



## CASBS Announces Change in Fellow Selection Process

Effective with the class of 2008-09, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) will implement a new fellow selection process, inviting scholars to apply for fellowships instead of requesting nominations. “The new process will bring us closer to the vision of the Center’s founders by refocusing on advancing fields and benefiting society while continuing the longstanding emphasis on interdisciplinarity,” says Claude Steele, CASBS director. “It will also help to ensure diversity in age, institutional affiliation, gender, race, and nationality in each class.”

“This new selection system considers applicants’ ideas and aspirations as well as their experiences,” says Anne Petersen, CASBS deputy director. “It will allow us to ‘craft’ each class in a way that increases the diversity in perspectives which fosters innovation and helps advance fields of research. One thing that won’t change is the peaceful yet stimulating atmosphere of the Center.”

The new application form and guidelines are available on the CASBS Web site [www.casbs.org](http://www.casbs.org). Applications for the 2008-09 fellowship year are due by June 30th, 2007.

Class size will be approximately 45; the Center invites applications from groups who engage in collaborative work as well as individual scholars from the entire range of disciplines and interdisciplinary areas in the social and behavioral sciences, and humanities. In addition, research themes will be introduced for those who prefer to come in a year with others who share similar interests. For the fellowship year 2008-2009, these themes are “Improving Health and Health Care” and “Achieving Equality.” Applicants need not affiliate with a theme.

Since its founding in 1954, CASBS has played a significant role in the careers of scholars. Following their CASBS fellowship, seventeen Fellows went on to receive a Nobel Prize, eight received Pulitzer Prizes, twenty-three were selected as MacArthur Fellows, three received the John Bates Clark Medal, eleven received the Bancroft Prize, ten received National Book Awards, and eighteen received the National Medal of Science. One hundred and seven were subsequently honored with membership in the National Academy of Sciences. Fellows have produced pioneering works, such as Thomas Kuhn’s *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, while at the Center.

“These results show that a fellowship at CASBS offers an environment conducive for groundbreaking work,” says Steele. “Our goal will be to maintain this standard of excellence while improving cross-disciplinary interactions, depth of inquiry, and application to real world concerns.”