

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

YORK College

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 4

MAY 2014

5th Student Research Day !



L-r.: Pulitzer-Prize author Charles Duhigg, Dr. Elizabeth Alter, and President Keizs in conversation following the lunch session

The 5th Annual Undergraduate Research Day was an unqualified success as students displayed the outstanding

research outcomes they have discovered over the past year. And one couldn't but be impressed by the posters lined up across the

length of the Academic Core Building's block-long atrium.

Also impressive was the keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Charles Duhigg, who discussed "The Power of Habit," from his *New York Times* bestseller, *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business*.

Dr. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, York's most recent former provost; and the founder of the Undergraduate Research Day as a cross-disciplinary mandate at York, and of the Office

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Aviation students receive internship funding from TD Bank

The CUNY Aviation Institute at York College recently received a \$7,500 grant from the TD Bank Foundation to support an Aviation Internship program. The donation to the 11-year-old Aviation Institute is

a generous acknowledgement from the TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank.

The donation will go toward internship scholarships for approximately 13 students in York's

Aviation Management program. Students will gain meaningful experience with local aviation entities such as the Federal Aviation Administration, the Port Authority of New York and

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Special points of interest:

- **Two new Fulbright Awards for York**
- **SEMAA Group Visits**
- **Students attend Women in Aviation Conference**
- **Third Chemistry Valedictorian**

York Students attend Women in Aviation International conference

Dr. Mavis F. Green, associate professor in the Business and Economics Department, recently accompanied 13 Aviation Management students to the 25th Anniversary Women in Aviation International (WAI) conference in Orlando.

Women in Aviation International, open to both women and men for membership, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation career fields and interests. The 11,000+ membership includes astronauts, corporate pilots, maintenance technicians, air traffic controllers, business owners, educators, journalists, flight attendants, high school and university students, air show performers, airport managers and many others.

The York students participated in a variety of activities at the conference. On the conference's first day they attended a Professional Development workshop on how to plan their own professional futures in the same way the best leaders plan successful business strategies. A



L. – r.: Karen Cardona, Ms. Novelette Brown from Jet-Blue, Luisa Ayala, Gloria Gauman, Jet Blue intern, and Jan Yin



A safe return to JFK, tickets courtesy of American Airlines



The student group representing the College at the conference

second workshop covered tips on how to introduce yourself, present a résumé, and how to make your best attributes stand out. The York College students attending were Priscila Saquipay, Luisa Ayala, Moses Lee, Yousef Almomani, Tenzing Sherpa, Michael Stankiewicz, Yan Jin, Shawn Ferguson, Maya Ghanem, Amanda Spruill, James Alexander, Karen Cardona, and Gloria Gauman.

The students also attended the WAI University Chapters Meeting and the College University Student Meeting.

In addition, the students participated in a variety of events including the General Session and a luncheon that featured guest speakers.

Volunteering at the

Bring Your Daughter to the conference Day was a highlight of the trip.

York students volunteered to assist Jet-Blue in helping educate and motivate the interested girls and boys.



Maya Ghanem (r.), York College student, assisting at *Bring Your Daughter day*

Chemistry major Valedictorian makes Three in a Row



For the third year in a row, York's valedictorian is a Chemistry major and aspiring physician. This year the deserving scholar is Katsiaryna Hud.

"I want to be an ophthalmologist," said Hud, who this summer plans to take the MCAT's and apply to medical school. She will specialize in either ophthalmology or dermatology unless there is a more pressing need elsewhere as she progresses through school.

Hud's journey to York was somewhat circuitous. She came from her homeland of Belarus via Miami, where she entered the United States as a refugee. The then-21 year-old lived in that city for a short while before finding her way to Rego Park, Queens and came to York with the intention of majoring in Pharmaceutical Science.

Born in the northern part of Arkhangelsk, Russia, before her family moved to Belarus, Hud knew only one person in the United States before leaving home – a friend in Miami. She had no English language skills and worked odd

jobs to survive in that city.

She moved to New York, because she felt there would be better opportunities for her. She wanted a college education and realized that she could get a great education through the City University of New York (CUNY), and chose York for the Pharmaceutical Science program, the only one in the system.

But first she had to learn English so she started in the college's CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) and was later accepted into the Percy E. Sutton SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) program, of which York is a participating institution.

"I was very afraid I wouldn't be able to read the books," said Hud of her venture into college. "But after one semester I knew that I had no time to waste. I heard about the SEEK Program and that I would get tutoring with my English."

She may not have been as far behind in her English acquisition skills as she may have thought. While still in CLIP, Hud took second

prize in an essay competition.

"I was surprised," she said. "My grammar wasn't good."

Following conversations with Chemistry Professor Ruel Desamero, Hud changed her major to Chemistry affording her more options "in the science field." For the past two years she has been conducting research with Dr. Desamero analyzing, she says, the protein, which causes Type II diabetes.

She has also presented her research at York's Undergraduate Research Day and will be presenting at St. John's University this summer while awaiting a response to her application for a research opportunity at the Mayo Clinic. All this while preparing to take the MCATs and applying to medical schools.

Hud, who still worries about her less-than-perfect grammar in English, also speaks fluent Russian, some German and of course, her native Belarusian. She is hoping that her beloved family, which includes a sister, will be granted visas to attend her graduation from York on May 30th.



Katsiaryna Hud

YORKCollege

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



2013-14 Theme: Pedagogies that Enhance Connection & Competence

Thursday, May 1 Workshop: Telehealth Nursing: Educating Future Nurses in Technology to Deliver Care

12 – 1:45pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Facilitators: Margaret Alexandre, Health Professions
Lynette Hope, Visiting Nurse Service NY
Lilly Mathew, Health Professions
Maryann Rosa, Nursing CUNY Queensborough Community College



**Impressions from the
5th Undergraduate
Research Day**



York Faculty Updates



- **Ron Daniels**, (Distinguished Lecturer, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, School of Arts & Sciences), hosted a forum “Revitalizing the Reparations Movement,” at Chicago State University, on April 19, 2014, featuring distinguished presenters such as Sir Hilary Beckles (University of the West Indies), Congressman John Conyers, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, State Senator Donne Trotter and others;
- **Anamika Megwalu** and **Christina Miller** (both Assistant Professor, Library) presented a paper “Next Generation Literacy: Connecting the Everyday to the Academic,” at the 13th *Annual Information Literacy Summit-Into the Next Generation: The Future of Information Literacy*, hosted by DePaul University Library and Moraine Valley Community College Library, at Moraine Valley Community College, April 25, 2014;
- **Nazrul Khandaker**, (Dept. of Earth & Physical Sciences, School of Arts & Sciences), attended the Geological Society of America’s (GSA) Spring 2014 Corporate Meeting in Denver, Colorado (April 25-27, 2014);



Women's History Month speakers talk career at York events

York has been the scene of many powerful speeches and presentations this spring, and March was particularly rich with speakers in honor of Women's History Month including the speakers at the Executive Leadership Breakfast and the Women's Colloquium. The Breakfast sponsored by Jet-Blue Airways, was well-attended by professionals across the spectrum

Carla Harris, vice chairperson at *Global Wealth Management*, managing director and senior client advisor at *Morgan Stanley*, captivated at the most recent installment of the York College Executive Leadership Breakfast Series; and Freida Foster, a trustee of the Board of the City University of New York (CUNY) was the keynote speaker at the Women's History Month Colloquium.

Harris' Breakfast address was as engaging as it was informative and relevant. Students, alumni and mid-career community members were particularly interested in her advice on how to advance in the corporate world – and

any other profession for that matter.

"Success is a function of how smart you are and how hard you work," said Harris. Expect to win. The perception that the marketplace has about you is important. Think of three adjectives you want to describe you when you're not in the room, because that's when the decisions about you are made; so understanding the adjectives of your field are crucial. Learn to maximize your success; but also know that success is always shifting."

Harris, a forceful speaker, also touched upon the importance of one's voice and the boldness to leave the comfort zone.

"In this century you must be comfortable taking risks," said Harris. "Fear has no place in your success equation. Don't be afraid to fail, because failure always brings you a gift: experience. And your voice is your power, so don't keep your head down. When you keep your head down you submerge your voice; and make sure your authentic self is walking in every day."

The Women's Colloquium also presented its audience with powerful women voices.

In addition to Freida Foster, Gina Bolden-Rivera, a career finance professional and adjunct professor at York; Dr. Fabiola Salek, chair of York's Foreign Languages Department; and two dynamic women students, Diana Cuevas, president of York's *Leadershape Initiative*; and Crystal Cavy, president of the Women's Club, also contributed to the conversation centered around Google CEO Sheryl Sandberg's book *Lean In: Women, Work & the Will to Lead*.

The event was moderated by Ebonie Jackson, director of the Women's Center at York; and included the "Bossy Campaign" video featuring famous women calling for the banning of the word "bossy" as a pejorative term for assertive girls and women.

Dr. Geneva Walker-Johnson, Vice President for Student Development, remarked on the role of women as all-around leaders.



L. - r.: Dr. Walker-Johnson, Dr. Salek, CUNY Trustee Freida Foster, Mrs. Gina Boden-Rivera, student leaders Diana Cuevas and Krystal Davy, Mrs. Ebonie Jackson, and Dean Chirico



Mrs. Carla Harris, addressing a packed room

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Entrepreneurship Club Welcomes 5th Annual Distinguished Speaker



L. to r.: Dr. Oladipo, guest-speaker Gary Stephens, Ms. Alejandra and Mr. Kamath (Vice President of the Entrepreneurship Club).



Students and faculty were among the attentive audience.

York College Entrepreneurship Club was formed in Fall 2009 through the initiative of Dr. Olajide Oladipo of the School of Business celebrated its 5th year anniversary in March 2014. According to Dr. Oladipo, one of the aims of the club is to “serve as a conduit through which York College students can access relevant entrepreneurial resources, network with prominent community entrepreneurs and share business ideas.” “We want to stimulate interest in entrepreneurship among York students and the members of York community.” The Club provides students with the seedbed for developing and testing entrepreneurial talents.

The Club is passion-

ate about helping students and members of the community build sustainable ventures and providing members with lifelong learning support platform to minimize business risks while maximizing success in ventures. The Club promotes an entrepreneurial mind-set through its various annual activities which include an entrepreneurship conference, a startup idea assessment contest and the distinguished speaker series.

The fifth distinguished speaker was Mr. Gary Stephens. Mr. Stephens is the Founder & Managing Partner of SMG Consulting Group, LLC, a full-service consulting & business service company. On March 27, he discussed “Building Wealth

through Business Ownership.” Since 2001, Mr. Stephens has been encouraging individuals to build wealth through business ownership as well as assisting business owners with growing their businesses. According to Mr. Stephens, the keys to managing a business include, setting goals, embracing the available technology, properly managing your finances, and managing the business-like personal life.

The seminar was attended by staff, faculty and over 100 students. In Fall 2014, there will be a networking event on “Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs” and a visit by the Entrepreneurship Club members to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

CUNY Diplomat-in-Residence visits York

Students who take Political Science classes with Professor Michael Sharpe and other faculty, will invariably have the opportunity to enjoy a seminar featuring a diplomat in residence at the

Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Citizenship based at City College.

Over the past five years, specialists have come to Dr. Sharpe’s class to give these presentations. And as an

expert in comparative politics and international relations, Dr. Sharpe believes in exposing his students to the possibility of careers in foreign affairs and civil service.

It is the reason that

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Fulbrighters Present at Social Work Conference

On March 20, 2014, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor of social work and Dr. Linda Wermeling, associate professor at Northern Kentucky University co-presented about their Fulbright Specialist experience. The professors of social work spoke at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD) 2014 Annual Conference of the Association of Social Work held in Louisville, Kentucky.

The conference theme was “The Changing World and the Face of Social Work Education.” Drs. Rodgers and Wermeling’s paper was entitled “The World of Moldova: Social Work Education in a Transitional Political Climate.” Both are internationally recognized social work scholars and educators and have won the designation of Fulbright Specialists. They

spoke about their experiences with the University of Havana, Cuba and the Free International University of Moldova. The workshop described their research in Cuba and their consultations in the Republic of Moldova.

Dr. Rodgers was invited as a Fulbright Specialist lecturer to two international universities – Free International University (ULIM), Moldova, and North-West University, South Africa.

Following standards defined by *The International Association of Schools of Social Work* (IASSW) Curricula Competencies, *The European Qualifications Framework* (EQF) for Lifelong Learning, and the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (EAQAHE), Dr. Rodgers’ talks have focused on providing co-training and workshops to ULIM faculty and administrators, and the

Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family. She has also piloted courses with two Moldovan cohorts and students who participated in the York/CUNY summer 2013 Study Aboard program in Moldova. In addition, Dr. Rodgers participated in a co-teaching curriculum between Moldovan and U.S. faculty. She provided overview of recommendations for course revisions provided to Dr. Vadim Moldovan, Founder and President of Project Casa Mare International Center for Advancement of Social Work in Countries with Transition Economies.

Since her designation as a Fulbright Specialist Awardee in 2013, Dr. Rodgers was invited by the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission to serve as a scientific consultant in Social Work for the ongoing Fulbright Senior Award competition.



Members of the Inaugural Council on Social Work Education (2012) Delegation to Cuba l to r: Sabrina W. Tyuse (Social Work Program Director, Saint Louis University), Linda Wermeling (Fulbright Specialist, Northern Kentucky University), Lucy A. Lawrence (Social Work Program Director, Warren Wilson College), Selena T. Rodgers (Fulbright Specialist, York College of The City University of New York)



Impressions from the 5th Undergraduate Research Day





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As in years past, the Academic Core building was abuzz with activities and posters



Faculty ...



... and students came out in numbers

of Undergraduate Research, also returned along with his wife, Francille, from Fort Valley in Georgia, where he is now president of The Fort Valley State University. President Griffith brought greetings and was presented with an award for his vision in launching the program.

In addition to the various poster presentations, students also participated in verbal presentations during the luncheon and Jonathan Quash, director of the Men's Center, conducted the York Choir in an inspiring spiritual.

Undergraduate Research Day is a tradition that Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, acting provost, is glad to carry forth into his own tenure.

"I am pleased and

excited that after five years more faculty and students engage in research, scholarship and present their work to the community," said Dr. Meleties, whose scholarly expertise is in chemistry.

Dr. Robert Duncan who succeeded Dr. Rishi Nath as director of the Office of Undergraduate Research also enjoyed the day.

"The event was a huge success with buy-in from disciplines in STEM and the Humanities," said Dr. Duncan. "This year featured more buy-in from the humanities than before. These students almost universally elected to complete Oral Presentations rather than Posters. During the next year, I seek to increase the number of publications to under-

graduate research journals as a scholarly outlet for our most excellent students."

Duncan added that he was impressed with the keynote speaker.

"The keynote appeared to be universally loved," said Duncan. "I have yet to hear a negative comment on the session. He was a pleasure to hear, and he knew exactly how to portray the research for a broad audience."

According to Dr. Duncan, the numbers were remarkable: this year's event featured over 300 registered attendees, almost 250 participating students, 55 faculty mentors, close to 200 posters and oral presentations. Without doubt, the program is alive and well, moving from strength to strength.



Many of the poster presenters had an attentive audience

Innovative Exploration Forum and York's Participation

On April 1, 2014, a sunny and cold day in Albany, the state capital of New York, where plus 100 students representing various SUNY (State University of New York) and CUNY (City University of New York) campuses gathered to participate an Innovative Exploration Forum: Undergraduate Research in New York State's Public Higher Education System.

This high profile education forum was sponsored by the University Faculty Senate (SUNY), University Faculty Senate (CUNY), and Faculty Council of Community Colleges (SUNY). York was ably represented by Ezazul Haque (Earth and Physical Sciences; Mentors: Dr. Nazrul Khandaker & Dr. Stan Schleifer) and Ai-Mei Chen (Chemistry, Mentor: Dr. Emmanuel Chang) and their presence brought prominence to York's cutting edge research involving STEM. Ezaz worked on Human-health aspects due to Groundwater Contamination in South Jamaica and Ai-Mei continued her research on A NEW MECHANISM FOR CONTROL OF HIV REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE.

This event was designed to bring together some of SUNY and CUNY's most talented undergraduate scholars with SUNY and CUNY Administration officials and members of our New York State Legislative delegation and their office staff. The session allowed SUNY and CUNY students the opportunity to present their research and creative academic projects to a large audience at Albany's Legislative Office Building. It was a truly memorable experience for our student presenters and our audience.

York undergraduates Ezaz and Ai-Mei in conjunction with their mentors Dr. Khandaker and Dr. Chang were able to witness legislative functions of our elected representatives and their role in terms of supporting STEM research and creating opportunities to promote and enhance scientific communications across SUNY and CUNY campuses. CUNY's Senior Vice Chancellor, Dr. Jay Hershenson and Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Gillian Small greeted CUNY students at the forum and highly praised outstanding re-

search works that are taking place within the CUNY in addition to imparting well-rounded education with the assistance of numerous dedicated and passionate faculty. They were very impressed at the quality of science research presented at the forum by the students and both had glowing and highly encouraging remarks for the participating students.

Dr. Small paid a brief visit to the poster booth to get a snap shot of research outcomes from Ezaz and Ai-Mei and left with a sense of understanding of their research investigations and how their current projects relate to improving the link between science and society.

Several key legislative members including Senator Malcom Smith and Assemblyman William Scarborough also took the time to visit York's poster booth and were deeply appreciative of Ezaz and Ai-Mei's presentation both in terms of science and societal needs. Ezaz, a previous Brownfield Scholarship recipient who worked with Dr. Khandaker and Dr. Schleifer in the past, is



Students Ezazul Haque (L) and Ai-Mei at the Innovative Exploration Forum



SEMMA Group from California Visits York



Members of the Hartnell and York SEMAA groups



Dr. Khandaker (l.) and Mayra Gomez from Hartnell SEMAA

Hartnell SEMAA (Science, Engineering, Math & Aerospace Academy) from California recently visited the York SEMAA site in connection with their west to east coast STEM tours.

York SEMAA proudly hosted 100 plus enthusiastic K9-12 students, parents, and staff and kept them entertained with various NASA-curriculum-based, hands on activities. The Hartnell group travelled in two tour buses and was greeted by Dr. Khandaker, the York SEMAA Director. York Family Café, led by Unity Deepan and SEMAA first grade teacher Pauline Miles arranged a grand gala welcoming event for the visiting Hartnell participants.

Hartnell SEMAA leaders Mayra L. Gomez and Ruben Pizarro, shared their best practices with York and strongly felt about building mutual collaboration with respect to STEM exchanges. Provost Meleties, York College emphasized the urgent need for greater STEM collaboration and creating a STEM summit to exchange contents and allow rapid growth be-

tween various sites to foster STEM partnerships.

Students were able to sit and participate in groups with York's SEMAA teachers and greatly enjoyed some of the robotics, space food, chemistry and flight simulation activities. Several parents also witnessed SEMAA classroom activities and commended teachers and aides for their knowledge and dedication to the York SEMAA program.

York's hosting this important STEM event enabled close partnership between the two sites to take place. As a token of appreciation, everyone from the Hartnell group was awarded with a certificate and gifts. Several distinguished guests, including Mayra Gomez and Ruben Pizarro, received a recognition from Senator Malcom Smith for their visit to New York City. Hartnell SEMAA presented gifts to Dr. Khandaker as well.

In the end, Hartnell SEMAA participants got a chance to sample scrumptious food cooked by the York Family Café parents. In fact, during Hartnell's brief 3-hour stay at York, one never

felt a dull moment. As one parent said, "we felt home here and there was energy and excitement everywhere. Glad we visited York."

York SEMAA has been in operation since 1999 and was introduced to the community with the help of Congressman Gregory Meeks and Dr. Jack Schlein (Emeritus Professor, Biology). In-kind contributions from York College plus generous support from the NASA and Con Edison enabled York SEMAA to offer STEM education to K1-9 students and well over 16,000 students were exposed to valuable hands-on and critical thinking skills pertaining to aerospace, rocketry, robotics, and fundamental mathematics and science concepts.

In a recent communication with NASA, Dr. Khandaker was informed that this event has been captured as a significant highlight and was shared with upper-management at NASA Education.



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New Jersey and major airlines.

“We believe that organizations such as yours play a significant role in sustaining vibrant and thriving communities,” said Peter M. Meyer, Marketing President, for TD Bank, in a letter to the college. “The TD Charitable Foundation carries a legacy of supporting not-for-profit institutions and their important work throughout our region ... we are pleased to support your students and wish them the very best.”

This grant is the second such to the Aviation Institute at York College from the TD Charitable Foundation. However, the banking colossus has supported York students in other ways as well.

In recent years, the TD Charitable Foundation funds provided scholarships to accounting students participating in the VITA program as managers and volunteer tax preparers for low income New York-



Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu, director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College

ers during tax season.

“We are very thankful for the support that the College and the VITA program enjoy with the TD Charitable Foundation,” said Dr. Marcia V. Keizs, president of York College. Internships are essential to our Aviation students’ preparation for careers. Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college and face financial challenges, and we greatly appreciate the support of TD Bank which is an important finance institution in our community.”

The TD Charitable Foundation is the chari-

table giving arm of TD Bank N.A., which operates as TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank®, and is one of the 10 largest commercial banking organizations in the United States. The Foundation’s mission “is to serve the individuals, families and businesses in all the communities where TD Bank operates, having made \$118.9 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002.” The Foundation’s areas of focus are affordable housing, financial literacy and education, and the environment.

Dr. Chun-Pin Hsu who is the director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College, is encouraged by the donation.

“TD Bank’s donation reminds students that they are on the right track,” said Hsu. “I appreciate TD Bank’s faith in our students’ ability to succeed and their contribution to their future success.”

We believe that York College plays a significant role in sustaining vibrant and thriving communities.

Dr. Linda Perry gets Fulbright Award

Dr. Linda Perry has been added to the Fulbright Specialist Roster as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP), which “promotes linkages between U.S.

scholars and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions overseas.”

The Specialist program funds three shorter assignments, usually in

several different countries, over a five year period. The foreign institutions review the background and skill set of those on the Fulbright roster and select those



Dr. Linda Perry

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“Don’t keep your head down. When you keep your head down you submerge your voice; and make sure your authentic self is walking in every day.”

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“Women have been leaders of nations, corporations, academia and serve as caregivers too,” said Dr. Walker-Johnson. “No matter what occurs, women are there – whether at the forefront or quietly in the background; so it’s important for us to [host these types of events].”

Dr. Donna Chirico, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences was also in attendance and brought greetings on behalf of President Keizs.

Freida Foster for her part proved that she practices what she preaches. The precocious wisdom to start leaning in from the start has proven fruitful for her. She has had a successful career in academia and continues to thrive.

“I went to Hofstra University where I began ‘leaning in’ early by joining student groups,” said Foster. We must

realize we’re ‘there’ because we belong.”

Ever the researcher, Dr. Salek’s presentation reminded the audience of some important statistics. “Pay scale for women is 77 cents on the dollar for white women, 60 cents for Black women and 50 cents for Latinas,” said Salek.

Bolden-Rivera, advised the young women in the audience to be prepared to fight for their place in the workforce.

“Men still run the world so be prepared to play ball,” said Bolden-Rivera. “The first thing is confidence, but the second thing after confidence is to get mad and study the rules.”

Diana Cuevas, a Movement Science major, proved that her involvement with *Leadershape*, which as the name suggests, is an organization that focuses on shaping leaders,

listed a number of pointers for success.

“Take your stressors and make them your motivation,” said Cuevas. “Lay out a foundation for confidence; don’t leave before you leave ...”

She added that women face undue pressure to start families as well.

“Women are told, ‘don’t take too long to have kids,’” said Cuevas. “So women are discouraged from extensive education so they stop short of going all the way. We need to have more women in power.”

As president of the women’s Club, Crystal Davy knows about women in power and she wants more of it. Davy is running for a position as a Student Government senator. She too is leaning in early. Expect her as well as Cuevas and others at the Colloquium to win.

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scholars who best fit their requirements.

She has been asked to serve as a consultant by the University of Oviedo (Spain) to assist them in the development and teaching of undergraduate courses in marketing.

“It is my hope to go

to Spain in the spring term of 2015 to begin this project,” said Perry. “That would give me the opportunity to be most useful to the project as well as spend the most time collaborating with my research partner, Dr. Marta Ibanez, on our

ongoing research project called “Women in Men’s Worlds,” which investigates women who work in male-dominated occupations such as aviation, construction and computer repair.

Congratulations, Dr. Perry!



Weaving a Tapestry of Dignity and Worth ...

On April 18, 2014 at Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, assistant professor of social work presented her PSC-CUNY funded research project. The annual forum, the *National Association of Black Social Workers* (NABSW) 46th Annual Conference, was hosted in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Aligned with the conference's theme "An African Tapestry: The Blackprint for Physical, Psychosocial and Spiritual Wellness," Dr. Rodgers' research presentation titled, "You Don't Know Me..." Black Women Perceptions of Contemporary Stereotypes" focused on African-centered models to answer questions associated with health and wellness, specifically, trauma-stressor exposures and posttraumatic growth outcomes identified by Black women who participated in the study.

During the presentation, Dr. Rodgers issued a call to action for the NABSW's Health and Wellness Committee and Political Action Task Forces to engage in discussions and issue a position statement tied to the importance of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – thus ensuring that Black women who exist at the intersection of multiple forms of oppression based on race and gender are included in global conversations and policy agendas.

Professor Rodgers is preparing several manuscripts to report study results and has recently received a PSC-CUNY award to explore potential relationships between stereotypic roles, mentoring, and posttraumatic growth in Black adolescent females.

Dr. Rodgers has remained steadfast in weaving a tapestry of dignity and worth at national and global levels.

In September 2013, Dr. Rodgers presented at the *National Association of Social Workers – South Africa*, in association with the *International Federation for Social Workers Voices for Development Conference*, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Anchored in the National Association Code of Ethics, Ensuring the Dignity and Worth of the Person, Rodgers' presentation titled "Ensuring Black Women are [A]part of the Global Agenda: Perceptions of Posttraumatic Growth in the Aftermath of Historical and Contemporary Trauma" emphasized the study's findings and a call to the international community to raise awareness about authentic respect and culturally-specific interventions when working with Black women who endure racial stereotypes and other forms of gendered and institutional racism.



Dr. Rodgers presenting her research findings

"I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence."

- Frederick Douglass

cont.'d from p.6

for the past few years he has been bringing in the Diplomat-in-Residence to tell them about these options.

In April, Patricia H. H. Guy, the current diplomat in residence at the Powell School gave one such presentation that enlightened the students.

“You have exposure to life-long learning in foreign affairs,” said Guy. “The State Department’s objective is to promote democracy and prosperity. We need experts in various fields [not just political science].”

Guy also explained that students can give a list of choices for where they would prefer to complete their service. There is a written and oral exam, and training takes place at the Foreign Service in Virginia. Training includes being locked up in a fake jail cell to understand how to handle themselves should they be detained while serving abroad.

According to Dr. Sharpe, students “get to witness the real world applications of the concepts and theories of international relations and political science” they study in the classroom.

“They are able to meet women and men involved in diplomacy and learn of their experiences,” said Sharpe. “Moreover, they are able to see that career opportunities in international affairs are not beyond their reach [they are] available to them.”

Some students have followed through on the opportunities.

“Ms. Pasang Dolma is one York student, now alumna, who applied and was accepted and did an internship in Nepal with the U.S. Department of State but not necessarily as a result of these experiences,” said Sharpe. “However, as I am alumnus of Operation Crossroads Africa program and have encouraged my students to participate, Ms. Dolma did pursue my suggestion to volunteer with Operation Crossroads Africa in Uganda a couple of years ago. Ms. Vierka Vasquez, a more recent York alumna, volunteered with Operation Crossroads Africa last summer in Ghana. Both women had wonderful experiences in these countries and would like to pursue work related to international affairs.”

Dr. Sharpe understands the value of such experiences to his students even though he did not experience it firsthand. In addition to the BA, MA and Ph.D. in Political Science, he also holds a Master of International Affairs (MIA) from Columbia University.

“I did not serve in the US Foreign Service,” said Sharpe. “However, I have been employed as a political analyst for the Consulate General of Japan in New York where I provided research and analysis on local and state government for officials.”

Professor Sharpe also worked in Tokyo as a project coordinator for the United Nations-affiliated non-governmental organization the *International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism* (IMADR) of which he now a member of its board of directors and represents at the United Nations in New York.”

Serving in the Foreign Service includes free housing, furniture and provision for the children of the participants.



Dr. Sharpe (L.) with CUNY Diplomat-in-Residence Patricia H. Guy



Professor Sharpe (far left) and Patricia H. Guy (third from right holding paper), pose with students after the seminar

cont.'d from p.9

currently being accepted by the Emory University and University of Alabama into their graduate programs and organizing thoughts as to which graduate school to opt for.

Ezazul Haque is a very diligent, outgoing, and multi-task-oriented individual and apart from maintaining a superior academic record, accomplished a success-

ful Study Abroad Program (2013) in Costa Rica and a summer intern program at Columbia University in 2012.

Innovative Exploration Forum organizers deeply acknowledged students and faculty mentors and commented "We know that you share our enthusiasm in showcasing the tremendous range of research projects that are taking

place across New York State to a state-wide audience. This opportunity for students and faculty mentors to be recognized or their outstanding work is an event we are proud to sponsor on behalf of the University community. In addition, this symposium enhances the image and reputation of public higher education in SUNY and CUNY."

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

Nelson Mandela

Henke participates in Harvard Leadership Program

Following his Fulbright Award last summer, Assistant Provost Holger Henke has been accepted into Harvard University's *Institute for Management and Leadership in Education* for this summer.

The Harvard program is designed to help academic leaders "determine how well positioned your institution is to meet current and future challenges and better prepare you to lead organizational change."

Dr. Henke, who spent his Administrative Fulbright studying the ad-

ministrative side of international education at eleven universities in England and Scotland last summer, views this new opportunity as a plus for York.

"Building on the Fulbright experience for college administrators last summer, I expect that participation in Harvard's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education will allow me to develop new skills and gain new knowledge that I will be able to transfer to my position at York College," said Henke. "The Institute is conducted by nationally-

recognized higher education specialists, will explore critical changes in the higher education competitive environment, and help participants to get a new cognitive framework regarding challenges of organizational change. I look very much forward to this exciting opportunity."

The leadership seminar promises that – guided by Harvard faculty and national and international colleagues – participants will be able to reflect on their own leadership strengths and internal challenges.



Assistant Provost Holger Henke

Congratulations to Dr. Moldovan on his selection as a Fulbright Scholar!



Dr. Vadim Moldovan

Dr. Moldovan will perform his Fulbright service in his native Republic of Moldova, conducting research into social needs and continuing to develop a graduate social work program (MSW) at Free International University of Moldova (ULIM).

ULIM hosted two summer study-abroad programs attended by a number of York College students. The nascent MSW program at ULIM was developed by a consortium of universities from Moldova and the United States, including York. Drs. William Divale and Selena Rodgers are members of the consortium. They have taught at ULIM and took part in development of the MSW curriculum.

Dr. Moldovan in his proposal to Fulbright explained why this is important.

“On the outskirts of the European Union and in ongoing conflict with the break-away Trans-Dniester Republic, Moldova is suffused with social problems and political tensions,” he says. “Moldova is classified as a country with a transition economy by the International Monetary Fund.” The MSW Program at ULIM in Moldova is

“designed to address the need for reformed social work education and social work professionalization in Moldova and other countries with transition economies.”

The new MSW program is being designed to meet educational standards of the European Qualifications Framework and International Association of Schools of Social Work. It [will] create a cadre of social work professionals equipped with the knowledge and skills adequate to meet the serious social problems afflicting the country.”

Since 2005, Dr. Moldovan has been doing scholarly work in Moldova with Dr. William Divale and facilitating study abroad research opportunities for York’s Social Work students and their professors. These students invariably return to York transformed by the experience having worked in the orphanages, prisons, hospitals and other organizations where they get to practice what they are learning in college.

KrystalBella Murnane-Victorelli, who took part in the summer 2013 study abroad program in Moldova, praised the experience when she returned to York in the summer in the

fall of 2013. “It is still a developing country,” said KrystalBella, “I worked in an orphanage there as part of the curriculum. We had access in the orphanage and prisons that we would never have here. It was super hands-on; and for a future social worker this is important.”

In association with Project Casa Mare, the International Center for Advancement of Social Work in Countries with Transition Economies, ULIM, and ministries in Moldova, Dr. Moldovan will work on his Fulbright project for nine months during the 2014-2015 academic year.

“My work on social work education in Moldova will go a long way toward planning and implementation of a graduate school of social work at York College – in development for over six years, says Moldovan.”

Dr. Moldovan’s colleagues, faculty members of the Project Casa Mare Consortium, and former students will continue their involvement in the project.



Geology alumnus (1984) visits York

“Don’t be intimidated by others, my geology education at York prepared me for graduate school and helped me to work and eventually own an environmental company. York offered me well-rounded education and I am proud of what I learned from educators who always cared about my well-being.”

Mike Fontana (geology graduate of 1984) in his recent visit to the campus spoke very highly about his undergraduate experience at York College and praised his teachers Dr. Art Loring (founding faculty of the Geology Discipline and Charter Faculty) and Dr. Stan Schleifer (Professor) for providing him with knowledge and practical aspects of geology. In a jam-packed gathering of the Geology Club-hosted Open House held on April 11, Mike was reminiscing about his student days at York.

Mike graduated with a BS in Geology in 1984 and made a dramatic move to Alaska which he explained as a turning point in his academic life. While in Alaska, Mike was surrounded by the students from the west, largely Montana, California, and Washington and often he felt kind of misfit

since they all had seen so many geologic wonders.

It was York’s geology education that kept Mike’s head high and brought ease to him in an unfamiliar territory. His advice to the York students was very straight forward: Pay attention, learn everything that is presented, review your content, and reproduce it.

Junior Roberts (an Environmental Health Science major) saw his talk as different from the usual. Barbara Barnett (geology major) found Mike’s delivery quite phenomenal.

Mike started his career as a professional geologist right after graduate school and pretty soon realized that in order to effectively contribute to a society needing scientific understanding of day-to-day environmental issues, one needs to be free independent. He founded his own environmental company called VERINA which, though small and not a giant conglomerate, was gradually able to gain trust and establish a good reputation from its clients. His company is a New Jersey-based consultancy firm specializing in the environmental and renewable energy fields, provides services in project and program manage-

ment; environmental support for merger and acquisition activities; and site assessments, feasibility studies, and remedial investigation to address contamination issues in soil and groundwater.

Founded in the new age of green technology, it also provides client support with the management of project delivery in developing new renewable energy systems, and promote practices that will help to sustain the quality of living. York students received information about the company and Mike took the time after his presentation to discuss issues related to entering environmental geology fields.

His final remark was “learn the geology aspects thoroughly before entering into the environmental field since nowadays we are getting students who come to work for us and lacking basic geology knowledge and are not ready to undertake a task on their own.”

Mike was greatly impressed seeing the growth of the geology program at York and said “It was especially nice to see the results of the good work by Naz and Stan. The ‘kids’ all seemed engaged and that made it more fun for me.”



Mr. Fontana and students enjoying a conversation after his formal presentation



L.-r.: Mr. Fontana, Dr. Khandaker, Dr. Loring, and Provost Meleties

Valedictorian of 2013 Chooses a Medical School



Debra S. Whorms

After months of deliberations, York College/CUNY alum Debra S. Whorms, '13, has finally decided where she will attend medical school.

The soft-spoken Chemistry scholar has voiced her choice of Harvard University Medical School over Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Washington University in St. Louis; New York University and Stony Brook University, among them.

Whorms had applied to nearly 20 medical schools and received interview invitations to all.

The young scholar came to the United States after graduating from high school in her native Jamaica, West Indies.

Washington University, where Whorms had participated as a York undergraduate in the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program, offered her a full tuition scholarship, but in the end she said she felt a comfort at Harvard.

"Besides the beautiful campus and resources at Harvard, I fell in love with the people there," she said. "I thought they'd be strait-laced, but they were really cool people. I also felt a sense of community among the minorities, when I visited. They

support each other and I really like that."

When this future physician came to York in 2010, she was interested in majoring in either Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics. Chemistry won out and she graduated with an overall York GPA of 3.989 and a perfect 4.0 in her Chemistry major.

"In the summer of 2011, I started doing research under the supervision of Dr. Mande Holford, investigating the pharmacological and biological diversity of peptidic toxins in the venom of selected marine snails," says Whorms. "From working in this lab I was introduced to complex and abstract ideas that have opened my mind to even deeper scientific reasoning."

In 2012, Whorms began working in the lab of Dr. Ruel Desamero where she studied the mechanism of aggregation of amylin (hIAPP).

In summer of 2012, she also worked at Washington University in St. Louis, alongside Dr. Peter Crawford, studying the ketogenic-ketolytic axis using genetic mouse models.

For medical school Whorms says she is "leaning toward" internal medicine with a sub-

specialty in cardiology.

"I want to serve in underserved communities," said Whorms, who gives credit not only Drs. Desamero and Holford for her success, but Pre-Med Advisor, Dr. Andrew Criss, who helped with her personal statement; and Professor Steven Tyson, director of the Academic Advisement Center, where she has been a tutor. Criss is confident in her abilities.

"I believe Ms. Whorms is exactly the type of person that the medical profession is looking for," said Dr. Criss. "She is not only an exceedingly bright and distinguished scholar, but a truly caring person who understands the importance of the human element of medicine. I feel Ms. Whorms has all of the tools to be an excellent medical professional."

For Dr. Desamero, success is a given for Whorms. "She is one of the top three students that have gone through my lab in the past 12 years," said Desamero. "I have no doubt she will be able to handle the rigors of medical school, she is very well-rounded and intellectually capable."

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