

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

YORK College

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OCTOBER 2014

Convocation Message Underscores “Dreams Can Be Achieved”



President Keizs delivering her Convocation Message

Fall Convocation 2014 was as vibrant with good news as the faculty and senior administrators

were resplendent in their academic regalia.

President Marcia V. Keizs chaired the gather-

ing in the Milton G. Bas-sin Performing Arts Center with her state-of-the-college address, which recalled the accomplishments of the last academic year, honored scholarship and service by members of the college community, welcomed new faculty and staff and most importantly, celebrated the Class of 2018.

“I am delighted that you have chosen York as the place where you will develop into young adult

cont.'d on p.13

Ph.D. Students Trained at York Defend Theses in Chemistry

Two York College Professors recently saw their work with their respective Ph.D. students from the CUNY Graduate Center come to fruition on [York's] campus with the successful defense of their dissertations.

Professor Emmanuel Chang and Professor



Dr. Fearnley and Dr. Domaradzki

Stephen Fearnley – both respected Chemistry professors at the college and beyond, mentored Hsin-Pin Ho and Maciej Domaradzki, respectively.

Ho's presentation “Development and Applications of Mass Spectrometric Methods for

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Special points of interest:

- **Doctoral Research Training at York**
- **New Faculty Welcome**
- **Nursing Mission to Haiti**
- **Faculty Grants**

Carnival Exhibition at York

by Alma Sacasa (York College Journalism Intern)

The York College Art Gallery is the most magnetic place on campus these days thanks to the *Caribbean Carnival Portraits: The Photography of Mario Picayo and Mariano Hernandez* exhibit as part of the college's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"This photography exhibition has already been shown in Cuba and the Dominican Republic," explained Dr. Margaret Vendryes, the York Distinguished Lecturer who is also director of the Gallery. "But it is here at York College that these photographs have been [displayed] as a much larger display."

At the request of the artists, the gallery has been repainted in bright tropical colors of red and yellow to bring out the photos more and give people that feeling and sense of what it's like to be at carnival when people celebrate the colors and traditions of their culture. The room is filled with 63 portraits and 104 smaller photos that celebrate carnival around the world.

"When I look at these photos it makes me want to plan trips around the



Placement and lighting of the exhibition demonstrated the craftsmanship of the curator, Dr. Margaret Vendryes

time of these carnivals in order to experience the celebration for myself" said Dr. Vendryes, who, along with President Keizs, hosted the artists at an opening night reception. That event featured culturally appropriate dancers, tropical cuisine and soothing music from Music lecturer Mark Adams and his band.

Mario Picayo and Mariano Hernandez have been photographing carnivals for more than 25 years and their subjects are used to them, which is why the viewer can practically detect a sense of comfort and familiarity with the people in the photographs. They

know who these photographers are and appreci-

ate that they are bringing awareness to their cultures and traditions to the world.

Mario Picayo, who is of Cuban extraction, also has at least one important connection to York College. He is the son of Professor Sonia Rivera-Valdes, of the Department of Foreign Languages. She and her department colleagues were also at the opening celebration on September 18.

Picayo has had his carnival and Caribbean wildlife photos shown in countries such as Argentina, Paraguay, Spain and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mariano Hernandez is a well-known Dominican photographer and has had his work shown in coun-

YORKCOLLEGE/CUNY



The audience was large and diverse

cont.'d on p.12

OT student earns important scholarship to complete master's program



From her first day at York College in the fall of 2009, Marveline Bazalais maintained her intellectual curiosity and the stellar academic record, which followed her from James Madison High School in Brooklyn to York. In fact, she was recruited to York as a Merit Scholar based on that record and she continues to rack up scholarships.

Bazalais who was drawn to York primarily for the BS/MS in Occupational Therapy, has already completed the BS part of the program and is well on her way to completing the second part, in December 2014, was recently awarded a U.S. Department of Education funded scholarship – the *Master's Degree Programs at Predominately Black Institutions*.

Her almost 4.0 GPA and research prowess helped her to score the scholarship.

"The main qualifications are that applicants must be in the masters-level or higher, of their educational careers, and they must have high academic standing," said Bazalais. "The scholar-

ship is research-oriented, so students must be willing to perform graduate-level research alongside their academic studies in order to attain and maintain this scholarship."

The high academic record required to retain her Merit Scholarship throughout the undergraduate years also prepared her for this opportunity. Now Bazalais sings York's praises.

"What I've gotten from York is a great college education, much support from faculty, a great deal of self-discovery, and great friendships and experiences to last a lifetime," said Bazalais. "What this scholarship will do for me, aside from the financial benefits, is allow me greater opportunity to master my skills in research, which is important to me, since I will become an occupational therapist with the major responsibility of performing evidence-based practice."

In addition to the scholarship, Bazalais was also selected by the New York City Department of Education to participate in its Jose OT/PT scholar-

ship program. This scholarship offered full tuition, but she turned it down in favor of the U.S. Department of Education opportunity, which provides full tuition plus \$7,000 per semester and all-expense-paid trips to state and national conferences.

Born and raised in New York City to Haitian immigrants, Bazalais also shares credit for her success with her family.

"Aside from hard work, I owe much of my accomplishments to my supportive family and my faith in God," said Bazalais.

Bazalais has been generous in sharing her skills, using her remarkable mathematics talent to tutor peers in statistics, algebra and pre-calculus. She also participated as a panel judge for three consecutive years at the Annual York College Math and Science Exposition; and was a note-taker for students in the Center for Students with Disabilities (formally known as the STAR program) at York for most of her undergraduate years.



Marveline Bazalais with Chancellor Milliken at a recent reception

"I've gotten a great college education from York, much support from faculty, a great deal of self-discovery, and great friendships and experiences to last a lifetime."

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



2014-15 Theme: Supporting Learning Outcomes Across Curricula

Thursday, Oct. 9	Presentation:	Assessment in the Classroom: Suggestions from Middle States 12 – 1:45 pm CETL, AC 4EA1
	Presenter:	Bernadette Amicucci, Health Professions
Thursday, Oct. 16	Panel:	Rereading Across the Curriculum 12 – 1:45 pm CETL, AC 4EA1
	Panelists:	Eric Metcalf, Performing and Fine Arts and Faculty Members from each of the Schools
Friday, Oct. 31	Symposium:	York College Symposium on Teaching and Learning with Technology 2014 10:00 am – 2:00 pm TBA
	Organizers:	Co-sponsored by Academic Computing and Educational Technology (ACET) & the CETL



Impressions from Convocation



York Faculty Updates



- **Christina Miller**, (Assistant Professor, Library) presented a paper, “Studies are Newsworthy: High School Students Learn about Scientific Studies from Popular Media,” at the IFLA Information Literacy Section Satellite Meeting – Facing the Future: Librarians and Information Literacy in a Changing Landscape, Limerick, Republic of Ireland, August 14, 2014.
- **George Lam**’s (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Performing & Fine Arts, School of Arts and Sciences) new chamber opera with film, Ross McElwee’s “Sherman’s March” (2014), was commissioned and premiered by the Black House Collective at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO. The opera is based on McElwee’s seminal documentary Sherman’s March, and the filmmaker filmed throughout the rehearsal and performance process in preparation for a sequel to the original film.

Welcoming our New Faculty Colleagues (Pt.2)

In Fall 2014 a cohort of new faculty across several disciplines and departments will begin their work as teachers and researchers at York College. We are proud of the new colleagues joining us and are happy to introduce them (in no particular order) in the following pages of the newsletter.

Olga Berwid

Olga G. Berwid holds a Ph.D. in Neuropsychology from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her graduate work was focused on understanding neurocognitive development from preschool age through early adulthood, and its relation to the emergence of the behavioral and emotional dysregulation characteristic of Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and related Disruptive Behavior Disorders. During postdoctoral fellowships completed at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai and at Queens College of CUNY, she

participated in research programs aimed at determining whether the protracted development of higher-order neurocognitive functions throughout childhood may be associated with improved functional outcomes, perhaps playing a compensatory role for the early emerging neurocognitive deficits characteristic of these disorders.

Based on an existing body of research suggesting that physical exercise may enhance cognitive functioning, brain growth, and development, the focus of her current research centers

around examining the potential utility of physical exercise as a longer-term, broad-based, non-pharmacological treatment for these disorders.

In addition to her research, Dr. Berwid has experience teaching several undergraduate courses within the field of Psychology, including, among others, Statistical Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, Research Design, and Psychometric Assessment.

Dr. Berwid joins the Department of Behavioral Sciences (School of Arts & Sciences) as an Assistant Professor.



Dr. Olga Berwid



Kseniia Rusinova

Ms. Rusinova's academic journey started in her native country, Ukraine, where she pursued a B.Sc. in Chemistry. "After a couple years of undergraduate studies, I realized that I had no future professional opportunities," said Rusinova. Immigrating to the United States in

August 2007, she decided to continue her education and advance her scientific knowledge, and in August 2010 she was admitted at York College.

In May 2013 she graduated with Honors in Biology. "While getting my undergraduate degree, I was able to work as work-study stu-

dent in the Biology Department," she said. "After a few months I started working there as an Adjunct College Laboratory Technician." Ms. Rusinova has great experience working with teaching faculty, staff and college students. "I believe that my academic background and cul-



Kseniia Rusinova

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ture will bring an additional diversity,” said Rusinova. Moreover, she intends to continue pursuing her education

in the sciences. Currently, she attends City College for an MS degree in Biology.

Ms. Rusinova joins

the Biology department (School of Arts & Sciences) as a College Laboratory Technician.

Iara Cardo



Iara Cardo

Born and raised in Argentina, Iara Cardo immigrated to New York and attended the City College of New York (CUNY), where he earned a B.A. in English Literature. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, specializing in medieval literature from England, Spain and Italy.

As a graduate student, he started teaching at York College as a Graduate Teaching Fellow and, once the Fellowship ended, as an

Adjunct Lecturer, teaching Spanish language classes and, occasionally, medieval literature.

He has, simultaneously, worked in technology for the past 16 years in the private sector, first as a Network Administrator, and then founding his own consulting business, specializing in assisting companies of all sizes with a variety of technological needs, including desktop and server support, cloud services, networking, etc.

Since 2011, Mr. Car-

do has worked as a part-time College Laboratory Technician at the department of Foreign Languages (School of Arts & Sciences) Computer Laboratory, using the combination of skills acquired through the years and across different disciplines to better understand and attend the unique technological needs of students within an academic setting.

Mr. Cardo is now joining the Foreign Languages department as a full-time College Laboratory Technician.

Nicholas Githuku



Dr. Nicholas Githuku

Dr. Nicholas K. Githuku holds a Ph.D. from West Virginia University in African history with a focus on Eastern Africa in general, and contemporary political history in Kenya in particular, a Master of Arts in Armed Conflict and Peace Studies from University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor of Arts (1st Class Honors) Degree in History and Political Science & Public

Administration from the University of Nairobi.

He also received the 2013-14 Robert and Wynona Wilkins Scholarship, the 2012-13 British Institute in Eastern Africa Research Grant, the 2012-13 Rebecca D. and Henry E. Thornburg doctoral award and the 2011 WVU Chancellor's Scholars Fellowship award. He is a Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) fellow and a

Rotary International World Peace Fellow, and an expert in conflict resolution and security issues especially post-conflict reconstruction (security sector reforms) and state-building.

His research interests include: the generic African state; human rights and development issues in Sub-Saharan Africa; counterterrorism & security issues in Africa

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and beyond; democratic governance; justice, war & structural peace; peace-building, peace-keeping, postwar reconstruction and state-building in Africa; structural conflict, negotiation and mediation; politics and political trends in the Great Lakes the Horn Regions of Africa; memory and memorialization of war; electioneering and elections; postcolonial / contemporary Kenyan politics; post-1989 Eastern Europe (Balkans) history; the First and Second

World Wars; and European history (1648 to present).

His Ph.D. dissertation was inspired by the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007/8. The study, "Mau Mau Crucible of War: Statehood, National Identity and Politics in Postcolonial Kenya," has been described as an important and impressive study of the social and cultural history of the mentality of struggle in Kenya, which reached a high-water mark during the Mau Mau war of the

1950s, but which continues to resonate in Kenya today in the ongoing demand for a decent standard of living and social justice. It is currently under contract with Lexington Books and is expected to be published as a monograph.

Dr. Githuku joins the Department of History and Philosophy (School of Arts & Sciences) as an assistant professor of African History.

Bridging theory to practice in an underserved community



Left: taking a moment to enjoy the scenery

This past summer a group of Nursing students had the opportunity to travel to Haiti for the clinical portion of their elective course-NURS 450 - *Assessment of Global Health Needs in an Underserved Community*. The trip was made possible through a grant obtained by Assistant Professor Margaret

Alexandre from the Office of Academic Affairs/Office of the University Dean for Health and Human Services.

Caring for a Chickungunya patient at the clinic, who came in with a very high temperature. Conferences and lectures were held to assist the students to reflect, synthesize, and

apply global health care needs and assessed information. Students and faculty work alongside other health professionals at the Mission of Grace Medical Clinic to conduct health assessments. Overall goal of the travel was to provide a service learning experience where students could contribute to delivery of health care to an underserved population on a global level; as well as to provide engaged learning that integrates theory into practice.



Assisting with dressing changes at the community clinic

Fine Arts Gallery Exhibition: Build Up/Built Up – Io Palmer



Io Palmer

Accomplished installation artist, Io Palmer has been invited to build new mixed media sculptures that explore the excessive, low-wage labor associated with couture garments and how fashion industry production waste has polluted waterways in some of the most poverty stricken areas of the globe.

Build Up/Built Up will engage the College community as well as outside visitors in a visual investigation of the ramifications of human abuses to each other and of the natural environment. The potential for this exhibition (Oct. 23 - Dec. 5) to create cross-disciplinary dialogues in

courses in all of the Sciences as much as the Humanities is indisputable.

Palmer will give an artist's talk in the Fine Arts Gallery geared towards the College community, and will be open to the public. She is also willing to invite interested students to participate in the installation of the work. This is a valuable experience for those looking to continue beyond their BA in the art professions.

Io Palmer was born on Hydra, a Greek island off the coast of the Peloponnese. Through depictions of cleaning products, laborers' garments and various other industrial and

domestic forms, Palmer's artworks explore the complex issues of class, capitalism and societal excess. Trained originally as a ceramicist, she uses a variety of processes and materials among them fabric, steel, sound, and wood.

Palmer has been featured in several prestigious group exhibitions. The exhibition at York College will debut new work.

Palmer holds a BFA from the Tyler School of Art (Temple University), and an MFA from the University of Arizona. She is associate professor of fine arts at Washington State University.

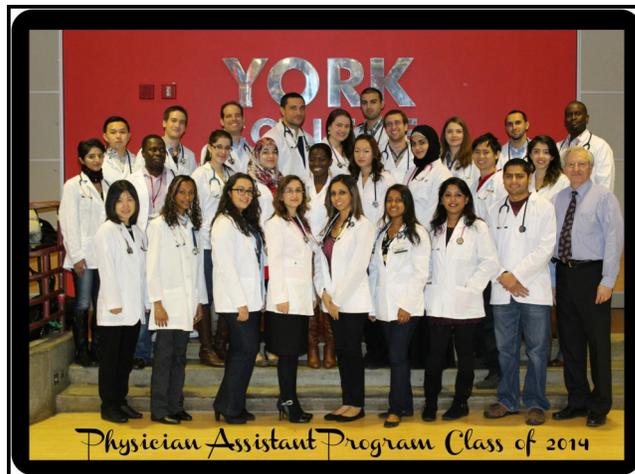
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

Physician Assistants Graduation

Earlier this summer, the York College Physician Assistant Program held a graduation ceremony to honor the 29 men and women who had successfully completed the arduous course of study and are now Physician Assistants. This graduating class was the ninth since the inception of the Program in 2004 (see

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picture on p.8) and demonstrates why this program is often referred to as the United Nations of PA Programs. The event was held in the Performing Arts Center and was well attended by the graduates, faculty and numerous family members.

The graduates were honored that York College President Marcia Keizs and Dean Lynne Clark of the School of Health and Behavioral Sciences were in attendance and spoke. The guest-speaker, chosen by the graduates them-

selves, was Elizabeth M. Cabezon, PA-C, who is a Physician Assistant in the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology, at New York Hospital-Queens. She was selected because of her commitment to quality patient care and her dedication to educating our professional students. Her remarks were both informative and inspiring.

The Physician Assistant Program at York College is dedicated to providing a high quality educational experience to our students so that

they may grow into caring, competent, and ethical medical professionals ready to enter into practice. An additional goal is to provide well trained professionals who will bring medical care to the neighborhoods in Queens and the other boroughs of New York City.

The majority of our graduates do, indeed, remain in Queens where they become affiliated with medical institutions that provide care to our local population.

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

- Frederick Douglass

Music Professor Releases Dynamic New CD

Mark Adams has done it again – with aplomb no less.

“Conversations,” is the York College Music lecturer, pianist, composer’s most recent jazz CD; and it totally rocks.

“What inspired the title is the fact that in music we have conversations – instruments talking and reacting to one another like any other kind of conversation,” said Adams, who has been a touring musician for more years than he seems old enough to have done.

With song titles such as “New Beginnings,”

Adams says,” Song for My Mother,” “Goodbye,” and “After the Storm,” one senses that this is a deeply personal album and it is.

“My father loved this CD,” Adams explained. “Even though he did not live to see it completed. I know he would have been proud. He played on two songs and conducted the string ensemble on three songs.”

Adams’ father of course, was York Professor Kenneth G. Adams (1946-2011) who taught at York for decades and was chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts at

the time of his death.

“‘Goodbye,’ was how I got my emotions out dealing with my dad’s death,” said Adams, of one of the few tracks with words. “Dave Ernst wrote the song, ‘Free Day,’ which also features my dad on flute.”

The collaboration amongst son, father and other musicians, worked to create a delightful album that is wont to have listeners bopping in their cars and elsewhere. It is aptly dedicated to the father who encouraged [Mark] Adams’ career as a working mu-



Mark Adams

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English Professor gets Japan Studies grant



The SDSU Japan Studies Institute welcomed 13 faculty members from across the country



Dr. Theresa Rooney

Late last spring York College English Professor Theresa Rooney received a \$4,000 fellowship to participate in the 2014 Japan Studies Institute at San Diego State University (SDSU).

The Institute offers full-time faculty members from U.S. colleges and universities the opportunity to study about Japan during a two-week intensive program. Dr. Rooney is no stranger to Japanese language and culture. In the early 1980s she lived in Tokyo and taught English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teacher.

She also worked in Japanese companies here in the United States and holds an advanced language proficiency certification in Japanese.

The fellowship afforded Rooney the opportunity to attend a fac-

ulty development conference focused on Japanese culture and academia.

Rooney summed up the experience in an interview. "With a country as rich and diverse as Japan, you can't learn about it through a textbook – you have to immerse yourself in the culture," said Rooney. "This experience was similar to actually being in Japan. Thanks to the hands-on approach, we got to understand the culture from many different perspectives."

The institute, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), is designed to help educators who wish to incorporate information about Japan into the courses they teach. They have the opportunity to learn from scholars, business

leaders, artists and government officials about modern Japan throughout the two-week program.

Designed for faculty with no prior experience in Japanese studies, "Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum," the program ran from June 10 through 21 at SDSU.

Dr. Donna Chirico, acting dean of York's School of Arts and Sciences supported Dr. Rooney's trip.

"The College commends Professor Rooney in her efforts to continue to grow as a professional member of our community and as a scholar," said Dr. Chirico. "She is an exemplar of experiential learning and will now bring her new knowledge back into the classroom."

Six York Students Win New York Needs You Fellowship



Karishma Sookraj

These days it's not only Uncle Sam who needs young people. New York also needs them. *New York Needs You* (NY Needs You) is an organization dedicated to the mentorship of first-generation college students and has chosen six

members of the York College Class of 2017 for their program.

Asma Begum, Karishma Sookraj, Rahimul Taher, Rehanuma Islam, Stephanie Igbinovia and Zokirjoh Umarov have all been granted New York Needs

You Fellowship that will see them through to graduation from college. Another three members of the Class of 2017 have also been waitlisted.

"The *NY Needs You* Fellows Program will

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sician and in academia. "In memory of my father Ken Adams (RIP)" reads the understated tribute from son to beloved father whose images also grace the back of the CD cover.

As a pianist, Mark Adams has amassed a growing list of theater credits from Broadway ("The Color Purple" and "Five Guys Named Moe,"), Off-Broadway ("Keep Bangin,'" directed by dancer Savion Glover), to York College ("Rent" and "Dream Girls").

He has also toured throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and worked with some of the biggest

names in jazz and pop music – Roy Ayers, Dave Valentine, Lonnie Liston, Mary J. Blige, Lela Hathaway, Erykah Badu, Noel Pointer, Lou Rawls ...

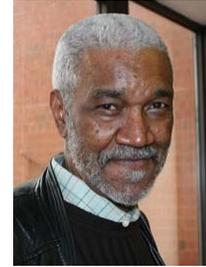
In addition to this latest CD, Adams has released four others: "Feel The Groove," "Embellishments" – featuring York colleague, Jonathan Quash, and "Love & Dance." Next year he will release "Q&A" featuring Jonathan Quash with special guest Ron Carter and Roy Ayers.

He has also published two books of the same title, *BASICS* (A New Comprehensive Ap-

proach to Learning the Basic Concepts to: Music Theory, Piano Techniques, Keyboard Harmony, Jazz Styles and Techniques and Music History).

Adams also makes time to serve as faculty advisor to the York Chapter of National Association for Music Education (NAFME); and performs with his band in concert at York and at events at the college, such as openings at the college's Art Gallery.

"Conversations" can be purchased on *Itunes* and *Amazon.com* and on my website at www.markadamsjazz.com.



The late Professor Ken Adams

Psychology faculty scores major EU grant

Dr. Cezar Giosan, adjunct assistant professor in Psychology, is the recipient of a million dollar European Union grant to develop and clinically test a computerized intervention for depression. The duration of the grant is now through April 2018.

Dr. Giosan has been teaching at York College since 2009. He holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the New School University. His past academic jobs include a

postdoctoral fellowship at Weill Medical School of Cornell University, which was followed by a seven-year tenure in the Department of Psychiatry at Cornell University, where he last served as an Assistant Professor of Psychology.

Dr. Giosan's present academic affiliations include Berkeley College (NYC) as well as Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

This grant follows

another ongoing one that Dr. Giosan obtained in 2011 in the amount of \$500,000, in which he is testing, in a randomized clinical trial, the efficacy of an evolutionary addition to the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Depression.

York students in his classes have had the chance to learn statistics and research methods from Dr. Giosan who is able to use his cutting-edge research as an example.



Dr. Giosan pursuing his other interest

cont.'d from p.1



The reception was standing room only

tries such as Mexico, Spain, Japan and Chile. His carnival images were also honored in a series of postage stamps in the Dominican Republic. Both photographers are giving people the experience of a life-time, by providing the carnival life through photos.

“It’s not an easy thing to do when you are taking photographs of active moments to be able to compose them so well and

these two photographers have that skill that they can compose within a frame so beautifully and instantly” said Dr. Vendryes.

According to Vendryes, a celebrated artist herself, Carnival is an event where music, colors and costumes come together to tell a story.

“It is a well-organized exhibition with characteristic photographs from the Caribbean carni-

vals, presented with elegance and gusto, and a few surprises that engage visitors,” said Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at York.

The artists were in attendance and the visitors had the opportunity to share their observations with them. Professor Sonia Rivera-Valdes had the inspiration and was instrumental in making and maintaining contact and hosting the artists. Professor Margaret Vendryes with her artistic insights, organized and coordinated the gallery presentation while Dean William Dinello from the President’s Office, provided the logistical support for this outstanding Presidential exhibition.

The Caribbean Carnival Portraits Exhibit will be available for viewing through October 15th and is a must-see.



A view from the outside (of the gallery) in

YORKCOLLEGEUNY

Pictures at an Exhibition. Mussorgsky himself would have been inspired (too).



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scholars as you fully immerse yourselves in our learning community,” said President Keizs to the first-year students in attendance. “Every year at this time, I charge the incoming class to facilitate their success by, as E.M. Forster says in *Howard’s End*, “only connect [ing].”

“Connect with your advisors and indeed, with your fellow students. Connect as well by joining any of our nearly 50 student clubs or run for a spot on Student Government; sign up for a Journalism class and become a reporter on our award-winning student newspaper *Pandora’s Box*. This will enhance your powers of inquiry and help you to develop as confident writers. Connect with the Scholarship Office located inside of Institutional Advancement; and connect with the Office of Career Services, which will help you locate job internships possibly at JFK Airport, in an accounting firm or in a not-for-profit managing data. You will also find tutoring support in the Academic Achievement Center ...”

The president welcomed faculty returning from sabbatical and had a warm “welcome back” for Political Science

Professor Richard Boris, who had spent the last several years as executive director of the National Institute for Collective Bargaining, housed at Hunter College.

She also presented awards for Faculty Scholarship to Dr. Sundee Bisla (English) and Dr. Michael Sharpe (Political Science), as well as the Service Award to Barbara Hall of Institutional Advancement.

President Keizs was especially delighted to share news around the areas of accreditation and new degree programs.

“York enjoyed a number of successes. Our Middle States Periodic Review Report was accepted with no recommendations,” said Keizs. “The next report will be due in 2017-18. The dual BS/MS Occupational Therapy Program met Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) standards for exam pass rate. Nursing and Social Work programs were likewise successfully reaccredited this year for eight years. As well, this year, two new majors in the Baccalaureate in Business Administration were launched in Logistics and Supply Chain Man-

agement and [in] International Business. The Masters in Pharmaceutical Science Program was approved by college governance and has been put forward to the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs for review.”

Dr. Keizs also highlighted the Fulbright Scholarship Award to Dr. Vadim Moldovan (Social Work) and Fulbright Specialist Award to Dr. Linda Perry (Business); as well as York’s status as a START-UP NY-designated campus, enrollment, student satisfaction, Charter Review, CUNYfirst and Pathways, grants and fundraising and a litany of other important matters.

“You will see from this report we’re moving actively on a number of fronts, to assure that we continue to be competitive,” she said at the September 18th gathering. “While there are challenges aplenty, we believe that we have the human capital to make some of these aspirations become reality and to close the gaps on our weaknesses and challenges.”

The president, in closing, underscored her message that “dreams can be realized.”



Faculty came out in good spirits and splendid regalia



Faculty Scholarship Award winner Dr. Sundee Bisla



Faculty, students and staff mingled afterwards to enjoy, food, sunshine and conversation

cont.'d on p.14



Members of the audience filing into the Auditorium

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“Seven years ago York College committed as part of the University Collaborative to become engaged in doctoral training,” she recalled. “Five students entered the program, one in physics and four in Chemistry. Last week,

Dr. Hsin-Pin Ho, who studied with Dr. Emmanuel Chang; and Dr. Maciek Domarazki, who studied with Dr. Steven Fearnley – both in Chemistry – defended their dissertations. This, ladies and gentlemen, is a sig-

nificant achievement and gives me hope that our ‘big hairy audacious goals’ can be achieved. Let’s continue to do good things at York!”

A Somber Moment of Reflection



At the thirteenth anniversary of 9/11, Vice President Dr. Geneva Walker Johnson presided over a ceremony at York in memory of the victims. Guest attendees included members of the NYPD and FBI.

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Asma Begum

open the doors for great opportunities and will provide me with the invaluable resources that I need to become a successful person in society,” said Begum. “The one-on-one mentor coach, career development workshops, and the

access to internships will help me build leadership qualities. I will learn professional and networking skills for excelling in the professional world.”

According to Kimberly Harris, CEO of America Needs, the lead

organization, 85 percent of first generation college students are of low-income backgrounds and only 11 percent of first-generation college students go on to graduate.

The *NY Needs You*

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Phosphorylation Analysis," represents "some of the highlights from the five years conducting research in the Department of Chemistry at York," according to Chang, her mentor.

All research and teaching required for the doctoral students were done at York while the administrative part of the process was done at the CUNY Graduate Center. Ho recently told *Academic Affairs Update* (AAU) about her experience at York.

"There are tons of interaction between undergraduate and Ph.D.s, here," said Ho. "I have been interested in educating and mentoring the students as part of my funding. Dr. Chang has been really, really helpful from the second I came to York College. He knew I was an international student (from Taiwan) and he was patient and willing to teach me what I didn't know. I learn his way to teach and most of the times he takes time to explain to the students and that helps me understand how to teach the experiment. Most importantly, he gave me clear directions where to go when I get lost."

Chang says mentoring Ho was a win/win.

"She's done remarkably well," said Chang.

"She learned a lot here, but she also came with very strong background in analytics and was able to apply it in Biochemistry. She's very proactive in trying new things and coming up with ideas. She is very thorough in what she does. One thing that struck me was her eagerness to learn not only science, but she worked very hard at learning English..."

Dr. Fearnley enjoyed the experience as well.

"I think it's fantastic that our undergraduates get to see Ph.D. students actually here on York's campus," he said. "Not only does it show we mean business as researchers, but also the students now have active role models for their own career paths."

For Domaradzki it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

"Working for Dr. Fearnley has been a challenging, yet an exhilarating and rewarding experience," said Domaradzki, who is originally from Poland. "He is an atypical organic chemistry professor, and he has taught me how to become a true scientist rather than a mere researcher, and entrenched the concept of forming knowledge instead of learning information."

But this was more than a student learning

from an outstanding professor.

"I will always treasure the opportunity I had to work in his laboratory, which has allowed me to better myself as an organic chemist," said Domaradzki, of Fearnley. "Our spontaneous and heated chemistry debates and thought-provoking discussions on every possible topic will be truly missed. The faculty and staff in the Chemistry Department made my stay at York College easier and a thoroughly enjoyable experience."

President Marcia V. Keizs is delighted with the outcome of York's foray into the Ph.D. arena too. "Seven years ago, York College committed as part of the University Collaborative, to become engaged in doctoral training," said Keizs. "Five students entered the program, one in Physics and four in Chemistry. Dr. Ho and Dr. Domaradzki have defended their dissertations. It is a significant achievement and it gives me hope that our big audacious goals can be achieved."

For Chang and his colleagues, the opportunity to expand their teaching and research mentoring was also a welcomed opportunity.



Dr. Chang (l.) and Dr. Ho posing with President Keizs (r.)

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cont.'d on p.16

This was new to York College. It has been a catalyst for driving my research forward than (it would) with undergraduates because of the depth you can get into.

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“When President Keizs made the decision to fund these Ph.D. students, we recognized that it was a leap of faith,” said Chang. “This was new to York College and we were pleasantly surprised at how many students she was willing to support. It has been a catalyst for driving my research forward than (it would) with just undergraduates because of the depth you can get into.”

Newly-minted Dr. Ho, who did all her rotations at York, also remarked on support from faculty throughout the Chemistry Department as well as some of the intangibles from which she benefited as well.

“Faculty here are very supportive,” said Ho. “Everyone in our department is supportive and I did a lot of time in their labs and the environment is very rich for research work. The multi-cultural environment made an impact on me. I loved working with undergraduates from different cultures.”

Ho had appreciative words for the Provost as well. “He took care of my funding,” she said of Dr. Panayiotis Meleties, who in addition to being interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs is also a Chemistry professor.

Ho’s presentation was impressive, according to Chang who explained that the work in her thesis is two-fold.

“First, she developed a new methodology using mass spectrometry for performing quantitative phosphorylation analysis – experiments that answer the question ‘how much phosphate is added to a protein’ - that is cheaper, faster and easier than current methods,” said Chang. “This involved extensive honing of experimental conditions, testing on different types of protein to show that the method is general, and comparison to methods that already exist. She was able to show that her method works on many different proteins, and compares well with current methods that are more expensive and slower.”

Chang added that the second part of Ho’s thesis centered around phosphorylation in the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

“There is a protein called ‘reverse transcriptase (RT)’ that takes HIV genetic material and converts it into a form that can be hidden in our own chromosomes,” said Chang. “This process is partly why HIV is so insidiously hard to cure. With our collaborator Dr. Ma-

tias Lichterfeld and his research group from Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital, we discovered that RT gets phosphorylated by a human enzyme (called cyclin-dependent kinase, or CDK) that in healthy patients is responsible for helping cells divide. In a process that we are still getting our heads around, HIV is able to hijack the host CDK, which then makes RT work more efficiently. While there are many vital steps in the HIV life cycle, it seems that we uncovered a new one, which may hold potential for therapeutic development down the road.”

Fearnley too sang the praises of everyone involved. “Graduating a Ph.D. student like Maciej has been a long-held ambition of my own; I consider myself very lucky that he chose York,” said Dr. Fearnley. “All of us in the Sciences are extremely grateful to President Keizs for committing to the doctoral program so whole-heartedly. I also think thanks are due to Provost Meleties, Dean Chirico and our Director of Sponsored Programs & Research, Dawn Hewitt. Without them none of this would have happened.”

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program provides grants and matches the students (Fellows) with young professionals as well as host more than two dozen professional development workshops throughout the duration of their time in the program from sophomore through graduation.

According to Randy Punter, deputy director for York's Office of Career Services, through which the students were placed, the program leads students to the fulfillment of their professional goals.

"This is a great accomplishment," said Punter of the compara-

tively large number of his mentees who got into the program. "We are very proud of their achievement. We did well."

According to Karishma Sookraj, a Biology major, they were required to fill out a questionnaire to facilitate the match with appropriate mentors.

York's Office of Career Services is consistently on President Marcia V. Keiz's list of resources students need to access and these nine or more students who applied to the *New York Needs You* program speaks to the import of

that advice.

For Begum, this fellowship is a shot in the arm for her future.

"The Program will boost my self-confidence, knowing that I have the opportunity of building a foundation for getting me nearer to my career goals," she said. "Overall, the Program guides me to the next level and eventually will direct me to a successful career as a Physician Assistant. I am honored to be part of 2014 NYNY Fellows Program and know that I will walk away a better and stronger person."



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The deadline for submissions to the November 2014 issue of Academic Affairs Update is October 24, 2014.

All items should be submitted in MS Word

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