Career Development Presentations 2004-2005

The HSPP includes funding for career panels and presentations at which guest speakers provide information about science and science-related careers to our students. Jane Celwyn and Elayne Garrett, the Director and Associate Director of Barnard’s Office of Career Development, are responsible for this aspect of our program. They organized nine events during the current reporting period. A member of the Career Development Office attended each event and distributed evaluation forms for students to complete; unfortunately, the return rate for evaluations is quite low. A brief summary of each presentation is included below.

(a) Public Health Dinner/Discussion with Dr. Deborah Hasin
Monday, October 18, 2004

Dr. Hasin is a professor at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Her areas of interest and research include alcohol use disorders, substance use and psychiatric disorders, the genetics and epidemiology of alcohol consumption, and dependence symptoms in Israel. Students that attended this event were interested in MD/MDH programs, pursuing a career in the health profession or were simply exploring their options. Students enjoyed learning about her experiences however; they were hoping to learn more about the public health field itself and the careers within it. About 25 students attended.

(b) Amgen Dinner Discussion with Beth Seidenberg
Monday, November 15, 2004

Beth Seidenberg is the Senior Vice President, Global Development and Chief Medical Officer at Amgen, where she has the responsibility for managing all stages of clinical research, health economics/reimbursement and medical affairs. For the past 20 years, she has focused her career on introducing new innovative treatments for AIDS, arthritis, asthma, cancer, psoriasis, cardiovascular, metabolic, neurological and renal disorders. She has introduced 10 innovative products to the market and achieved over 40 regulatory approvals on a worldwide basis. These products have been successfully commercialized and have provided benefits to millions of patients. Students that attended this event are interested in the pharmaceutical industry and drug research. As a Barnard Alumna, Ms. Seidenberg was able to relate to the students and offered them good advice on pursuing a career in her field. She advised students to obtain a MD/PhD as they would have edge over an MD applying for a job in the pharmaceutical industry and that research as an undergraduate is important before applying to graduate school.

(c) MD/PhD Dinner/Discussion with Dr. Todd Evans
Tuesday, October 26, 2005

Dr. Evans is from the Department of Developmental and Molecular Biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He presented his research on the cardiovascular system of zebra fish and then discussed career opportunities in science PhD and MD/PhD programs. Students that attended this event were interested in his research, learning about these programs and found
his credentials impressive. This event was cosponsored with the Barnard Biology Club and around 20 students attended. Students found the speaker helpful and genuinely interested in answering their questions, obtained helpful information about applying to such programs, and found his research interesting.

**d) IGERT Information Session with Susie Valaitis**  
**Thursday, December 2, 2004**

The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program provides interdisciplinary graduate training in various scientific fields. They seek to educate scientists and engineers in a way that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. IGERT programs provide their students with a stipend and off tuition support. Students that attended this event were interested in learning more about scholarships for graduate school, in summer internships, and pursuing a career in scientific research. This event was widely advertised on campus and over 30 students attended. Students found the speaker extremely helpful and friendly, learned how to find out about such programs themselves, and were better informed about the various IGERT programs and the benefits associated with them.

**e) International Women’s Health Discussion with Dr. Allan Rosenfield**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2005**

Dr. Rosenfield is the Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health and a professor of Public health and Ob/Gyn. He is expert in women’s health issues, including AIDS and contraception; international health issues, such as maternal and child health and human rights; health care reform in the US, urban health care delivery systems; adolescent pregnancy; minority health concerns; and health care for the poor and disadvantages. Dr. Rosenfield discussed his work in women’s health and advised them on what it takes to start a career in global health.

**f) Therapist Dinner/Discussion with Lee Bradley, Emily Becker and Jessica Galgano**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2005**

After students showed great interest in the various fields of therapy, this event was cosponsored with the Prehealth Students’ Organization. The panel included Lee Bradley, a pediatric occupational therapist; Emily Becker, a physical therapist, and Jessica Galgano, a speech pathologist. Each woman discussed the various aspects of her field and how it differed from the other forms of therapy. They all advised students on courses and volunteer opportunities they should engage in before applying to graduate school. Students that attended are considering pursuing a career in therapy, learning more about the field since Barnard doesn’t offer much information, or are looking for alternative careers as science majors. After attending, most students felt that the discussion was very informative and found the speakers helpful while others realized that this is not the field they would like to go into. Over 30 students attended.

**g) Discussion with Science Teacher, with Maria Rivera**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2005**

Maria Rivera from Barnard’s Education Program made herself available to speak informally with
students contemplating a career in teaching science. Unfortunately this event did not attract students who were not part of the Education Program and those in the program have easy access to Prof. Rivera. We will look for another opportunity to include her in a panel of career possibilities to make sure that she has an opportunity to convey her enthusiasm and interesting career history to students.

(h) Luncheon with Dr. Katherine Puder
Friday, April 29, 2005

Dr. Puder is a Barnard Alumna who received an M.S. from the CU School of Social Work and a Ph.D. from the Division of Sociomedical Sciences at the CU School of Public Health. Her interest areas include environmental health, drug and medical treatments, epidemiological studies, clinical trial research, quality of life instruments and she has recently started her own consulting company. 11 students attended.

(i) Dinner/Discussion with Barnard Alumnae with Elizabeth Bonwich ’94 & Danielle Cherrick ’04
Thursday, May 5, 2005

Director of the Office of Disability Services Susan Quinby and Associate Director/Internship Program Cara Smith brought two alumnae to campus to discuss their backgrounds as science majors and their career paths as well as their disabilities and the ways in which they have influenced their studies and their work. Elizabeth Bonwich was a biology major and worked at the American Museum of Natural History and Danielle Cherrick was a neuroscience major who now works as a research assistant at the Language Acquisition Research project at Hunter College.

The HSPP supported two additional opportunities for students to consider careers in science and science-related fields:

(j) Workshop and dinner for premedical students from groups underrepresented in
Friday, Feb. 18, 2005

The workshop was conducted by Dean Nilda Soto of the Office of Diversity Enhancement at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and lasted for about three and a half hours. At the dinner, the workshop participants were joined by staff of the health professions office at Barnard, Barnard’s HEOP office, Columbia’s Office of Pre-Professional Programs, and Columbia’s Academic Success Programs. In addition, a Columbia undergraduate representing the Charles Drew Premedical Society joined the dinner (she had been unable to attend the workshop). Barnard’s Network of Premedical Students of Color was represented at both the workshop and dinner. We also invited seven alumnae of color (three medical students and four physicians) to join us. This gave students the opportunity to speak with people who had successfully completed the premedical process and were now either successful medical students or practicing physicians.
We wanted to have about 30 students participate and allowed 35 to register, divided equally between Barnard and Columbia. Of the 35, about 19 actually attended, 13 of whom were Barnard students.

(k) Public Leadership Education Network Seminar on Women and Science/Technology Policy

In January 2005 the following five students attended the week-long Public Leadership Education Network Seminar on Women and Science/Technology Policy: Aurora MacRae-Crerar ’07, Jessica Munna ’07, Ivana Estrada ‘05, Anna Landau ’07 and Tiffany Moadel ’06. During this seminar students met women leaders in the Congress, government offices/agencies, organizations and corporations who are actively involved in developing and influencing science and technology policy. They discussed public policy issues relating to various areas including women's health research and learned about the connections between science/technology and public policy through site visits to government agencies.