Welcome from the Dean

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy the Spring 2010 issue of the College of Arts and Sciences newsletter, CAS Connections. We are proud to report the achievements of our community of students, faculty, alumni and donors. The 2009-10 academic year has seen increased enrollments, student and faculty accomplishments and fund-raising success. In this newsletter you will read about some remarkable students and faculty: biology student Gabrielle Lopez and her research at the Field Museum of Natural History; political science major Alexander Sewell who stood beside U.S. Senator Richard Durbin speaking about the impact of federal grants on his education; and Professor Scott Blackwood (Creative Writing) whose novel, We Agreed to Meet Just Here, won the 2009 award for best fiction from the Texas Institute of Letters. The college’s annual report will be posted on our website this summer at www.roosevelt.edu/cas.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact me at lweiner@roosevelt.edu or at (312) 341-3671.

With regards,

Lynn Weiner, Dean

Recent CAS Fund-Raising Successes

- Roosevelt University was named the recipient of a million dollar-plus bequest intention. The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a College of Arts and Sciences alumna. The bequest intention of cash and property will provide annual, renewable full-tuition scholarships for College of Arts and Sciences and College of Education students.

- The Chicago Community Trust awarded a $50,000 grant to the Institute for Metropolitan Affairs to support research on drug policy reform. The institute will study the role of preliminary hearings and how dismissed cases might unintentionally result in increased racial disparity in the adjudication of drug offenders.

- James Blinder (BA, 57) and College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board member, donated $35,000 to support scholarships and enhance the library collections of Roosevelt University and the Center for New Deal Studies.

- The Max Goldenberg Foundation awarded $25,000 for the acquisition of an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer to the Department of Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences.

To discuss support for the College of Arts and Sciences, contact Dolores Metzger, senior director of development, at dmetzger@roosevelt.edu or at (312) 341-2252.

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CAS Students Make Headlines

Economics major Jane Fidman was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad at the University of Helsinki, Finland for the Spring 2010 semester. Ayodeji Oginni (BA, ’09) was profiled in the January 13, 2010 Chicago Tribune. Oginni, a native of Nigeria, is teaching English at Thornwood High School in South Holland, Ill. Rajalekshmy Shyam (BS, ’09) published an article- “Wht Gene Expression in Human Trabecular Meshwork Cells,” in the journal Molecular Vision. Psychology and English major Graciela Solis was awarded a fellowship for the PhD in Psychology program at the University of California-Santa Cruz for Fall 2010. MFA in Creative Writing Student Lauren Stacks had four poems published in a new anthology, Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets Under 25. MA in Clinical Psychology student Kathleen Terzinski volunteered with Lutheran Church Charities in Haiti over spring break. Terzinski joined a medical team serving in an earthquake refugee center in Jeremie, Haiti. MFA in Creative Writing student Cecilia Villarruel won the National Society for Arts and Letters Central Illinois Chapter Literature Competition on Short Story Writing. The Department of Psychology’s PsyD Program has currently placed 93 percent of its internship-eligible doctoral students for 2010-11 (national match rate is 79 percent). All sites are APA-accredited and include the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, the University of Illinois Counseling Center in Urbana-Champaign, the Texas Woman’s University Counseling Center and the University of Louisville School of Medicine. The student newspaper (The Torch) won several Illinois College Press Association Awards. Nikoleta Kravchenko won second place for sports photo and honorable mention for feature photo; Jonathan Samples won third place for front page layout; and Cassandra Clegg won honorable mention for feature story.

Student Profile: Gabrielle Lopez (BS, Biology)

Biology undergraduate student Gabrielle Lopez is making the most of her Roosevelt University experience by combining scholarship, research and extracurricular leadership. A native of Toledo, Ohio, Lopez is an honors biology student who plans to graduate in 2012. Gabrielle was awarded an undergraduate research grant as part of the Roosevelt University Scholars Program. As a freshman, she was awarded a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grant from the Field Museum of Natural History. Gabrielle works at the museum under the guidance of Professor Norbert Cordeiro (Biology) on his research on the diets of African birds. Professor Cordeiro characterizes Gabrielle as “driven to solve local and global problems through both her outstanding leadership skills and her interdisciplinary approaches.” Lopez continues her learning outside the classroom and lab by tutoring on campus and serving on the student Campus Life Committee, the Pre-Health Professional Society and the Scientific Journal Club. In addition, Gabrielle is co-founding Science Without Borders, a new student club which she says will, “promote an interdisciplinary approach to the sciences, erasing the label that science is only for scientists.”

CAS Faculty Achievements

Assistant Professor of History Nicole Anderson Cobb was interviewed on NPR’s The Story with Dick Gordon about her new play Black Reign? Survivin’ the Obama Years. Assistant Professor and Director of the MFA in Creative Writing Program Scott Blackwood was awarded the 2009 Texas Institute of Letters Award for Best Book of Fiction for his novel, We Agreed to Meet Just Here. Associate Professor of History Chris Chulos was profiled in a January 21, 2010 Chicago Tribune article about the use of feature films in history courses. Associate Professor of Journalism Anne-Marie Cusac’s book, Cruel and Unusual: The Culture of Punishment in America (Yale University Press), was recognized as one of the top ten books published in 2009 by the Baltimore City Paper and was awarded the 2009 Pass Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Associate Professor of Computer Science Evgeny Dantsin was selected to participate in the prestigious 2010 Dagstuhl Seminar of computing research in Saarland, Germany. Dantsin and Professor of Computer Science Alexander Wolpert have published a paper, On Moderately Exponential Time for SAT. Associate Professor of Journalism Peter Fallon has accepted the editorship of EME: Explorations in Media Ecology for a four-year term. Assistant Professor of History Erik Gellman has been appointed to the Speaker’s Bureau of the Illinois Humanities Council for 2010-11 to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders. Associate Professor of Public Administration Anna Marie Schuh represented the University at the January meeting of the Cook County Board where Roosevelt University was recognized for its Executive Master of Public Administration program. Associate Professor of English Janet Wondra won a fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Sweet Briar, Va., for Spring 2010.
Congratulations to the following College of Arts and Sciences faculty who were awarded one-semester research leaves for 2010-11:

Bethany Barratt (Political Science) - Developing Democracy: The Relationship Between Human Rights and Economic Development

Lawrence Howe (English) - Mark Twain and the Problem of Property

Tasneem Islam (Chemistry) - Green Microwave Synthesis of Discotics for Photovoltaic Devices

Marjorie Jolles (Women's and Gender Studies) - Being Entitled: Embodied Practices and the Limits of Experience and Authoring the Self: Narratives and Counter-Narratives in the Rhetoric of Empowerment

Congratulations to the following College of Arts and Sciences faculty who published books during the 2009-10 academic year:

Regina Buccola (English) - A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Critical Guide (Continuum, 2010)

Peter Fallon (Journalism) - The Metaphysics of Media (University of Scranton Press, 2009)

Charlie Madigan (Journalism) - Destiny Calling: How the People Elected Barack Obama (Ivan R. Dee, 2009)


Author and Activist Jonathan Kozol: Mansfield Lecturer 2010

Jonathan Kozol, acclaimed author, educator and passionate advocate for the nation’s public school children, addressed an enthusiastic audience of 400 on March 25 in the Roosevelt University Congress Lounge. Kozol was the distinguished lecturer for the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation’s annual One Book-One University event. Faculty, students, staff and community members joined in reading Kozol’s New York Times bestseller, The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America. Kozol’s stories from his nearly 50-year battle to ensure equal opportunity for every public school child produced laughter, applause and tears from the audience which included many past, present and future educators.

Heather Dálido, professor of sociology and director of the Mansfield Institute, said, “As we continue to question inequalities and engage in social justice work, authors like Jonathan Kozol help us come together, gain support from one another and reinvigorate the need for our continued work in the struggle.” The Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation was created in 1999 through a generous gift from the Mansfield Foundation and provides Roosevelt University a unique opportunity to develop an integrated program of curriculum, research and outreach focused on social justice issues. For more information about the Mansfield Institute, visit www.roosevelt.edu/misjt.
Student Profile: Alexander Sewell (BA, Political Science)

As student government president, political science student Alexander Sewell garnered admiration and applause from Roosevelt faculty and administrators during his inaugural address to the University Senate in January. “Alexander’s commitment to the students and his articulate and informative report to the University community made me realize that he was going places fast” said Juli Rowen, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the best tradition of Roosevelt University, Sewell combines scholarship, student leadership and community service. A native of Chicago and an honors student, Sewell serves as student body president and as a member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Society. He also teaches computer literacy to at-risk youth in the Englewood community and is a volunteer for the Chicago Public Library Foundation, Institute for America’s Future and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. After graduation with a BA in Political Science in May 2011, Sewell plans to attend law school to become a civil rights attorney. He also foresees a career in politics, including an eventual run for the United States House of Representatives. Sewell credits his Roosevelt University experience with inspiring him to “pursue a life devoted to public service and the betterment of my community. I really do feel that people in my generation can make change. We’re moving in the right direction.”