

Academic Affairs Update

Volume 11, Number 2

March 2008

Special points of interest:

- Retention Matters
- Self-Study Executive Summary
- Nobel Winner on Campus
- Spotlight on York's Library
- China Profile
- Provost Lecture Series

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Endowment Fund for CUNY and SUNY Announced

On February 12, 2008 President Marcia V. Keizs joined Governor Eliot Spitzer in Albany to announce the creation of a new \$4 billion endowment for CUNY and SUNY.

In his State of the State address Governor Spitzer expressed his support for many of the recommendations of the recently formed State Higher Education Commission.

In her remarks Dr. Keizs spoke about the impact the endowment would have on an institution such as York College: "I am pleased that many of the Higher Education Commission's recommendations were incorporated into Governor Spitzer's State of the State message and that we are now moving in the direction of implementation. Governor Spitzer's vision for public higher education in New York will



York College President Dr. Marcia V. Keizs and Governor Eliot Spitzer

have a monumental impact on our state and nation. His proposal for a \$4 billion Endowment for SUNY and CUNY will chart the course for higher education in our state and make us competitive with the best graduates anywhere."

York College Delegation in Albany

From February 15-18, 2008, a 17-member delegation from York College visited Albany (NY) to participate in the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, Inc.'s 37th Annual Legislative Conference.

During the conference, students

and administrators participated in workshops, panel discussions and meetings with elected and senior appointed government officials as well as executives from the private sector. Topics included budget and policy issues that will have an impact on

Cont.'d on p.7

Retention: What Can be Counted and What Counts

by Debra Swoboda

In an effort to address the issue of student retention at York College, the topic of the February 14, 2008, Convocation was “Retention: What Can be Counted and What Counts.”

The convocation program featured an interactive clicker session, hosted by Provost Ivelaw Griffith, in which participants tested their knowledge of York College retention statistics and patterns. Provost Griffith emphasized the importance of thinking about retention in the context of a three-step process—“recruit, retain, release.”

The convocation also included a panel on dimensions of retention which featured three speakers: Debra Swoboda, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL); Janis Jones, Acting Vice President of Student Development; and Jeannie Simmons, class of 2007.

In her presentation, Dr. Swoboda pointed out that while there are many complex reasons why students leave York or any other college, there is a substantial literature addressing student retention that indicates that students most likely to leave are those who fail to connect with the college.¹ Dr. Swoboda said that both research and her experience at York suggest that faculty and staff may misperceive the source of retention problems.² Faculty and staff may believe that the most significant factor explaining poor retention is student characteristics. Students leave or drop out because of something about them: they have poor motivation, they are under-prepared, or they make bad decisions. At the same time, these same faculty and staff often believe that pedagogy is the least important factor explaining retention: what takes place—or does not—in the classroom is not a part of the problem. Dr. Swoboda called this perspective the “deficit discourse” about retention.³ This deficit discourse reinforces the idea that there is very little that teachers can do to assist under-prepared students.

Dr. Swoboda asked participants to consider

“what our institution, our classrooms, and our curriculum would look like if everyone was engaged in effectively teaching the diverse, urban, typically under-prepared, often over-burdened students coming to York.” She suggested that practicing effective teaching includes small but significant things such as providing syllabi with clear expectations and objectives, keeping office hours, giving timely feedback, and submitting grades on time. Dr. Swoboda further proposed that promoting student connection to the college also requires pedagogy that engages students beyond “chalk and talk.”⁴ Critically effective pedagogy includes use of active learning tasks, incorporation of technology, and implementation of higher order learning assignments.

Dr. Swoboda also encouraged faculty and staff to engage in conversation about what constitutes effective teaching through reflection, scholarship of teaching and learning, and participation in CETL events. Retention problems must be addressed as a collective, pedagogical enterprise for any real institutional change to occur.⁵

1) J. Bean, “Why Students Leave: Insights from Research,” *The Strategic Management of College Enrollments*, Ed. D. Hossler, J. Bean, & Associates (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1990).

2) S. Thomas, “Ties That Bind: A Social Network Approach to Understanding Student Integration and Persistence,” *Journal of Higher Education* (2000), 71: 591-615.

3) J. Taylor & T. Bedford, “Staff Perceptions of Factors Related to Non-Completion in Higher Education,” *Studies in Higher Education* (2004), 29: 375-394.

4) J. Braxton, J. Milem, & A. Sullivan, “The Role of Student Involvement and Perception of Integration in a Causal Model of Student Persistence,” *Research in Higher Education* (2000), 40: 641-664.

5) J. Tucker, “Tinto’s Model and Successful College Transitions,” *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory and Practice* (1999), 1: 163-175.

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**Debra Swoboda is Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

# Nobel Winner Inspires Assembly

Almost 1,000 devotees of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Muhammad Yunus recently filled York College's Performing Arts Center Auditorium to capacity during his inspirational message of peace and harmony on February 11, 2008.

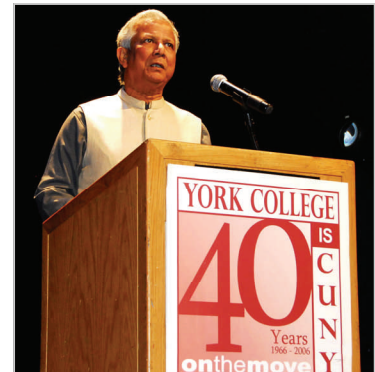
Dr. Yunus, a banker and economist, is famous for extending small loans or micro-credits to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional loans. The founder of Grameen Bank, Yunus and the Bank were jointly awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below."

Dr. Yunus spoke about his latest book, *Creating a World Without Poverty* and how to use markets to solve the problems of poverty, hunger, and inequality. Peace and harmony were recurring themes. More than once Dr. Yunus said: "Achieving one's own happiness should not take away someone else's happiness."

CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Dr. Selma Botman presented Dr. Yunus with the Chancellor's Medal, CUNY's highest honor.

Dr. Yunus' visit also launched a major scholarship program at York for the children of Grameen Bank members and a summer internship interchange program for York students going to Bangladesh and Bangladeshi students coming to New York.

**"Achieving one's own happiness should not take away someone else's happiness."**



Dr. Yunus, speaking on topics from his last book, *Creating a World Without Poverty* at the York College Performing Arts Center



**The deadline for submissions to the April issue of Academic Affairs Update is March 21, 2008.**

**All items should be submitted via email to:  
[AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu)**

## Math Collaboration with University of the West Indies

Mathematics Professor Rishi Nath visited the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad, in February 2008. While there, he delivered a lecture in the Mathematics Department on “Current Research in Algebra.” He also gave invited remarks in a seminar on “Trends in Mathematics Education” in the Education Department.

His hosts were Professor Edward Farrell in the Mathematics Department and Professor Ste-



Professors Ali, Farrell and Nath in the Department of Mathematics after Nath’s talk

ven Khan in the Education Department.

The University of the West Indies, or UWI, is an academic institution supported by and serving 16 English speaking countries and territories in the Caribbean. The University consists of three major campuses at Mona in Jamaica, St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago, and Cave Hill in Barbados, and serves over 35,000 students. Established in 1948, the University celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2008.

Both the Mathematics Department and the Education Department expressed a strong interest in possible collaboration between CUNY-York and UWI-St. Augustine. Professor Farrell and Professor Nath plan to stay in contact regarding future academic visits, guest lectures, and student support. Professor Khan and Professor Nath have begun discussing areas of joint research in mathematics and social justice.

“Traveling to the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine has internationalized my perspective on mathematics education and research,” said Professor Nath.



## New Honors Program Inductees

This February the York College Honors Program inducted four new members: Odinga Cockburn, Erzulie Marz, Abunaser Tajuddin and Daryl Ramai. At the induction ceremony they were introduced to their first-year faculty mentors who will guide them during the early part of their honors experience. Special thanks to the faculty who volunteered to be mentors: Heather Robinson, Xiaodan Zhang, Aegina Barnes & Tom Zlabinger.



First Year mentor Heather Robinson (l.) gets acquainted with new HP student Odinga Cockburn

# The Library's Bassin Collection

by Scott Sheidlower and John Drobnicki

In May 1973, York College President Milton Bassin donated 495 volumes from his father's private collection to the York College Library. The Bassin Collection, which is still shelved separately in the Library's Reference section, contains books written in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Aramaic. The reason for this choice of languages is that President Bassin's father Max (sometimes called Morris, Moses, or Moshe) was a noted Yiddish poet and anthologist. The vast majority of the books were published between the late 1940s and the 1950s, and they were almost exclusively published in New York City, which was where many Holocaust survivors had fled after the Second World War.

Max Bassin, who was born in 1889, edited several books, including two major collections of Yiddish poetry – a two-volume collection entitled *Antologye: finf hundert yohr Idische poezye* [*Anthology: Five Hundred Years of Yiddish Poetry*], the first volume of which was published in 1917, and the second in 1922; and *Amerikaner yidische poezye: antologye* [*American Yiddish Poetry: Anthology*], which was published in 1940. The elder Bassin died in 1963 at the age of 74.

The collection focuses on two main sets of topics. The first area, and the largest, is Post-Holocaust Hebrew and Yiddish literature, especially poetry and short stories. Since Max Bassin was so prominent in the Yiddish literary field, many of the books in the collection have been personally autographed to him by the authors.

The second large category consists of Jewish religious volumes. For example, the collection has many copies of the *Tanach* (the Hebrew word/abbreviation used for the entire collection of Old Testament canonical books). Thanks to this gift York also owns both a complete Jerusalem Talmud and a Babylonian Talmud (these are in Aramaic), as well as several Hebrew-Hebrew or Hebrew-Yiddish dictionaries.



**Bassin, American Yiddish Poetry: Anthology'**  
**אמעריקאנער פֿאָעזיע אַנטאָלאָגיע**  
[Title page illustration by Judah Tofel]

According to the Library's archival records, the transliteration of the titles in the Bassin Collection was done by Mr. Etson Rose, who worked in the Library's Circulation Department; and once the titles were transliterated, it allowed Prof. Kathryn Soltesz (Head of Cataloging) and Mrs. Vera Pollak (Adjunct Lecturer/Cataloger) to search for Cataloging records and order cards for some titles for the card catalog from the Library of Congress. Unfortunately, the bibliographic records do not seem to have ever made it into CUNY+, either the first-generation NOTIS version or the current Aleph version, so almost no one knows they are here. This underutilized treasure at York could be used one day to research the Hebrew/Yiddish book trade in New York City, since many of the publishers' imprints include their addresses.

1) Title page image from the website of the National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA <<http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/+10319>>.

Prof. Scott Sheidlower is Coordinator of Information Literacy in the York Library and Professor John Drobnicki is Acting Chief Librarian.

*President Marcia V. Keizs  
Joins our Faculty, Students, and Staff  
In Welcoming the Site Team from  
The Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
For the March 2-5, 2008 Re-accreditation Visit*

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*William L. Pollard
Vice President, Office of Access & the Advancement of Public Black Colleges and Universities,
National Association of State Universities
and Land-Grant Colleges*

*Thomas J. Botzman
Vice President for Business and Finance
St. Mary's College of Maryland*

*Hardy M.. Cook
Professor, English and Modern Languages
Bowie State University*

*Rebecca A. Emery
Director of Career Services
Salisbury University*

*Ellyn McLaughlin
Associate Provost, Outcomes Assessment
University of Maryland University College*

*Karen L. Pennington
Vice President for Student Development & Campus Life
Montclair State University*

*Diann R. Showell
Faculty Member, English & Modern Languages
University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

*Terry L. Smith
Dean of Liberal Arts
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

York Delegation in Albany

Cont.'d from p.1

Students and higher education institutions in New York State.

On Saturday, February 16, President Marcia Keizs hosted a 7:30 am breakfast meeting where the York delegation was briefed on the CUNY and York College Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) New York State budget priorities. York's FY09 budget priorities include a request for \$77 million in capital funds to build a new student services and classroom building.

The delegation also participated in a CUNY luncheon hosted by Chancellor Mathew Goldstein. President Keizs and her delegation were joined by Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, and a host of other elected and appointed government officials.

During the luncheon, Governor Spitzer praised President Keizs for her hard work and commitment as a member of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education, where she serves along with several other college presidents throughout SUNY, CUNY, as well as private institutions such as Cornell University and New York University.

Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith, who had nominated President Keizs to the Commission, delivered a thoughtful and well-crafted message with a theme of "One New York State and Common Sense Governance." In addition, Senator Smith presented multiple compliments to President Keizs and the York College students in attendance.

The conference concluded with the annual scholarship dinner where remarks were given by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Governor Spitzer, Congressman Charles Rangel, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Lt. Governor David Patterson.

The York College delegation included Dr. Marcia Keizs, President; Earl Simons, Institutional Advancement; Jean Phelps, Director of Student Services; Diane Warmsley, Director of Admissions; Nicholas Jones, Admissions Office; Lazane Stanley, Admissions Office; Eva Keith, President of York College Alumni Association; and 11 York College students.



(Seated left to right) Abul Khair; Al Kanu; Simone Lamont, President, York College Student Government; Bridgena Willis

(Second row left to right) Jean Phelps, Director of Student Activities; Merle France, York Alumni Association; Allah Brown; Gabrielle Calixte; Eva Keith, President, York Alumni Association; Kichelle Green

(Back Row) Guest; Jahi Rose; Dr. Marcia Keizs, President; Mohammad Hossain; Earl Simons, Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement

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Executive Summary of the Self-Study for Re-accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

The York College self-study process for Middle States has provided the College an opportunity to reflect on its recent past and to chart a course for the future. Emerging from a period of challenge and change, the College is poised to fulfill its many promises. These include steady and stable enrollment growth; repositioning as a senior college within CUNY's integrated system through effective bridges to our community colleges; strengthened linkages to our local community while maintaining institutional autonomy; provision of new undergraduate and masters programs to serve particular niches in the vibrant Queens community and in the expanding New York market of higher education; and expanding our contributions to the economic development of New York, especially through applied research.

The self-study process and the resulting document affirm that we are an institution with: a solid foundation, loyal to our core beliefs in a strong liberal arts base, and a pathway to the professions; poised to pass the baton of leadership to a new generation of faculty; and committed to introducing our growing and talented student body to rigorous academic and pro-

fessional disciplines through different ways of acquiring knowledge. Overall, we are committed to sustaining the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and service by all constituencies of the College.

This Self-Study Report encompasses ten chapters: an introduction, a conclusion and eight chapters representing the fourteen Standards of Excellence. The report resulted in twenty-five recommendations. The process was kicked off at the 2006 Convocation when three co-chairs were appointed by President Keizs, representing the humanities, the sciences, and the professions. Eight subcommittees and more than ninety individuals at the college worked for two years in small and large groups and as individuals to drive the process to collect and analyze data and devise recommendations. The overarching goals of the comprehensive self-study, as identified in the design, included the recognition of the need to create a culture of assessment, the need to address the fragmentation of student services, the improvement of communications and to further develop our curriculum so that our strong liberal arts offerings continue to provide a solid foundation in general education, enhance student develop-

ment in professional programs, and introduce students to diverse academic fields.

A major finding and recommendation focuses on assessment and the need to aggressively implement all elements of the recently developed Outcomes Assessment Plan. Concomitant activity will be the provision of training for those colleagues involved in both the Outcomes Assessment Committee and individuals at different levels of the organization who bear the responsibility for implementation. Critical to these activities is a recommendation from Standards 1 & 7 that calls for the unifying of all research, assessment and planning activities under one organizational umbrella, possibly led by an individual at the dean level.

A second and related finding emerging from Standards 2 & 3 of the document is the drive toward accountability in the annual planning process. There is a call for a more transparent process and an established timetable that will allow for more timely input and communication across the college as annual goals and targets are established. The document assumes that Strategic Planning will continue on a longer-term cycle to drive and complement the annual goal setting.

Also emerging from a number of chapters of the document (Standards 2 & 3, 8 & 9, and Standard 10) is the identified need for the priority funding of certain under-supported areas of the College that provide critical support functions such as the library. Of great moment for the College is the need to place a renewed emphasis on the review of the Facilities Master Plan. In this area, there is a recognized need for enhancing and expanding our instructional and research space, making them more state-of-the-art. Moreover, there also is the need to expand and enhance faculty offices, especially in light of the intention to hire a large cohort of new full-time faculty over the next few years.

The review of leadership, governance and administration led to a call for an assessment and possible revisit of the College's charter, which is currently viewed by some col-

leagues as cumbersome, especially in light of the recent court decision *Perez v. CUNY*.

The Self-Study Report recognizes both the effort and success in the areas of student support, but it calls for strengthening through expansion of funding, the development of new service areas, such as an Office of Evening and Weekend Student Support, and improved coordination of existing services, notably advisement and counseling.

"We are committed to sustaining the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and service by all constituencies of the College."

In Standard 10, which addresses faculty development,

there is a clear call for the improvement of the numbers of full-time faculty, support for faculty research, especially for mid-career faculty, on-going technological professional development for faculty, and incentives for faculty in contributing to the vibrant service life of the College. Finally, on the program development front, the self-study calls for a full Academic Master Plan review with the goal of creating opportunities for niche masters degree programs and for new cross-cutting interdisciplinary undergraduate programs.

The Middle States Self-Study affirms our College's readiness to meet the challenges of the future in the context of the Middle States fourteen Standards of Excellence. We are ready to continue the organic process that this document suggests must occur so that we can continue to be a vibrant, self-renewing, reflective, and responsive institution.

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Meetings Calendar

March 11, 2008 — Social Work Program Adjunct Meeting 5:00–6:00 PM
This meeting will welcome back and orient new adjunct professors in the SW Program.

March 20, 2008 — Field Instructor Meeting 9:30–11:30 AM
The purpose is to provide information and updates about the program, and encourage sharing of supervisory concerns and strategies for working them through, collegial support, and professional networking.

March 25, 2008 — Social Work Program Advisory Board Meeting 5:00–6:00 PM
Annual Meeting of the SW Program Advisory Board. New members are welcome!

For more information, please contact Susan Letteney at x 2614 or letteney@york.cuny.edu.

CHINA: A DEMOGRAPHIC AND BUSINESS UPDATE

by Harold Gellis, C.P.A

Geography & Demography

China is a huge country with more than 25% of the world's population. Its population is over 1.3 billion. It is also a huge country with 9.6 million square kilometers territory.

China is divided into 23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 centrally administered municipalities, and 2 special administrative regions. China's four municipalities are: Beijing; Tianjin; Shanghai; and Chongqing. Its main cities are: Beijing, the capital; Shanghai; Tianjin; Chongqing; Shenyang; and Wuhan.

There are 56 nationalities in China. The Han people form the largest, numbering 1.1 billion, and comprise 93.3% of the population. The other ethnic groups, known as minority nationalities, total 160 million, or 6.7% of the population.

The Han people live all over the country but are concentrated in the Yellow River Yangtze River and Zhujiang River valleys, and in the Songhua-Liaohe Plain in the northeast. The minority nationalities inhabit 60 % of the country's total land area, mainly in the border regions. 540 million people, 37 percent of the population, live in urban areas. More than 800 million people live in rural areas.

70 percent of the population are between ages of 15 and 65. Life expectancy is 72

years. The average number of births per woman is 1.6.

Chinese dialects are divided into seven groups. The Northern dialect is the most widely spoken dialect and is used by over 70 percent of the Han people. The Northern dialect serves as the foundation of common spoken Chinese or Putonghua. It is spoken by people in north and northeast China, and also in the southwest and in parts of the Yangtze valley.



The Wu dialect is spoken in Shanghai. The Min dialect is spoken in south China's Fujian Province. The Xiang dialect is spoken in south China's Guangdong province, and the Gan dialect is spoken in Jiangxi province.

Although places of worship were closed during the Cultural Revolution, the 1982 Constitution provided for freedom of religious belief. 8 percent of the population are Buddhists, 2 percent are Muslims, and 1 percent are Christians.

Economy

China has become an economic superpower. It has the world's fourth largest econ-

omy after the United States, Japan, and Germany. Its economy has grown by an average of 9.7 percent annually over the past twenty five years. China's gross domestic product increased by 11.5 and 11.2 percent respectively in the third and fourth quarters of 2007. *Moneyandmarkets.com* is a source of economic and investment information on China.

Since the late 1970's, China has encouraged foreign direct investment. Since then, more than 550,000 foreign funded companies have been established in China. Foreign investment in Chinese companies totaled \$60.3 billion in 2005 and has contributed greatly to China's development, specifically its export capacity. In the first seven months of 2006, exports by foreign funded companies reached almost 300 billion US dollars.

China's major exports are textiles, garments, footwear, toys, and crude oil. Its major imports are motor vehicles, textile machinery, and oil products. China's trade surplus with the U.S. at the end of 2005 was a massive \$114 billion US dollars. Low labor costs are the primary reason for China's strong export market. Export growth at the start of 2006 grew at an annualized rate of 28.2 percent.

China's Central Bank, the People's Bank of China, defines the country's financial

policies and regulations, and controls China's currency - the renminbi (RMB) or yuan. It sets the exchange rates and manages the country's foreign exchange reserves. For the past decade, the Central Bank has linked the RMB to the U.S. dollar and fixed the rate of exchange between the two currencies.

China's four major commercial banks are state-owned and include the Bank of China, the China Construction Bank, the Agricultural Bank of China, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. In addition to these big four state-owned commercial banks, there are smaller commercial banks.

Energy Resources & Needs

China has an insatiable demand for energy. In order to sustain its continuing economic growth on a long-term basis, China needs additional energy resources. Already, China has become the world's second largest energy consumer. Many of the country's largest companies are in the energy and petrochemical industries. China's per capita oil consumption, however, is still only a fraction that of the West.

China currently generates its electricity from three main sources: hydroelectric; thermal; and nuclear power. The Three Gorges Project, located near Yichang in China's Hubei province, is the world's largest hydroelectric project. It began with an estimated in-

vestment of 6 billion US dollars or 50 billion Yuan, and is scheduled to be finished in 2009. The project consists of a 1,983 meter long, and 185 meter high dam, and 26 generating units with an annual output of 84.7 billion kilowatt hours.

The country's largest natural gas resources are in the Sichuan Basin in southwestern China. There are an estimated 260 trillion cubic feet of natural gas located in Sichuan and a recently completed gas transportation grid can transport 200 million cubic feet of gas daily to eastern China.

China has only two nuclear power plants: Qinshan and Dayawan. The country, however, needs to develop additional nuclear energy resources to meet its increasing demand for power, especially in the eastern and southern coastal provinces.

To meet this growing energy demand, China has embarked on the world's most ambitious nuclear project. Thirty nuclear plants are currently under construction with an additional thirty four in the planning stage. China hopes to increase its nuclear production capability from its current 6.5 gigawatts to 36 gigawatts by 2020. Nevertheless, this additional nuclear capability would still provide less than four percent of China's energy needs.

China Radio International: A Window Into China

China Radio International

(CRI) is China's leading broadcasting and Internet medium. It broadcasts 290 hours of programs each day all over the world in 43 languages. CRI's programs include news, current affairs, and features on politics, economy, culture, science and technology.

CRI, however, also has a fascinating and informative website, <http://english.cri.cn>. On its English homepage, there are sections for international events, news from China, sports, entertainment, and Chinese culture and language. The 'Biz China' section is especially noteworthy for providing an archive of news item and developments about Chinese businesses and its financial markets. 'Biz China' has a search engine that allows for retrieving articles on a particular topic from its news archive. There are additional sections for finance, information technology, travel, transportation, and energy.

CRI also provides free guidebooks to social, economic, and demographic aspects of China. The material was compiled from the most frequent questions asked by listeners to CRI. Topics included, for example, are: China's legal and educational system; the Three Gorges Project; and the different minorities in China.

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*Harold Gellis is Professor of Accounting in the Department of Accounting and Business*

# Kudos to Sean White

The Academic Advisement Center would like to congratulate Mr. Sean N. White on his new full-time position as Academic Advisor. Although Mr. White has recently become part of the full-time staff at the Advisement Center, he has been advising students efficiently and with accuracy for over five years. Prior to the Advisement Center he was a part of the SEEK staff as an advisor, tutor, CUNY CAP, and non-teaching adjunct.



“Working the sax” - Sean White during his recent performance at the Farmers Market in Queens

Besides his work at York, Mr. White is also an accomplished soprano saxophonist, displaying his talent most recently at the Farmers

Market in Jamaica Queens as a member of “The Jazz Experience.” Prior to that he and “The Jazz Experience” had a six month engagement at the Diya Lounge located in Valley Stream New York. Mr. White was also part of York’s Jazz Workshop for several years under the direction of Dennis L. Moorman, Dan Faulk, and Tom Zlabinger. His passion and inspiration for playing Jazz can be attributed to musical greats past and present such as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Wayne Shorter, and Branford Marsalis to name a few.

Mr White explained that “Music is such a great outlet for personal expression, especially Jazz. In my opinion, Jazz is the only form of music that spans the complete range of human emotion. One of my goals is to present Jazz to as many people as possible. It is especially important to introduce young people to Jazz because as the great masters pass on, so does the audience that followed them for so many years. There are many young people playing Jazz, but there is not a substantial audience to support them.”



York College

“If there’s a book you really want to read but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”

Toni Morrison

Visit us Online:

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website:

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



# Women's History Month March 2008

## Women's Studies Program Department of Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities Program Events for Women's History Month

*This program is made possible with funds from the York College Auxiliary Enterprises, Inc.*

**Date: Monday, March 3rd @ 6:30-8pm**

**Location:** Little Theater at The Performing Arts Center

**Organized by:** Dr. Eva Vásquez and Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek

**Event:** La edad de la ciruela/ The Age of the Prune - Teatro IATI presents a play by Aristides Vargas

**Date: Wednesday, March 12th @ 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Location:** 2M04

**Organized by:** Dr. Elizabeth Meddeb & Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek

**Event:** York College Interdisciplinary Student Panel

**Date: Thursday, March 13th @ 3:20-5:50 pm**

**Location:** 2M04

**Organized by:** Dr. Margarita Drago

**Event:** Small Book Workshop by Marta Aponte Alsina

**Date: March, 17th @ 12-2 pm**

**Location:** Faculty Dining Room

**Organized by:** Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek, Prof. Aegina Barnes and Dr. Elizabeth Meddeb

**Event:** Luncheon and awards ceremony for the CLIP/ ESL-Women's History Month essay contest

**Date: Monday, March 17th @ 7-9 pm**

**Location:** PAC Lobby

**Organized by:** Tom Zlabinger

**Event:** Jazz Forum #23 w/ saxophonist Sue

Terry - <http://www.sueterry.net/>

**Date: March, 28th @ 2-3 pm**

**Location:** LL01

**Organized by:** Office of the Vice President, Prof. Tom Zablinger, and Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek.

**Sponsored by:** Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Ph.D.

**Event:** Music Workshop by Diva Joan Cartwright  
<http://www.divajc.com/>

**Date: March, 28th @ 7-9 pm**

**Location:** PAC Lobby

**Organized by:** Office of the Vice President, Prof. Tom Zablinger, and Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek.

**Sponsored by:** Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Ph.D.

**Event:** Performance by Diva Joan Cartwright

<http://www.divajc.com/>

**For more information contact:**

Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek,  
Coordinator of Women's Studies

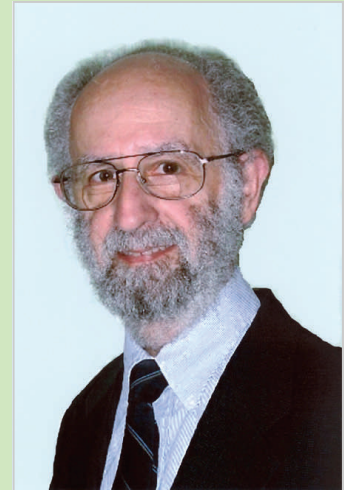
[fsalek@york.cuny.edu](mailto:fsalek@york.cuny.edu)  
(718) 262-2430



# Assessment Workshop

## Student Outcomes Assessment: From Planning to Implementation

Presenter:  
**Dr. Ephraim Schechter**



### **Two chances to attend:**

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, noon – 2:00 pm

*(Lunch will be provided)*

Thursday, March 20, 2008, 10:00 am – noon

*(Breakfast will be provided)*

**At Faculty Dining Room (2D01)**

### **Topics to be presented include:**

- Foundation for the student learning outcome assessment
- Sources of information about student learning outcomes
- Planning for a successful assessment process
- The assessment tools and its implications
- Using assessment results to improve programs and services
- Q & A session

**Please RSVP by March 10, 2008**

by contacting Shao-Wei Wu at ext. 2737 or [shaowei@york.cuny.edu](mailto:shaowei@york.cuny.edu)

*Sponsored by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment*

# Natural Science Seminars at York College

Spring Semester 2008

Sponsored by  
the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Earth & Physical Sciences of York  
College/CUNY, and the Minority Access to Research Careers program

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**3/6 Dr. HyungJoon Cho, Research Fellow, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**  
“Beyond anatomical imaging: MRI application to trabecular bone and tumor.”

**3/20 Dr. Ileana Cristea, Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology, Princeton University**  
“Walking in the proteomic footprints of viral infection.”

**4/24 Undergraduate Research Presentations**

**5/1 Dr. Adam Profit, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, York College and the Graduate  
Center/CUNY**  
Title TBA

**5/8 Undergraduate Research Presentations**

All seminars will be on Thursday at 12 noon, in 4M07 unless otherwise announced.  
Please contact Dr. Emmanuel Chang at (718) 262-3778 for more information.

***ALL ARE WELCOME. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.***

## **Occupational Therapy Department Colloquium**

**March 6, 2008 – 3:30-6:30 pm**  
**Faculty Dining Room**

*The Occupational Therapy Department announces its second Research Colloquium. This year, Dr. John J. Fox, director of the Neuroscience Program in the Departments of Psychology and Biology at City College, will be presenting his research on sensory integration.*

*Faculty and students are all invited. Please join us for this stimulating presentation. Brochures with more information are available in IE12.*



## Provost Lecture Series - Spring 2008

### *What Do Opera and Computational Chemistry Have in Common?*

April 8, 2008 - 1:00 pm – Room 4M05

Scientific researchers have discovered the power of what is being called the third branch of science: computer simulation. Frequently, the ability to perform exceedingly complex calculations unlocks the door to a new understanding of nature. This talk by Angelo Rossi, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the York/FDA Partnership, will demonstrate how extremely fast computers can play an integral role in the ability to understand important problems such as the misfolding of proteins implicated in Alzheimer's disease and the binding of a protein to RNA, a crucial factor in the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) life cycle.

### *Recent Developments in Pattern Recognition*

May 7, 2008 - 1:00 pm – Room 4M06

With recent advances in technology, it is now known that small differences in strands of DNA among people result in similar characteristics in appearance, learning ability, physical development, and behavior. Hence, searching a strand of DNA for portions similar to a known strand is an important task in bioinformatics: a problem in pattern recognition. And searching a strand of DNA for given segments is a daunting task for a person – but not for a properly programmed computer! Professors Lou D'Alotto and Lew Lasser of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will present a classic algorithm in pattern recognition as well as some recent improvements.

The York College Honors Program presents:

### *Designing Interdisciplinary Courses in Honors*

Tuesday, April 15th, 2008

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Faculty Dining Room



**Register  
Soon!**

This workshop will deal with the unique dynamics of teaching in Honors with special attention to the challenges and benefits of designing and teaching interdisciplinary courses. The Honors interdisciplinary approach of examining a single theme from multiple disciplinary perspectives—will be described and illustrated. Faculty in attendance will be encouraged to begin to develop ideas for their own interdisciplinary courses. This interdisciplinary approach has the ability to powerfully energize both students and faculty.

Leading the workshop will be Dr. Joan Digby, Professor of English at Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. Dr. Digby is a certified trainer for the National Collegiate Honors Council. She served as the president of the NCHC in 2000 and serves on the editorial board of Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

This workshop is open to all faculty – especially those who have not taught for the Honors Program before. This workshop is open to only 18 faculty members! Please contact Dr. William Ashton ([washton@york.cuny.edu](mailto:washton@york.cuny.edu)) by April 10 to reserve a space.

## **CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **Spring 2008 Forums and Workshops**

- March 7      **Speaker Forum:** *How Students Learn, How Teachers Teach, and What Usually Goes Wrong with the Process: An Introduction to Learning Styles*  
10:30 am-Noon      Faculty Dining Room, 2D01  
Guest Speaker: Richard Felder, Hoechst Celanese Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University
- March 13      **Workshop:** *Strategies for Teaching in a Classroom of Diverse Learners*  
Noon-2:00 pm      CETL Office, 4EA1  
Presenter: Margaret Ballantyne, Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities
- March 27      **Thursdays at the Center:** *Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning*  
Noon-2:00 pm      CETL Office, 4EA1  
Discussion led by: Laura Fishman, History and Philosophy; Deborah Majerovitz, Behavioral Sciences; and Margaret Ballantyne, Foreign Languages, ESL and Humanities
- April 10      **Workshop:** *Leading Classroom Discussions: How to Talk to People Who Do Not Want to Talk to You*  
Noon-2:00 pm      CETL Office, 4EA1  
Presenter: Howard Ruttenberg, History and Philosophy
- April 11      **Speaker Forum:** *Alternatives to Blaming the Students: Applying the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to Make Real Differences in Achievement, Equity, and Retention in Any College*  
10:30 am-Noon      Faculty Dining Room, 2D01  
Guest Speaker: Craig Nelson, Past President, International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning & Professor Emeritus of Biology, Indiana University-Bloomington
- May 1      **Thursdays at the Center:** *The Impact of Faculty Research on Student Learning*  
Noon-2:00 pm      CETL Office, 4EA1  
Presenters: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Tim Paglione, Earth and Physical Sciences

*“The best teaching is often both an intellectual creation and a performing art.”*

Ken Bain (*What the Best College Teachers Do*, p.174).

YORK COLLEGE  
**JAZZ**  
SERIES  
FORUMS



YORK COLLEGE PRESENTS:  
**“SWEET” SUE TERRY**  
Saxophonist

Monday, March 17, 2008  
7:00 PM

Musician, composer, educator, Sue Terry has never been your typical jazz saxophonist. A protégée of Jackie McLean, Terry is one of the very few female horn players to achieve acceptance on the tough New York hard bop scene. Ms Terry is the author of several music instruction books, and is an award winning songwriter.

Admission: FREE  
The York College Performing Arts Center  
94-45 Guy R Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11451  
PAC Information: 718-262-3750  
Other Events: 718-262-2559  
[www.york.cuny.edu](http://www.york.cuny.edu)

YORK COLLEGE IS **CUNY**

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**York College**  
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**The deadline for submissions to the April issue of Academic Affairs Update is March 21, 2008.**

*All items should be submitted via email to:*  
***AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu***