

## Letter from the Office of Grants

We are very pleased to share with you this report on faculty grant activity during the past year. As the Provost notes in her letter, the number of faculty who apply for external funding continues to increase annually as does the number who are successful. And while the primary purpose of such awards is to advance research, enhance the curriculum and support our undergraduates, the growing level of grant activity at HWS has other consequences as well: it influences the decisions of both prospective students and faculty candidates, it is one measure of the faculty's intellectual vigor, and it is very real additional revenue that builds our academic program.

The Grants Office exists primarily to help faculty identify possible sources of funding for specific projects, ensure that proposals meet the criteria and priorities of the funders, develop a realistic budget, create the strongest possible application and ensure that the institutional ramifications of all proposals are considered; we also provide a degree of grant management once a proposal is funded.

We have, moreover, a number of useful resources including a new service, the online information database *Grants Advisor Plus*. As a faculty member, you have direct access to this user-friendly web interface: simply Google *Grants Advisor Plus* and click on *Subscriber Pages*. The Grants Office also subscribes to *FoundationSearch* and *BIG Online*. The former gives us access to detailed information on more than 120,000 U.S. foundations, while the latter is a comprehensive searchable database containing information on over 25,000 foundations, corporate donors, matching gift programs, in-kind donations and government funders. We also utilize [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) for information on all federal granting agencies. Additionally, we send you *News, Notes, and Deadlines*, an electronic monthly listing of selected government and foundation grant opportunities. Finally, our office and the Office of the Provost co-sponsor various grants-oriented workshops and events for faculty throughout the year. Please let us know what sorts of topics would be useful to you.

Finally, it is possible that you are not listed in this newsletter but you have, in fact, recently applied for or received a grant or fellowship. If this is the case, please let us know! We are sorry that we missed you and would very much like to hear more about your project.

Sincerely,



  
 Martha Bond      Anne Stengle      Christine FitzGerald  
 Director of Grants      Assistant Director of Grants      Grants Administrator

<http://www.hws.edu/offices/grants.aspx>

## Report on Faculty Grant Activity at Hobart and William Smith

### Contact:

**Martha Bond** Alumni House  
 Director of Grants Ph: (315) 781-3780  
 Fax: (315) 781-3767  
 mbond@hws.edu

**Anne Stengle** Alumni House  
 Assistant Director Ph: (315) 781-3754  
 Fax: (315) 781-3767  
 stengle@hws.edu

**Christine FitzGerald** Alumni House  
 Grants Administrator Ph: (315) 781-3740  
 Fax: (315) 781-3767  
 fitzgerald@hws.edu

**Office of Grants** Alumni House  
 615 S. Main St.  
 Ph: (315) 781-3700  
 Fax: (315) 781-3767

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES  
 Geneva, NY 14456

**The number of faculty who apply for external funding continues to increase annually as does the number who are successful. The Grants Office helps faculty identify possible sources of funding for specific projects.**

See back page for full letter from the Office of Grants

### Letter from the Provost

Over the past few years, there has been remarkable growth in the quantity and breadth of external support for faculty research, creative work and teaching. This growth is all the more remarkable, considering that competition for external funding grows fiercer every year. I thank the faculty for persevering with applications in the face of that fierce competition, as it is clear that such persistence has been richly rewarded. With this support, we are able to purchase sophisticated scientific instrumentation, make important contributions to the scholarly literature, involve undergraduates in original research, attract to the campus creative artists of national and international renown and update our curriculum and facilities. Endorsement from foundations and government funders also brings well-deserved attention to the caliber of our academic program and our faculty. In this endeavor, we are most ably supported by the staff in the Grants Office, whose skills and professionalism are simply extraordinary. On behalf of the faculty, I want to thank them for making possible so many successful applications for funding.



Provost Teresa Amott

Sincerely,

Teresa Amott, Provost and Dean of Faculty

**Grant Awards:** Faculty Grant Activity, July 2007-August 2008

- Jim MaKinster**, associate professor of education, was awarded a three year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) under its ITEST (Innovative Technology Experiences for Students) program to provide middle and high school students with skills and motivation to use communication and information technologies to address biodiversity conservation issues. Entitled *Crossing Boundaries and Exploring Biodiversity Conservation Using Information Technologies*, the project entails curriculum development, teacher training and opportunities for students to see scientific and environmental careers both in the Finger Lakes region and abroad. To carry out this ambitious project, MaKinster will collaborate with **Eugenio Arima**, assistant professor of environmental science, and colleagues at Cornell University.



James MaKinster

MaKinster received two other grants this past year. The first, from the Rochester Area Colleges for Excellence in Mathematics and Science, advanced research related to his NSF-funded *GIT Ahead* project, while the second, from Finger Lakes WIRED, enabled young women from rural schools throughout the region to participate in the Colleges' Environmental Summer Studies Youth Institute.

Meghan Brown



MaKinster also submitted a proposal to NSF requesting support to enable earth science teachers to engage students in scientific inquiry as they collect, analyze and represent real-world data within the context of interdisciplinary environmental problems.

- **Meghan Brown**, assistant professor of biology, with Biology Department colleagues **Tara Curtin** and **Neil Laird** and Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Stina Bridgeman**, received a grant under NSF's Major Research Instrumentation program to acquire a suite of equipment to promote their research on the Finger Lakes. Deployed at seven sites in northern Seneca Lake, these instruments will create a network to investigate the ecology of the diapausing egg of exotic zooplankton *Cercopagis pengoi*, in concert with the meteorological conditions, internal lake circulations and sedimentation processes that drive its production and distribution.

**Brown**, **Curtin** and **Laird** also submitted a pre-proposal to study the diapausing egg production, deposition and redistribution of *Cercopagis pengoi* in the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes region to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under its National Sea Grant Program.

Additionally, **Brown** has applied to the Fulbright Scholar Program for a Junior Research Fellowship in Italy at the Istituto per lo Studio degli Ecosistemi to support her work on *Bythotrephes*, the spiny waterflea native to Lago Maggiore.

Tara Curtin



- **Eugenio Arima**, assistant professor of environmental studies, worked with colleagues at Michigan State University to secure additional funding from NSF to advance their work in Brazil. Entitled *Territorializing Exploitation Space and the Fragmentation of the Amazon Forest*, the project seeks to provide an explanation of the human drivers of forest fragmentation and will particularly focus on the road networks built by loggers and subsequently used by colonists and farmers.

Earlier in the year, **Arima** submitted two other proposals to NSF, both of which sought to examine the anthropomorphic drivers of fragmentation of the Brazilian Amazon forest.

- With colleagues from the University of Illinois, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and Cornell University, **Neil Laird**, assistant professor of geoscience, submitted a project to NSF entitled *Investigations of Surface, Boundary Layer, and Mesoscale Connective Processes Influencing Lake-Effect Systems*. The proposal seeks support for a continuation and expansion of research on wintertime lake-effect storms from both large and small lakes, with particular focus on the collection of new observations over and near Lake Erie.

**Laird** also requested supplemental funding to an existing NSF grant to support additional research linked to a collaborative proposal for a new meteorological field project (EAGLLES-Late) focused on the Eastern Great Lakes.

- **Kristen Welsh**, assistant professor of Russian area studies, and **Megan Brown**, assistant professor of biology, have been awarded a grant from the US Department of Education for a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad. This exciting opportunity for HWS students will combine ecological and cultural studies of the Lake Baikal region of Eastern Siberia. This is the second successful Fulbright-Hays Group Project to Siberia for the Colleges.

- **Cynthia Williams**, the William R. Kenan professor of dance, received a grant from the New York State DanceForce. This award, with additional funding from the New England Foundation for the Arts, supported a three-day teaching and performance residency by Susan Marshall & Company.

Neil Laird



Eugenio Arima



Cynthia Williams



- **Darrin Magee**, assistant professor of environmental studies, has received funding from NSF to work with colleagues at Oregon State University and Colby College, as well as in China, on a project entitled *Interdisciplinary Research and Methods for Assessing Dams as Agents of Change in China*. Under this award, the investigators will apply a new modeling tool to evaluate the relative costs and benefits of dam construction based on multi-objective planning techniques.

- Associate Professor of Geoscience **Nan Arens** and Assistant Professor of Geoscience **David Kendrick** have submitted a proposal to NSF under its Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program. Entitled *A Reading-Writing-Researching-Revising Model for Teaching Geoscience at the Undergraduate Level*, the project addresses the needs of 21st Century students who enter college weak in writing and analytical skills by developing a teaching method that parallels inquiry-based labs.

Additionally, **Arens** submitted a proposal to the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund to test hypotheses of black shale deposition in the late Devonian Catskill Basin in Watkins Glen State Park. If funded, **Arens** will test the predictions associated with the three principle formation hypotheses: a tectonic model, climate models and a biotic model.

- **David Galloway**, assistant professor of Russian area studies, requested funding from NEH to develop a web-based module to explore the cultural topography of Moscow and St. Petersburg from 1700-2000 to help students understand how historical events shaped the social and spiritual nature of the cities' inhabitants and how changing social profiles helped transform literary images.

- **Eric Klaus**, assistant professor of German area studies, submitted a proposal to the American Philosophical Society for research in Munich on the Austrian satirist, novelist and occultist Gustav Meyrink.

- In collaboration with colleagues at Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Professor of Biology **David Droney** submitted two proposals to NSF this past year to advance understanding of the genetic basis of variance underlying pheromone production and pheromone response breadth in two species of moths. If funded, research will focus on quantitative genetic studies, hybridization studies and differential mating studies. This project relates to the evolution and diversification of animal communication systems and the commonality of factors that might influence the evolution of signalers and receivers, regardless of signal modality.

- Associate Professor of Women's Studies **Betty Bayer** and Professor of Religious Studies **Susan Henking** applied to the National Council for Research on Women for a project entitled *Leading from Everywhere: The Fisher Center Women of Color Leadership and Alliance Initiative*. In addition, **Bayer** and **Henking** submitted proposals to the New York Council for the Humanities in support of the Fisher Center Tenth Anniversary Initiative and for a public reading series of original works by regional authors.

- **Kristy Kenyon**, assistant professor of biology, submitted a proposal to The National Institutes of Health for research on the molecular and cellular activities that direct embryonic cells toward the creation of highly specialized olfactory systems in insects.

- **Alan van Giessen**, assistant professor of chemistry, requested support from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation under its Faculty Start-up Grant program. If funded, **van Giessen** would conduct research on fundamental aspects of debilitating conditions such as Alzheimer's disease using advanced computational techniques.

Darrin Magee



Nan Arens



David Galloway



Betty Bayer



Kristy Kenyon



Erin Pelkey



Bin Zhu



Cadence Whittier



Kristen Welsh



Elena Ciletti



- David Galloway and Kristen Welsh, assistant professors of Russian area studies, Stacey Philbrick-Yadav, assistant professor of political science, and Chi-chiang Huang, professor of Asian languages and cultures, were all instrumental in securing grants for foreign language teaching assistants for the 2008-09 academic year. As a result of their efforts, the Colleges will host Russian and Arabic native speakers through the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant program and a Chinese Teaching Assistant from the Alliance for Language, Learning and Educational Exchange.
- Bin Zhu, research scientist at the Finger Lakes Institute, received multiple research grants during the past year. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation awarded Zhu and colleagues from Syracuse University a grant to evaluate the presence of Eurasian water milfoil in Skaneateles Lake. Zhu also received an award from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation that enabled a summer research student to work with him to evaluate invasive species and water quality of the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes.

Additionally, Zhu received funding from the Ontario County Water Resources Council to study the distribution of aquatic macrophytes in Seneca Lake as an indicator of water quality. Most recently, through the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has funded Zhu, Assistant Professor of Biology Meghan Brown and colleagues at Cornell to study the effectiveness of various control methods for European frogbit, an invasive plant that forms dense floating mats in the Finger Lakes.

- Sheila Bennett, professor of anthropology and sociology, and chair of the department of Asian languages and cultures, worked with her colleagues to identify activities that would most benefit from a renewed Undergraduate Studies Initiative grant from the Freeman Foundation. These will include the creation of a senior seminar for majors, a conference on Asia and the environment, instructional technology needs for Asian languages and an abroad program in Summer 2009 to study sustainable development in southeastern China.
- Sandia National Laboratories renewed its contract with Tom Drennen, associate professor of economics, to support a research assistant working on an alternative liquid fuels transportation model that compares the production costs, carbon dioxide emissions and energy balances of several alternative liquid transportation fuels.
- Mary Kelly, assistant professor of education, received a grant through the Independent College Fund of New York from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust for her project SMART (Student Mentors Assisting Readers with Technology). In this collaborative project, HWS students worked with special needs students from the Geneva Middle School to encourage self-advocacy and alternative pedagogy via instructional technology.
- Cadence Whittier, associate professor of dance, received a grant from the Phelps Arts Center for her upcoming program *Space: Contemporary Choreographers in Concert*, which will be held at the Smith Opera House. This event, featuring many of the Colleges' dance faculty, will also include participatory workshops for the Finger Lakes community.
- Elena Ciletti, associate professor of art, was funded by the Jessica E. Smith and Kevin R. Brine Charitable Trust to participate in an international conference on the biblical Book of Judith. As a co-convenor of this conference, she was awarded a grant to support research and travel in Italy for her book on the significance of Artemisia Gentileschi's paintings of Judith in the Catholic Reformation.
- Craig Rimmerman, professor of public policy studies and political science, was instrumental in securing a student scholarship and summer fellowship from the Environmental Protection Agency for Hobart student Austin Kana.
- Scott Brophy, professor of philosophy, provided important leadership to an institutional assessment grant from the Teagle Foundation. This project will create communities of practice to facilitate a shared understanding of the Colleges' curriculum with particular focus on the Eight Goals, thus improving our ability to evaluate student learning.

- In collaboration with a colleague at Hampshire College, Donald Spector, professor of physics, received a grant from NSF to develop a four-day workshop to help promote theoretical physics research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs). Sponsored by the Anacapa Society, an organization developed to provide support to theoretical physicists at PUIs, the conference will include scientific sessions and focused discussions on how to maintain robust research through critical career junctures at PUIs.
- Eric Barnes, assistant professor of philosophy, was awarded a grant from the Open Society Institute to host the International Debate Education Association Round Robin Debate Tournament. This second annual on-campus debate tournament at HWS welcomed an international contingent of debate teams from as near as Ithaca, NY, and as far as Oxford, England.
- Pasad Kulatunga, assistant professor of physics, was awarded a fellowship at the Center for Biomembrane Physics, an interdisciplinary research center located at the University of Southern Denmark and funded by the Danish National Research Foundation.
 

During the past year, Kulatunga also submitted proposals to both NSF and the Research Corporation to investigate a new cooling scheme for atoms in microscopic dipole traps and to study atom dynamics in a double well system. Both projects would involve undergraduates, providing them with opportunities to participate in experimental design, setup, data acquisition/analysis and modeling.
- Nick Ruth, associate professor of art, was awarded the Individual Artist Grant for 2008 by the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts to support his current artistic work. In addition, Ruth has been invited to participate in the 2009 China Sanbao International Printmaking Exhibition, Symposium, Workshop and Tour that offers significant opportunities for artists to explore and work in China.
- Patricia Mowery, assistant professor of biology, will collaborate with colleagues at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva on a research grant from the US Department of Agriculture to study the biology, colonization and movement of *Xylella fastidiosa* in xylem vessels, with the ultimate objective of disease control.
- Matt Kadane, assistant professor of history, requested funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) to support his work on religion and its interconnectedness with the transition to capitalism in eighteenth-century Britain. Through the study of the 12,500 page diary of Puritan proto-industrialist Joseph Ryder (1695-1768), Kadane will explore the influence on and by religion during the beginnings of the industrial revolution.
- Erin Pelkey, associate professor of chemistry, submitted five research proposals during the past year. The most recent, sent to NSF, requests support for research entitled *Synthesis of Highly Functionalized 3-Pyrrolin-2-ones Including Staurosporinone and Analogs*. If funded, this work should advance the field of organic chemistry by enhancing the understanding of site selective cross-coupling reactions. Additionally, Pelkey submitted a proposal to the Dreyfus Foundation under its Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award program. If supported, he will work closely with undergraduates on a project entitled *Developing New Synthetic Methodology for the Preparation of Biologically Active Nitrogen Heterocycles*. Pelkey has additionally applied to the American Chemical Society to support his research that seeks to contribute new fundamental methodology in the synthetic organic chemistry of aromatic compounds.

Finally, Pelkey applied to the National Institutes for Health (NIH) to develop new efficient methods for construction of small nitrogen-containing compounds known to possess a wide array of biological activity and also sought funding from NSF for research entitled *Novel Solution-Phase and Solid-Phase Approaches to Nitrogen Heterocycles*.

Scott Brophy



Donald Spector



Pasad Kulatunga



Nick Ruth



Patricia Mowery

