

## Mellon Mays Fellows Application Guidelines

Note that the application deadline is **February 2, 2009**

The form asks three questions:

- 1) Why do you want to participate in this program? The answer can be as personal as you choose to make it but must connect to the example of Benjamin Mays. The program now takes its name from Benjamin Mays, an educator whose relentless pursuit of knowledge and dedication to the eradication of racial disparities in all walks of life serves as a beacon to us all.
- 2) How would you describe your academic interests, and what courses at Dartmouth have been most important in defining them? The answer should identify your current academic area(s) of interest and the courses, if any, that helped to shape that interest.
- 3) If you were given the necessary resources to work on a project in your area of major academic interests over the next two years, what topic would you choose and why? Your answer should be a research proposal between three and five paragraphs long.

You should first confer with a member of the faculty. The application form asks you to list several (ideally three) possible faculty mentors, with whom you assumedly will have already spoken. One of them should also sign your application to indicate endorsement.

At least one faculty letter of recommendation is also requested. Faculty may send or blitz their recommendation to Richard Wright, Coordinator (HB 6017). Richard Wright can help you get started, The following faculty members can also help: Israel Reyes (LALACS) Alexander Halasz (English), Craig Wilder (History), Chris Sneddon (Geography), Deborah King (Sociology), Steve Swayne (Music), Jen Fluri (Geography), Annelise Orleck (History), Judith Byfield (History), Craig Wilder (History) Susan Ackerman (Religion), Ivy Schweitzer (English), Silvia Spitta (Spanish & Portuguese), Colin Calloway (History/Native American Studies), Deborah Nichols (ANTH), Bruce Nelson (History), John Wantanabe (Anthropology), Dale Turner (NAS/Government), and J. Martin Favor (AAAS/English).

While the Mellon Foundation seeks to support graduate work only in certain fields, you do not need to limit your proposal to them. The selection committee recognizes that interests change. For now, the committee is looking for students with academic ability, intellectual motivation, and a potential interest in pursuing an academic career. Thus, the members will be looking for proposals with clarity, focus, and - most difficult to define-an exciting topic. Ideally, the project would lead to an undergraduate Honors thesis.

On the basis of this written form and the faculty member's recommendation, the Selection Committee will choose a number of applicants for interviews.