

# Academic Affairs Update

## YORK COLLEGE

### Academic Leaders Reflect and Renew at Retreat

York's department Chairs, Academic Affairs Directors, Deans, Assistant Provost, and Provost assembled early in the new year for their annual leadership retreat. Convened by Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, the January 10 retreat was the fifth such event.

Meeting under the theme "Reflection and Renewal for Challenge and Change," the leaders met with three aims in mind, to: discuss ways to cope with budgetary, curricular, and other challenges; examine ways to improve retention and graduation in the context of challenge and change; and ponder opportunities for School Strategic Planning to



Provost Griffith (l.) thanking VC Hershenson for his keynote address with a gift that included Bob Parmet's *Town and Gown*

enhance teaching, research, and service outcomes.

The 40-plus leaders were addressed by President Marcia Keizs, who covered a range of issues, including Gen Ed reform, academic performance indicators, budgetary challenges, external accreditation, and the proposed new Academic Village and Conference Center (AVCC) that is

currently under design.

The AVCC, which came out of the college's Facilities Master Plan and is already on the CUNY facilities calendar, promises to be a game-changer for York. President Keizs explained that it will feature a 165,000 square-foot, nine-story transformational structure, to house student services and student clubs, the School of Business, and a state-of-the-art conference facility, among other things.

The retreat also featured two guest speakers. The first was CUNY veteran Evangelos Gizis, Provost Emeritus of

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### From Haiti to Congress: York's student-professor research team

Dr. Mark Schuller, an assistant professor of African American Studies and Anthropology in the Department of Social Sciences, took a group of students to the earthquake-devastated island

of Haiti for a fact finding mission a year and a half after the January 2010 disaster.

Professor Schuller, who chairs the Society for Applied Anthropology's Human Rights and

Social Justice Committee, led a team of five Haitian-American students from York: Sabine Bernard ('11, African American Studies and Anthropology), Sandy

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#### Special points of interest:

- Provost Celebration of Faculty Books
- Ken Adams Book Collection
- Legislative Internships for York students
- Fall 2011 Arts & Sciences Exhibition

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## Mock Research Conference

by Beth Spencer Rosenthal



Dr. Rosenthal (r.) with one of her student presenters

The Office of Undergraduate Research and students in Dr. Beth Rosenthal's "Social Research Methods" class co-sponsored a Mock Research Conference on December 8, 2011.

The course (cross-listed in three disciplines – Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work) is the first in a two-course sequence covering research methods in the social and behavioral sciences. The purpose of the course is to teach basic social science research concepts and procedures; and the application of these concepts and procedures to human service work.

The purpose of the Mock Research Conference was to introduce students to the idea of presentation of scholarly research at a research conference and to facilitate the integration of course concepts in a professional-like setting. Toward these ends, each student developed a poster presentation that reflected many of the concepts learned during the semester; each poster contained the student's conceptual definition of a variable, a description of a literature search for articles about the variable (including search terms and databases and years

searched) two articles describing studies that examined that variable, two hypotheses using the variable that could be tested, and two statements about what the student learned during the semester.

Among the variables studied by students were: bullying, types of prisons, intimate partner violence, sexual orientation and level of comfort around the mentally ill.

Drs. Xiaodan Zhang and Gila Acker attended the Conference.

Half the class presented for the first third of the class session (while the other half was the audience and walked around and asked questions and offered suggestions); the roles were reversed in the second third of the class session. For the last third of the class session, students described the experience of their first foray into their future professional worlds.

Among the specific course objectives manifested in the Conference were that students demonstrate 1) knowledge of the scientific method (including the conceptualization of variables, measurement in social science); 2) the ability to search the literature for research-based evidence;

3) the ability to read and comprehend data in professional journals, 4) the ability to use electronic databases, and 5) the ability to analyze data using social sciences statistical software. Among the more general College objectives manifested at the Conference were critical thinking and writing, and close reading.

The students felt that the Mock Conference was a very positive experience. Comments ranged from general ones, e.g., "it made me feel good because people cared about my work"; "it was a real confidence-builder," "it made me feel like a professional"; to specific ones about feedback, e.g., "it was very helpful to receive constructive criticism from my peers and from faculty"; to ones about faculty attendance, e.g., "it felt great for professors to view my work."

Overall, students said that "it was a great experience for the class because it brought the work for the semester together and we could 'show off' our hard work and effort." Finally, it encouraged students to expand their horizons, viz., "It made me think about my future as a professional and the possibility of doing research after I finish this class."



Student presentation: the students also interacted as peer-observers

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## York Renaissance Student Overcomes Obstacles and Succeeds

**Point of  
Pride**

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York College senior Juan Carlos Recinos could be described as a Renaissance man for the new millennium.

At a mere 22 he has already published four books of poetry, has a novel in progress and contributes to a York College literary magazine, *Inequitades Hispanas/Latino Concern*. He also contributes to *Hybridos*, published by the CUNY Graduate Center.

As if that weren't enough, he is also a contributor to community newspapers, *El Correo de Queens*; and to *Queens Latino*. He is a Spanish tutor in the York College SEEK program and was a swim instructor and head lifeguard for York's Health and Physical Complex. Through all this, he has maintained and will graduate with an impressive grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 – a proud member of the Class of 2012.

Recinos, a Spanish and Teacher Education major, came to York as a transfer student from New York City College of Technology where he was majoring in Computer Information Systems.

Serendipitously, he met two York professors at a book signing for their

own works. Dr. Sonia Rivera-Valdes and Dr. Margarita Drago made an impression on the budding writer who had gone to see them at Sister's Uptown Bookstore; and he essentially followed them back to York in 2008.

In 2000, at the age of 11, Juan Carlos came to the United States from his native country of El Salvador in time to start seventh grade. He would go on to graduate from Long Island City High School.

“During my high school years I faced many obstacles and one of them was my parents' economic status,” he says. “My stepfather was disabled due to an accident and my mother did not have a stable job. These difficulties did not discourage me, quite the opposite in fact. They encouraged me to study and work hard.”

As a foreign student, Juan Carlos does not qualify for financial aid and must work to pay his way through college plus rent and other living expenses. He has taken jobs as a nanny and a seasonal lifeguard, among others. However, the nanny assignments left him little time to study and rest, however.

“My parents' financial

situation has not changed,” he says. “So it remains that the only thing they can offer me is a heartfelt, “Muy bien, sigue para adelante, que llegaras muy lejos” (Very good, keep moving forward and you will accomplish your dreams). My parents are not familiar with any formal education system. I wish I could receive the type of support I need besides their kind words.”

But he is breaking the cycle of under-education and poverty

“I will be the first person in my family to attend and graduate from college,” he says. “I have pushed myself hard to attain this dream as well as to give back to my community.”

Recinos says when he met Drago and Rivera-Valdes he realized how important writing was to him. He also discovered that his future was in teaching (grades 7-12) and that York was the best place for that training.

“I wanted to be taught by great professors and by models of exceptional teaching methods,” says Recinos, listing a dizzying list of faculty, staff and fellow-students who



**Juan Carlos Recinos**

**“I wanted to be taught by great professors and by models of exceptional teaching methods. I find the professors at York College to be this way.”**

**cont.'d on p.5**



Dr. Donna Chirico (l.) introducing Dr. Ron Daniel (ctr.). Provost Griffith (r.) listening to the presentation.

**“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”**

**Zora Neale Hurston**

## Provost Celebration of Faculty Books

There is a rising tide of faculty book publishing at York and the Provost is confident it will lift all intellectual boats. The College closed out the Fall 2011 semester with a reception for faculty members who published books recently. In all, seven professors presented their works to the college community at a reception in the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Dr. Robert D. Parmet, York’s senior History professor, led the charge with his book, *Town and Gown: The Fight for Social Justice, Urban Rebirth and Higher Education*. It was a publication more than 40 years in the making.

“The idea of writing

about York had occurred to me as early as 1967, when I joined the school,” said Parmet, a founding professor of the College. “But only after the 2005 publication of my *The Master of Seventh Avenue: David Dubinsky and the American Labor Movement* did I actively pursue this vision. After much thought, I decided to focus on York’s birth and survival between 1966 and 1986.”

When York was relocated from Bayside, Queens to Jamaica the neighborhood was in decline and Parmet draws a parallel between college and community.

“York was a key factor in the revitalization

of Jamaica,” he says. “For two decades battles raged, initially over the College’s location, and then over the building of its campus. Miraculously, it overcame the New York City and State Fiscal Crisis of 1975-76, in good part because of a marriage of “town” and “gown,” the community’s nonacademic and academic components.”

The book, published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, will stand as an authoritative history of late twentieth century Jamaica, Queens, as much as it recounts the birth and survival of an urban institution.

“Today, more than a

**cont.’d on p.6**



## York Faculty Update



- Njoki-Wa-Kinyatti (Library), “Africa and School Crime and Violence,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), Vol. 1, 7-11.
- Njoki-Wa-Kinyatti (Library), “Gender and School Crime and Violence, College,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), Vol. 1, 199-203.
- Njoki-Wa-Kinyatti (Library), “Violent Non-Sexual Crimes, College,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), Vol. 2, 510-514.
- Scott Sheidlower (Library), “Hamilton Fish Institute,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), Vol. 1, 221-222.
- Scott Sheidlower (Library), “Solomon, T. J.,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), 446-448.
- Sandra G. Urban (Library), “Woodham, Luke,” in: Laura Finley (ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Greenwood Press, Sept. 2011), Vol. 2, 529-533.
- John A. Drobnicki (Library), “Hezekiah and Charity Mills of Westport, Connecticut,” in: *Connecticut Ancestry* 54 (Nov. 2011), 94.

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have supported his success at York. "I find the professors at York College to be this way."

Selflessly, Recinos also believes in the power of giving back. At Schneps Communications, Inc., *El Correo de Queens* where he is a reporter and photographer, he takes time to mentor new Latino writ-

ing talents.

"I have learned that by extending a hand to those in need boosts their self-confidence and self-worth, which are traits that money cannot buy," says Recinos, who plans to pursue a Master's of Science in Publishing (print and digital media) at NYU upon graduation from York.

Among those on Recinos' list of supporters at York are Dr. Lindamichelle Baron, Dr. Margarita Drago and Dr. Sonia River-Valdes, Dr. Joseph Tillman and Dr. Thomas Jordan.

"It is clear to me that I haven't walked my walk alone," he says.

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## Beloved Professor's Books Donated to York

The passing of York College Music Professor, Kenneth Gaither Adams last year left his students and colleagues in grief; but a gift from his family will keep on giving.

Professor Adams who was also chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts at the time of his death, owned an enviable collection of masterpieces of symphonic works and operas. The books are related to some famous musicians' biographies, music appreciation, and music history.

"York College meant so much to my dad and means so much to me as well; so what inspired me to donate the books to the York College Library was that I feel it is what my Father



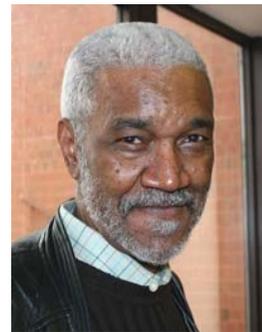
would have wanted," said Mark Adams, a lecturer of Music at York and son of the late Professor Adams. "It was the right thing to do. York College meant so much to him. The music books and orchestra scores that I donated will stand out CUNY-wide, because not many schools have orchestra scores of as many classical works as my father had, and I feel this is one of many legacies he will leave behind."

Professor Di Su,

Head of Reference Services in the York Library, who handled the donation, agrees.

"Besides its academic value, the donation certainly helps collection development of the library given the current financial climate," says Di Su. "While all the items are valuable, the music score collection greatly enhances our library's score collection. Music major, especially those in MUS422 Conducting, will find it useful and convenient."

According to John Drobnicki, Head of Acquisitions and Acting Head of Cataloging, the donation consists of 72 titles. They include Mozart's "Don Giovanni; An Opera in Two Parts;" Darius Milhaud's "Five



Professor Ken Adams

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Provost Griffith (r.) taking notes as Prof. Parmet (ctr.) speaks about his book. To his left at the table, Prof. Drobnicki.

**“One of our few remaining founding faculty was part of the celebration. He is still researching and publishing – an inspiration to junior faculty as they take a long view of their academic careers and a motivation to senior colleagues.”**

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quarter of a century after the dedication of York's Academic Core building in October 1986, it is extremely gratifying to look back at what was achieved,” says Parmet. “The college has grown academically, and Jamaica is again a potent economic force. I hope *Town and Gown* provides clear insight into these developments.”

Dr. Sonia Rivera-Valdes, a Spanish professor and one of York's most prolific authors, also presented her *Rosas de Abolengo*; Jacqueline Herranz an adjunct professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and alumna of York College, presented *Mujeres sin Trama*; Dr. Ratan Dhar, a Geology professor, presented *Arsenic: A Silent Killer and its Biochemistry in Groundwater*; Dr. Ron Daniels, York's Distinguished Lecturer, presented *By Any Means Necessary: Malcolm X: Real, Not Reinvented*, a book which he co-edited; Dr. Adefemi Sunmonu pre-

sented *Elementary Differential Equations: A Step by Step Approach*; and Professor Scott Sheidlower of the Library, presented *Humor and Information Literacy*.

The Provost also had other reasons in mind for the celebration.

“It was a reception with a difference in two respects,” he explained. “First, it was an intellectual reception, with a discussion of each of the books by others, with commentaries by the authors and editors. Second, we invited students of the professors being celebrated so they can see an aspect of their professors they generally don't see: professor as scholar and not only as teacher. My hope was also to stir those students' interest in research and to give a filip to our undergraduate research program.”

He also likes the potential for faculty to faculty trickle down effect.

“It was a wonderful event,” he noted. “It is



Books displayed during the Provost's book recognition event in the Undergraduate Research Center

noteworthy that one of our few remaining founding faculty—Bob Parmet—was part of the celebration. I cited the fact that he is still researching and publishing as both an inspiration to junior faculty as they take a long view of their academic careers and a motivation to senior colleagues who may have given up on research.”

Later this spring the Provost will release *Discovery*, a publication that celebrates faculty research. The publication will be unveiled at the April Provost Lecture, which will be the culmination of the first five years of the Provost Lecture Series. “One of the unwritten aspects of my job as Provost is to be Faculty Cheerleader-in-Chief,” he said. “It is in that context that I hosted the reception to celebrate and recognize the seven professors who had written or edited books in 2011.”

## Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



Thurs., Feb. 2	Workshop:	<i>Using Intensive Analysis of Primary Literature to Demystify and Humanize Science for Undergraduates: the C.R.E.A.T.E Strategy</i>
	12:00 – 1:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
		<u>Speaker:</u> Sally Hoskins, Biology, City College (Co-sponsored with Natural Science Series Seminar)
Thurs., Feb. 9	Panel:	<i>How We Do Writing At CUNY: A Discussion About the Future Direction of Writing Instruction at York and Other Campuses</i>
	12:00 – 1:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
		<u>Speakers:</u> Jonathan Hall, York College (Chair), Ellen Belton, Brooklyn College; Megan Elias, Queensborough Community College; Tara Pauliny, John Jay College (Co-sponsored with the Writing Across the Curriculum Program)
Wed., Feb. 15	Panel:	<i>The Art of Course Integration in a Freshman Learning Community</i>
	3:00 – 4:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
		<u>Speakers:</u> Cheryl Hogue Smith, English, Kingsborough Community College; Maya Jimenez, Art History, Kingsborough Community College; Stephanie Terry, Student Development, Kingsborough Community College
Thurs., Mar. 8	Panel:	<i>Discussion on Best Teaching Practices</i>
	3:00 – 4:45	CETL, AC 4EA1
		<u>Speakers:</u> Dean Joan Lucariello, CUNY Central; Mari Watanabe, Academic Affairs, CUNY Central; Dean Karrin Wilks, CUNY Central

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

*George Santanyana*



Mark Adams, in front of his father's book collection. On his left, Prof. Drobnicki, and on his right Prof. Su from the Library

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Chamber Symphonies;" and Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons and Other Violin Concerts: In Full Score, Opus 8 Complete."

Mark Adams is also likely to donate additional pieces as he continues to review his father's collection.

"All but seven are music scores," said Drobnicki. "And of those 64 scores, we only had one of them already, so they should be very valuable for our Music students, and maybe even students at the Queens High School of Science at York College."

Drobnicki added that each book contains a

bookplate in the front, designating it as part of *The Kenneth Gaither Adams Collection*.

Kenneth Gaither Adams began his teaching career at York in 1971. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Howard University and a Master of Music in clarinet from the Manhattan School of Music in New York.

As a musician playing the flute, clarinet, piccolo and saxophone, Professor Adams was a member of the orchestra in numerous Broadway musicals including: *Guys and Dolls, Man of La Mancha, Cabaret, Ain't Misbehavin, A Chorus Line, Peter Pan, Phan-*

*tom of the Opera, Jelly's Last Jam*, and most recently, *Finian's Rainbow* (2009).

He was also a member of the orchestra with the New York City Ballet, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the New York Virtuosi, the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Black Repertory Ensemble of Chicago as well as with commercial artists such as Luther Vandross and Mary J. Blige.

A list of the 72 titles can be accessed by clicking through the Library's online catalog.

## Fall 2011 Arts & Sciences Exhibition



Students enjoyed the attention to their research efforts

On December 13 the School of Arts and Sciences held its annual Fall exhibition of student and faculty research, scholarship and creative work. Faculty and students from all the school's departments and programs exhibited their work and achievements on the third floor of the academic core building. They also were on hand to discuss the work exhibited and to provide additional details sharing the excitement and thrill of achievement and dis-

covery. The exhibited works included biology and chemistry research posters, history and philosophy work from the independent study students, foreign language and English books and posters describing faculty and student activities. The highlight of the exhibition was an interdisciplinary poster combining the student experience and work in English and theater courses.

The School of Arts and Sciences exhibition was combined with the

Fall Provost Distinguished Lecture and the reception to honor faculty which published books during the 2010-2011 academic year. Dr. John Eldridge a pioneer in developing AIDS vaccines spoke to a standing room only crowd on his research, the early and the current efforts. His clear and straightforward presentation captivated faculty and students. He described the constant war to identify possible therapeutic approaches

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## York Students Secure Legislative Internships

Three top York College students won spring 2012 Caucus CUNY Scholarships. The students—Shemeka Headen, Ashley Torres, and Davanie Adams—guided by Distinguished Lecturer Ron Daniels, are excited about their new ventures and have high expectations in representing both themselves and York.”

The Caucus CUNY Scholars Program comes out of the State Legislature’s Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus of State Legislators. The Caucus CUNY Program was established for students who wish to study community service in New York State, but who are unable to relocate to Albany for a full spring semester. Under the program, selected students are assigned to the district offices of New York State legislators comprising membership on the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus. The assignment of students to district offices is based on their residence, policy interests, skills sets and other considerations.

“Once assigned, students perform substantive tasks such as constituent case manage-

ment, legislative research and assistance, and a host of other responsibilities,” Dr. Daniels explained.

Shemeka Headen, a lower senior, Ashley Torres, a junior and Davanie Adams, a senior will each take advantage of an internship opportunity in a state legislator’s office to add practical meaning to their York education. Two of the students are Political Science majors but have different concentrations. Headen, for instance, is interested in law while Torres wants to pursue a career in international relations; Adams who is majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies plans to pursue a career in “climate and society.” She already has a sponsor at the United Nations and her York mentor is none other than the Provost himself – Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith, who is also a political scientist.

Torres has found an appropriate mentor in Dr. Michael Sharpe, a Political Science professor who also holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and a graduate diploma in International Law and Organization from the Institute of Social Stud-

ies in the Netherlands. He also holds the Ph.D. in Political Science. Headen is being mentored by Dr. Robin Harper, the pre-law advisor at York.

“I hope [the internship] will provide lots of networking experiences,” said Headen who will intern with State Senator Malcolm Smith (D-St. Albans). “I look forward to seeing how Albany works and to see behind the scenes ... the inner-workings and how the deals are made.”

Torres, for her part, likes knowing how institutions impact community and wants to see how Albany works to implement policies. She will intern in the Office of Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights).

“I’m hoping to get a few things out of this experience and it not only involves networking and meeting influential people who work in public administration,” she says. “But I also want to get a deeper understanding of how public policy and public administration actually works. I want to have a hands-on experience in the field and be able to develop some type of idea of how



Professor Ron Daniels

**“As an intern, I hope to gain a better understanding of how the Senator serves his district on a daily basis.”**

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**L.-r.:** Dr. Ron Daniels, Shemeka Headen, Davanie Adams and Ashley Torres

cont.'d from p.9

goods are distributed to those who need it, and sometimes how goods are not distributed correctly. I want to be able to assist in the correction of this distribution and be able to help those who actually need it. I'm also hoping that this internship broadens my understanding of political and economic development."

Adams, who will intern with Senator Shirley Huntley (D-Jamaica), is interested in environmental issues.

"Networking is important," says Adams a graduating senior. "I want to learn about envi-

ronmental policies. Senator Huntley serves on [Committee on] Agriculture I am looking forward to a phenomenal experience as a CUNY Scholar, exhausting all opportunities to have informative interactions that will transpire during this internship. It will apply towards my future endeavors."

In all, 25 CUNY scholars will be dispatched for internships across the state legislature. The group will also attend the Black, Hispanic and Asian Caucus of State Legislators (weekend) in Albany as

well. They will formally attend the CUNY luncheon there on February 18th.

I think a lot of people feel that their representatives are just "walking suits" who only pay attention to their constituents when election time roles around," says Headen. "I do not believe this is true. As an intern, I hope to gain a better understanding of how the Senator serves his district on a daily basis. From resolving the problems of district members to pushing through bills that impact the entire state."

## A Partnership Grows In Jamaica

York College and Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL) have done the inevitable. The two downtown Jamaica entities have teamed up to bring outstanding cultural and educational programming to the Queens community.

Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith, York's Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs is a member of JCAL's Board of Directors. Among the first of his duties this year will be to moderate a panel discussion following the screening of the film

*Before They Die*, a 92-minute documentary about the survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot. In addition to Provost Griffith, the panel will comprise filmmaker Reggie Turner and Andrew Jackson of the Langston Hughes Library, who also teaches in our Cultural Diversity Program. The February 18 event is free and is part of JCAL's Black History Month program.

"We have begun strengthening the JCAL-York relationship, starting with the York Big Band," he says. "We'll also be exploring ex-

tending the partnership in the theatre area and in internships. I view my chairing the Black History Month event as part of that partnership."

Founded in 1972, the Center features a 1,650 square foot visual arts gallery, a 99-seat proscenium theater, painting, dance and ceramics studios and soundproof music studios. It further serves the community by providing programs for children, teens, and adults. Programs include a multicultural series of music, theater,



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## Fine Arts Prof. awarded Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Fine Arts Nicole Awai recently was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. The Painters & Sculptors Grant Program was established in 1993 to assist individual artists. The grants are given to acknowledge painters and sculptors creating work of exceptional quality.

The Foundation selected nominators nationwide dedicated to supporting artists who are under-recognized for their artistic achievements and whose career would benefit from the grant. The candidates' images were viewed for consideration through an anonymous process by a jury panel that convened in November at the of-

fice of the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Nominators and jurors include prominent visual artists, curators, and arts educators.

Additional programs undertaken by the Foundation include free art classes for New York City youth, grants to MFA graduates to aid in their transition from academic to professional studio work, and grants to artists and arts communities in need of emergency support after a disaster.

Professor Awai, a Trinidadian native, has been teaching at York College since the fall of 2005, except for the 2008-2009 academic year, when she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She also currently serves as

an art critic for the Yale School of Art. In the fall of 2011 she had her first solo show in Manhattan at the Vilcek Foundation, entitled "Nicole Awai: Almost Undone."

In all her works, Professor Awai draws upon multiple sources for inspiration from popular media and design to the history of art and a curiosity about the human migratory experience. Her work has been included in several seminal exhibitions.

Professor Awai was also a featured artist in the 2005 I.P.O. series at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

At York, Professor Awai teaches drawing, 2-dimensional design and 3-dimensional design.



Professor Nicole Awai



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and viral action mechanisms that guide in the development of vaccines.

He also extrapolated and described the health impact on the individuals, their societies, whole nations and even continents. It was recognized

that research and the development of vaccines come at a very high cost and he commended the government agencies and pharmaceutical industry for their support of the research and to make available medication and vaccines to the

people.

Following the exhibition and the lecture was a reception to honor faculty who published books in 2010-2011 (see also p.4).



Assistant Provost Henke thanking Dr. Eldridge (r.) for his presentation with a framed poster of the event



Professor Schuller (2nd from right) during his field research in a Haitian tent camp



Professor Schuller assisting in one of the camp kitchens

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Nelzy ('12, Nursing), Adlin Noël ('13, Physicians Assistant), Stephanie Semé ('12, Psychology), and Tracey Ulcena ('12, African American Studies and Psychology); and eight students from the State University of Haiti.

Each student team conducted five weeks of research in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, chosen around the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, comparing camps with or without official (Non-Government Organization (NGO) management agencies. Research included 800 household surveys with 56 questions, 80 recorded interviews with individuals, direct observation, and focus group interviews, complemented with interviews with camp committee, NGO, and international agencies. Questions ranged from changes within families' livelihood strategies, their living arrangements and ties to communities; participation and awareness of formal aid; intentions to stay or leave; continued challenges preventing people from leaving the camps; and their assessment of NGOs, the Haitian government, and the U.N. troops.

On the weekends, the

students and Schuller went to various locations outside of Port-au-Prince, attending a guest lecture as part of the CUNY collaboration of the Public University of the South in Les Cayes; visiting Jacmel, a seaside tourist town that was also impacted by the earthquake, and Cap-Haïtien, with the famous Citadelle, one of the oldest and certainly largest standing forts in the Caribbean. In all the travels, students encountered U.N. troops, most of whom did not speak French, but some managed to question the York students about their presence.

Upon their return to York, the students gave passionate testimony about their experiences in the field. It was the first time any of them had been to Haiti since the earthquake.

It was a transformative experience for the York students as all five noted in their presentations. They returned to the United States and York energized and eager to get involved in Haiti solidarity efforts, be they for IDPs, regarding the U.N., or justice for artists whose work is sold in the U.S., including at Macy's (Department Store).

Adlin Noel argued that

NGO aid to Haiti came with many side effects, reinforcing the disaster in health, security, and society.

"The aid caused a great change in family relationships as individuals now live in their own tents," said Noel. "The population's revolt against UN troops known as 'MINUSTAH,' is due to their many inappropriate actions. People in the camps complain that the security system is worth nothing. Diseases have developed due to poor sanitary conditions: rats attack people at night causing infections and even death. At the same time, cholera, brought by MINUSTAH, killed over 6,300 individuals as of summer 2011."

The study, funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Chancellor's CUNY Haiti Initiative, and the PSC-CUNY, also yielded some timely results. For example, despite the discourse about not being "real victims," that people only living in camps for the free services, 92% of people preferred to leave the camps, and only 3.5% came since the earthquake. On average, families lost 0.8 people in the earthquake, which

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would suggest that higher estimates of Haiti's official death toll are plausible. One of the longest-lasting impacts of the aid delivery is the fissuring of Haiti's households: average size declined from 5.37 to 3.36.

This was likely because of policies from aid agencies to distribute aid (food, hygiene kits, tents, etc.) to heads of households. So following this reward structure, many families decided to split up to maximize their access to life-saving resources. But this has a downside: Haiti's extended family ties are the first and last resort for solidarity, which explains how Haiti's

people can survive in very difficult times. Whether this rupture in solidarity ties is repairable in future disasters remains uncertain. The qualitative interviews and the focus groups will prove invaluable in this effort.

These and other results were discussed, and will be published in blogs and a large report directed at the U.N., aid agencies, and the U.S. government. Policy recommendations were distilled and shared as Schuller and the student-team met with members of Congress in October 2011. The group so impressed Representative Yvette Clarke (D-Brooklyn, NY), she end-

ed up hiring one of the students – Sabine Bernard – as an intern. At the congresswoman's suggestion, the students also launched a Facebook group. Rep. Clarke also offered to set up a briefing for the students for Congressional Black Caucus and USAID staffers.

Since their papers were accepted to the Society for Applied Anthropology conference which will be held at the end of March, in Baltimore, students will piggy-back on this event to meet in Washington, DC. For his part, Dr. Schuller will continue blogging for the Huffington Post about his research in Haiti.

**Policy recommendations were shared when Schuller and the students met with members of Congress in October 2011. The group so impressed Representative Yvette Clarke, she ended up hiring one of the students as an intern.**



Professor Schuller's group of students in Haiti.

**L to R (standing):** Adlin Noël, Sabine Bernard, Sandy Nelzy, Tracey Ulicena, and a colleague from another school; **L to R (sitting):** driver/guide Maxony Jean-Louis, Stephanie Semé

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Provost Griffith (standing) addressing the Academic Retreat



Members of the Retreat listening attentively to a presentation



SVC Hershenson (ctr.) in conversation with York's Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, Dolores Swirin (r.). Provost Griffith listening to the conversation

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Queens College who also had served as president of Hunter College, among other top roles in his decades of CUNY service. He brought his wealth of knowledge to bear in examining challenges and opportunities related to Pathways, CUNYFirst, and the current financial situation.

The second guest—who delivered the Luncheon Keynote—was Senior Vice Chancellor and Board of Trustees Secretary Jay Hershenson. He expressed a special affinity for York College, having started his educational journey at York when it operated out of the campus of Queensborough Community College.

“There are great things taking place at York,” Hershenson remarked. “You are laying the ground work for many more great things,” he added. Invoking the names of three of York’s relatively recent graduates who went on to succeed in M.D. and Ph.D. programs (Max Saenz, now a physician in California; Fiona Smith, now a physician in Hawaii; and Yisa Rumala, a Ph.D. candidate in applied physics at the University of Michigan), Hershenson advised, “The best

marketing strategy is to bring the grads into the orbit of York to tell their stories.”

Speaking on the subject “Challenge and Change in our Integrated University,” the Senior Vice Chancellor traced the historical contours of CUNY and the pursuit of “integration,” discussed some notable academic and legislative achievements, and addressed some of the University’s contemporary academic and administrative challenges and opportunities.

Other retreat speakers included Gila Acker, Chair of Social Sciences; Xin Bai, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education; Michael Smith, Director of Academic Computing and Educational Technology; and William Divale, Professor of Anthropology. They led a spirited discussion on “Online and Hybrid Delivery.”

Retreat participants later engaged in a probing discussion on “Enhancing Transfer Retention and Graduation: Challenges and Opportunities.” The panel guiding that conversation comprised Les Rafael, Director of Academic Skills and Acting Director of Academic Advising; Donna Chirico, Chair of Behavioral

Sciences; Robert Clovey, Deputy Chair of Accounting and Finance; and Aghajan Mohammadi, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment.

Strategic planning for the three Schools was the final substantive retreat agenda item. The school Deans—Panayiotis Meleties of Arts and Sciences, Alfred Ntoko of Business and Information Systems, and Lynne Clark of Health and Behavioral Sciences—presented their draft school plans, aspects of which were hotly debated. The Provost indicated that the plans will be finalized by the Deans by the end of spring and become the basis of the college’s academic pursuits over ensuing years.

Provost Griffith ended the retreat the way he opened it, by inviting Lindamichelle Baron, Chair of Teacher Education and a poet, to treat participants to some of her poetry. He declared the retreat a success in enabling the College’s top academic affairs leaders to reflect and renew as they prepare for the challenges and opportunities of Spring 2012 and beyond.

## Provost Special Lecture for Black History Month

### “Connections Beyond Oceans and Seas: Caribbean Contributions to the American Experience”



by  
*Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith*

Date and Location Forthcoming

## Provost Lecture Series

### “ ‘Will Write Later’: Postcards, Technology and Social History in Early 20th Century New England”



by Dr. Eric Metcalf  
Assistant Professor  
*Dept. of Performing & Fine Arts  
School of Arts & Sciences*

Wednesday, February 22, 2012  
3:00-5:00 pm  
*Faculty Dining Room*

This lecture showcases a unique collection of postcards manufactured between 1906 and 1915. Most of the cards were exchanged between two sisters – one still living in their hometown of Pawtucket, R.I., the other on Nantucket, an island off the Massachusetts coast. Although photographic imagery had been relatively commonplace for fifty years, the color postcards were among the first visual media to have reached a mass audience. The cards depict an American nation in technological and social transition on the cusp of World War I



## “Good Morning Cardinal Commuters”

*“Good Morning Cardinal Commuters” is a new initiative for the Division of Student Development. By welcoming our early morning students with juice, bagels, and muffins we hope is just another way of telling our students we are glad they are here!*

Student Development Team members have volunteered to greet our 8:00am commuters the morning of the 14th at the Security Station on the 160th indoor entrance and on the morning of the 15th at the indoor Security Station on the Guy R. Brewer entrance.

A very special *Thank You* to the First Year Experience, the Office of Administrative Services, the York College book store, and to Andre from Culinart for lending their support for this activity.

*Student IDs will be required.*

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and dance performances; film screenings and lectures; contemporary visual arts exhibitions; in-school artist residencies; a series of nearly 50 dif-

ferent arts workshops; and free or low-cost after-school and summer programs.

Housed in a landmark Neo-

Renaissance building located at 161-04 Jamaica Avenue, JCAL is a stone's throw away from York.



## **York College Spring 2012 Convocation**

***“Engaging, Enhancing, Empowering  
our Educational Enterprise”***

Performing Arts Center - Little Theater  
94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11451

Thursday, February 23, 2012  
12:00 – 2:00p.m.  
*Lunch provided*



**Thursday, February 2**

**Compliments Day**  
(Atrium, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

**Freshman Reader Day**  
(3001, Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

**JetBlue Ticket Giveaway**  
(Atrium, Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

**Friday, February 3**  
**Basketball**  
**York Cardinals**

vs.

**Medgar Evers Cougars**  
(HPE Complex, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

**Jaleel Shaw Quartet**  
(Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.)

**Sunday, February 5**  
**The 23rd Annual African-American**  
**Read-In Chain**  
(Faculty Dining Room, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**Monday, February 6**  
**Swagger Day**  
**Your Spirit in Three Words**  
(Atrium, 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

**Basketball**  
**York Cardinals**

vs.

**Staten Island Dolphins**  
(HPE Complex, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, February 7**

**Year of the Dragon**  
**Chinese New Year Celebration**  
(Atrium, Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

**Spirit Sweat with Dr. Prewitt**  
(HPE Complex, 7:00 p.m.)

**Wednesday, February 8**

**Positive Thoughts Day**  
(Atrium, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

**African-American History Month**  
**Vendor Market**  
(Atrium, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

**I am a Cardinal Night!**  
(HPE Complex, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

**Basketball**  
**York Cardinals**

vs.

**Brooklyn College Bulldogs**  
(HPE Complex, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.)

**Thursday, February 9**  
**African American History Month**  
**Vendor Market**  
(Atrium, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

**Speed Mentoring**  
(Third Floor Student Lounge, Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

**Landing Your Dream Internship**  
(3M01, Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

**February 11**

**Zora Returns to Harlem**  
\$20.00 Adults / \$10.00 Students and Seniors  
(Performing Arts Center, 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)



## **How We Do Writing At CUNY: a discussion about the future direction of writing instruction at York and other campuses**



**Jonathan Hall, York College**

**Ellen Belton, Brooklyn College**

**Megan Elias, Queensborough Community College**

**Tara Pauliny, John Jay College**

**Thursday, February 9, 2012**

**12:00-1:45 PM**

**CETL Office (AC-4EA1)**

This panel addresses the following questions: 1) What will be the future form of writing instruction at CUNY at both the first-year composition and the WAC levels? 2) What is a writing intensive course? How do we know that a course is being taught in a writing intensive manner? And 3) What are our options for the future of writing instruction under the changes brought by the Pathways Project? Currently York has a different system of practices from other CUNY campuses in terms of monitoring writing intensive courses. The panelists across CUNY will not only provide different perspectives and approaches but also facilitate dialogues among York faculty.

**Co-sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Writing Across the Curriculum**



## The Art of Course Integration In a Freshman Learning Community

Cheryl Hogue Smith, English  
Maya Jimenez, Art History  
Stephanie Akunvabey, Student Development  
Kingsborough Community College



**Wednesday  
February 15, 2012  
3:00-4:45 PM  
CETL Office (AC-4EA1)**

*Light refreshments will  
be served*

In their presentation, Cheryl, Maya, and Stephanie will discuss how their linked classes—developmental English/freshman composition, art history, and student development—integrate course content and focus on interdisciplinarity. They will also describe how they plan assignments and class activities in tandem and support and reinforce varied pedagogies. In addition, Cheryl, Maya, and Stephanie will explain the two types of learning communities that they create each semester: (1) the student community that is created in all three courses and (2) the professional community that the three professors create among themselves as they interweave their shared course goals and shared student experiences in an urban community college.

**Sponsored by the York Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

YORK COLLEGE

BROADWAY UPTOWN

*A one woman show about the life and times of  
Zora Neale Hurston*

# ZORA

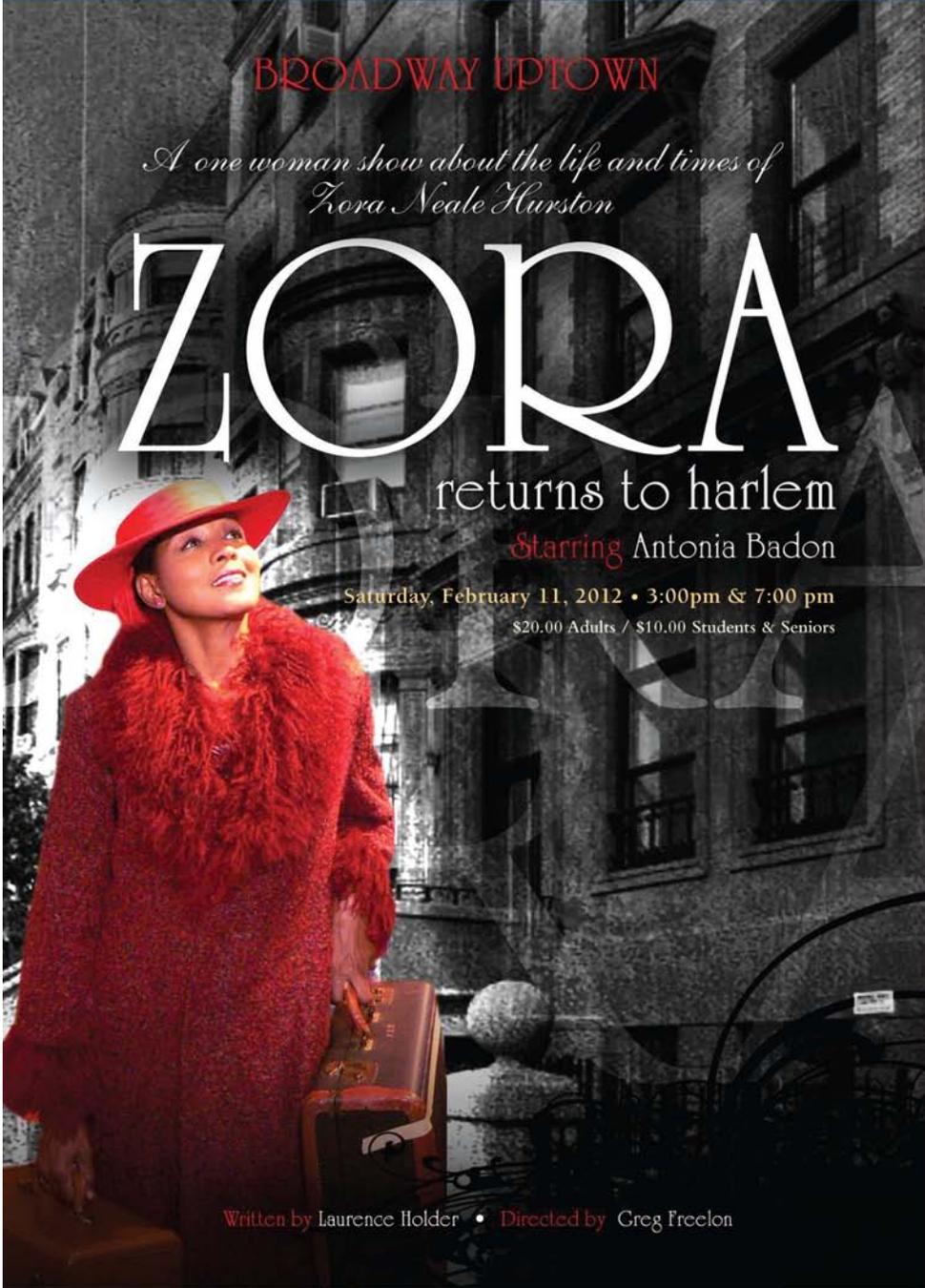
returns to harlem

Starring Antonia Badon

Saturday, February 11, 2012 • 3:00pm & 7:00 pm

\$20.00 Adults / \$10.00 Students & Seniors

Written by Laurence Holder • Directed by Greg Freelon



SPECIAL PRESENTATION SERIES

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

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.

Tickets available at the Box Office – Call: 718-262-2840  
or online at [www.york.cuny.edu](http://www.york.cuny.edu)  
For more information call: 718-262-3750

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Chamber Music Series



AVALON STRING QUARTET

Friday, February 17, 2012 • 7:00 pm

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Described by the *Chicago Tribune* as "an ensemble that invites your ears, mind, and spirit into its music", the **Avalon String Quartet** has established itself as one of the country's leading Chamber ensembles. Formed in 1995 at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Quartet came to the fore after participating in The Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall. In 1997 Stern invited the **Avalon String Quartet** to perform at The Chamber Music Encounters in Jerusalem and later presented the ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall. The quartet captured first prize at the Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York in 1999, and top prize at the ARD Competition in Munich in 2000.

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](http://www.york.cuny.edu)

Reservations are highly recommended

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**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.

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S A V E T H E D A T E

## Regulation of Pharmaceuticals: A Global Perspective

**June 6-8, 2012**

New York City

York College and U. S. Food and Drug Administration

This three-day conference features presentations from FDA, the pharmaceutical industry, and USP on the global challenges and opportunities facing manufacturers, producers and regulators to ensure that drugs are being manufactured and distributed to established quality standards.

**Partial List of Speakers:**

Murray Lumpkin M.D., Commissioner's Senior Advisor for Global Issues, FDA  
John M. Taylor, III, Counselor to the Commissioner, FDA  
Vicki Seyfert-Margolis, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Science Innovation and Policy, FDA  
Robert B. Clark, Vice President, Worldwide Regulatory Strategy, Pfizer Inc.  
Karen A. Russo, Ph.D., Vice President, Small Molecules, USP

**Topics include:**

FDA's international activities • Drug manufacturing requirements  
• What's hot in compliance • Global supply chain issues  
• Inspectional Issues • NDA and ANDA Approval Issues

**Who should attend:**

• Manufacturing directors and supervisors • QA/QC personnel • Regulatory affairs staff  
• Consultants • Managers • Pharmaceutical scientists • Personnel new to the industry

For further information visit [www.yorkfdaworkshops.org](http://www.yorkfdaworkshops.org)  
Or call 718-262-2790.



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**York College**

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

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**Permit No. 67**

**The deadline for submissions to the March issue of Academic Affairs Update is February 22, 2012.**

***All items should be submitted in MS Word***

***via email to:***

***AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu***