



Summer 2007

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Even after years of directing the City College Fellowships Program, Commencement brings the same excitement. As always, I take immense pride and pleasure in celebrating the achievements of the Fellows. I have watched in admiration as Fellows have developed their research projects and presented them at conferences. And it is most heartening to see their hard work and intellectual potential recognized through graduate school admissions and fellowships won. This year, Eder Izaguirre was the 2007 class Valedictorian and Katherine Ramos was the Salutatorian. I find the achievements of the Fellows humbling and continue to feel honored to direct this program.

Highlights of the semester included two conferences. City College hosted the Fifth Annual Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship New York Regional Conference: a daylong event including presentations of student research, workshops on graduate education, and a luncheon with keynote speaker Professor Hugo Benavides. In addition, the fifth annual City College Fellowships Research Conference brought Fellows together to share their research across all the disciplines of the college. At both events, the sophistication of the research and the professionalism of the undergraduate presenters were remarkable. Equally important, the wonderful spirit of collegiality, respect and support among the Fellows served as an inspiration for both presenters and audience members.

As we lose Fellows to graduate school and the wider world, we also gain a new cohort of Mellon Mays Fellows and City College Fellows who bring new energy to our community. They are a diverse and highly distinguished group from across the disciplines, and it is my great pleasure to welcome them to our community.

Susan Besse

NEW FELLOWS

The new City College Fellowship Fellows are:

- Kelly Tyleen (ENGL/Theater)
- Mariya Shcheglovitova (BIO/MATH)
- Kerry Sipe (MATH)
- Kimberly Paige Young (ENGL)
- Xu Zhe (BIO)

The new Mellon Mays Fellows are:

- Miriam Charles (HIS)
- Ana King Garcia (Spanish)
- Angela Perez (HIS/Asian Studies)
- Wendell Ramsey (ENGL)
- Elena Sandoval (MUS)
- Kushya Sugarman (ENGL)
- Felicity Tsikiwa (ART)
- Micah Wittmer (MUS)

Summer Projects 2007

The Fellowships Program is pleased to be sponsoring (in part or fully), the following Fellows in their summer pursuits:

Lynne Allen (PSYCH) is participating in the Service Learning Program in Rwanda offered by the International Studies Department at City College in conjunction with the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology and Rwanda's Ministry of Health's Psychosocial Trauma Counseling.

Luis Apolo (Physics) is conducting research under the supervision of his mentor, Prof. Punnoose, in which he will study how the properties of GaN are affected by the underlying crystal structure.

Miriam Charles (HIS) is participating in the Wesleyan University's Summer Research Program, through the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.

Marina Chernyak (PS/MATH) is participating in Duke University's Advanced Level of the American Economic Association's Summer Program in Economics.

Carlos Galindo (MATH/ECO) is participating in Duke University's Advanced Level of the American Economic Association's Summer Program in Economics.

Xavier Martinez (PS) traveled to a conference at Harvard University on Latin American criminal justice policy: *Confronting Crime and Violence in Latin America: Crafting a Public Policy Agenda*.

Rosa Mino (Neurogenetics) attended the First Pan American Congress in Developmental Biology in Cancun, Mexico.

Kenya Mitchell (ENGL) was mentored by City College Archivist Sydney Van Nort and was a management intern at A Gathering of the Tribes.

Christopher Negron (Physics) is conducting research under

the supervision of his mentor, Prof. Koder, to enhance his knowledge of cellular biology and biochemistry.

Angela Perez (HIS/Asian Studies) is participating in MURAP, the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Wendell Ramsey (ENGL) is participating in the Wesleyan University's Summer Research Program, through the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.

Justino Rodriguez (HIST) has traveled to Bolivia to continue interviewing ex-miners of El Alto--the "warriors of the nation"--a project that he began during summer 2006. The research will help him define the role of the miners in the political life of El Alto and of Bolivian society and history

Elena Sandoval (MUS) is participating in the University of Chicago's MMUF Summer Research Training Program, focus-

ing on the relationship between music analysis and performance.

Kushya Sugarman (ENGL) is attending the Brooklyn College Summer Program in London, studying Shakespeare in English Theatre.

Felicity Tsikiwa (ART) has traveled to the Université Laval, Québec, Canada, to participate in an intensive French language course.

Micah Wittmer (MUS) is participating in the University of Chicago's MMUF Summer Research Training Program, conducting research on the influence that Negro Spirituals and plantation songs have had on the music of Stephen Foster, Louis Mareau Gottschalk, George Chadwick, Charles Ives, and George Gershwin: American composers who were not African-American and who defined American music.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Fellows' Activities and Awards, 2006-2007:

Our Graduating Seniors:

Ivan Bukta (MCA) graduates September 2007 Summa Cum Laude and will enter Columbia University's MFA program in film studies. He was also awarded the Point Foundation Scholarship for the second year in a row. (The Point Foundation Scholarship is a nationwide \$13,500 scholarship for outstanding students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.) Ivan was also awarded MCA's Communications Alumni Award.

Efraín Cárdenas (Spanish) graduated Cum Laude and will enter CUNY Graduate Center this fall to pursue a PhD in Spanish.

Judith Castillo (Spanish) graduated June 2007 and was awarded the Zitrin Peer Tutor/Mentor Award from the Office of Student Support Services. She plans to pursue a PhD beginning in fall 2008.

Roy Coopervasser (Music) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Music Department's Sidney Zolot Award for Excellence in Music.

Alejandra Cunningham (HIS/ANTH) graduated Magna Cum Laude June 2007 and will enter CUNY Graduate Center's Cultural Anthropology PhD program this fall with a scholarship paying full-tuition and a \$5,000 stipend for four years. She was also awarded the History Department's Carl Dunat Scholarship.

Jamila El-Gizuli (IS) graduated Summa Cum Laude and secured for fall 2007 an internship at the United

Nations Department of Public Information on the NGO Conference.

Keegan Goodman (ENGL) graduated Summa Cum Laude January 2007. He was awarded the Toni Cade Bambara Scholarship and the Abraham A. Bernstein Award from the English Department. He will begin a MFA in Creative Writing at The University of Illinois at Chicago, September 2007.

Eder Izaguirre (Physics) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was the Class of 2007 Valedictorian. He was awarded the Physics Department's Ward Medal, the Science Department's Ira Webber Scholarship, and the Mathematics Department's Mazur Award. He will enter Stanford University's PhD program in High Energy Theoretical Physics with a scholarship paying full-tuition and a stipend for four years.

Erick Leon (PSYCH) graduated Magna Cum Laude and was named a Malamed Scholar by the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Jennifer Lyne (PSYCH) graduated Summa Cum Laude and will enroll in September in Fairleigh Dickinson University's Ph.D. program in clinical psychology.

Carmel Maria McMahon (ENGL) graduated in January 2007 Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the English Department's Edward C. & Ruth P. Mack Graduate Fellowship. She was an Isaacs Scholar as well as a Kaye Scholar. She plans to pursue a PhD beginning in fall 2008.

Ujuka Obi-Eyisi (Biochemistry) graduated Summa Cum

SUMMER REPORTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

CCNY Fellowships Newsletter Summer 2007

Laude and was awarded the Louis Shapiro Friendship Award from the Office of Student Affairs, CCNY and was named by the Division of Science, a Gerald Brenner Scholar and was awarded the Frank & Rose Brescia Award from the Chemistry Department. She will begin medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical Center at Syracuse in the fall.

Heather Palenschat (PS) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Political Science's Ward Medal, Murray Gordon Award, and Joseph I. Flom Award for Academic Excellence. She will enroll in a Master's program at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health in the Public Health Policy Division in the fall.

Roman Palitsky (PSYCH/Religious Studies) graduated June 2007 Suma Cum Laude. He will enroll in the Harvard Divinity School in the fall.

Katherine Ramos (PSYCH) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was the Class of 2007 Salutatorian. She was awarded the Bernard Ackerman Foundation Award and Ward Medal from the Psychology Department, and was awarded the Zitrin Peer Tutor/Mentor Award from the Office of Student Support Services. She will enroll in Rice University's PhD program in industrial organizational psychology in the fall.

Denise St. Just (HIS/PS) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Political Science Department's Walter and Betty Popper Award. She will enter George Washington University's Law School in the fall.

Guillaume Wadia (HIS) will graduate September 2007 and plans to pursue a PhD in History. He was awarded the History Department's Paul Aron Award for Best Undergraduate Research Paper.

FALL 2007 SCHEDULE

Th., August 30 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Orientation for ALL New Fellows (including MMUF)

Wed., September 19 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Seniors (& other Fellows wanting to participate) hand in drafts of personal statements to Renee Philippi for *Writing the Personal Statement Workshop*.

Th., September 20 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Roundtable: Summer Research Experiences: Exchange of Information

Th., September 27 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Workshop: Writing the Personal Statement

Th., October 11 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Workshop: Seeking & Winning Funding for Study and Research

Th., November 8 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316
Forum with Guest Speaker(s): Doing Research

Th., November 15 12:20 - 1:30 PM NAC 6/316
Recruitment Workshop

Th., December TBA
Meeting with Fellowship Seminar instructors, for those who will enroll in the Fellowship Seminar

Mon., December 3 APPLICATIONS DUE

Fellow-Initiated Luncheons

Th, Sept., 6	12:20 - 2PM	NAC 6/316
	(welcoming party)	
Th., Oct., 4	12:20 - 2PM	NAC 6/316
Th., Nov., 1	12:20 - 2PM	NAC 6/316
Th., Nov., 29	12:20 - 2PM	NAC 6/316

GRE PREP COURSE

If you plan to take the GRE fall 2007 or spring 2008, you should definitely take the GRE PREP course. For information regarding upcoming class schedules, please contact Prof. Ron Pilette (primeprep@onebox.com) regarding GRE Prep. Indicate to him that you are Fellow in the City College Fellowships Program. The Fellowships Program will pay for the course.

Fall 2007 Schedule

Thursdays	Aug. 23 - Oct. 4	(6 pm - 9:45 pm)
Wednesdays	Oct. 10 - Nov. 14	(6 pm - 9:45 pm)

CHECK PROCEDURE

Remember: all checks (stipends, reimbursement for travel, summer monies, etc.) are picked up in the Bursar's office, A103. It takes approximately three weeks to receive a check once a disbursement form has been submitted. Stipend checks are not processed until the journal has been received with the Mentor's signature. If you have any question about the procedure, please ask Renee Philippi.

Continuing Fellows:

Je Hi An (BE) presented a poster in the Society for Neuroscience's 2006 Poster Presentation and has had an article published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. She has been awarded a grant from NASA.

Luis Apolo (PS) was awarded, from the Department of Science, the Sidney Millman Scholarship and the Zemansky Introductory Physics Prize.

Marina Chernyak (PS/MATH) was awarded in fall 2006 the City College's Dobrich New American Scholarship and was named a Colin Powell Leadership Fellow. In spring 2007, she was awarded the Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship from the CUNY BA program.

Antonia Florio (BIO) was awarded City College's Bernard B. Levine Scholarship and the Professor Jess Hanks Award for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and was named a Barbash Scholar by the Jewish Studies Department.

Carlos Galindo (MATH/ECO) was awarded, summer 2007, the American Economic Association Minority Scholarship, Duke University, and in spring 2007, the Edna and Harold Kaufman Alumni Association Scholarship, awarded to a junior/senior at CCNY for academic excellence, and the Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship from the CUNY BA program.

Rosa Mino (BIO) was awarded a travel grant to attend a student Cell/Molecular Biology research conference in Cancun, Mexico, from the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

Kenya Mitchell (ENGL) was awarded the SSSP Outstanding

Student Award, Jacob Weiser Playwriting Award, Esther Unger Poetry Award, and the 2007 Poetry Ambassador & Outstanding Achievement in Poetry by the International Society of Poetry.

Christopher Negron (Physics) took First Place at the 15th Annual Statewide Student Poster Competition held by the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program and was awarded the Piel Award and the MARC U Award.

Angela Perez (HIS/Asian Studies) was awarded the History Department's Joan Kelly Prize. She also participated in Harvard University's Galbraith Scholars Program. As a Galbraith Scholar, Angela received a scholarship, covering all expenses for the five-day session at Harvard University led by Harvard faculty, doctoral fellows, and other invited speakers and social policy practitioners.

Rose Sayre (PS) was awarded the Political Science Essay Award, the Bennett Prize; she also has an internship at the Urban Justice Center as a research assistant.

Justin Rodriguez (HIS) was awarded City College's Josh and Judy Weston Public Service Scholarship and Kaye Scholarship, and participated in the CUNY 07 intersession Argentina Study Abroad Program.

Elena Sandoval (MUS) was awarded the Alumni Association's Orange County/San Diego Chapter Scholarship.

Micah Wittmer (MUS) was awarded the Music Department's Stanley Sachs Scholarship.

Michael Zawoiski (MATH) was awarded the CCNY Israel E. Drabkin Award and attended the summer Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA, and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Interview with Professor John Krinsky

By Heather Palenschat and Rose Sayre

July 5, 2007

Professor John Krinsky has mentored seven City College Fellows and Mellon Mays Fellows—Marina Chernyak, Ayelet Haran, Xavier Martinez, Heather Palenschat, Rose Sayre, Denise St. Just, and Papa Tall—since he came to CCNY in September 2002. He has a B.A. in Religion from Swarthmore College, a M.A. in Urban Planning from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University. His first book is due out in 2007, *Free Labor: Workfare and the Contested Language of Neoliberalism*, University of Chicago Press. He secured tenure this year and is an associate professor in the

Department of Political Science. He is also the grandson of a City College graduate.

On teaching and mentoring at City College: "You realize that the students are taking you to the frontiers of your expertise."

For Krinsky, it is very exciting to see his undergraduate students take responsibility for a question or a set of questions. It is a matter of keeping "one foot in the door" of graduate- and professional-level research. Indeed, mentoring has forced him to be constantly learning, since his students have chosen research topics that have ranged from voting rates in transnational Senegalese communities, to the politics of indoor air pollution abatement in Rwanda, to the Honduran government's policies toward gangs, to Maoism in Tibet.

CCNY Fellowships Newsletter Summer 2007

Krinsky explains the importance of mentoring undergraduate students who are involved in the City College and Mellon Mays Fellowships:

“When you are teaching in an undergraduate institution, sometimes there is a fear that you can kind of lose your chops... When you are teaching graduate students, they have a professional stake in getting to the bottom of the issues... When you are mentoring students from the City College Fellowship program, it’s like teaching in graduate school.”

Professor Krinsky says he loves City College because students “are not just aesthetically involved with ideas;” their convictions stem from “real life experiences.” They are more likely to have work experience and less likely to take an entitled or privileged view toward their educational opportunities than students in more elite institutions. He says of his teaching experiences at City College:

“I have had students who think about politics because when the *Tontons Macoutes* came to their door looking for their Uncle, they faced

them down. And you would never believe it, because some shy woman in the class who never says very much faced up to the *Tontons Macoutes*.”

Political Activism and Teaching

As an undergraduate, Professor Krinsky became involved in organizing around homelessness, which shifted his focus towards sociology and politics. After completing his M.A. in urban planning, Krinsky applied for positions in organizing, but instead landed a job doing research on low-income, cooperative housing models in ten different cities. It was this job that brought him into contact with issues surrounding workfare, eventually drew him back to school for his Ph.D., and led him to write a dissertation on the challenges of organizing workfare workers.

Krinsky takes issue with injustice of any kind, particularly when it involves the homeless and issues of poverty. Indeed, everything he has worked on in his academic and professional career has had an activist “bent,” as he says. Because Krinsky finds that he has never come up with an academic question that is not politically

FIFTH ANNUAL CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS RESEARCH CONFERENCE May 4, 2007

- 10:00 Carlos Galindo, Evidence of Economic Convergence in Agriculturally Intensive States in Mexico
- 10:20 Marina Chernyak, Household Energy Use in Rwanda: Building Evidence for Policy
- 10:40 Heather Palenschat, Saving Lives: What Debate around Needle Exchange Programs Can Teach us About the Power of Values in Public Policy Arguments
- 11:00 Xavier Martinez, The Failures of “Mano Dura” Policy in Honduras
- 11:20 Guillaume Wadia, The Second Bureau and the Origins of Decolonization in North Africa
- 11:40 Erick Leon, Romantic Jealousy: How it Has Been Studied and How it Relates to Culture

- 12:00 Efraín Cárdenas, ‘Translation’ and Mediation: Reconstructing a Society in Our Lady of the Assassins
- 1:00 Ujuka Obi-Eyisi, Distribution of AgNOR-containing Neurons in the Ferret Visual Cortex
- 1:20 Nelson Rodriguez, A Scanning Electron Microscopy Study of the Unique Defensive Apparatus of the Beetle *Onychocerus albicans* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)
- 1:40 Je Hi An, The Effects of Glucose and Glutamine in the Formulation of the Artificial Cerebrospinal Fluid
- 2:00 Pavel Danilochkin, Effective Cooling of Microelectronic Devices
- 2:20 John Romey, Francois Rabbath: Art and Pedagogy
- 2:40 Ivan Bukta, James Cameron’s “Titanic:” The Art of the Blockbuster
- 3:00 Roman Palitsky, Mental Illness and Mysticism Among Babbas in Kullu Valley, India
- 3:20 Elena Sandoval, A Structural Analysis of Mozart’s Flute Concerto in G Major

motivated, he feels that within his own work, he cannot separate the two. This accounts for his unique style of mentoring; in working with students and their questions, he encourages awareness of the political aspects of their research, whether or not this drives them as it seems to drive him in his own research.

Why a Ph.D.?

Professor Krinsky ultimately decided to pursue a Ph.D. for a number of reasons: he knew he wanted to continue doing research, his mother was (and still is) a professor, and he greatly admires her work. More importantly, he had teaching experience while working on his master's degree, and he knew that he loved teaching. He feels that when choosing a Ph.D. program, it is very important to make sure it is tailored to your interests, but also allows maximum employability. This is why he chose to pursue a Ph.D. in Sociology instead of Urban Planning. These are the kinds of things he had to weigh as he considered programs for doctoral study.

Regarding trends in academia, Professor Krinsky expresses concern with the tendency to replace tenure track jobs with short-term contracts. Because of this and other difficulties, he thinks students should carefully consider the decision to pursue an academic career. As he says of his own research: "It gives me a fire in my belly." But, "if it stops being an obsession, you might as well do something else." He also feels that students entering college have not had enough focus on reading and writing during their primary education due to "teaching to the test" policies. On a positive note, Professor Krinsky is happy about the greater focus on pedagogy in higher education with the integration of service learning, for example. He also notes that new technology has phenomenally increased the availability of information, something with good and bad consequences.

A Day in the Life

Getting published was one of Professor Krinsky's main challenges in the years leading up to his tenure. He feels his interdisciplinary approach to theory may have hampered acceptance of his articles by major journals. Additionally, he became caught in a cycle of revising and resubmitting at the request of several journals, only to have articles ultimately rejected. Luckily, all of Krinsky's articles were eventually published and a major academic press accepted his book before he came up for tenure.

Krinsky had three mentors while studying at Columbia, all well regarded within the field of Sociology. He valued having faculty mentors with whom he could discuss ideas, who would stimulate his own further exploration into a question, and also inspire him with their own academic successes. Peer support from other students was also a very important factor during this process. The City College Fellowship encourages building these peer relationships very early in the academic career for just this reason.

"I believe that somebody should be available – my door is open for students."

There are a lot of ways to approach teaching and mentoring students. Professor Krinsky has a very active daily relationship with his students, including the Fellows he has mentored for this program. As he says of these students in particular (as well as those in the Honor's Thesis Seminar he teaches), he has had the opportunity to learn much by working with students on so many diverse projects. While he hasn't always been able to teach specifically what he himself has researched, he says that he prefers it this way, because it is not always as easy to teach what one is closest to. In this way, he can give general mentoring advice and then work on the specific questions one-on-one with each student. This affords him intellectual challenges that help to keep him interested and sharp. It is clear that Professor Krinsky immensely enjoys mentoring, and almost any day you can catch him if you walk by his office on the fourth floor of the NAC building. His door is open.

City College Fellowships Program is an umbrella program that administers several undergraduate fellowships. See our website for information:
www.ccny.cuny.edu/fellowshipsprogram
The City College Fellowships Office is located in NAC 6/316, 212/650-8388.

R. Philippi compiles the newsletter.

