

# ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our latest issue of "Academically Speaking." Although it's difficult to believe, this will be our final newsletter issue published in 2009. Happy Holidays from the Office of Academic Affairs! We look forward to greeting you again in January 2010.

—Erika Dreifus, OAA Director of Communications

## A Message from the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

As we predicted last spring, this fall CUNY has record enrollments: approximately 260,000 unique students (also known as unduplicated headcount) in credit-bearing courses, a 6 percent increase over last fall. We have exceeded the previous record set in 1974 when CUNY charged no tuition. Increases have occurred in all aspects of our enrollment, but particularly in graduate enrollment. Further, a greater portion of the increase is due to retention of current students than to new students, which bodes well for our graduation rates.

The increase in full-time-equivalent students (FTEs) is even larger: 8 percent. FTEs represent how many full-time students it would take to generate a given number of course registrations. When FTEs increase more than unduplicated headcount, as has occurred at CUNY this fall, students are, on average, taking more credits. This, too, augurs well for graduation rates.

Nationwide, many colleges—but not all—have increased enrollments this fall. Not even all public institutions have demonstrated increases. We attribute our substantial increases not only to the depressed economy, but also to CUNY's burnished reputation, which continues to grow.

As affirming as our record enrollments may be, they also pose significant concerns. We remain committed to making available to each student an excellent educational environment. But it can be very difficult to fulfill that commitment when enrollments grow so quickly. It is hard to hire enough full-time faculty and student support personnel to accommodate such rapid enrollment growth, and facilities can become severely strained.

Therefore, the central office and the campuses are continuing intensive discussions about how to keep enrollment growth at a reasonable level while simultaneously remaining true to CUNY's mission of providing wide access to an excellent education. As we move forward, we will take advantage of the excellent knowledge and ideas of the entire CUNY community to ensure the best possible future for our system.

—Alexandra W. Logue

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## **BOT NAMES INTERIM VC FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, PRESIDENT**

At its meeting of September 29, 2009, CUNY's Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Dr. Peter G. Jordan as Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Dr. Jordan has served as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Development at LaGuardia Community College since 2004. He succeeds Dr. Garrie Moore, who left CUNY effective September 30.

The Board also appointed Dr. Robert E. Paaswell to serve as Interim President of the City College of New York. Dr. Paaswell is a Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering who came to City College in 1990 as Director of the federally-supported University Transportation Research Center (UTRC). Dr. Paaswell succeeds Dr. Gregory H. Williams, who resigned after eight years in office to accept the presidency of the University of Cincinnati.

The Office of Academic Affairs looks forward to working with Dr. Jordan and Dr. Paaswell in their new roles pending the completion of national searches for permanent appointments to each position. We also wish the very best to Dr. Williams and Dr. Moore in their new endeavors.

## **GATES FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT FOR NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS INITIATIVE**

New York City recently learned that it will receive a Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP) Planning Grant for \$250,000 for the period November 2009 through June 2010. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the grant is overseen by the National League of Cities.

The grant will facilitate planning for the New York City College Readiness and Success Initiative, which will bring together the resources of the New York City Mayor's Office, the New York City Department of Education (DOE), the City University of New York, and an extensive group of local community-based organizations. The Initiative aims to: clearly define and communicate important determinants of "college readiness" and "college success," increase the number of students who graduate from high school having met "college readiness" standards, increase the number of high school graduates who enroll in colleges that are an appropriate match for their level of preparation, improve the degree-completion rates of high school graduates in CUNY colleges, and develop a mechanism for tracking and rewarding progress toward these goals. If all goes well, this award may be followed by a significantly larger grant to continue the work.

In large part, the new grant is based on work launched by CUNY and the DOE in December 2008 to address college readiness and success issues that affect the two systems. This collaboration has focused on academic alignment, college awareness and planning, research and data sharing, and accountability and sustainability.

## **EVC LOGUE PUBLISHES SECOND IHE COLUMN**

The prominent website Inside Higher Ed has published a second article by Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra W. Logue. EVC Logue's "Behavior Management and a University System" appeared online on October 8, 2009.

Building from the premise that "any complex organization must balance how much independence to give to individual units, and how much to ensure that those units follow a uniform path," the article describes "how CUNY has struck this balance, and how principles from behavioral psychology have been part of this process, and could be used elsewhere." To read the full text, please visit [www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/10/08/logue](http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/10/08/logue).

### **NEW CUNY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH BEGINS ACCREDITATION CANDIDACY**

At its meeting of October 22-24, 2009, the governing body of the Council on Education for Public Health, the nationally-recognized accrediting body for schools and programs in public health, formally approved the CUNY School of Public Health's request to begin the accreditation candidacy. This is a momentous milestone in the development of the new SPH.

The Office of Academic Affairs would like to thank and congratulate all of the faculty and staff throughout the University who have helped CUNY reach this point. The work continues toward establishing an SPH that will make unparalleled contributions to the health of New York City's residents and of city-dwellers worldwide.

## CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRAD MATH INSTRUCTION CONFERRED

The first recipients of the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics Instruction have been named. They are: Thomas Mormino, Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Mathematics at the College of Staten Island; Frank Wang, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science at LaGuardia Community College; and Walter Wang, Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at Baruch College.

This award program, which confers a \$5,000 prize to each winner, is administered through the central Office of Academic Affairs to recognize faculty who have implemented an outstanding instructional method for teaching undergraduate mathematics at CUNY. These instructional techniques must be shown to positively impact student learning and to have the potential to be used with large numbers of students.

Applications were reviewed by a panel composed of CUNY mathematics faculty and OAA staff. The award recipients were selected from a very competitive pool and honored at a reception on October 29. The Office of Academic Affairs congratulates the three prize recipients on their awards and thanks them, and all of this year's nominees, for their superb instructional contributions to the University.

## MATHEMATICS FACULTY ENCOURAGED TO EXPERIMENT

The Office of Academic Affairs is delighted to announce that CUNY has purchased a block of licenses that will enable CUNY mathematics faculty to experiment with the Maplesoft-MAA Placement Test Suite. The package includes assessments of arithmetic, basic and advanced algebra, trigonometry, and elementary functions, as well as calculus readiness. Detailed information and a webinar are available at [www.maplesoft.com/products/placement/index.aspx](http://www.maplesoft.com/products/placement/index.aspx). Although the University remains committed to COMPASS to determine basic proficiency, we wish to encourage mathematics faculty to explore additional means of tailoring instruction to the specific needs of their students. It should be noted that CUNY already possesses a license for the COMPASS Diagnostic assessments, as well as the means to store the data from these assessments in SIMS. Faculty may arrange to familiarize themselves with the COMPASS Math Diagnostics Test by contacting the Director of Testing at their campus.

If faculty at any college wish to draw from the University's pool of Maplesoft licenses, the appropriate Math Department chair or designee should contact Dr. Ray Moy, CUNY's Director of Assessment ([Raymond.Moy@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:Raymond.Moy@mail.cuny.edu)) to make the arrangements.

## JOSIAH MACY, JR. FOUNDATION FACILITATES NCC PLANNING

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation has awarded CUNY \$35,000 to support planning for the New Community College (NCC). This grant will fund a November 16 meeting that will focus on how a new model of community college education may provide pathways to health-related careers and engage students in public health issues.

More than 90 prominent scholars and practitioners in the fields of medical education, nursing, and public health—including many CUNY faculty and administrators—will join Chancellor Matthew Goldstein at the New York Academy of Medicine to explore these topics. The meeting will also address ways to ensure that senior colleges and graduate schools, including medical and other professional schools, recognize the rigor of the NCC curriculum. For more information, please contact Stephanie Benjamin ([Stephaniebenj@yahoo.com](mailto:Stephaniebenj@yahoo.com)).

### Editorial Tips and Tricks

Welcome to what may become a recurring feature: a column that will address usage issues that many of us encounter in our university setting.

Let's begin with the best way to present academic degrees in text. Our source is *The Associated Press Stylebook*:

"Use an apostrophe in *bachelor's degree*, *a master's*, etc., but there is no possessive in *Bachelor of Arts* or *Master of Science*."

"Also: an *associate degree* (no possessive)."

"Do not precede a name with a courtesy title for an academic degree and follow it with the abbreviation for the degree in the same reference:

Wrong: *Dr. Pam Jones, Ph.D.*

Right: *Dr. Pam Jones, a chemist.*"

Comments?  
Questions? Write to  
[Erika.Dreifus@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:Erika.Dreifus@mail.cuny.edu)

## GET TO KNOW OIRA ONLINE

The **Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA)** is comprised of four units: the Office of Institutional Research, the Office of Assessment, the Office of Policy Research, and the Transfer Information and Program Planning (TIPPS) Unit. Please see [www.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/oira.html](http://www.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/oira.html) for full descriptions of each unit.

The main OIRA site ([www.oira.cuny.edu](http://www.oira.cuny.edu)) offers a wide range of reports about student information and trends at CUNY, from broad topics such as university enrollment to specialized research and analyses. Data tables display information on student admissions, enrollment, persistence, degrees granted, and other topics, both for recent and historical semesters. Special reports include a demographic “profile” of CUNY undergraduates, a task force report on the CUNY Writing Assessment, and responses to our biennial undergraduate Student Experience survey. The main page of the OIRA site is also where you can find the schedule for The Higher Education Policy Seminar Series – a program hosted by the Office of Policy Research in which experts in the field are invited to present on current higher education issues.

Please use the links above to get to know OIRA’s work. If you have any questions, please contact Caryn Giananti, Senior Research Analyst ([Caryn.Giananti@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:Caryn.Giananti@mail.cuny.edu)).

## SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

**November is CUNY Month**, “a celebration of the people and programs that enrich every part of the University.” Please visit the dedicated Web site: [www.cuny.edu/cunymonth](http://www.cuny.edu/cunymonth).

**November 23:** A CUNY College Fair for Veterans will take place at BMCC. Active duty personnel, reservists, and dependents are also welcome. Panels and discussions will cover the admissions process, financial aid and VA benefits, and student life. To find out more and pre-register, please visit [www.cuny.edu/veterans](http://www.cuny.edu/veterans).

**November 23:** The CUNY Board of Trustees will meet at 4:30 p.m.: [www.cuny.edu/trustees](http://www.cuny.edu/trustees).

**Through December 4:** The CUNY Cares 2009 Toy Drive welcomes donations of new, unwrapped toys to benefit children who are enrolled in CUNY’s Child Care Centers. For campus details, please visit [www.cuny.edu/toydrive](http://www.cuny.edu/toydrive).

**December 4:** CUNY’s 8th Annual IT Conference will take place at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. This free conference will offer an overview of the University’s key IT initiatives; an opportunity to explore how technology is changing the nature of instruction, research, and administration; and an occasion to meet with sponsors and hear from IT leadership. Details: [www.convergemag.com/events/CUNY-8th-Annual-IT-Conference.html](http://www.convergemag.com/events/CUNY-8th-Annual-IT-Conference.html).

**December 7:** Today is the deadline for CUNY undergraduates to submit essays for the 2009 CUNY Nobel Science Challenge. Details: [www.cuny.edu/research](http://www.cuny.edu/research).

**December 7:** The “Serving Science” series continues with Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) addressing “Genes in the Courtroom: Science and Justice for All.” Details: [web.cuny.edu/research/Service-Science-CUNY-Science-Café.html](http://web.cuny.edu/research/Service-Science-CUNY-Science-Café.html).

**December 8:** As part of the Office of Policy Research’s Higher Education Policy Series, Dr. Camille Charles (University of Pennsylvania) will discuss “Explaining Racial Disparities in Student Achievement” at the Graduate Center: <http://oira.cuny.edu>.

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OFFERS TRAINING FOR CUNY STUDENTS

During November and December, the University’s Leadership Academy will provide training for both the CUNY Ambassadors Program, in which students develop advocacy skills, and the CUNY Corps, which nurtures leaders who wish to serve their campuses, communities, city, and beyond. Students are encouraged to learn more and register for these programs at the Leadership Academy’s Web site: [www.cla.cuny.edu](http://www.cla.cuny.edu)

NB: The current (November-December) issue of *CUNY Matters* includes a feature article on the Leadership Academy. A PDF of this issue is available at [www.cuny.edu/news/cm-archive.html](http://www.cuny.edu/news/cm-archive.html) (check page 8).

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

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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](mailto:erika.dreifus@mail.cuny.edu), or visit the Office of Academic Affairs electronic suggestion box at

[www.cuny.edu/academics](http://www.cuny.edu/academics)

*Special thanks to Anne Fitzgibbon, Caryn Giananti, Joshua Martino, Jordan Rome, and Lenora Wade for their contributions to this issue.*

### ACRONYMS OF THE MONTH

Sample Education Association Acronyms

**AAC&U:** Association of American Colleges and Universities

**AASCU:** American Association of State Colleges and Universities

**AACC:** American Association of Community Colleges

**ACE:** American Council on Education

**ACTA:** American Council of Trustees and Alumni

**APLU:** Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities

*For more information on these and other acronyms, please visit [web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/www/acronym-dictionary.html](http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/www/acronym-dictionary.html).*

## 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!

### “Planning for City University’s New Community College”

On October 15, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs John Mogulescu spoke about the planning behind CUNY’s New Community College before an audience at New York University’s Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy. The full text of Dean Mogulescu’s remarks has been added to the NCC Web site.

[www.cuny.edu/ncc](http://www.cuny.edu/ncc)

### CUNY Academic Commons

CUNY’s Academic Commons — “part academic social network, part resource hub, part conversational forum”— will debut officially at the IT Conference on December 4 (please see p. 4 for details on that event). But you can begin to explore the Commons right now.

[www.commonsgc.cuny.edu](http://www.commonsgc.cuny.edu)

### CUNY Flu Resources Web Site

As Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Allan Dobrin noted in a recent update, “CUNY encourages campuses to remain vigilant in combating the spread of influenza.” Resources for the CUNY community, including flu vaccination locations, are available via CUNY’s Flu Resources Web Site.

[www.cuny.edu/flu](http://www.cuny.edu/flu)