



# Academic Affairs Update

Volume 11, Number 5

September 2008

## Special points of interest:

- York's New Faculty & Staff
- New Journalism B.A.
- General Ed. Task Force
- JoeFest

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## Message from the President

I take the occasion of the first newsletter of the new academic year to greet each of you and to welcome you back to our energized academic environment. I am delighted to address the faculty and applaud your continued commitment to academic excellence through teaching and learning, research, scholarship, and community service. Your ideas and work inspire students' lives and enrich our world.

Meeting our challenge to increase the number of full-time faculty, we recently hired forty-three new faculty members. This will enhance our existing programs as well as newly initiated ones in Journalism and Generic Nursing. In July, we received reaffirmation of accreditation by the Middle State Commission on Higher Education. I am grateful to the entire college community and especially the

teams engaged in this successful effort, led by the three faculty co-chairs Dr. Margaret Ballantyne, Dr. Tim Paglione and Dr. Gila Acker. Our freshmen enrollment numbers have shown an increase and we are expecting our retention rate to increase as well.

There have been some significant changes over the summer. We continue to be "On the Move" by increasing the number of scholarships to enable more students than ever to attend York. Improvements to facilities and infrastructure will ensure that we keep pace with new technology and office space for our expanding faculty and making our campus more accommodating by creating a more student-centered environment. The Master Planning initiative, that will determine our need for new academic space as well as student union space for the expanding student activities at York, is also moving forward.

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## Provost For Inaugural Inter-American Peace Forum

Provost Ivelaw Griffith will attend the inaugural Inter-American Peace Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, DC on September 22-23,

2008 at the invitation of OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza. The Provost, whose scholarly expertise involves drugs, security, and crime in

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## Reflections

### PROVOST LECTURE SERIES

May 2008 Lecture

#### *“Recent Developments in Pattern Recognition”*

**Dr. Lou D’Alotto and Dr. Lew Lasser**  
**Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies**

**P**attern recognition research attempts to program into computers some of the cognitive capabilities of humans. A few important examples include:

- character recognition, e.g. handwriting analysis
- speech recognition and synthesis
- sequence analysis of DNA structure, e.g. bioinformatics

The area of bioinformatics is particularly important today. Given a new sequence of DNA, biologists want to find other similar sequences and understand the functional and evolutionary relationships between these new strands and those already known. Genomes are enormous entities of DNA and comparative sequence analysis presents many challenges where pattern recognition can be of tremendous help.

At this point, Drs. Lou D’Alotto and Lew Lasser enter into the picture. Both are mathematicians equipped with the tools and techniques of mathematics that can provide new ideas in the

field of pattern recognition.

Previously, Dr. Peter H. Sellers developed an algorithm for any set of symbols, although he couched his results in terms of a research on proteins and DNA. His algorithm works for any set of symbols. The algorithm works by applying a simple transformation many times to arrive at alignments for any set of characters.

However, as reported during the May 2008 Provost’s Lecture, there is an alternative method of alignment! York’s Drs. Lasser and D’Alotto were able to arrive at the same conclusions by applying a few higher order steps far fewer times to arrive at the same answer compared to the original answer. This opens the opportunity to discover and prove new theorems which will aid in proposing important new ideas in the area of Pattern Recognition.

Drs. D’Alotto and Lasser displayed an excellent knowledge of this subject and were able to ensure that the audience had a good grasp of the salient concepts. The lecture had a large attendance, and there was good feedback during the question-and-answer period.

### Provost Lecture

#### **“Supporting Family Caregivers in a Multicultural Society”**



**by Dr. Deborah Majerovitz**  
Chair, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences

**September 24, 1:00—3:30 PM**  
**Room AC-4M07**

The plight of family caregivers to aged and frail elders has become a favorite topic in the popular press as well as in social science research. This talk by Prof. Majerovitz will center around studies from family caregivers, and will address the range of ethnic and cultural values surrounding elder care in communities represented at York, as well as the conflict between traditional values and the changing realities of health care and modern society.

## BA in Journalism to be Launched



York College and the English Department will celebrate the launch of its Bachelor of Arts in Journalism Degree this semester with a Luncheon and Community News Mini-Conference on Monday, October 6 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room.

The event will introduce the cutting-edge curriculum for the new BA in Journalism to a wide array of program supporters from Journalism, media, corporate, political, community and University circles — and from the ranks of York's prominent alumni. It will also allow prospective majors and minors in the Journalism Program to meet these key supporters.

The Community News Mini-Conference will feature an All-Star Panel Discussion on "Challenges and Opportunities in Community News" followed by a Q&A. Professor Glenn Lewis, Director of the York BA in Journalism, will serve as host for the event and moderator for the discussion. So far three esteemed community news leaders have agreed to be a part of this illustrious panel. These guest journalists include Robert Sapio, Sr., Executive Editor of the *Daily News*, Alberto Vourvoulias, Editor-in-Chief of *El Diario*, and Gail Robinson, Editor-in-Chief of the *Gotham Gazette* (online news arm of the Citizen's Union). One more prominent guest will be added to the panel shortly.

In addition, Jere Hester, Director of the News Bureau for the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism (and former City Editor of the *Daily News*) will conduct special "Hot-Issue Breakout Sessions" after the panel discussion and Q&A with the assistance of Professor William Hughes. Finally, there will be a "Dessert/Networking Session" where guests, students, faculty and staff can mingle and exchange ideas and contact information. Those interested will be given a tour of York's media and Journalism facilities as well.

There will also be a number of guest speakers representing the various constituencies present. The event will receive particularly strong support from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism where Professor Lewis, serves as a member of the founding faculty.

Provost Ivelaw Griffith was the moving force behind this Journalism launch event, and Michel Hodge, Nathaniel Moore, Marcia Comrie and Professor Valerie Anderson (English Department Chair) were instrumental in the planning.

**The submission deadline for materials  
for the next issue is September 24, 2008.**

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

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

# York's New Faculty and Staff Members

With the Fall 2008 semester, 43 new faculty members will assume teaching, research and service responsibilities at the college. The college takes great pride in this major expansion of its faculty and in the following pages we briefly introduce the new professors (in no particular order). We welcome our new colleagues and will continue to introduce them in the October issue.

**Charlene (Greenidge) Lane** (Dept. of Health & Physical Education) is a proud alumna of York College where she graduated cum laude with a BA in Psychology. Mrs. Lane went on to obtain a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work from New York University, and postgraduate training in Administration and Supervision from Hunter College. Mrs. Lane is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with psychotherapy privileges who is currently a doctoral candidate at Adelphi University in Garden City Long Island. Her passion for the elderly is evident in her area of doctoral research which is focusing on the Mental Health needs of seniors in the community. She has recently published an article in the *National Association of Christian Social Workers Journal* on the feasibility of in-home psychotherapy for the elderly.



In addition to her formal training, Mrs. Lane brings with her years of teaching experience. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Molloy & Touro Colleges and Fordham University. She has a plethora of experiences in the field of social work, ranging from child welfare, working with individuals infected with and affected by AIDS/HIV, clinical practice and gerontological services. Mrs. Lane has provided services in psychotherapy to the elderly, facilitated caregiver support groups and held the position of Director of Social Work at a regional nursing home. Mrs. Lane presently consults for Senior Service Agencies on Long Island and is a Board Member of Nassau County Adult Protective Services; she also provides in home psychotherapeutic services to individuals and families.



**Dr. Jonathan Hall**, Assistant Professor of English, completed his Ph.D. in American literature and his M.F.A. in fiction writing at Cornell University. Before coming to York, he served most recently as Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator and as Interim Writing Program Director at Rutgers University, Newark. His current research interests include plagiarism, the teaching of college writing to multilingual learners, and the relation between freshman composition and upper-level writing in the disciplines.



The eldest daughter of immigrant parents from Spain, **Dr. Lidia Gonzalez** (Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Studies) grew up in Queens, New York. She attended New York University where she obtained both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Mathematics Education. Lidia then worked for seven years as a high school mathematics teacher in a NYC public school. In 2001 she began her doctoral studies at the CUNY Graduate Center in the Urban Education Department. There she also worked as a MetroMath@CUNY doctoral fellow on a study of alternatively certified mathematics teachers in New York City. Her dissertation focused on the teaching of mathematics for social justice at the secondary school level. Lidia Gonzalez is very much looking forward to a rewarding career as a professor in the Mathematics and Computer Studies

department serving the students of York College.

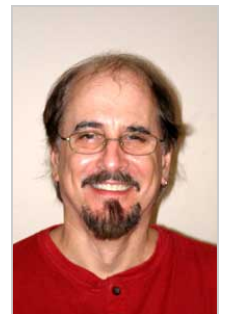
**Dr. Linda Gerena** (Dept. of Teacher Education) has over twenty years of experience in teaching English Language Learners and ten years of experience in preparing teachers of English Language Learners. Dr. Gerena earned a Ph.D. in Language and Cross Cultural Education from San Diego State University and The Claremont Graduate University. She also holds two Masters of Arts Degrees, in Linguistics and TESOL (New York University) and Bilingual Elementary Education (California State University, Los Angeles). Her B.A. was earned in Spanish Language and Literature at CUNY Brooklyn College.



Prior to joining the York College faculty, Dr. Gerena was a Professor at St. Petersburg College. She has worked with pre-service and in-service teachers for over ten years, providing them with theoretical and practical training in the education of English Language Learners (ELLs). Dr. Gerena is bilingual and has taught and lived in Mexico and Puerto Rico, and has studied in Mexico and Spain. She was the recipient of two State of Florida DOE/Embassy of Spain Grants to study in Spain. Dr. Gerena has published articles in several peer reviewed journals, and is currently working on writing two chapters for a peer reviewed text due to be published in 2009.

Dr. Gerena's professional interests and expertise are in second language acquisition theory and pedagogy, dual immersion/bilingual education, biliteracy, heritage language maintenance, and educational policy reform and transformation. She is also keenly interested in preparing highly qualified teachers who will be sensitive to issues related to social justice and providing culturally sensitive instruction for all students, especially linguistically and culturally diverse students.

**Mark Blickley** (Dept. of English) is a widely published author of fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry and the recipient of a McArthur Foundation Scholarship Award for Drama while pursuing his M.F.A. at Brooklyn College. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies and in the publications *Fiction International*, *Palo Alto Review*, *Coe Review*, *Cream City Review*, *Salt Hill*, and *New York Quarterly*, among others. *Sacred Misfits* is his short fiction collection published by Red Hen Press (2004). He was a staff art reviewer for *Artis Spectrum* magazine and former journalist for the *Bergen Record*. Theater is a consuming interest of Blickley's and he is pleased and proud to have developed and taught the first English department playwriting workshop at York. A native of the Bronx who now lives in Jamaica. He is a passionate Yankees fan who also roots for the Mets, Knicks, Giants and Jets.



**Dr. Jason Mendez** (Dept. of Teacher Education) received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His dissertation topic was *True Mathematics: Examining the Complexities of Lived Experiences in Hip Hop Culture* and involved an examination of the Puerto Rican, hip hop and South Bronx culture and community.



Dr. Mendez has a rather broad scope of interest in the area of Culture Studies and Educational Technology. In the field of culture studies he has focused on issues in multicultural education, media and popular culture, Puerto Rican studies, critical race theory and identity and representation. In much of his research he draws on counter-narrative and narrative theories. Dr. Mendez takes pride in his commitment to articulating a theoretical framework in the field of Critical Race studies, which examines the history, cultural traditions and politics of Puerto Rico to examine the enduring effect of these factors and changes in issues of poverty and schooling and curriculum for Puerto Ricans in North American and on the island. His studies in hip hop

culture are yet another focus/opportunity for applying his scholarly interest in issues of representation, media and popular culture.

Dr. Mendez was until recently the evaluator for the *Global Neighborhood: Across the Americas Project* which examines how the arts are used to promote cross-cultural understanding between classrooms in the U.S. and Costa Rica.

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### Message from the President

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Supporting the advancement of our institutional culture, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, an initiative led by Dr. Deborah Swoboda and supported by Title III funds from the Federal Department of Education, is helping to shape our academic environment by emphasizing that excellent teaching matters and providing another resource for fac-

ulty to improve their teaching and enhance their research activities.

As president, I deeply appreciate the collaboration of the faculty in helping to make York College an even better place and an exceptional educational experience for our students. I extend to the academic community my wishes for success during the year.



### Provost for Peace Forum

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the Caribbean and Central America, was also asked to speak in a panel on regional conflicts where he will comment on remarks by former United Nations Assistant Secretary General Mar-rack Goulding.

The Inter-American Forum for Peace will be launched to coincide with the International Day of Peace, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981. The new Forum will mark the 60th anniversary of the Charter of Bogotá, which created the OAS in 1948, and is intended to stress the leading role of the OAS in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of hemispheric security and peace. The inaugural ceremony will be attended by the OAS Secretary General and a Nobel Peace laureate from the Americas, who will share their visions and experiences in managing and preventing conflicts while building peace in the Americas. Both the conference and the specialized panels on the following day will receive wide media coverage.

Since its creation in 1948, the OAS has followed the actions of its member states to address the challenges of development and security in the Americas. In its efforts it has adapted its functions to successive historical demands in the Hemisphere. The OAS has shown flexibility, and at the same time, has maintained its fundamental commitment to preserve peace and ob-

serve the basic principles of international law.

The Inter-American Peace Forum will become a permanent feature of the OAS and present programs of different nature, such as conferences and seminars on the theme of peace and conflict management; reporting and specialized publications; creation of a comprehensive database of institutions dedicated to the promotion and study of peace; institutional training workshops; cultural events and educational programs; promoting leadership and other initiatives with special focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes and promoting a culture of respect, tolerance and harmony.

All these features under its umbrella are aimed at promoting a culture of regional peace, expanding the OAS role in the settlement of disputes, reporting on tools available to governments to reduce tensions and resolve conflicts peacefully, and encouraging and facilitating dialogue on all of these issues.



## York's New Faculty and Staff Members, cont.'d

**Dr. Michael Sharpe** (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences) holds a Ph.D. and Master of Philosophy in Political Science from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York. His dissertation is entitled "Globalization and Migration: A Comparative Study of the Political Incorporation of Dutch Caribbean Post-Colonial Immigrants in the Netherlands and Nikkeijin Ethnic Returnee Immigrants in Japan." Additionally, Dr. Sharpe holds a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, a Graduate Diploma in International Law and Organization for Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, The Netherlands, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers College / Rutgers University.

Dr. Sharpe's areas of expertise are comparative politics and international relations and his research interests concern looking comparatively at the politics of migration, immigrant political incorporation, and political transnationalism in the Netherlands, Japan, the Dutch Caribbean, and around the world. He plans to expand his research agenda to include the politics of migration in the United States as well as in Africa and other parts of Asia. Prior to coming to York College, Dr. Sharpe was a senior research associate at the Howard Samuels Center at the CUNY Graduate Center and taught as an adjunct instructor at Ramapo College of New Jersey as well as in the Master of International Relations Program at City College/CUNY.

Dr. Sharpe is a dual citizen of the U.S. and the Netherlands of Aruban and Dominican background. He is married and has three children.



**Dr. Bob Baer** (Director, Academic Advisement Center) is a student services professional with twenty-four years of experience in higher education administrative positions at The Johns Hopkins University, Towson University and The Community College of Baltimore County. Dr. Baer has professional expertise in academic advising, admissions, registration, counseling and career services in graduate, undergraduate, continuing education and non-traditional educational settings. He received a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD in 2005. Dr. Baer teaches history courses as an adjunct faculty member and plans to collaborate with York College faculty and staff to review, develop and implement new structures and strategies designed to strengthen academic advising.



**Dr. Robert O. Duncan** (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences) completed his thesis in the laboratory of Thomas Albright, where he studied the physiology of motion perception in non-human primates. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Geoffrey Boynton at the Salk Institute, during which they determined the neural correlates for visual and tactile acuity in humans using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). As a staff scientist in UCSD's Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Duncan applied these novel fMRI techniques to study neurodegeneration in patients with eye disease.

Dr. Duncan's primary research interests are (1) to study the physiological mechanisms of visually guided behavior in healthy individuals and (2) to develop novel fMRI techniques to quantify neuronal, vascular, and metabolic contributions to neurodegenerative visual disorders. Specifically, his research is designed to compare measurements of neuronal activity and blood flow throughout the retino-cortical pathway to standard clinical measures of visual function in glaucoma. Glaucoma is a group of progressive optic neuropathies that share a common feature, a gradual loss of retinal ganglion cells accompanied by a progressive degeneration of the optic nerve. Left untreated, glaucoma results in irreversible vision loss or blindness. fMRI may provide knowledge that is more clinically relevant than what can be learned from animal models. Understanding brain changes in human glaucoma will stimulate new diagnostic techniques and therapies.



Dr. Duncan recently received awards from the World Glaucoma Association, the Glaucoma Research Foundation, Heidelberg Engineering, the International Perimetric Association, and the National Eye Institute.

**Selena T. Rodgers** (Dept. of Social Sciences) earned her Associate in Arts from the State University of New York at Alfred State College in 1991, a Bachelor in Social Work from Marymount College in 1993, a Master of Social Work from Syracuse University in 1995, and she is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Adelphi University's School of Social Work. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R). She has held faculty appointments as Adjunct Lecturer and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the City University of New York in York College's Social Science/Social Work Department since 2002. She has served as the Queens Associate Vice President of Community and Criminal Justice Programs at Safe Horizon, where she worked for eleven years.



Ms. Rodgers was awarded the PSC-CUNY Adjunct Professional Development Fund in 2007 in support of her doctoral dissertation research: *The relationship between availability of and satisfaction with social support and posttraumatic growth among Latina immigrants in refugee-like situations.*

Her writings include two book chapters: Bent-Goodley, T.B., Chase, L., Rodgers, S., & Circo, E., "Our Survival, Our Strengths: Understanding the Experiences of African-American Women in Abusive Relationships," in: L. Lockhart & F. Danis, *Domestic violence mosaic: Culturally competent practice with diverse populations.* (New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming); and Rodgers, S., "The Art of Healing: An Afrocentric Helping Guide for Practitioners working with African-American Families who Experience Intimate Partner Violence," in: R.L. Hampton and T.P. Gullotta (eds.), *Interpersonal Violence in the African-American Community: Evidence-based Prevention and Treatment Practices*, pp. 121-147. (NY: Springer-Verlag Publishing 2006).

**Dr. William Dinello** (Acting Associate Dean for the Executive Office) holds a Ph.D. (Administration and Policy Studies) and M.S.W. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, and is a former faculty member and college administrator. His most recent position was as Associate Dean for Student Development at Marymount University, in Arlington, VA where he had supervised the areas of Career and Internship Services, International Student Services, Residence Life, Psychological Counseling Services, Disability Support Services and First Year Student programs. He served as a faculty member in the departments of Social Work at California University of Pennsylvania and at Carlow College, where he was also the Director of Field Education.



His wife, Natalia, is a policy analyst for the United Nations Family Planning Agency (UNFPA), and they live in Manhattan with their three-year old son, Iliya.

**Dr. Tim Kirk** (Dept. of History and Philosophy) comes to CUNY–York College from Villanova University outside Philadelphia, PA, where he was most recently Catherine of Siena fellow in ethics and visiting assistant professor of philosophy. Previously, he was adjunct assistant professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania.



Specializing in clinical healthcare ethics with an emphasis on nursing, hospice and palliative care, Dr. Kirk completed a Ph.D. in philosophy at Villanova University in 2004. In addition to his work at CUNY, he serves on the ethics committee of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the executive board of the International Philosophy of Nursing Society (IPONS). He is also fond of acronyms (FOA).

Dr. Kirk is currently chairing the task force charged with re-evaluating NHPCO's position statement and educational materials on palliative sedation therapy. His research focuses on the philosophical foundations underlying nursing ethics (especially hospice and palliative care nursing) and the intersection of intimacy and subjectivity in personal relationships. Dr. Kirk and his family moved to New York City from Villanova, PA in May 2008.



**Dr. Xin Bai** (Dept. of Teacher Education) earned her Ed.D. in Instructional Technology & Media from Teachers College at Columbia University in May 2008. Her research interest is “designing intelligent agents in simulation games to facilitate learning.” More specifically, she studies how to develop a learning environment using animated agents in a virtual world that has transparency in both the agents and the virtual world. Her research is also built on the work done on Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS) using the knowledge representations to depict what the agents know about their virtual world and what the agents need to learn to solve domain specific problems.



Xin was a Project Director of the REAL (REflective Agent Learning environment) Project at the Institute for Learning Technologies at Columbia University. She helped facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration among a dozen graduate students in the areas of artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, and instructional design. Besides research, Xin has been teaching several graduate core courses, including *Cognition and Computers* and *Intelligent Computer-Assisted Instruction*, since 2003. She also worked as a Chief Learning Architect at a company focusing on facilitating adult e-learning and designing Learning Management Systems. Her knowledge of

the sharable learning content standard and the design strategies has helped the company gain an edge in the competitive adult learning industry.

She is very excited about joining the York community and working with students, faculty, and other researchers and administrators who are committed to lifelong learning.

Though born and raised in Algeria, **Dr. Zohra Saad** (Dept. of Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities) was mainly educated in the United States, having received a Master’s of Education in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Boston University in 1979 and a doctorate in Applied Linguistics from Teachers College, Columbia University, graduating in 1992.

Her dissertation consisted of a case study of Arabization (process of replacing French with Arabic in all spheres of daily life, including education and the workplace) in Algeria. She particularly focused on language planning and conflicts as well as language policy attitudes. Her current research interests lie in language planning and its implications for education and the dynamics of language use, the linguistic diversity prevalent in Algeria making for a wealth of research topics. Dr. Saad speaks Kabyle (a Berber language of Algeria), Arabic, French and English.



She started teaching ESL in the United States in 1988 while pursuing her doctorate and has taught in a variety of places and a diverse mix of students. Her last place of employment was at York, in CLIP (CUNY Language Immersion Program), a position which has afforded her the opportunity to work with students from different language and culture backgrounds.

**Dr. Catherine Foster** (Dept. of Chemistry) comes to us from the West coast. Her B.A. was obtained from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and her Ph.D. in physical chemistry was earned at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her doctoral thesis was on resonance Raman analysis. Following her graduate studies, Dr. Foster assumed a postdoctoral position at Queens College, The City University of New York, working in the area of nanotechnology.



Dr. Foster has published numerous papers from her research. She is not only an excellent researcher and student (Saegbarth Fellowship, University of Washington, and Foreign Language Honor Society in French and Russian, Willamette University), she also has an extensive and varied background as a teacher. Dr. Foster has taught at the University of Washington, Queens, Baruch and York Colleges of CUNY, as well as at Preston High School in the Bronx. She is looking forward to applying her teaching and research experiences to the education of York’s students.



**Dr. John A. Casey** (Dept. of Biology) holds a B.Sc. in biology from Regents College and an M.D. from Ross University (Dominica). He has taught for over twenty years at the level of Adjunct Associate Professor or Health Instructor at the following institutions: The Borough of Manhattan Community College, Elizabeth Seaton School of Nursing/Iona College, ASA Institute, Monroe College and York College, and as a Visiting Professor of Medicine, at the Open International University for Complementary Medicines (Sri Lanka).

His interests include community activities, ethnobotany of the tropical rain forest and Oceanic Island forest, organic gardening, and wilderness survival skills.



**Dr. John-Thones Amenyo**, a native of Ghana, has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor, since 2000, in the Department of Math & Computer Studies at York College. His undergraduate education was at MIT, Cambridge, MA, in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and his graduate education was at Columbia University, NY in Electrical Engineering.

His current academic interests include: a) biologically plausible computational models (using parallel and distributing processing paradigms) for neuronal circuits, networks and architectures, emphasizing learning and memory; b) designing and deploying intelligent learning companions and related automated educational materials for under-prepared students, and the impact of these educational and instructional technologies on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum development and improvement, and for computational mathematics; c) instructional technologies that can support the implementation of the educational objectives of the UN MDG (Millennium Development Goals); and d) applications of large-scale, parallel, distributed systems, deployed and utilized as multi-agent systems, distributed blackboard architectures, grid computing networks, distributed sensor and robot networks, Web services, semantic Web and tera-scale computing architectures and infrastructures.

His industry work experience includes positions of member of technical staff, and principal architect at AT&T Bell Laboratories; Wang Laboratories; Honeywell Information Systems; IBM and ANS / AOL / MCI; and as an IT/ICT consultant to emerging markets.

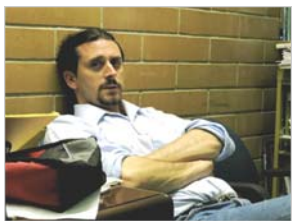
**Denise Nazzaro (Melvin)** received her M.A. in Speech and Interpersonal Communication Studies in 2001 from New York University. She has received her B.A. from Montclair State University in Speech Communication Studies and Economics.



Ms. Nazzaro joins York's Department of Performing and Fine Arts as a Speech Communication Lecturer after teaching as a Lecturer at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey since January 2002 and adjunct teaching at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. Courses taught include: Speech Communication, Communication Research Foundations, Communication in Action, Culturally Speaking, Basic Communication, Speaking and Listening for Non-native Speakers, and Introduction to College Experience. At Bergen Community College Ms. Nazzaro served as the faculty advisor for the Floetry Foundation Club since 2002 and on the 2006 BCC Diversity Committee. She has participated in the NJ Edge Colloquium on Millennial Students, at NJIT in 2006 as well as the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for the New Jersey Faculty Development Network. She was awarded the distinguished speaker at BCC's 2003 Student Government Council Organization Retreat in Princeton, New Jersey. She is the co-founder and Vice President of the 501(c)(3) Non-profit Charitable Organization *Angels for Animals Network*.

Her publications include Student Evaluations and Grading, NEA Higher Education Advocate, Vol. 25, October 2007 and Improving College Retention Rates: An Approach Worth Reviewing, Rutgers University, December 2003. Ms. Nazzaro plans to continue her doctorate studies at the City University of New York's Graduate School in 2009.

**Dr. Mark Schuller** (Dept. of Social Sciences) is starting as Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies following a year teaching at Vassar College and SUNY-New Paltz. For his Ph.D. from UC-Santa Barbara in Anthropology, Global Studies and Women's Studies, Schuller conducted over two years of anthropological fieldwork in Haiti and several months of research in Washington, Brussels, and Geneva. Schuller's dissertation research analyzing impacts of funding on two women's nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) was funded by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and support from other sources including the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, University of California Washington Center, and Labor and Employment Research Fund.



In addition to several articles directed toward a general public, Schuller has published four peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters about Haiti, and as the Association for Political/Legal Anthropology's 2007 paper competition winner an article is forthcoming. Schuller co-edited a volume, *Capitalizing on Catastrophe: Neoliberal Strategies in Disaster Reconstruction* (2008, Alta Mira Press) and is co-producing/co-directing the forthcoming documentary *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*. Schuller also co-edited *Homing Devices: the Poor as Targets of Public Housing Policy and Practice* (2006, Lexington Press), culminating four years' experience working as a grassroots organizer in Minnesota, particularly the St. Paul Tenants Union. As an applied/public anthropologist, Dr. Schuller has been involved in many grassroots campaigns and organizations, such as PUEBLO, Voices for Global Justice, and Jubilee (debt cancellation) among others, including an ad-hoc coalition in response to the recent food crisis in Haiti and elsewhere.

**Dr. Parisa Babaali** (Dept. of Math and Computer Studies) has completed her bachelors degree in mathematics from Sharif University in Tehran. She continued her studies at Stevens Institute of Technology, and she completed her Ph.D. in mathematics in May 2007. During this time, she held a teaching assistantship award. Dr. Babaali also worked for the Stevens Enrichment Program and was a founding member of the Stevens Society of Mathematicians. After graduating, she worked as a mathematical consultant for a financial firm in Wall Street. Her passion for teaching mathematics and interaction with students has brought her back as a faculty at York College. Parisa's main areas of research are Formal Languages, Mathematical Finance and Statistics.



**Dr. Ratan Kumar Dhar** (Dept. of Earth & Physical Sciences) received his Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the City University of New York in October 2006. He obtained his M.Sc. degree from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh in 1991. Prior to his enrollment in CUNY Ph.D. program, he worked as Research Associate at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University to help developing a framework for NIEHS funded cohort study in Bangladesh led by Earth Science of Columbia University. Before he moved to US in 1998, Dr. Dhar had worked as Research Fellow (Awarded Asia Arsenic Network-Japan fellowship) at Jadavpur University, Kolkata-India. He had also worked as research scholar at Center of Mining Environment, Indian School of Mines, India.



He taught introductory classes on Environmental Sciences and supervised a graduate student for his independent study on "Analytical Techniques in Geosciences" at Queens College, CUNY. Dr. Dhar also mentored high school, undergraduate, graduate students in geoscience field. For more than a decade, he has been actively involved in different field activities on groundwater contaminant transport by investigating hydro-geochemical dynamics in contaminated aquifers in Bangladesh, India and NJ-USA.

Dr. Dhar has published 17 papers (4 first authored and 13 co-authored) in peer reviewed journals including Contaminant Hydrology, Water Resources Research, Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta, Applied Geochemistry, Analytica Chimica Acta, Current Science, Environmental Science and Technology, Environmental Management. He also contributed several book chapters on groundwater arsenic problem in Bangladesh and India. Dr. Dhar participated in several national and international meetings, including AGU, GSA, ACS as speaker and/or poster presenter.

**Dr. Holger Henke** (Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs) is a political scientist with a variety of research interests across and beyond the discipline. Focusing on international relations, broadly defined, he has published on foreign relations, migration, development issues, political culture, as well as in cultural studies. He has authored and edited six books: *Between Self Determination and Dependency: Jamaica's Foreign Relations, 1972-89* (University of the West Indies Press 2000), *The End of the "Asian Model"?* (John Benjamins 2000), *The West Indian Americans* (Greenwood 2001), *Modern Political Culture in the Caribbean* (University of the West Indies Press 2003), *Crossing Over: Comparing Recent Migration in the United States and Europe* (Lexington Books 2005), and *Constructing Vernacular Culture in the Trans-Caribbean* (Lexington Books 2008). He also published numerous articles in journals such as *Cultural Critique*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *Social Epistemology*, *Social and Economic Studies*, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* and others. Dr. Henke studied at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute of Political Science of the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, where he obtained an M.A. degree in Political Science, and at the University of the West Indies (Mona) where he graduated with a Ph.D. in Government.



Among the places Dr. Henke has worked previously are the University of the West Indies, Iona College, Hunter College, and Medgar Evers College, where he served as Assistant Director of the Caribbean Research Center. He also was selected a Rockefeller Fellow at the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) at City College of New York and in 2007 was appointed a Senior Research Fellow of the Washington-based think tank Council on Hemispheric Affairs. For many years, Dr. Henke has served as the editor of the refereed journal *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and its Diasporas* (Lexington Books). He joins the York College team coming from Metropolitan College of New York where he previously

taught as full-time faculty in the School of Human Services and Education.

Dr. Henke's is married to his wife Simone, who works in the retail industry, and they have one son, Justin, who is attending middle school. In his free time Dr. Henke enjoys reading, music, chess, photography and playing classical guitar.

**Tom Marion** (Dept. of Performing and Fine Arts) holds a BFA from Ithaca College (NY) and an MFA in Acting from Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts. He has a Certificate in Vocal Coaching from the National Theatre Conservatory and has been an intern at the Royal Shakespeare Company.



**Dr. Kathariya Mokrue** (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences) received her Bachelor's degree from Hunter College of the City University of New York where she majored in psychology. Her research on the effects of differential rates of acculturation on psychological distress among Asian immigrants earned her the Livingston Welch Award. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was inducted to Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Mokrue pursued graduate studies and received her Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Clinical Psychology from Rutgers University. During her years at Rutgers, she received extensive training in cognitive behavioral therapy and community-based interventions. She conducted research on the implementation of empirically validated treatments in school settings in an underserved district. Dr. Mokrue completed her pre-doctoral internship at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx and her post-doctoral fellowship in traumatic stress studies from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She served as a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital and in the Center for Community Health and Education at Columbia University Medical Center. In the past academic year (2007-2008), Dr. Mokrue served as an adjunct assistant professor at York College (Undergraduate level) and Hunter College (Graduate level).

Her research interests include conducting studies aimed at reducing barriers/improving access to quality mental health care and implementing empirically validated interventions among traditionally underserved populations.

“Newly hired” School Library Media Specialist **Christina Miller** has been working as the York Library’s High School Librarian since 2002. While serving as an adjunct for the past six years, Ms. Miller provided library services to the students and teachers of the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (QHSSYC), in addition to serving the York College community as a reference librarian and subject liaison to the English Department.

Before coming to York, Ms. Miller was the Assistant Manager of the Social Sciences Division at the Queens Borough Public Library's Central Library. With QHSSYC’s growth from one grade to four, the opening of the York Early College Academy (6-14), and the increasing need to reach out to local K-12 populations, Ms. Miller has been hired as a full-time Instructor to support these populations. Ms. Miller is a York College graduate (B.A. Economics) who earned her Masters in Library Science from Queens College, where she is currently pursuing an additional Masters degree in the Education-Literacy (5-12) program.



**Dr. Nicholas A Grosskopf** (Dept. of Health and Physical Education) holds an Ed.D. from Columbia University. A Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Dr. Grosskopf has extensive experience working in community health settings, specializing in HIV prevention and education with urban youth and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health. He is also experienced in K-12 settings, having served for the NYC Department of Education and the School District of Hillsborough County in Tampa, FL, his hometown.



Nicholas is also knowledgeable in governmental health settings including work with the revolutionary and innovative NYC Condom Initiative with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He periodically reviews articles for several peer-reviewed journals focusing on sexual health such as the *Journal of Sex Research* and *AIDS and Behavior*. Moreover, Dr. Grosskopf is active in several professional organizations including the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS).

A faculty affiliate at Hunter College’s Center for HIV Education Studies and Training (CHEST), Dr. Grosskopf’s research interests include examining the need for and effectiveness of online-based cognitive behavioral interventions, HIV prevention interventions targeting underserved urban youth, and HIV-related health perspectives among men who have sex with men (MSM) of color.

He is a strong proponent for using individuals’ voices and experiences as vehicles for learning and promoting health. Additionally, he is a strong advocate for translating research and theory into practice through the use of interactive research applications such as Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR).

**Dr. Debra Glaser** (Dept. of Health and Physical Education) is an Assistant Professor of School Health Education K-12. Dr. Glaser holds degrees in Health Education (Ed.D., '07, M.A., '02) from Columbia University and Fine Arts (B.A., '01) from SUNY Binghamton. She also holds a NYS Health Teacher K through 12 certificate. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Glaser was an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at York College and an Adjunct Lecturer in the Health Department at SUNY Cortland, wherein she supervised student teachers in K-12 health field placements in New York City and Long Island.

Dr. Glaser’s research focuses on the associations between social relationships, psychological well-being, and chronic illness. Her dissertation investigated an equivocal observation in the social support literature that receipt of social support is often linked with more distress in people facing life stressors, such as cancer. Recently, Dr. Glaser and colleagues published a paper that extends this research in the journal *Psycho-Oncology* (see Lepore, S. J., Glaser, D., & Roberts, K., 2008).



Going forward, she will investigate how the social context of school children’s lives influences health behaviors and psychological well-being of children who have asthma and allergies.

**Dr. Alex W. Costley** (Dept. of Health and Physical Education) holds a Ph.D. in medical anthropology from Columbia University (2007). He has worked as a pre-doctoral fellow, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 1998-1999. Dr. Costley also holds an M.A. in anthropology from Columbia University and a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts (Boston).



With interests in human development across the life-span, culture, health, and medicine, his research on aging began in college with an honors thesis on older adults' social adjustment to life in a senior retirement complex. In graduate school, volunteer work as a patient advocate for the elderly in the emergency room at St. Luke's Hospital inspired his interest in medical education and later doctoral research on health assessment and functional ability among community-dwelling older adults in Washington Heights, New York. In the field of medical education and program evaluation, he developed and evaluated new clinical training programs in pediatrics and geriatrics at Columbia University Medical Center from 2002-2004, and he was an adjunct instructor at NYU in the Metropolitan Studies program in 2002. Dr. Costley joined the Columbia Cooperative Aging Program, a health-education program for older adults, as a co-investigator in 2005, and became the Educational Director for the new Division of Geriatric Medicine and Aging at New York–Presbyterian Hospital in 2006.

He has given numerous presentations at national conferences including those of the Gerontological Society of America and the Society for Medical Anthropology and, in 2005, he received an educational research award from the northeast regional section of the American Association of Medical Colleges.

The new Coordinator of the Cultural Diversity Program at York is **Janice Cline**. Professor Cline (Dept. of English) has taught Cultural Diversity at York since the program's inception in the early 1990s. She—and many students have said—that Cultural Diversity is one of the most important courses offered at York. It not only prepares our students to get along with the beautiful diversity of people in Queens (the most diverse county in the entire nation), but it also enables them to come to a deeper understanding of people from all over the world.



As Prof. Cline says, “I am honored to assume responsibility as Coordinator of this program that was so well-made by its founder, Dr. Anita Wenden. I intend to do everything I can to have the Cultural Diversity Program at York flourish. York graduates have told me that nothing did more than Cultural Diversity to prepare them for the world of work because it gave them a deeper understanding and respect for the people they work with every day. My hope is to increasingly have college-wide, interdepartmental events that draw from the vast knowledge of our students and colleagues in order to showcase our wonderful diversity. At a time when there is so much international unrest and so much injustice, including right here in Jamaica, Queens, it is crucial that people from different backgrounds not only tolerate each other, but learn to wholeheartedly respect and even welcome their differences. The study of our diverse cultures with our excellent faculty can accomplish this.”

Feel free to convey your ideas to Janice at [Cline@york.cuny.edu](mailto:Cline@york.cuny.edu).



Born and brought up in the People's Republic of China, **Dr. Linglan Cao** (Dept. of English) got her bachelor and master degrees in China majoring in English language and literature. After teaching for six years at Soochow University and Nanjing Normal University, she came to the United States pursuing a Doctoral degree at Teachers College, Columbia University. Since her graduation, she has been teaching reading and writing courses at York College as an adjunct assistant professor and as a substitute doctoral lecturer. An active member of TESOL, she is interested and experienced in helping the non-native speakers surmount language barriers in English reading and writing. She has co-authored three books: *Internet Guide for English Teachers and Learners* (Shanghai Foreign Languages Education Press 1998), *An English-Chinese Glossary of Internet Terms* (Shanghai Foreign Languages Education Press 1999), and *A Guide to Success in SAT* (Nanjing Normal University Press 2007).

**Dr. Edoardo Carta-Gerardino** (Dept. of Math & Computer Studies) was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, on February 21, 1980. He graduated from high school in 1997 and started his career in mathematics that year as a math major at the University of Puerto Rico. He obtained a Bachelor in Science, summa cum laude, with a concentration in Pure Mathematics. He was subsequently admitted to the Ph.D. program at Cornell University. In 2007 he obtained a Master in Science, with concentration in Mathematics, and one year later, in 2008, he finished his Ph.D. His research area is logic, and he has a great passion for teaching.



**Dr. Andrew Criss** (Dept. of Biology) joins the York College faculty this fall as a doctoral lecturer for Anatomy & Physiology. Prior to this appointment, he was an adjunct and substitute assistant professor in the Biology department since 2005. Dr. Criss is transferring to a new career in higher education after spending 10 years in the health-care field as a practicing chiropractor and corporate ergonomics consultant and trainer. Dr. Criss and his wife Michelle live on Long Island with their 2 young children.



**Dr. Anne F. Simon** (Dept. of Biology) was born and raised in France, daughter of a middle school teacher, and a day-care nurse. She received a B.S. in Molecular Biology and Genetics in 1993, and a Masters degree in Molecular and Cellular Genetics in 1994 from University of Paris XI, France. She completed a Ph.D. in genetics in 1998, in the French National Center for Scientific Research, where she studied genes that affect adult brain development, in the fruit-fly. Following completion of her Ph.D. degree, Dr. Simon held a Postdoctoral Research position, working with geneticist Dr. Seymour Benzer at the California Institute of Technology. While there, she discovered that, in the fruit-fly, longevity is controlled by steroid hormones. Subsequently, she spent a year at Cedars-Sinai Medical center, in Los Angeles, as a Research Scientist to investigate the genetic basis of social behavior in humans. Parallel to her research positions, Dr. Simon also taught courses in Cellular Biology, in France, and in Introductory Biology at Santa Monica College, in Los Angeles.

Dr. Simon then worked as an Assistant Researcher at UCLA in the laboratory of Dr. David Krantz, to analyze complex behaviors in the fruit-fly, relevant to neuropsychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression. In particular, with the help of undergraduate students, she developed a new paradigm to study social behavior. Dr. Simon will continue with studies of the genetic basis of social behavior in the fruit-fly, here at York College where she is currently teaching Principle of Inheritance, Molecular and General Genetics, and a laboratory section of Biological Principles II. Dr. Simon and her husband, Stan Metchev, have a one-year old daughter, Kalina, and reside in Huntington.



**Tim Corkery** earned his Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from York College and his Master's in Social Work from Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Science. While studying at Fordham University, he was the recipient of the United Settlement House Scholarship, for his work in the area of community advocacy.

Before joining the Fine and Performing Arts Faculty full time, Mr. Corkery was an adjunct professor for six years in the Speech Communication Discipline. In addition he has been a social service consultant to various social service agencies, where he has used his knowledge of Rhetoric and Social Work to develop effective community-based models of service. In his current work, he is advocating and developing programs in rehabilitative justice. His work is based on his study of Existential Psychotherapy, especially the work of Viktor Frankel's logotherapy.



Aside from his work in clinical social work, Tim Corkery, has been successful in the creation of two debate teams in NYC high schools and served as judge for national and international debate competitions. He hopes to create The York College Debate Society.

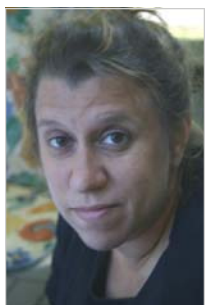


**Dr. Shao-Ying Hua** (Dept. of Biology) received a B.S. in Medicine at Shanxi Medical School, China. She completed the Ph.D. in Neurophysiology in 1993 at Saga Medical School, Japan, and postdoctoral training at University of Toronto, Canada. Prior to joining York faculty, Dr. Hua served as an assistant professor of biology at Barnard College and St. Mary's College of Maryland. In the last 7 years, she has taught Neurobiology, Contemporary Issues in Biology, lab courses and seminars in neurobiology and general biology. As an experimental and theoretical neuroscientist, Dr. Hua will continue her research in neuronal communication at York College and would like to incorporate York students in her research.



**Dr. Robin A. Harper** (Dept. of Behavioral Sciences) holds a BA from Smith College (1988); an MIA from George Washington University (1990); an MPA from Columbia University (1992), an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York (2007).

Dr. Harper's work focuses on issues of immigration, citizenship, and civic engagement. She is especially interested in the interaction between public policy and behavior. She is teaching American Politics and Introduction to Law this semester at York and will be heading up the Pre-Law Program. In 2007-2008 she was a Visiting Assistant Professor of American Politics at Wellesley College. She has taught at CUNY at Queens, Brooklyn and New York City Technical Colleges as well as Hostos Community College.



Dr. Harper was the Deputy Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and Language Services. She has worked with the Berlin city and German federal governments on immigrant incorporation issues. In the 1990s, she worked on public health and nation building cross-border efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She is currently working on a book based on her dissertation "Does Citizenship Really Matter? An Exploration of the Role Citizenship Plays in the Civic Incorporation of Permanent Residents and Naturalized Citizens in New York and Berlin." Her current research is on naturalization ceremonies and processes comparing classic immigration, civic- and ethnic-based states.

**Dr. Mande Holford** (Dept. of Chemistry) received her B.S. from York (Summa Cum Laude) as a double major in mathematics and chemistry. She then joined Professor Muir's research group at Rockefeller University where she worked on the incorporation of biochemical and biophysical probes into proteins. After receiving her Ph.D., 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.



As a result of her doctoral and postdoctoral research, Dr. Holford has published numerous journal articles. She is looking forward to getting back into the classroom, but now from a different perspective, to try to excite her students about science and her research. Dr. Holford hopes not only to do research collaboratively with colleagues, but also with students drawn from her class.

**Dr. Sarah Kate Gillespie** (Dept. of Performing and Fine Arts) received her BA from Mount Holyoke College, her MA from George Washington University, and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York, all in the history of art. Her research focuses on the intersections of art, science and technology in mid-nineteenth century American culture, primarily using the early photograph as a site from which to explore these connections. She has been awarded research fellowships from the Terra Foundation of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and the American Antiquarian Society, and is currently at work on a book-length manuscript on the first ten years of the daguerreotype in the United States. Dr. Gillespie has taught at Fordham University and the College of Staten Island, CUNY, and most recently served as Curator of Fine Arts at the Brooklyn Historical Society.



**Dr. James Popp's** (Dept. of Earth and Physical Sciences) research work is in experimental physics; primarily elementary particle physics. Currently he is a member of the *Mu2e Collaboration*, formed to carry out a high sensitivity search at Fermilab for the rare and as yet unseen decay of a muon directly into an electron in the field of a nucleus. Direct observation of such an event would be clear evidence of physics beyond the Standard Model of Elementary Particles, which has stood for decades (even in light of the discovery that neutrinos have mass).

Dr. Popp grew up in Illinois and at college was a physics and math double major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Afterwards, he worked in industrial physics at Masonite Corporation and carried out work at the John M. Coates Research Center in St. Charles IL, at that time the world's largest private forest products laboratory. I returned to academics seeking a Masters degree in physics at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb (IL) studying experimental high energy physics with the D-Zero Collaboration exploring physics at the Fermilab Tevatron. He received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from UIUC, where his research focused on the physics of high energy nucleus-nucleus collisions. Dr. Popp's post-doctoral studies were carried out at UIUC, New York University, and University of California at Irvine where he became a project scientist. Later, he began teaching physics (both at the graduate and undergraduate level) as a Visiting Assistant Professor of physics at Idaho State University. Since then he has been given the privilege of joining the faculty at York College, where he will both teach and continue his research which he very strongly intends to share with the students here.

**Dr. Rossi Hassad** (Dept. of Health Professions) is an epidemiologist, biostatistician, and licensed mental health practitioner (NY) with over 15 years experience in higher education (both traditional and online). In addition to teaching in the USA, he has served in Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts & Nevis. His areas of teaching include statistics, research, epidemiology, and experimental psychology. Additionally, he is a licensed radiologic technologist (NY). Dr. Hassad's research interests include biological and psychosocial predictors of HIV serostatus, evidence-based healthcare practice, and effective pedagogical strategies. He developed and validated a scale (the first of its kind) for measuring instructors' attitudes toward the teaching of statistics in the health and behavioral sciences. Dr. Hassad also developed and taught one of the first CD-ROM/online bioterrorism courses primarily for U.S. military personnel.

His special honors include the American Statistical Association award for best contributed paper, and the Hunter College award for teaching excellence in psychology. Dr. Hassad is a member of the New York State Board for Mental Health Practitioners. He holds an MPH degree from the University of the West Indies, and a Ph.D. degree from Touro University International. Additionally, he is certified as a graduate statistician by the Royal Statistical Society (UK), and was elected to the membership of the American College of Epidemiology and the American Psychological Association. Dr. Hassad is a founding member of the American Statistical Association, Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security, and his scholarly work includes over 23 peer-reviewed and professional conference presentations and full-length publications.



## Provost Reception for New Faculty

**Date:** Friday, September 5, 2008

**Time:** Noon to 2:00 PM

**Location:** Faculty Dining Room

*Don't  
miss!*

*It is important that all new faculty colleagues and Chairs with new faculty attend.*

Dear Colleagues,

You may have heard that there is a new favorite fruit on campus--FIGS!

Actually, this is the acronym for Faculty Inquiry Groups, which are being formed by the Task Force on General Education as it organizes its work for this “Year of General Education Reform” here at York. As you will learn at our Convocation later this month, the College is focusing efforts on a two-year project to reform General Education, and this month we kick off that process college-wide.

The Task Force, which is led by Professors Margaret Ballantyne, Vadim Moldovan, and Debra Swoboda, has created groups to garner creative solutions and innovative designs to make our General Education fit better with the College’s programs and cater better to the needs and interests of students of the 21st Century.

Task Force members and FIG leaders may invite you to participate in the reform by joining a FIG. The aim is to begin the General Education redesign conversation and involve all segments of the College in the process. Your expertise, ideas and energy are needed for successful reform. Thus, I encourage you to join us in this important endeavor, by saying “yes” if you are invited to join a FIG.

Best wishes for a wonderful new academic year!

Sincerely,



Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith  
Provost and Senior Vice President



## Alumni News



Dr. Angelo Gousse (Class of 1986), seen here with York’s Professor Emeritus of Biology Dr. Leslie A. Lewis (center), and Dr. Stella-Marie Pierre (right), was recently promoted to Professor of Urology at the University of Miami’s School of Medicine. York College would like to congratulate its alumnus on this prestigious achievement.

## Dr. Fabiola Salek receives Lolita Soriano de Guerrero Award

by Dr. Elizabeth Meddeb

In celebration of the 22nd Annual Women's History Month, The Latin American Cultural Center of Queens & Latin American Women's Council presented Dr. Fabiola Fernández Salek with the in recognition of her commitment as an educator and for her outstanding research on gender, film and Latin-American literature. Dr. Salek holds a Ph.D. in Spanish with a concentration in Gender and Film from Arizona State University. In 2002 she became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Chicago State University where in addition to pursuing her teaching and research interests she was instrumental in creating scholarship funds for Latino students. In 2006 Dr. Salek joined York College as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities, Foreign Languages and ESL, and as Coordinator of Women's Studies. This dual position has given her a unique opportunity to add a practical approach to her theoretical teaching and research interests, gender and cultural studies. Her research on film and contemporary Latin-American literature focuses on the construction of identity in Latin America. Additionally, she has contributed with entries to dictionaries, book chapters and journals and she has presented at numerous national and international conferences. Dr. Salek is very involved in Latino issues and represents York College at HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities).

An awards ceremony and reception was held at the New York Hall of Science on Sunday, March 30, 2008 to honor Dr. Salek, along with four other recipients of the Lolita Soriano de Guerrero Award, namely, Aida Gonzalez-Jarrín, Cultural Leader & Educator; Olga Iris Guzman, Principal PS 228; Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, Gang Violence & Hate Crimes Bureau; and Yamile Peña, Community Activist.

Nayibe Núñez-Berger, President of the Latin American Cultural Center of Queens & Latin American Women's Council, introduced the awardees and sent greetings. Her remarks were followed by an extraordinary musical performance delivered by the Aureole Trio.



Dr. Salek presenting her award

When the awards were presented, Dr. Salek graciously accepted the honor and spoke most eloquently on the importance of education for women. She said, "I am very thankful for this prize honoring women during Women's History Month, but I will be happier the day we no longer feel the need to celebrate it, because we have achieved complete equality not only for women, but for all humankind. Education is the key for women to become empowered, liberated and equal partners in society." Dr. Salek is an outstanding educator and colleague, and is a fine example of what an educated woman can achieve. Congratulations, Dr. Salek!

## Department Chairs at Leadership Workshop

On July 8-10, Professors Margaret Ballantyne (Foreign Languages), Coleen Clay (Teacher Education), Robert Brugna (Health Professions), Stan Schleifer (Earth and Physical Sciences), and Valerie K. Anderson (English) attended the American Council on Education Workshop held in Chicago, Ill. The theme of the workshop was: “Leading, Managing, Supporting, and Navigating Change.”

The three-day workshop highlighted the need to draw on a range of student performance and other relevant institutional data to guide decision-making in all aspects of departmental and divisional functioning. In workshop settings, participants engaged in exercises to encourage thinking about strategies, perspectives and habits of mind that are necessary to facilitate change at the level of the department and the institution.



York College department chairs at Leadership Workshop in Chicago (l. to r.): Dr. Valerie Anderson, Dr. Margaret Ballantyne, Dr. Stanley Schleifer, Dr. Coleen Clay, and Dr. Robert Brugna

The five faculty members’ participation in the ACE Workshop was sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs in an effort to examine ways in which York College can address the challenges it is facing: curriculum revision cited as necessary in the recent Middle States Report, increased student performance, retention and graduation rates.



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## Travel Grant for Dr. Linda Grasso

Dr. Linda M. Grasso was awarded a \$1,000 travel grant from the Institute for Southern Studies to examine the Anita Pollitzer Archive housed at South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina. Pollitzer is central to Professor Grasso's book in progress, *GEORGIA O'KEEFFE, FEMINISM, AND FAME*. The Charleston-born Pollitzer was a suffragist and feminist who kept O'Keeffe connected to feminist activism over the course of a fifty-year friendship.



## Faculty Member's Position Statement Accepted

Dr. Timothy W. Kirk, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, was the lead author of a position statement released on June 12, 2008 by the *National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization* (NHPCO) on the care of patients with implanted cardiac defibrillators. Dr. Kirk is also a member of the NHPCO Ethics Committee.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. The organization is committed to improving end of life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in America and their loved ones.

## Congratulations

***The Provost and Office of Academic Affairs would like to congratulate Robert Brugna, Chair of the Department of Health Professions, on his recently completed doctoral studies!***

Dr. Brugna attended Capella University, an accredited on-line university based in Minnesota. His Ph.D. is in Education, and his dissertation was titled "Augmenting the Clinical Clerkship Curriculum of a Physician Assistant Training Program with Distance Education Technology: Educational Outcomes and Student Perceptions." He found that student achievement on examinations administered during the clinical phase of the PA program increased by about five points after requiring clinical phase students to participate in an online component which included asynchronous discussions. This result was statistically significant after controlling for differences in GPA and students reported that the online component was worthwhile. Dr. Brugna had previously earned an MBA from Baruch College and he looks forward to applying his knowledge in his current role as director of the PA program and department chair.



## Department of Social Sciences on the Move

1. On June 4, 2008 Dr. Michele Gregory was interviewed by *Wall Street Journal's* reporter Emily Flitter for an article entitled "Upping the Odds?" She discussed how important it is for women to learn as much as they can about sports to increase their chances of success in corporations. The article website is <http://blogs.wsj.com/frontlines/2008/06/04/secrets-to-her-success/#comments>.

On June 6, 2008 Dr. Gregory also served as a panel member in a panel discussion on "Transforming Corporate Environments: Women as Agents of Change." The panel was organized by the *National Council for Research on Women*, for its annual conference entitled "Hitting the Ground Running? Research, Activism, and Leadership for a New Era."

2. Dr. Beth Rosenthal had the following achievements:

— Rosenthal, B.S. & Wilson, W.C. [in press]. "Community violence and psychological distress: The protective effects of emotional social support and sense of personal control among older adolescents." in: *Adolescence*.

— Rosenthal, B.S. & Wilson, W.C. [in press]. "Mental health services: Utilization and disparity among diverse college students." in: *Journal of American College Health*.

— Wilson, W.C., Rosenthal, B.S., and Battle, W.S. [2007]. "Effects of gender, ethnicity and educational status on exposure to community violence and psychological distress in adolescence." in: *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma*, 15, 93-111.

Dr. Rosenthal also had the following Paper presentations:

— Rosenthal, B.S. & Wilson, W.C. [May 2008]. "Traumatic Experience, Protective Variables and Psychological Distress in Late Adolescence." at the *European Association for Research on Adolescence*, Turin, Italy.

— Rosenthal, B.S., & Wilson, W.C. [April 2008]. "PTSD Symptoms: Results of trauma or correlates of psychological characteristics?" at the *European Congress of Psychiatry*, Nice, France.

— Rosenthal, B.S., & Wilson, W.C. [August 2007]. "Risk and protective factors in relation to PTSD symptoms." at the *International Congress on Stress*, Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Rosenthal also chaired the dissertation defense of her CUNY–Graduate Center [Social Work] student, Jannette Alejandra Treue, whose dissertation title was "Exposure to community violence and posttraumatic stress symptoms among urban late adolescents." Dr. Treue is Director of Counseling at Queensboro Community College.

*"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)

## First Meeting of the Task Force on General Education Reform

York College is on the move again. We are at the start of an exciting journey. The York College community is about to begin setting up plans for a comprehensive general education reform.



**Drs. Hamid Bahri and Laura Fishman**

First steps in this process were made back in Spring when Provost Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith delivered an address at the CUNY Conference on General Education. The Provost expressed a strong commitment to improving quality of general education and developing a signature general education curriculum at York College.

Three members of the College faculty were called upon to serve as co-chairs of the nascent task force – Drs. Margaret Ballantyne, Debra Swoboda, and Vadim Moldovan. All three carry the legacy of previous general education committees to the newly-formed York College General Education Reform Task Force. This committee held its first meeting on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Immaculate Conception Center in Queens. The retreat was attended by Provost Griffith, co-chairs, the heads of Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs) Drs. Howard Ruttenberg and

William Divale, and members of the task force: Valerie Anderson, Hamid Bahri, Laura Beaton, Robert Clovey, Animika Dasguta, Ruel Desamero, Laura Fishman, Ouida Murray, Veronica Shipp and Xiaodan Zhang.



**Dr. Margaret Ballantyne and Provost Ivelaw L. Griffith**

The meeting was the first opportunity for committee members to articulate the need for the reform, set the agenda, discuss principles, and develop tentative plans. A lively discussion included a General Education Trivia Pursuit, Powerpoint presentations, and a contestation on the subject of online technology. Invigorated by a stimulating dialogue and good company, participants left the event with a burning sense of mission. York College community will join task force participants in this momentous endeavor on the Convocation Day when plans for the reform will be unveiled and the 2008-2009 school year will be proclaimed the Year of General Education.



## CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Fall 2008 Forums and Workshops

Friday, Sept 12

***New Faculty Teaching Seminar***

10:00am–12:00pm Faculty Dining Room, AC 2D01

**Presenters:**

Margaret Ballantyne, Michael Cripps, Anamika Das  
gupta, Wenying Huang-Stolte, Heather Robinson, Debra  
Swoboda

Thursday, Sept 18

***Speaker Forum: Outside the Box: Teaching and Learning with  
Technology***

12:00pm–2:00pm Lecture Hall, AC 4M05

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Jason Scorza (Associate Provost for Global  
Learning & Associate Professor of Philosophy &  
Political Science (Farleigh Dickinson University))

Thursday, Sept 25

***1st Annual CETL Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Poster  
Session***

12- 2pm Faculty Dining Room, AC 2D01

**Presenters:** 2007-08 Title III Faculty Grant Recipients

## Announcing York College's *JoeFest*

On November 8th, 2008, York College will be hosting *JoeFest*, a conference honoring the life and work of Joe Malkevitch, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the college. Speakers will include Steven Brams, Professor of Political Science at NYU, author of *Mathematics and Democracy* (Princeton University Press), Janos Pach, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, CUNY Graduate Center, and Donald Crowe, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, author of *Symmetries of Culture* (University of Washington Press). The topics covered at this conference will include geometry, combinatorics, game theory and mathematics education.



The lectures will begin at 9:00am and continue throughout the day until 5:30pm in the faculty Dining Room (AC-2D01). A banquet will follow. A volume of papers in honor of Joe Malkevitch is being published by Boston-based mathematics publishers COMAP in conjunction with the conference. To register, or for more information go to [www.york.cuny.edu/joefest](http://www.york.cuny.edu/joefest) or contact Professor Rishi Nath at 718-262-2543.



## The Department of English & The Urban Enrichment Society

present

### *“The Legacy of the 1876 Presidential Election”*

**Guest speaker: Dr. Dorothy Swygart**

**Thursday, September 18, 2008**

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Room 1M07**



Dr. Swygart will present a talk on the significance of the Presidential Election of 1876 and its relevance to the upcoming Presidential election in November 2008. Dr. Valerie Anderson, English Department Chair, will describe the social and economic conditions of the United States in the years immediately preceding the 1876 Presidential election.

## York and Deloitte Joining Hands

York College recently joined Deloitte’s International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) University Consortium, along with nearly 100 colleges and universities across the country. Deloitte is contributing time, experience and resources to address the need to bring IFRS curricula into college classrooms and accelerate the education process among faculty and students for sweeping changes to the U.S. accounting profession.

As a member of this newly formed Consortium, York will have access to educational materials, at no cost, that employ real-life case studies and solutions from companies that have used IFRS. Participating colleges and universities are simply asked to provide feedback and input about the program. These resources will assist in making significant progress toward educating accounting faculty and students on international standards.

## York’s Kouakou Receives 2008 CUNYAC Scholar Athlete Award

**K**afui Kouakou, a senior goalkeeper for the York College soccer team, has been named the 2008 CUNY Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Also, York senior men’s basketball standout Chris Roberts (Jamaica, NY/ Springfield Gardens) was one of 32 CUNYAC Athletes who received honorable-mention selections. Kouakou, along with Roberts, was recently honored at the 2008 Michael Steurman Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner held at Baruch College.

Off the field, the Togo native’s performance was just as strong. Kouakou, who wrapped up his business management degree in the fall, will graduate with a 3.6 grade point average. Kouakou also served as the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was the vice-president of the student government. In November 2007, he was honored as the Hospital for Special Surgery/CUNYAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month.



YORK COLLEGE PLAZA

THIRD ANNUAL

YORK

FEST '08



Saturday, September 13, 2008  
12 pm-5 pm

featuring Jazz Piano Legend . . .

**TOSHIKO AKIYOSHI**

also appearing . . .

BOB STEWART'S "FIRST LINE BAND"

HARMONY MUSIC MAKERS STEEL BAND

YORK COLLEGE BLUE NOTES

Free Concert • Free Children's Rides • Free BBQ for early arrivals  
Meet your local officials • Information Session and Campus-Wide Tours



Rain Location: Performing Arts Center  
94-20 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11451

YORK COLLEGE IS NY

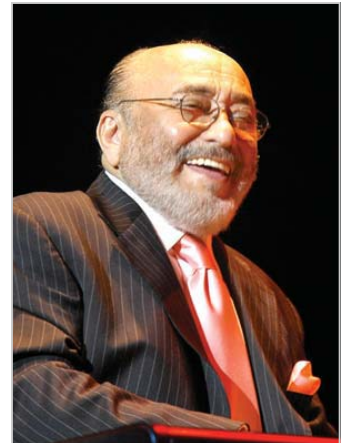
## York Performing Arts Center presents

### EDDIE PALMIERI

Friday, September 20, 2008 • 7:00PM

\$20.00 Adults \$10.00 Students & Seniors

York College is proud to present nine-time GRAMMY Award-winning Jazz pianist **Eddie Palmieri**, Live and in Concert at the York College Performing Arts Center. Mr. Palmieri's ability to fuse the rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage with the jazz influences of Thelonious Monk and McCoy Tyner made him an immediate hit when he played New York's Palladium Ballroom in the 1950s and 60s. He has continued to roll on with stylistic innovations over the years, creating classic Tico albums, and later mixing salsa with R&B, pop, rock, Spanish vocals and jazz improvisation. Palmieri, who in 2005 celebrated an amazing 50-year career as a professional musician, revolutionized the sound of Latin music, an accomplishment that would ensure his place in the music pantheon.



### ROBERT SIMS

Friday, September 27, 2008 • 8:00 pm

FREE

**Robert Sims**, the Gold Medal winner of the Enmark American Traditions Competition, has been hailed by critics for his "rich luxuriant tone", "energetic performances" and "convincing stage presence." He is highly regarded for his "moving" and "authentic" interpretations of African American spirituals and has given recitals of spirituals throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Mr. Sims has performed these concerts at the Smithsonian Institute, the Los Angeles African-American Museum, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the Chicago Historical Society, the Latour de France International Music Festival in Latour, France and the American Church in Paris. He was also featured in Classical Singer Magazine highlighting his recital tours and his varied concert career.

**Tickets available at the Box Office, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. or online at [theatremania.com](http://theatremania.com)**

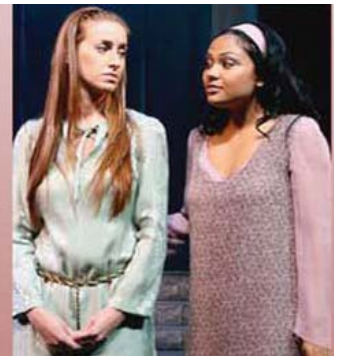
*The York College Theatre announces its 2008-2009 season and will once again bring unforgettable dramas and comedies to the York College community. The season opens October 17th and runs through May 2nd in the Little Theatre at the York College Performing Arts Center.*



### ANNA IN THE TROPICS by Nilo Cruz

*Set in 1929, this play tells the story of a family of cigar workers whose lives are changed by the arrival of a new lector, Juan Julian, who reads "Anna Karenina" to the workers. With each chapter, new desires and jealousies erupt in the factory.*

*October 18 - October 25, 2008*



**York College**  
**Office of the Provost**  
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., AC-2H07  
Jamaica, NY 11451  
**Phone: 718-262-2780**  
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**The deadline for submissions to the September issue of Academic Affairs Update is September 24, 2008.**

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