

the columbia college of arts and sciences



The Dean's Fund

The Dean's Fund supports a wide range of scholarly initiatives to encourage learning and discovery across the disciplines. From seed funding for special faculty projects to support for graduate capstone courses, the Dean's Fund advances a host of opportunities that encompass the breadth and depth of a broad liberal arts education. The following initiatives are among those receiving funding support thanks to the ongoing generosity of our alumni, parents, faculty, and friends:

George Washington and His World

This hands-on undergraduate course debuted in fall 2008 through a partnership between GW and the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. The class offers a unique opportunity for students in history, American studies, and related fields to study the University's namesake and the nation's first president at his home on the Potomac. The Society of the Cincinnati, an organization devoted to the history of the American Revolution, also has partnered with Columbia College to provide students with access to the resources of the Society's library. Enrollment in the course has grown from 12 students during the 2008-09 academic year, to 16 students in 2009-10.

"This course was such a unique experience. I hope that other students can take advantage of it in the future."

—Heather Naviasky '10

"The class was amazing! I felt immersed in the time period."

—John Gorney '10

Dean's Seminars

These small, seminar-style courses provide first-year students with a focused intellectual challenge as they explore significant academic issues under the guidance of full-time faculty members. Students engage in directed critical inquiry while exploring the unique resources of the nation's capital and the University. They not only learn to evaluate the scholarship and traditions that have formed our world view, but also create their own scholarship of consequence. During the 2009-10 academic year, 43 seminars were offered to 712 Columbia College freshmen. Seminar topics for the upcoming year include, *Schizophrenia, Hollywood and Politics, The Sixties, Buddhist Art of Asia, and Gender, Bodies, and Health.*

"The Dean's Seminars offer an opportunity to establish a unique bond between student and a well-respected university professor. In one sense, it's a freshman's time to shine, but it's also a great time to identify possible weaknesses and seek help and guidance early."

—Ruben Gonzalez, '07

Luther Rice Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Established in 2003, these fellowships are part of Columbia College's comprehensive plan to promote discovery and inquiry-based education throughout the undergraduate experience. The fellowships support student-initiated research in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences that are carried out in collaboration with at least one faculty mentor. Fellows are selected each year based on research proposals that undertake a significant, focused examination of an idea, which could result in presentation or publication in a scholarly venue. The Dean's Fund provides \$5,000

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for a student stipend and \$1,000 for the faculty member supervising the student's research. Thirteen fellowships were awarded during the 2009-10 academic year, and 20 for 2010-11.

"Columbian College gave me not just the financial support, but the academic credibility to move to Ireland by myself and interview journalists, sheiks, students, professors, and other people in and around Dublin. The Luther Rice project opened my eyes to the opportunities that are available to young and inquisitive students."

—Francesca Greggs '10

Dean's Scholars in Globalization

Now in its fourth year, the program supports a select group of sophomores seeking to explore issues of global significance. During the 2009-10 academic year, 17 students were immersed in the study of *Crime in an International Context* and *Islam Education and the Media* as participants in the program. In addition to the academic setting at GW, the program offers virtual learning communities with the Universidad de Chile and the National University of Singapore and includes an extended trip to the region of focus. In the past, students have traveled to Chile, Brazil, Singapore, Beijing, and Malaysia.

"I have to say that never in my 24 years of teaching have I had quite this kind of experience in which we fostered the development of a community of young scholars who were all working on research projects related to a single interdisciplinary theme."

—Janet Steele, Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs

Folger Shakespeare Library Seminar

Partnering with the prestigious Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., Columbia College has built an advanced undergraduate research seminar where students learn about the history and sociology of early modern books through a hands-on exploration of the Library's rare book archives. Students learn basic archival research skills and are introduced to the field of book history. They also pursue advanced independent research on early modern topics. During the 2009-10 academic year, nine Columbia College seniors enrolled in the course and performed research using this rare and unique collection.

"We want our students to be challenged, we want them to grow, and we want them to appreciate that they have something very few people have the chance to experience."

—Jeffrey Cohen, Professor of English and Human Sciences

Dean's Scholars in Shakespeare

Students interested in the performance and study of the works of William Shakespeare are exposed to tailored introductory courses, guest artists and lecturers, performances, and programs provided by The Folger Shakespeare Library, The Shakespeare Theatre, and the Columbia College Department of Theatre and Dance. During the 2010 spring semester, 13 students accompanied Professor Alan Wade to England to explore Shakespeare's London. This annual trip gives students the opportunity to meet with the head of The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and visit the Stratford Festival Theatre—home to The Royal Shakespeare Company, the world's most prestigious Shakespeare theatre group. Students also participate in Shakespeare's famous London walk and take a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon.