Career Development Presentations 2000-2001

(a) 16 November 2000: Laural Boone, BC '88

Laural was a chemistry major at Barnard and received her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1993. She is currently attending George Washington University School of Law and working as a technical specialist/student associate in patent law at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P. in Washington, D.C.

Laural led an informal discussion with eleven students: three first-years; one sophomore; four juniors; and three seniors. Their majors included two in biopsychology; one in biochemistry; one in Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures; one in environmental science; one in chemistry; one in biology; and four undeclared. Assistant Professor of Chemistry Linda Doerrer from the Chemistry Department and Jane Celwyn, Director of Career Development, also attended.

(b) 9 February 2001: Jackie Acho, Ph.D.

Dr. Acho received her doctorate in chemistry from MIT and is now a partner with McKinsey Consulting. Dr. Acho met with students for an informal lunch and then gave a presentation entitled, "Crossroads: From Majors and Minors to Jobs and Careers - How We Make Choices." After her presentation, Dr. Acho made herself available for further conversation with students unable to attend either the lunch or the presentation. Ten students attend the lunch: seven sophomores; two juniors; and one post-bac student. Assistant Professor of Chemistry Linda Doerrer and Jane Celwyn also attended lunch. Twenty-five students and two additional Chemistry faculty, Sally Chapman and Ann Shinnar, attended the presentation. A noticeable feature of the audience was the diversity of the attendees, with a significant number of African-American and Asian-American students in attendance.

(c) 20 February 2001: Justine Levin, BC '97

Justine was a Biology major at Barnard and a past HHMI Research Intern. She is currently a doctoral student in neuroscience and genetics at Rockefeller University. She also teaches a seminar entitled "Contemporary Issues in Biology" at Solomon Schechter High School. At an informal dinner and presentation, Justine discussed her decision to attend graduate school and her studies there; she also led a discussion on genetic testing after everyone viewed a video of a theater piece on a genetic testing dilemma. Around twenty students attended; several had not registered in advance or came in after the presentation started so we do not have the names of all in attendance. Jane Celwyn attended this event.

(d) 27 February 2001: Sharon Aronoff

Ms. Aronoff is a student at the NYU Occupational Therapy Program. She and some fellow students from the program gave an information session about the field of occupational therapy
and the program at NYU. This was an extremely informative overview of the field with many handouts given to the few students in attendance. Materials from this event are currently on file in both the Career Development Office and the Pre-Health Dean's Office.

(e) 7 March 2001: Rita Rover, BC '62 and Elena Rover, BC '88

The Rovers, mother and daughter graduates of Barnard, discussed their careers in science. Rita is a clinical nutritionist and Elena was the editorial director of Global Internet Health for the Reader's Digest health web site, now promoted to director of the entire web site. Elena has also written for magazines such as Fitness, Shape, and Self. This was also a small event with only a few students in attendance. As with the presentation on occupational therapy, there was a lively discussion and a great deal of information disseminated.

(f) 12 April 2001: Kathie L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Dr. Olsen, Chief Scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, met with twelve students over an informal lunch. Lorrin Johnson (Departmental Administrator for Biology) and Jane Celwyn and Katherine Hendry (from Career Development) also attended. Dr. Olsen talked about her own career trajectory as well as the opportunities that are available at an organization like NASA. Later that afternoon Dr. Olsen gave the Distinguished Women in Science lecture to a large group of students and faculty. Her topic was "NASA: The New Biology Agenda."