



Center for Teaching and Learning Newsletter

Dates to Note!!

Monday, November 4
*Building Computation/
Informatics into the
Curriculum*
1:50 to 3:15 p.m.
Bent Hall 277A*

Thursday, November 7
Forms of Reflective Writing
1:50 to 3:15 p.m.
Bent Hall 277B*

Monday, November 11
Writing Biography
1:50 to 3:15 p.m.
D'Angelo Center 416C*

Tuesday, November 12
*A Teachable Tidbit to Engage
Students and Gauge Learning
Simultaneously*
12:15 to 1:40 p.m.
Library 110*

Wednesday, November 13
*How to Create A Culture of
Risk Taking in the Classroom*
12:15 to 1:40 p.m.
Library 110*

Thursday, November 14
*Teaching Through the Arts:
Two Different Approaches*
1:50 to 3:15 p.m.
Q: D'Angelo 310*
SI: DaSilva 208

Monday, November 18
*Globalization 101 Project: A
Model for Internationaliza-
tion*
1:50 to 3:15 p.m.
D'Angelo 416C*

Tuesday, November 19
Skydrive and Storage Options
12:15 to 1:40 p.m.
Q: D'Angelo 310*
SI: DaSilva 208

*Queens Campus

TO REGISTER VISIT:
www.stjohns.edu/ctl

Vol. 19, No 2

October 2013

CTL October Newsletter

The *CTL Newsletter* is distributed electronically every month during the academic year.

Highlights from our October issue include:

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Remember: The best places to look for faculty-related information are the [CTL Web-page](#) and the [CTL Forum](#).

Follow Us on Twitter

The CTL is pleased to announce that it is now on Twitter [@sjuctl](#). Follow us for the latest news in teaching and learning as well as announcements of upcoming events.





Center for Teaching and Learning Newsletter

Vol. 19, No 2

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SERIES ON COLLEGE RATINGS AND RANKINGS PART II: U.S. News and World Report "2014 Best Colleges" Rankings

Clover Hall (Vice President of Institutional Research and Academic Planning, hallc@stjohns.edu)
Kathleen Beier (Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research, beierk@stjohns.edu)

Despite ongoing controversies and questions about the validity and usefulness of rankings and ratings of colleges and universities, interest in them by prospective and current students, parents, alumni and others, continues unabated. In addition, institutions are quick to acknowledge high or improved standings on their websites and promotional materials. As pointed out in many articles on the subject, we "can't live with them, can't live without them." Over the course of this academic year, we plan to highlight different rankings and ratings by providing an overview of the methodology and the results pertinent to St. John's, and encouraging dialogue and action where appropriate. In the previous issue of the *CTL Newsletter*, we addressed the Princeton Review's 2014 Edition. In this issue we focus on *US News and World Report's* "2014 Best Colleges" rankings.

U.S. News and World Report "2014 Best Colleges" Rankings Released

On September 10, *U.S. News and World Report (U.S. News)* released its 2014 Best Colleges ranking. St.



John's ranked 152nd along with five other institutions, among 206 ranked National Universities, a drop from last year's rank of 147th. **St. John's tied with three other National Universities for second place for Campus Ethnic Diversity** compared to fourth place a year ago. We continued to show a positive "value added." This is the difference between our actual six-year graduation rate (59%) and the rate predicted by *US News* (56%) based on SAT scores, % in top 25% of high school class, % receiving Pell grants, and whether the institution is public or private.

RESULTS

Overall Ranking - The table below shows overall rankings of St. John's and peer institutions over the past four years. As in 2012, we are once again tied with Adelphi.

	2014	2013	2012	2011
St. John's University	152	147	152	143
Fordham University	57	58	53	56
DePaul University	121	134	132	136
Seton Hall University	128	131	132	136
Hofstra University	135	134	128	139
Adelphi University	152	155	152	159
Pace University	173	174	170	170

CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**DIRECTOR:**

Maura C. Flannery

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR:

Lisa Getman

DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANT:

Judy Lam

2013-2015 FELLOWS:

Joan Ball
Keith Carrington
June Chen
Randall Clemens
Roseanne Gatto
Roberta Hayes
Maureen Weicher

2012-2014 FELLOWS:

William Ryall Carroll
Julie Carter
Emese Ivan
Maria Leibfried
Joseph Trainor
Ben Turner

CAMPUS GUIDES: CTL TEACHING AND LEARNING FORUM

The site's main aim is to highlight the great teaching strategies developed by St. John's faculty.

Please visit: <http://stjohns.edu/campusguides.com/ctlforum>.

Follow Us on
Twitter



Campus Ethnic Diversity - U.S. News computes a diversity index based on the proportion of undergraduate students who are members of each racial/ethnic group. International students are excluded. The diversity index ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The closer a school's number is to 1.0, the more diverse is the student population.

The same five universities received the highest - and similar - diversity indexes as a year ago. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – Newark is again ranked number one with a diversity index of 0.77 (compared to 0.76 a year ago). **St. John's tied for second** with Andrews University, Stanford University and the University of Houston, with a diversity index of 0.74. A year ago, Stanford University and the University of Houston were tied for second with an index of 0.74, and St. John's and Andrews University were tied for fourth with an index of 0.73.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE OVERALL RANKING

In 1983, *U.S. News* published its first "America's Best Colleges" report. The rankings have been compiled and published annually since 1985, and despite some ongoing criticisms about the methodology, are the most widely quoted college rankings in the United States. St. John's uses the *US News* ranking as one of our outcomes measures.

U.S. News places institutions in one of four categories – National Universities, Liberal Arts Colleges, Regional Universities, Regional Colleges - based on the widely used Carnegie classification, and develops separate rankings for each category. St. John's is included in National Universities - institutions that "offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and Ph.D. programs, and emphasize faculty research." Measures are weighted in a ranking formula and totaled to arrive at a final overall score. Scores / institutions are then ranked from highest to lowest.

The measures on which the rankings are based and weights for the 2013 and 2014 editions are shown in the table below. It is worth noting that the weight for graduation and retention rates was increased, and for student selectivity was decreased. Within student selectivity, the weight assigned to high school class standing was reduced, and the weight for SAT / ACT scores was increased. It is not clear what impact, if any, these changes in weights had on the overall scores.

Measures and Weights Used to Obtain Overall Score – National Universities

	2014	2013
Undergraduate academic reputation	22.5%	22.5%
Graduation and retention rates	22.5%	20%
Faculty resources	20%	20%
Student selectivity	12.5%	15%
Financial resources	10%	10%
Graduation rate performance	7.5%	7.5%
Alumni giving	5%	5%

A copy of the *U.S. News* complete publication, and a table with trends and comparative data on the individual items and scores on which the rankings are based, are available from the Office of Institutional Research (Extension 1869). Some results are available on the *US News* website at <http://www.usnews.com/education>.

Next issue: Focus on *US News and World Report* Rankings for Graduate Programs

Faculty News

Professor Joyce Boland-DeVito, Esq. (Administration & Economics, bolandj@stjohns.edu) gave a presentation to international students who were enrolled in the Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy Summer School program at the National University of Ireland's Galway campus (June 2013).

Dr. Zhe-Sheng Chen (Pharmaceutical Sciences, chenz@stjohns.edu) was invited as a keynote speaker at the International Forum of Basic and Clinical study on Anti-tumor Pharmacy in Changsha, China (June 2012); gave invited seminars at: Guangdong Center for Diseases Control and Prevention, Foshan First People's Hospital, Guangdong University of Technology, Guangzhou Medical University, Sun Yat-Sen University School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Macau, Shantou University Medical School, South China Medical University School of Pharmacy, and Jinan University School of Pharmacy; published: "Bipiperidinyl Derivates of 23-hydroxybetulinic Acid Reverse the Resistance of HepG2/ADM and MCF-7/ADR cells" in *Anti-Cancer Drugs*, "Tandutinib(MLN518) Reverses Multidrug Resistance by Inhibiting the Efflux Activity of the MRP7 (ABCC10)" in *Oncology Reports*, "Tandutinib (MLN518/CT53518) Targeted to Stem-like Cells by Inhibiting the Function of ATP-binding Cassette Subfamily G Member 2" in the *European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, "Parguerenes: Marine Red Alga Bromoditerpenes as Inhibitors of P-glycoprotein (ABCB1) in Multidrug Resistant Human Cancer Cells" in *Biochemical Pharmacology*, "Anticancer Activity of Oldenlandia Diffusa and Viola Philippica Car" in the *Journal of Cancer Research Updates*, served as a co-Chair and presented the abstracts: "Icotinib (BPI-2009H) Reverses Multidrug Resistance by Antagonizing the Activity of ATP-binding Cassette Subfamily G Member 2", "Motesanib, a Potent Multikinase Inhibitor, Reverses ABCB1- and ABCG2-mediated Drug Resistance in Cancer Cells," "Suppression of ABCG2 Mediated MDR *in vitro* and *in vivo* by a Novel Inhibitor of ABCG2 Transport," "Ibrutinib (PCI-32765) Reverses Multidrug Resistance by Inhibiting the Efflux Function of Multiple ATP-Binding Cassette Transporters" (this one received a best post award), an abstract with **Dr. Tanaji Talele** (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

talelet@stjohns.edu) "Enhancing Chemosensitivity in ABCB1- and ABCG2-Overexpressing Cells and Cancer Stem-Like Cells by An Aurora Kinase Inhibitor CCT129202," and another abstract with **Dr. Charles Ashby** (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ashbyc@stjohns.edu) and **Dr. Tanaji Talele:** "β-Elementene, a Compound Derived from Rihizoma Zedoariae, Reverses Multidrug Resistance Mediated by ABCB1 Transporter" at the 10th North American ABC genetic Workshop, NCI-Frederick, MD (September 2012).

Dr. Hannah Berliner Fischthal (English, fischthh@stjohns.edu) received a commendation from the United States Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic for her work in locating one of the many sites of Nazi atrocities in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Phyllis Conn (Institute for Core Studies, connp@stjohns.edu) was selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar and participated in the NEH Summer Institute on America's Russian-Speaking Immigrants and Refugees: 20th Century Migration and Memory at Columbia University (June 2013).

Dr. Maura C. Flannery (Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science, flannerm@stjohns.edu) presented a paper, "The Closest of Collaborations: Botanical Illustration," at the National Conference on Liberal Arts and the Education of Artists in New York (October 2013).

Dr. Marian Maskulak (Theology & Religious Studies, maskulam@stjohns.edu) published an article, "The Mission and Dialogue of Encounter," in *Missiology: An International Review* (October 2013).

Professor Mary Noe (Criminal Justice & Legal Studies, noem@stjohns.edu) presented a paper, "Alternatives to Direct Testimony," to the national conference of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary in Chicago, IL (September 2013); published the article, "Public Employee Firings for Social Media Postings: Who Needs 'Friends'," in the column "Outside Counsel" in the *New York Law Journal* (May 2013)

(continued on next page)

Dr. Ivana Vancurova (Biological Sciences, vancuroi@stjohns.edu) received a three-year NIH grant, titled "*Interleukin-8 Regulation by Proteasome and Nuclear IκB in Cancer and Inflammation*" for \$495,000. This project involves both graduate and undergraduate students, and focuses on the molecular mechanisms that regulate expression of pro-inflammatory genes in metastatic prostate and ovarian cancer cells.

Faculty News:

If you would like to send an entry to "Faculty News," the deadline for the November issue is **November 4**. We prefer that you email the information to CTL@stjohns.edu. Please have your entries follow the style presented in "Faculty News."

CAREER CORNER

Join St. John's COACH Connect Today

Jennifer Friary (Career/Internship Advisor, friaryj@stjohns.edu)

St. John's COACH Connect (Count on Alumni for Career Help) is a LinkedIn group only open to the St. John's community. This includes faculty, alumni, administrators and employers who have an established relationship with University Career Services. We would like to invite faculty to join if you are willing to be contacted by students, as well as fellow alumni, for career advice.

The group was launched on LinkedIn this past summer to alumni who have served as mentors in the past, and has been gaining momentum and growing rapidly since its establishment. The support of faculty and administrators in collaboration with alumni and employers will empower the diverse community of St. John's students to begin to think about their careers early and often. It's also a great way for our students to gain more experience using LinkedIn – a necessity in today's competitive job market.

Students and alumni can search the group to find and connect with members in their career field of interest for the purpose of networking and gathering information about careers. This new platform provides an opportunity for students to start to build a strong network of contacts.

Faculty, alumni and administrators can offer information about employment trends, job functions, salary expectations, effective job/internship searches, and career paths, or even initiate different career-related discussions.

Please consider joining Connect today at St. John's COACH Connect on LinkedIn!

HOW TO GET STARTED

Joining the COACH program is simple!

- Log into your LinkedIn Profile. If you do not use LinkedIn, please create an account.
- Click on the search bar that appears at the top of every page and search "St. John's COACH Connect" You can narrow down your search results to groups to the right of the page if COACH Connect does not immediately appear.
- Click "Join." (Please note, you will not be a member until you have been reviewed and approved to join).
- Await contact from students interested in speaking to you about your profession/industry, or start conversations on the group discussion board.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important mentoring initiative. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at friaryj@stjohns.edu.



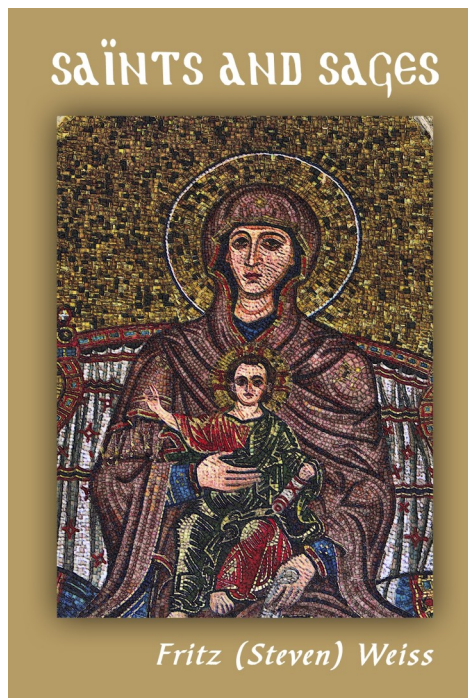
LIBRARY RESOURCES

"Saints & Sages" Exhibit in Staten Island

Lois Cherepon (Head of Reference & Instructional Services, cherepol@stjohns.edu)

"Saints & Sages" an exhibition of 20 photographs (from a series of 500) by Fritz (Steven) Weiss will be displayed in the Loretto Memorial Library Gallery at the St. John's University Staten Island campus, October 25 through December 7, 2013. On October 25 the artist will give a lecture *"Saints & Sages as Art Form and Art Speak,"* followed by a reception. The exhibit is a "photographic review and open discussion" on saints and sages, including: a brief history, an outline of classical definitions, and a look at *"how Saints and Sages have been transformed from religious icons to an art-form and art-speak with its own iconography in images as well as the spoken and written word."*

The images were all taken on a digital camera, using a wide variety of formats and lenses. The "Saints & Sages" completed series was taken over a period of four years, with an additional two and a half years of post-camera-work. The photographer's goal *"is to help people visualize that which most do not notice in their everyday lives and to touch upon those thoughts and emotions for which few have time for in their daily experiences. I encourage people to stop and reflect upon the world as it could be seen, should one choose to take the time and look."*



Mr. Weiss has been an artist for over 40 years, working with many different mediums, including: Painting (Oil, Acrylic and Watercolor), Printmaking: (Etching, Engraving, Aqua Tints, Wood Cuts, Lithography, Silk Screen Printing), and Conventional & Digital Photography. He has also been an arts educator, a gallery manager, and curator. The "Saints & Sages" exhibition will offer visitors the opportunity to see the creative talents of Mr. Weiss as well as to create an avenue of open discussion on this topic.

In 2007 the Staten Island campus received a grant to renovate library space and establish a center for art and culture. Beginning in 2008, the library gallery became a venue for the University and the Staten Island community to come together and share art and cultural events such as art & photography exhibits and poetry readings. The Loretto Memorial Library Gallery at St. John's Staten Island campus has welcomed many exciting events over the past few years. Established in the Fall of 2011, our annual "Island of Art" exhibit brings together local artists to share their creative endeavors. In 2012 the Staten Island South Shore Artists Group held an exhibit "La Bella Italia" in our gallery. Also in 2012 a display of "Chinese Paper Cutting" was presented by Prof. Tian Zhang, a member of the faculty at our Queens Campus library. In January of this year a display entitled "Unmasked: The Story of the Venetian Carnival" presented beautiful vintage carnival masks along with a lecture by the owner of the masks. And in October of this year an exhibit by the Italian Cultural Center "Expressions of Emotion: the Art of Gabe Perillo Sr." was presented. Poetry readings by our own faculty, as well as by nationally known poets, are also held in the gallery.

The Loretto Memorial Library Gallery continues to serve as a center for art and culture on Staten Island, bringing together campus and community. All are welcome to the "Saints & Sages" exhibit, now through December 7, 2013. The exhibit can be visited during regular library hours, Monday-Thursday, 8 – 11, Friday, 8-5, and Saturday & Sunday, 11-5. For more information or holiday hours call 718-390-4457 or visit us at <http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/libraries/campus/loretto.stj>



Best Practices in Higher Education: Veteran Services

In September, Mary Pelkowski (Associate Dean of Student Engagement, pelkowsm@stjohns.edu, and Jerry Ojeda (SJU Graduate Student and the United States Army) gave a workshop to faculty on Best Practices in the Classroom—Providing Support for Veterans. Below you will find information they shared on how to best approach veterans and handle their needs.

- While the classroom can be very threatening to many war veterans, not all veterans are alike, and their individual reactions to war trauma may be quite varied, representing everything from being significantly troubled by their war time duty, to being very philosophical or reflective. Getting to know the veterans in your classroom will likely help them connect with the goals of the academic institution and your course.
- Be careful about thanking a veteran for their military service, unless you have a relationship with him or her, that is, you can not predict how they will react to your comment. One does not always know if the veteran has had a positive or negative experience while in the military or what their current experience is now that they are home and have had time to think about their service. Being out of the military often takes away the support system that helps to justify actions in combat. This can mean they are now reconsidering their actions, and often this can mean they are not sure of their own opinions in this regard.
- Veterans come from all walks of life and experiences. Avoid suddenly placing the veteran in an uncomfortable position in the classroom by asking him or her to share experiences or disclose opinions, unless a prior relationship has been developed, or prior permission has been given.
- Veterans may find small group discussion and group decision-making processes difficult. Survival in the military depended upon decisions being made quickly, by a superior, or by the individual when circumstance demanded. Quick and decisive responses and actions were the norm in the military, especially in combat. Time taken to process information through group process and discussion may be a challenge, since in the military thinking could get oneself or others killed. The academic setting will be foreign in this respect for many veterans as they learn the business of give-and-take, deliberate discussions, and thorough considerations of many variables and opinions. For a while some veterans may see these processes as a waste of time, but will usually learn the value of this form of teamwork if they can see the results of this collaborative effort.
- Reintegration and homecoming may be a frustrating, confusing, and often a lengthy experience for the veteran. Sometimes it is a matter of explaining the differences between military and higher education culture that will put the veteran at ease. Knowing that there is someone within the system that they can talk with when things become confusing provides a powerful solution to those times when stress and fear are intense and act to create feelings of panic and the need to escape.
- Unresolved emotions from military service often continue for years in the lives of some veterans. Course content such as personal writing assignments, videos, and certain discussion topics may lead some veterans to experience painful memories and create emotional discomfort. It is not uncommon for writing or classroom discussions to act as a point of revelation about some of these life problems. Faculty should be ready to take time to talk with students whose homework or classroom behavior may reveal troubling emotions. You can always refer veterans to the Center for Psychological Services; they offer programs to Military and their families.
- One of the most insensitive questions asked of returning veterans was, "Did you kill anyone?" This question should never be asked and if another student asks it in your classroom, you need to be ready to say that this is not something we bring up in this context. In other words, you, the instructor or professor, will not want to put any war veteran in that position and you must be ready to stop such questions. It could be very emotionally damaging to the veteran, result in a panic attack, or departure from school altogether. Empathy on your part is essential, and as is consideration of the impact such questions would have on the veteran student.

(continued on next page)

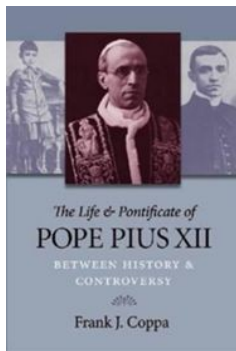
- Consider random (self-selected) rather than assigned classroom seating. Many veterans who have served in a war zone prefer to sit in the back of the classroom with their back against the wall. This seating choice allows the veteran-student the best method of attending and learning to class content. The reason for this is that most war veterans require a higher level of environmental control, and seeing everyone in the room from the back, means that there are no surprises. Respecting this adaptive pattern is important.

This was adapted from WDVA – Higher Education Outreach Program

Writing Biography

Frank Coppa, St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dr. Frank J. Coppa, Professor Emeritus in Department of History, who has recently published two biographical studies of Pope Pius XII, will discuss the key role of biography in the writing of history and the understanding of the past as well as the making of projections for the future.



This book will be available at the University bookstore at the customer service counter.

Date: Monday, November 11

Time: 1:50 to 3:15 p.m.

Location: D'Angelo Center 416C, Queens Campus

REGISTER NOW!

Lunch will be served.

If you have any questions please contact the CTL at CTL@stjohns.edu

Engagement, Engagement, Engagement!!

Please come and join Marilyn Dono-Koulouris and Roberta Hayes for a discussion on how to engage students in a model interdisciplinary Learning Community where students are afforded an opportunity to participate in experiential learning projects as they fulfill their course requirements.

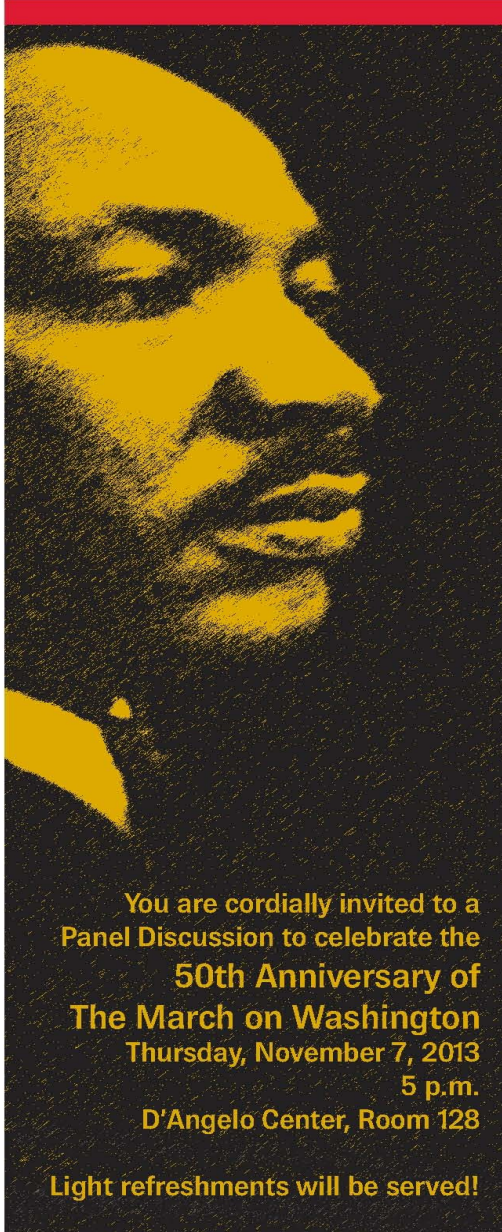
Join the conversation as we report on engaging students in civic literacy and share insights from recent workshops that we have attended at Wagner College, Stony Brook, and Tufts University.

The workshops will be held in DaSilva 214 on the Staten Island Campus on the following dates and times:

November 8, 2013 from 12:15 to 1:40 p.m.

November 21, 2013 from 1:50 to 3:15 p.m.

Contact Marilyn Dono-Koulouris at donokoum@stjohns.edu or Roberta Hayes at hayesr@stjohns.edu to register.



You are cordially invited to a
Panel Discussion to celebrate the
**50th Anniversary of
The March on Washington**
Thursday, November 7, 2013
5 p.m.
D'Angelo Center, Room 128

Light refreshments will be served!



**ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY**

50th Anniversary of The March on Washington

Guest Panelists include:

Julia A. Upton, R.S.M., Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor of Theology and
Special Assistant to the President
Office of the President*

Frank P. Le Veness, Ph.D.
Professor of Government and Politics

Lez Edmond, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Social Sciences

Brett Elizabeth Blake, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction

Scyatta Wallace, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

Catharine C. Giancattarino
Campus Minister, University Ministry

Michael Dodson, '14CPS
*Legal Studies Major
President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Beta Epsilon Chapter*

Morgan Fowler, '14C
*Government and Politics Major
President, Haraya – The Pan-African Students' Coalition*

Angela Wambugu Cobb, '94SVC

This event is being sponsored by President's Multicultural Advisory Committee; Division of Student Affairs; HARAYA – the Pan-African Students' Coalition; and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

For more information, please contact Mary H. Pelkowski in the Division of Student Affairs at 718-990-1420 or via e-mail at Pelkowsm@stjohns.edu.

MS-2013-04

Teaching Vernaculars Panel Discussion

Join the faculty of St. John's University and New York University as they share pedagogical practices that dig into the dynamism of all language in students' reading and writing. The panel seeks to begin broad conversations among teachers who have brought the energy of vernacular writing into our classrooms.

Professor Ahmad will chair a discussion following the panel presentations. Refreshments will be served.

Date: Thursday November 7th

Time: Common Hour (1:50–3:15)

Location: Writing Center Back Lounge, Queens Campus

Remember:

The best places to look for faculty-related information are the [CTL Web-page](#) and the [CTL Teaching and Learning Forum](#).

Faculty News:

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[www.stjohns.edu/
CTL](http://www.stjohns.edu/CTL)

This newsletter is published monthly during the academic year by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Managing Editor:
Lisa Getman



Lecture Capture

The eStudio can provide you with information about lecture-capture software called Tegrity. If you want to learn more about what lecture capture is, there is an article called "Lecture Capture: A Guide for Effective Use" by Erping Zhu and Inger Bergom available at the University of Michigan website at: http://www.crlt.umich.edu/sites/default/files/resource_files/CRLT_no27.pdf.

Geospatial Historian

This is a tutorial-based open access textbook for historical scholars and digital humanists. It is designed to teach practical digital mapping and GIS skills that are immediately useful to real research needs. Learn more at: <http://geospatialhistorian.wordpress.com/>.

Faculty Growth Grant Program

The upcoming deadlines to apply for a Faculty Growth Grant are:

December 2, 2013
May 1, 2014

If you have any questions regarding the application procedures look at our website under [Growth Grant Program](#) or email us at CTL@stjohns.edu.