

Special points of interest:

- Gen Ed Reform Update
- Student scholars
- Honors Program News

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Celebrating York's Math Icon

On November 8, 2008, York College was host to JoeFest, a conference on geometry, games, graphics and education dedicated to honoring the life of Dr. Joseph Malkevitch, Professor Emeritus at York College. The day-long event brought together over one hundred people, including noted mathematicians and mathematics educators from around the world. Dr. Malkevitch's friends, family, colleagues and former students were in attendance, as was his thesis advisor, Dr. Donald Crowe (University of Wisconsin-Madison) who gave a stirring talk focused both on Dr. Malkevitch's history titled, "Where did Joe come from?" and also on geometry, sculpture and real-world patterns in Central Africa which included his sharing both texts and artifacts

with the audience. With respect to those in attendance, Joe noted, "This was a day where friends and scholars who occupy somewhat separate niches in my scholarly life were able to come together to share ideas with each other."



Prof. emeritus, Dr. Joseph Malkevitch with his wife Nina

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Journalism Students at D.C. Conference

November was a banner month for the staff of York's student newspaper, *Pandora's Box*.

Recognizing the historic importance of this year's presidential election, a plan was made and executed to get the November issue of the paper laid out, ready for printing and on the campus the day after Election Day.

We had to work through the night, but we got the job done and everyone involved was exhilarated to be a part of an historic moment in this nation's history. Special thanks to Vice President Janis Jones and Business Manager Marcia Green for helping us get the wire service photos we ran of President-Elect Obama and Sen. McCain.

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Reflections

Climate Change: Myth and Reality

Deborah Majerovitz

On October 29, 2008, Professor Stanley Schleifer and Professor Samuel Borenstein presented “Recent Climate Change: A New Approach to Interpreting the Data” as the second installment in this year’s Provost’s Lecture Series. As a psychologist, I must admit that I was a little bit nervous about my job of writing about this presentation for this newsletter. Yes, I saw Al Gore’s film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and believe that I understood much of it. And yes, I am a concerned citizen who tries to do my part for the environment. Still, I worried that a lecture by a geologist and a physicist on interpreting climate data might prove a bit dry and confusing for those of us outside the field. Fortunately for me and for the enthusiastic audience of faculty, staff, and students who attended, I could not have been more wrong.



Profs. Schleifer (left) and Borenstein (right) posing with Provost Griffith

Professor Schleifer began by giving the audience a clear explanation of the problem of climate change – commonly known as global warming. Many scientists fear that human activities, particularly those that burn fuels and emit gasses and other substances into the air, are causing our planet to hold onto heat and for our weather to become slightly warmer over time. This warming has potentially catastrophic effects for the environment, including the melting of polar icecaps, rising sea levels, and changes in the habitats of animals and plants that could be devastating to a number of species. There is some controversy over whether warming is caused by human activity or whether it is the result of

natural variations in climate over time. Dr. Schleifer provided us with a very even-handed and objective discussion of both sides of this debate, while also suggesting that the evidence tends to support a human origin for global warming.



A topic interesting to students from all disciplines

To contribute one more piece to the puzzle that is climate change, Drs. Borenstein and Schleifer set out to determine whether or not the level of carbon dioxide found in the atmosphere is associated with increases in temperature. Carbon dioxide is one of the gasses implicated in global warming. This required a team of students, supervised by the two research investigators, to gather data on temperature and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over a period of years. Statistical analysis of the data indicated that indeed, carbon dioxide levels in the region studied were on the rise, and temperature rose with it.

The presentation led to a lively discussion about the meaning of the data and the implications for our environment. Indeed, a fire alarm and building evacuation were not enough to dampen enthusiasm, and the discussion resumed as soon as we were able to return to the lecture hall. It was especially exciting to learn that so many York students have been involved in such timely and important work.

While there is still much to be learned about global warming, this study brings us a step closer to understanding the origins of the problem. Congratulations and thanks to Prof. Schleifer and Prof. Borenstein for their interesting and important presentation.

ELECTION FORUM



On October 30, 2008, an overflow crowd of students, faculty and staff attended the forum “Gender and Politics in the 2008 Presidential Election.” Excitement about this historic presidential election was evident in the enthusiasm and attentiveness expressed by the participants and the audience alike.

Honors Program student Kisha Ali introduced the four panelists and moderated the lively discussion period. Dr. Laura Fishman, Professor of History in the Department of History and Philosophy, opened the program with, “Feminism on the March ... Where To?” Dr. Fishman examined women’s struggle to win the right to vote and their involvement in various progressive movements for social reform. But it’s also the case, as Sarah Palin’s Vice-Presidential candidacy represents, that many women who are political activists agitate for conservative social policies.

Next, Dr. Deborah Majerovitz, Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, discussed “Media and the Mommy Wars,” to examine the strong influence of gender role stereotypes on our perceptions of female candidates and the different standards we set for men and women in politics.

Dr. Margaret Ballantyne, Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities/Women’s Studies Program, then explored the intersection of gender and language in her presentation, “McCain/Obama–Hillary/Sarah: What’s in a Name?” Dr. Ballantyne discussed the ways in which language is used to mark women and how the language of the campaigns had reflected tensions over new roles for women. She also raised the issue of how women candidates use language in political contexts.

In conclusion, Dr. Robin Harper, Assistant Professor of Political Science, addressed the question, “Where Have All the Women’s Issues Gone?” Her talk explored why there were so few women’s issues discussed in this presidential campaign, despite the fact that women were contending candidates in both major parties.

In addition to examining vital topics central to our nation’s political life and culture, this forum displayed the importance of interdisciplinary scholarship in providing multiple perspectives which enrich our understanding of many of the complex developments that shape our current society.

Congratulations!

Dr. Mande Holford, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, has been appointed to the CUNY Graduate School. We congratulate Dr. Holford on this recognition of her research work.

Dr. Holford, a York College alumna, joined York College in Fall 2008 as full-time faculty. After receiving her Ph.D. from Rockefeller University, Dr. Holford won a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation to investigate venomous marine snails and their toxins; while based in Professor Baldomero Olivera’s laboratory at the University of Utah, Dr. Holford has traveled extensively as part of this current research: to the *Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle*, Paris; the *Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute*, Panama City; and the *Berlin Museum für Naturkunde*, Berlin.



Dr. Mande Holford

English Department Open House

Patricia Milanes

In this time of renewal, change, and democratic idealism, the English Department's annual Open House, held on November 12th, 2008, and carrying the theme "Literature and Social Justice," could not have come at a better moment. Professor Linda Grasso first introduced the idea of an Open House a decade ago, and over the years it has become one of the Department's most enjoyable events. We were pleased this year to have in our audience several guests: Provost Ivelaw Griffith, Assistant Provost Holger Henke, Vice President Jerald Posman, Dean Panayiotis Meleties, Chief Information Officer Peter Tighe, and colleagues from other departments.



Michelle Gibbs, Shoba Parasram, Professor Anderson, and Charlin Bailey (l.-r.)

Faculty members, students, and guests arrived to the soulful melodies of Stevie Wonder's "As," Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth," and Earth, Wind and Fire's "That's the Way of the World." Guests enjoyed greeting each other and chatting until the program began with Professor Mychel Namphy's enthusiastic welcome. After a few comments to contextualize "Literature and Social Justice," Professor Namphy introduced Department Chair, Professor Valerie Anderson, who offered greetings, and Deputy Chair, Professor Helen Andretta, who echoed a warm welcome. Next, one by one, all English Department faculty members rose to personally introduce themselves and their courses.

Then the program began in earnest. Professor

Namphy offered a perspective on social justice through the literary ages, which provided a platform from which to introduce readers. Along with faculty and student readers, several participants from beyond the Department joined the program, including Assistant Provost Holger Henke, whose faithful rendering of Louise Bennett's "Colonization in Reverse" brought down the house. Vice President Jerald Posman read movingly from the works of Mohammed Younis, who visited York College earlier this year. Professor Rishi Nath, from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, contributed Aimé Césaire's warnings about catastrophic results of human failure to act. Other selections came from a diverse group of writers: Paul Celan, Assata Shakur, Edgar Lee Masters, and e.e. cummings.

York students Tanagra Bledman, Shoba Parasram, Michelle Gibbs and Charlin Bailey linked their sense of social justice back to W.E.B. DuBois and Mahatma Gandhi, among others. The room remained silent, almost contemplative, as each reader offered ideas from our shared literary and philosophic heritage. Student Solomon Peck, joined by Professors Jonathan Quash and Mychel Namphy, sang "Here Comes the Sun," George Harrison's anthem to the idealism and optimism that ultimately must underpin social movements.

As the program wound down, food was served and students helped themselves to the Book Grab Bag, also a tradition of the Department. Many guests lingered to discuss the powerful event they'd just witnessed and the change America is about to undergo. Clusters formed for photographs and laughter. Indeed, 2008's Open House was a great success, one that underscored the value of human action and community.

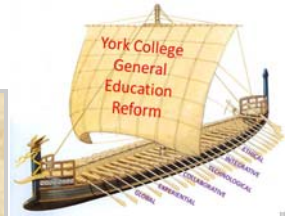
More pictures and audio files of the Open House can be found at:

- <http://york.cuny.edu/student/yorktv/audio/english-dept-open-house-podcast>
- <http://york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/english/english-gallery/open-house-2008>



General Education Reform Update

Vadim Moldovan



Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs) continue to explore a landscape of the general education reform unleashing small tornadoes of creativity upon the College Community. Much has been read, examined and discussed. Early December FIGs will report on the first milestone of their progress – problem statements, statistics, methods, program examples, learning objectives and proposed models, modules, and experiences. Probably the most challenging aspect of this voyage is encounters with the dilemmas. A parable on one of them came in as a dispatch from the crew of Argo.

Late in the afternoon, our voyage was interrupted by a sudden appearance of a landmass directly to starboard. We discovered the Island of Tensions. Disembarked and immediately were approached by three natives who introduced themselves as Skill – athletic young man; Wisdom – elegantly dressed middle-aged woman; and Knowledge – an older person. Skill said, “you need many weapons to survive in this world. You have to be competitive, marketable, and successful.” Knowledge thought a little and said, “when you plant a garden, being able to dig holes deep and fast is not good enough. You need to know how trees grow, how the climate affects, how soil nourishes. You need biology, environmental sciences, chemistry. Wisdom invited us to the garden where we talked for a long time about the virtues of living, meanings of experiences, and the essence of existence. We left the island in the morning carrying with us a present from the natives – large straw basket filled with fruit from the garden.



“The best teachers assume that learning has little meaning unless it produces a sustained and substantial influence on the way people think, act, and feel.”

Ken Bain (*What the Best College Teachers Do*, p. 17)

Celebrating York's Math Icon

Cont.'d from page 1

The event, the first of its kind at York, was first proposed by Dr. Rishi Nath, a colleague of Dr. Malkevitch's in the Mathematics and Computer Studies department, who envisioned the day as a way to celebrate Dr. Malkevitch's 40-year long career at York College and coined the event's title, *JoeFest*. The all-day event began with opening remarks by both Dr. Nath and Dr. Lou D'Alotto, Chairperson of the Mathematics and Computer Studies department.



Attentive participants listening to presentations given at *JoeFest*

The event was comprised, largely, of scholarly presentations on various mathematical topics each of which was related somehow to the interests and prior work of Dr. Malkevitch that focused in large part on geometry, but also included game theory, the mathematics of fairness and mathematics education. Invited speakers included Walter Meyer (Adelphi University), whose talk *The Revival of Applications* was the first of the day's scholarly presentations, Steven Brams (New York University), whose talk was titled *How Democracies Resolve Conflicts in Difficult Games*, and Janos Pach (CUNY Graduate Center) whose talk was focused on Euler's Polyhedral Formula. Other speakers included York's Dr. Ronneburger and Dr. Pritchard as well as Dr. Kantor from the University of Paris. Dr. Ricky Pollack (New York University) also gave a presentation. Dr. Pollack and Dr. Eli Goodman (who was also in attendance) both form part of the New York Geometry Seminar that meets at NYU's Courant Institute for Mathematical Sciences, and which Dr. Malkevitch helped to found 30 years ago.

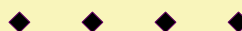
One of the highlights of the program was a presentation by computer scientist and sculptor Dr. George Hart (Stony Brook University) titled *Eggheads*. Dr. Hart shared with those in attendance a series of mathe-

matically based sculptures he has created over the years. Following the talk, Dr. Hart presented Dr. Malkevitch with a sculpture consisting of various interlocking pieces that he carved out of wood and that form a three-dimensional, mathematically-based puzzle. The event also included a panel on mathematics education moderated by Dr. Sol Garfunkel, now the Executive Director of the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP), and whom Joe indicated was "largely responsible for involving me in mathematics education at the national level." Other panelists included Dr. Jane Keleher, director of the Teacher Academy at York College as well as Dr. John Thones Amenyo and Dr. Lidia Gonzalez, also from York College. Dr. Joe Rosenstein and Dr. Tuval Foguel, a former student of Dr. Malkevitch who went on to receive a Ph.D. and is now chair of the Mathematics department at Auburn University (Montgomery campus) rounded out the panelists. Dr. Malkevitch seemed moved by the involvement of so many of his students in the event. "It was exciting for me that so many current and former students of mine were able to attend," he explained.

The event came to a close with a dinner banquet, hosted by Dr. Helen Strassberg, who, like Dr. Malkevitch, recently retired from her position as a Professor of Mathematics at York College. She also served with Dr. Nath as co-chair of the committee organizing the event. The banquet was a time for those in attendance to relax after an eventful and productive day. It also gave those present an opportunity to show their gratitude for Dr. Malkevitch and his presence in their lives through a number of impromptu speeches given throughout the evening.

Joe Malkevitch notes, "Many people contributed to *JoeFest* (Professor Nath, the mathematics' department's administrative assistant Irene Taniey, Professors Helen Strassberg, Taen-Yu Day, Lou D'Alotto, numerous students who volunteered their time, my wife Nina and many, many colleagues)." To all those involved Joe offered a hearty thanks. "I thank them all for making this day I will never forget a reality!"

The proceedings of the event, including papers from the invited speakers, was published by COMAP in what is known as a *Festschrift* (from the German words *Fest* and *Schrift*, meaning celebration and writings, respectively). Copies of the book, whose cover was designed by York's web manager, Eric Tyrer III, were distributed to those in attendance. York's own Jim Ryan took pictures throughout the event. Those pictures, supplemented by a few others taken by Joe's wife Nina, can be found at <http://dott.smugmug.com/joefest>.



Indo-Caribbean Festival at York

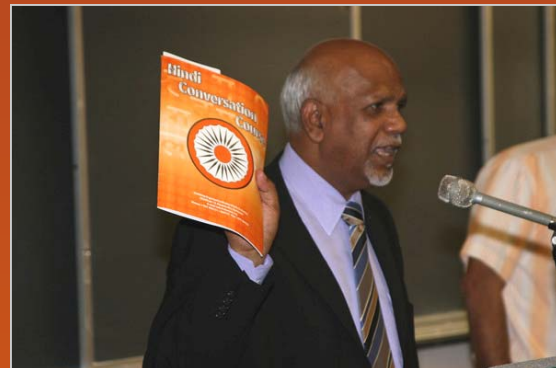
On November 15-16, the York College Department of History and Philosophy hosted a symposium during the Rajkumari Cultural Center's annual Festival of Indo Caribbean Arts and Culture. The symposium, held in the large lecture hall (3D01) of York's Academic Core Building on Saturday, featured distinguished scholars speaking on "Indo-Caribbean Roots and Branches." As another part of the Festival, the performances on Sunday demonstrated the "Bhojpuri Rhythms of Suriname."

Conference speakers and almost 200 in attendance were given a warm welcome by Dr. Holger Henke, York College's Assistant Provost, himself a scholar of the Caribbean, who spoke of York's large population of Caribbean students, the growth of the College and the many recent improvements in its facilities and curricula. Dr. Henke also welcomed the fact that the community chose York as a venue.

The first speaker, Dr. Peter Manuel, an ethnomusicologist at John Jay College, was introduced by Dr. Gary Girdhari, Editor of *Guyana Journal*. Dr. Manuel spoke of the development in Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad, Fiji, and South Africa of musical traditions stemming from the Bhojpuri regions of India, from which most of the indentured workers came. Next, Dr. Narinder Mohkamsingh, Indologist, musicologist, and scholar of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy, introduced by Dr. Baytoram Ramharack, Adjunct Professor at New York University, spoke on "The Unique Forms of Hindustani Culture and Music in Suriname." Dr. Mohkamsingh's research includes collaboration on the database of all Indian immigrants to Suriname and the study of bedesia, the culture of immigrants, including songs, letters, poems and story-telling lamenting

the departure from India.

Dr. Basdeo Mangru, Associate Professor of History in York College's Department of History & Philosophy, introduced the main speaker, the Honorable Dr. Maurits Hassankhan, historian and Suriname's Minister of Home Affairs, who spoke on "East Indians in Suriname: A Reflection on Their Social and Political Development." Dr. Hassankhan suggested the need for an international historical database of all Indian indentured workers. He theorized that Suriname's politics has benefited from the fact that none of its various ethnic groups is a numerical majority, fostering numerous political parties, coalition governments and decision-making by consensus.



Suriname's Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Maurits Hassankhan, addressing the audience

Closing remarks were made by Dr. Howard Ruttenberg, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy, who stressed the importance of ethnic traditions in national and international politics.



Cont.'d on p.11

Journalism Students in D.C.

Cont.'d from p.1

It might interest readers to know that the wire service we used charged us \$131 for usage rights to the Obama photo, but only \$105 for McCain's.

Two days later and still a little groggy from sleep deprivation, six members of the staff piled into the York College van and headed south to Washington D.C. for a conference for student journalists titled *The Press, the Presidency and Politicians*, sponsored by The Institute on Political Journalism.



Left to right: Joseph Grasso, Julianna Hutson, Mehrunissa Wani, Victor Lopez and Romeo Seenjan

When we arrived at the hotel (two blocks away from the Capitol Building), the brightly colored van would not fit into the underground parking garage. The hotel staff decided to park it right in the front of the building, where it stayed all weekend giving York high visibility and a little free advertising.

The conference was well-attended by students from around the country and consisted of several interesting events. Some were amusing and entertaining, like the session titled "*Sex, Lies & Monkey Business: Misbehaving Politicians & The Press Who Cover Them.*"

Others dealt with more serious topics, such as

the session on "*The Press and the Economic Melt-down of 2008.*"



Left to right: Prof. Bill Hughes, Mehrunissa Wani, Victor Lopez, Joseph Grasso, Romeo Seenjan, and Julianna Huston

After the sessions, the weather was warm and we enjoyed a little bit of sightseeing. The Capitol Building was already fenced off and construction work was underway to prepare for Obama's inauguration.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Newseum, a recently opened museum dedicated to the history of the news media primarily in the United States but also featuring exhibits about media coverage in other parts of the world.

The Newseum is an intense experience, particularly one room dedicated to all the Pulitzer Prize winning photographs since the competition began in 1942, and the Sept. 11th exhibit, which is centered around a two-story tall section of the television broadcast antenna that formerly stood atop North Tower.

The walls around the antenna are covered with newspaper front pages from all over the world published on Sept. 12th, 2001.

We got up bright and early Sunday morning and parked the York van strategically to get a group photo with the Capitol Building in the background, then headed north back to New York.

**The submission deadline for materials
for the February issue is January 22,
2009.**

**All items should be submitted as MS Word file
via email to:**

AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu

York College Provost Lecture Series Request for Proposals

The York College Provost Lecture Series, a forum designed to facilitate a cross-campus conversation among scholars, welcomes applications from current York College faculty of all ranks to present their work. Applicants may belong to any academic department, program, or discipline, and may offer presentations or performances individually and in teams. Applications will be peer reviewed and selected by the Lecture Series Planning Committee.

The Provost Lecture Series offers an opportunity to present finished work or work in progress of such quality as to be published in peer reviewed journals, presented at regional or national conferences, or displayed or performed in prominent venues. Presentations should be communicable to a broad audience of peers, students, and other members of the College community.

Application

Name(s): _____

Department(s) or Program(s): _____

Email address: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

In an abstract of 100–250 words, describe the nature and significance of the work and what will be discussed in the Lecture.

Please check for equipment needed: Computer Projector LCD VCR CD player
Other

Customarily, lectures will be held mid-afternoon on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays. Please indicate which of the two days is preferred.

Please send completed applications electronically to <fishman@york.cuny.edu> by April 6, 2009 for a Fall 2009 presentation.

Provost Lecture Series Planning Committee

Laura Fishman, History and Philosophy (Committee Chair)
Holger Henke, Office of the Provost
Linda Grasso, English
Tania Levey, Social Sciences
Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost
Adam Profit, Chemistry
Ronald Thomas, Administrative Affairs
Eva Vasquez, Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities
Francisco Villegas, Behavioral Sciences

Biology students learning inside and outside the classroom

The Department of Biology takes a variety of approaches both inside and outside the classroom to teach and prepare their majors for careers in basic science, biotechnology and medicine. Independent study is an integral part of the curriculum that allows students to work in faculty research labs where they learn how to design and test hypotheses based on sound research and critical thinking.

Many of our students make significant contributions to our faculty's publications as demonstrated by them being included as authors. Examples of these over the past year include publications out of Drs. MacNeil, McNeil, Levinger, and Arsov, all of which included York undergraduates as authors. Most recently, two recent York graduates, Manpreet Kaur and Sheryl Purrier, are co-authors of an article published in October 2008 out of Dr. McNeil's lab entitled "The Drosophila RNA-binding protein Lark is required for localization of Dmoesin to the oocyte cortex during oogenesis," published in *Development, Genes and Evolution* (Oct. 29, 2008).

In addition to teaching students in his research lab, Dr. McNeil has brought research into the classroom by joining the Genomic Education Partnership. This program is a Howard Hughes-funded collaboration between Washington University and over 50 undergraduate institutions across the U.S. with the goal of getting undergraduates solve complex genomic research problems and con-

tribute new data to the scientific community. York students participated in this program under the direction of Dr. McNeil during the Spring 2008 semester and their efforts will result in authorship in an upcoming publication.



Former York Biology student Manpreet Kaur



Sheryl Purrier

This program will be offered again this coming spring as part of the Bio 352, Bioinformatics course. The success of this pedagogical approach was described in a recent *Science* article for which Dr. McNeil was an author (*Science*, Vol. 322, p. 684-685, October 31, 2008). It demonstrates that this approach is as successful as a summer research program with the advantage of reaching more students.



York College

2008 –
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academic-affairs](http://york.cuny.edu/academic-affairs)

Indo-Caribbean Festival at York cont.'d from p.7

On Sunday 16 November, the Rajkumari Cultural Center presented at York's Performing Arts Center "Bhojpuri Rhythms of Suriname," a festival of East Indian heritage drumming, singing and dancing featuring artists from the Republic of Suriname and the Center's Kitchrie dancers. The patron and chief guest was Dr. Hasankhan whose brief remarks centered on the preservation of Bhojpuri culture. Pritha Singh, Director of the Rajkumari Cultural Center, warmly welcomed the attendees and spoke briefly on the Center's mission.



Assistant Provost Henke welcoming festival participants to York College

The performances were divided into two segments. The first featured "Baithak Gana" (both traditional and semi-classical) or Tan-singing in Guyana, accompanied by rhythmic tazza drum-

ming and the saxophone. The second centered on the "Loundwa ke Nauch", whereby a young man would dress and dance like a woman, especially at Hindu weddings, to enliven the occasion. Laundwa dancing tradition has persisted, especially in Suriname where Bhojpuri village culture remains vibrant.



Conference participants (l. to r.): Assistant Provost Henke, the Hon. Dr. Hassankhan, Dr. Howard Ruttenberg, Dr. Peter Manuel, and Dr. Narinder Mokhamsingh

The event ended with brief remarks from Dr. Robert Baron, Director of the Folk Arts Program of New York State Council on the Arts, who touched on the Council's delight in funding programs to preserve the folk culture of ethnic minorities. Altogether, it was both an educational and rollicking event, well attended and thoroughly appreciated.



More Impressions from *JoeFest*



York College Honors Program



Honors students get laptops! To support the academic work of York College honors students (which includes an original honors thesis) Honors Program students are now provided with laptops for their academic and personal use. Thanks to the support of many – Julianna Hutson, Kisha Ali, Provost Griffith, VP Posman, CIO Tighe and the Student Tech Fee committee, to name a few – we were able to distribute laptop computers to all eligible HP students!



The Honors Program student lounge provides HP students with a place to study, work, relax and play. The lounge has already been used to host an Honors Club meeting to watch and discuss the Akira Kurosawa movie *Rashomon*. The lounge contains a plasma screen TV, DVD/VCR player, wireless access, color copier, network printer and three desktop computers.



New Publication

Prof. Gila Acker recently published an article “An Examination of the Relationships Between Workers and Agencies Characteristics and Three Outcome Variables: Burnout, Role Stress, and Intent to Quit,” in: *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*, Volume 11, Issue 4 October 2008 , pp. 295 - 309.

Conference Presentation

Timothy W. Kirk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Philosophy, organized and participated in the panel session “Virtual Giving: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Internet Matching Services for Living Organ Donation,” (with Lubke, Donna & Douglas Olsen & Dominic Sisti). The peer-reviewed presentation was delivered at the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, Annual Meeting in Cleveland, OH, on October 25, 2008.

CUNY Ambassador-in-Residence Visit to York



On October 29, York College received a visit from Ambassador Robert William Dry (above second from right, with students), the current CUNY Diplomat-in-Residence. Ambassador Dry met with several students and gave a lively presentation about the different career and scholarship opportunities available through the U.S. Department of State. The Ambassador, who has served previously in Baghdad, Guangzhou, and Jakarta, as well as in positions in the Department of State in Washington in the Near East (Saudi Arabia/Yemen Country Officer), Economic and Business (Financial Analyst), and Consular Bureaus, was welcomed by Vice President of Student Affairs Janis Jones and Assistant Provost Holger Henke.

Impressions from the talk about the recent hurricane devastation in the Caribbean by Prof. Mark Schuller and Assistant Provost Holger Henke, held on November 11, 2008.



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Fall 2008 Forums and Workshops

Tuesday, December 9

Workshop: College Preparation, Selectivity, and Today's College Students

12-2pm CETL, AC 4EA1

Presenter: Dr. Tania Levey, Social Sciences

The York College Performing Arts Center

by Gary Heimbauer

If you happen to be someone who has never heard of the York Performing Arts Center, you are probably amongst the majority of those that are yet to read this article, but as you discover what the venue has to offer, you will surely feel like you've been missing out. The facility is part of CUNY York College, and although built in 1987, it has more or less been an "empty shell," as described by director Matt Katz, until this decade.

After some years of preparation, it is now in its third season as one of the major performing arts centers in the New York area. In a few short years, they went from hosting a small handful of events with audiences you could fit in your living room, to having over 200 events a year, often to a sold out house of 1,450! The venue also features a smaller theater with 150 seats.

When one considers the caliber of the performances and the importance of the events that are now held at the York PAC, it is of no surprise that it's growing so rapidly. The venue has three series for each season—the Jazz Live Series, the Chamber Music Series, and the Special Presentation Series. The featured jazz artists this year are Latin superstar Eddie Palmieri, saxophonist Vincent Herring, legendary drummer Charlie Persip, and Grammy winning pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi.

Of equal stature in the classical world are the featured performers for the Chamber Music Series. This includes award-winning baritone Robert Sims, Swiss-born pianist Gilles Vonsattel, The Harlem Quartet, and a small ensemble group called Classical Jam. Unfortunately, Eddie Palmieri and Robert Sims have already played, but the rest of the performances are still to come.

For the Special Presentation Series, the venue will

feature a production entitled "Jamaica, Farewell," about a woman's journey from Jamaica to the United States; "Nora Cole-Voices," a one person production where creator Nora Cole inhabits the spirits of both her enslaved and free Kentucky ancestors as well as other historical women; the great gospel singer Keisha Williams; and lastly, "Silken Phoenix," a live music and theater collaboration for actress and trio (cello, piano and percussion), based on the lives of three extraordinary female Asian poets. Last year, this same ensemble did a production about life in South Africa.

In addition to these three series are many school events and productions, lectures and rental events. Just this month, the theater hosted the "Ebony Magazine Fashion Show" as well as the "CARICOM Diaspora Forum", acting as a meeting ground for ambassadors and government officials from 15 Caribbean nations.

As you may have noticed, the York PAC goes out of its way to display all facets of the multicultural society of Queens. As Katz states, "We aim to represent the full spectrum of international artists, and it is a defining criteria to represent the cultural diversity of the borough of Queens. This isn't lip service, we really mean it, and not just by the artists we choose—we also have made successful efforts to outreach all of these separate communities within the borough."

In 2000, York College finally realized the disservice they were doing to themselves and the community by not using their performing arts center to its greatest potential. They knew it was a remarkable space in a community of great passion, but the college had other priorities until this time. The first step they took was to hire Katz to set up an infrastructure, hire techs and staff, obtain the proper equipment, raise funds and start

promoting.

Coinciding with the completion of these preparations was the appointment of York College's new president, Marcia Keizs in 2005. Katz explains, "She turned the university on its head. It's remarkable to see and be a part of it." Katz and Keizs are leading a renaissance of both the theater and the college as a whole. He goes on to explain, "York College has had an astounding turn-around over the last few years. We have emerged as a college that was defined by its challenges to a college that has been defined by how well it has met those challenges. We have had what the newspapers have called a 'staggering' increase in enrollment, and we've achieved that at the same time that we've had an increased level of standards—two things which don't usually go together."

Katz emphasizes that the York Performing Arts Center's relationship with the community is the main source of its success. They are working with a diversity of community and political organizations to spread the word about what the facility is doing. They also have sent out over 150,000 mail flyers and managed to go from a budget of \$5,000 in the 2006-2007 season to over \$100,000 for this season through donations (most notably from councilmen Thomas White and Leroy Comrie), rentals, and newly instated (although inexpensive) ticket prices. Recently, they have also partnered

up with WBGO radio station and have begun advertising in some major publications. As Katz states, "We went from paltry beginnings to great expectations, and each year we seem to dramatically increase the number of attendees, our funding, and the level of artistry. We've finally developed a strong enough following that we are only limited by our will and now, not only are we looking to survive, but to create in the best possible way that we can."



Dance performance at York's Performing Arts Center

Although the center serves the entire community, and is an independent building on the campus, it is still very much a part of the school. The facility is staffed almost entirely by students, who carry out all of the functions from administrative to production.

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York's contingent at CUNY's New Faculty Reception held on October 29, 2008



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