

Presidential Initiatives to Increase Student Engagement
2007-2008

Co-curricular Activity Initiative

The Co-curricular Activity Initiative contributes funding for student-faculty activities that are related to faculty courses or their scholarship. Activities may include student-faculty lunches, receptions, seminars, award ceremonies, film screenings, colloquia, or field trips.

Anthropology

Activity: Field trips to Ellis Island and the Lower East Side, Insdorf "Movie Marathon"

Faculty: Judith Friedlander

Course: Peopling of New York

Summary

The students ended the semester by attending a movie marathon at the Insdorf Screening Room. A lively discussion and refreshments were enjoyed following the screenings.

Activity: Biological Anthropology in the News

Faculty: Michael Steiper

Summary

Biological anthropology is one of the most popular science topics in the news. Often, the coverage relates to controversial topics, such as recent articles about race and genetics or new fossil finds. To encourage exploration of these topics outside of class sessions, the Anthropology Department and the Anthropology Club hosted monthly "Biological Anthropology in the New" seminars during lunchtime.

► Art

Activity: Trip to the Chinese Scholar's Garden 

Faculty: Ūlku Bates

Course: Chinese and Japanese Art

Summary

Constructed nine years ago, the Chinese Scholar's Garden is a replica of the 15th Century garden in Soochou, China, and it affords a wonderful opportunity to describe the relationship between landscape painting and gardens that were designed by scholar-painters.

Activity: Visits to New York City Art Galleries

Faculty: Lisa Davis

Course: Art and Current Ideas

Summary

Several classes were conducted at galleries located in Lower East Side, Chelsea, and Uptown neighborhoods. Students viewed a minimum of five exhibits each week, followed by discussions about the works and student papers in local cafés. These post-exhibition *salons*—places to discuss academic ideas in an informal setting—were critical to the success of the course and the development of the participating students.

► Asian American Studies

Activity: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Luncheon for Students and Faculty

Faculty: Angela Reyes

Summary

Students and faculty associated with the Asian American Studies Program celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a luncheon. Students learned about the fields of expertise of the Asian American Studies faculty, exchanged ideas, and created a network for exploring mentoring and research opportunities.

► Biological Sciences

Activity: The Last Word: A Reflective End-of-Semester Dinner

Faculty: Ezra Shahn

Course: Leonardo and His Times

Summary

The class convened for a final session at restaurant Leonardo da Vinci to reflect on Leonardo's life, work, and times.

► Education

Activity: An Evening with Authors Amy Hest and Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Faculty: Deborah Ann Jensen, Jenny Tuten

Course: Master in Literacy Program

Summary:

Two prominent children's book authors—Amy Hest and Alyssa Satin Capucilli—presented to students enrolled in Hunter's Master in Literacy Program. In contrast to the scripted reading programs offered at many public schools, this event provided an opportunity for students to listen to authors who create and to consider using new works in public school classrooms. The Hunter students, most of whom are teachers in New York City schools, were given copies of books by Hest and Capucilli.

► English

Activity: Film and Pizza

Faculty: Rebecca Connor

Course: The Gothic in Art and Film

Summary

Students enrolled in Professor Connor's course viewed the British film *Amazing Grace* and explored its themes over pizza.

► Film and Media Studies

Activity: Oral History of New York City Neighborhoods

Faculty: James Levy

Course: Neighborhood Oral History Workshop

Summary

Combining methods in documentary, oral history, and urban studies, this workshop explored the concept of "neighborhood" and sought to understand how it operates in Harlem today. Using digital audio recorders, students captured and transcribed one-on-one interviews with community members. By working collaboratively with community-based organizations, the students preserved a small portion of Harlem's collective memory and identified some of the community's most pressing needs and challenges, as well as its visions for the future.

► German


Activity: 50th Annual Steuben Parade and German-American Friendship Party

Faculty: Lisa Marie Anderson

Summary

The annual Steuben Parade and German-American Friendship Party celebrate the historic relationship between Germans and Americans. The day provided the participating students with opportunities to learn more about German culture and to practice their German language skills.

► History

Activity: Historical Tour of Central Park 
Faculty: Florence Asher
Course: US from Colonial Era to the Civil War (HIST 151)

Summary

Students enrolled in Professor Asher's introductory survey course in American history toured Central Park with a professional guide who specializes in New York City history. The tour complements the course content, which includes a focus on nineteenth century urbanization and the rise of New York City.

► Music

Activity: Post-Recital Reception
Faculty: Ruth DeFord

Summary

All Hunter students, but especially Music majors, were invited to a post-recital reception for Geoffrey Burleson, a new Hunter faculty member.

► Nursing

Activity: "Enhancing Nursing Literacy in Electronic Health Records"
Faculty: Donna M. Nickitas, Kathleen M. Nokes, Pamela Y. Mahon

Summary

The Jonas Grant Advisory Board invited Hunter's Nursing majors to attend a lecture by grant consultant and international expert Dr. Diane Skiba. Her presentation complements the School of Nursing's use of electronic documentation.


► Philosophy

Activity: Post-Spring Lecture Dinner
Faculty: Omar Dahbour

Summary

The department selected majors Molly Aviles and Diana Mendez to attend the dinner following Philosophy's spring lecture.

► Psychology

Activity: Animal Behavior and Conservation Research at Black Rock Forest 
Faculty: Sheila Chase, Diana Reiss

Summary

Hunter's membership in the Black Rock Forest Consortium offers students a unique opportunity for research, and students the Animal Behavior Concentration (ABC) program spent two days at Black Rock hiking, observing the ecosystem, obtaining a night-time sound profile of the forest, and planning for the future.

Activity: Psychology Club/Psi Chi/Psychology News Information Session
Faculty: Jason Young

Summary

Nine Psychology majors met to plan forthcoming events and to learn more about the graduate application process.

► Romance Languages

Activity: Symposium (Nivaria Tejera's Literary Exiles)

Faculty: Maria Hernandez-Ojeda

Summary

Hunter College and the New York Council for the Humanities co-sponsored an international symposium entitled Nivaria Tejera's Literary Exiles.

Activity: Metropolitan Museum of Art Lecture

Faculty: Michael Taormina

Summary

Students attended Olivier Bernier's lecture "Fashion and Frivolity: The Young Marie Antoinette" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. Bernier illustrated his presentation with slides of portraits, furniture, and clothing.

► Social Work

Activity: LGBT Film Screening and Discussion

Faculty: Sarah-Jane Dodd

Summary

Following a screening of "I Look Up to the Sky Now," director Barbara Bickart will discuss her film, which is a composite of video self-portraits by eleven young artists.

Activity: Student-Faculty Information/Networking Sessions

Faculty: Mary Li Hsu

Summary

Offering opportunities for students to learn about academic and professional options from the School of Social Work faculty, the "common days/common nights" also fostered community while delivering important information, e.g., licensing process.

► Theatre

Activity: Shadow Puppet Exhibit 

Faculty: Claudia Orenstein

Course: Puppets and Performing Objects

Summary

Students viewed Enchanted Stories: Chinese Shadow Theater in Shaanxi at the China Institute. This was the first Chinese shadow puppet exhibit to be presented in the US, and it featured rare puppets from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Activity: Shadow Puppet Performance

Faculty: Claudia Orenstein

Course: Puppets and Performing Objects

Summary

Students attended a performance of "The Birth of the Monkey King" at the China Institute. This shadow theater adaptation of the Chinese classic journey to the West, the fantastic simian troublemaker, Sun Wu Kung ("Handsome Monkey King") gathers superpowers and shakes the foundations of Heaven. The ensuing cosmic ruckus requires the intervention of Buddha to restore order.