CDCF 2015-2016 Funded Proposals

Communication Revolution: The Very Idea. An Undergraduate Seminar
Steinhardt: Arvind Rajagopal

It is remarkable that although research and teaching in university departments of communication is nearly 70 years old, there are few debates about the history of communication technology, and especially little discussion about how to teach this history. The hitherto prevailing consensus has been that the growth of communication technology—from print to wireless and beyond—have had modernizing effects that diffused across the globe. The idea of a communication revolution is taken for granted, to such an extent that it has become indistinguishable from an evolutionary approach: progressive outcomes are expected to flow from the spread of media technology. Pedagogy has focused on the succession of communication technologies, while treating the history of thought accompanying these technologies as irrelevant. Instead this course will link the history of technology with the history of ideas, and account for institutional formation and global media expansion as interrelated processes Students will gain hands-on research experience working with neglected or poorly utilized archives while they demystify technological fetishism; at the same time, they will also gain an enriched understanding of 20th C. history.

Entrepreneurial Leadership
Wagner: Joshua Spodek

Clean Tech is a large and growing field of global interest and demand, especially for entrepreneurial solutions. NYU-Tandon and NYU-SPS have combined forces with NYSERDA to help mid-career professionals transfer into the field to solve new problems by starting new ventures. The core class in discovering unsolved problems and developing viable solutions remains undeveloped. This CDCF proposal proposes to develop it as an inquiry-driven project-based active course in entrepreneurship and leadership designed for people who know their field of interest but don’t have an idea or team yet. We will based it on successful courses using similar pedagogy created and taught at NYU by the Principle Investigator.

Beyond leading students to create viable Clean Tech solutions, the course will also develop fundamental skills of collaboratively solving problems, attracting support, creating a community of helpful, supportive, high-value people in the field, forming a team, leading it, and selling the solution. We expect the course to provide a foundation to develop similar courses at NYU.
**Nursing Humanities: Developing a Sense of Salience**  
Nursing: Fidelindo Lim, Matthew Marsaglia

Nursing Humanities is a curricular design project that aims to enhance the patient-centered competencies of future nurses by synthesizing the humanities into a seminar program and extra-curricular events and tech-enhanced initiative. The funds will primarily support access to relevant cultural events within the city, as well as a special multimedia project undertaken in collaboration with NYU’s Global Learning Initiative (GLI).

The primary audience is students in their first two years of study, who have declared a nursing major, and are completing liberal arts requirements before beginning a highly regimented clinical course schedule. The cultural events and special projects will be implemented through the nursing cohort seminar and the Undergraduate Nursing Students Organization activities. The program is designed to enrich the education of nursing students through the application and cultivation of aesthetic patterns of knowing. In addition to evidence-based practice, aesthetic knowing has been recognized for many decades as a valid and an indispensable component in the development of ethical comportment of nurses. The special project will be deployed in WordPress and developed in collaboration with GLI, who is committing an instructional technologist and other human resources to the project.

**Plant Tracer – an App to Quantify Plant Movement for the Principles of Biology Lab**  
FAS, Tandon: Eric Brenner, Yao Wang

The aim of this project is to develop an application (App), Plant Tracer, that will enable students in the NYU POB Lab to quantify plant movement from time-lapse recordings using smartphones or tablets. We propose this App as a new teaching tool to enhance plant biology learning through the study of plant motion (tropisms, nutations, growth) to raise students’ interests in plant biology and enhance learning outcomes. The App will quantify gravitropic shoot reorientation and the physical parameters of shoot circumnutation patterns in Arabidopsis, and may also be useful in other unspecified plant growth studies outside the focus of this project. The student-oriented App will help students of the digital generation see plants as dynamic organisms with sophisticated movements to address the problem of undergraduate disinterest in plants.