Diversifying the Academy

Librarians Coaching Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows through the Scholarly Research Cycle

Alex Chappell, Jessica Davila Greene, Jennifer Thompson • Claremont Colleges Library, Claremont, CA

**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUF)**

MMUF is a nation-wide initiative with the goal of increasing faculty diversity by supporting underrepresented students to pursue PhDs and faculty careers in the arts, humanities, and certain social science fields. The 5 undergraduate Claremont Colleges have participated in MMUF since 2015. Students in MMUF programs enter as rising juniors, are assigned faculty mentors, are given funding to support summer research, have multiple opportunities to present on their research, and are supported through the grad-school application process. An additional part of the MMUF Program at the Claremont Colleges is the Library Coach Program.

**Claremont Colleges Library (CCL) MMUF Library Coach Program**

The CCL Library Coach Program’s goal is to foster ongoing empowerment and the development of research and information literacy skills needed to be successful as faculty by building research-focused one-on-one relationships between library coaches and their fellows.

Library Coach Program Staffing:
- 3-person librarian coordinator team
- 8 librarian coaches paired with 20 students

**Expectations for CCL MMUF Library Coaches**

- Commit to coaching 1 to 4 fellows through their junior and senior years
- Complete the Library Coach Orientation
- Initiate a minimum of 3 face-to-face meetings with each fellow per year
- Check in with each fellow via email at least 3 times per semester
- Participate in workshop for incoming fellows
- Participate in at least 1 workshop a semester tied to the MMUF seminar

**Challenges and Opportunities**

- MMUF grant planning did not include the library
- Library representation on MMUF steering committee beginning in year 2
- Librarian participation is assigned, not voluntary
- Some librarians are matched with fellows outside of their subject areas
- Few opportunities for formal engagement with fellows as a cohort due to packed curriculum
- Coaching means empowering fellows’ development as scholars AND providing research support

**Next Steps**

Develop formal program assessment • Evaluate process for library coach selection • Retool library portion of 3-day workshop for incoming fellows
- Get library integrated into curriculum planning for MMUF seminar • Increase interaction between library coaches, faculty mentors, and fellows