

competitive pool of applicants, 12 new Fellows

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past semester was a difficult one as we all dealt with losses, shock and reassessment of our priorities. With grief, however, comes a recommitment to life and to our community. Many of our Fellows found support in one another's company and met for lunches during the semester. I continue to work to build an ever stronger community as we also grow larger.

With the admission of twelve new Fellows, our numbers have swelled to forty-four. We look forward to welcoming them all and integrating them into the group. I am continually inspired by the intelligence and dedication of the Fellows whose accomplishments are so numerous and remarkable. And it is wonderful to see them thrive in their mentoring relationships with faculty members. Excerpts from their journals testify to the dedication of the faculty who have guided their research, steered them to additional internships and fellowships, nurtured their interest in teaching, and provided valuable information about academic life and graduate programs. As always, we are greatly indebted to the mentors and thankful for their commitment.

Recruitment for the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship is under way, and I am looking forward to naming a second cohort of five students. Application are due March 15th, and awards will be made soon thereafter in order to give the new Fellows time to design summer research projects which will be funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that we are on the verge of launching a new website for the City College Fellowships Program. It will help us communicate among ourselves, facilitate recruitment, and inform the larger public about our program and the accomplishments of the Fellows:

www.cuny.cuny.edu/fellowshipsprogram

Susan Besse

NEW FELLOWS

Welcome!

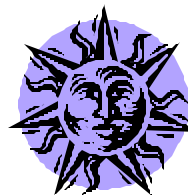
It is with great pleasure that we announce and welcome our new Fellows. From a most

have been selected to join the City College Fellowships Program in the spring semester 2002; 4 are Irani/Summerfield Fellows.

- * **Mr. Juan Alduey (HIST)**
- * **Ms. Anastassiya Andrianova (ENGL)**
- * **Ms. Eileen Chanza (ENGL)**
- * **Mr. Rodley Ferguson (ECON)**
- * **Mr. Karl Levy (MATH/PHY)**
- * **Ms. Alexis Logsdon (ENGL)**
- * **Ms. Wendy Prudencio (IS)**
- * **Mr. James Worley (ENGL)**

The 4 Irani/Summerfield Fellows are:

- * **Ms. Amoi Bonny (MCA)**
- * **Elizabeth Durante (ENGL)**
- * **Dawn Marczak (ENGL)**
- * **Paulino Robinson (HIST)**



APRIL 15, 2002

Summer Research Proposals DUE

If you haven't already picked up a copy of "Funding for Research, Training, Travel: Guidelines for requesting and using research monies," please stop by the office to get your copy. Proposals for summer research are due in the office April 15th.

THE JOURNAL

City College Fellows are paid their stipends for the activities they perform as Fellows, that is, activities beyond normal classroom activities, including attending Fellowship workshops and symposia and working on a project under the guidance of a Mentor. The journal is the way Fellows have of both documenting those activities and reflecting on their experiences.

In keeping with the practice of exchanging ideas and information, three journal excerpts have been chosen for inclusion in the Newsletter. They are excerpts from the journals of Sharae Belton, Eric Clausell, and Jose Vasquez.



by: Sharae Belton

"The workshops, meetings with Professor Veese, and tutoring are all the dressing rooms to life that let me try on different clothes (experiment with different thoughts) until I find something that is my right size. Sometimes, I have to change my outfit (thought) because it is too big, too small or not the color that fits me. This fellowship along with talking to Professor Besse has made me realize that there is nothing wrong with changing my clothes as long as it is the outfit that I want to wear. In this fellowship, like with clothes, no two people look the same in the same outfit. I still do not know what I can offer to other I rani Fellows, but I do know that I have to stop doubting my capabilities. I will now talk to Professor Besse about these insecurities instead of thinking I am a bother to her. I will discuss my problems more because if I don't face them, I will not grow and I will be dead in spirit.

by: Eric Clausell

Eric Clausell participated in Project Ascend (research internship) at the CUNY Graduate Center during summer 2001 and has continued his research under the mentorship of Professor Peter Hegarty, formerly of the College of Staten Island. His research concerns perceptions of gay models.

"On September 3rd my summer research paper was due. I was behind schedule, and my *Method Section* was still not right. What I naively assumed would be the easy section of the paper proved to be much more difficult than anticipated. I had done several rewrites and was essentially stuck. I was clueless as to how to interpret or notate the statistics and I was panicked! My mentor extraordinaire, Peter Hegarty was very patient. After an all-nighter, September 4th came and went, I finished the research paper, handed it in and picked up my stipend check. What a sense of accomplishment.

The conference for Summer Research Fellows to present their work was scheduled for October 12th at the Graduate Center. I didn't think there was any way I could possibly speak about the research I had done; I didn't really understand the most important aspect, the results. My great fear was that I would be found out to be an idiot (silly in retrospect). I was more nervous that day that I had been in years, my fears of failure and success all staring me in the face. I had to walk through the wall of fear that day, and it changed me. I have no idea what I said, but it was rumored to be quite good. I felt such a sense of accomplishment but was

still not prepared for what was to evolve out of that day.

Peter offered to continue to work with me over the academic year. He suggested that I apply to present my research at the Eastern Psychological Association's Spring Research Conference, which accepts proposals from students. Because of methodological flaws in the original study, I had to rerun the experiment, collect and analyze the data, and do a new write up. This time, I increased the number of participants from 60 to 100 to give genuine statistical power to the results, and I trained and supervised two research assistants. To analyze the data, I traveled to Yale (where Peter is a visiting professor) and used their computer lab. Disappointingly, the data collected was completely different from that gathered during the summer. Our initial research question was not supported, and I was afraid that the data was insufficient for a presentation proposal. Peter left me to interpret the data with a basic framework. I was unsure of what to write but came up with what I thought was a compelling and cogent analysis.

Peter sent me brilliant revisions, refocusing my interpretation. I was initially deflated by the extent of the revisions, but he informed me that psychology papers could be jointly authored and that what we did was perfectly normal and legal. What was great was how much I learned from this process, seeing how he could rephrase my findings. In the days leading up to the deadline for the EPA submission, Peter went back to the computer to play with the data to see if there were any other interesting interactions. He came upon something very exciting that contradicts the existing literature on perceptions of gay models. Suddenly we had a potentially publishable study! Now I have to rerun the study one more time, and if our data is consistent, we will have strong enough evidence to approach one of the major psychological journals for publishing.

This semester has challenged me to perform at a level I did not realize I was capable of: although frightening at times, it has been incredibly fun."

by: Jose Vasquez

"An unexpected benefit of my informal mentoring relationship with Professor Brooks was my being able to explore the service aspect of her work. She led a discussion, held at Columbia University's East Asia Institute, on an unpublished paper written by a professor from Princeton. The paper was read by all the participants before the meeting, then comments

were given to the author. When Professor Brooks



invited me, I sheepishly agreed fearing I would feel out of place among so many distinguished scholars. However, when I arrived I was warmly welcomed, and the professor introduced me to other historians and anthropologists specializing in Japan Studies. The paper presented was written by an anthropologist, so I was able to follow the discussion with ease. I found the meeting stimulating and was happy to have had the chance to participate.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC LIFE

Every semester, the Fellowships Program holds a forum on some aspect of research or academic life. During the fall semester 2001, Professors Venus Green (History) and Hillary Gomes (Psychology) discussed the process of conceptualizing their research. The Fellows raved:

"The forum, 'Doing Research,' was with Professor Green who was already my professor for HI ST 315 (African-American History). All I thought about was, "I have to hear Professor Green for almost three hours straight, 11:00-12:15 PM and 12:30-2:00 PM." But listening to her in the forum opened my eyes to the importance of research. In class, she always talks about the importance of evidence and how you cannot believe everything you read, but I understood more of what she meant at the workshop. It fascinated me to learn about how she had to take into account the biases of primary sources when she researched her own book. I learned that research is not easy. Her lecture helped me improve in her class as well. I began to be more critical of the readings and to question the sources and evidence each author had used. (Sharae Belton, English)

"I simply loved this treat [the forum] given by Venus Green and Hillary Gomes. I think it is incredibly important that students get to know what "real life" looks like for professors. Although many of us Fellows have been involved with diverse and more-or-less independent research projects, we wonder how much of what we are doing mirrors the work of researchers who are not supervised every step of the way, who sometimes do very controversial work, and who take years to finish their work. I particularly enjoyed seeing that both researchers were women whose research is no less valued because they are women. To the contrary, they have knowledge of aspects of life that most men may not have. Somehow, I have tended to think of researchers primarily as men, despite the many

references to female authors in my readings. I was fascinated to hear of the experiences of these two women because I could more easily relate to them than to male researchers. I know that their world is closer to what my world will look like when it is my turn. Learning about professors' behind-the-scenes and somewhat private work brings them closer to us students and gives us something to reach for. (Nina Finch, Anthropology)

"As usual, I found nothing better than squeezing into a tiny room with a large number of engaging Fellows, interesting guest speakers, and plates of food. Professor Green related her experiences in a way that helped me put my own primary research experiences into perspective. I knew that intellectual tenacity was needed for such work, but I never imagined the sort of fortitude of which she spoke. Yet, listening to her talk, I knew that I would not mind having to endure the sorts of obstacles she encountered. Professor Green's drive impressed and inspired me." (Catherine Franklin, English)

THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Th, February 7, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316
Orientation for New Fellows

Th, February 14, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/209
Wellness & Counseling Workshop

Th, February 21, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/209
Recruitment Meeting Mellon Fellowship

Th, February 28, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316
Luncheon with President Williams

M, March 11 - MELLON APPLICATIONS DUE

Th, March 14, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316
Workshop: The Mentoring Relationship

Th, March 21, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/209
Wellness and Counseling Workshop

Th, April 11, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316
Workshop: Applying to Graduate School

M, April 15 - SUMMER PROPOSALS DUE

Tu, April 16, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316



The City College Fellowships Newsletter, February 2002

Recruitment Meeting for CCFELL

Th, April 18, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/209
*Mellon Fellows & Mentors Meeting,
to discuss Summer Projects*

Th, April 25, 12:30-2 PM, NAC 6/316
Symposium - All Fellows MUST Attend

W, May 1 - CCFELL/IRANI APPLICATIONS DUE

Recruitment Meetings for Potential FELLOWS:

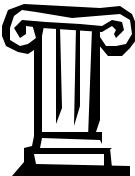
Thursday, April 16th
in NAC 6/316

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

APPLICATIONS for the City College Fellowships and
the Irani/Summerfield Fellowships
are DUE: Wednesday, MAY 1, 2002

NEED HELP WITH YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT?

"Michel DeMatteis, one of our fellows, is an experienced writer who works professionally at Natural History magazine and is available to help students who have already begun putting together the personal statement. She can help you edit it for the best presentation and guide you in rewriting where necessary. She can also copy-edit and proofread your statements when you have a finished product. She hopes to learn more about the process herself by helping others do what she will have to do herself next year, so please don't hesitate to call on her. You can make an appointment by contacting her at dematt@amnh.org.



SPRING GRE COURSE

begins March 8th @ Graduate Center;
there are two sessions from which to
choose: 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Ask
Renee for details.

Awards at City

- Starkweather Award "provides a stipend of \$1,000 to a student engaged in a significant humanistic project under the guidance of a faculty mentor." Deadline to apply is March 14 @ 4 PM; for information, contact Humanities & Arts Office, NAC 5/225.
- E.Y. Harburg Scholarship for Upper Sophomore, African-American students has a deadline of early March 2002. Applicants available in English Department, NAC 6/219.
- To learn about Project Ascend/McNair 2002 Summer Fellowships for CUNY undergraduates contact Beth Stickney: 212/817-1828 or BStickney@gc.cuny.edu

CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS is an umbrella program administering three undergraduate fellowships. It brings together approximately 10 Mellon Minority Fellows, 25 City College Fellows, and 8 Irani/Summerfield Fellows into a single, highly diverse and vibrant community of outstanding students. All Fellows share a common interest in independent research or creative production, and benefit from faculty mentoring, financial support, pre-graduate school advising, participation in the interdisciplinary seminar, and a supportive intellectual community.

City College and Irani/Summerfield Fellows are recruited every semester with application deadlines of December 1 and May 1. Mellon Fellows are recruited once a year with an application deadline of March 10th.

The Director of the program is Professor Susan Besse; the Administrative Program Director is Renee Philippi. The program is housed at The City College in NAC 6/316. We may be reached by phone, 212/650-8388, or email, CCFELL@ccny.cuny.edu.