



# THE CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the academic year draws to a close, I delight in celebrating the achievements of our Fellows. The many prizes they have won and the successes of our graduating seniors in gaining admission to graduate schools testify to their hard work and promise. The College, their mentors, and their families may share pride in their accomplishments.

To our graduating seniors, we wish you the very best of luck. Your example has inspired Fellows who continue to chart their own paths through college. Fellows continuing in the program will be joined in the fall by six new City College Fellows and four new Irani/Summerfield Fellows. They will enrich our community with their varied talents, backgrounds, and areas of interest. We welcome you all!

I continue to be inspired by the intelligence and passions of our Fellows. It is humbling to interview the many remarkable students who apply and profoundly rewarding to watch them flourish academically and personally. I take pride and pleasure in working to expand the program to include ever greater numbers of Fellows, to help them get the best from their education at City College, and to foster their coming together to befriend and mentor one another.

Have a happy and productive summer!  
Susan Besse

## NEW FELLOWS

It is with great pleasure that we announce and welcome our new Fellows. From a most competitive pool of 20 applications, 10 new Fellows have been selected to join the City College Fellowships Program in the fall semester, 2000; 4 are Irani/Summerfield Fellows and 1 is a returning Fellow. The new City College Fellowship Fellows are:

- ❖ **Mr. Angel Guaraca (Math)**
- ❖ **Mr. Gabriel Hernandez (HIST)**
- ❖ **Mr. Tarik McMillian (Physics)**
- ❖ **Ms. Assia Nakova (History)**
- ❖ **Ms. Andrea Sciacca (English)**

- ❖ **Mr. Eugene Spiropoulos (Chem. Engin.)**  
The new Irani/Summerfield Fellows are:
- ❖ **Mr. Steven Dean (Theatre)**
- ❖ **Ms. Catherine Franklin (English)**
- ❖ **Ms. Susan Hines (Art)**
- ❖ **Mr. Fredric Villano (English)**

## SUMMER PROJECTS 2000

The Fellowships Program is quite pleased to be sponsoring (in part or fully), these Fellows in Their summer pursuits:

- ❖ **Daniel Ercilla (HIST)** has received summer monies to study "how commodities coax and shape both producer and consumer societies," focusing on the cocaine trade between the US and Latin America.
- ❖ **Jonathan Cohen-Litant and Vassiliki Kampiti**, both Architecture students, are two of the five students from America selected to attend a workshop in Rome, the *Casa Malaparte Workshop*. They received summer monies to help cover the cost of the workshop.
- ❖ **Avalon Garcia (BioChem)** will be using her summer monies to conduct research in Dr. Sharon Cosloy's lab; the research seeks to isolate the regulatory factors in heme biosynthesis.
- ❖ **Shalni Ramchandani (HIST)** has received summer monies to attend a Chinese language course at the China Institute as well as to conduct research in modern Chinese and Japanese history.

## FELLOWS and MENTORS NEWS

**Congratulations  
to Nicola Blake  
& Professor Liz Mazzola  
for winning the 1999/2000  
Mentoring Award**

Nicola Blake, an English major and one of our June 2000 graduates, and her mentor, Professor Elizabeth Mazzola (English Department) were the winners of the 1999/2000 Mentoring Award. Professor Mazzola describes her relationship with Nicola:



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*"I have just given birth to my first baby this month [March]; but my work with Ms. Blake comes very close to this kind of transforming partnership, and the closeness inspired by a commitment to something which exists because we have worked together. Ms. Blake has also been my teacher in this enterprise."*

*Congratulations  
to Thea Halo  
on the publication of her book,  
Not Even My Name*

Peter Balakian, author of *Black Dog of Fate*, writes: "In telling her mother's epic story of survival and ultimate triumph in America, Thea Halo has written an important book about a largely unknown history: the genocide of the Pontic Greeks at the hands of the Turkish government in years following World War I. Halo's deeply moving portrait of her mother reverberates with large moral issues that affect us all."



**Congratulations!**  
**to Pamela Margid**  
**The Valedictorian**  
**of the June 2000**  
**graduating class!**

## A Journal Excerpt

The following has been taken from Avalon Garcia's journal. Avalon is a Biochemistry major who has just completed her first year in the Fellowship program.

"As a Biochemistry student, I am surrounded by programs designed to prepare students for medical school. I am grateful that there is a program such as the City College Fellowships to help prepare and guide students for graduate school. The Fellowships workshops have answered many questions that I have had about graduate school. I have also heard the success stories of other Fellows who are graduating and entering graduate programs at other University systems. Their stories have been inspiring and motivating.

This semester, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Sharon Cosloy in her molecular genetics lab. The purpose of my research was, and is, to find genes that participate in the regulation of the heme biosynthetic

pathway, and to determine the mechanism of its regulation. Dr. Cosloy and I were in daily contact, discussing the different aspects of my research. She guided me through the various phases of my project that included analyzing my results. I enjoy working with Dr. Cosloy because she is willing to answer questions, and she has her student's best interest at heart.

I have realized that having a good working relationship with a mentor opens up many doors for the protégé. For instance, I was nominated by Dr. Cosloy to become an associate member of Sigma Xi, an honorary research society. At the induction ceremony, she expressed to those present that I have shown potential to become an independent research scientist. It is wonderful to know that she has such faith in my abilities to do research. Her words increased my drive to pursue a career in academia.

Among the many new experiences that I have had this semester, the most memorable was being invited to speak at a CCNY alumni reunion. The Dean of Science, Dr. Dennis Weiss, needed an undergraduate student to speak to the class of 1940 for their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Although I had never spoken in front of a distinguished crowd before, I was ready for the challenge. I was a bit nervous when I was told that I would be the only student present. However, my anxiety dissipated after I read my speech to Dr. Cosloy. She gave me a few suggestions and I was ready to speak to the class of 1940. I was elated by the positive feedback that I received from the alumni and Dean Weiss. They enjoyed my speech so much that I was invited to speak to the class of 1950 in 2001. After this event, I look forward to standing in front of a class and teaching students.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

### **Fellows' Activities and Awards, 1999-2000**

- ❖ **Jazmin Abreu received both a Project Ascend/McNair Fellowship and a fellowship for summer research from the University of California, Berkeley (which she declined).**
- ❖ **Nicola Blake graduated Summa Cum Laude. She received several awards from the City College English Department: *The Sidney Jacoff Graduate Fellowship; the David Markowitz Award, and the Alice M. Sellers Fund Prize.* From the Psychology Department, Nicola received the *Bernard R. Ackerman Foundation Award*, and she received the *Black Alumni***



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*Group Heyman Scholar award* from the College.

- ❖ Jonathan Cohen-Litant graduated Summa Cum Laude and was voted: *The Best Fourth Year Student, Architecture.*
- ❖ Sarah Danielsson graduated Summa Cum Laude and received the History Department's *Paul Aron Award* as well as the *J. Salwyn Schapiro Prize*. From the Philosophy Department, she received the *Frederick W. Sperling Prize*. Student Affairs awarded Sarah the *Southern California Alumni Chapter Scholarship*.
- ❖ Daniel Ercilla received a Project Ascend/McNair Fellowship.
- ❖ Avalon Garcia received the Chemistry Department's *Baskerville Award* and the *Arthur Ash Award* for Women's Tennis.
- ❖ Thea Halo received the *Allan Danzig Memorial Prize in Victorian and Romantic Literature* and the *Weinberg Award for Excellence in Writing*, as well as the *Reyne Prize in Creative Writing* from the English Department.
- ❖ C. Kelly Jackson received the Media and Communication Arts Department's *Advertising Club of New York Award*.
- ❖ Bret Johnston graduated Summa Cum Laude and received the City College Fellowships' Graduate Scholarship that provides \$10,00 for the first year of graduate study. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Bret is also the recipient of the Anthropology Department's *Ward Medal*.
- ❖ Vassiliki Kampti graduated Cum Laude and was the recipient of the Architecture Department's *Bernard L. Spanier Scholarship*.
- ❖ Abass Keita graduated Cum Laude and a member of Pi Delta Phi. He is the recipient of the Foreign Languages & Literatures Department's *Goldberg Book*. From the Math Department, Abass received the *Israel E. Drabkin Award*.
- ❖ Pamela Margid was the Valedictorian of the June 2000 graduating class and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Pamela was the recipient of the English Department's *Edward C. Mack Memorial*

Fellowship. From the History Department, she received *The Charles T.*

- ❖ *Cromwell Award* as well as the *General Tremain Prize*
- ❖ Cristian Mercado received the Mathematics Department's *Best Finals Award*.
- ❖ Shalni Ramchandani received the History Department's *Charles T. Cromwell Award* and *Joan Kelly Prize*. She was also the recipient of the prestigious *Starkweather Award* from the Rifkind Foundation.
- ❖ Chiyedza Small was awarded the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education's *Dr. Bernhard Levine Scholarship* and the Biology Department's *Edmund Baermann Scholarship*. From the College, Chiyedza received the *Irving J. Brenner Scholarship*.
- ❖ Eugene Spiropoulos received the Chemical Engineering's *Grove Foundation Scholarship*.

## CONFERENCES AND PAPERS

Many Fellows attend conferences. They go to observe, present papers or take part in their mentor's professional life. Sarah Danielsson, wrote about her experience, and upon reading her statement, it was clear that it needed to be shared.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches**

I attended the *30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches* from Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 7, 2000. I arrived in Philadelphia, with mixed feelings of nervousness and excitement. My paper was scheduled for the last day, and I felt uncertain about whether I was up to the task of presenting it. The 400 conference attendees from 25 countries included the most distinguished Holocaust and Genocide studies scholars.

I learned a tremendous amount from the sessions and plenaries. Some of the information was the cutting edge of Holocaust studies, and I was particularly interested in the analyses of the role of the churches in the Holocaust. Some of the information was not cutting edge: I noticed downright false information on two occasions and was critical of other things that were said. This boosted my confidence, and by the time it was my turn to present my paper, my nervousness was gone. My presentation went



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smoothly, and I received praise from several people as well as an invitation to speak at the University of Finland. This paper will be my first of three papers scheduled for publication over the next year.

### OUR GRADUATES

- **NICOLA BLAKE (English)** graduated **Summa Cum Laude**; she has received a full fellowship to Rutgers University.
- **SARAH DANIELSSON (History)** graduated **Summa Cum Laude**; she has received a full fellowship to University of Minnesota.
- **BRET JOHNSTON (ANTH)** graduated **Summa Cum Laude**; he will attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and received the City College Fellowship's \$10,000 Graduate Scholarship for the first year of graduate school.
- **ABASS KEITA (MATH)** graduated **Cum Laude**; he will attend City College' masters program and will apply to a Ph.D. program in Math Education next fall.
- **PAMELA MARGID (HIST/ENGL)** was the Valedictorian of the June 2000 graduating class and graduated **Summa Cum Laude**. She received a full fellowship to study History at Cornell University.

### GRE PREP COURSE

If you are planning to take the GRE this fall, you should definitely take the GRE PREP course. The course will begin October 13, 2000. There will be two sections: 9 AM – 1 PM and 2 PM – 6 PM. The course will run six weeks with the last day being November 17<sup>th</sup>. Please let Renee know by the first of September if you plan on participating and which section you will be attending. (The Fellowships Office will cover the cost of the course.)

### PREVIEW

#### FALL 2000 SCHEDULE

**September 5** 1 PM Faculty Dining Room  
Luncheon: minority Fellows with Mellon Foundation representatives

**September 7** 12PM - 2 NAC 6/316  
Orientation for New Fellows

**September 14** NAC 6/316  
Seniors (& other Fellows wanting to participate) hand in drafts of personal statements to Renee for *Writing the Personal Statement Workshop*.

**September 23** 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316  
Workshop: Writing the Personal Statement

**October 5** 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316

Workshop: Seeking & Winning Funding for study and research

**FRI, October 13 GRE COURSE BEGINS**

**Date TBA 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316**

Symposium (Speaker to announced.)

**Tuesday, Nov 14 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316**

Recruitment Workshop

**Thurs., Nov 16 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316**

Recruitment Workshop

**Thurs., Nov 30 12PM – 2 NAC 6/316**

Meeting with Senior Seminar instructors, for seniors and others interested in enrolling in the Senior Seminar

**December 1 APPLICATIONS DUE**

### Senior Seminar, Spring 2001

*The Origins of the Scientific Revolution in Its Intellectual Historical Context*

Professors Tamny (Philosophy) and Wilner (English) will team-teach the Senior Seminar in the spring 2001 semester. The Seminar's title is The Origins of the Scientific Revolution in Its Intellectual and Historical Context. The description of the course follows.

“The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries witness radical changes in science’s understanding of the physical structure of the universe and its methods of investigation. The purpose of this course is to understand the broader intellectual and cultural context which conditioned these changes. In turn, we will examine the influence of these changes on that broader intellectual and cultural climate. To these ends we will study closely scientific, philosophical, religious and literary writings by a number of key figures of the era, including Descartes, Galileo, Milton, Newton, Locke, and Pascal.

### CHECK PROCEDURE

Remember: all checks (stipends, reimbursement for travel, summer monies, etc.) are picked up in the Bursar’s office, Y100. 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.

CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS is a program developed, by the Ford Foundation with City College, to attract and support students in choosing careers in advanced research and college teaching.

With the goal of preparing promising undergraduates for careers in advanced research and college teaching, this program provides financial support and a developmental



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structure, from the beginning of a student's sophomore year until admission into graduate school.

The CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE is located in the NAC building, 6/316, 650-8388. Newsletter compiled by R. Philippi.