

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

**YORK**College

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**DECEMBER 2012**

## Haitian Studies Association turns York into “Little Haiti” for Scholars



**Attentive and engaged listeners attended the Haitian Studies Association conference** (Photographs by Tequila Minsky ©2012 )

After a year of planning, the Haitian Studies Association’s (HSA) 24th Annual Conference unfolded to great approval in early November.

The theme of this year’s conference, “Haiti Beyond Borders: Chal-

lenges and Progress Across the Diaspora,” was eagerly anticipated by some 270 attendees who converged on the York College campus between November 8th and 10th.

The conference drew

scholars from throughout the Haitian Diaspora including from the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Senegal, Trinidad, Brazil, England, France, Germany, Italy and the island nation itself. But Haitians and Haitian-Americans are not the only scholars affiliated with the organization and at York for the event.

Haiti as a nation has been studied by scholars throughout its more than 200 years as the first country in the western hemisphere to gain independence from its European colonizer. Anthropologists such as Harlem Renaissance-era author

*cont.’d on p.3*

### Inside this issue:

Provost Lecture Review	2
York’s Surgeon Alumns	4
Prof. elected to board of economics association	5
State of the Black World conference	6
Undergrad. Research Day	7
Former Provost Passes	10
Executive Leadership Breakfast	11

### Special points of interest:

- Major Haiti conference hosted at York
- York’s serves as shelter during Super-Storm Sandy
- York students and faculty attend Black Studies conference
- York’s Surgeon Alumns

## Faculty Members help Storm Evacuees at York

When Hurricane Sandy sent thousands of New Yorkers running for cover in late October, many found themselves sheltered at CUNY colleges scattered across the five boroughs.

Indeed, nearly 1,000

evacuees took refuge in York’s Academic Core Building and Health and Physical Education Complex (HPEC) combined. Accommodating them necessitated the rescheduling of ten days of classes for York’s

students.

Faculty members who were able to get to the campus saw for themselves the human face of the nature-made disaster and empathized. Instead of feeling helpless in an

*cont.’d on p.8*

## Provost Lecture Series

### “Water Pollution Crisis: One of the Greatest Global Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century”



**Dr. Ratan Dhar** (Earth and Physical Sciences) completed the Fall 2012 Provost Lecture Series with a sobering presentation on water pollution. Dr. Dhar, author of *Arsenic: A Silent Killer*, has done extensive research on arsenic contamination in Bangladesh. Recently, he was awarded the Snowy Egret Award for his work on groundwater and estuary issues in Jamaica Bay.

Dr. Dhar noted that

water pollution, always a challenge, is today complicated by high population and environmental damage. Earth's potable water resources are very limited. Though 71% of the planet is covered by water, only 2.5% of that water is fresh. Of that 2.5%, only .75% is present as usable groundwater, and only .003% of that water is uncontaminated enough to drink. Considering that potable water is a human necessity, protection of those

water resources is essential to preservation of human life.

Dr. Dhar reviewed the many ways water can be contaminated. Surface water can be polluted by the presence of excess nutrients, disease-causing organisms, and industrial discharge. Aquifers can be threatened by dumped chemicals that seep into groundwater; saltwater intrusion; and toxic metal releases. Arsenic, Dr.

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## 2nd Provost Conversation on Research and Scholarship

### “Successful Publishing in Scholarly Journals”

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

**Rm. AC 3B04 • Noon to 2:00 pm**

**Dr. Olajide Oladipo**

(Department of Business & Economics, School of Business & Information Systems)

Editor-in-Chief of *The International Journal of Economics and Finance*

and

**Dr. Kelly Baker Josephs**

(Department of English & Director of the Honors Program)

Managing Editor of *Small Axe*

cont.'d from p.1

Zora Neal-Hurston and in more recent times by anthropologist professor Mark Schuller, a former York professor and others, have contributed to the scholarship on Haiti.

The event launched to great success on Thursday evening of November 8th at "The President's Reception, and featured remarks from, among others, York's president, Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, Dr. Charlene Desir, HSA president and an Education faculty at Nova Southeastern University, and Dr. Carole Berotte-Joseph, a former HSA president and the current president of CUNY's Bronx Community College. Dr. Berotte-Joseph is also a York College alumna and helped to sponsor the conference along with York, American Airlines and other contributors.

Friday the 10th was dedicated to plenary sessions and a mentoring lunch. Speakers that day included Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at York; Dr. Marc Prou, executive director of HSA and Dr. Jean Francois, Onsite Committee co-chair with Dr. Mark Schuller, and a professor at York;

Topics of discussions

included "Pragmatic Solidarity for Higher Education in Haiti..."; "The Good Word: Practicing Haitian Protestantism in Diasporic Contexts"; and "*Men Nou Sou Wout: Case Studies and Student Perspective on Returning to Haiti.*" Other compelling topics were "Women Writers and the Witness of History," featuring scholars from among other places, Boston College and South Dakota State University; and "Effectiveness, Accountability and Equity in Haiti's Recovery and Reconstruction."

Among the panelists at sessions throughout the conference were scholars such as Jennifer Greenburg of UC Berkeley, Rodrigo Bulamah of Duke University, Sophonie Joseph of Columbia University, Chelsea Stieber of New York University and Kyrah M. Daniels of Harvard University. Other important guests over the three-day conference included Yves Voltaire of Université Publique du Sud Aux Cayes, Evelyne Trouillot of Université d'Etat d'Haiti,

According to Dr. Schuller, a preeminent scholar on Haiti who has taken York College students on research trips to the island, the confer-

ence was an unqualified success.

"This was my tenth Haitian Studies Association conference, and I have to say that by many accounts it was one of the most organized, successful, innovative, participative, and diverse," said Schuller, now a professor at Northern Illinois University and co-chair of the Onsite Committee Conference. "Being in New York it was one of the most well attended; in the HSA's 24 years it had never been to New York. I heard many colleagues say how wonderful it was to be at York, with Haitian Creole being spoken in the halls. To be honest many people hadn't heard of York, and when they heard that we have a minor in Haitian Creole, and four full-time faculty [members] who are Haitian and several others who are affiliated, many took note."

Schuller added that he heard from many people expressed how warmly they felt toward York's hosting of the conference, under particularly trying circumstances due to serving as an evacuee shelter due to the Hurricane Sandy (see also cover story on p.1).

"Some called York's effort 'heroic,' said



Dean William Ebenstein from the CUNY Central Office emphasizing a point during the conference



Bronx Community College President and York College alumna, Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph (r.), was an active contributor on several panels, as well as a financial contributor to the success of the conference



Many well-known Haiti scholars such as Dr. Michael Dash (NYU) (here with two unidentified audience members) participated in the conference

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Dhar's area of specialization, is one of the most dangerous toxic metals. It can be found everywhere, occurring naturally in both organic and inorganic forms. It doesn't take much arsenic to exceed safe limits in water. Additionally, because arsenic doesn't taste or smell, people may be unaware of their exposure to it. Ingestion can produce gangrene, hyperkeratosis, and carcinoma. After saturating humans' internal systems, arsenic begins to

manifest externally, leading to a very painful death.

Dr. Dhar shared maps of arsenic contamination levels around the world. In Bangladesh alone, where arsenic standards for water are five times higher than in other countries, 77 million people are at risk from arsenic contamination. While performing his research there, Dr. Dhar met one mother who had lost all eight of her sons to arsenic poisoning. Socioeconomic issues

further complicate the adequate supply of pure drinking water, with poorer populations not always having enough money to access potable water.

Dr. Dhar's research is directed toward finding ways to diminish the problem of arsenic contamination. Possible remediations of contaminated water can include domestic water treatment devices, well-switching, chlorine treatment of surface water, rainwater harvesting, and the use

of very deep groundwater, which has less arsenic than water nearer the surface. Dr. Dhar is seeking greater understanding of how arsenic becomes mobilized in aquifers to begin with. Currently, he is exploring how the presence of biological organisms in water affect the release of arsenic into water supplies. His recent experiments in this area suggest that microbes in water may be mediating the mobilization of arse-

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**“The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself.”**

**Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton**

## York College Alums shine as Surgeons

Two York College/CUNY alums 20 classes apart graduated from Howard University College of Medicine and have now joined forces to make their respective mark on the field.

Collin E. M. Brathwaite, M.D., a specialist in general bariatric and laparoscopic surgery, transitioned from York into Medical School at Howard to pursue his medical de-

gree. Kenneth Hall, M.D., graduated from York in 2001. Dr. Brathwaite graduated from Howard in 1983 and spoke at Hall's 2005 graduation without meeting him.

The two would not meet officially until Dr. Hall was a general surgery resident in the Department of Surgery at Stony Brook University Medical Center where Dr. Brathwaite had been

a member of the faculty as Chief of the Division of Trauma/Surgical Critical Care.

Now Chief of the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Director of the Bariatric Surgery Program at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, Long Island, Dr. Brathwaite, impressed with Dr. Hall's skills, appointed him as an Attending Physician in

Trauma and General Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Hall was a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow in the same department under Dr. Brathwaite.

Brathwaite, a native of Trinidad, was in a hurry to complete his studies at York and move on to medical school. Rather than wait for graduation, he transi-

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## Business Professor Elected to Board of Northeast Business and Economics Association

In recognition of his contribution to Northeast Business and Economics Association (NBEA), and his field of research, Dr. Olajide Oladipo, Chair of Business and Economics Department, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors at the 39th annual conference held at Danfords Hotel and Marina, Port Jefferson, New York, October 25-27, 2012.

While receiving the award, Dr. Oladipo said "I am extremely grateful and honored by this thoughtful recognition. When one looks at the caliber of the list of those who have served or are still serving on the Board of NBEA, it is a humbling experience."

Dr. Oladipo, has been an active member of

NBEA since 2006. During this period, he has presented many research papers and chaired sessions at the NBEA conference each year.

The Business and Economics Association, Inc., formerly the New England Business and Economics Association, was founded in 1973. The purposes of the association are a) to promote multidisciplinary research pertaining to business and economics; and b) to improve communications and to encourage the exchange of research, both applied and theoretical, among all interested parties.

Also in attendance at the NBEA 2012 conference were York's Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu and Professor Wayne Forrester

of the School of Business and Information Systems (SBIS). Dr. Hsu presented a paper titled "Does Application of Rigorous Methodologies Yield Economic Value in Portfolio Optimization?"

Dr. Oladipo and Professor Forrester presented a paper (in collaboration with Dean Ntoko) titled "Sources of Inflation in Developing Countries: Evidence from Some West African Countries." According to Dr. Oladipo, "under the leadership of Dean Ntoko, the School of Business continues to support her faculty to present their research at national and international conferences."



**L. to r.: Prof. Hsu, Prof. Theologos Bonitsis (NJIT), and Prof. Oladipo at the NBEA conference**



**Prof. Forrester (l.) and Prof. Oladipo**

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nic, thereby contributing to arsenic contamination.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion. Dr. Dhar warned that arsenic is now beginning to appear in sur-

face water as well as aquifers, from whence it can enter the food chain, endangering the food humans eat as well as the water they drink. He left the audience with a strong sense of the ur-

gency of addressing water pollution problems. The sustainability of human life and health depend on it.

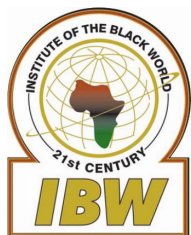
**"To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say."**

*George Santanyana*

## York faculty and students attend *State of the Black World* conference in Washington



Dr. Daniels (r., standing) and other panelists during summit of Anti-Violence organizations and Hip-Hop Activists



On November 15th, 2012, seven York students along with York College Male Initiative Director, Jonathan Quash, attended the 3rd State of the Black World Conference, sponsored by the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, an organization created and led by York College Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Ron Daniels.

Students from colleges and universities across the country, activists and community leaders gathered from November 14–18 on the campus of Howard University to not only discuss the issues that are seemingly crippling black families and communities, but to also create a plan of action as to how we can solve these problems. In addition, one of the primary goals was to create a Declaration of Intent to Heal Black Families and

Communities, a document that would be created based on the outcome of the planning sessions.

Some of the notable speakers and panelists included: Susan Taylor, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Mark Thompson, Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Congressman John Conyers, Herb Boyd, Dr. Haki Madhubuti and Sonia Sanchez, to name a few.

The students from York College that attended (Olatinuke Bello, Rishaad Ishmail, Vierka Vasquez, Tina Black, Yashari Nunez, Joshua Carrington and Bernice Carrington) were extremely engaged and excited to be part of such a great gathering of some of the nation's greatest minds and consider York College very fortunate to have Dr. Daniels as part of the faculty of the college.

The conference has inspired them to carry

out the mission of the conference and do their part to address some of the needs addressed in the various sessions.

Especially touching were the performances and personal testimonies of the young men and women that are part of *The Conscious Ones Acting Company*, a product of the Lola Louis Creative and Performing Arts Studio in Bronx, New York. The pain and struggle in their lives was reflected in a positive medium, the arts, but problems still exist in the violence of the streets that they try to survive in, on a daily basis. The group represented the very goals and mission of the conference, to return to our respective communities and families with the knowledge and tools to implement specific strategies and models for change.

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One of the many well-attended panels

Schuller. "I would say that York's role as facilitator was very well appreciated by many conference attendees." The conference also featured culturally significant music, dances and cuisine.

"I am glad that we were able to host this event at York, which harbors a huge Haitian population," said Dr. Jean Francois, a professor of Foreign Languages at York. "When it comes to Haitian Stud-

ies in New York, York [College] is the right address. It is the only college in the State that offers degrees in Creole and Haitian Literature."

## 4th Annual Student Research Day

The Office of Undergraduate Research at CUNY-York College is now accepting registrants for the 4th Annual Student Research Day which will be held on **Thursday, April 18th**, from 9:00am to 5:00pm in the Atrium of the Academic Core building.

Registration is open to all York College students, whether part-time or full-time, who have engaged in research or creative works under the supervision of a faculty member. Students may register in one of three categories: poster presentation or panel presentation. [If a student intends to conduct a performance they should e-mail [uresearch@york.cuny.edu](mailto:uresearch@york.cuny.edu).]

**The registration page can be found here:**

[www.york.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-research/research-day-registration](http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-research/research-day-registration)

Please note that all students who have co-authored papers are required to register individually. Advisors should receive a confirmation email indicating that their students have registered. Students should seek the approval of their advisors before registering. Registration will close March 1st, 2013.

Student Research Day is the largest annual exhibition of student research and creative efforts at York College. The day is organized into three sessions: poster and panel sessions – which run concurrently – and the lunch session during which a keynote speaker gives an invited talk.

Past keynote speakers have included:

- Dr. Ken Furton, Dean of Arts & Sciences at Florida International University;
- Staceyann Chin, performance artist and author of “The Other Side of Paradise”;
- Hari Kunzru, novelist and winner of the Somerset Maugham Prize.

This year’s keynote speaker will be announced in January 2013. Also, Provost and Senior VP of Academic Affairs Ivelaw L. Griffith will be announcing several awards to be given at the 4th Student Research Day.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this Student Research Day even more engaging and remarkable than it has been for the past three years.

For more information or any questions, please contact Dr. Rishi Nath, Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, at [rnath@york.cuny.edu](mailto:rnath@york.cuny.edu) or (718) 262-2813.



Temporary bedding in the Academic Core Building

**“They treated them like they were their own [grand-parents], even better than they are being treated in the nursing home.”**



Almost 1,000 evacuees were sheltered by the college

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overwhelming situation, many assisted, employing their fields of expertise to be helpful where possible. Dr. Selena Rogers, a Social Work professor, for example, saw that the children among the evacuee guests, needed to be engaged constructively and sought to provide opportunities for them.

Among other things, she brought in colored paper and went on a mission to find markers and crayons to keep the young ones busy with their innocence as intact as possible.

“I had to get them away from the adult conversations,” said Dr. Rogers. “There are things adults have to discuss that the children don’t need to hear.”

Dr. Lindamichelle Baron, chair of the Department of Teacher Education, used her experience as a teacher, poet and children’s book author, to divert the children from their circumstances as well.

“Wherever I saw a group of children I’d ask them, ‘Would you like to hear a poem?’ and I would [recite my] poetry to them,” said Dr. Baron. “I thought I was giving them a gift; but instead, they gave me the gift of knowing my poetry. Their resilience was en-

couraging.”

Baron also gave the children T-shirts emblazoned with the logo from her book, *The Sun is On*. Other faculty participants found non-academic ways to be helpful too.

Dr. Rishi Nath, a Math professor, lives close enough to the campus that he was able to walk in and was moved by what he saw.

“I am somebody who thought about taking refuge at York,” said Dr. Nath. “I didn’t need it. But being here, I got to find out what was going on in Far Rockaway as well.”

Nath also updated his absent colleagues via posts to YorkTalk as well. He shared one such missive with this publication:

“... I have seen students and staff housed here (even now), and heard that several public safety folks were using York as shelter as well. According to Officer Suarez, when the fires in Breezy Point happened, dozens of survivors were brought to York.”

“Additionally, the gymnasium looked like a triage center with hundreds of elderly and infirm on medical stretchers, being attended to by representatives of the city, state (I even saw

ATF agents). Officially, the plan is to relocate the shelter seekers housed in the Academic Core over the weekend to other facilities, begin classes, and keep the elderly and infirm in the gym indefinitely. I would like to say that I have [been] thoroughly impressed with the management and professionalism that our officers, the IT staff and the volunteers (including students like Harry Velasquez and Jean-Baptiste Bastien) have exhibited ... A fine hour for York in a bad time.”

Members of York’s English Department were also moved to help the evacuees on campus. Dr. Theresa Rooney came to the campus bearing donations of bath towels and “hand clothes” she purchased with funds she pooled with Professors William Hughes and Jonathan Hall. She downplayed her role saying she only “walked around and spoke to a few people to hear their story but I don’t think I did anything special.”

English Professor Janice Cline was also on campus offering words of encouragement to the guests and brought in clothing.

Guests were thankful

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for the accommodation York personnel from various departments provided. One in particular, Latoya Floyd who was part of three generations of her family plus a pet, housed at York during and after the storm, summed up the sentiment.

"It was amazing," she said. "They went above and beyond for your children, giving them acting classes ... They made sure the kids did not miss out on Halloween, buying them brand new costumes and hosting a party for them. It was amazing. The staff was tremendous."

Ms. Floyd's positive experience was not limited to her children and herself. Her grandparents were across the street at the HPEC among those brought in from nursing homes.

She recalled her grandmother cried when they left York.

"They treated them like they were their own [grandparents]," said Floyd. "They treated them better than they were being treated in the nursing home."

Floyd also appreciated the opportunity to do something everyone usually takes for granted.

"You could take a shower," she said. "And the water was hot. You don't know what that feels like ... There was a cleaning person constantly cleaning the shower [stalls] making sure there would be no bacteria. It was also safe here. You could put your child to bed and go watch a movie and they would be safe."

Ms. Floyd also marveled that people at York took the time to really

care about the individual outside the number as she discovered while away from the campus taking care of personal matters.

One day they didn't see me show up to check on my dog, Butter Scotch," she said. "And they started looking for me and when I came back they were waiting for me. They said, 'We know you, Latoya. It's not like you to not come so we were worried about you'."

In this season of thanks, the college is grateful to all students, faculty, staff and volunteers who played a role in creating a positive experience for fellow New Yorkers in a time of dire need.

**"It was amazing. The staff went above and beyond for our children, giving them acting classes ... They made sure the kids did not miss out on Halloween."**

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tioned one semester short of commencement into Howard Medical, which he had heard would take outstanding students just shy of their bachelor's degree. One of his York professors tried to talk him into completing his degree at the college with the promise that he would get him into medical

school at Columbia University. But he would not be dissuaded.

"My mother always says 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bushes,' Brathwaite explained. "My professors at York were phenomenal but I wanted to start medical school as quickly as possible. I worked hard, took extra courses

and applied to Howard."

In true Brathwaite fashion, he completed medical school a year early in 1983 with Honors in Surgery.

Following that, Dr. Brathwaite completed a one-year fellowship in traumatology/critical care at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Sys-

tems of the University of Maryland in Baltimore. In addition to his bariatric and laparoscopic specialties, Brathwaite is also a highly respected emergency surgeon.

Not only is Dr. Brathwaite a skilled surgeon, he is also a scholar in the research area of post-traumatic sepsis and

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Dr. Lewis Bodi

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

**– Nelson Mandela**

## The Passing of Another York Legend

The recent, sudden death of Dr. Lewis Bodi, an early York administrator and Chemistry professor, has shaken those who knew him as a vibrant and committed member of the late President Milton Bassin’s administration.

Indeed, his service preceded and extended beyond Bassin’s. Dr. Bodi died in a fire in his Glen Cove, Long Island home in early November. The blaze was started by a kerosene lamp he was using after losing power to the effects of Hurricane Sandy. His wife tried in vain to help.

One former colleague summed up his tenure at York.

“Lew was often the spokesperson for the Bassin Administration,” said Dr. Robert Parmet, a History professor and founding faculty of the college. “Highly intelligent, quick-witted and articulate, he readily

represented the President before faculty, among others.”

Dr. Bodi worked his way up the academic and administrative ladder at York, first as dean of Natural Sciences, dean of Faculty and later as vice president of Academic Affairs. He worked tirelessly with President Bassin, students, faculty, staff and the external community for York’s survival and success.

“Along with a solid core of superb scientists, he helped create an outstanding Natural Sciences Department,” said Parmet. “His signature contribution was an integrated Physical Chemistry course. As a fighter for York, he stood alongside President Bassin throughout the struggle for survival. Bassin, Bodi, and Administrative Vice-President Barney Levantino combined to make an incredible leadership triumvirate, committed, respected,

and ultimately successful. Of course, Lew’s passing, especially in such a tragic manner, came as a great shock.

Dr. Bodi who was born in Racine (WI) to Hungarian immigrants, served in the Navy from 1943 to 1945 manning guns on a Liberty cargo ship. The experience helped prepare him for the war of keeping the burgeoning college afloat during the fiscal wars of the 1970s.

Following his military service, Dr. Bodi graduated from DePauw University on the GI bill and earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He started his CUNY career as a professor at Brooklyn College. He was 87 years old at the time of his death.

In lieu of flowers for the funeral, the family generously requested that donations be sent to York College (<http://giving.york.cuny.edu>).

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nutritional support. As such, he has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, nearly 30 abstracts plus book chapters. He served as head of the Trauma Program at

Crozer Chester Medical Center in Pennsylvania; as Chief of General Surgery and Associate Professor of Surgery and head of the Trauma and Critical Care Program at Stony Brook University Hospital where he de-

veloped the Bariatric Surgery program in 1999.

Dr. Brathwaite has also served on the faculty of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey as well as Allegheny University in

Pennsylvania. He was listed by Philadelphia Magazine as one of their “Top Docs” in 1996.

In addition, he was listed as one of “America’s Top Surgeons” in 2003-2004 and

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2004-2005 in addition to receiving numerous awards and citations. He has also served as surgical consultant to the New York State Health Department and New York Health Plan Association in the development of Bariatric Surgery guidelines for the state of New York. He has performed nearly 1,000 weight loss surgeries.

Dr. Hall, who is at the beginning of his career, reveals a remarkable story of overcoming early academic struggles

and insecurities to excel in high school, college and medical school.

"In fourth grade my teacher told me I would not amount to anything," Hall recalled. "I was mischievous, had problems focusing and had a bad temper, and used to get into fights."

It was the experience of a famous doctor that turned Hall from hot-headed trouble maker to model student, from being number 37 in his class of 37 to graduating from high school at the age of 15.

His mother, an educator, gave her son, *Gifted Hands* (by Benjamin Carson, M.D.). In the book, Dr. Carson details his struggles in school and the bad temper that culminated in his nearly killing a classmate; and finally, academic success that propelled him into Yale University and Johns Hopkins University Medical School. The book transformed the young Hall.

"He was just like me," he said. "And we belong to the same religion (Seventh-day Adventist). 'I wanted to be a doctor but I wasn't good in mathematics ... algebra gave me a hard time. But my dad told me, it's a game. So I learned how to turn things around. I had an aunt with sickle cell disease and an uncle who died from it, so I wanted to be a doctor.'"

After high school, Hall took college courses and became a teacher. Immigrating to Florida where his father had by then been living, Hall eventually came to New York and enrolled at York. Falling under the influence of the legendary Biology professor, Jack Schlein, he excelled. He became an LSAMP and Louis Stokes, and Ronald McNair Scholar all at the

same time in addition to receiving numerous York-based scholarships such as one from the YES Program and the Gilbert T. Booser Scholarship from the York College Alumni Association with current president, Tracy Bowes advocating for him.

"York was a great experience," he said. "Dr. Schlein took me under his wings and took me to all the (microbiology) conferences. I loved Philosophy too," said the college Biology major. "I did very well in it. Professor Ruttenberg liked me. I had a bad speech impediment and when you don't speak well you can't shine. It could be so embarrassing. I did not have confidence. But Professor Ruttenberg created a very good environment and I got lots of support."

Today not only does Dr. Hall's speech reveal no signs of difficulty. He is a confident and prolific talker.

"Prayer healed my speech impediment," said the young surgeon, who credits his step-mother with encouraging him to go attend York.

Doctors Brathwaite and Hall now plan to visit York to speak with aspiring physicians.

President Marcia V. Keizs  
Cordially invites you to the  
Executive Leadership Breakfast



Featuring, Peter M. Rivera

COMMISSIONER  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

"The Future Job Opportunities  
in New York State"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012  
8:00 - 9:30 AM

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

***via email to:***

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