

Winter, 2013

**NEW YORK ACADEMY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
Newsletter



**Incorporated in 1912**

Frank L. DeSario  
President

# Message from the President



**Frank L. DeSario**

Greetings for a happy, healthy new year to all! I am very proud to be the President of the New York Academy of Public Education and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me to serve in this capacity.

The Academy has just celebrated its 100th Anniversary. As President, I am honored to lead the Academy into the next century. As we look back and reflect over the past 100 years, we know that our members' professional contributions and networking have been vital to the Academy's continued growth and success.

The word, magnanimitas, which is derived from the Latin roots, magn and animitas, and means greatness of spirit, describes the strength of our membership over the years.

*Publication Committee*  
*Marisa Bolognino, Editor*  
*Kathleen Lavin*  
*Carol Russo*  
*Rosemarie Sinclair*  
*Joseph LaCascia*

Every human being has this greatness of spirit. In the Academy, members have demonstrated their greatness of spirit and used it "for a cause greater than oneself". This is one of the reasons why the Academy has lasted for over 100 years. Each member has been part of giving that greatness of spirit to other members through the professional opportunities that the Academy provides. These opportunities include: the professional journal, college consortium, and educational forums that provide discussions on the most relevant education topics. In addition, Academy dinners serve to provide members the opportunity to share their thoughts with some of the outstanding leaders in their field. Some recent keynote speakers included: Dr. Frank Macchiarola, Dr. Kathleen Cashin, and Catherine Nolan, last year's medalist. In October, 2012, our guest speaker was Shael Polakow-Suransky, Deputy Chancellor of the NYCDOE. The February, 2013, guest speaker will be Donald Conyers, Senior Supervising Superintendent, NYCDOE. Charles C. Cahn, Chief Executive Officer, Cahn Medical Technologies, and founder of The Cahn Fellowship Program, through Teachers' College, Columbia University, will be the Academy's medalist on May 7, 2013.

The coming year holds great potential for The New York Academy of Public Education, as we strive to uphold and extend our mission to consider and promote the interests of urban education of public schools, private schools, and colleges and universities in the metropolitan area.

I look forward to greeting everyone at our next dinner meeting on February 6, 2013 at the Princeton Club.

On behalf of the Academy, we send our thoughts and prayers to all in our community who suffered from Hurricane Sandy, as well as everyone in the Sandy Hook Elementary School community in Newtown, Connecticut.

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Frank L. DeSario

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Casimiro V. Cibelli

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Kathleen Lavin, Ed.D.  
Christopher Ogno

**DIRECTORS (2011-2014)**

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Philip Composto, E.D.  
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**The New York Academy of Public Education**

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# Guest Speaker

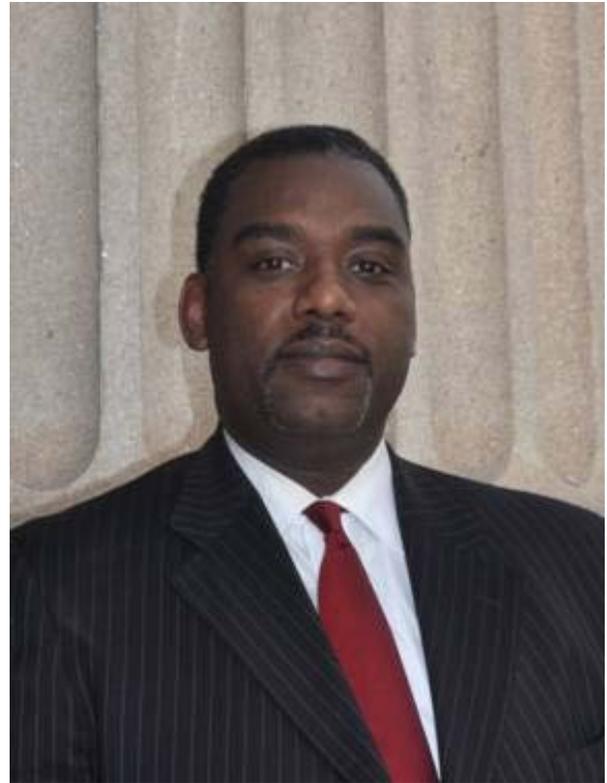
February 6, 2013

**Donald Conyers, Senior Supervising Superintendent**  
*New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)*

Donald Conyers has dedicated twenty-nine years of service to the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE). Since 2011, Donald has been the Senior Supervising Superintendent, overseeing the 40 NYC community and high school superintendents. As the leader of the NYCDOE Office of Superintendents, he is responsible for appointing, guiding, and providing professional development to all superintendents in their work to appoint and grant tenure to principals and fulfill other NYSED statutory expectations.

Donald has been a part of NYCDOE central leadership for seven years. From 2010-11, he was the Chief Education Officer for NYCDOE Cluster Three, which then provided instructional and operational support for over 250 schools and 165,000 students. He was previously the Community Superintendent of Community School District 23 from 2007-10 and the Local Instructional Superintendent in Region 9 from 2005-07. Donald has also partnered with the Quality Review (QR) team to revise the QR rubric and conduct QRs for schools across districts.

Prior to working for the central NYCDOE, Donald served in the South Bronx as Principal of the John Peter Zenger Elementary School - PS 18 for thirteen years. Each school year, the staff of PS 18 serviced as many as 700 students, of which 90% were eligible for free and reduced lunch. With the support of assistant principals, teachers, staff, and families, Donald worked tirelessly to stabilize and improve student achievement, while creating a sustainable path for continued success. He worked to build leadership among his staff, and three of his assistant principals have since become successful principals of their own schools. Similarly under his tenure, two assistant principals emerged from his teaching staff. For several years, Donald has taught leadership courses as



**Donald Conyers**

an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College Graduate School of Education, and he volunteers his time to deepen leadership capacity and strategic planning outside of his professional responsibilities.

Donald received an M.Ed in Special Education and a professional diploma in Educational Administration and Supervision from Brooklyn College. He is currently on leave from a doctoral program at St. John's University. Presently and going forward, Donald is committed to his pursuit to develop and support educational leaders.



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# The Academy in History



**Carol Russo**

Michael's principal areas of research are graph theory, mathematical statistics, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Latin American Literature, Chinese Written Language, Cosmology and Astronomy.

Michael has applied his extensive knowledge of statistics to such fields as social networks, science and literature.

Michael uses statistical analysis to identify the strength of a graph and its application to organizational structure or the distribution of popular persons in a social network.

His collaborations in literature include such short stories as: "Oscar", "The Depths", "October Pumpkins", "The Soul-Giver", "Translating a Poetic Prose", "The Evolution of Holiness, A chronicle of The Catholic Church Through the Lives of Her Saints", "Cosmogoria: A Tale of Two Galaxies" and more.

Michael's publications, a total of forty eight, include subjects from introductory engineering statistics, using probabilities to compare parking disciplines, to a proposal on a Chinese-English stroke-sequence dictionary.

Dr. Capobianco, a prolific writer of diverse publications, just completed a translation of a book of poems in the Trentino dialect. He is also working on a new type of Chinese-English dictionary using his stroke-sequence system and developing a book devoted to his original methods for teaching Mandarin Chinese to English speaking students.

Dr. Michael Capobianco has provided a wealth of knowledge as author and educator for many decades. The richness of his contributions has immeasurably enhanced the credibility of The New York Academy of Public Education.

We are grateful to Dr. Capobianco and applaud him in his lifelong work. Our expectations in his world of probability will be the publication of his next ten books.



**Dr. Michael Capobianco**

To further appreciate the historical perspective of the accomplishments and professional lives of our Academy's prestigious leaders, we look today at the creative and unique work of Dr. Michael F. Capobianco, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at St. John's University (1994 - present). Professor Capobianco received his Masters and Doctoral Degrees at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and Columbia University. His lifelong works as a statistical engineer and mathematician have earned him many honorary positions at Polytechnic Institute and St. John's University.



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OCTOBER 23, 2012 INDUCTEES

Mr. Frank Kraljic  
Mrs. Kathleen O'Farrell  
Ms. Michele Lloyd-Bey  
Marcos R. Bausch  
Mr. Gerard Beirne  
Ms. Carol Birks  
Mr. Emebet Bryan  
Dr. Beverly Folkes-Bryant  
Mr. William Cooper  
Mr. Joseph Dixon  
Mr. Jeremy Kabinoff  
Mr. John Lavelle  
Mr. Robert A. Miller  
Ms. Shalene Paulin  
Ms. Nancy F. Russo  
Mr. Al Sakey  
Dr. Shirley Smith  
Ms. Lori Solano  
Ms. Betty Soto  
Ms. Peta-Gay K. Tomilinson  
Dr. Nancy Westerband  
Mr. Henry Rubio  
Mr. Gerasimos Menegatos  
Ms. Yvonne B. Williams

## SPOTLIGHTS

**Madeleine Brennan** will celebrate her golden anniversary as Principal of Dyker Heights Intermediate School 201 on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Michael F. Capobianco** is having a new book published, "Eventarse na vita/To Invent a Life". It is a book of poems written by Antonia Dalpiaz in the dialect of her home town of Trento, Italy (Trentino). The book is biligual each poem in the original followed by the English translation. The poems are very beautiful, and Dr. Capobianco considers this book one of the highlights of his writing career.

**Susan Barnes, Sana Nasser, Laverne Nimmons, and Louis Pavone** are re- elected to the **2013** CSA Executive Board.

**Casimiro Cibelli** is appointed Chairman of the Westchester County Youth Bureau by Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino.

**Denise Shira** is newly elected to the 2013 CSA Executive Board.

### Upcoming Events

#### *Board of Directors' Meetings*

Thursday, April 9, 2013

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

#### *Dinner Meeting Dates*

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

*Dinner Meetings are held at the  
Princeton Club*

*15 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street*

*(Between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues)*

