Career Development Presentations 2006-2007

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, coordinate this aspect of our program. They organized ten events during the current reporting period. A member of the Career Development Office attended each event.

(a) October 23, 2006 – Meredith Sobel ’98 MPH, Hospital Administrator

Barnard graduate Sobel worked at Bloomberg for a number of years before earning an MS in health policy and management from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is currently an administrative fellow at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Ms. Sobel led a dinner discussion with nine students; in addition, she brought packets outlining the responsibilities and requirements for health care executives for students to take and for the career library to keep for those who had missed this event.

(b) November 9, 2006 – Kay Zias ’81 MPH, NYC Economic Development Corporation

Zias received her MPH in environmental science from Columbia University in 1994. Past experiences include work with architects and urban planners, New York Landmarks Conservancy and the Mayor’s Office of Transportation (Planning Division). Currently, she is working in planning with a strong focus on environmental studies (especially those involving hazardous materials and land use) at The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Ms. Zias led an informal dinner discussion with six students where she discussed her career path and an opportunity to intern at EDC through their Urban Fellows Program.

(c) December 6, 2006 – Internships in the Sciences Panel

Current Barnard students who had the opportunity to intern during the summer of 2006 participated in a panel discussion of their various science internship experiences. The panelists included four seniors and three juniors with majors in biology, chemistry, psychology and environmental science. They had done internships at the following places: the New York Botanical Garden, Mt. Sinai Medical School, Bellevue Hospital, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Merck & Co, Inc., Columbia Medical Center and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory. Seventeen students attended and several contributed additional information about internships they had done themselves.

(d) January 22, 2007 – Dr. Suzanne Meehan ’81 MPH, MD, International Health

Dr. Meehan worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund before going back to school and receiving her MPH from Johns Hopkins University in 2001. She then went to the Medical School for International Health in Collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center in Israel, and is currently applying for residency programs. Dr. Meehan spoke to 25 students over dinner about her career transitions and her career goals for the future. She discussed the ways in which her training in economics, public health, and medicine has prepared
her for future work in Africa with HIV/Aids education and health policy.

(e) January 29, 2007 – Ms. Dana Lau ’94 PhD in Biology, Patent Attorney

A Barnard biology major, Ms. Lau received her PhD in 2000 from the University of California at Berkeley, before going on to earn her JD from Brooklyn Law School in 2006. She is currently an associate at Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper and Scinto, an intellectual property firm, where she works on biotech and pharmaceutical patent litigation. At an informal dinner discussion, Ms. Lau spoke with eight students about her career path and experiences in her PhD program and in her current work.

(f) February 28, 2007 – Dr. Lynn Evans, Post Doc in Developmental Psychobiology at CU

Dr. Evans was a double major in Psychology and Biology at Wittenberg University; she received her BA in 1998. She also received an MS and PhD from the Neurosciences Doctoral Program at the University of California at San Diego, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in developmental psychobiology at Columbia University. Over a dinner discussion with ten students, Dr. Evans spoke about her experiences as a researcher, and different opportunities in the field of neuroscience.

(g) March 7, 2007 – Katherine Brooking ’92 MS, Nutritionist

Ms. Brooking received her MA in International Affairs from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs in 1994 and worked in finance and marketing before making a career change and receiving an MS in Human Nutrition from Columbia University’s Teachers College in 2005. She is currently a corporate nutritionist at the Dannon Company and an on-air nutrition expert on CBS and Fox news. At a dinner discussion with eight students, Ms. Brooking spoke about her career path and her own experiences and about additional career options for those with degrees in nutrition. A video clip of two of Brooking’s television appearances was also shown.

(h) March 29, 2007 – Dr. Eric Breitung, PhD, Chemistry, Art Conservation Fellow

Dr. Breitung, on leave from General Electric, is currently a conservation fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1999 and immediately began working at General Electric. Over a light supper, Dr. Breitung gave a power point presentation to ten students about his career experiences and about different options for scientists outside of academia at General Electric. He also spoke about how he found his fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and about the different projects of other scientists at the museum. Dr. Breitung is currently investigating how to make face-mounted photographs scratch proof. The event was co-sponsored by the Barnard Chemical Society; Professor James McGarrah from the Chemistry department also attended

(i) April 10, 2007 – Dr. Rebecca Prevots ’85 MPH, PhD, Epidemiologist

A biology major at Barnard, Dr. Prevots received her MPH in 1988 and her PhD in 1991 in
epidemiology from the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. She has had experience as a public health advisor for the New York City Department of Health and as an epidemiologist with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Pan American Health Organization. Currently, Dr. Prevots is an epidemiologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infections Diseases, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, where she leads and supports epidemiologic research with a focus on international collaborations. At a dinner discussion, Dr. Prevots shared her international experiences and career path with fourteen students and was also a guest lecturer in Dr. Hilary Callahan’s evolutionary ecology course.

(j) April 25, 2007 – Career Panel

Co-sponsored with the Barnard Chemical Society, this career panel featured four panelists in various fields. Dr. Ping Liu received her BS, MS and PhD from Jilin University in China before working as an assistant professor at the Technical University of Denmark. She is currently a research associate at Brookhaven National Laboratories; her research focuses on the theoretical description of various catalytic processes. Dr. Liu spoke about her experiences at a national research lab and about the differences between working in a national laboratory and working in an academic setting. Jack Cordova holds a BS in food science and an MS in Nutrition; he is currently a manager of a team within PepsiCo research and development and works on the development of carbonated beverages with flavors targeting international markets. Mr. Cordova shared information about PepsiCo’s internship opportunities and answered questions about the food science industry. Dr. Jeffrey Hale received his BS at the Stevens Institute of Technology and his PhD from Rutgers University through the Merck Research Laboratories Doctoral Study program. He began his career as an intern at Merck and is currently the director of Merck Research Laboratories and intern coordinator. Dr. Hale shared with students his experiences and provided information about internships opportunities at Merck. Steve Mirsky received his MS in chemistry from Cornell University and is currently a writer and a member of the editing board for Scientific American. He began science writing through a mass media fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and shared with students information about fellowships and the field of science journalism.