Gaines Center Goals, 2015-16

Enhance the fellows’ experience

- Try to make last May’s China trip a recurring possibility. Here, we are dependent on UK Confucius Institute and (by extension) on Hanban, the Beijing headquarters of Confucius. Perhaps a reasonable student/family contribution to make future trips more feasible?
- Try to create meaningful summer study/internship opportunities for more rising senior fellows (Fundraising to focus on enhancement of Betts and Rowland funds, which currently benefit ~3-4 fellows every summer)
- Ensure widespread Gaines participation in established UK undergraduate-research venues, notably the Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars and Posters-in-the-Capitol
- Ensure regular participation of Gaines fellows in the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR). This year’s meeting: April 7-9, UNC Asheville.
- Target possible publication outlets for outstanding senior theses.
- Work closely with the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards to optimize opportunities for Gaines fellows. Take a targeted approach, in close consultation with Dr. Pat Whitlow (UK Director of Nationally-Competitive Awards).
- Tighten up the thesis advising process. Orientation meeting for thesis chairs, regular schedule of thesis workshops with series of deadlines (incl. extensive peer review)
- Get interested Board members involved in informal mentorship of individual fellows

Enhance development

- Establish a development subcommittee of the Board
- Solicitation for Gray Travel Fund in order to preserve the New York trip for Gaines seniors (incl. a general solicitation to all cohorts that have benefited since its inception in 2000, more targeted solicitation of individuals, etc.)
- Devise a solicitation strategy for building up the Betts and Rowland funds. At the moment, we’re typically able to disburse ~$4,000 to ~four students from these funds each summer, to fund summer enrichment activities (internships, educational opportunities requiring travel, etc.). We’d like to broaden the reach of the Betts and Rowland scholarships so that more of our rising seniors can benefit from them, particularly for educational/internship travel abroad.

Enhance alumni relations
• Find good contact information for as many alums as possible (via email solicitation by graduating class)
• Establish informal professional network for current Fellows. As we compile better contact information for alums, we can build a reliable database of professional expertise.
• Keep alumni better informed. Director’s message 3 times per year (August, December, May)
• Coordinate director’s message with annual giving endeavors.
• Targeted solicitation of cohorts (esp. for the Gray Travel Fund)
• Host a reunion picnic at the Gaines Center (April)

Enhance recruitment

# of applicants had dropped to the mid-20s in AY 13-14. They were back up to 34 last year. We’d like to see that number continue to grow.

• Reach out to Honors underclassmen, Singletary scholars, and Chellgren fellows. Chellgren & Singletary dinner at the Gaines Center (November). Presentation in Honors dorm to start getting word out to Freshmen (spring)
• Reach out to Honors instructors, DUSs and other faculty members who are likely to know promising students
• Personal message from director to every student referred to him

Position the Gaines Center as a Humanities “hub” at UK

• Work with College of Arts & Sciences (and other colleges, too) to build on $37,500 budget for joint programing in AY 15-16 (6 events funded on the theme of “Violence and the Human Condition”)
• Continue to work with faculty advisory group on themes/vetting of proposals.
• When appropriate, take a more collaborative approach to Lafayette Seminar and Bale Boone Symposium planning (e.g. current AY collaboration with A&S for February 2016 BBS: “Europe Today and the Problem of Violence,” and with Mayor’s Office and A&S on Lafayette Seminar related to University Cities conference (April 2016)