Career Development Presentations 2007-2008

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 eleven events during the current reporting period. A member of the Career Development Office attended each event.


A recent Barnard graduate, Ms. Gary, a member of Green Corps Class of 2008 Environmental Leadership Training Program, currently works for Corporate Accountability International on the Think Outside the Bottle Campaign. Ms. Gary led a discussion with current Barnard students where they discussed the Green Corps’ leadership program and the opportunities in the environmental and social change fields. She also spoke about the application process and shared tips for applying for the program with students.

(b) October 23, 2007. American Museum of Natural History – Ms. Amber Reed ’05.

A Barnard anthropology major, Ms. Reed is now the After School Program Coordinator at the American Museum of Natural History where she coordinates after school courses for high school students, which includes science courses, and recruits students and teachers for the program. Past experiences with the museum include work as a teacher for the after school program, and as the Margaret Mead Film Festival Intern. She has also had extensive international experience as an archaeologist with the Pambamarca Archaeology Project in Ecuador, and as a volunteer and project leader with the Riverside Wildlife Center in South Africa. Ms. Reed led a discussion with seven students where she spoke about her various experiences, unusual opportunities to use a background in science, and specifically how to work for the Museum of Natural History.


Current Barnard students who had the opportunity to intern during the summer of 2007 participated in a panel discussion and shared their science internship experiences and opportunities. The panelists included five seniors, three juniors and one sophomore, who had internships in places ranging from Costa Rica to the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries, and from South Africa to Tampa, Florida. Twenty-two students attended.


Barnard graduate Dr. Paul received her PhD in chemistry from the University of Illinois and did post-doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin. She is currently a research chemist with the US Department of Agriculture, where she is working on the development of bacteria for the production of bioactive food ingredients. Over a lunch discussion, Dr. Paul spoke about her career with the USDA and emphasized the benefits of working for the government as a woman. She also shared her experiences as a PhD candidate in Chemistry and gave possible sources for student summer internships, such as IFF and the USDA. At least eight students participated in this event.
(e) November 27, 2007. Women’s Health Author – Ms. Laura Eldridge ’01.

Ms. Eldridge is currently a MA candidate in English and American Literature at New York University, and the co-author of two books on women’s health, *The No-Nonsense Guide to Menopause and Body Politic: Dispatches from the Women’s Health Revolution*. Ms. Eldridge spoke with students, over a dinner discussion, about her interest in women’s health and how she wrote about it—from research to writing to being published. Her co-author Barbara Seaman accompanied her and shared her own experience of becoming a women’s health author.

(f) January 28, 2008. Weill Cornell Medical Center – Ms. Mary Yeotsas ’07.

A recent Barnard graduate, Ms. Yeotsas is currently a research aide at Weill Cornell. Over a dinner discussion, Ms. Yeotsas shared her experiences at work and she gave details of the application procedure for her position. At least seventeen students participated in the discussion.


A Biochemistry major while at Barnard, Ms. Cole is currently a MS candidate for the Applied Physiology and Nutrition Program at Teacher’s College, Columbia University. Ms. Cole led a dinner discussion about the nutrition program at Teacher’s College, and shared her experience as a research assistant at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and the Hospital for Special Surgery. She is also currently a columnist for MMAfighting.com; her column, “Fuel the Fighter” focuses on how the field of nutrition and applied physiology can maximize mixed martial arts training. Ten students participated in this event.

(h) February 25, 2008. Dept. of Biomedical Engineering and Radiology, Columbia University – Dr. Elizabeth Hillman.

Dr. Hillman is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Radiology at Columbia University. She received her BSc and Msc in physics from the University College London and her PhD in Medical Physics and Bioengineering, also from the University College London. Her research focuses on in-vivo optical imaging and on improving molecular imaging techniques to reveal biochemical processes in vivo. Over a light lunch, Dr. Hillman spoke about her research and how her career path led her to biomedical engineering. This event was co-sponsored by HSPP, the Barnard Chemical Society, and the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center. Professors Leslie Lessinger, Matthew Birck, Dina Merrer and John Magyar from the Barnard Chemistry Department also attended.

(i) March 6, 2008. Careers in the Sciences - Career Panel.

Held in conjunction with the Barnard Chemical Society, the career panel featured four panelists in various fields. Dr. Marian Meyers, BC ’59, received her MS in organic chemistry from the University of Maryland and her PhD in biochemistry from Cornell. She was recruited by Merck before teaching organic chemistry laboratory at Barnard and Queens College. After discovering a calcium-binding protein she shifted gears and is now a part of the cardiology department at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Meyers spoke about her extensive experience as a woman in the sciences, and made herself very available to students after the panel. Dr. Serge Ilin-Schneider
currently a scientific advisor with the intellectual property law firm of Morgan and Finnegan. Dr. Ilin-Schneider received his BS/MS in biochemistry/biophysics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his PhD in biological chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He shared with students the different job positions available in a patent law firm, including the different qualifications and job descriptions. Mr. Peter Tsolis is a Group Leader for the Estée Lauder Skincare Division of the Estée Lauder Companies. He received his BS in chemistry and biochemistry from New York University and his MS from Polytechnic University. Mr. Tsolis also completed his MBS in marketing and management from New York University’s Stern School of Business. His current work focuses on new product development while working with Marketing and Product Management to ensure success. Mr. Tsolis shared with students his graduate school experience, and his extensive knowledge of the business side of Research and Development. Dr. Urlich Iserloh received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and did his post-doctoral work at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He is currently a principal scientist in the Medicinal Chemistry division at Schering-Plough. Dr. Iserloh spoke to students about the research side of Research and Development and explained the different positions in an industrial research laboratory. A light lunch was provided.


Dr. Stephen Wall received his medical degree from New York University and his MS in Health Services Research from the UCLA School of Public Health. He is currently the director of the Electronic Media Patient Education Institute where his research is focused on investigating multimedia education methods aimed at informing patients about their medical problems and risk for illness in a culturally sensitive way. He is currently researching supervising digital video ethnography studies to determine and improve organ donation willingness among the multiethnic communities served by the Bellevue Hospital Center Emergency Department, where he is also an Assistant Professor. Dr. Wall led a discussion with students about his career path and how he became interested in patient education. Dr. Lesley Sharp, a professor in Barnard’s Anthropology Department, attended.


Co-sponsored by the Barnard Chemical Society, this event featured two speakers from the NYPD Crime Laboratory: Dr. Scott O’Neill, the Deputy Director, and Sergeant Tinel Bedford. Dr. O’Neill spoke about his career path as a civilian with the NYPD and emphasized the need for a science background. Sgt. Bedford shared his experiences with the police academy and as a police officer before joining the Crime Laboratory. They also broke down the department, speaking about the different scientific sections for controlled substances, criminalistics and firearms analysis. Information was also given about employment opportunities. A light lunch was provided; Professors Matthew Birck and Dina Merrer, from the Barnard Chemistry Department, attended.