

Tempo

- Reflecting the Faces of New York's Diverse Communities -

New York School of
Career and Applied
Studies (NYSCAS)

*A Division of
Touro College*

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Focus on Faculty

A college is only as good as the faculty who reside inside. Here at the New York School of Career and Applied Studies (NYSCAS) we pride ourselves on our teaching staff and all their excellent skills. Our faculty are dedicated individuals. They are committed to teaching and honing their craft to bring students the best and most up-to-date education. Many NYSCAS teachers actually work in their fields: writing articles and grants, publishing books, conducting experiments, going to business conferences and so forth. The following featured instructors are just a part of the faculty body at NYSCAS and show our Touro community the commitment and drive they have – to make Touro a trend-setting school – with educators who are teaching-savvy.



Dr. Robert Fardon

Robert Fardon

Dr. Robert Fardon is NYSCAS' Science Coordinator. The Australian-born scientist is a serious instructor who emphasizes the importance of the physical sciences to understanding biology, medicine, and technology. Dr. Fardon's classes focus on building a solid basis in physics. From this, students can shape their science education in many directions. He enjoys using physics as a starting point to tailor questions for students and their interests. His excitement when discussing theory is contagious.

Fardon's duties as Science Coordinator enable him to work with the chairs of the chemistry and biology department. He is responsible for quality assurance to make sure that all science classes meet the same standards.

Fardon received his doctorate from the

University of Washington. He specialized in Particle Physics and Cosmology.

"I hope to make the science program at NYSCAS even stronger than it is today, thus enabling graduates to apply to more stringent schools for their graduate studies. We need to make the science classes more uniform and explore the personalization in classes with difficult materials. Many of our students are in pre-health science programs and are geared for Touro's Graduate School of Health Science or a career in health sciences," stated Fardon.

We prepare students for an undergraduate degree in biology, which includes chemistry, physics and math (statistics and precalculus). With a biology degree you can acquire the foundation for a career in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Physician's Assistant.

There are also options for laboratory technicians, pharmaceuticals and medicine. Touro offers a medical degree in Osteopathic Medicine at TouroCOM which is located in Harlem and Middletown, NY.

**THE
SPRING SEMESTER**

**begins Wednesday,
January 28, 2015**

Register Now!

Dean Spinelli



Dear Students, Faculty, Prospects and Alumni,

As the holiday season passes, families that drew together from near and wide rejoiced in different traditions which are reflected in our multicultural school. I hope everyone enjoyed their festivities with family and friends.

Our faculty is the heartbeat of our college and in this issue of "Tempo" we focus on the faculty's accomplishments and achievements. I have placed a bulletin board outside of my office to highlight the published works of our teachers. Please feel free to stop by and read the postings that are often published in major periodicals and on the Touro College website. I applaud the excellent work my staff and teachers perform, every day, to ensure that Touro College's NYSCAS will always remain the college with the personal touch.

*With warm regards,
E. Spinelli*

Freshman Success & Retention Office & Student Mentoring Support Services

The Freshman Success & Retention Office at NYSCAS is the place for students to go if they need help in studies, personal life or any school related subjects. Tutoring, registration, and liaison between the student and other departments— all fall under the head of the Freshman Retention Office's Director Lioudmila Sergueeva.



Ms. Sergueeva has been at Touro College since 2002. She first started as the Administrative Director of the DMX Program.

The Freshman Success & Retention Office is involved with many departments and staff at all the NYSCAS sites. "I serve as a link between the college and the freshman," Ms. Sergueeva stated.

"The office's main focus is keeping the students aware of student services such as tutoring and mentoring. When a student needs help in Math or English they are referred by their professor who fills out a form requesting help for the student. The form is then processed through the school and forwarded to my office. I find the ways in which we can assist the student to receive the help they need," Ms. Sergueeva explained.

Students should check their emails – daily – to see if the college has sent them an important message. Many of the emails you receive will be generated through the Freshman Success & Retention Office.

Ms. Sergueeva works closely with all the campuses. If you need help with school or just want someone to talk to, the Freshman Success & Retention Office is located in Room 20 (basement) of 27-

33 West 23rd Street. The phone number is 212-463-0400 x 5582 and the email address is Lioudmila.Sergueeva@touro.edu.

Student Mentoring Support Services

The Student Mentoring Support Services at Touro College is open to all students of any level. If you need one-on-one tutoring in any subject, managing academic problems, adjusting to college life, preparing for interviews or dealing with personal challenges, The Student Mentoring Support Services can assist you. Any problem, whether personal or academic, can be addressed with



a counselor, in confidentiality. Harriet DuBroff is the administrator of the Mentoring Support Services which is located in Room 315 at 27-33 West 23rd Street. The phone number is 212-463-0400 x 5323. You can stop by Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9am-4pm for more information.

Working Together

The Student Mentoring Support Services and Freshman Success & Retention Office work closely together. They coordinate the needs of the students with the departments in the school. It is important for incoming students to know there is someone they can turn to for help.

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Prof. Fardon challenges his students by asking, “How do you prepare for the sciences? The answer is building a foundation. If you have a solid foundation in biology, chemistry, physics and math you can build on it – forever. If you have gaps in your foundation it will crumble. A student must be dedicated and organized. They must maintain good study habits and learn to play up their own individual strengths and work on their weakness – immediately. Plateaus are reached by different strengths and forces. The initial force is greater and this will get you up the hill. Once you have plateaued the steps are easier. But you need the initial gigantic step to succeed. Skills and ability, that is the key,” stated Fardon.

Prof. Fardon teaches Physics 101 & 102 at the Midtown Campus.

Publications:

Supersymmetric Theories of Neutrino Dark Energy, Journal of High Energy Physics 0603:042, 2006, with A.E.Nelson and N.Weiner. (60+ citations)

Dark Energy from Mass varying Neutrinos, Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics 0410:005, 2004, with A.E.Nelson and N.Weiner. (250+ citations)

Brenda Coultas

Prof. Brenda Coultas has been teaching in the Languages and Literature Department at NYSCAS for more than ten years. She enjoys teaching poetry to her students. Her classes fill up quickly as her reputation for being an excellent teacher and dedicated to her craft, is well-known.



When asked what motivates Coultas to write, she replied, “I would like to cite Gertrude Stein, ‘I write for myself and others.’” Coultas says she doesn’t know if she makes others happy by writing poetry, but she likes the idea of making herself feel fulfilled and hopes it will rub off on others. “I enjoy teaching at Touro – most students end up in my class through faculty recommendations. Many students are surprised to learn poetry is really a good part of their lives. They grasp the concept much more readily than they expect to. We start by writing a sonnet – imitating other poets. We

explore authors’ biographies, their interesting lives and the period in which they lived and wrote. It really makes a difference to the students to know the authors’ background,” Coultas stated.

“The Smart Board is a great tool that we have here at Touro. It enables me to take my students through time to a different era by going online to a museum’s website and viewing art work as a class. We can see Picasso’s portrait of Gertrude Stein and understand so much more about her life and how her contemporaries viewed her, as well.

Students, in my class, have attended my poetry recitals. They have experienced being an audience member and listening to cultural expression. One such venue was the Poetry Project on East 10th and Second Avenue. We took a field trip there and they watched me as I shared the stage with another poet. Students experienced the venue and poetry,” Coultas explained.

Prof. Coultas’ love of poetry began at the tender age of five. “I first fell in love with storytelling time and nursery rhymes,” recalls Coultas. “I loved reading ‘Wynken Blynken and Nod,’ Dr. Suess and ‘Grimm Fairy Tales.’ There was also the ‘Book of Knowledge’ and ‘Book of Wonder.’ They had beautiful art plates.

I really love the aspect of figuring out how to move through time and space. Poets can teach you vivid imagery and how to creatively use it as a metaphor. Poetry is the highest form of language arts – it is imagery and economy,” Coultas explained.

Prof. Coultas recently published her fourth book of poetry, “Tatters.” She has been promoting her new book by reading excerpts from “Tatters” around the tri-state area.

Students who were lucky enough to listen to her work, recently in New Jersey, were simply in awe of her subtle use of symbolism when describing how the environment is reacting to the ever impeding expansion of humans.

Her November poetry reading with the Jewish Advocacy for Culture Knowledge (JACK) took place in Washington Heights. Members of the Touro community, faculty and students attended.

Prof. Coultas’ publisher Wes Lyan states:

“In a seamless weave of poetic sentences, The Tatters explores how our human processes of examination are often bound up with destruction. These poems enable us to be present with the sorrow and horror of our destructive nature, and to honor the natural world while acknowledging that this world no longer exists in any pure form, calling to us instead from cracks in the sidewalk, trash heaps, and old objects.”

Lewis Warsh, author of the novel "A Place in the Sun" and the poetry collection, "Inseparable," writes about Coultas's work, "Unlike most writers who are working in hybrid forms, Coultas creates a seamless enmeshment between poetry and prose, and this consistency of voice and tone is one of her great strengths."

Brenda Coultas is also the author of three books of poems: "The Marvelous Bones of Time," "A Handmade Museum, and Early Films." Coultas has served as faculty in Naropa University's Summer Writing Program, and lives in New York City. An online reader's companion, of "Tatters" is available at <http://tatters.site.wesleyan.edu>.

Helen Mitsios

Prof. Helen Mitsios teaches in the Languages and Literature Department at NYSCAS. She has been full-time faculty for more than twenty years and teaches English composition and literature.



Mitsios knew from grade school she wanted to become a poet. Growing up, she read the poetry of Thomas James and Carl Phillips.

Mitsios graduated from Columbia University with a masters in fine arts, specializing in poetry. She dabbled around after college working freelance as a writer and had pieces published in literary journals and newspapers. Her first and only faculty appointment began at Touro College. "Touro is like family to me," Mitsios fondly stated.

Her love of teaching stems from her own creativity. "There are probably a hundred ways to teach any good author to students – I like to fiddle around and find the best way to make inroads and have impact with the works I teach. I also have wonderful students here at NYSCAS who bring joy to the classroom," stated Mitsios.

Mitsios has just finished editing a book of "Icelandic Poetry." It is the first time since 1984 a book on Icelandic poetry has been published in the United States. She will be hosting and presenting an evening of poetry at the Scandinavian House

at 58 Park Avenue on January 8th at 6pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Mitsios also wrote, "Waltzing with the Enemy: A Mother and Daughter Confront the Aftermath of the Holocaust." It was published in 2011. The book is based on her mother's account of her life in Vilnius, Lithuania during WWII. The title refers to her mother waltzing with a Nazi officer, at one point, and hiding her Jewish identity. It is a powerful book about ipseity and survival.

"Mitsios and her mother, Klot, deliver a dual memoir documenting how past tragedies reverberate through the years to affect children of Holocaust survivors ... In the book's second half, Helen writes about seeking her own identity and learning of her mother's, while struggling to change her mother's fear that being Jewish would make them "outcasts." These mirrored memories provide an intimate portrait, compelling and compassionate."

—Publishers Weekly

Prof. Helen Mitsios is also the editor of "Digital Geishas and Talking Frogs: The Best 21st Century Short Stories from Japan," and "New Japanese Voices: The Best Contemporary Fiction from Japan," twice listed as a New York Times Book Review Summer Reading Selection and Editor's Choice.

Prof. Mitsios is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Swarthout Award in Poetry. She also serves on the steering committee of The Center for Jewish Research located on West 16th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

Brian Chiswell

Prof. Brian Chiswell began teaching at NYSCAS, in the biology department, two years ago. Chiswell was a research discovery scientist who worked for Advanced Cell Technology (ACT). The company worked on embryonic stem cell research. The cells were being tested to cure different diseases and were in clinical trials in Marlboro, MA. ACT is the only company in the world that has an embryonic stem cell product in research trials.



Prof. Chiswell's training is in protein chemistry. He used proteins to program adult cells in a way very distinct from embryonic stem cells to avoid the controversy that surrounded the work he was doing. The research behind the stem cell project was aimed at helping victims of accidents who were paralyzed. Because it was too difficult to continue working on the cells, due to all the negative controversy, the trials were stopped. The next project Chiswell worked on was treating dry macular degeneration, an eye disease which can render one blind. He worked with creating Retinol Cells that could be injected into the eye to slow down the progression of the disease.

Chiswell decided to leave Massachusetts and move back to New York City where he and his wife would be closer to family. He was offered classes at the NYSCAS Brooklyn campus, by Dr. Milton Schiffenbauer, chair of the biology department, and now happily calls New York City home.

Chiswell has many objectives for the biology students of NYSCAS. He sees the students here as, "thirsty for knowledge. They are all interested in pursuing their studies to a higher level. It is exciting to work with such a motivated student body. It inspires me to be the best teacher I can be."

Chiswell completed a post doctorate fellowship at Yale. He had started working on a side project, based on proteins and their ability to cure diseases. He rejuvenated this project at NYSCAS to continue his research. Chiswell has applied for a federal grant (National Institutes of Health) to fund the research. The basic research involves creating data for pharmaceutical companies to develop a drug to treat diseases. "It is under the category of 'cell signal,'" stated Chiswell. "If we are successful in obtaining the grant it would enable students to participate in the research giving them the opportunity to work on a groundbreaking discovery. I was motivated to reactivate my project again, based on the biology majors at NYSCAS who can use this research to help earn their degrees in healthcare."

Because it is a federal grant and the government receives so many applications Chiswell and the biology department have their fingers crossed that it will come through.

Chiswell is very active with the student body and available to help students with their studies and answer any questions they may have. His classes, after all, are prerequisites for the medical programs that Touro and other schools offer.

Prof. Chiswell teaches Cellular and Molecular Biology and Genetics. Both classes include a lecture and a lab.

Baruch November

Prof. Baruch November has been writing since the age of 18. "Frustration moved me to write. I felt there were messages to be heard and I wanted to be understood." When he wrote, people were affected and listened to his words and he was moved by their reaction to his work. Writing, for November, was a natural event, not planned or expected. "I enjoy teaching about writing, fiction and poetry; it gives me ways to explore the truth in my own writing."



November taught in community colleges, then applied to Touro. One of the reasons November enjoys teaching at Touro is the multicultural student body. "Touro should be proud they created such an amazing program. All my colleagues contribute to the supportive atmosphere at NYSCAS. I can pursue my Jewish beliefs through writing."

November recently started an organization, Jewish Advocacy for Culture and Knowledge (JACK). One of JACK's many aims is to support deserving artists, writers, and other creative intellectuals by creating a stage for them. Although it was founded with Jewish spirit and it will often feature Jewish artists and writers, this unique organization is for creative types of all races, creeds, and cultures. In fact, their events will feature diverse performers and aim to inspire and enlighten everyone – especially those sheltered, for whatever reason, from all that literature and art has to offer. In the near future, they hope to expand and get involved in educational programming, art and creative writing therapy, creative writing workshops, and social outreach through the arts.

November has been teaching at NYSCAS since 2003. He teaches English foundation classes, literature and creative writing in the Languages and Literature Department. His classes break down barriers and feelings of self-consciousness and negativity. They leave behind what's right and wrong, and critical about themselves. The true voices inside of the students come from their heart and soul. What emerges, through writing, is important to students. If you make the students feel comfortable, then free writing exercises become fun and exploratory sessions.

Prof. November has been reciting his poetry with Prof. Brenda Coultas and Prof. Helen Mitsios. Their most recent outings include a coffee house reading in New Jersey and a well attended recital in Washington Heights.

Prof. November has been called a writer of "talent, urgency, and a large, aching heart" by the poet Thomas Lux. Baruch November's collection of poems entitled "Dry Nectars of Plenty" co-won the BigCityLit chapbook contest. Prof. November also had his poetry and fiction published in "The Forward," "Poetica, The Jewish Literary Journal," "Lumina," BigCityLit.com, and other journals. Prof. November's poem "Auschwitz this Evening" was published in Poetica's 2014 Holocaust edition.

Jane Heil Usyk

Prof. Jane Heil Usyk teaches in the Languages and Literature Department. Her class, Critical Reading and Thinking in Ethnic Studies, is a foundation class that fulfills the ethnic studies requirement and is based on ethnic group reading and critical thinking skills to understand college texts across the curriculum.



Heil Usyk has been a freelance writer and editor for many years. Her articles have appeared in "Cosmopolitan," "Family Circle," "Vogue" and "Glamour." She worked on staff at "Vogue," "Fitness," and "New Woman" magazines. She taught at New York City colleges for fifteen years. Her stories and poems are currently in "And Then" magazine and online at "Forum of World Cultures."

She has a bachelor's degree from New York University where she received the Burrell Prize in Literature, and a master's degree in literature from City College in New York City. Heil Usyk attended Vermont Studio Center and the Dorset Writers' Colony in Vermont, on an artist's angel fellowship.

Her book, "Silence, Storytelling and Madness," was recently published. The book takes the reader into the world of young Spanish women who left Puerto Rico to live in New York City. These women were part of a movement from Puerto Rico to New York City that began in the mid-twentieth century. Heil Usyk explores the major issues of their transition – from adolescent to adult.

The first Nuyoricana (New York and Puerto Rican) coming-of-age story was published by Nicholasa Mohr in 1973, with her memoir "Nilda." Since then, more and more Nuyoricans and Latinas have written stories about their youth. These stories differ from the American coming-of-age stories because there is a great deal of commuting between countries involved: two homes, two languages, at least two schools, a confusing array of challenges regarding home, family, friends, languages, behavior, schools, cities, and their adjustment to each other. Several characteristics link the stories: storytelling, silences, mental illness, language issues, the pull between Puerto Rico and New York City, new neighborhoods, and the question of "where is home?"

Heil Usyk taught Puerto Rican teenagers in Manhattan and Brooklyn schools, from 1997 to 2012.

Professor Jane Heil Usyk's book, "Silence, Storytelling and Madness" is available on Amazon. You can read more about Heil Usyk's amazing career at: www.jane-heilusyk.com.

Dean Lenin Ortega and Dr. Gail Bell-Baptiste

In the 1990s educators tried to expand their reach to communities, near and far, with tele-education. Unfortunately, at that time, the equipment was cumbersome and the technology lacked the capacity to facilitate the kind of network that would enable educators to make an effective connection. As the years passed and technology advanced, the idea of tele-education was revisited by NYSCAS.



Dean Lenin Ortega

Dean Lenin Ortega helped realize an idea that Alan Goodwin of NY Link had discussed: having an online workshop incorporating a class at NYSCAS, a day care center in Brooklyn and a day care conference in Puerto Rico. Ortega approached the department of education's chairperson Dr. Gail Bell-Baptiste and suggested the plan. She was eager to try the new learning experience. On November 11th the department of education's "Foundations of Parenting" class met with tele-education computers in place and the conference went off without a hitch!

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Register for TCAAlert

Touro College has purchased a mass notification system, called TCAAlert, that provides an easy and effective way to send text, email and voice messages to notify the college community of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on the campus.

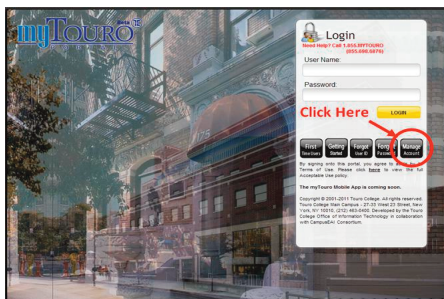
However, in order to receive notifications you must register your contact information into the system. As of October 1, 2013 all students, faculty and staff of Touro College are required to register on to the portal and enter their contact information there. The information will be uploaded from the portal into TCAAlert.

If you have not already registered your information on the portal, please do so immediately. Even if you are currently receiving TCAAlerts, your notifications will cease if you do not register your information on the portal. Below are the instructions for you to register your information.

To Register Using Your myTouro Account

If you have not yet activated your portal account, you will first need to do so by going to <https://mytouro.touro.edu>, clicking on the black “First Time Users” button, and following the prompts.

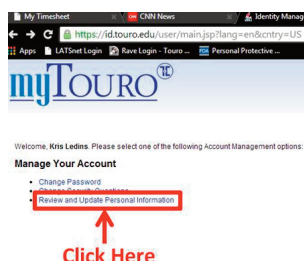
1. Go to the portal homepage at <https://mytouro.touro.edu> and click on the black “Manage Account” button in the row of buttons below the login section (DO NOT log into the portal).



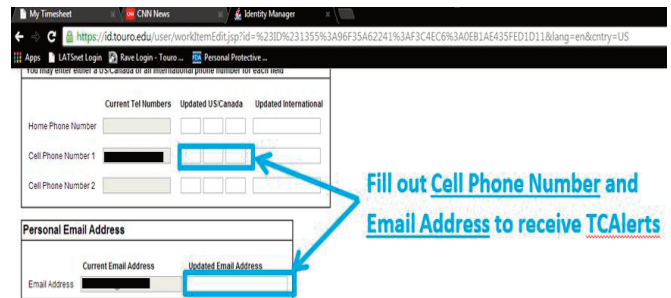
2. A new page will load and you will be prompted to enter your username and password (it will be the username and password you use to login to your desktop computer).



3. The “Manage Account” options will display; click on the link for “Review and Update Personal Information.”



4. Review the information that is displayed, and update or enter any missing information.



5. Once you have finished entering changes, click the “Update” button at the bottom of the page.



6. Click “Submit Changes” to save the changes that you made to your Personal Information.



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available as a pdf. file.
Email Deborah Becker at
deborah.becker@touro.edu to
join our mailing list.

Touro is a system of Jewish sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. Approximately 19,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Miami, Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles, are separately accredited institutions within the Touro College and University system. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu>.

Touro College is an equal opportunity institution.



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This ground breaking, sharing of education, from NYSCAS was a first for the midtown campus. “It enables us to reach more students. It is a win-win situation for everyone,” stated Ortega.

Dr. Bell-Baptiste said, “I see this as a trickle down education. Daycare teachers are learning from a class taught at Touro College and in turn that makes them stronger educators.

Some say parenting is the first step in education. In today’s society, some traditional families may have been traded in for modern families. Teachers can be making more of an impact on children, now than ever before. With all that responsibility we need to reach out, in any way we can, to the educators of the children of tomorrow – so they can utilize the best tools in education. Perhaps with a good foundation – children will lean more towards education. Education is power and we need to give the power to our children so they can be instrumental in forming a successful society. This can only come from the teachers who possess the tools to educate. The tele-

education course can enable this to happen.”

Bell-Baptiste is certainly in the know with this new avenue of education. She retired from the New York

City Board of Education after 38 years of service in teaching, guidance, and leadership.

Touro College hired her immediately. At first she was an adjunct teacher in the Department of Education, but quickly rose through the ranks to deputy chair of the department. Bell-Baptiste is all about education and this breakthrough tele-education class has her excited with all its possibilities.

Focus on Faculty



Dr. Gail Bell-Baptiste

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Touro NYSCAS Tempo is the newsletter of Touro College’s New York School of Career and Applied Studies. NYSCAS serves New York City’s diverse population at sites throughout Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn.

If you are a NYSCAS community member with an interesting story or accomplishment, you can schedule an interview with *Tempo*’s editor by visiting Room 307 or calling 212-463-0400 x 5572. Students can also submit short articles of 100-250 words to receive a byline and have their writing featured in the newsletter along with their picture. Student articles are accepted on a case-by-case basis and are edited for style and content.