Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (FFPP)

Executive Summary
June 22, 2017
University Dean, Arlene Torres, PhD
Shelly Eversley, PhD

In the spring of 2017, fifty-four faculty fellows participated in the Faculty Fellows Publication Program led by nine mentors. The program is supported by the Chancellor’s Diversity Fund, an allocation provided to the Office of Recruitment and Diversity to support CUNY’s commitment to a diverse professoriate. Dr. Shelly Eversley, Associate Professor of English at Baruch College serves as the Academic Director. The Office of Human Resources Management has offered this signature program to CUNY faculty for over 19 years.

Working groups met throughout the term for three-hour sessions to critically engage in-progress research projects that included scholarly articles, creative writing, and book chapters, as well as grant, fellowship, and book proposals. Faculty participants, including the Faculty Mentor as group facilitator, produced written and oral responses to these works-in-progress with the objective of assisting their colleagues, and FFPP Fellows, to refine the work for publication to support tenure and promotion. While other opportunities exist for mentorship and professional development, FFPP is unique; it is the only professional development opportunity available to all tenure track faculty across the CUNY system.

This year’s Publisher Roundtable expanded to include a keynote lecture and conversation about the increasing significance of digital visibility and publishing for scholars. Megan Wacha, CUNY’s Scholarly Communications Librarian, presented on the subject. She also offered instruction on using CUNY Academic Works and Google Scholar as efficient means to use digital tools to enhance a professional profile. Editors from NYU Press (Ilene Kalish) and from Rutgers University Press (Kimberly Guinata), joined Professor Kelly Baker Josephs (York), editor of sx salon: a small axe literary platform, to discuss academic publishing, including the details of the author query, book proposal, and publishing processes. Fellows had an opportunity to ask questions and to make personal contact with the editors. For the first time, and in response to Fellows’ feedback and requests, CUNY faculty and former FFPP Fellows, Professor Mary Phillips (Lehman College) and Professor Keridiana Chez (BMCC), presented on their personal experience with publishing, reappointment and tenure preparations. They shared personal advice about how they are achieving their professional goals while they balance work-life issues. Acting University Provost for Research Mark Hauber spoke to the group about research and fellowship opportunities for CUNY faculty as they continue to build their careers beyond the experience with FFPP.

All FFPP Fellows left the Publishers Roundtable with and the FFPP Tool Kit, a collection of successful book, grant, and fellowship proposals, tenure candidate and reappointment statements, and “best practice” guides that can serve as future reference in the years to come.

FFPP’s Publication Showcase celebrated the books and scholarly articles recently published by FFPP Alum; it provided an opportunity for faculty recognition and commendation for their work as public servants and as critical assets to the research and development that drives the university’s mission to educate the City of New York.

FFPP expanded its digital community on CUNY’s Academic Commons to include an FFPP blog, with professional advice, academic news and professional announcements. The blog is maintained by FFPP’s Academic Director, and FFPP Mentors create an expanding database of content. FFPP also maintains a professional group on LinkedIn. Everyone is
welcome and encouraged to participate. CUNY faculty can join the FFPP discussion group through CUNY Academic Commons: https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/groups/faculty-fellowship-publication-program-ffpp/

FFPP not only protects and fosters a diverse professoriate, but it also facilitates the kinds of research and development that has unpredictable and un-measureable influence. While the journal articles, scholarly books, and cultural productions that emerge from the FFPP offer quantifiable proof of the program’s success, they reflect only a small if important record of the impact mentoring groups have on CUNY’s faculty.

The full index of mentoring’s influence includes the qualitatively invaluable professional and personal relationships that not only sustain its working groups but frequently result in collaborative ventures that feed back into the classroom and student learning. These pedagogical collaborations include assigning an FFPP colleague’s article or book as a classroom text; inviting the author to guest lecture on her publication; and observing each other’s teaching and offering feedback that is all the more resonant because it is undergirded by the trust earned during peer review in FFPP writing groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender: Female 70%; Male 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity: Asian 18%; Black 24%; Hispanic 11%; Italian American 4%; White 43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our cohort of faculty fellows are engaged in critical and innovative scholarship. Below is a sample of current writing projects.

Sarah Ohmer, Latin American, Latino and Puerto Rican Studies & Africana Studies. Lehman College
When Spiritual Healing Meets Text: New Approaches to Literature by Black Women in Cuba, U.S. & Brazil

Kirsten Cole, Teacher Education, Borough of Manhattan Community College
Talking about Race and Racism with Young Children: Teachers & Families Learning Together

Régine Joseph, European Languages & Literatures, Queens College
Culture & Duvalierism: The Haitian Renaissance of the Turbulent Sixties

A. Lavelle Porter, English, New York City College of Technology
The Blackademic Life: Academic Fiction, Higher Education & the Black Intellectual

Sohomjit Ray, College of Staten Island, English
The Spectacle and the Specter: Same-Sex Desire in Neo-liberal India

The Program’s sustainability and innovation depends on secure funding and institutionalization. The record number of applications to participate in FFPP proves its vital need among CUNY faculty, and the consistent request from Fellows for more dedicated time to meet and to write among peer groups is another indication of the necessary investment in faculty development and faculty retention. As we continue to develop FFPP’s successes, we will invite even more opportunity for collaborations among Mentors and Fellows, past and present.