

Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends Awarded

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Fifteen faculty members have been awarded Vincent B. Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends for 2007-08. The grants and stipends, of about \$2,500 each, are awarded to full-time faculty for a variety of scholarly and creative projects and for activities that enhance teaching or contribute to professional development.

Coffin Grants may be used for various purposes including travel expenses, computer hardware and software, equipment and supplies, staff assistance on a particular project, and course release. Summer Stipends may be used for release time to engage in scholarly or creative activities in lieu of teaching a summer course.

Coffin Grant Recipients

Kevin Ball, assistant professor of physical therapy, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP), will continue his experiments on the structure and function of the foot and ankle. He will travel to the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse to conduct a series of experiments with colleague Thomas M Greiner, an anatomist, to generate knowledge with respect to all of the joints within the foot and ankle.

Jennifer Brown, assistant professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S), will begin a major book project on Catherine of Siena and her tradition in medieval England.

Michael Clancy, associate professor of politics and government, A&S, will examine economic dynamism in Ireland and Costa Rica and produce a book-length monograph examining the roles of tourism and the political economy of each country.

Olga Clark, assistant professor of psychology, A&S, will apply her Coffin Grant to research expenses associated with a study of the collective nature of interpersonal incivility in the workplace. She plans to involve students in the study and to publish results of the study in a peer-reviewed research journal.

Carmen Cotei, assistant professor of finance, Barney School of Business, will continue her research project on "The Pecking Order Hypothesis versus Trade-Off Theory under Different Institutional Environments" in countries with different capital structures.

Hirokazu Fukawa, associate professor of sculpture, Hartford Art School (HAS), is planning an installation that integrates video images, sounds, texts, and objects based on his father's experiences as a soldier in the Japanese Imperial Army in 1945. Trained in suicide attack, his father was later a prisoner in a Soviet POW camp in Siberia. Fukawa will travel to Japan, China, and Russia to shoot video and conduct interviews for the project.

Jonathan Hill, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering,

Technology, and Architecture (CETA), will conduct collaborative research in three areas: health care technology, GPS receiver design, and vibration measurement based on an optical interferometer. The projects involve apnea in premature babies, remote control aircraft, and a smart vibration sensor.

Robert Lang, associate professor of cinema, A&S, is writing a book to be titled *New Tunisian Cinema: Allegories of Resistance* and, as part of his research, is studying Arabic at the University's Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies. The Coffin Grant will provide funds for an intensive five-week course in the Arabic language at the Yemen Language Center, Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies, in Sana'a, Yemen.

Summer Stipends

Melanie Benson, assistant professor of English, Hillyer College, will continue her research on ledger art produced when Native American tribes superimposed their pictorial images on used account books acquired from white soldiers and federal agents. These drawings, called "ledger art," record a period of conflict between the U.S. government and the Plains Indians following the Civil War. Benson plans to complete her research this summer and produce a journal article for publication.

Robert Dryden, assistant professor of English, Hillyer College, is preparing an essay involving pedagogy of the transatlantic. The piece will be based on his experience teaching the AUC course, The Caribbean Mosaic, and the Hillyer College special topics course for sophomores called Atlantic Journeys. Based on his proposal, the essay has been accepted for publication in a collection titled *Teaching the Transatlantic Eighteenth Century*.

Clara Fang, assistant professor of civil, environmental and biomedical engineering, CETA, will apply her summer stipend to a project analyzing the number and placement of future hydrogen stations. Her study focuses on access to this alternate fuel in relation to drivers' refueling behavior, average travel time, and population distribution in Connecticut.

Nels Highberg, assistant professor of rhetoric, language and culture, A&S, will apply his summer stipend to preparing a detailed, analytical essay for publication on the subject of African-American teenage girls and young women with AIDS, a group within the AIDS population that has remained largely invisible.

Branislav Kovacic, associate professor of communication, A&S, plans a case study of the causes for a continuing shortage of investigative reporting in Serbia, a post-conflict country where efforts have been made to improve transparency of media ownership and to encourage media operation in the public interest.

Leslie Lindenauer, assistant professor of history, A&S, is examining the changing definitions of the word "witch" in popular culture, initially focusing on the 18th and 19th centuries. The study will mark the intersection of several disciplines. She plans to prepare a peer-reviewed journal article, and eventually a

book, on the persistence and reinterpretation of the word "witch" to the present time.

Eric Mahan, assistant professor of chemistry, A&S, will apply his summer stipend to a project optimizing the synthesis of fluorinated rotaxanes, developed by his research group, to the synthesis of fluorinated polyrotaxanes. The summer project will employ a different method in order to produce more stable structures. The results of the synthesis will appear in a peer-reviewed journal and may be presented orally to members of the chemistry community.