

2008 URBAN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

"EXPLORATIONS AND DISCOVERY"

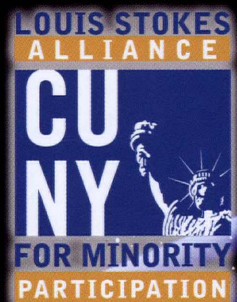
new york city alliance NEWS

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Issue III
2008 Conference Issue

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nyc-amp.cuny.edu or call 212-650-8854



Keynote Speaker

Marie-Elena John Smith



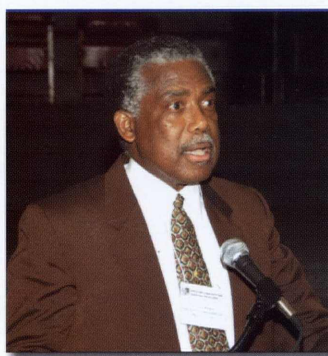
Born and raised in Antigua, Marie-Elena John moved to New York in 1982, where she attended the City College of New York, graduating as CCNY's first Black female valedictorian (1986). After working with the World Council of Churches' Program to Combat Racism, in Geneva, Switzerland (1987 – 1988), she returned to New York where she received a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, specializing in culture and development in Africa (1990).

She subsequently moved to Washington, D.C., where she began a career designing, implementing, and funding development, human rights, and women's rights programs in Africa. In her first position with the African Development Foundation (1991 – 1995), she traveled extensively throughout the Continent in support of African researchers who used community participation in their development-related research.

She next spent five years with the International Human Rights Law Group (1997 – 2002), supporting the work of the pro-democracy movement in Nigeria and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her efforts became concentrated on raising awareness of a debilitating but little-known, continent-wide problem: the denial of inheritance rights to women. Her pioneering work on inheritance rights both at the United Nations and at the local and national levels represents one of her major contributions to her field.

From 2002, John began researching and writing her debut novel, *Unburnable*, which spans the African Diaspora and draws on the African underpinnings of Caribbean and African-American cultures. *Unburnable*, published by HarperCollins/Amistad in 2006, was short-listed for the 2007 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award in the debut fiction category, and has been nominated for the 2008 IMPAC International Literary Award.

She is currently working on her second novel and on the screenplay of *Unburnable*.



Neville A. Parker, Ph.D., P.E.
Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Civil Engineering
NYC LSAMP Principal Investigator/Project Director

"A number of LSAMP Scholars over the last decade have gained valuable experiences in the international arena by conducting research in France, Holland, Uganda, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Japan, and China.

UU2008 hopes to illuminate the role these experience can have in shaping careers. One of the long-term goals is to make this experience an integral component of the CUNY LSAMP Experience."

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Individuals wishing to be added to the mailing list should contact Jeanette Schnabel at (212) 650-8854, fax (212) 650-8855.

The New York City Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is funded under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

Alliance Student Experience: ShaRon Pierre



As a PhD. student of Biology, I researched the relationship between neuroinflammation and the onset of Parkinson's disease. I have had the opportunity to visit other institutions in order to learn techniques and or procedures necessary to substantiate my research topic. Studying in New York gave me access to a vast network of institutions that could assist me in my work. Nevertheless, as a research student, we are not limited to the local resources of study.

I was offered the opportunity to visit the University of Maastricht, Department of Neuroscience in Maastricht, The Netherlands for three months (May-August) to learn design based stereology using confocal microscopy. Although this was a country I had never visited, I didn't want to pass up the opportunity to broaden my horizons. My experience there did not disappoint because I can proudly say that I benefited by completing my doctoral research and gained an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

I would like to encourage all students not to pass up the opportunity to study abroad. Though it may seem like a large commitment in the middle of managing our lives and research, it offers more than just an assignment far from home.

A few of the reasons why I am glad I spent the summer at Maastricht University are:

- I was able to learn new and innovative techniques that were applicable to my doctoral research. Working with field specialists allowed me not only to learn quickly but to become expert. I am now able to share this knowledge with my colleagues at CUNY. My training in Maastricht was also of great interest to potential employers and I was offered many post-doctoral positions based partly on my new expertise acquired abroad.
- New York is a multicultural melting pot with residents hailing from all over the world, however, personal interactions can be limited. While staying at the University of Maastricht I had the opportunity to be roommates with people from countries like Australia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya and Rwanda. As roommates, we were able to get a better understanding about each others cultures.
- Maastricht happens to be quite close to other cities in the Netherlands as well as several European countries. This gave me the opportunity to visit Amsterdam with friends and take small weekend trips to countries like Belgium, Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

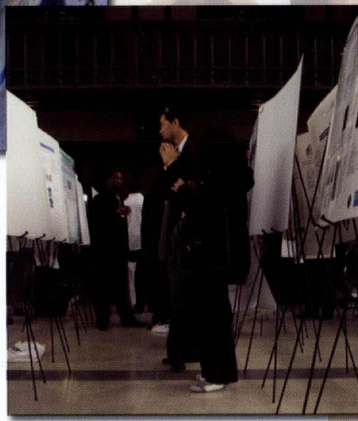




Marie-Elena John Smith
City College Graduate, 1986
Author, Unburnable



Ilona Kretzschmar
Chemical Engineering
Department,
City College of New York



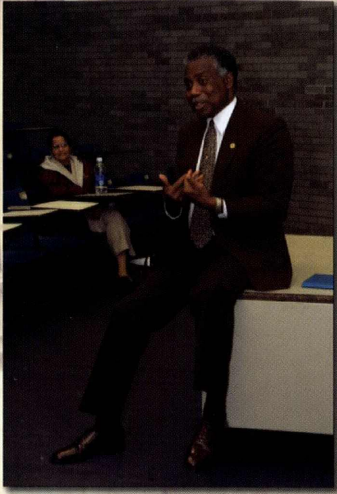
**Urban University
Conference 2008**

Conference Stats

Over 500 Attendees
Over 160 Abstracts
Over 20 Exhibitors

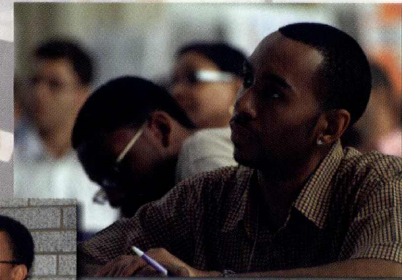
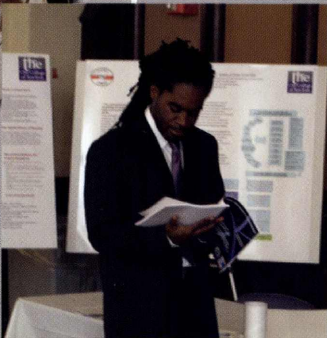
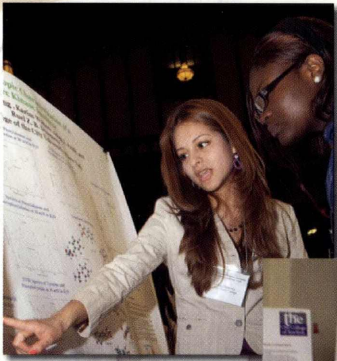
A Day at the Beach? *Fuhgeddaboudit!*
Stephen M. Stasimulski (PhD)
Brooklyn, NY 11235





Urban University Conference 2008 Exhibitors

- MGE/Project 1000/ Arizona State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Georgia
- University of Rhode Island
- Iowa-AGEP
- South East-AGEP
- University of Florida Gainesville
- Engineers Without Borders
- Tri-Institutional Graduate Program in Computational Biology and Medicine
- CUNY-AGEP/Graduate Center
- City College Study Abroad Programs
- City College, Office of Admissions
- City College, Grove School of Engineering
- City College, Division of Science
- City College, NOAA CREST
- City College, Universal Transportation Modeling and Simulation Center
- Math, Art and Science, City College
- Gene Center, Hunter College
- Brooklyn College
- National Academies
- MIRTHE Center -Princeton University
- Proyecto Access STEP
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst North East Alliance



Harry Mars

*Salzburgh Global Seminar-
International Study Programs (ISP)
Borough of Manhattan Community College*



Clifford Gold

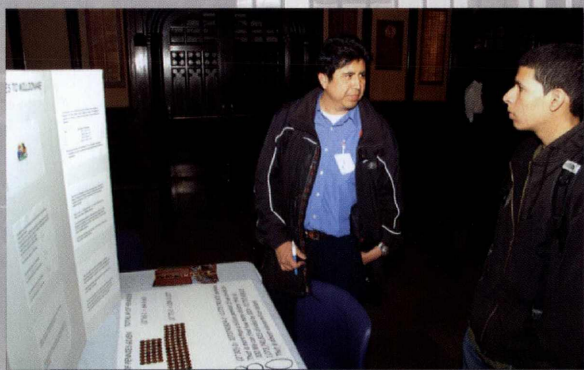
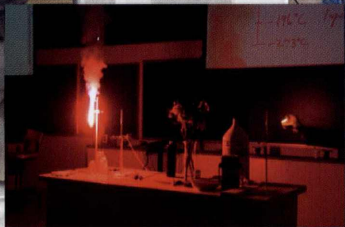
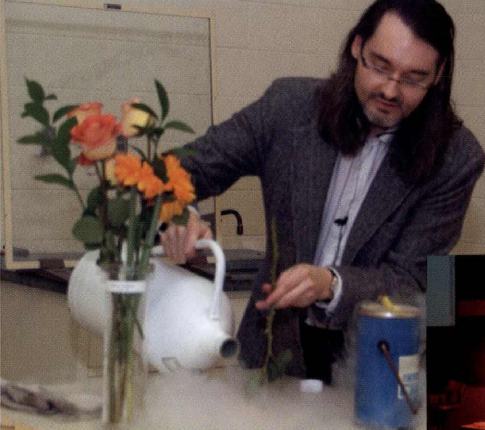
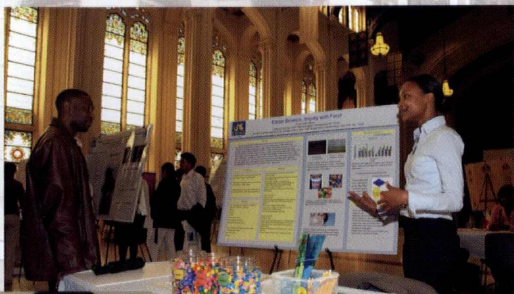
*Engineers Without Borders,
NY Professional Chapter*



'Transitions 2008' *The addition of 'Bridge' programs within the Alliance structures has allowed us to create the Saturday component of the UU Series called 'Transitions', a program run by the Bridge participants geared towards the middle and high school grades. This year will be the first year in which the Bridge To Teaching Scholars participate, focusing on Informal Science and Math Education.*

Dr Glen Kowach

City College Chemistry Dept.



SELECTED EXHIBIT

Informal Education is an important tool to supplement learning outside of the traditional classroom environment. Projects are designed to provide collaborative and hands-on experiences that augment and/or reinforce concepts.

SOLVING SUDOKU USING SIMULATED ANNEALING AND PEOPLE!

Tiffany A Lambert – Department of Computer Science - Brooklyn College

Sudoku is a popular logic puzzle that has swept the world by storm in the past few years. Originally called Number Place, Sudoku is a puzzle played on a 9 x 9 grid. The task of the player is to completely fill in the grid, with some initially given, so that every row, column, and 3 x 3 square containing the numbers 1- 9 in some order.

The algorithm will be demonstrated using people to represent the numbers on the board. A shudoku grid (4 x 4) will be used instead and the players must use the process of Simulated Annealing to solve the puzzle. They will be allowed to make random swaps amongst themselves within each 2 x 2 square and decide for themselves based on probability whether or not the proposed move should be accepted. The game ends when they find a legal solution or the run out of time.

Featured Speakers

Welcome and Greetings

Joseph Barba

Dean, City College Grove School of Engineering

Manfred Philip

CUNY Board of Trustees

Neville A. Parker

LSAMP Project Director

Kenneth Yanes

City College Study Abroad

Model Programs

Harry Mars

Salzburg Global Seminar-International Study Programs (ISP)

Building the STEM Workforce in the 21st Century

Iiona Kretzschmar

CHUST/CCNY Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)

Exchange Program

Neville Parker

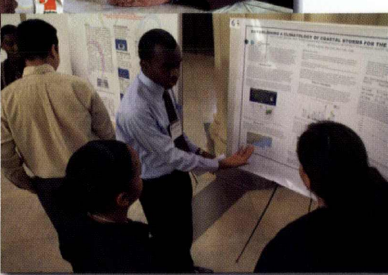
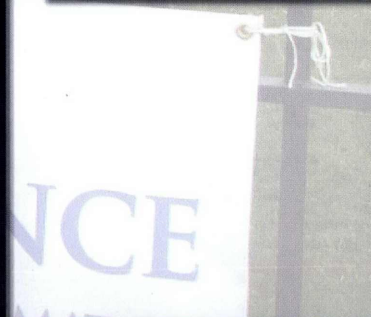
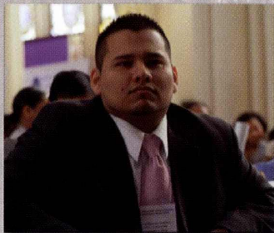
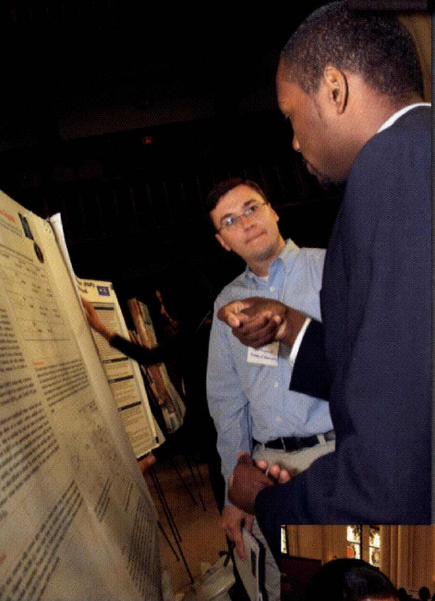
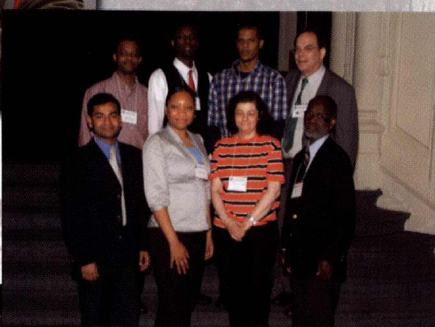
CUNY Institute for Transportation Systems

Manfred Philip

Fulbright Association Board of Directors

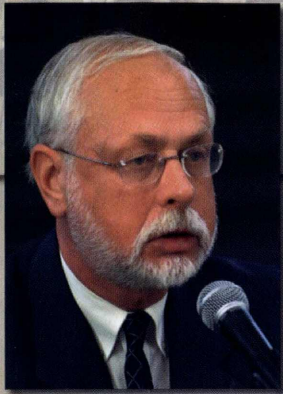
Cliff Gold

Engineers Without Borders, NY Professional Chapter

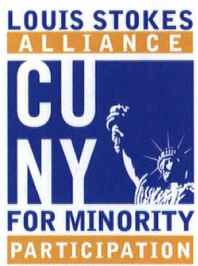
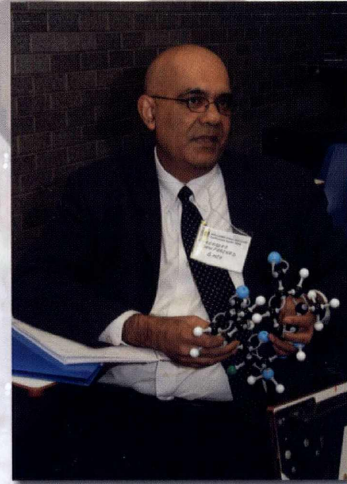


Joseph Barba
Dean, City College Grove School of Engineering

Manfred Philip
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Kenneth Yanes
City College Study Abroad



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