



Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship NEWS

August 2003

Issue 7

Biomed Program Brings in Three of Six New Scholars



Six new Scholars starting at City are, (L.-R.): Eric Troutdt, Johnny Wong, Wanli Ma, William Mak, Olga Miklina and Albert Ismailov.

There was ample reason to rejoice when the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project hosted a luncheon in June for its second round of Project Scholars.

Three of the six new scholars are coming to City for its biomedical engineering program, which allows undergraduates to work with top scientists at the college and at New York medical centers. Two of these students said they'd discussed the program with Project Scholar Tahmeed Ahmad, who has just completed his freshman year at City.

The luncheon was held in Principal Stanley Teitel's office. Teitel, City College 1971, explained the college's former history of being tuition-free and a source of opportunity. Project Chairman Larry Gralla Stuyvesant 1947, City College

1951, noted Stuyvesant and City's histories of academic excellence.

Also welcoming the students were: Honors Program Director Robin Villa; Project Director Elena Sturman; City College Fund Executive Director James Schatz City

College '43B; and Eugene Blaufarb, former Stuyvesant assistant principal, now admissions consultant at City.

The new scholars are:

- ♦ Albert Ismailov, a native of

Uzbekistan who calls Forest Hills, Queens home, is one of the students who decided on biomedical engineering. Albert is listed in "Who is Who Among American High School Students,"

♦ Wanli (Justin) Ma, also a biomedical engineering major, had hoped to attend college away from home. He was accepted by NYU and Cornell, but preferred both the biomed program and the financial package at The City College. Justin has received volunteer service awards from NYU Medical Center and the United Hospital Fund. Born in China, he lives in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

♦ William Mak is the third biomedical engineering student. He sees that program as "a good mixture of my interest in technology and engineering" and his plan to become a doctor.

♦ Olga Miklina always wanted to become an elementary school teacher. She plans to study psychology.

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Stuyvesant Grads at City Turned Down Cornell, R.P.I., Michigan, Fordham and N.Y.U.

Each of the twelve Project Scholars, now attending CCNY under the new program, was accepted at many other colleges, some quite prestigious. All twelve have told the NEWS that the combination - a terrific educational opportunity along with a strong financial package - brought them to City.

And City did beat out some very attractive packages.

Carnegie-Mellon, a highly reputed technical college in Pittsburgh, offered one student \$15,000 plus generous loan terms. He came to City a year ago and is very happy with his choice.

Two of our Project Scholars were admitted to Cornell and encouraged to enroll there. Both chose the Honors College at CCNY. Rensselaer Polytech, IU. of Michigan, Fordham, Pace, Wagner

and N.Y.U. offered \$5,000, \$7,000, \$10,000 and even \$12,000 to some of these students. All chose City.

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Which colleges were turned down by our Project Scholars?

- Cornell -- 2
- Fordham, 2
- NYU -- 4
- Carnegie Mellon -- 1
- Pace -- 1
- RPI -- 3
- SUNY-Binghamton -- 5
- SUNY Stony Brook -- 5
- SUNY Buffalo -- 3
- SUNY Albany -- 1
- University of Michigan -- 1
- Wagner College -- 1

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Williams: City's Academic Ranking Moving Up

CCNY President Gregory H. Williams has a long track record of successfully tackling tough obstacles – most notably obstacles where the challenge at hand requires battling distorted perceptions.

A big part of what drew him to City College was, he says, that “I felt I could really make a major contribution in terms of the types of students here” because of the skills he acquired



CCNY President Gregory H. Williams

through both his professional life – “I’ve been involved with public higher education for over 30 years,” he says proudly – and through the proverbial school of hard knocks.

“I realized this is a school with tremendous potential which, when you take a close look, is realizable.” He was also drawn by CCNY’s being “one of the most diverse schools in the country.”

Williams speaks enthusiastically about his eagerness to convey today’s CCNY to those who still believe the post-Open Admissions years slump was permanent. He points out that in U.S. News and World Report’s 2003 “America’s Best Colleges” issue, City was ranked number 24 in student selectivity, placing it in the magazine’s first tier (the top 50 institutions) in its category: master’s degree granting institutions in the Northeast. The City College was also in the first tier in faculty resources (21) and academic reputation (29). Its overall ranking “jumped fully 30 spots,” Williams notes, to number 61, “moving us from the third tier to the second tier.”

“That comes from a completely independent, widely respected source,” Williams emphasized, visibly thrilled. “And The New York Times wrote three articles this year taking note of City’s comeback.”

Attracting top high school students is one of Williams’ goals. He sees the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project as an important step. “Over the years, many Stuyvesant graduates came to City,” he says. The Project is “bringing today’s Stuyvesant students to once again see City as a viable alternative.”

Seeing past misconceptions

The title of Williams’ highly acclaimed autobiography, “Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black,” telegraphs the tough road that taught him how surmount entrenched beliefs and barriers. Williams spent his early childhood in segregated Virginia. His mother abandoned the family. His father took Williams and his brother back to his Indiana hometown and informed his sons that he was the son of a black mother and a white father.

Under society’s “rules” at that time, that meant Williams was black. His white relatives rejected him. Suddenly living as a black person in the black community, Williams had to adapt to impoverished surroundings and to exclusionary double standards that were “normal” then.

He persisted towards his seemingly impossible goal of becoming a lawyer, graduating from George Washington University with PhD and J.D. degrees. Along the way, he held such unlikely jobs as deputy sheriff – part of his education in dealing with many outlooks.

His career has included serving as coordinator of the GW-Washington Project, where he developed university programs in poor communities; as the University of Iowa’s Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and as Carter C. Kissell professor of law and dean of Ohio State University’s law school. He has received numerous awards for his contributions to human and civil rights and to higher education.

Williams clearly loves to actively make the case for causes he believes in and City College embodies all of these.

Project Finances Okay, But Crunch is Coming

The enrollment of six more Stuyvesant graduates as entering freshman at City College this fall brings the Project to a total of twelve students in its first two years. This is a larger number in that time frame than at any time during the past twenty years.

The reasons are twofold: One part is the attractive scholarships offered by the Project; the other part is the rapidly spreading word of the considerably improved academic standards at City College.

The word has spread at Stuyvesant that the first group of six are all happy with their choice. Good reactions are also expected from the second group of six this fall, because all of them have selected majors in which the academic environment at CCNY is considered to be very strong. When the Project was organized, the founding group at the City College Fund expected the fund raising to require the usual substantial effort, but the problem of attracting students to be much harder. The reality has turned out the other way. With twelve students on board in the first two years, the fund raising continues to be successful but is being pushed quite hard to keep up with the new student enrollment.

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Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project

Lawrence Gralla, Chairman
Stuyvesant '47, CCNY '51

Elena Sturman, Project Director
City College Fund

James L. Schatz, Project Senior Advisor
Executive Director, City College Fund
City College '43B

Cly Fowkes, Events Coordinator
City College Fund

Patricia Black, Project Advisor
Admissions Consultant, CCNY
City College '65, MSE '67

Eugene Blaufarb
Admissions Consultant, CCNY

Beatrice Geller, Project Research
CCNY '54

Esther Toltoff, Editor, Project NEWS
CCNY '68

Das Ramlall & Cly Fowkes
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Pavel Mukhin saw his brother struggle to balance part-time work with his studies at Yale and decided that by attending City with the Project's help, he could focus on being a student. Tahmeed Ahmad observed that his mother would never admit money was a problem where his education was concerned. But he knew better. When he heard about the Project, "I knew it was the answer." Olga Mikhlina, also worried about burdening her parents, turned down hefty partial scholarships.

City admissions consultant Gene Blaufarb, formerly Stuyvesant's assistant principal for college admissions, points out to students that saddling themselves with loan debt would prove troublesome later. "Now I won't have to worry as much about graduate school," commented Albert Ismailov. "It just wasn't enough," said Gary Chan, referring to a \$15,000 grant that Carnegie-Mellon had offered him.



Gary Chan chose City over Carnegie-Mellon

Eric Troutd, who is a National Merit Scholar, had attended an orientation session put together by City's Science Division. He was impressed. "I felt I'd have a better chance of getting good research internships here," he said, after he heard about City's relationships with key institutions.

Unaiza Aslam's family expected her to live at home. She applied to NYU but found it difficult to get personal attention. At City's Honors Center, the staff "remembers everything you've said. They care." Wanli (Justin) Ma also found this personal attention a draw. Albert Ismailov enjoys being near friends and family. Visiting City's School of Engineering, "I liked the atmosphere." He and Aslam both described the campus as someplace they "feel at home."

OUR ALUMNI SPEAK



Mr. & Mrs. Rosenzweig

"I have allegiance to both schools."

Melvin Rosenzweig, Stuyvesant 1949, City College 1953, retired internist, specializing in geriatric medicine: "I have a feeling of allegiance to both schools. I met very nice people during my Stuyvesant years, made many good friends and was very happy with my education. I'm grateful for the entire experience. After I received an invitation to a luncheon in Tarrytown and learned about the Project, I wanted to join in to help out."

"I want to see City come back. "

Murton Brown, Stuyvesant 1952, City College 1956, retired dentist: "I'm very grateful to City College for the free education I had. It was a great education. In addition to that, many of my friends from those years are still my good friends today. It was sad to see City come down in achievement. I want to see City College come back and I think it is doing that. I want to see City attract the top students just as it did in past years. That's why I support the Project."

"...Wish I could re-enroll and do it all over again."

Raymond Shannon, Stuyvesant 1948, City College class of 1952, former business manager, International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees, AFL-CIO: "I think it's a great idea to encourage Stuyvesant graduates to resuscitate City. I'm happy to see they've picked stellar performers. The concept is very appropriate. At a luncheon I attended, I was impressed by Project Chairman Larry Gralla's enthusiasm. I agree Stuyvesant is the best school in the country. When I went there, we had few resources. I visited the new building and wished I could re-enroll and do it all over again. I didn't finish at City -- I was in the Army during the Korean War -- but City was a great place to be politically active. I learned a lot and support it strongly."



Raymond Shannon

New Scholars

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Olga is listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students," she was inducted into the National Honor Roll. A native of Russia, Olga lives in Staten Island.

♦Eric Troutd received a National Merit Scholarship. He expects to major in physics. Eric attended a presentation by City's Science Division and decided CCNY offers the best research opportunities.

♦Johnny Wong plans to study mechanical engineering and apply that knowledge to human resources work in industry. Born and raised in Chinatown, Johnny was accepted by several prestigious schools.

Finances

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At this point, nearly 200 Stuyvesant-CCNY alumni have contributed to the Project. Many have contributed \$1,000, some have sent less, and the Project also has received gifts of \$3,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 and more.

Nevertheless, the Project faces the problem of having only a modest reserve available going into the year 2004, and funding is badly needed for the class that would enroll in September, 2004.

Expenses are not a concern, because all the expenses of administration and fund raising are being privately contributed. Therefore, of the money given for scholarships, 100% goes to the students in the program.

Paul Wu's Mom and Dad Are Scholars Themselves

Paul Wu would like to become a teacher. While he was a student at Stuyvesant, Paul tutored English and math at the New York Chinese School in Chinatown. "I felt I was doing work that was worthwhile and realized this was what I wanted."

Paul was accepted at Cornell University but received no financial aid. The cost was too much for his family to consider. He was also accepted at SUNY Binghamton and Stony Brook, each of which offered partial tuition scholarships and loans. Eugene Blaufarb, then Stuyvesant's assistant principal in charge of college admissions, now an admissions consultant at City College, passed along the word about the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project. Paul has just finished his freshman year as a Project Scholar.

"At first, I was drawn to City's international studies program," he says. "I've always been interested in what's going on in the world." But he has since decided to major in economics, which has also long intrigued him. He is focusing on management and administration. This past year, Paul studied microeconomics, honors world civilization, honors psychology, sociology, political science, and physics.

He thinks math is the subject he wants to teach but also hopes to pass along to the city's youth knowledge of the practical skills his economics

studies will provide. Paul believes that understanding management principles is as important in education as it is in business. "My mother has pointed out that Mayor Bloomberg hired business leaders to help improve the school system."

Paul grew up in Flushing, Queens. His subway trip to school takes over an hour each way. His initial voyage to this country was much longer.

Paul was born in Taiwan and



2002 Project Scholar, Paul Wu

arrived here at age three. His brother, Gene was eight years old at the time. Gene, also a Stuyvesant alumnus (1996), has graduated from SUNY-Buffalo and, this June, from

the University of California at Berkeley's law school.

Paul's father, Wen Jie Wu, is a software engineer. His alma mater is Tating University in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, and his family hails from the island. Paul's mother, Chou Li Ping, is one of the many refugees whose Nationalist family fled to Taiwan from the mainland's Communist regime. Born in Beijing, she holds an education degree from Taiwan Normal University and a master's degree in computer science from the New York Institute of Technology. She maintains two databases for the City's Parks Department.

After Paul graduated from PS 163, Queens, his family moved to East Brunswick, New Jersey, where he attended junior high school. They returned to Flushing. Suburbia left Paul preferring city life – later a selling point for CCNY. At Stuyvesant, he was active in the debate club and volunteered at NYU Downtown Hospital. This summer, Paul worked as an usher at the College Point Multiplex in Queens. "Getting to see free movies was great," and the extra money helps.

Paul is pleased with "the individual attention I've gotten at CCNY. I don't think that's common at a large school but I've been able to get good advice about every choice that came my way."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please check all that apply:

- I'd like to attend an event at CCNY
- I'd like to host an event to tell about the Project.
- I may be able to help the Project financially
- My first check is enclosed, payable to City CollegeFund/Stuy
- I'd like to attend a tour of Stuyvesant High School.
- I'd like to be a mentor for a Project student.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

STUYVESANT GRAD YEAR ____ CCNY GRAD YEAR ____

**Send to: Elena Sturman,
Project Director,
Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project**

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