

# DYSON news

A Publication of the  
Dyson College of Arts and Sciences  
at Pace University

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March 31, 2005  
Tribeca Rooftop  
New York, New York

PACE  
UNIVERSITY

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Where creative minds,  
critical thinkers, and  
instinctive leaders are made.

## The Power of Tea

Schiffenbauer's student research team finds white tea effective in fighting germs

If you happen to walk by the biology department at four o'clock one afternoon and see professors and students taking a tea break, don't be surprised.

Tea is a healthful drink, with many studies showing that its antioxidants may help lower the risk of certain forms of cancer. Now research at Dyson College adds to the list of the benefits of tea. According to recent studies by the biology department on the downtown



Manhattan campus, researchers found that an extract derived from white tea inactivated viruses and destroyed bacteria that cause streptococcal infections, i.e., strep throat, pneumonia, and cavities in teeth.

"Past studies have shown that green tea stimulates the immune system to fight disease," says Milton Schiffenbauer, a microbiologist and professor in the biology department and primary author of the research. "Our new research shows white tea extract (WTE) can actually destroy in vitro the organisms that cause disease. Study after study with tea extract proves that it has many healing properties. This is not an old wives' tale, it's a fact."

Schiffenbauer's student research team's study found that the anti-viral and anti-bacterial effect of white tea (Stash and Templar) is greater than that of green tea, and, notably, that white tea extract may help inactivate bacteria, viruses, and fungi that affect humans. The team also tested white tea extracts by adding them to toothpastes (Aim, Aquafresh, Colgate, Crest, and Oraljel) and found it

enhanced the anti-viral and anti-bacterial effect of these oral agents. In addition, they found that the white tea extract exhibited an anti-fungal effect on both *Penicillium chrysogenum* (the source for penicillin) and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (baker's yeast).

### Learning and teaching informed by research

The results of this study, "Anti-viral, Anti-fungal and Anti-bacterial Effects of White Tea," were recently presented by the Pace student research team at the 104th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Schiffenbauer's present research team includes six Pace students: Tiffany Decuir, Tatyana Krieger, Lena Bovkoun, Katleen Bateau, Rosa Siragusa, and Jigar Gandhi. "Without the tremendous work on the students' part, this research would not be possible," says Schiffenbauer. "They deserve a lot of credit for these findings, and for the idea to test the extract against pathogenic microbial organisms."

**"Study after study with tea extract proves that it has many healing properties. This is not an old wives' tale, it's a fact."**

—Milton Schiffenbauer

### Scientific research for the greater good

Since the study's findings were presented, Schiffenbauer has received many inquiries from other toothpaste and mouthwash manufacturers, such as Tom's of Maine, to test their products with WTE. Because white tea extracts are a natural substance, the potential applications of this research are far reaching. "We can easily envision that, in the not-too-distant future, white tea extracts will be found on the market in toothpaste and mouthwash products, to help prevent disease and cavities, and to kill germs that cause common infections," says Schiffenbauer.

Look for articles this fall in *Redbook* and *Fitness* magazines about the team's research. For more information, contact Schiffenbauer at (212) 346-1968. ■

## Faculty Book Notes

**Mary M. Timney**, Chair and Professor of Political Science, had her book *Power for the People: Protecting States' Energy Policy Interest in an Era of Deregulation* published by M.E. Sharpe (2004).

**Janetta Rebold Benton**, Professor of Fine Arts, had her book *Medieval Mischief: Wit and Humor In The Art of The Middle Ages* published by Sutton Publishing, Gloucestershire (2004), and had the second edition of *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*, a two-volume text she coauthored with Robert DiYanni (formerly of Pace), published by Prentice Hall (2004).

**Martha W. Driver**, Distinguished Professor of English, and **Sid Ray**, Associate Professor of English, coedited *The Medieval Hero on Screen: Representations from Beowulf to Buffy*, which was published by McFarland & Company, Inc. (2004).

**Jean Fagin Yellin**, Distinguished Professor Emerita of English, had her biography *Harriet Jacobs: A Life* (Basic Books, 2004) favorably reviewed in the *New York Times*, "'Harriet Jacobs': To Be A Slave," by David S. Reynolds, this July.

## DYSONnews

EDITOR  
Angela Nally

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# Graduate Students Study Abroad at Oxford University

Unique master in public administration seminar course offers access to Oxford

Eleven students traveled to Oxford University this July as part of their "Seminar in Government Management" course in the master in public administration (MPA) program. Students majoring in any one of the program's four tracks—health care administration, government, nonprofit management, and environmental management—are eligible to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to learn more about the United Kingdom's public sector management innovations and the major issues facing local government.

"Because the United Kingdom has been an active laboratory of experimentation with different local public management practices and policies over the last several decades,

**"It was a fascinating look into how their universal health care system benefits the entire community and how it is focused on providing preventative health care, not just caring for the sick." —Carla Prioleau**



**Prof. Nickerson and Carla Prioleau**

students come away with a plethora of information from which they can compare existing American practices and anticipate problem areas or strengths of potential reform ideas," says Brian Nickerson, professor of political science.

Students develop a unique perspective of the UK's governance and policy management through classroom instruction, including lectures given by Oxford professors, readings, research, field visits, interviews, and actually living within Oxford for two weeks. "They gain an invaluable learning experience about their

area of interest from multiple dimensions, and gain new insights about their own form of government and potential areas of improvement in their own work and lives," says Nickerson.

Prior to the trip, Nickerson arranges for most students to interview an elected or appointed official on a policy issue or problem relevant to their areas of interest. Students develop a portfolio that includes an essay that compares and contrasts the United Kingdom and American local governments, an analysis of their policy issue, a reflection on their cultural and historical experience, and a synthesis of their key insights.

According to MPA student Carla Prioleau, "This trip was a wonderful opportunity for me. I interviewed a City of Oxford health care official whose job it is to promote the city's available medical services and inform those people who are underserved in the community about these services. It was a fascinating look into how their universal health care system benefits the entire community and how it is focused on providing preventative health care, not just caring for the sick."

The cultural and historical aspects of the trip are an ancillary benefit. "Touring the city's museums, historical sites, and cultural venues was both enjoyable and educational," says Prioleau.

An accountant with the Westchester County Department of Health, Prioleau says that she gained a new perspective of the policy side of issues. "Because I deal with the numbers side of programs, I now have gained a greater appreciation for the development of policy and delivery of health care services. This course has helped me to think more creatively on the job."

The MPA program has sent five groups of students to Oxford. Says Nickerson, "There is no other MPA program that offers study abroad with Oxford University, and very few that have any direct international-based experience similar to this."

For more information about the MPA program, contact Mary Timney, director, at [mtimney@pace.edu](mailto:mtimney@pace.edu), or Nickerson at [bnickerson@pace.edu](mailto:bnickerson@pace.edu). Visit the Web site at [www.pace.edu/dyson/mpa](http://www.pace.edu/dyson/mpa). ■

# Students Participate in Presidential Conventions

Washington Center Internship Program awards scholarships to six Pace students

“In two weeks I saw students go from being bright-eyed but reticent to being savvy, networking political animals,” says Christopher Malone, assistant professor of political science and Pace faculty liaison to the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.



**Prof. Malone; Violet Fredericks; Priscilla Gabella, Pace volunteer; President Caputo; Stephanie Tackach; Gene Alpert, Vice President, Washington Center, at the RNC**

Six Pace students were awarded scholarships for a two-week academic program that provided convention-related internships at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, organized by the Washington Center. The center works closely with party officials, candidates, public officials, the media, political consultants, corporations, and the host cities to create an exciting environment for college students interested in learning about being a part of the political process.

When he learned of the Washington Center's programs, Malone sensed a unique opportunity for Pace students. He was instrumental in arranging for Pace to be the host university to 172 college students from across the country who would serve as interns in the internship program at the Republican National Convention (RNC) in New York City. In doing so, Pace received six \$3,500 scholarships for its students to attend the center's two-week academic program at both parties' conventions. This intensive program combines volunteer fieldwork with seminars and guest lecturers from the world of practical politics.

According to Malone, “At President Caputo's request, we opened the application for the scholarships to all Pace students. To apply, they completed an application about their academic standing, and submitted a 500-word essay explaining why they wanted to go to the convention and why they were deserving of the opportunity.” Six students were chosen—three to attend each convention. In addition, six students served as volunteers for the RNC.

## Students gain real-world experience

Lee Pinzow, a political science/history major and Dyson Dean's Achievement awardee, says, “I was really happy to have been chosen to receive the scholarship.” Pinzow, along with Yvonne Lews, master of public administration student, and Davis John Abraham '04, political science and CSIS dual major, were chosen for the program at the Democratic National Convention (DNC). For the RNC, students Stephanie Tackach and Violet Fredericks, political science majors, and Michael Iwankiw, English major, were chosen.

As part of the academic components of the program, students kept journals, heard guest lecturers, had readings, conducted interviews, and wrote papers. Students were placed in field assignments, where they had the opportunity to meet delegates and connect with people from a variety of non-governmental agencies and nonprofits, all related to the world of politics.

## Field placements

Students were assigned field placements, which they performed each afternoon after attending morning lectures and seminars. At the DNC, Pinzow was assigned to Democratic Gain, which provides leadership training and job placement in the field of politics. He helped with check-in for the seminars at the Hines Convention Center in Boston. “James Carville, Howard Dean, Al Sharpton, and Adriana Huffington were some of the speakers at these seminars. I was able to attend their sessions, which I found very interesting and informative,” says Pinzow.

Tackach was placed with GOPAC, an organization that assists candidates for political office with workshops and seminars on cam-

**“These seminars engage our students in the political process and they gain an understanding of politics in a way that most Americans don't.”**

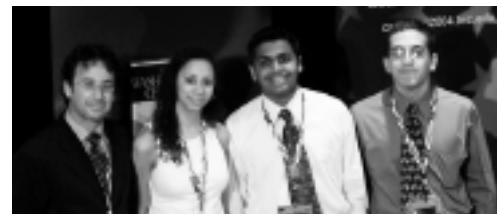
**—Christopher Malone**

paign strategies. She greeted attendees and handed out CDs, pins, and fliers about the organization. In addition, Tackach says, “I was able to sit in on meetings with the New Jersey delegation and hear discussions about motions on the floor and current issues facing the state of New Jersey. It was a fascinating look at how politics works on the state level.”

## Networking

Tackach says that because of the many contacts she made at the RNC, she learned what she wants to do in her future career. “I met a woman who had her own political consulting business. After learning from her about the range of things she does—fundraising, meeting and conference planning, and the like—I now know that that is what I want to do.”

“I met with the New York delegate from Ossining,” says Pinzow. “He gave me some terrific advice about how to get into politics.” He says that he now has a much better understanding of the political process and the possibilities of a political career. “After I graduate, I have decided to work on the public relations side of a campaign, and run for the New York City Council.”



**Prof. Malone, Yvonne Lews, Davis John Abraham, and Lee Pinzow at the DNC**

## Convention highlights

With some dogged networking, and a bit of luck, Pinzow and Tackach were able to attend sessions in the convention halls. “The highlight of this experience was being in Madison Square Garden the night that Vice President Cheney and Senator Zell Miller (D-GA) spoke. The energy in the Garden was so high,” says Tackach. Pinzow felt the same way when he heard John Edwards speak at the Fleet Center. “His speech was truly inspiring. To hear it live, amongst all the other delegates, was very exciting.”

According to Malone, this program was a tremendous opportunity for Pace students. “The students learned about our political system up close and in person. These seminars are important because they engage our students in the political process and they gain an understanding of politics in a way that most Americans don't.”

Malone will continue to liaise with the Washington Center for future student internship opportunities and placements. ■





# Prof. Denmark Awarded Gold Medal

Professor is recognized for achievement in psychology

**Florence L. Denmark** received her PhD in social psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and is also the recipient of four honorary doctorates. She has been the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Professor at the University and is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, and the New York Academy of Sciences.

As one of the founding members of APA's Division of the Psychology of Women and a pioneer in that field, Denmark's most significant research has emphasized women's leadership and leadership styles, the interaction of status and gender, women in cross-cultural perspective, and the contributions of women to psychology. She has authored or edited 15 books, more than 100 articles and book chapters, and has given numerous scholarly presentations at universities and psychology meetings in the United States, Europe, Canada, Central and South America. One of her publications, *The Handbook of the Psychology of Women* (coedited with Michelle Paludi) was selected by the journal *Choice*, in 1995, as an academic book of excellence.

Denmark is a past-president of the American Psychological Association, the International Council of Psychologists, the Eastern Psychological Association, and the New York State Psychological Association. She also serves as the co-president of the International Organization for the Study of Group Tensions and is an APA NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) representative to the United Nations.

Married to Robert Wesner, the mother of five children and grandmother of four children, Denmark resides in Manhattan's Upper East Side. A Philadelphia Eagles season-ticket holder, Denmark is an avid pro-football fan and enjoys the theater, the ballet, and reading.

Professor of psychology Florence L. Denmark was awarded the American Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest at the foundation's 112th annual convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, in July.

The citation for the award states: "As an internationally recognized activist, scholar, and researcher, in all of her professional and personal activities in psychology, Florence L. Denmark has focused on and devoted herself to the public interest. Florence Denmark helped to legitimize the

psychology of women by teaching the first doctoral psychology course in this field and through her scholarly texts and articles. She continues to have an impact on the psychology of women through her journal editorial memberships, her writing of articles for books and journals, her television and newspaper interviews, and through her mentoring activities. Someone once said, 'Florence is the den mother of us all.'"

Denmark has served as the chair on more than 40 doctoral dissertations, served on numerous other doctoral committees, and mentored and advised hundreds of other students. In addition to her devotion to eliminating barriers to women's achievement, she has been a tireless advocate on behalf of ethnic minorities, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

"Receiving this award is like winning an Olympic gold medal, so to speak, in the field of psychology. I was walking on air," says Denmark. As one of the pioneers in the field of the psychology of women, Denmark says that the more she looked into the psychology of women, the more questions there were to answer. This, she says, is what has kept her motivated and interested in this field during the span of her career, and what has led her to her many diverse interests, from cross-cultural research to the establishment of international congresses.

Of her many accomplishments, Denmark has found her greatest satisfaction in mentoring students. "I have so enjoyed working with students, and particularly, hearing from them



**"It is enormously satisfying to know that I have made a positive impact in their lives and careers."**

**—Florence L. Denmark**

as they progress in their careers. It is enormously satisfying to know that I have made a positive impact on their lives and careers."

## Colleagues at Pace pay tribute to Denmark

According to Herbert Krauss, chair and professor of psychology at Pace, "I've known Florence since 1971. We first met at Hunter College. Since that time she has, more effectively than anyone else I have known, furthered the cause of providing an equal place

for women and people of color in the society in general and higher education in particular." Krauss and Denmark are copresidents of the International Organization for the Study of Group Tensions.

Barbara Mowder, director of graduate psychology programs and professor of psychology, adds, "Having worked with Florence Denmark since 1988, I cannot think of a better recipient of this award. Florence, in every thought, word, and deed, aspires to make the world a better place. She tirelessly conducts research and writes, but always has the time for individual students and colleagues." Based on her many years of close professional and personal acquaintance with Denmark, Mowder says, "Florence truly stands out in every way as an outstanding psychologist; she not only has devoted her professional writing to the public interest, but in addition, in every behavior, she acts in accord with her beliefs and convictions."

According to *American Psychologist*, "Denmark's leadership has paved the way for a global perspective in psychology. Her professional activities have promoted the study of the psychology of women throughout the world, and she has made it possible for disadvantaged women from various countries to participate in international psychology events."

We congratulate Professor Denmark on receiving this well-deserved honor and thank her for her continued support and guidance of Pace University students. If you would like to contact Denmark, she may be reached at [fdenmark@pace.edu](mailto:fdenmark@pace.edu). ■

## Jacobs Papers Project Wins \$100,000 Grant

Project offers students valuable internship opportunities

Distinguished Professor of English Emerita Jean Fagan Yellin and her staff were awarded a National Historic Preservation and Record Commission grant of \$100,000 this summer to complete her two-volume edition of Harriet Jacobs's papers. Jacobs (1813–1897) was a fugitive slave who wrote the landmark memoir *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself* and is the only African-American woman held in slavery whose papers are known to exist.



**Back row (l-r): Lara Cohen, Ondra Thomas-Krouse, Scott Korb, Melanie Monroe, Eileen Brumitt, and Nididi Obicheta. Front row (l-r): Laura Ann Pechacek, Helen Schubert, Jean Fagan Yellin, Andrea Ferrand, and Kate Culkin**

According to Kate Culkin, the project's associate editor in residence at Pace, "This additional funding will allow us to complete the remaining cataloguing and annotating, much of which is done by our student interns." The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2005.

Under Culkin's direction, students have been conducting all of the basic research that is involved in verifying the information found in Jacobs's letters. Pace student intern Eileen Brumitt explains, "We have to research the people and organizations that Jacobs refers to in her letters in order to establish that they indeed existed and provide the biographical and historical context for the annotations."

The interns also write the footnotes and endnotes that explain the letters, and data entry the letters. Two students work together to enter Jacobs's letters into Word documents and proofread them.

### A lesson in basic research

"I have learned a great deal about how to do research," says Brumitt, who graduated in June with a dual major in history and English, and began the doctoral program in English at Lehigh University this fall. Students use a variety of resources for their research and access primary and secondary sources, such as newspaper articles, diaries and other historians' research found in, among others, the New York Public Library Archives and its Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Columbia University, the Brooklyn Library Archives, the Virginia Historical Society, and Ancestry.com. "I have been amazed at how fascinating the research has been as well," Brumitt adds.

This summer, the project had eight interns working 15 to 20 hours per week for eight weeks. These students were attracted to the project from other colleges and universities, including Sarah Lawrence, Penn State, St. John's, Indiana University, University of Georgia, SUNY Geneseo, and Ramapo College.

"Since this is such a unique project, it is very prestigious for students to be involved with it," says Culkin. "These are the letters of a woman held in slavery, who actually wrote them herself. It's what makes the project so remarkable."

**"Since this is such a unique project, it is very prestigious for students to be involved with it." —Kate Culkin**

This fall, the PBS documentary series *Slavery in America* will include a segment featuring Jacobs, the papers project, and Yellin's research.

Visit [www.harrietjacobspapers.org](http://www.harrietjacobspapers.org) for more information on the Harriet Jacobs Papers project, or contact Kate Culkin at [kculkin@pace.edu](mailto:kculkin@pace.edu). ■



There is something about the crisp air of fall that is energizing, signaling to all of us in academia that a new school year is about to start. As a new member of the Pace community, I look forward to meeting the returning faculty and students after the relative quiet of the summer. Dyson College is continuing with its major initiatives: excellence in teaching; an innovative core curriculum and learning communities; the Center for Community Outreach with its support of civic engagement for our students; the development of multidisciplinary programs that meet the needs of today's complex society, such as forensic science, environmental science, women's studies; and the strengthening of our traditional majors and minors.

Dyson is also expanding its reach, focusing more attention on scholarship and research for faculty and for students; enhancing our ability to assess what we do so we can keep what works well and improve what needs change; and working to improve the resources available to the college for all of its programs. We have recently hired a new director of development, Adrienne Capps, who will work with Dyson faculty, students, alumni, and administrators to help us achieve our fundraising goals, and hired 11 new faculty members, including a new director for the forensic science program.

I'd like to welcome all of the new and returning faculty, staff, and students to Dyson and wish you a productive, dynamic, and rewarding year. I look forward to working with you to strengthen Dyson College and its programs so they can continue to provide the entire Pace community with a quality education combined with fulfilling cocurricular activities.

Dean Nira Herrmann

*Save the Date* for the Ninth Annual

**DYSON DISTINGUISHED  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS  
Benefit Reception**

**March 31, 2005**

Tribeca Rooftop  
New York, New York

## MPA Launches New Environmental Management Track

Dyson College's master of public administration (MPA) program has begun an innovative new area of study—environmental management—which offers students the opportunity to combine scientific expertise in the environment with public management skills. This track is the only one of its kind in Westchester County. It is ideal for professionals in nonprofit environmental groups, and government agencies, such as planning, public works, environmental control, transportation, or community development who desire a graduate degree that allows them to develop management skills with some graduate work in environmental science. The MPA 39-credit degree prepares individuals for managerial careers in government, health care, and the nonprofit sector through in-depth instruction on public policy and organizational/political cultures. For more information, contact Mary M. Timney, [mtimney@pace.edu](mailto:mtimney@pace.edu) or (914) 422-4299.

## Meet Jigar Gandhi '05

Biology student researches tea



A Dyson Dean's List achiever, this native of Queens was one of the students who presented their white tea research findings, "Anti-viral, Anti-fungal and Anti-bacterial Effects of White Tea," at the 104th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, Louisiana this spring (see cover story). The students presented posters including graphs showing their results and an explanation of the techniques they employed.

### Learning and teaching informed by research

Says Gandhi, "It was an amazing experience to present our findings at the annual meeting. There was a great deal of interest in our findings and we fielded a lot of questions about our techniques and results. We

**"Being a part of Professor Schiffenbauer's research project on white tea has been not only fascinating, but a lot of fun."**

**—Jigar Gandhi**

had a chance to speak with representatives from Colgate-Palmolive as well."

According to Gandhi, working on this research project has many benefits. "This is such a great opportunity because we undergraduate students working on this project are doing graduate-level research. Professor Schiffenbauer is always enthusiastic about our progress and the goals of the research, and he creates a stress-free environment with his lively sense of humor. I have learned so much from him about virology and microbiology—he has greatly inspired my interest in biology."

After graduation, Gandhi plans to attend dental school. But until then, he will continue to work with Schiffenbauer on the research of white tea extract. ■

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