EDITOR’S NOTE
Welcome to our latest issue—the first for 2011-2012. With this newsletter, we begin our fourth year of publication. We look forward to continuing to bring you news, resources, and other information from the central Office of Academic Affairs (OAA).

—Erika Dreifus, OAA Director of Communications

A Message from the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost on CUNY’s Master Plan: 2012-2016

Once again, the time has come to begin preparing CUNY’s next Master Plan. This document, which we submit every four years, is a blueprint for the University’s vision and direction—its goals and objectives and the course of action it will pursue to address them. The next Master Plan will cover 2012-2016, and it is due in the offices of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in June 2012.

Each Master Plan builds on previous documents and the progress the University has made in the preceding four years. It also builds on the University’s strengths—outstanding faculty, hard-working students, a commitment to the city and state—and it necessarily acknowledges the imperatives of a changing society.

We want to develop a comprehensive, forward-looking plan that conveys University aspirations as it showcases University achievements. If we are to accomplish this, we need input from across the University. To that end, a planning document has been circulated to all college presidents, with copies to the chief academic officers, chief administrative officers, and chief student affairs officers. The document has also been sent to the University Faculty Senate and to the Chancellor’s Cabinet. The document provides background—history, context, important issues—that may help frame discussions and consultations on every campus.

In addition, we recognize that many issues that are critical to the colleges and the University, and that we will want to consider in the next Master Plan, have likely been addressed during colleges’ own strategic planning processes. We have thus asked that colleges share with us any relevant documents that have been generated by such a process. The planning processes on the campuses entail a good deal of work and consultation. Each college’s resulting document would therefore be most valuable to the construction of the Master Plan.

College responses are due by Friday, October 28, 2011, but consultations regarding the plan will continue throughout the winter. We anticipate having a draft available for the entire CUNY community to review by the end of February allowing for further consultations with, and feedback from, all of the University’s stakeholders.

Have a wonderful start to the 2011-2012 academic year.

Sincerely,
Alexandra W. Logue
Pathways to Degree Completion Progress Update

At its meeting of June 27, 2011, the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approved a resolution establishing the Pathways to Degree Completion Initiative (“Pathways”). This initiative is designed to create a curricular structure that will streamline transfers and enhance the quality of general education across the University.

Implementing the resolution will take place over carefully delineated phases, with all aspects of the new policy effective for first-year students entering in fall 2013. The first phase began in July. After receiving and reviewing nominations from multiple sources and consulting with the University Faculty Senate, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein announced the appointment of a steering committee charged with creating the 30-credit common core, as specified in the resolution. Chaired by Michelle J. Anderson, Dean of the CUNY School of Law, the steering committee includes 11 faculty members, two campus-based academic administrators, and two students. The steering committee held its first meeting at the end of July and continued its work in August.

The work of the steering committee is assisted by a larger working committee, also chaired by Dean Anderson. Appointed in August, the working committee is composed of an additional 36 faculty, one campus-based administrator, and two students. Combined, the steering and working committees include at least two and more often three faculty members from every undergraduate college, many of whom bring to their work years of experience developing general education curricula on their campuses.

The steering and working committees will be releasing on November 1, for CUNY-wide review and comment, a draft of the 30-credit common core, with responses due back by November 15. Throughout every other phase of the Pathways initiative, information and updates will be posted at the redesigned site located at www.cuny.edu/pathways. Please bookmark the site and visit often.

New Year Begins Auspiciously for New Community College and School of Public Health

The new academic year begins with some especially good news for CUNY’s New Community College (NCC) and for the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College (SPH).

At its June meeting, the New York State Board of Regents approved, without any objections, an amendment to the University’s Master Plan authorizing the establishment and initial programs of study for the New Community College. The amendment will be effective until June 30, 2012, unless the New York State Education Department registers the programs earlier, in which case the amendment will be without term.

Also in June, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) announced the accreditation, for the first time, of the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College. Located in East Harlem, the SPH is a collaboration of Hunter, Brooklyn, and Lehman Colleges and the Graduate Center. The term last until July 1, 2016.

“Accreditation is a critical milestone in the school’s development,” said Dr. Kenneth Olden, founding dean. “It will enable us to continue to attract the high-quality faculty, students, staff and resources to prepare the diverse professional workforce needed to meet the 21st century’s challenges to public health.”

To learn more about the NCC, please visit www.cuny.edu/ncc. For more information about the SPH, please visit www.cuny.edu/sph. The CEPH accreditation review report is available at www.cuny.edu/site/sph/AccreditationReport2011.pdf.
Transitions in the Office of Academic Affairs

The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has welcomed several new faces since our last newsletter was distributed. Lisa Bauer, a doctoral student in educational psychology at the Graduate Center and an adjunct lecturer at City College, is now working as a Research Assistant for the Office for Undergraduate Studies. Joel Brewster is the new afternoon receptionist and office assistant on the 6th floor. Joel is a recent graduate of SUNY Stony Brook and is currently enrolled in Baruch's MPA program. Jason Diffenderfer, Institutional Research Specialist, is now part of the Office of Special Programs team. Jason comes to CUNY from Pace University, where he served as Coordinator of Assessment and Planning. Dr. Simon MacDowell has joined the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment as Policy Analyst, and Jennifer Turvey has joined the Office of Library Services as Communications Writer.

OAA works closely with the chief academic officers (CAOs) on the campuses, and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Martin Moskovits, who began serving as Provost at City College on August 1; Dr. José Luis Morín, who has moved from John Jay College to become Provost at the New Community College; and Dr. Howard Wach, who has been named Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bronx Community College. We congratulate also Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, Bronx Community College’s new President. Dr. Berotte Joseph succeeds Dr. Carolyn G. Williams, who has retired after years of distinguished service.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED

At its meeting of June 27, 2011, the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approved the following new academic programs: MS in Information Systems (School of Professional Studies); MFA in Dance, MA in Dance Education, and BA/MA in Dance/Dance Education (Hunter College); BS in Radiological Science (New York City College of Technology); AS in Mathematics and Sciences for Secondary Education (Borough of Manhattan Community College); AAS in Game Design (Hostos Community College); AS in Theater (LaGuardia Community College); BA in Law and Society (John Jay College); BA in Philosophy (John Jay College); BA in Middle Eastern Studies (Queens College); and Dual/ Joint AAS/BS in Nursing (Queensborough Community College/Hunter College).

The BS in Radiological Science, BA in Middle Eastern Studies, and Dual/Joint AAS/BS in Nursing have since been registered with the New York State Education Department. The other programs are awaiting registration.

BookList System Helps CUNY Colleges Comply with HEOA

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) includes a number of requirements regarding textbooks intended to ensure that students have access to affordable course materials. Institutions must disclose “to the maximum extent practicable” on their Internet course schedule the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and retail price for required and recommended textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed on the schedule. A number of campuses have their own solutions in place. CUNYFirst Wave 1 and Wave 2 colleges are using CUNYFirst for HEOA compliance.

On September 1, faculty and administrators at the remaining CUNY colleges began using the CUNY BookList system, developed by CIS from a program used at Brooklyn College, to create and maintain lists of all course materials for spring 2012. For more information, including BookList manuals, FAQs, videos, and downloads, visit www.cuny.edu/booklist.
The Office of Policy Research (OPR), based within the University’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA), has recently released three policy research briefs. Additional reports will be published during the 2011-12 academic year.

“Our goal is to publicize the ongoing work of our policy research unit and make its work more accessible to everyone in the CUNY community,” said University Dean for Institutional Research and Assessment David Crook. The first three reports include “Do CUNY Graduates Stay in New York?”, “At-Risk in College: Achievement Gaps at CUNY,” and “Do Transfer Students Perform as Well as First-time Freshmen?” The briefs are grounded in CUNY data and reference state and federal data. The briefs also note relevant policy implications.

All three policy briefs are available online: http://tinyurl.com/4y5rgux.

OAA Goals and Progress Reports Posted Online

The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is engaged in an array of projects aimed toward fulfilling CUNY’s mission of providing access to a quality education. Major goals for each year are delineated during the summer. Goals are categorized according to the framework provided by the University’s Performance Management Process (PMP): raise academic quality, improve student success, and enhance financial and administrative effectiveness. Each year’s OAA Goals Chart is posted online at www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/aa/goals.html. The current chart addresses goals for 2011-12.

Some goals may take more than one year to complete. In these cases, success indicators are updated to account for progress made and work remaining to be completed. Other goals are removed from the chart once their targets have been met. Still others may be appearing on the chart for the first time. This year, for instance, new projects include expanding the CUNY Start accelerated developmental education programs and establishing a system for “closing the loop” on academic program reviews, among others.

Midyear, each goal’s team leader submits a progress report. Final progress reports are provided during the summer. Those covering 2010-2011 may be consulted at www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/aa/goals/archive/2010-2011.html.

Working Group Issues Report on Remediation

The central office has been working intensively on several different CUNY-wide initiatives with the purpose of raising retention and graduation rates in undergraduate degree programs. Particularly urgent is the need to improve outcomes in our associate programs, where retention and graduation rates have not improved significantly for many years. The data are especially troubling for the increasing number of students who enter CUNY needing remediation. We are therefore convinced that if we can increase success rates in our remedial programs, we can make real progress in graduating our students and preparing them for transfer.

Towards this end, consistent with the 2010-2011 Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) goals chart, last year Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra W. Logue convened a remediation working group within OAA and asked it to consult closely with faculty and administrators from across the system to develop recommendations for increasing student success in remedial courses. The report has been released and is available online: http://bit.ly/q1huCa.

Office of Policy Research Publishes Three Research Briefs

The Office of Policy Research (OPR), based within the University’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA), has recently released three policy research briefs. Additional reports will be published during the 2011-12 academic year.

Save the Dates

September 9: A Town Hall meeting on Human Research Protection Programs (HRPP) and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) at CUNY will convene. Details: http://events.cuny.edu/eventDetail.asp?EventId=33068

September 14: Vice Chancellor Frank D. Sanchez will speak on “An Evolving Vision for Student Affairs at CUNY.” RSVP by September 8. Details: http://events.cuny.edu/eventDetail.asp?EventId=33259

September 15: Proposal deadline for CUNY’s 10th Annual IT Conference(s), slated for December 1 and 2, 2011. Details: www.cunyitconference.commons.gc.cuny.edu

September 26: The Board of Trustees will meet at 4:30 p.m. www.cuny.edu/trustees

October 7: The first CUNY Supplemental Instruction (SI) Conference will take place at Lehman College. Details: http://bit.ly/pQnt9c
ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

A Bimonthly Newsletter Published by
The City University of New York
Office of Academic Affairs
535 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10075

Editor: Erika Dreifus
OAA Director of Communications
Phone: 212-794-5757
E-mail: Erika.Dreifus@mail.cuny.edu

WE’RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CUNY.EDU/ACADEMICS

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. In this issue, we’re spotlighting a few links that were mentioned elsewhere within these pages. (We just want to make sure that you’ve noticed them!)

Office of Academic Affairs Goals and Progress Reports
As mentioned in the article on page 4, OAA is engaged in an array of projects aimed toward fulfilling CUNY’s mission of providing access to a quality education. Our major goals for this year have been posted online at www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/aa/goals.html. Plus, progress reports on the goals we established last year are available at www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/aa/goals/archive/2010-2011.html.

Pathways to Degree Completion
As work on the Pathways project continues, please visit the revamped website at www.cuny.edu/pathways often for updates and information.

BookList Resources
The BookList system, described in an article on page 3, went live on September 1. For additional background and resources, please visit www.cuny.edu/booklist.

ACRONYMS OF THE MONTH: GRANTS/RESEARCH EDITION

AOR: Authorized Organization Representative
FON: Funding Opportunity Number
NOFA: Notice of Funds Availability
PI: Principal Investigator
RFA: Request for Applications
RFP: Request for Proposals

For more information on these and other acronyms, please visit www.cuny.edu/about/info/acronym-dictionary.html.