wishes, she grants you information. The relationship that she and I have developed doesn’t feel like a student/teacher relationship. She shows me her work and takes my comments seriously. We talk about theory, what teaching means to her, and how to manage life outside of City. Her energy is contagious.

by: Rodney Ferguson

Rodney Ferguson, a City College Fellow, is an Economics major and writes in his journal about an experience he had while presenting his own research. “I did my final presentation at the City College Academy for Professional Preparation (CAPP) on November 21, 2002. It was a poster presentation on the solutions of ordinary, partial and stochastic differential equations. I told my advisor, Professor Jorgensen, that I was satisfied and that I did not know enough to do the presentation. Professor Jorgensen explained that there is an enormous amount of information to learn on any given topic, more than any one person can know in a single lifetime, and that I need to just keep going. Research is never done, there is always more to learn. He told me that what I know is a lot more than anyone else is doing right now. He therefore, I should not be self-critical. At the presentation, as I was discussing my research project with several professors in the science division, I realized that Professor Jorgensen was right about me being more knowledgeable than I thought. I was the only person who was able to follow without being overwhelmed. It felt great having to explain my findings to faculty as well as students.

by: Angel Quinones

Angel Quinones, a Mellon Fellow, is an Earth and Atmospheric Sciences major and a senior. He writes about an experience he had at a Fellows-directed luncheon. I attended a roundtable discussion on Thursday, September 19th to hear the experiences of the other Fellows who had done research during the previous summer. This meeting was very well attended, and I came away with very interesting storie that the Fellows one by one, revealed about their research experiences. The atmosphere of this meeting was very professional, since many of us had already done research, written articles, and presented posters at various places. Other Fellows, who were just starting their careers in research, seemed eager to hear what research is all about and how to cope with school life at the same time. In the end, the meeting was a successful event because it brought the Fellows together to share thoughts and valuable research information.

by: Jose Vasquez

Jose Vasquez, a Mellon Fellow, has studied Anthropology, Religion, and East Asian studies as a Cuny B.A. student. We plan to enter a Ph.D. program in Medical Anthropology and research uses of traditional Asian medicine in the modern world.

“I am a professor and was interested in the anthropology program at the University of Pittsburgh as well as the schools with faculty from other schools who were doing research which complemented my own interests. It was exciting to meet people from various institutions, all engaged in specific aspects of academic inquiry. I met anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, etc., from England, Germany, India, and all over the U.S. The conference exposed me to some of the latest research being done in the field I want to enter. It was also encouraging to see graduate students who were enjoying their experiences and who had a lot of useful advice. I spent as much time as I could with Dr. Joseph Altevogt who is the chair of the anthropology department and organizer of the conference. Dr. Altevogt is currently engaged in research on a project that focuses on agricultural societies. I told him about what I hope to accomplish in graduate school. He felt I was well suited for the project. He invited me to another graduate student from Rutgers, who I befriended, to a faculty dinner on the last night of the conference. Unfortunately, I had to decline since my return flight was leaving soon after the last session. I told the invitation to dinner as a good sign.

City College Fellows Program is an umbrella program that administers several undergraduate fellowships. See our website for information: www.ccny.cuny.edu/fellowshipsprogram

The City College Fellows Office is located in NAC 6/316, 212/650-8398

R. Philipps composes the newsletter.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

With graduate school applications completed, we embark on a new semester and a full program. In May, the City College Fellows Program will hold its first annual research conference at which Fellows will present their research to friends, family and the college community. Please mark your calendars! This semester’s Fellowship Seminar also promises to be most exciting. Professor Nicholas Pappas (input from Professor Michael Dekel who is an assistant professor) will lead Fellows in a reading of texts by Kant, Hume, and Berkeley. Fellows will be encouraged to share their research, learning from one another.

Please take a minute to read the excerpts from Fellows’ journals, which provide a glimpse of the fascinating projects they are pursuing, their intelligent interaction with professors and peers, and their initiative in seizing opportunities. As always we are indebted to the faculty mentors who have guided their research, allowed them to additional funding sources, nurtured their interest in teaching, and provided valuable information about academic life and graduate programs. Thank you!

I am delighted to welcome a new, very strong cohort of eight City College and two Wais Fellows. They will infuse new energy and perspectives into our diverse and exciting community. Recruitment for our third cohort of five Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellows is under way. Applications are due March 17, and awards will be made soon thereafter in order to give the new Fellows time to design summer research projects that will be funded by the Mellon Foundation. Please encourage qualified candidates to apply.

NEW FELLOWS

It is with great pleasure that we announce and welcome our new Fellows. From a competitive pool of applicants, ten new Fellows have been selected to join the City College Fellows program in the spring semester 2003; two are New Fellows (formerly Iran/Saraffeld Fellows).

The new City College Fellowship Fellows are:

- Mona Hadi Aghazadeghi (Hispanic American Studies)
- Rachel Bilek (Psychology)
- trên Trần (Economics)
- Ali Kamali (Economics)
- Mayam Alqumis (Anthropology)
- Alexios Mavridis (Psychology)
- Shama Sani (International Studies)

The two new Iran Fellows are:

- Jane Lee (American Studies)
- Rachel McInerney (English)

APRIL 15, 2003 RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

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

Summer Reports 2002

by: Gabriel Hernandez

Gabriel Hernandez is a History major and a senior. He is a Mellon Fellow who participated this past
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 documenting those activities and reflecting on their experiences.

In keeping with the practice of exchanging ideas and information, five journal excerpts have been chosen for inclusion in the newsletter. They are excerpts from the Journals of Anastasiiya Andrianova, Eileen Chenza, Rodney Ferguson, Angel Gascos, and Jose Vasquez.

by: Anastasiiya Andrianova

Anastasiiya Andrianova, a City College Fellow, English major and a senior, comments in her journal on the Fellowship a forum lead by Professor Johnson, in the fall 2002 semester.

"I was intrigued by Professor Johnson's anecdote about the beggar whose personal story directed him to the illegal migration archives. This anecdote provided once again that what makes a good researcher is a keen sense of ethical responsibility and commitment to the research. Also, his point about extracting personal testimonies and questioning their validity was a useful insight. Some of the people he interviewed, Johnson said, had already been interviewed by other researchers and seen their accounts intercepted in print; how one decides between the actual testimonies told through the lens of the previous researches is something to consider. Since I was in the midst of taking a graduate course in Anthropology and seriously thinking of pursuing the theme of personal testimony/confession, Professor Johnson's story made me wonder about the necessity of such accounts, and of how one should read them. To what extent is the real account altered when put into print by the confessor/journal? How much does it change when another person, in his case a researcher or interviewer, uses it to make his/her argument, or even when he/she merely "re-tells" it? I normally judge the effectiveness of a lecture or seminar by the amount of thinking it provoke; Professor Johnson's presentation did not leave my thoughts for some time.

by: Eileen Chenza

Eileen Chenza, a Mellon Fellow and an English major, discusses in her journal a meeting with her Mentor, Professor Dulce Garcia.

"Professor Garcia gave me a great book on narrative theory, our usual one-hour meeting turned into two and a half, and we were both late for our class. One of the best things about having a mentor is that for that hour or two you have an expert at your disposal. It is almost as if one has a genie in a bottle but instead of granting you wishes, you have a chance to truly learn from an expert."

by: Jose Vasquez

Jose Vasquez is an Anthropology major and a senior. He is a Mellon Fellow who participated this past summer in the Project Ascend/McKlain Summer Program in conjunction with attending intensive Japanese language classes at Waaseda University in Tokyo.

"My summer experience in Japan was unforgettable. I spent six weeks studying Japanese language at an intensive program run by Waaseda University in Tokyo. I also conducted research supported by funds from Project Ascend/McKlain. The combination of language training and research was challenging, but rewarding in many ways.

The Waaseda summer intensive language program was a unique cultural experience. Because my interests lie in anthropology, it was important for me to gain a sense of how I would conduct field research during graduate school. Staying in Tokyo allowed me to meet people from all walks of life. I discussed my research interests with Waaseda students in an informal setting and they asked me many questions about Japanese culture, which I could not have back home. My conversations with Waaseda students and others also supported my efforts to gain a grasp of the spoken language.

Another positive thing about Waaseda was that the central library there is one of the largest in East Asia. The collections are extensive and I was able to locate valuable primary and secondary sources to enhance my research. Admittedly, it was difficult to locate these sources with my limited reading abilities. The majority of the titles I was looking for included complex Chinese characters, or kanji, that made even native speakers take a second look. Nevertheless, looking my way around the library really built up my confidence as a novice researcher. My attitude now is any adversity I encounter in U.S. libraries will pale in comparison. I’ll know I’ve been through tougher times.

S P R I N G  2 0 0 3  S H E D U L E

Th., January 30 12:30-2 PM NAC 6/316 Orientation for New Fellows
Th., February 20 12:30-2 PM NAC 6/316 Forum: On Research
Th., March 13 12:30-2 PM NAC 6/316 W workshop: Mentoring
Mo., March 17 Applications for Mellon Fellows due
Th., April 3 12:30-2 PM NAC 6/316 W workshop: Applying Graduate School
Th., April 10 12:30-2 PM NAC 6/316 Recruitment Meeting
Tu., April 15 Applications Summer Research due
Th., May 1 Applications CORELL and Intern due
Fr., May 2 11:00-4:00 PM NAC 6/316 Fellow Research Conference

Fellow-Directed Luncheons

Faculty Dining Room on the 3rd floor of the NAC building

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Th., March 27 12:30-2PM

G R E P R E P C O U R S E

There will be additional GRE prep courses in the early and late spring.

There are three sessions:
1) Fridays, February 10th-April 11
2) Saturdays, April 25th June 6
3) Saturdays, April 13th June 7.

For more info, contact: www.primeprep.com or 866/206-9067, x3066.

Remember: the Fellowship Office will pay the course fee.
summer in a course sponsored by the Universidad Iberomericana del Distrito Federal de México. This past summer, I was privileged to participate in a course called Anthropológico de Campo which was sponsored by the Universidad Iberomericana del Distrito Federal de México and took place in the region of Matamoros, state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. This course is offered each Semester, and is open to senior and graduate students. The objective of the class was to train students in the techniques of anthropological fieldwork, and to familiarize them with how an academic research project operates. What I found particularly illuminating was to witness how the class differences between the students and the local population we were studying affected the research. For example, the residents of Matamoros quickly picked up that the student I was paired with had grown up with maids. It was also not secret to then that she was shocked by having dogs, pigs, and chickens running through the house we were living in. In contrast, however, there were no such boundaries between the local people and myself, and this helped me to access more intimate information. They told me about their personal lives, their thoughts about politics, their fears and their hopes. Also, they constantly joked with me. When my colleague was present their behavior changed, and they acted in a more polite manner. My background allowed for more honest and transparent communication.

Gender differences also dictated what information I had access to or not. For example, skilled men a conversation changed in the presence of a female. I went to visit a group of shuck fishpeople by myself first, and I succeeded in getting the information I was looking for. Things changed drastically when my colleague and I went together to talk to them. They acted very differently to me as if we had not met before. Every time she asked a question they appeared to be uncomfortable and their answers were not very elaborate. I was surprised because when I contacted them before, they had told me everything in great detail; they even showed me the tools they used to fish for shark and very proudly narrated their experience in the ocean.

by: Josef Vázquez

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The Waseda summer intensive language program was a unique cultural experience. Because my interests lie in anthropology, it was important for me to gain a sense of how culture is embedded in daily life during graduate school. Living in Tokyo allowed me to interact with people from all walks of life. I discussed my research interests with Waseda students in an informal setting and learned much about Japan's culture, which I could not have back home. My conversations with Waseda students and others also supported my efforts to gain a grasp of the spoken language.

Another positive thing about Waseda was that the central library there is one of the largest in East Asia. The collections are extensive and I was able to locate valuable primary and secondary sources to enhance my research. Additionally, it was difficult to locate these sources with my limited reading abilities. The majority of the titles I was looking for included complex Chinese characters, or kinji, that made even native speakers take a second look. Nevertheless, learning to use an English-speaking two-hour researcher who speaks a few languages, I was able to locate many books in English libraries in the city. The change in language and in the people I talked with made me realize just how important it is for me to continue learning.

by: Anastassiya Andriiana

Anastassiya Andriiana, a City College Fellow, English major and a senior, comments in her journal on the Fellowship after a week led by Professor Johnson, in the Fall 2002 semester.

"I was intrigued by Professor Johnson's anecdote about the beggar whose personal story directed him to the illegal migration archives. This anecdote proved once again that what makes a good researcher is a keen sense of avantgardism and creative observation. Also, his point about examining personal testimonies and questioning their validity was a useful insight. Some of the people he interviewed, Johnson said, had already been interviewed by other researchers and seen their accounts interpreted in print; how one decides between the actual testimonies told through the lens of the previous researches is something to consider. Since I was in the midst of taking a graduate course in Anthropology and seriously thinking of pursuing the theme of personal testimony/confession, Professor Johnson's story made me wonder about the veracity of such accounts, and of how one should read them. To what extent is the real account altered when put into print by the confessed author? How much does the change when another person, in his case a researcher or interviewer, uses it to make his/her argument, or even when he/she merely "re-tells" it? I normally judge the effectiveness of a lecture or seminar by the amount of thinking it provokes; Professor Johnson's presentation did not leave my thoughts for some time.

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by: Rodney Ferguson

Rodney Ferguson, a City College Fellow, is an Economics major and writes in his journal about an experience he had while presenting his own research. I met my class presentation at the City College Academy for Professional Preparation course on November 21, 2002. It was a poster presentation on the historical solution of ordinary, partial and stochastic differential equations. I told my mentor, Professor Ferguson, that I was scared, but I did not have the opportunity to do the presentation. Professor Ferguson explained that there is an enormous amount of information to learn on any given topic, more than any one person can know in a single lifetime, and I need to be patient. Research is never done, there is always more to learn. He told me that whatever I do is a lot more than anyone else doing similar research. Therefore, I should not be self-critical. At the presentation, as I was discussing my research project with several professors in the science division, I realized that Professor Ferguson was right about me being more knowledgeable on the topic. Professor Er, a math professor who does research on differential equations, was the only person who was able to fail me without being overwhelmed. It felt great having to explain my findings to faculty as well as students.

by: Angel Guerra

Angel Guerra, a Mellon Fellow, is an Earth and Atmospheric Science major and a senior. He writes about an experience he had at a Fellows-directed luncheon. He attended a roundtable discussion, on Thursday, September 19th to hear the experiences of the other Fellows who had done research during the previous summer. This meeting was very well attended, and I came away with many interesting stories that the Fellows, one by one, revealed about their research experiences. The atmosphere of this meeting was very professional, since many of us had already done research, written articles, and presented posters at various places. Other Fellows, who were just starting their careers in research, seemed eager to hear what research is all about and how to cope with school life at the same time. In the end, the meeting was a successful event because it brought the Fellows together to share thoughts and valuable research information.

by: Jose Vasquez

Jose Vasquez, a Mellon Fellow, has studied Anthropology, Religion, and East Asian studies as a City College B.A. student. We plan to enter a PhD program in Medical Anthropology and research uses of traditional Asian medicine in the modern world.

"In an attempt to explore what it is like to be a professor, I attended a conference in November at the University of Pittsburgh on Asian Medicine. Nationalism, Transnationalism, and the Politics of Citizenship. My advisor invited attending me to attend. I wanted to check the anthropology program at the University of Pittsburgh as well, and made friends with faculty from other schools who were doing research which complemented my own interests. It was exciting to meet people from various disciplines, all engaged in specific aspects of academic inquiry. I met anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, etc., from England, Germany, India, and all over the U.S. The conferences exposed me to some of the latest research being done in the field I want to enter. It was also encouraging to see graduate students who were enjoying their experiences and who had a lot of useful advice. I spent as much time as I could with Dr. Joseph Atlee who is also in the chair of the anthropology department and a recent question of the conference. Dr. Atlee's current interests include anthropology in India, and he is trying to start a journal that focuses on Indian medical systems. I told him about what I hope to accomplish in graduate school. He felt I would fit in very well at Pittsburgh. He offered me and another graduate student student from Rutgers, whom I befriended, to a faculty dinner once a month for the last night of the conference. Unfortunately, I had to decline since my return flight was leaving soon after the last session. I told the invitation to dinner as a good sign.

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The City College Fellowships Office is located in BC 3136, 212/650-8384.

R. Philippi completes the newsletter.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Please take a minute to read the excerpts from Fellows' journals, which provide a glimpse of the fascinating projects they are pursuing, their intelligent interaction with professors and peers, and their initiative in seizing opportunities. As always we are indebted to the faculty mentors who have guided their research, shared them to additional funding sources, nurtured their interest in teaching, and provided valuable information about academic life and graduate programs. Thank you!

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