Career Development Presentation 2002-2003

This year we had four events that were sponsored/co-sponsored by the Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Details follow. There were two additional events that we worked hard to schedule; unfortunately we were unable to coordinate dates with the speakers. One prospective guest was Naomi Cohen BC '56, a scientist in Boston at Whitehead Institute and the other was Victoria Hale, who created the first nonprofit pharmaceutical company. We hope to have at least one of these women visit Barnard during AY 2003-04.

(a) Career Tracks in Environmental Biology and Environmental Policy  
Tuesday, Nov. 12th, 6:15 pm in the Altschul Atrium  
Co-sponsored by Career Development, Environmental Science and the HSPP

The speakers were Hadas Kushnir '01 who is a Grants Coordinator and Field Technician for the City of New York Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Group and Samantha Unger '01, Director of EAD Environmental who joined Natsource as an air emissions broker focusing on West Coast air emissions. Twenty-five students attended this presentation along with several faculty and staff members from the Environmental Science Department.

(b) Career Tracks in Research: An overview of career paths, degrees and where you can go with them  
Thursday, Nov. 14th, 4:30 pm in the North Tower, Sulzberger  
Co-sponsored by Career Development, Dean of Studies, Biology Club, Pre-med Students of Color and the HSPP

Research scientists from the Sue Golding Graduate Division at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine talked about their research, their graduate degrees and the range of graduate programs at Einstein. They also presented information about the summer undergraduate research program at Einstein. Dr. Victoria Freedman and Dr. Howard Steinman spoke to an audience of over 40 students and 18 students attended a dinner afterwards with the speakers.

Following this event Dr. Steinman wrote, "I remain committed to informing women science undergraduates about career opportunities in science as a way of addressing some of the inequities that exist. I am glad that you brought up the issue last night. It is indeed complex.
Persons of that age may feel that the inequities they hear about could never apply to themselves. Others may be frightened away. A certain reality is necessary. Clearly the women at Barnard are in an empowered position to address these issues and, as you said last night, will spearhead the movement to continue the change for more equal representation of women in the science professions. Thanks again for the opportunity to speak with Barnard undergrads who continue to impress me." (Dr. Steinman's daughter currently attends Barnard.)

(c) Career Tracks in Editing and Publishing  
Tuesday, January 28th, 6:00 pm in South Tower, Sulzberger  
Co-sponsored by Career Development, Biology Dept., and the HSPP  

Laurie Dempsey, Assistant Editor at Nature Immunology who is a trained experimental biologist who completed a Ph.D. and post-doctoral research has combined her love of biology with her love of editing. Dr. Dempsey spoke to a group of fourteen students and one faculty member, Dr. Poindexter and a dinner presentation. Students attending represented a variety of majors in the sciences from biology, neuroscience and behavior, chemistry, astronomy to students who had not yet declared their majors.

(d) Career Tracks in Public Health  
Monday, April 14th, 6:00 pm in South Tower, Sulzberger  
Co-sponsored by Career Development and the HSPP  

Tanya Leslie, director of the Career Services Office of the Mailman School of Public Health gave an overview of career paths in the field of public health and gave details about great variety of study options available at Mailman. She also provided information on professional associations and relevant web sites and distributed a book to all students, Advancing Healthy Populations: The Pfizer Guide to Careers in Public Health. Twenty students attended this dinner presentation.