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Class of 2013 Faculty Development Fund Winners

1 message

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To: employees <employees@cnu.edu>

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce this year's winners of the Class of 2013 Faculty Development Fund and share their mentorship proposals. The winner are:

Dr. Michaela D.E. Meyer, College of Social Sciences

Dr. Kelly Cartwright, College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Laura Puaca, College of Arts and Humanities

In the spring of 2013, the senior class at Christopher Newport University collected a record amount of support from their peers, parents and friends and created a new faculty support fund, the *Class of 2013 Faculty Development Fund*.

The award is granted to one faculty member from each college based on their record of student mentoring and excellence in service to the campus community, and their proposal submitted for an upcoming mentorship opportunity outside of the classroom.

We are grateful for all of the remarkable mentor relationships our applicants described. Each and every day our faculty share their time and talent and make a difference in the lives our students.

Congratulations, Michaela, Kelly, and Laura!

Quentin

College of Social Sciences:

Dr. Michaela D.E. Meyer

Dr. Meyer is currently working on two projects with research assistants and will use this funding to defray the cost of student and faculty travel to two conferences where they will present their papers.

The first project (with Camden Childress, '16 and Emily McKnew, '16) examines narratives provided by emerging adult parents. Emerging adulthood (or the ages of 18-25) is theorized as a time of individual exploration and identity construction that produces a delay in committed relationships/marriage and parenthood. However, many emerging adults still become parents. Thus, there is a large gap in current research that the project seeks to fill. The paper analyzes over 30 narratives from emerging adult parents about their transition to parenthood and their identity development. The team will be submitting this paper to the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood Conference (Miami 2015) and will pursue finalizing the manuscript for publication in the journal Emerging Adulthood.

The second project (Lauren Pritchard, '15) examines focus group data of emerging adults and their response to the film "Easy A." Based on Dr. Meyer's background in teen television and film, the project explains how emerging adult audiences interpret the process of identity as represented in the film. The paper explains how the respondents mark identity as a process of image management, and how they link that process to ownership, control and prostitution. The team is submitting this paper to the National Communication Association Conference (Las Vegas 2015) and will pursue finalizing the manuscript for publication in the Journal of Popular Culture Studies.

College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences:

Dr. Kelly Cartwright

Dr. Cartwright's lab has extended work in reading comprehension to an important applied area: health literacy. Health literacy is individuals' knowledge of health-related information, terms, and ability to understand medical documents, information, and instructions. Health literacy is important because it predicts long-term health outcomes, individuals' health-related everyday behaviors, and ability to cope with various diseases. Thus, the goal in the research being conducted now is to better understand the mental processes involved in health literacy so that interventions in future work can be developed.

Future opportunities to administer standardized neuropsychological assessments of executive functioning, reading, and cognitive skills as well as to contribute meaningfully to important applied research can benefit CNU students as they seek opportunities beyond our university. These funds will support students as they learn to administer neuropsychological assessments, an excellent applied experience in the lab.

College of Arts and Humanities:

Dr. Laura Puaca

Dr. Puaca will be using this funding to support the work of a talented undergraduate, Joshua Sipe ('16), who will collaborate with her on the Hampton Roads Oral History Project in the fall of 2015.

Specifically, this project includes conducting background research and preliminary interviews relating to the history of Newsome Park, a federal housing project that was originally created in Newport News to house defense workers during World War II. Despite the fact that Newsome Park was one of the largest projects of its kind, there has been little written about it. This research will thus help to fill an important oversight in the scholarly literature, restore local history, meet an important community need, and assist the Hampton Roads Oral History Project launch a new phase of its work. The funds will be used to support a research assistant and research expenses, as well as conference travel.

This opportunity will not only document an important part of local history and help to forge closer ties between the university and the Hampton Roads community, but it will also provide an exceptional student the opportunity to prepare further for graduate study by carrying out and presenting innovative research.

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