News & Updates

2015-16 Faculty Research Support Grant Award Winners

**College of Arts and Sciences**
John Bracht and Katie DeCicco-Skinner
"Investigating the Epigenetic Memory of Obesity"
David Carlini and Chapurukha Kusimba
"Ancient DNA, Biological Anthropology, and Human Population Genetics"
Laura Juliano
"Differences among Menthol and Non-Menthol Smokers in Smoking Reward and Behavior"
Karen Knee
"Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing in Watersheds Overlying the Marcellus Shale on Stream Water Quality"

**School of International Service**
Maria De Jesus
"Impact of Social & Economic Conditions on Health, Healthcare Access, & Migration among Mexicans & Central Americans in Urban Contexts"

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School of Public Affairs
Richard Bennett
"Retiring from Active Duty: A Pilot Study on How Police Officers Cope with the Transition"

Ryan Moore
"Geolocated Surveys for Contextual Effects"

Jane Palmer
"Civil Legal Needs of Victims of Sexual Assault"

School of Communication
Angie Chuang
"American Otherness and the Barack Obama 'birther' Controversy: How the News Media Constructs Identity and Race"

Brigid Maher
"The Mam Sherpas"

Team Submissions
Michael Bader, CAS
Maria De Jesus, SIS
Lynn Addington, SPA
Sonya Grier, KSB
Robin Lumsdaine, KSB
Nina Yamanis, SIS
"D.C. Area Survey Pilot Study"
Kathleen Holton, CAS
Terry Davidson, CAS
Sara Hargrave, CAS

"Evaluation of the Effects of Monosodium Glutamate on Adiposity and Hippocampal Function in Rats"

CONGRATULATIONS
What Do Reviewers Like?

By Louise DeCosta Wides,
Writing Consultant and Editor,
AU Proposals for Outside Funding

Reviewers—the people who evaluate grant proposals—tell me that they like proposals that have five characteristics:

An intriguing title (that makes them want to keep reading);
One or two paragraphs on the first page that tell them the main purpose of the project;
Headings and subheadings that guide them through the proposal;
Relatively short sentences; and
Commonly-known words (not jargon).

These traits are not necessarily consistent with the academic orientation of the AU faculty with whom I have worked (from SOC, SIS, CAS, SPA, and the Kogod School of Business). Understandably, their first instinct has been to use titles that fully describe their projects, complex sentences, and terms of art that are familiar to colleagues in their chosen field.

However, whether proposals seek funds for a film or a book, or for research on history, the law, economic development, or public policy—the principal investigators soon recognize the need to translate their text into reviewer-friendly language. They also learn that their proposals must satisfy the specific requirements and criteria of the funding organization—be it a foundation or a federal agency. The principal investigators come to understand that reviewers—asked to evaluate hundreds of proposals—migrate to those that are easy to comprehend at first glance. With that recognition, faculty members focus on shaping a proposal that quickly captures a reviewer’s interest. That doesn’t guarantee funding. But it is a vital first step.
Research Administration Certification (RAC) Program
RAC is a comprehensive training and certification program designed to assist AU departmental and school/college level staff with research administration and management responsibilities. This 8-session program provides pertinent information to enable participants to effectively manage sponsored awards.

RAC is offered in both online and instructor-led formats.

Information on the next instructor-led sessions are as follows:

- **Session 5: Financial Management I (Post-Award Policies)**
  - February 26, 2015, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room
- **Session 6: Financial Management II (Post-Award Procedures)**
  - March 19, 2015, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room
- **Session 7: Systems Overview**
  - April 9, 2015, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room
- **Session 8: Research Compliance Overview**
  - April 28, 2015, 10:00-12:00 PM, MGC 245

Information on the online sessions can be obtained from the following link.
View more information about RAC and how to register for the instructor-led and online formats here >>

Funding Search Information Sessions
OSP has created a series of informational sessions for those interested in independently searching for funding opportunities. The sessions will provide training on how to use our current funding search databases, and will assist faculty and staff in developing user profiles to receive direct funding opportunity announcements related to their research/program interests.

⇒ **Next Sessions:**
  - General Overview: February 5, 2015, 10:30-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room  
    → Open to all AU faculty and staff
  - Unit/School Oriented (CLALS/SIS): February 18, 2015, 10:00-12:00 PM, MGC Room 330N  
    → Open to all CLALS and SIS staff

View more information about the Funding Search Information sessions and how to register here >>

Grant Administration Roundtable (GAR) Sessions
OSP and Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA) would like to invite you to the next scheduled GAR sessions where they will be discussing the following topics:

- **February 19, 2015, 10:00—11:30am, Butler Conference Room**
  - Topics:
    - NCURA Progress Report
- **April 16 2015, 10:00—11:30am, Butler Conference Room**
  - Topic:
    - Developing a Collaborative Research Culture

View more information about GAR and how to register here >>
Research Matters

OSP Spotlight

Jeremy Shiffman

Each month, OSP Monthly highlights a specific American University faculty/staff member for their contributions in providing cutting-edge research or a research related program that serves to create and advance knowledge, and enrich the resources of our educational community while answering and accelerating challenging issues we face today. This month, we are featuring Professor Jeremy Shiffman, Department of Public Administration and Policy.

Q&A with Professor Jeremy Shiffman

What is the focus of your research?

I study the politics of health policy-making in low-income countries, and the global governance of health. Among other questions, I examine why some diseases (such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola) attract considerable attention and resources, while other equally serious conditions (for instance childbirth complications that cause the deaths of more than 3 million women and babies each year) are neglected. I draw on theories and approaches from the social sciences, particularly political science, to analyze these global health questions. I have conducted research in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

How did you get interested in these subjects?

One influence was my former work in an international public relations firm, where I observed the effectiveness of multinational corporations in promoting their reputations and products. I was not so excited by that job, but I did learn from the experience. I came to realize that similar advocacy principles could be used toward more important ends, such as convincing politicians to devote resources to averting the deaths of newborn babies.

What applications does your research have?

I developed an agenda-setting framework that global health advocates have used to generate strategies for securing greater resources for neglected problems such as mental illness, diabetes and surgically-treatable conditions. I am happiest when they use this framework with due attention to the fact that resources are scarce, and one’s advocacy for a particular disease, if not done properly, may crowd out resources for other conditions. I think there should be a Hippocratic Oath not just for medical practice but also for health advocacy.

Who is funding your research?

Mostly foundations. I have been principal investigator on projects funded by the Gates, MacArthur and Rockefeller Foundations. I am finishing up a large Gates Foundation-project involving 12 social scientists that analyzes political attention for six high-burden global health problems: pneumonia, tuberculosis, tobacco use, alcohol harm, maternal death in childbirth, and newborn deaths.

Do you have any advice for others seeking external funding for research?

Developing a healthy dialogue with program officers in funding agencies whose interests align with your own is crucial. They are keen for good ideas, and often through that dialogue you can come up with research programs congruent both with your interests and theirs. In every instance that I have received external funding, this has come about through this kind of discussion.
Organized by School/Department

College of Arts and Sciences: Arts and Humanities

Mathematical Association of America—Tensor Women and Mathematics Projects
The MAA plans to award grants for projects designed to encourage college and university women or high school and middle school girls to study mathematics. The Tensor Foundation, working through the MAA, is soliciting college, university, and secondary mathematics faculty (in conjunction with college or university faculty) and their departments and institutions to submit proposals. Projects may replicate existing successful projects, adapt components of such projects, or be innovative.

Deadline: February 12, 2015

National Endowment for the Arts – NEA Art Works
"Art Works" refers to three things: the works of art themselves, the ways art works on audiences, and the fact that art is work for the artists and arts professionals who make up the field. Art works by enhancing the value of individuals and communities, by connecting us to each other and to something greater than ourselves, and by empowering creativity and innovation in our society and economy. The arts exist for beauty itself, but they also are an inexhaustible source of meaning and inspiration. The NEA recognizes these catalytic effects of excellent art, and the key role that arts and design organizations play in revitalizing them. To deepen and extend the arts' value, including their ability to foster new connections and to exemplify creativity and innovation, we welcome projects that: Are likely to prove transformative with the potential for meaningful change, whether in the development or enhancement of new or existing art forms, new approaches to the creation or presentation of art, or new ways of engaging the public with art; Are distinctive, offering fresh insights and new value for their fields and/or the public through unconventional solutions; and have the potential to be shared and/or emulated, or are likely to lead to other advances in the field.

Deadline: February 19, 2015

Science and Social Science

National Science Foundation – Accelerator Science
The Accelerator Science program will support and foster research at universities that exploits the educational and discovery potential of basic accelerator physics research, and allows the development of transformational discoveries in this crosscutting academic discipline. In particular, this program seeks to support research with the potential to disrupt existing paradigms and advance accelerator science at a fundamental level, such as enabling discoveries that lead to novel, compact, powerful, and/or cost-effective accelerators. The goal of this program is to seed and support fundamental accelerator science at universities as an academic discipline, providing the foundation in knowledge and workforce upon which major advances in accelerator-driven technologies will be based. An important component of the program will be the support and training of the next generation of accelerator scientists. Proposals for experimental, theoretical, and/or simulation-based research are welcome.

Deadline: February 4, 2015

Vodafone Americas Foundation—Wireless Innovation Project
The Vodafone Wireless Innovation Project™ (the “competition”) seeks to identify and fund the best innovations using wireless related technology to address critical social issues around the world. Project proposals must demonstrate significant advancement in the field of wireless-related technology applied to social benefit use. The competition is open to projects from universities and nonprofit organizations based in the United States. Although organizations must be based in the United States, projects may operate and help people outside of the United States.

Deadline: February 27, 2015
**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Education**

**Environmental Protection Agency— Environmental Education Grants**
The purpose of the Environmental Education Grants Program is to provide money to support environmental education projects that increase the public's awareness about environmental issues and provide them with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment.

**Deadline: February 2, 2015**

**International Education Research Foundation— Sepmeyer Research Grant Program**
IERF's mission is to research and disseminate information on world educational systems and to facilitate the integration of individuals educated outside the United States into the U.S. educational environment and work force. IERF accomplishes this by conducting and supporting comprehensive, quality research on world educational systems, sharing its research findings with the international community and providing research-based credentials evaluations and related services.

**Deadline: February 15, 2015**

**The Bay & Paul Foundations – PreK-12 Transformative Learning Practices**
In this broad and inclusive domain the Bay and Paul Foundations support initiatives that prepare students and educators working together to build transformative learning environments that contribute to strengthening civil society. These grants increasingly feature the visible elevation and authorization of youth voice and agency. We see Education for Sustainability and Social Justice as an integrative driver of school transformation, most often rooted in place-, project-, and problem-based practice and research, and utilizing systems thinking, critical friendship, and critical pedagogy.

**Deadline: February 15, 2015**

**School of Communication**

**Phillips Foundation— Robert Novak Journalism Fellowship Program**
The Foundation created this program to provide fellowships for projects to be undertaken by journalists who share the Foundation's mission to advance constitutional principles, a democratic society and a vibrant free enterprise system. Applicants propose a one-year writing project on a topic of their choosing, focusing on journalism supportive of American culture and a free society. In addition to the regular fellowships, the Foundation awards special fellowships on the environment, on free enterprise, and on law enforcement.

**Deadline: February 9, 2015**

**McCormick Foundation – Journalism Program**
We believe a strong and free news media providing citizens with the information they need to make reasoned decisions is critical to a healthy democracy. In support of this objective we focus on three key areas: Educate audiences to understand and appreciate the value of news; Invest in training and educating journalists in pursuit of relevant, quality news content; Protect press freedoms and public access to information. The McCormick Foundation Journalism Program aims to bolster a more informed citizenry by investing in quality news content and educating people—especially students—to better appreciate the importance of news. We also are dedicated to protecting press freedoms that align with the Foundation-wide commitment to civic education, access to public information, watchdog journalism and good government.

**Deadline: Rolling**
School of Public Affairs

**Washington Center for Equitable Growth— Grant Program**
The Washington Center for Equitable Growth is a non-partisan organization that seeks to deepen our understanding of whether and how inequality affects economic growth and stability. Our academic grants program aims to build a portfolio of cutting-edge scholarly research that investigates the various channels through which economic inequality may (or may not) impact economic growth and stability, including both direct and indirect pathways. We consider economic inequality across wages, incomes, wealth, job quality, and benefits, though we are open to proposals that examine the effects of inequality in other ways, such as by gender, race, or ethnicity. We are currently requesting proposals in four areas: (1) household balance sheets and macroeconomic stability; (2) human capital development across the generational arc; (3) innovation, invention, and creativity; and (4) governance.

**Deadline: February 1, 2015**

**The Retirement Research Foundation – Research Grants**
The Retirement Research Foundation funds research projects that have a regional or national impact on older Americans. Of particular interest are projects that seek causes and solutions to significant problems facing older adults through support of applied and policy research for which federal funding is not available.

**Deadline: LOI February 1, 2015**

Washington College of Law

**Public Welfare Foundation -- Criminal Justice**
The Foundation’s Criminal Justice Program supports groups working to end overincarceration of adult offenders in America, with a specific aim to reduce racial disparity. In particular, the Program makes grants to groups that are working to: Reduce the number of people jailed unnecessarily pending trial by promoting the use of risk assessment tools and pretrial release policies and practices; Reduce lengths of criminal sentences through reform of charging, sentencing, and supervision policies and practices; and reduce jail populations through the use of diversion at the front end of the criminal justice system that connects individuals with substance abuse disorders and mental illness to the public health system.

**Deadline: Rolling**

**State Justice Institute – Partner Grant**
SJI is interested in funding both innovative programs and programs of proven merit that can be replicated in other jurisdictions. SJI is especially interested in funding projects that: 1) formulate new procedures and techniques, or creatively enhance existing procedures and techniques; 2) address aspects of the state judicial systems that are in special need of serious attention; 3) have national significance by developing products, services, and techniques that may be used in other states; and 4) create and disseminate products that effectively transfer the information and ideas developed to relevant audiences in state and local judicial systems, or provide technical assistance to facilitate the adaptation of effective programs and procedures in other state and local jurisdictions.

**Deadline: Rolling**
School of International Service

West African Research Association—WARA Residencies
In the interest of enhancing transatlantic exchange and collaboration, the West African Research Association, with funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US State Department, offers Residencies for West African Scholars to visit WARA member institutions. WARA is a consortium of colleges and universities with academic interests in Africa. Each residency will provide the visiting scholar with opportunities for library research, guest lecturing or teaching, and/or collaborative work with American colleagues.

Deadline: February 1, 2015

Department of State—Afghan Women’s Leadership Initiative on Gender-Based Violence
The U.S. Department of State seeks proposals from a consortium of qualified organizations for sustainable pilot projects that focus on all of the following key objectives: Increase Sustainability of Women’s Protection Centers; Build Leadership Skills; and Increase Economic Independence of Shelter Beneficiaries. Special consideration will also be given to programs that: 1) align with Afghanistan’s policies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence; and 2) develop partnerships between local organizations currently operating women’s shelters and relevant stakeholders through the public and private sector that could provide apprenticeships or job opportunities commensurate with vocational skills training.

Deadline: February 6, 2015

Oak Foundation—International Human Rights
Oak Trustees have a long-standing interest in protecting the fundamental rights of the individual, supporting those who champion that struggle, and ensuring that perpetrators of gross abuses are held to account. In the International Human Rights Programme, we pursue four objectives that seek to: end impunity for gross violations of human rights by upholding victims’ rights to truth, justice and redress, and by preserving public memory to prevent the recurrence of abuses; uphold fundamental guarantees in international law prohibiting arbitrary detention and torture and assuring due process guarantees; protect human rights defenders at risk and strengthen their capacity to be effective; and multiply and amplify influential voices, especially from the Global South, on IHRP global priorities.

Deadline: Rolling

National Institutes of Health
NIH Funding Opportunities—Grants & Funding Page
(Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)

Federal Contracts
Federal Business Funding Opportunities
(Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)
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Here is some of what to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:
- Funding Opportunities
- GAR topic solicitations

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