

Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends Awarded

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Fourteen faculty members have been awarded Vincent B. Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends for 2008-09. The grants and stipends, in the amount 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

Akram Abu-aisheh, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), will develop a low-cost fiber optics communications and sensors laboratory for teaching and development of new experiments.

Janet Gangaway, assistant professor of physical therapy, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP), will focus on expanded courses in emergency and disaster preparedness for students and faculty at the University.

Paul Higgins, assistant professor of physical therapy, ENHP, will apply his grant toward a light therapy unit and research on its application in tissue healing and pain control in a clinical setting.

Aime A. Levesque, assistant professor of biology, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S), will apply her Coffin Grant to supplies and materials for a cancer research project on the presence of and mechanism used by the p53 tumor suppressor protein.

Saeid Moslehpour, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, CETA, will develop a translator of VHDL (Very-High-Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Description Language) to SPICE (Simulation Program for Integrated Circuits Emphasis) languages, with the goal of simulating analog/digital circuitry in one software environment.

Sundeep R. Muppidi, associate professor of communication, A&S, will offset travel costs to two conferences at which he will present the results of his studies of sanghams run by village women in Pastapur, India; and another study of regional language television in India.

Daniel C. Williamson, associate professor of history, Hillyer College, will continue research for a book-length study of the first years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland from 1969 to 1972, a study that has resulted in several conference papers and an article on the subject.

Summer Stipends

Mark Blackwell, associate professor of English and chair of the department, A&S, will pursue research on “it-narratives” in English fiction, in which inanimate objects or animals are protagonists, with the goal of including this research into personal identity in a proposed book manuscript.

Yvette Blanchard, associate professor of physical therapy, ENHP, will engage in scholarly work and complete the data coding for the Brazelton Institute NBO (Newborn Behavioral Observation) system, in which she has been engaged collaboratively for many years.

Joanna Borucinska, associate professor of biology, A&S, will expand her research on bioindicators of environment health to freshwater habitats through studies in Poland, and, at the same time design a core curriculum for a study-abroad Summerterm course for undergraduates at the University.

Yu Lei, assistant professor of insurance, Barney School of Business, will conduct an empirical study to explore how physician-directed medical malpractice insurers differ from non-physician-directed insurers in reinsurance purchasing practices.

Sharon Shepela, professor of psychology, Hillyer College, will complete interviews with activists and students associated with the International Center for Nonviolent Conflict to further study and test two models used in an analysis of courageous resisters.

Jay Stewart, associate professor of sociology, A&S, will extend his research into the “environmental justice” issue of disproportionately locating trash disposal and landfill operations in minority or poor areas, focusing on the factors of prevailing winds and the volume of trash burned in Connecticut’s new incinerators, which are referred to as “Resource Recovery Facilities.”

Teresa Stores, associate professor of English, A&S, will apply her stipend to completion of the first three chapters and an outline of a new novel for young adult readers titled *Letters to Holden*, which will be written to complement J.D. Salinger’s classic, *The Catcher in the Rye*.