



*Edward  
Alexander  
Bouchet*

**Edward A. Bouchet Undergraduate Fellowship  
Program  
Yale University**

Funded by the Offices of the President and Provost

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## **Mission Statement**

*The Edward A. Bouchet Undergraduate Fellowship Program is designed to increase the number of minority students and others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities, who will pursue PhDs and subsequent careers in academia.*

# Edward A. Bouchet

## Biography

Edward Alexander Bouchet was born in 1852 in New Haven, Connecticut. He entered Yale in 1870 and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1874. Bouchet completed a Ph.D. in Experimental Physics at Yale two years later. Bouchet was the first African American to complete a doctoral degree in a U.S. university and the sixth U.S. American to obtain a doctorate in physics. Due to the official racial discrimination and segregation of the time, Bouchet faced great difficulty acquiring employment as a university professor. He eventually taught at the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY) in Philadelphia, maintaining this position for twenty-six years.

For more on Bouchet's academic career see:  
Ronald E. Mickens, ed. *Edward A. Bouchet: The First African American Graduate* (NJ: World Scientific, 2002)

# Program History

The Edward A. Bouchet Undergraduate Fellowship Program was inaugurated in the 1994-1995 academic year. President Richard C. Levin and Provosts Judith Rodlin and Alison Richard initiated the program with aims of continuing with the efforts of the Mellon Minority (Mays) Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Program. As such, the mission statement of the Bouchet program is to increase the number of minorities and those committed to eradicating racial disparities at the university teaching level. In contrast to the MMUF Program, however, the Bouchet Fellowship is open to all fields in the Arts and Sciences.

With the aim of honoring the academic aspirations of Edward A. Bouchet, the Bouchet Fellowship Program encourages interest in academic careers among Yale undergraduates. The program seeks to achieve this goal by facilitating mentorship relationships between students and members of the faculty, creating a space where undergraduates can discuss and develop their research with other peers, and providing opportunities for students to engage in research and other academic pursuits during their junior and senior years. Fellows are provided with monies to work on research projects during the academic year (usually paid in monthly installments) along with summer stipends to conduct research during their sophomore and junior years. Additional funding is also available for fellows to support travel or other research related expenses. All fellows are required to enroll in our GRE prep class and take the exam shortly after the course. The Bouchet Fellowship Program does not, however, provide a loan repayment program, as is the case with the MMUF Program.

Associate Dean Judith Dozier Hackman served as the Bouchet Program Director and Bouchet Advisory Committee Co-Chair during the program's inception in 1994. Professor Robert Stepto also co-chaired the Bouchet Advisory Committee and helped to guide the design of the new program along with selecting the first round of Bouchet Fellows. Dean of Yale College Richard H. Brodhead and Dean of Graduate School Thomas Appelquist appointed the remainder of the Advisory Committee, which included Assistant Dean Shannon Salinas, Ana Ponder (graduate student coordinator), Professors Richard K. Chang, Cathy Cohen, Antonio C. Lasaga, Manuel Martin-Rodriguez, and Deans Deborah S. Thomas and Kimberly Goff-Crews.<sup>1</sup>

In the mid-1990s, the Bouchet and Mellon Mays program came under the same organizational umbrella. Besides differences in fields of eligibility and access to loan repayment funds, fellows in both programs have access to the same research funds, mentorship networks, and group-coordinated activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the information on the history of the Bouchet Fellowship Program is obtained from a report on the program written by Associate Dean Judith Dozier Hackman and Assistant Dean Shannon Salinas, December 1995.

# Program Requirements

## Eligibility

- Open to all fields in the Arts and Sciences
- Candidates may apply without regard to nationality or citizenship status.

## Application Procedure

Information Sessions on the Bouchet and Mellon Mays Fellowships will take place at least twice prior to the application deadline. Students interested in applying to either fellowship are especially encouraged to attend.

Candidates are expected to submit the following by the designated application deadline

- A short application
- Two essays (typed/printed and double-spaced)
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which should be from a classroom instructor at Yale College
- A Writing Sample (limit 10pp. Sample not restricted to your current or intended major/area of interest and can be a piece that describes a previous research experience. Should be a piece of writing that you are proud of.)
- An unofficial copy of applicant's Yale College transcript
- Faculty Mentor Assignment Form (if a mentor has agreed to serve in this capacity)

## Selection

A select number of applicants will be invited to interview with the Selection Committee. Four sophomores will be selected and notified of their admission to the program in February. All new fellows must attend an orientation session (date and time will be announced). New Fellows will be expected to engage in research activity during the summer following their admission into the program. There will be no exceptions.

# Program Structure

## Fellowship Principal

The Edward A. Bouchet Program is a competitive and prestigious fellowship and fellows selected must be prepared to participate in the various activities organized by the Program Director and Coordinator along with conducting their own research and working closely with a faculty mentor.

Through the funds made available by the Bouchet Program it is assumed that fellows will have less need to pursue work study and can instead focus this time on developing their research projects.

## Research

Bouchet Fellows are expected to conduct research during their junior and senior years. Specific funds are also earmarked for research during the summer months preceding junior and senior years.

## Mentoring

Mentorship is a central component of the Bouchet Fellowship Program. Fellows are asked to select a faculty member to serve as a mentor for the program during their duration in the fellowship. Fellows should meet with their mentors at least twice a month and update mentors on the progress of their research. Faculty mentors must also approve monthly journals describing developments in fellow's research projects. Additionally, all fellows are paired up with a graduate mentor.

## Meetings/Workshops

Fellows meet as a group at least twice per month. During these meetings fellows present on summer research, partake in presentations by invited guest speakers, and engage in roundtable discussions concerning different facets of the grad-school preparation process and academia as a whole.

## MMUF Regional Conference

Once during the academic year Bouchet fellows will join MMUF fellows from neighboring universities throughout the Northeast. Themes of the conference have ranged from what type of scholarship graduate students are undertaking to the different phases in an academic career.

### Yearly MMUF/Bouchet Conference

During the Spring Semester the Yale MMUF/Bouchet Program coordinates a conference where recognized figures in the academic field, most with connections to the MMUF program, are invited to speak to fellows about their current research and other topics outlined by fellows in preparation for the conference.

### Senior Presentations

All fellows are expected to present the culmination of their research by their senior year. Fellows, invited faculty, and other invited guests will be present for this presentation. The Bouchet Fellowship places particular emphasis on the rigorousness of the senior presentations. It is envisioned that seniors could make these same presentations before panels of faculty within their field and in regional and national meetings conducted by their disciplines.

### No Loan Repayment

While the Bouchet Fellowship Program is committed to providing fellows with the funding, mentoring, and experience needed to pursue graduate studies, the Fellowship at this point does not offer loan repayment.

## Program Calendar

The Calendar below is a sample of the activities coordinated during an academic semester as part of the Fellowship.

### Mellon/Bouchet Meetings and Events Schedule Spring 2017

**\*\*GRE Prep Course (Required for all juniors) see separate schedule\*\***

- Thursday, January 26:** Mellon/Bouchet Info Session, 4-5PM  
Native American Cultural Center, Light refreshments and pizza
- Friday, February 3:** Junior Summer Research Presentations, 12-2:30PM  
55 Whitney, Lunch will be served
- Friday, February 10:** Junior Summer Research Presentations, 12-2:30PM  
55 Whitney, Room 369, Lunch will be served
- Tuesday, February 28:** New Fellows Welcome Dinner, Mory's, 306 York Street, 5-7pm
- Saturday, March 4:** Yale Writing and Research Symposium, 11:30AM-4PM  
LC Rooms 203, 204, 205, 206 & 211; Light breakfast & lunch will be served
- Thursday, March 9:** New Fellows Research Orientation, 5-7PM, SSS104  
Dinner will be served
- Friday, March 31st:** Alumni Speaker Series, 12:30-2PM, 55 Whitney, Room 369  
Kean Hsu; Yale Bouchet alumnus; Psychology Postdoc at UCLA  
Lunchtime discussion & research presentation
- Friday, April 1-Sunday, April 3:** 13th Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on  
Diversity and Graduate Education  
(*Suggested, but not mandatory event- Proposals due prior to conference on date TBA.*)
- Week of April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Junior Promotion Conversations
- Friday, April 14:** Summer Research Proposal Rough Draft due!
- Friday, April 17:** Senior Exit Interview
- Friday, April 28:** Senior Presentations, 12:30-5PM & Celebration Dinner, 6-8PM  
Presentations at WLH 116, Celebration Dinner at The Graduate Club
- Monday, May 1:** Summer Research Proposal Final Draft due!

**Mellon Bouchet Meetings and Events Schedule  
Fall 2016**

**Monday, August 29:** Welcome Back Luncheon, 12-2PM  
Zaroka Restaurant, 148 York Street

**Friday, September 16:** Senior Summer Research Presentations, 12-2:30PM  
55 Whitney Avenue, Room 369, Lunch will be served

**Friday & Saturday, September 23 & 24:** MMUF Northeast Regional Conference at  
Wellesley College, MA  
Leave from SSS on Friday at 5:30PM  
Leave Wellesley on Saturday at 5PM

**Friday, September 30:** Senior Summer Research Presentations, 12-2:30PM  
55 Whitney Avenue, Room 305, Lunch will be served

**Friday, October 14:** Health and Wellness, 12-2:30PM; Fall progress report due  
SSS 410, Lunch will be served

**Friday, October 28:** Mentorship Mixer, 12-2pm  
Conversation for Fellows, Faculty Mentors, & Graduate Mentors  
Native American Cultural Center, Lunch will be served

**Tuesday, November 15:** Mellon/Bouchet Info Session, 4-5PM  
SSS 410, Pizza is served.

# Contact Information

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