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ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

CAS Connections

Your Connection to the College of Arts & Sciences at Roosevelt University

Welcome from the Dean

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to share the news and achievements of the College of Arts and Sciences with our community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners and donors.

The 2007-2008 academic year was marked by increased enrollments, student and faculty accomplishments, fund raising success and programmatic innovations. I invite you to read the college's annual report for 2007-2008 on our website at **www.roosevelt.edu/cas** .

The 2008-2009 year will be even more notable. The college has seen remarkable increases in students this fall - the highest in memory. As of October, we have grown over 30 percent in the number of new students since last fall, with an increase of nearly 13 percent combined returning and new students. In response to the growth in enrollment, I am pleased to announce that the University has approved searches for at least 15 new professors to join us next fall.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions and discussing ways in which you can support College of Arts and Sciences programs. Please contact me at (312) 341-2134 or at lweiner@roosevelt.edu .

Lynn Weiner, Dean

CAS Grant Award Highlights

The Department of Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences (in partnership with area community colleges) received a five-year $967,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to recruit Chicago Public High School students into science and math programs **and a five-year $891,000 grant by the National Institute of Health** to identify likely community college students for health sciences careers. Dean Lynn Weiner said "I am proud of the work of professors **Kristen Leckrone, Robert Seiser and Cornelius Watson** in obtaining these grants for the benefit of Chicago area students."

The Department of Communication was awarded a two-year $100,000 grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation to continue the department's and **Associate Professor Linda Jones**' outstanding work with high school journalism programs.

As a result of a $70,000 gift from the Jack Miller Center, the College of Arts and Sciences has established the Montesquieu Forum for the Study of Civic Life, headed by Professor of Philosophy Stuart Warner. The mission of the forum is the philosophical investigation of the principles of the American Founding. A series of lectures, colloquia and classes are planned.

Inside this issue:

CAS Student Achievements	2
Sociology Professor Named Fulbright Scholar	2
CAS New Human Rights Project	2
CAS Faculty News	3
CAS Summer Programming	4

CAS Students Make Headlines

Psychology major Linn Bourgeau had her English Composition class essay accepted for publication in the 8th edition of the *Bedford Guide for College Writers.* **Computer Science major Felipe Carmona** was awarded a $10,000 Google Hispanic College Fund Scholarship. **Christian Delgado (BA Economics '08)** is employed as an economist at the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. **PsyD candidate Stacy Lekkos** is serving her pre-doctoral internship at the Gulf Coast Virginia Medical Center where she works with veterans and Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav survivors. **Philosophy major Alex Limanowski** was accepted into the Oxford University study abroad program for the fall 2008 semester. **Political Science major Gabrielle Worley** attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver on a scholarship provided by Roosevelt alumni through the *President's Fund for Excellence.* **The student newspaper, *The Torch*,** collected four awards from the Illinois College Press Association, including best headline writing in the state and third place in editorial writing.

College of Arts and Sciences students continue to be admitted into graduate and professional schools. Here is a sample: **Shreya Adhikari (Allied Health)** - PhD Chemistry program at Notre Dame; **Valerie Lawrence (Biology)** - St. George's School of Medicine; **JoAnn Jose and Jill Motle (Biotech and Chemical Science) -** Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine; **Nick McCormick (History) -** PhD program in History at the University of Illinois-Chicago; **Christopher McCullough (Biology)** received a full fellowship in the Molecular Genetics graduate program at the University of Illinois-Chicago; **Colleen Smith (Biology) -** Emory University School of Medicine; and **Jennifer Vlk (Biotech and Chemical Science)** - PhD Molecular Genetics and Microbiology program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Professor Heather Dalmage Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Heather Dalmage, professor of sociology, was awarded a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State's Fulbright Program to study multiracial issues in South Africa. Dalmage, who has written extensively about America's growing multiracial movement and the resulting shift in thinking about whiteness, blackness and racial politics, will travel to Durban, South Africa, in January 2009 to lecture and conduct research on multiracial families in post-apartheid South Africa. Dalmage will serve as resident faculty at the Center for Critical Research on Race and Identity at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa and as visiting scholar at the Institute for Intercultural and Diversity Studies at the University of Cape Town.

Professor Dalmage said "I believe my research in South Africa will be useful and timely to the country's people and its decision makers who are facing major decisions about a future post-Apartheid course."

Professor Heather Dalmage
Department of Sociology
Director, Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation

CAS Announces the Joseph Loundy Human Rights Project

Joseph Loundy (seated, center), VP of Institutional Advancement Patrick Woods (seated, left), President Chuck Middleton (seated, right) are joined by (standing, left to right) Senior Director of Development Dolores Metzger, Dean Lynn Weiner and Associate Professor Bethany Barratt at the signing ceremony.

Thanks to a **$100,000 gift from Joseph Loundy (BA '66)**, the College of Arts and Sciences has created a new program that will allow students to conduct research on social justice and human rights problems and to engage in collaborative advocacy work. **The Joseph Loundy Human Rights Project** will focus on local, global and universal human rights issues. The project's director is **Bethany Barratt, Associate Professor of Political Science**. Students and faculty will travel to London and Jerusalem to be part of a global network of social justice activism and will focus on "areas in which students are most likely to be able to see a difference made in the lives of individuals and their community," according to Barratt. "The Loundy Human Rights Project fits in perfectly with Roosevelt's mission of social justice," says Roosevelt University President Chuck Middleton. "We have found that students engaged in transformational learning do not just incorporate new knowledge or even new ways of seeing the world, but also fundamentally change as people."

CAS Welcomes New Faculty Class of 2008-2009

Joining the College of Arts and Sciences in fall 2008 is another distinguished class of new professors. The college is pleased to welcome these new colleagues:

Scott Blackwood (English) - MFA, Texas State University - Scott Blackwood is the winner of the 2007 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Prize for the novel *We Agreed to Meet Just Here*, to be published in 2009 by *New Issues Press*. Scott directed the writing center at the University of Texas-Austin and is the new director of Roosevelt University's MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Norbert Cordeiro (Biology) - PhD, University of Illinois-Chicago - Norbert Cordeiro's funding history includes three fellowships, a National Science Foundation award and awards from the United Nations Development Program. Nobby comes to Roosevelt University after a post-doctoral stint at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Stephanie Farmer (Sociology) - **ABD, SUNY-Binghampton** - Stephanie Farmer joins us in a one-year appointment. She is currently writing her dissertation on *The Impact of Neoliberal Globalization on Chicago: the Case of Transportation*.

Nicole Gravina (Psychology) - PhD, Western Michigan University - Nicole Gravina earned her PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis in 2008. She has most recently served as Visiting Instructor of Psychology at Drake University.

Marjorie Jolles (Women's and Gender Studies) - PhD, Temple University - Marjorie Jolles is the author of numerous articles and book reviews and is currently working on a book about the rhetoric of feminine authenticity in American popular culture. Marjorie's previous position was assistant professor at California State University-Fullerton.

Leo Livshutz (Mathematics) - PhD, Kharkov State University - Leo Livshutz joins us in a one-year appointment. His areas of expertise include probability theory, statistics and complex analysis.

Mary Williams (Mathematics) - MS, Florida Atlantic University - Mary Williams joins us in a non-tenure track appointment. She has taught basic algebra through calculus and is also a licensed teacher of mathematics, grades 6-12, in Florida.

CAS Faculty Achievements

Associate Professor of Mathematics Steven Cohen, has been appointed Associate Dean of the Schaumburg Campus. The **Department of Economics** hosted the 2008 Summer Institute for the Center for Popular Economics. The weeklong event, organized by **Associate Professor of Economics June Lapidus**, was attended by activists and educators from around the globe. Participants received intensive training with a focus on how the economic system impacts everyday lives. **Assistant Professor of Psychology Cami McBride** and **Professor of Psychology Steven Meyers** received McCormick Tribune Service Learning grants for course development. McBride's students will study adolescent social development and will lead workshops for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago. Meyers' students will engage in legislative advocacy on behalf of children living in poverty. **Professor Meyers** was also elected as a fellow in the American Psychological Association and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology in recognition for his contributions to the field. **Assistant Professor of English Kimberly Ruffin** received a McCormick Tribune Service Learning grant for her course on environmental justice and the connections between social justice and academic knowledge. **Assistant Professor of Biology Kelly Wentz-Hunter** will present the keynote address at the American Society of Cell Biology symposia in December.

Assistant Professor of Biology Robert Seiser was elected a 2008-09 SENCER Leadership Fellow (Science Education for New Civic Engagement and Responsibilities) by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. Seiser was recognized for his exemplary leadership and commitment to the improvement of science education. SENCER stimulates student engagement in science and math through courses and programs focused on real world problems, thereby extending the impact of student learning across the curriculum to the broader community and society. "The National Fellowship Board has the highest hopes and expectations for the success of Bob's efforts and we look forward to having the benefit of his advice and counsel as we plan for the future," said David Burns, executive director of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement.

Robert Seiser
Assistant Professor of Biology
2008-09 SENCER Leadership Fellow

CAS Summer Camps and Special Programs

by Juli Rowen

The College of Arts and Sciences hosted hundreds of school children from the Chicago metropolitan area during its summer session of camps and workshops in journalism, science, math, English and writing. By partnering with local school districts, community organizations, foundations and corporations, the college continues to expand its outreach to middle school and high school students and their families by offering unique learning experiences in our state-of-the-art classrooms and labs. As part of the summer session, students and parents met with college faculty, administrators and Office of Admission representatives to learn how Roosevelt University could be a part of the students' futures.

Seniors from **Social Justice High School** spent a week living in the residence hall and receiving writing instruction from Roosevelt faculty and tutors, culminating in the preparation of individual college admission essays. Teens from low-income families acquired newspaper writing, editing and photography skills in the **Youth Communication Journalism Workshop**. Middle school girls learned math and science skills while attending the **RU Glamorous C.S.I. Camp**. Freshman and sophomore girls received college prep work in English, writing and math at the **Metro Achievement Summer College Orientation Workshop**. The college sponsored the **2008 Summer Biotech Institute** (in partnership with the **State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Xomix, Ltd.)** for high school juniors and seniors to learn concepts and basic techniques in modern biotechnology in the classroom, lab and as interns. As part of the **Taste of Science and Math Camp** (co-sponsored by the **Chase Foundation**), sophomores from **Hyde Park Academy High School** and **John Hope College Preparatory High School** improved science and math skills by learning about food safety and calculating crowd size at the Taste of Chicago Festival. Students also visited the Fermi Lab and the National Center for Food Safety. **Associate Dean Steven Cohen** said that "these summer camps represent a great opportunity for young people to be on a college campus - many for the first time - and to be exposed to a number of exciting topics and college-level skills."

Students relax during a break from the 2008 Summer Biotech Institute, co-sponsored by Xomix, Ltd. and the State of Illinois.

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CAS Connections **is the biannual newsletter of Roosevelt University's College of Arts and Sciences. All members of the college community are invited to contribute stories and news items by August 1 and March 1 for issues published in October and May. Please send all submissions to Juli Rowen at jrowen@roosevelt.edu .**

We're on the Web!

www.roosevelt.edu/cas