LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I come to the end of another year as Director of the City College Fellowships Program with immense pride in the accomplishments of our Fellows. I have watched in admiration as they have progressed in their academic work and have presented their first papers at conferences. And I take special pleasure in congratulating our graduating seniors, including eight who will enter PhD programs in the fall, all with tuition and stipends. Best of luck! We will miss you all. Their success attests not just to their own hard work, but also to the excellent education they have received at City College, and especially the dedication of their professors and faculty mentors who have encouraged their research and supported them in the process of selecting and applying to graduate school. We are proud that one of our graduates, Kianny Antigua, and her mentor Angel Esteves, won this year’s mentoring award. This semester we were honored to welcome back CCNY alumna Rafia Zafar, who received her PhD in English from Harvard University and is currently a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis. Her talk to the Fellows and her obvious affection for CCNY reminded us all of the special tradition of the college and helped to build links between generations of graduates. Another highlight of the semester was the third annual City College Fellowships Program Research conference, at which seventeen Fellows presented research and creative projects ranging from musical compositions to biomedical research. The passion and intelligence reflected in their work, and the engagement of the audience confirmed the value of exchange of ideas across disciplinary boundaries as well as the importance of intellectual community. It was an exciting day, highlighted by President Williams’ talk to the Fellows at our luncheon. I am delighted to welcome a large new cohort of eleven new City College Fellows, one Irani Fellow, and five Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows. We look forward to their participation in our community and expect to benefit from the range of new talents and perspectives they bring. They are an exceptionally accomplished group.

Have a healthy, productive, and fun summer!

Susan Besse

NEW FELLOWS

The new City College Fellowship Fellows are:
- Marina Chernyak (PolSci/MATH)
- Pavel Danilotchkin (ME/MATH)
- Naranjan De Silva (BioMed/PHY)
- Jamila El-Gizuli (IS)
- Carlos Galindo (MATH/ECON)
- Narimasa Kumagawa (MUS)
- Gal Levanon (Jewish Studies/IS)
- Jennifer Lyne (PSYCH)
- Cheikhna Mahawa (MATH)
- Pavel Mukhin (BIO)
- Roman Palitsky (PSYCH/PHIL)

The new City College Fellowship Fellows (transferred from Irani Fellowship) are:
- Carmel McMahon (ENGL)
- John Romey (MUS)
- Elena Sandoval (MUS)

The new Irani Fellows is:
- Ivan Bukta (MCA)

The new Mellon Mays Fellows are:
- Efraín Cardenas (Spanish)
- Judith Castillo (Spanish)
- Angela Francis (ENGL)
- Lewis Savage (MUS)
- Denise St. Just (HIST/PolSci)

Summer Projects 2005

The Fellowships Program is pleased to be sponsoring (in part or fully), the following Fellows in their summer pursuits:
- Efraín Cardenas (Spanish) is studying Spanish Literature at the University of Salamanca, Spain.
- Judith Castillo (Spanish) is studying Spanish Literature at the University of Salamanca, Spain.
- Bernadette Davis (SOC) is working as a research assistant with the Transformation and Research Unit of the Urban Renewal Commission in the Bahamas, to pursue a behavioral and attitudinal study of Urbanization in the Bahamas.
- Angela Francis (ENGL) is participating in an intensive French language course in Paris.
- Kasaun Henry (MUS) is participating in Wesleyan University’s Mellon Mays Undergraduate Summer
Seminar and is working on finishing and recording a piano composition.

Eder Izaguirre (PHY) under the supervision of his mentor, Prof. Timothy Boyer, will study the Darwin Lagrangian, as it relates to mechanics and electromagnetism.

Glenn (Paco) Mahone (MUS) is conducting research on styles of jazz improvisation under the guidance of his mentor, John Graziano.

Carmel McMahon (ENGL) is traveling to Dublin to conduct research on the changing face of Irish national identity, as reflected in the nation’s contemporary literature.

Fabiha Naumi (SOC) under the supervision of her mentor, Prof. Goldberg, will conduct an empirical investigation of the correlates of price in Zagat rated Indian restaurants in New York City, to determine what affects the pricing behavior of these restaurants.

Jasmina Nikolov (PSYCH) is laying the groundwork for launching a mentoring program for disadvantaged youth, which will be called City Mentors and will involve linking City College students with high school students who may need encouragement to pursue a college education. She is working under the guidance of Dr. Deborah Coates. She will also attend the American Psychological Association’s annual convention in Washington, D.C. in August.

Ujuka Obi-Eyisi (BioChem) is conducting research under the guidance of her mentor, Dr. Jonathan Levitt, on the neuron density of AgNORs in different areas of the ferret’s visual cortex.

John Romey (MUS) is in Paris studying the Rabbath Method under the mentorship of François Rabath, a virtuoso double bassist, world-renowned pedagogue, and acclaimed composer.

Elena Sandoval (MUS) is attending flute master classes at the University of Michigan, the Cincinnati Flute Symposium, and the 2005 Keith Underwood Flute Master Class in Carmel Valley, CA.

Lewis Savage (MUS) is doing an independent study on music theory.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Fellows’ Activities and Awards, 2004-2005:

Our Graduating Seniors:

Dana Agmon-McCarrick (PolSci/PHIL) was awarded the College’s Edward, Samuel, Henry, Nathan Rudin Scholarship, the Political Science Department’s Diego Hidalgo Scholarship, and the International Affairs’ Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship for overall excellence. She will be pursuing a PhD in Political Science at the University of Chicago, where she was awarded a generous fellowship.

Kianny N. Antigua (Spanish) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Sigma Delta Pi Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad. In addition to publishing an anthology of short stories entitled, El Expreso, one of her short stories was recently published in an Italian anthology of Dominican women writers: Onde, Farfalla e Aroma di Caffe. Kianny and her mentor, Angel Esteves, were awarded the College’s Mentoring Award.

Eileen Chanza (ENGL) graduated Cum Laude and was awarded the English Department’s Tony Cade Bambara Scholarship. She will enter a PhD program in English Literature at SUNY Stony Brook, where she has been awarded the Turner Graduate Fellowship for five years.

Linelle Fontenelle (CE) graduated Summa Cum Laude and is listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. From the Chemical Engineering Department, she was awarded both the Engineering School Alumni Medal and the A.X. Schmidt Scholarship. She was also awarded the Office of Student Affairs’ Silverman Human Value Award and is the recipient of the College’s Theodore Charos Memorial Scholarship. She will enter a PhD program in Chemical Engineering at Cornell University with a generous fellowship.

Michael Huang (PolSci) graduated Magna Cum Laude and was awarded the Political Science Department’s Murray Gordon Award and Ward Medal. He is also the recipient of the College’s Edward, Samuel, Henry, Nathan Rudin Scholarship, and the winner of the City College Fellows Program’s Graduate Scholarship. Michael will be pursuing a Masters in Political Science at the University of Chicago, where he was awarded a partial fellowship.

Marika Michalos (HIST) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the History Department’s Carl Dunat Scholarship, the Office of Student Affairs’ Gregory H. & Sara C. Williams Presidential Scholarship, and the College’s Zitrin Scholarship. Marika will pursue a PhD in US History, Foreign Relations and Diplomatic History at SUNY Stony Brook, where she has been awarded a graduate fellowship.

Njeri Micheu (PolSci/IS) graduated Cum Laude and was awarded the Economics Department’s Business Alumni Mark & Rose Friedman Scholarship. She was also awarded the International Studies Department’s Ward Medal, and the Division of Social Science’s Award in the Student Support Series Program. She will be applying to graduate schools fall 2005 for fall 2006, while conducting part-time research at the World Health Organization.

Edgardo Molina (CS) graduated Magna Cum Laude and is listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. From the Computer Science Department, he was awarded the Harry Schwartz Scholarship and the Charles Weldon Award. He will work as a consultant for a year before applying to PhD programs in Computer Science.

Juan Montaña (PHIL) graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Thomas W. Smith Prize from the Philosophy Department. He will pursue a PhD in Philosophy, Cognitive Science/Epistemology at Washington University in St. Louis, where he has been awarded a fellowship.

Shams Rashid (EE) graduated Magna Cum Laude, is listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, and was awarded the Computer Engineering Honor Society President Alumni Award. Shams will enter a PhD program in Electrical Engineering at SUNY Stony Brook.
where he has been awarded a graduate fellowship.  
Mark Rodriguez (HIST) graduated Magna Cum Laude.  
Bryan Rosenblithe (HIST) was awarded the History Department’s Charles T. Cromwell Award and the Joan Kelly Prize. After completing his BA this summer, Summa Cum Laude, Brian will enter a PhD program in History at Columbia University with a generous fellowship.  
Brenda Ryan (ENGL) graduated Cum Laude. She was also awarded the Office of Student Affairs’ Nina Mae Mays Memorial Award.  
Papa Tall (SOC) graduated Cum Laude and was awarded the Political Science Department’s Dukacheck Award.  
Tanya Thurman (ENGL) graduated Magna Cum Laude and was awarded the English Department’s Richard Shepard Award for Excellence in Writing. She was also awarded the College’s May & Samuel Rudin Scholarship.

Continuing Fellows:

Ana Aguirre (Spanish) was awarded the Foreign Languages & Literatures Department’s Downer Award.  
Christopher Archer (ENGL) received the History Department's Sidney Pomerantz Award and continues as a Rudy Schott Scholar.  
Efrain Cardenas (Spanish) was awarded the Foreign Languages & Literatures Department’s Ellen JOsh & Joseph F. Valenti Fellowship.  
Judith Castillo (Spanish) was awarded the Foreign Languages & Literatures Department’s Maria Palau Award and the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Award to study at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She is President of SPANIAS, the City College Spanish Club.  
Frank Cifarelli (MUS) won the Music Department’s Petrie Scholars Award and the IBC Teamster’s Union Merit Scholarship.  
Bernadette Davis (SOC) presented a paper at the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship New York City Conference.

FALL 2005 SCHEDULE

Th., September 8 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Orientation for ALL New Fellows (including MMUF)  
Th., September 22 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Meeting/orientation for new MMUF  
Th., September 29 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Workshop: Writing the Personal Statement  
Th., October 6 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Roundtable: Summer Research Experiences: Exchange of Information  
Th., October 27 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Workshop: Seeking & Winning Funding for Study and Research  
Th., November 10 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Forum with Guest Speaker(s): Doing Research  
Th., November 17 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Recruitment Workshop  
Th., December 8 12:20 - 2 PM NAC 6/316 Meeting with Senior Seminar instructors, for those who will enroll in the Fellowships Program Seminar  
Th., December 1  APPLICATIONS DUE

Fellow-Initiated Luncheons

Th., Sept., 15 12:20 - 2PM Faculty Dining Room (welcoming party)  
Th., Oct., 20 12:20 - 2PM Faculty Dining Room  
Th., Nov., 3 12:20 - 2PM Faculty Dining Room  
Th., Dec., 1 12:20 - 2PM Faculty Dining Room

GRE PREP COURSE

If you plan to take the GRE fall 2005 or spring 2006, you should definitely take the GRE Prep course. For information regarding upcoming class schedules, please contact Prof. Ron Pilette (rpilette@jjay.cuny.edu) 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 2005 Schedule

Fridays  
Sept. 7 - Oct. 7  (5 pm - 9 pm)  
Saturdays  Sept. 3 - Oct. 8  (9:30 am - 1:30 pm)  
Fridays  Oct. 14 - Nov. 18  (5 pm - 9 pm)  
Saturdays  Oct. 15 - Nov. 19  (9:30 am - 1:30 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 questions about the procedure, please ask Renee Philippi.
Sharon Fader (PSYCH) was awarded from the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics the Lionel Malamed Alumni Varsity Group Scholarship, and the Anti-Defamation League’s Scholarship for travel to Poland and Israel.

James Faghmous (CS) was awarded the Computer Science’s Harry Schwartz Scholarship and was accepted into Bioinformatics Summer Institute at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Keegan Goodman (ENGL) was awarded the English Department’s Jack Zucker Poetry Award, the Goodman Fund Poetry Award, and the Goodman Fund Short Story Award. Kasanu Henry (MUS) was awarded the ASCAP Dreyfus/Chappell/CCNY Scholarship and the Chamber of Commerce/CCNY Harlemite Award.

Eder Izaguirre (PHY) was awarded the Physics Department’s Sidney Millman Scholarship.

Carmel McMahon (ENGL) was awarded the English Department’s Isaacs Scholarship and the College’s Kaye Scholarship, as well as the Sandra Brand Scholarship, Women’s Leadership Exchange Scholarship, the Maurice Barbash Scholarship, the Dortort Award, the Washington, D.C. Alumni Award, and an Outstanding Academic Achievement Award (S.S.S.P.). Her creative non-fiction essay, “In the Tombs,” was accepted for publication in the forthcoming issue of the London-based web journal Nth Position; her essay will also appear in print fall 2005 in the PSC-CUNY City College Chapter newsletter.

Fabhia Naumi (SOC) was awarded CUNY’s Belle Zeller Scholarship for fall 2005, and the Washington, D.C. Libby Sansanowicz Alumni Chapter Scholarship.

Jasmina Nikolaev (PSYCH) was awarded the Colin Powell Center’s Community Engagement Fellowship and the Weston Public Service Fellowship, which provides $10,000 per year for two years conditional on completion of 400 hours of work for an existing community organization.

Ujuka Obi-Eyisi (CHEM) was awarded the Chemistry Department’s Baskerville Award for Excellence in Chemistry.

John Romey III (MUS) was awarded the College’s Kaye Scholarship and the Music Department’s Geico Family Scholarship.

Elena Sandoval (MUS) was awarded the College’s Peter Vallone Scholarship, the Honors Center’s Brita Ann Livitan Award, and the Division of the Humanities’ Friar Award.

Denise St. Just (HIST/PolSci) was awarded the Political Science Department’s Stanley Feingold Essay Award. She was also named a Rosenberg Humphrey Fellow.

Deborah Wolf (ENGL) was awarded the CUNY Honors College’s Chancellor’s Award, and the English Department’s Laskin Award for Children’s Writing. She was also the recipient of the College’s Women’s Studies Scholarship, the Goldsmith Scholarship, and the Kaye Scholarship. Deborah has two forthcoming publications: “Toni Morrison” in African American Women Writers: An A to Z Guide; and “Bella” in The Heroic Young Woman: Folk Tales, Fairy-Tales and Fables.

Mitza Zobenica (CE) was awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies Scholarship, and the Association of General Contractors Scholarship. Mitza attended the following conferences: the SEI Structures Congress, the AEI Symposium on Blast Loading and Progressive Collapse, and the NYC DOB Underpinning Symposium. She has also been a leader in establishing an Engineers Without Borders chapter at City College.

CITY COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

May 6, 2005

Rifkind Room, North Academic Center 6/316

9:40  Dana Agmon, “The Impact of Generational Differences on the Relationship and Peace Process between Israel and Palestine”

10:00  Michael Huang, “Japanese Popular Culture: A Dimension of Politics”


10:40  Njeri Micheu, “The Importance of Investing in Preventive Healthcare as a Factor of Long Term Economic Development in Developing Countries”

11:20  Fabhia Naumi, “Entrepreneurship in Gentrification: The Case of DUMBO”


12:00  Eileen Chanza, “A Pound of Flesh: The Female Body in Post-Colonial Literature”

12:20  Angela Francis, “Our Murderous Mothers: Super Mother Myths in the United States Judicial System”

12:40  Brenda Ryan, “Code Switching in Alice Walker’s The Color Purple - Solidarity, Art, and Power”

1:00  Speaker: President Williams

2:00  Debbie Wolf, “A Life Always Spoken, and Only Spoken: Temporality in the Neo-Slave Narrative”

2:20  Carmel McMahon, “Storytelling: Punishing Female Arrestees During the Republican National Convention”

2:40  Laura Ligouri, “Colonization and its Impact on Middle Eastern Dance”

3:00  Roy Coopervasser, “A Musical Presentation”

3:20  David Orlowski, “A Modern Fairy tale”

3:40  Itamar Belisha, “Correlation between K-concentration in the intracellular Medium and Brain Seizures”

4:00  Rafael De Jesus, “The Role of Sleep in Memory Consolidation”

4:20  Juan Montana, “The Language of Thought”

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.