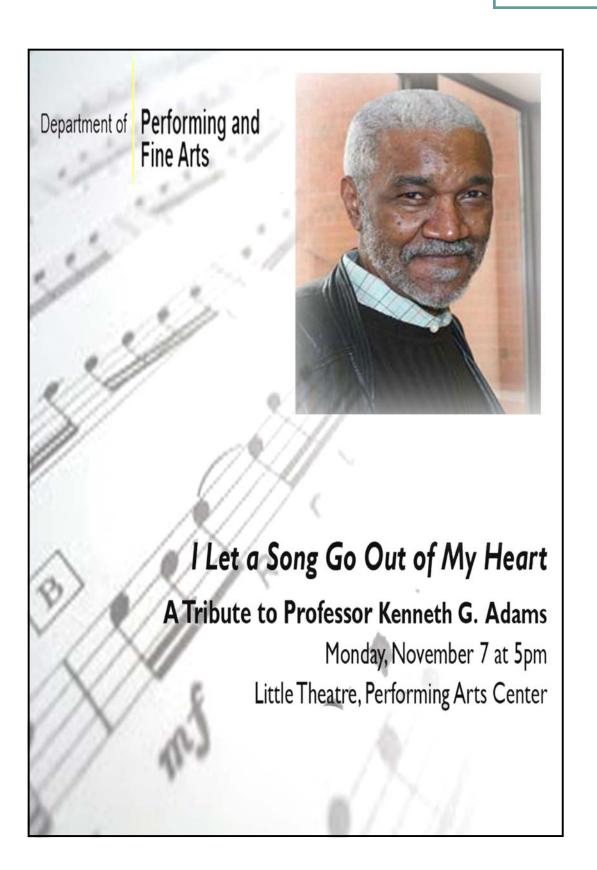
Walking a fine line between humor and science during his presentation, Lynch bravely dove headfirst into the world of particle physics by outlining to the audience the "New Physics" that are rapidly enveloping the scientific community. Specifically, Lvnch's research contributes to the Muon G-2 experiments, and Muon Electron experiments takplace ing at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. Working on the "Intensity Frontier", his research focuses on precisely measuring the behavior of the Muon particle as it decays over time. Citing new technologies as a contributing factor in his research, his experiments will soon be transferred to the much more powerful and precise particle accel-

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respect among young women living in urban neighborhoods.

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York Professor Publishes Text Book in Mathematics



Professor Adefemi Sunmonu

YORKCOLLEGECUNY

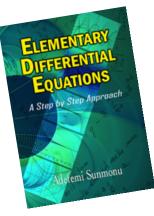
York College Mathematics professor, Adefemi Sunmonu recently published the book, *Elementary Differential Equations, A Step-by-Step Approach*, a Linus Publication.

The mathematics text book from which he is currently teaching his students is "a way of modeling" real life issues. It is not yet available in stores, but he has given students access to its pages.

"Anything that involves movement is modeling," said Dr. Sunmonu. "We can model population, rockets, water, etc.; the book sort of goes through that."

Sunmonu, who arrived at York in 1992, came to the United States from Nigeria as a Fulbright Fellow (1987-1992) to pursue a second masters degree (in computer science) and Ph.D. in Numerical Analysis at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned the Fulbright after earning a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Masters in Applied Mathematics at University of Ife, Nigeria, and it covered his entire graduate education at the University of Pittsburg.

Sunmonu is now in the process of preparing a second book for publication, Ordinary Differential Equations with Maple. He has also published numerous papers such "Galerkin Method for a Nonlinear Parabolic - Elliptic System with Nonlinear Mixed Bound-Conditions;" and ary "Implementation of a Novel Element – by-Element Finite Element



Method on the Hypercube."

His off-campus talks have included "Finite Element Error Analysis of a Coupled Nonlinear System, (University of Pittsburg)" and "Results of and Element-by-Element Finite Element Method on Parallel Computers (Stony Brook University)."

In addition to being an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics & Computer Science (School of Arts & Sciences), Dr. Sunmonu is also director of the Mathematics Learning Center at York; and the Fulbright Fellowship is not his only academic outstanding He achievement. also earned other educational support throughout his life as a student and now wants to return the favor.

"I was sponsored throughout my education," he said. "Even my text books, I earned through grants. I want to give back. I think it is important."

"Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back." *Chinese Proverb*

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York Professor Delivers Lecture at Villanova University

In Spring of 2011, Dr. Michael Sharpe, Assistant Professor of Political Science (Department of Behavioral Sciences, School of Health & Behavioral Sciences) received an invitation from Dr. Satya Pattnayak, Professor of Sociology and Political Science and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Villanova University, to come to Villanova to give a talk about his research in Japan.

Dr. Sharpe and Dr. Pattnayak had previously met at a conference in Tokyo, Japan in 2006. On September 29, 2011, Dr. Michael Sharpe answered Dr. Pattnayak's request and gave an invited talk at Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Sharpe's research based presentation was entitled "Is Blood Thicker Than Water: The Political Incorporation of Latin American Nikkiejin (Japanese Descendants) in Japan" for Villanova's Latin American Studies Program and c o sponsored by their Political Science Department and Global Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

The presentation was based on his two recently published papers, "What Does Blood Membership Mean in Political Terms?: The Political Incorporation of Latin American Nikkeijin (Japanese Descendants) in Japan 1990-2004," published in the *Japanese Journal of Po-litical Science*, as well as "When Ethnic Returnees are Defacto Guestworkers: What does the introduction of Japanese Nikkeijin (Japanese descendants) (LAN) suggest for Japan's definition of nationality, citizenship and immigration policy?", published in *Policy and Society*.

The presentation was attended by students, faculty, staff, and community members with many interesting questions and concerns raised.



Dr. Sharpe (r.) and Dr. Pattnayak

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Congrats, OT students !!!

Congratulations to York Occupational Therapy students who presented their research at the New York Occupational Therapy Annual Conference held in Middletown NY on October 22, 2011! Graduating students Celica Campos, Robert Hartnett presented: "The effect of practice on learning a complex task in adolescents, young and older adults"; Yefim Khaydatov presented: "Assessment in Occupational Therapy." Third year Occupational Therapy students Serena Kemraj and Renita Remasami presented preliminary findings of their project: "Relationship of word recognition ability to admission criteria and performance in an Occupational Therapy program at a public university." The poster presentations were very well received! Great job all!



L.-r.: Celica Campos, Robert Hartnett, Serena Kemraj, Dr. Andrea Krauss, Yefim Khaydatov, and Renita Ramasami

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

Provost Griffith Delivers Keynote Address on Crime and Drugs

Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at York College/CUNY, was invited by the African and African Diaspora Studies program at Florida International University (FIU) to deliver the 13th lecture in the Eric E. Williams Lecture Series – "Drugs and Crime as Problems Without Passports in the Caribbean: How Secure is Security and How Sovereign is Sovereignty?"

The lecture was part of the Eric Williams Centenary activities, others having been held at Oxford University, his alma mater, the University of Havana, the University of London, and elsewhere. In addition to the lecture at FIU, the Provost was honored at a function hosted by the Caribbean Consular Corps in Miami and held at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, where he received the FIU Africana Award, and a Proc-

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erator, the Fermilab, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy in Illinois.

Showing off a Muon detector as a tool in his research, Lynch brilliantly explained how the ex-



Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

lamation and a gift from the Mayor of the City of Miami.

The late Dr. Eric E. Williams was the first prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago (1956-1981), and the lectures are a magnet for faculty, students and the external South Florida communitv. FIU's School of International Affairs is one of the sponsors of the event. FIU is Miami's only public research university, with 46,000 students, and 14 schools and colleges, including Law, Medicine, Architecture, Public Health and Engineering.

Dr. Griffith was in heady company. Over

pected results from new particle physics laboratories, such as Fermilab and the CERN laboratory near Geneva, are expected to contribute greatly to the Standard Model of the universe. Dr. Lynch thinks these new tools will push our the years the Series has attracted many distinguished scholars. The first lecture was presented by Dr. John Hope Franklin, the late, distinguished historian and Duke University professor; and last year's lecture was delivered by the Honorable P.J. Patterson, a former prime minister of Jamaica.

"I was especially delighted to deliver the Eric Williams lecture in the year of his birth centennial," said Dr. Griffith. "I addressed some of the extraordinary contemporary developments being experienced in the land of his birth and in the region he loved, including the Dudus Affair in Jamaica and the ongoing state of emergency in Trinidad and Tobago."

Dr. Griffith has written and presented extensively in the field of Crime and Terrorism in the Caribbean.

perception of the Standard Model into a new territory of understanding for the observable universe.

The lecture gave an opportunity to take a peek at the stuff that makes our observable world what it is.



The late Eric E. Williams



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Vernon, himself.

The late Governor Hugh Carey was also given praise for supporting the college president and the extended community for his vision of a campus for York in Jamaica, Queens, which finally came to fruition with the opening of the Academic Core Building in 1986.

Former New York City Councilman Archie Spigner and former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, both of whom were supportive of Bassin and the college in its early days and continue their advocacy, also spoke; and so did founding professor, Dr. Robert Parmet, whose forthcoming book *Town and Gown: The Fight for Social Justice, Urban Rebirth, and Higher Education* prominently features the York College story.

"Milton made ties to the community doing things that sent the message that York belonged here," said Dr. Parmet, a professor in the Department of History and Philosophy. "He was resolute and completely honest. He knew what he wanted and he stuck with it."

Gloria B. Waters, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management, for the City University of New York (CUNY), calling the college, "a distinguished gem in the CUNY crown, brought greetings from Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

York's President Marcia V. Keizs presented Dr. Bassin with The Milton G. Bassin Distinguished Award.

"President Bassin," she said, "It is my privilege to present you with



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"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

> Zora Neale Hurston

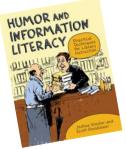


Dr. Milton Bassin (seated, right), Carlisle Towery, Alan Cooper, York College President, Dr. Marcia Keizs (standing, l.-r.), and guest





- Anamika Dasgupta (Assistant Professor, Library), "Does Pedagogy Matter to Librarians?" *DisCover: The Journal of the York College Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* 3 (2011): 88-91;
- Scott Sheidlower (Assistant Professor, Library), "Allen, Dede." In Philip C. DiMare (ed.), *Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), Vol. 2, 549-551.
- Scott Sheidlower (Assistant Professor, Library), "Berkeley, Busby." In Philip C. DiMare (ed.), *Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), Vol. 2, 568-570.
- Scott Sheidlower (Assistant Professor, Library), "Catlin, George." In Peter C. Mancall (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Facts on File, 2011), Vol. 1, 138-139.
- Scott Sheidlower (Assistant Professor, Library), "Rogers, Will." In Peter C. Mancall (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Facts on File, 2011), Vol. 2, 721-722.
- Sandra G. Urban (Assistant Professor, Library), "Courts of Indian Offenses (Code of Federal Regulations Courts)." In Peter C. Mancall (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Facts on File, 2011), Vol. 1, 192-193.
- Sandra G. Urban (Assistant Professor, Library), "Meriam Report (The Problem of Indian Administration [1928])." In Peter C. Mancall (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Facts on File, 2011), Vol. 2, 476-477.
- Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako), (Dept. of History and Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences) recently published "In the Tradition: The Legacy of Cultural Messengers From Langston Hughes to Tupac Shakur," in: *phati'tude. Literary Magazine*, "Celebrating Black History Through Literature From the Harlem Renaissance to Today," Vol.2, No.4 (Winter 2011).



NEW BOOK PUBLICATION



Scott Sheidlower (Assistant Professor, Library) co-authored with Joshua Vossler (Coastal Carolina University), *Humor* and Information Literacy: Practical Techniques for Library Instruction (Libraries Unlimited, 2011).

York College/CUNY is proud to announce a lecture by alumnus

"Democracy Needs You. Are You Ready to Enlist?"



Hank Sheinkopf Political Consultant (and York College Alumnus, '73)

Monday, November 14, 2-4 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY

cont.'d from p.1

African American and Latino men are disproportionately unemployed or underemployed, undereducated and incarcerated.

"One in every nine black males is in prison," said Dr. Daniels, who referenced various books including Michelle Anderson's The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.

Dr. Daniels a former Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a veteran social and political activist, discussed the Rockefeller Drug Law and overzealous policing and prosecuting as being among the travesties of young men in the "dark ghettos." But he also blames the problem on the loss of the employment opportunities that were the savior of young blacks of yester-year.

"Many public sector jobs dried up," said Daniels. "There has been a massive disinvestment by our government. There has been a deindustrialization that took the jobs. Now [we have] the illicit economy of drugs where these young brothers can earn \$1,000-2,000 per day and the police came in with an occupying force. We got policing, frisking

and jailing after crack came in the 1980s. They started killing each other with assault weapons to protect their turf."

Dr. Daniels who has "has an extensive familiarity with issues and policv affecting African Americans and other people of color" and is "conversant with First Amendment issues, the Patriot Act, torture, rendition and related issues," has mentored students at York guiding them toward internship opportunities and mentors them through his service with the Men's Center.

According to Men's Center director, Jonathan Quash, who introduced and emceed the lecture, this was a very timely topic.

"I wanted to have Dr. Daniels offer this lecture to both the campus and the community because in this climate of dissatisfaction with the underserved populations within our society, now is the time," said Quash. "I feel, for the voice of the voice-less to be heard. To me, that voiceless has been and continues to be the population that has a disproportionate number of unemployed, underemployed and incarcerated, which are Black and Latino males. This inequality has gone on

too long and we need our seasoned leaders to offer words of inspiration, encouragement and instruction to our young men."

Dr. Daniels, "the son of a coal minder and a coal miner's daughter, relates to the young people he speaks of and to whom he speaks.

"I went to 13 schools in 12 years," he said, adding that his community of the Hill District in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania while financially poor, was rich in its commitment to the nurture and protection of all the children.

"My parents divorced when I was nine," he said. "But I had committed teachers, both black and white, who challenged me and I had a sister who often did without so I could get an education."

Daniels urged those who have managed to succeed in life to reach back and help those still struggling in the old neighborhoods.

"We have an obligation to reach back and help somebody across the road," he said. Too many young people are dying. We need to end the war on drugs. We are spending too much on incarceration and not enough on education and

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Dr. Ron Daniels

"My parents divorced when I was nine. But I had committed teachers, both black and white, who challenged me ... "



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YORK COLLEGE BIG BAND

Directed by Tom Zlabinger

presents

THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES



Inolvidable" earned a GRAMMY award nomination in 2006. In 2008, he and the Orchestra won a GRAMMY for Best Latin Jazz Album for "Song for Chico."

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Suggested donation: \$10.00

YORK COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 94-45 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11451

Series Information: 718-262-2559 PAC Office: 718-262-3750 Online: www.york.cuny.edu

Major funding for this series provided by NYC Councilmembers Leroy Comrie (27th-CD) Deputy Majority Leader NY City Council and Chair of Land Use Committee, and Ruben Wills (28th-CD), Chair of Substance Abuse Sub-Committee.

are, discover, dream

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Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Thursday, Nov 10	Workshop:	The Conceptual Matrix Project
		12-2pm CETL, AC 4EA1
Facilitators:	Vadim Moldovan, Social Sciences	
	Jeovanna Coloma, Social Work Program	
	Franny Jimenez, Social Work Program	
Thursday, Nov 17 Panel:	The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) – What Hap	
	pens When You Send out an Online Invitation to Everyone	
		to Take Your Classes
		12-2pm CETL, AC 4EA1
Presente	Presenters:	Michael Smith, Performing and Fine Arts
		Xin Bai, Teacher Education

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award on behalf of the students, faculty, staff and alumni of York College, thanking you for your 20 years of outstanding service."

Speaking on behalf of her wheelchair-bound husband, Mrs. Bernice Bassin gave the audience a peek at Bassin's faculty and administrative network and the students.

"His administration was a team," she recalled. "His faculty was scholarly and dedicated. He was very proud of you, the students too; and so was I. Thank you for honoring my husband ... this beautiful man."

Mrs. Bassin also revealed that her husband, the son of immigrant parents from Russia, "came from welfare," but graduated from City College at the age of 19. He would become the first CUNY graduate to serve as president of a CUNY college – York.

The event ended with appeals for support from retired professor, Gloria Waldman and Dolores Swirin, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at York.



Dr. Keizs presenting the Milton G. Bassin Distinguished Award to Dr. Bassin

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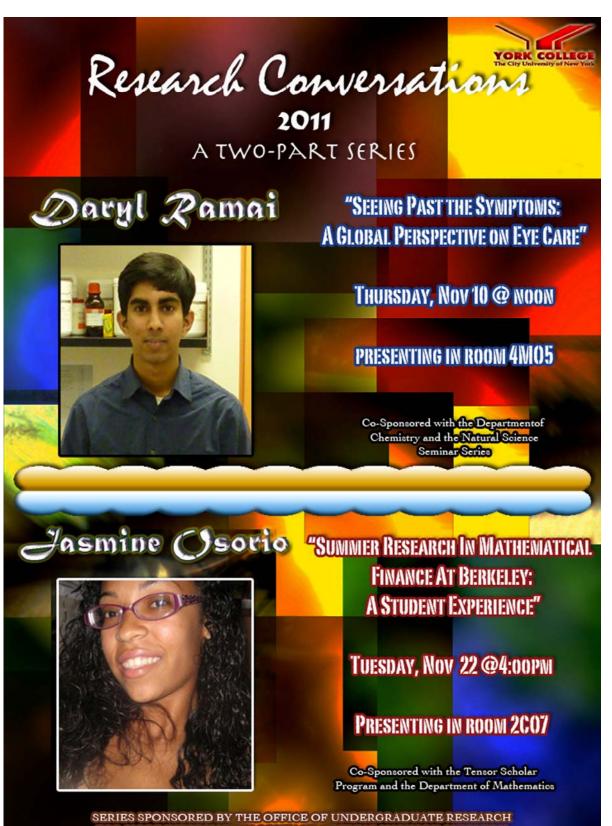
treatment. We pay taxes in this society."

He also blames "cheap labor" in jail as an incentive for incarceration and as an undermining force to organized labor.

"I thought the lecture was absolutely powerful," said Quash. Dr. Daniels has seemed to gain more passion and power in what he is doing, and I think York College is more than fortunate to have him."



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: URESEARCH@YORK.CUNY.EDU

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The Conceptual Matrix Project

Vadim Moldovan Jeovanna Coloma and Franny Jimenez Social Work Program

Thursday, November 10, 2011 12:00—2:00 PM CETL Office (AC-4EA1) Light refreshments will be served



Professional education rests on the shoulders of general education. Social work, for example, for the lack of own theoretical base, relies on the foundation of psychology, sociology, political science, etc. to derive understandings of humanity and models of professional activities. Time and again, however, general education disciplines do not provide a durable theoretical base for professional learning.

The Conceptual Matrix Project (CMP) is an attempt to span the gap between general education and professional programs. The Conceptual Matrix consists of discipline-specific concepts interconnecting within the given general education discipline in the context of the body of theory; connecting with other general education disciplines via etymological analysis and genealogical deconstruction; providing a coherent conceptual foundation for professional learning.

The CMP is a pedagogical methodology, an inter-disciplinary integration approach, and learning assessment tool.

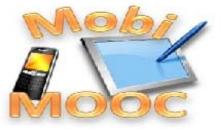
In this interactive workshop, Dr. Moldovan, Jeovanna Coloma, and Franny Jimenez will report their research results, discuss theoretical rationale of the CMP and propose specific methodologies potentially beneficial for the general education reform and professional programs.

Sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Teaching on the Open Internet

Michael Smith (Performing and Fine Arts) Xin Bai (Teacher Education)



Thursday, November 17, 2011 12:00—2:00 PM CETL Office (AC-4EA1) Light refreshments will be served

Two faculty members discuss their experiences conducting classes on the open web. Eschewing closed learning management systems to support their instruction, these faculty had their students communicate and collaborate using widely available digital tools – personal blogs (Wordpress), Wikipedia, and Twitter to name a few. This approach allows students engage not only their peers in the course, but a wider online community of interested participants.

Prof. Michael Smith discusses his conducting a digital storytelling class as part of a massive open online course (MOOC) created by the University of Mary Washington. The course "DS106" requires students to purchase a commercial web hosting account to develop an online identity that students use to narrate their process as creative practitioners and network with a community of peers to support their growth. Prof. Xin Bai discusses the increasing cost of textbooks and advances of technologies that expedite the growth of open textbooks. Benefits and challenges that face instructors in developing open textbooks will be evaluated. The process of iterative refinement of SCORM-conformant digital textbooks will be demonstrated.

Sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

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DEAR YORK COLLEGE COMMUNITY, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NY HAS ADOPTED A CAMPUS-WIDE TOBACCO-FREE POLICY EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2012

This Policy prohibits tobacco use on all grounds and facilities under CUNY jurisdiction, including:

- Indoor locations
- · Outdoor locations such as playing fields
- Entrances and exits to buildings
- Parking lots
- University operated vehicles

This policy also prohibits tobacco promotions, including:

- · Advertising, marketing, and distribution of marketing materials on campus properties
- · Tobacco industry sponsorship of athletic events and athletes

The decision to declare York College a tobacco-free campus is based on extensive research, deliberation, and solicitations of community views, and is designed to help protect the health of CUNY students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Across the United States, an ever-increasing number of colleges and universities are instituting tobacco-free policies. If you are interested in a smoking cessation program, please visit the York College Health Services Center, Room 1F01, (718) 262-2050. You may also call 1-866-NY-QUITS or visit nyc.gov/health.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION



YORK COLLEGE

On the Move

York College

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Permit No. 67

The deadline for submissions to the December issue of Academic Affairs Update is November 25, 2011.

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

