

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

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EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue, we welcome you to a new academic year. As Executive Vice Chancellor Logue notes in her message below, the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has already embarked on the year's work with energy and enthusiasm. We are eager to share developments with you in these pages and online. Have a wonderful fall semester!

—Erika Dreifus
OAA Director of Communications

A Message from the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

Think of the old riddle: Does a tree make a sound if, when it falls, no one is around to hear it? This same underlying concept applies to the importance of communicating the work of the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA). To a significant degree, if no one knows about our goals, the progress we are making toward achieving them, and the challenges that remain, our goals do not really exist. Without shared knowledge of our goals, we cannot all work together to achieve them. That makes it very difficult to effect the positive change toward which all of us are always striving.

Recognizing these truths, OAA has prioritized articulating and communicating key components of our work. Last year, we began posting goals—key projects—online. At midyear, we posted progress reports on each endeavor. During the summer, our staff prepared year-end reports, which we invite you to read at <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/oa/goals/2008-2009.html>.

We will continue to keep you informed in 2009-2010. Please visit <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/oa/goals.html> to learn about our priority projects for the coming year. You will also see which senior staff members are leading each effort, and with which other Central Office units we will especially be working on particular goals.

You will also notice that this year we have structured our goals within a new framework: that of the University's Performance Management Process (PMP). We are keenly aware of the importance of accountability and assessment across our campuses, and we believe it will be useful to conduct and communicate our work guided by the same core principles measures that apply systemwide.

We are greatly looking forward to a most productive academic year, and to keeping you fully apprised of our work and progress. This will be a year of record-breaking enrollments, and we happily anticipate sharing the year's challenges and opportunities with you.

—Alexandra W. Logue

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OAA WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENTS, CAOS

The new academic year begins with new leaders on several CUNY campuses. New permanent college presidents include Dr. Karen Gould, Brooklyn College; Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Hostos Community College; and Dr. William L. Pollard, Medgar Evers College. At Baruch College, Dr. Stan Altman has been named Interim President.

In addition, new chief academic officers (CAOs) are serving on several campuses: Dr. James Stellar is now Queens College's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; at Queensborough Community College, Vice President for Finance and Administration Diane Call is serving as Acting Provost; and at Medgar Evers College, Dr. Howard C. Johnson has been appointed Interim Senior Vice President and Provost.

The Office of Academic Affairs looks forward to working with all of these leaders, and offers congratulations on their appointments.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES APPOINTMENTS OF THREE NEW DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

At its meeting of June 22, 2009, CUNY's Board of Trustees approved the designation of three Distinguished Professors: Professor Laird Bergad, Lehman College (Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies); Professor Stephen Steinberg, Queens College (Department of Urban Studies); and Professor Graham Priest, Graduate School and University Center (Department of Philosophy).

The Office of Academic Affairs heartily congratulates all three of our newest Distinguished Professors and extends a special welcome to Professor Priest as he begins his CUNY career. For more information about these and all of CUNY's Distinguished Professors, please visit <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/oa/distinguished.html>.

DEAN DAVID STEINER APPOINTED NYS EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

On July 27, the New York State Board of Regents elected Dr. David M. Steiner as New York State Education Commissioner and President of the University of the State of New York. Since 2005, Dr. Steiner has served as Klara & Larry Silverstein Dean of the School of Education at Hunter College.

The Office of Academic Affairs enthusiastically congratulates Dean Steiner on his new position, which he will take up on October 1. We are delighted to be able to continue to work with him in his new role.

School of Pharmacy Planning Committee Established

A planning committee has begun meeting to determine what is needed to establish a school of pharmacy at CUNY. Led by University Faculty Senate Chair Manfred Philipp, the committee also includes: University Dean for Health and Human Services William Ebenstein; Professor Eitan Friedman (Sophie Davis School); Professor Lawrence Johnson (York College); Dean Panayiotis Meleties (York College); Michael Palmieri, Director of the FDA Northeast Laboratory sited at York College; Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jerald Posman (York College); Professor Susan Rotenberg (Queens College); Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Frederick Schaffer; Interim Associate University Provost Julia Wrigley; and Director of Space Planning Meghan Moore-Wilk (Central Office).

TRANSITIONS

The Central Office of Academic Affairs begins the 2009-2010 academic year with two new members among its senior staff:

Dr. Nancy Aries, who is serving as Interim University Dean for Undergraduate Education, and **Dr. Joan Lucariello**, who joins us as Interim University Dean for Academic Affairs.

We also welcome **Dr. Arlene Torres**, who will serve as Director of CUNY's Latino Faculty Initiative. Dr. Torres comes to CUNY from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

At the same time, we bid a bittersweet adieu to **Vice Chancellor for Student Development Garrie M. Moore**, who is returning to his home state of North Carolina. We will miss you, Vice Chancellor Moore!

BOARD APPROVES NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

At its meeting of June 22, 2009, CUNY's Board of Trustees approved these new academic programs:

- AS/BS and AS/BA Joint Programs in Biotechnology and Biology (Kingsborough Community College and Brooklyn College)*
- MS in Biomedical Laboratory Management (Hunter College)
- AS/BS in Accounting for Forensics/Economics (Hostos Community College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice)
- AA/BA Joint Programs in Criminal Justice (Borough of Manhattan Community College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice)*
- BA in Global History (John Jay College of Criminal Justice)*
- MA in International Crime and Justice (John Jay College of Criminal Justice)*
- BA in Children's Studies (Brooklyn College)*
- BT in Emerging Media Technologies (New York City College of Technology)
- AA in Spanish Translation (LaGuardia Community College)*
- AA in Philosophy (LaGuardia Community College)*
- AA in Communications (LaGuardia Community College)*

(Programs with an "*" have since been registered with New York State Education Department. Other programs await registration.)

NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE GAINS MOMENTUM

In the short time since our last newsletter reached you, CUNY's New Community College initiative (NCC), which is developing an alternative associate degree model designed to significantly increase graduation rates for community college students, has gained substantial momentum. First, in May, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$560,000 award to support the NCC. This grant to CUNY is part of \$1.3 million in awards that the Gates Foundation has recently made to help colleges in New York City and Washington State to develop innovative programs that will help low-income adults earn degrees or technical certificates with immediate value in the marketplace.

Then, in August, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced his "Gateway to the Middle Class" plan to expand socio-economic opportunity for New Yorkers by transforming the city's community colleges. The Mayor's plan will invest an additional \$50 million over the next four years to strengthen CUNY's community college system's quality, accessibility, affordability, and accountability. Moving forward with the NCC, with its potential to provide training for jobs in emerging fields, add new capacity to the CUNY system, and offer a national model of successful education, is a key element of the Mayor's plan.

To learn more about the multi-faceted "Gateway to the Middle Class," please visit <http://www.mikebloomberg/gateway>. For additional information and updates about the NCC, please visit <http://www.cuny.edu/ncc>.

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP SERIES ANNOUNCED

Coordinated by University Director for the Performance Management Process (PMP) Sherri Ondrus, OAA will provide professional development and encourage University-wide discussion about assessment of student learning through three workshops to be held at the Macaulay Honors College (9:30 a.m. to noon).

To attend, RSVP to OAAevents@mail.cuny.edu.

Session dates and titles follow:

September 25 - "A Road Map for Designing Program Level Assessment of Student Learning"

October 9 - "Content Analysis as a Tool for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes"

November 20 - "Using Assessment to Im(Prove) Student Learning"

ASAP RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT SUPPORT

Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) was recently awarded a \$3.7 million grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to expand the ASAP program, conduct a random assignment study of the program, and support transfer scholarships for ASAP graduates matriculating to CUNY senior colleges in fall 2009.

A new cohort of students, to be dubbed ASAP Helmsley Scholars, will be admitted to two community colleges in spring and fall 2010. ASAP Helmsley Scholars will receive the same comprehensive package of financial incentives, advisement, and academic and career development support services that is provided to current ASAP students. The program will maintain its current goal of graduating at least half of its students within three years. The grant will also support a five-year random assignment study of ASAP to be led by MDRC, a highly regarded social policy research organization.

Helmsley Trust funds will also be combined with a grant for \$190,000 from the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women (JFEW) to launch the ASAP Transfer Scholarship Program. This program provides scholarships and targeted advisement for high-performing ASAP students who will attend Baruch, Hunter, Brooklyn, and Queens Colleges in fall 2009. Students may receive the scholarship for up to four semesters to allow them to complete their bachelor's degrees.

SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

September 15: This year's CUNY Financial Management Conference, "A Look Ahead - CUNY 2025," will open in Tarrytown (the conference will continue on September 17 at the Graduate Center).

September 16: This is the application deadline for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics Instruction. Please visit <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/academic-news/math-award.html> for details.

September 25: The first of three assessment workshops will be held at the Macaulay Honors College. Please see the article on page 3 of this issue for details.

September 26: The life and work of Distinguished Professor Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, who passed away last spring, will be celebrated at the Graduate Center. Details: http://www.gc.cuny.edu/events/details_landing.asp?EventId=23311.

September 29: The Board of Trustees will hold its first meeting for the 2009-2010 academic year.

October 5: CUNY's "Serving Science" series resumes at Kouzan Restaurant on the Upper West Side (\$10 cover charge includes one drink). This evening's speaker will be Dr. Jill Bargonetti, Professor of Biological Sciences at Hunter College. For details, please visit <http://web.cuny.edu/research/Serving-Science-CUNY-Science-Cafe.html>.

October 9: The second of three assessment workshops will be held at the Macaulay Honors College. Please see page 3 for details.

October 30: New York City College of Technology will host a conference titled "Synergy in STEM: Bringing Mathematics, Physics and Engineering Together." Abstract submissions are due by September 11. Registration is free. For more information, please visit <http://websupport1.citytech.cuny.edu/faculty/mseip/conference09>.

FOUNDATION FUNDS CUNY-BASED RESEARCH

Just as the 2008-09 academic year drew to a close, the Community College Research Center (CCRC), Teachers College, Columbia University, received a \$5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to research strategies for accelerating progression and increasing success among low-income young adults attending community colleges. Among the eight new studies CCRC will conduct using these funds, one will use community college system data drawn from CUNY.

The CCRC will utilize student unit record data from all six community colleges "to examine remedial assessment and placement policies, programmatic intervention, and the impact of each on students, particularly low-income young adults."

To learn more, please visit <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu>.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[WWW.CUNY.EDU/
ACADEMICS](http://www.cuny.edu/academics)

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. Please send any feedback and/or ideas for future content to erika.dreifus@mail.cuny.edu, or visit the Office of Academic Affairs electronic suggestion box at

<http://www.cuny.edu/academics>

Special thanks to Anne Fitzgibbon and Jordan Rome for their contributions to this issue.

ACRONYMS OF THE MONTH

CUNY acronyms can be confusing. The Office of Academic Affairs has tried to demystify them with an online dictionary: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/www/acronym-dictionary.html>.

Did you know, for instance, that we have multiple CATs here at CUNY?

CAT: Committee on Academic Technology

CAT: Creative Arts Team

CAT: CUNY Assessment Tests

CUNY-CAT: CUNY Center for Advanced Technology in Photonic Applications.

OUTSTANDING ONLINE RESOURCES

In every issue, *Academically Speaking* spotlights relevant Web resources for the CUNY community. If you know of a site that you think should be featured here, please contact Erika Dreifus, OAA Director of Communications, with your suggestion. Thank you!

CUNY's Decade of Science Blog

As its tagline indicates, this new resource offers "Dispatches from CUNY Scientists on Expeditions to the Far Ends of the Earth." Expect to find live video feeds, slide shows, and written updates.

<http://cuny.edu/special/decade-of-science/blog.html>

Adjunct Faculty Resources

Developed by the Office of Academic Affairs with contributions from the Colleges, this site features adjunct faculty handbooks, teaching resources, and information, as well as professional development opportunities.

<http://web.cuny.edu/academics/oaa/uei/facresources/adjunct.html>

CUNYMath

This site describes itself as existing "to supply students and faculty in the City University of New York with a central location for information about mathematics and resources that CUNY and the Internet have to offer."

<http://www.cunymath.cuny.edu>