



Dear Colleagues—

In support of Lehman's commitment to comprehensive internationalization, and consistent with our strategic plan, [Lehman 2025: Roadmap to the Future](#), the Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the first cohort of Global Engagement Faculty Fellows (GEFF):

Professor Nicholas Boston, Department of Journalism and Media Studies
Professor Bertrade Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, Africana Studies Department
Professor Stephanie Rupp, Department of Anthropology

The Global Engagement Faculty Fellows will design course-embedded study abroad experiences for our students and will receive a \$5,000 fellowship in support of their work.

Professor Nicholas Boston will travel to Bridgetown, Barbados, to create an embedded study abroad experience for the **MCS 351 "Anthropology of Media"** course. The course content will include substantive study of not only the local/regional media landscape, but the global/international structure of media ownership, equipping students with the knowledge to view the situation through both micro and macro lenses. While in Barbados, students will conduct a mini ethnographic project related to some aspect of media ownership, media management, media representation, or media platform in the country. Students will also create and be responsible for updating Instagram, Twitter and YouTube accounts, documenting and sharing their study abroad experience.

Barbados is a fabulous location for this experience, as the country is in the midst of profound geopolitical transformation. On Nov. 30th, Barbados formally became a republic, shedding Queen Elizabeth II as its symbolic head of state after 55 years of independence. With this transition, which sees the installment of the country's first-ever president (as opposed to governor-general), Barbados has finally fully shut the door on its British colonial past, a door that had, since Independence, been left slightly ajar. When the study abroad program is slated to take place – during Spring Recess 2023 – it will be exactly 18 months into the country's existence as a new republic. Students will take this tangible milestone as their reference point from which to measure sociopolitical continuity and change in the country. The students will have a remarkable opportunity to be witnesses to profound change by participating in this program.

Professors Stephanie Rupp and Bertrade Ngo-Ngijol Banoum will travel to Yaoundé, Cameroon in a program titled **In(ter)dependence: Mutuality, Solidarity, and Decolonization**. This multi-disciplinary program will explore processes of independence and interdependence among communities, informal institutions, ecological systems, and political power in Africa through the study of the cultural dynamics, economic logic, and solidarity achieved by informal Cameroonian associations. Students will learn about historically robust, contemporarily dynamic organizations that promote mutuality and solidarity in the country, holding up women's informal economic associations – or tontines – as central examples. By focusing on informal, indigenous institutions that promote cooperation and mutual development – particularly among African women – the program will illustrate the power of community-based organizing to bring positive social and economic momentum to people whose voices are far too often ignored or even silenced in formal political processes.

The international component of this course will bring Lehman College students Yaoundé, the bustling capital of Cameroon. Professors Rupp and Ngo-Ngijol Banoum will partner with faculty colleagues at the University of Yaoundé to ensure that students experience the context of higher education in

Cameroon. Students will also visit museums and cultural centers, experience marketplaces, and observe meetings of women's associations as part of their observational research. Because of the complexities of travel to Cameroon, this program will run during the Summer 2023 session.

In total, there were 8 proposals submitted: 2 for the Caribbean, 1 for Latin America, 1 for Europe, and 4 for Africa. Four of the 8 proposals were submitted by a team of two professors. The following programs were represented in the proposals: Africana Studies, Anthropology, Business, Chemistry, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Journalism, Latin American and Latino Studies, Sociology, and Theater.

The staff of the Office of International Programs and Community Engagement, under the leadership of Executive Director Teresita Levy, evaluated all the proposals using three main criteria: feasibility, sales appeal, and uniqueness. Feasibility included the location, length and goals of the program. Sales appeal determined how effectively we could sell the program to our students and whether they would be excited about their participation. Finally, uniqueness referred to whether the learning program was (1) something truly new, strategic, and intentional, and (2) enhanced by it taking place in that particular location. The two programs selected met all of the criteria.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the faculty members that participated for their dedication to creating experiential learning experiences for our students, and my sincerest congratulations to the first cohort of Global Engagement Faculty Fellows.

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Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

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