

Change in Action

New Student Orientation 2013

Staff in the Spotlight: Ebonie Jackson

Student Achievement: Swatanter Polite

Congratulations: Truett Vaigneur

Summer Events Calendar



The Division of Student Development

VISIONS

Associate Dean of Student Development  
Dr. Thomas Gibson

*"We provide eye witness accounts of our observations and experiences of triumphs and disappointments in supporting student persistence and success on colleges and universities campuses."*



Greetings York College Cardinals,

I welcome you to the second issue of Visions, the Division of Student Development Newsletter. In this issue, I would like to share with you a new publication, which I co-authored, entitled, Views from the Frontline: Voices of Conscience on College Campuses. This book is a collaborative effort among colleagues from colleges and universities across the United States. In this book we provide eye witness accounts of our observations and experiences of triumphs and disappointments in supporting student persistence and success on college and university campuses. My chapter, Supporting Student Persistence, is informed by 15 years of higher education experience and shares what I have learned. Much of my work, supported by research, highlighted academic interventions and strategies that I had employed to support students' persistence toward graduation. While engaged in the throes of this work, I would routinely hear from then colleagues

to "stop holding your students hands. They can figure it out on their own."

What my then colleagues failed to understand was that I was not fostering student overdependence. Rather, my efforts, among others, were increasing their connection and engagement with the college. I understood early on that it is the institution's responsibility to retain students. And it is students' responsibility to persist.

*"I was simply supporting their persistence".*



Did You Know?

Guy. R Brewer Blvd

According to the Queens Chronicle Guy R. Brewer Blvd, "was first known as New York Boulevard. But 28 years ago, the street in South Jamaica ...was renamed in honor of witty, no nonsense Assemblyman Guy R. Brewer "

Brewer served the community from 1968 to 1974. He was credited with helping to develop York College when the City University of New York wanted to expand within the Jamaica area.

*His grandson, Guy R. Brewer also taught in the Adult Basic Education Program at York in the early 1990s.*

Fraser, Lisa. A. (2010, November 11). Guy R. Brewer Blvd.: in honor of a fighter. The Queens Chronicle. Retrieved from [http://www.qchron.com/32ndanniversaryedition/guy-r-brewer-blvd-in-honor-of-a-fighter/article\\_5d6eefcf-76b5-5d57-bff8-da42720d1a0f.html](http://www.qchron.com/32ndanniversaryedition/guy-r-brewer-blvd-in-honor-of-a-fighter/article_5d6eefcf-76b5-5d57-bff8-da42720d1a0f.html)

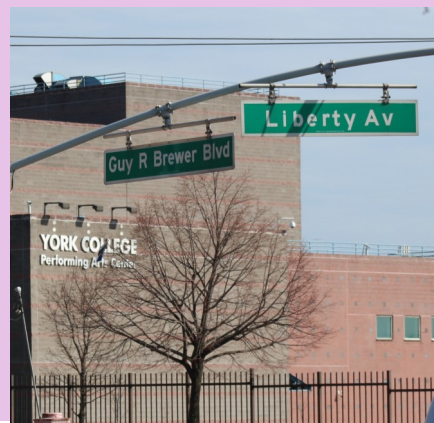
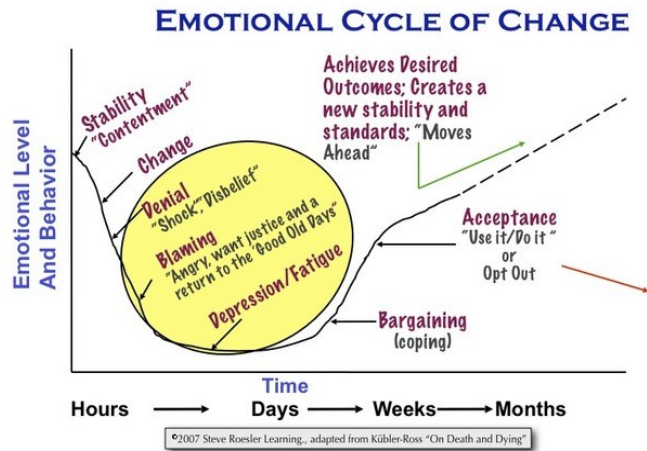


Photo Credit: Sonya Forrester

# CHANGE in ACTION

eSIMS to CUNYfirst

General Education and Pathways General Education



<http://www.allthingsworkplace.com/2007/11/change-reacti-1.html>

We are in the midst of a few significant changes at York, most notable is the change from eSIMS to CUNYfirst. We've also adopted the new Pathways General Education Requirements which students will have the chance to opt into at a later date, or remain with the current general education requirements.

With the implementation of both systems happening in such a short window of time, as new information replaces the old, we've all experienced some emotional reaction to the changes; some more than others. As we begin to use both systems more frequently and efficiently, a new normal will occur. Hang in there!

Resources are available if you need more information and assistance. Visit the York College portal for information about both Pathways & CUNYfirst. CUNYfirst technical support is also available in the 3H Wing.

## New Student Orientation

### Volunteer today to welcome the Class of 2017!

On Wednesday, August 14th, 2013, The Division of Student Development will host new students and their families. There will be a variety of activities geared towards students meeting each other, meeting faculty and staff and learning more about the York College community.

Current York College students, faculty, staff, students' clubs and alumni are invited to volunteer their time for this special occasion.



Class of 2016!

Please respond by July 15th  
to  
Lisa Maycock  
[lmaycock@york.cuny.edu](mailto:lmaycock@york.cuny.edu)  
718-262-2329  
OR  
Sonya Forrester  
[sforrester@york.cuny.edu](mailto:sforrester@york.cuny.edu)  
718-262-5298



NSO 2012



# Staff in the Spotlight: Ebonie Jackson

*"Good deeds inspire me. Seeing people work hard and succeed inspires me. I'm a firm believer in learning AND leading by example. Nothing inspires me more than seeing the people around me become massively successful!"*



Ebonie Jackson  
Coordinator of the York College Women's Center/  
Adjunct Lecturer  
7 years at York College

## Education Background

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in US Government & Foreign Affairs - The University of Virginia - 1997. Masters in Business Administration (MBA) - Columbia University - 2004

## As a child, what did you want to be when you grow up?

I wanted to be everything! And I still do! I believe that careers are fluid. The days when you would pick a job and stay in it for 30 years then retire are over.

**What are your career aspirations?** I still haven't decided what I want to be when I grow up! In terms of my professional background, I have almost a decade of experience in corporate banking before I switched over to higher education.

Within higher education, I've been an adjunct lecturer since 2006 - and I've also held administrative positions within Student Development. Prior to my current role in the Women's Center, I was the Coordinator of Enrollment for the SEEK Program

**Describe your role in the department that you work:** I plan and coordinate all the programs and initiatives at the Women's Center. Our goal is to provide supportive services for female students as they pursue their academic and lifelong goals. We do this through a variety of unique programs each month such as the 'Women of Excellence Mentoring Program', our "Girl Talk" series and the work we do with various women's health initiatives.

**If you were featured on the cover of a famous newspaper or magazine, what would it say:** It would probably say something like "This pushy lady tries to help people". I really believe in the transformative power of education. And once I adopt someone (or they adopt me) then I am tirelessly focused on helping them be successful.

**What's the number one skill or practice that has contributed to your success?** The skill of building relationships is probably the greatest tool in my arsenal. Nobody works alone and it's so important to be able to connect with people on a fundamental level. This enables me to collaborate and get the job done.

**Your advice for York College students** Don't take the easy way out... work hard and know when to ask for help. Stay focused on your goals.

**What is the best part about working in the Division of Student Development:** Without a doubt the best part about working in Student Development is the students. I love interacting with students on a daily basis and helping them develop into a well rounded person. Sometimes students can play too hard (or work too hard) and I like to teach them about being balanced.

## What will be your legacy at York?

I want my legacy to be that I helped students from an under served population succeed in college and in life. There are lots of students who were not academically or socially prepared to succeed in college. But they deserve a quality education and a chance to achieve their goals like everyone else. My purpose is to see that they get that...

## ABOUT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

*The York College Women's Center provides supportive services for the growth and development of women students as they pursue academic and lifelong goals.*

*Although services are primarily geared towards women, the Center is committed to providing programs and services for males of all ages and backgrounds. The Center services students, alumni, faculty, and staff and its surrounding community without regard to gender, age, ethnicity, or religion."*

*Located in 3C01*

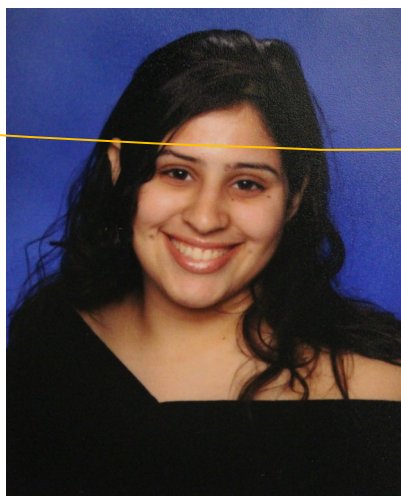
## INTRODUCING CUNYfirst...

- Once you have claimed your account in CUNYfirst, the CUNYfirst system will send messages only to your York College email address. Make sure that you have activated your York email account.
- Contact the IT Help Desk by using Y-connect or calling (718) 262-5311, if your account does not appear to be working properly
- After claiming your account, **it is imperative that you keep your CUNYfirst ID (EMPLID) handy, as your Social Security number will no longer be used to access student records.**

**Visit the York College CUNYfirst Student Information Page**

# Outstanding Student Achievement

## SWATANTER POLCE



### Junior Political Science

#### What activities are you involved in here at York and outside?

At York College I am known by my involvement on campus. I am a member of the York Tensor Scholars group, Math club, Honda Campus All Stars Team (captain) and the Honda Campus All Stars Club (President). I am a Success Networking Team Coordinator in the National Society of Leadership and Success. I also sit on the Foundations of Excellence Committee for the school.

Outside of York College I am involved in tutoring younger children. I am an active member of my local library's Advisory Board. I am also involved in child care and always look for new ways to get involved in my community.

#### How has being at York help to shape your life, both academic and in general?

I would say that being at York has helped shape my life in many ways. Academically, York College is a great school as it offers so many choices when it comes to majors. When I first came to York I intended on pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Physician Assistant. However, as I took these classes I started to see that although the topics were great I really didn't want to be a Physician Assistant, so I changed my major to Political Science.

Once I started this major I found that I really enjoyed the courses. It is because of my enrollment at York that I found where my true calling is. I also think York has shaped my own growth in general. I feel that at York I was able to develop personal relationships.

#### Maintaining a good G.P.A and still being involved in other activities is something most students struggle with balancing, how do you manage your time?

I was like most of my peers when it came to time management. I have to say thanks to the National Society of Leadership and Success for helping to guide me in managing my time. I can say this because the society required me to put in large amounts of time. I feel that having a lot of responsibilities stressed the importance of having a schedule. In that way work can be prioritized by importance. The combination of a physical planner and digital planner is how I am able to keep everything together.

*I have to say thanks  
to the National  
Society of  
Leadership and  
Success for helping  
to guide me in  
managing my time.*

#### What motivates you as a student?

One of the many things I use as motivation would be my family. My family always encourages me to be my best and is always supportive of what I do. Another source of my motivation would be my friends, peers and professors.

My peers and friends entice me to excel as they do the same. Finally, my professors are a huge source of my motivation. Other than being educators, they are role models, counselors from whom I seek guidance.

#### What are your short term and long term goals and the steps you plan to take to achieve them?

My first goal is to graduate from York with my BA in Political science and Teaching. I plan to accomplish this by being fully focused on my course work. Outside of education I would love to be able to reach out to my local high school and help students understand the value of getting an education.

I hope to enter a graduate program where I would like to pursue one of two paths, Teaching or Law. Outside of school, I want to go overseas and help develop education systems in under developed countries.

#### What advice would you give to students who aspire to have the same successes? (academic, school and community involvement)

- Organize and Prioritize- Make a checklist with task that are most urgent at the top
- Time Management- Time is one of the most difficult things to manage. However, if one's time is managed properly there will be enough time to get work accomplished.
- Concentrate- Keep focused and stay away from easy distractions.
- Be Motivated- Most students perform better if they are motivated. Hence set a goal and motivate yourself to achieve it

This is how I have achieved my successes and I hope it will help others achieve the same.

To nominate a student for the "Outstanding Student Achievement" feature, please contact Sonya Forrester at [sforrester@york.cuny.edu](mailto:sforrester@york.cuny.edu)

Interviewed by Leanne Tavernier

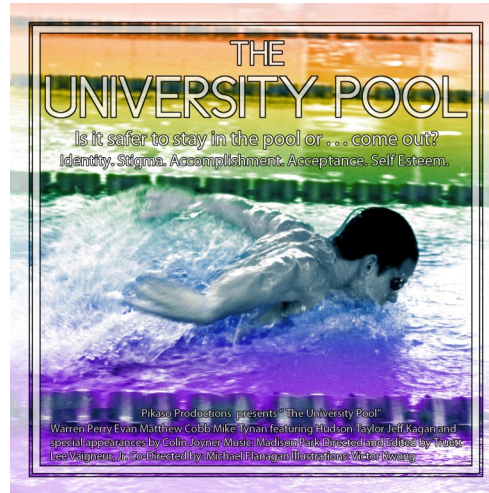


# Doctoral Candidate...

**TRUETT L. VAIGNEUR, JR.** showed up on campus five years ago as a CUNY LEADS counselor. "It was my first experience working full time on a campus and I was eager. I had always wanted to work in higher education but it was weird as it happened by accident."

Truett graduated from Hunter College with a BA in Creative Writing/Education in 2000. "I knew, after I did my student teaching that I wanted to work in Higher Education. I discovered that I loved talking to the students after class about their issues, where they were going after high school, and at times just finding themselves." In 2004, he returned to Hunter to earn a Master of Arts in Counseling. He was actually chosen to be an Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service intern and started counseling right away.

Four years later he got picked up by the CUNY LEADS program, placed at York, and has been here every since in one capacity or another.



Cover of Truett's video

Truett is also a doctoral candidate at Long Island University – Post. He will defend his dissertation this summer. While doing a writing assignment his first semester in the EdD program, Truett read an article that touched on the stigma of being a gay athlete. "It was interesting as I have always studied the subject of identity and this was a subgroup on campus that I had never considered before – I usually focused on differently-abled students or gifted/talented students in higher education."

Truett was so into his subject that he actually formed his own production company, **Pikaso Productions**, and produced an educational documentary based on his dissertation research.

*The University Pool* has been seen on several university campuses, including CCNY, BMCC, and CUNY Central, and there are upcoming dates at NYU, Columbia, The Graduate Center and it will be introduced into the national LGBT film festival circuit this summer.



The future Dr. Vaigneau here answering questions at BMCC after screening of "The University Pool".

## Student-Development Theory: Chickering's Seven Vectors

Author Chickering, a pioneer in the research on college student development, theorized that college students change throughout their college years regardless of what they may, or may not do. There are many variables which affect student's development, of which, environment plays a significant role. Chickering proposed Seven Vectors of Student Development in his book "Education and Identity", which describes seven common areas of development in college students.

1. **Developing Competence** – in intellectual, physical and interpersonal areas...and confidence in one's ability to cope with what comes.
2. **Managing Emotions** – becoming aware of feelings and learning to trust them more.

3. **Becoming Autonomous** (moving towards interdependence) – recognition and acceptance of interdependence is the capstone of autonomy. As interdependence is recognized and accepted, boundaries of personal choice become clearer.
4. **Developing mature interpersonal relationships**—increased capacity to respond to people for whom they are and respect for those of different backgrounds, habits, values and appearance...
5. **Establishing Identity** – process of discovering with what kinds of experiences, at what levels of intensity...we resonate with. Clarification and stabilization of identity involves the 6 other vectors.

6. **Developing Purpose** – Ability to be intentional, to assess interests and options, to clarify goals, to make plans, and to persist despite obstacles.
7. **Developing Integrity**—clarification of a personally valid set of beliefs that have some internal consistency and provide a tentative guide for behavior.

*Lasting personality changes may not occur in a blinding flash...While some epiphanies are dramatic and sudden, most occur gradually and incrementally. We may not know for years that a single lecture or conversation or experience started a chain reaction that transformed some aspect of ourselves*  
Arthur W. Chickering

Chickering, Arthur, W. (1971) *Education and Identity*. Jossey-Bass Inc.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## APRIL

- 8th The Barbershop, 5pm, Room 2D01
- 11th Women of Excellence Leadership Workshop, 12 noon
- 18th Mastering the Interview, 12 noon, Room 3M01
- 25th Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Panel Discussion
- 26th Big Apple Job Fair, 9am—2pm, Jacob Javits Center
- 28th M.S. Walk, South Street Seaport
- 29th Girl Talk, 5pm, Room AARC

## MAY

- 2nd Annual Wellness Festival, Atrium  
Women of Excellence Leadership Workshop, 12 noon, Room AARC
- 10th Book Club, 3pm, Room AARC

## JUNE

New Student Advisement Workshops—  
*Call 718-262-2272 or visit 1G02 for more information*

## JULY

New Student Advisement Workshops

## AUGUST

14th New Student Orientation  
[www.york.cuny.edu/nso](http://www.york.cuny.edu/nso)



*Cherry blossoms in front of PAC on Guy R. Brewer*

Photo Credit: Sonya Forrester

## May 2013

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## June 2013

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30						

## July 2013

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Division of Student Development: Offices & Programs

The Division of Student Development		2F01	718 262 2152
Career Services	3M01	The STAR Program	1G02
Child & Family Center	160th Street	CUNY LEADS	1G02
Counseling	1G02	ROTC	2F01
EOC	Archer Ave	Student Activities	1E01
Health Services	1F01	TRiO Student Support Services	3E03
Jumpstart	1E01	TRiO York Enrichment Services	1G02
Men's Center	3M02	Veteran's Affairs	1G02
The Percy Sutton SEEK Program	1C08	Women's Center	3C01

Sonya Forrester

Yvonne Dixon

Leanne Tavernier

Coordinator, Layout & Editor

Assistant Coordinator & Editor

Student Contributor

[www.york.cuny.edu/student-development](http://www.york.cuny.edu/student-development)