Looking Back, Looking Forward

During the last academic year, many AU faculty members were successful in obtaining external funding to conduct their basic, applied research and scholarship. Their funding successes were the culmination of collaborative pre-award partnerships within academic units and across the university, to create compelling and highly competitive funding applications. These externally sponsored awards, given the current funding environment, support and validate the importance of scholarship while enhancing the national reputation of the university. For several of the principal investigators, their awards represented their most significant funding to date from a federal or a private sponsor. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of the following members of the AU community:

Patricia Aufderheide (SOC)
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Michael Barron (CAS)
National Science Foundation

John Bracht (CAS)
National Institute of Health

Charles Call (SIS)
Carnegie Corporation/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Michael Carroll (WCL)
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Caty Borum Chattoo (SOC)
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Robert Dinerstein/Hadar Harris (WCL)
Open Society Foundations
The breadth of AU faculty members, academic units, proposal topics and funders associated with recent sponsored research awards highlight a vibrant and diverse scholarly community that is capable of producing highly competitive applications for external funds to support its high-impact research agenda. Many resources and offices exist at AU to assist researchers in furthering their research career (by submitting winning applications to external sponsors).

I would like to personally invite you to attend all or part of the American University Sponsored Research Information Sessions on September 22, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Mary Graydon Center, Rooms 4 and 5. Be prepared to learn about campus resources to support your sponsored research activities and to benefit from the two panels of faculty colleagues that will discuss their pathways to both funding and grant-writing success.

Best,

Dr. Jonathan Tubman
Vice Provost for Research & Dean of Graduate Studies
A principal investigator (PI) was awarded more than $1.6 million in funds by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for research he said his institutional review board had approved — and he had the fabricated IRB document to prove it. Another PI had four mostly unspent awards totaling more than $1 million that he apparently had squirreled away to transfer to a new institution, while simultaneously claiming “significant research accomplishments” in his reports. These are just two badly behaved PIs featured in the recent semiannual report to Congress, which covers the six-month period ending March 31, issued in May by the NSF Office of Inspector General (OIG). But OIG didn’t stop with PIs, as its responsibilities also include oversight of institutions and NSF itself. The new report features some of their inglorious deeds, as well. NSF OIG investigates allegations of:

- Fraud, waste, and abuse;
- Research misconduct, defined as fabrication, falsification and plagiarism (FFP) and violations of laws (such as HIPAA);
- Noncompliance with regulations (such as the Common Rule); and
- Financial management of awards, including whether costs are allowable, reasonable and allocated properly.

James Kroll, Director of Research Integrity and Administrative Investigations in OIG’s Office of Investigations, stated that while the number varies from year to year, the Office of Investigations “handles[s] a few hundred allegations a year.” Over time, the percentage of allegations that are actually substantive has continued to grow. When an allegation is substantive, NSF has to go the distance with it and that takes time. According to the new semiannual report, NSF OIG accomplished the following activities:

- 11 referrals for possible federal civil or criminal prosecutions;
- 8 criminal convictions or pleas;
- 4 civil settlements;
- $2.66 million in financial recoveries;
- 11 new misconduct cases referred to NSF for action;
- 7 audits that questioned approximately $5.5 million in costs;
- 6 suspensions/debarments/exclusions; and
- 15 audit reports/reviews, 4 of which questioned $7.6 million.

For the full article, visit

For the full article, visit
New F&A Policy In Effect  
Jim Casey, OSP Director

As you know by now, the new Facilities & Administrative Costs (F&A) Policy has been released to the university community and is located here:

The effective date of this policy is July 1, 2015. This policy applies to all new proposals after that date, and to all awards that result from such proposals. This policy does not disturb existing F&A rates on current awards nor rates on submitted proposals awaiting decision. Here are some important points and context to remember:

1. The policy formalizes what has been the informal AU policy and process, and incorporates national best practices in research administration. This includes, by implication, the recommendations of the NCURA peer review report. The latter has strong support for implementation from Dr. Bass, Dr. Tubman, and the deans.

2. With regards to whom may negotiate F&A rates with external sponsors, the policy makes clear that PIs, Center Directors, faculty, and staff are not authorized to negotiate these rates with sponsors. Only OSP, as the institutional office for grants and contracts, may do that, and that role is generally limited to verifying documentation necessary to support a lower F&A rate (such as a sponsor letter or the sponsor policy on their website).

3. This policy is subject to audit by our internal auditors, Protiviti. Thus, it is very important that all university employees follow this policy.

4. Anyone who violates this new university policy is subject to possible discipline. This is consistent with every other AU policy.

Two items mentioned in the policy - the F&A Cost Reduction Waiver Request Form and the sponsor list of confirmed reduced F&A rates (which allows for a bypass of the waiver process), are available here:

**Sponsor List of Confirmed Reduced F&A Rates:**  
Can be found here.

This form does not need to be used if the sponsor is listed in the OSP Nonfederal Reduced Indirect Cost Funder Index, located at the web link immediately above.

**F&A Cost Reduction Waiver Request Form:**  
Form can be accessed here.

The list of sponsors with confirmed reduced F&A rates is a “living one,” which means the list will change as necessary to reflect additional/deleted sponsors and changes in rates within sponsors. Everyone is urged to consult the list on a regular basis for the most accurate information.

This policy brings us into conformance with national best practices in research administration and with the policies of more developed research universities. This policy is not a new policy but merely the formalization of existing policy and process. It will also serve to reiterate that AU is losing millions of dollars each year in unrecovered F&A costs. That loss hinders building a permanent research infrastructure.
The best practice I can recommend now is that faculty and staff engaged in sponsored programs should reach out to their funders to obtain web site locations or written documentation of the lower rate. That will result in minimal delay and facilitate speedy proposal review and award establishment.

A note of appreciation is extended to those who provided input into this policy: Provost Scott Bass, Chief Financial Officer Doug Kudravetz, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies Jon Tubman, Assistant Controller Nicole Bresnahan, and GCA Director Deominic Napoleon. OSP remains committed to the facilitation of sponsored research at the pre-award and post-award stages. We are here to solve problems and remove obstacles wherever we can, in accordance with best practices, laws, and regulations in research administration. OSP is dedicated to the technical and ethical administration of sponsored research.

If you have any questions, contact your unit grants staff (where available), your OSP representative, or myself. Once again, thanks for your dedication towards building sponsored program activity at AU.

For more information visit.

The Importance of a Budget Narrative
By: Shira Lowinger, Senior Grant & Contract Manager

The budget narrative, which is sometimes referred to as a budget justification, provides an explanation for the spending included in a proposal budget. The purpose is to describe the need of each major budget category or item. However, it also illustrates to reviewers that the PI has carefully thought-out the project and the objectives described in the proposal are achievable. Even if a sponsor does not require a budget narrative, many departments throughout the university require one as a part of routing. And it is a good idea for all PIs to write one in order to ensure that the project is feasible with the amount of money being requested. Also if the budget includes any unusual items, they can be explained and if funded the document serves as a sponsor’s prior approval that the cost is allowable.

The actual budget amounts do not need to be included in the narrative (unless that is required by the sponsor), but a description of those amounts should be. Below is a general description of the sections to include and attached is a sample budget narrative to use as a reference. Please keep in mind that some sponsors have specific guidelines for how to write a budget narrative. In those cases, the guidelines should be followed.

Section 1: Personnel
Describe the role of each person, name (if known), qualifications and describe their role and effort on the project.

For full time personnel consider how much time and effort each person will spend. For some sponsors, such as The National Institute of Health, they require we include effort in person months not percentage of effort. OSP can help you calculate those numbers.

Consider if the personnel is a 9 or 12 month employee and whether they will be requesting summer salary, academic year research time, and/or a course release.

For hourly or student wages consider how many hours are requested in the budget and if they can complete the work in that amount of time.

Please remember that only American University personnel should be included in this section.
Section 2: Fringe Benefits
Rates for fringe benefit cost calculations are updated every few years. The University’s current full-time fringe benefit rate is 26.5% for staff & faculty. The University’s part-time fringe rate is 8% and is applied to faculty summer salaries and hourly wages for the project’s part-time faculty and staff.

Section 3: Equipment
List the equipment requested for the project with an explanation of why it is necessary and how it will be used. It is best to also include the model names, numbers and a price quotes from a reputable source.

**Equipment** means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.

Section 4: Travel
Explain the purpose of the trip, the destination, the number of days, and the people traveling. State whether lodging, per diem, and/or mileage reimbursement are included.

Section 5: Participant Support Costs
Participant Support Costs refer to the costs associated with participants or trainees of a proposed conference, meeting or workshop. The costs described in this section should include registration fees, travel allowances, stipends or subsistence allowances.

Please note that it is important to talk to the Program Officer and your OSP Pre Award Manager to ensure that costs included in this category do in fact belong in this category. On federal awards these costs typically do not carry overhead and often cannot be re-budgeted without sponsor approval.

Section 6: Other Direct Costs
This category covers several different types of costs, including but not limited to the following:

- **Materials and Supplies** – List and describe the purpose for each item. This includes equipment under $5,000 per unit.
- **Consultant Services** – Include the role of the consultant as well as their name (if known) and a daily rate.
- **Subcontracts** – Typically we ask our subcontractors to supply their own budget narrative to describe their costs.
- **Publication Costs/Documentation/Dissemination** – State the page charges for reprints and the name of the associated journal.
- **Graduate Tuition Remission** - Graduate tuition support may be requested in proportion to the student’s level of effort and typically must be combined with a stipend during the Academic Year.
- **Other Miscellaneous** – Describe any other costs associated with completing the research.

Indirect Costs
The University has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the University’s cognizant auditing agency. The on campus rate is 43% and the off campus rate is 19%. Please note that only one rate may be used in a proposal. Please visit the PI Handbook or your OSP contact to help decide which rate should be applied.
PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kenneth Jones, will be responsible for all aspects of the research project including but not limited to: design of the project, data collection, graduate student oversight, subaward management and preparation of ten academic papers to present the findings. He will work 25% during the summer each year for two years (.75 person months) and 5% during the academic year each year for two years (.45 person months).

Program Manager: Jane Smith will spend 5% of her time in year one (.6 person months) and 10% of her time in year two (1.2 person months) of the grant. She will help the PI with oversight, organization, and implementation of the training workshop.

Graduate Students: TBD, Two graduate students per year will be hired to assist the PI with data collection and input. They will work 20 hours per week during the summer at $15 per hour. The graduate students will be paid a stipend of $19,200 during each academic year and receive tuition support.

FRINGE BENEFITS

The University's full-time fringe benefit rate is 26.5% for staff & faculty. The University's part-time fringe rate is 8% and is applied to faculty summer salaries and hourly wages for the project's part-time faculty and staff.

EQUIPMENT

Funds are requested in year one to purchase a scanning electron xxxxx ($5,500 per unit, quote attached) to analyze the samples collected.

TRAVEL

Collaborator Meetings: Each year the PI and Co-PI will meet twice for three days. The first meeting will be in XXX, at the PI’s university. The second will be in YYY, at the Co-PI's university. The budget includes airfare, hotel/meals, and incidentals for each of these trips.

Conference Travel: The PI, Co-PI, and one graduate student will attend one professional research conferences each year relevant to the project’s research scope to present and disseminate the project's finding to the larger scholarly and professional community. The budget includes airfare, hotel/meals, registration, and incidentals for each attendee.

Workshop Travel: The Co-PI her graduate student will be invited to attend the workshop in year two of the project. The budget includes airfare, hotel/meals for two days, and incidentals for each person.

The hotel, meals and incidentals are based on GSA's lodging and per diem rates.

PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS

A training workshop will be held in the second year of the project. Twenty participants will be invited for two days and the budget includes $300 for travel, $100 for subsistence, and a $100 stipend for each attendee.

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

Materials and Supplies:

The budget includes $1,000 in program materials, data collection and implementation supplies per year and an additional $500 for training workshop supplies in year two.

Funds are requested in year one ($500) to develop and print promotional materials for the workshop such as brochures and flyers.

Computer Software: The budget includes the purchase of two licenses (one for the PI and one for the Co-PI) for the data analysis software necessary for this project.
Consultants

Program Evaluation: An external program evaluator will be hired to facilitate the collection and analysis of objective performance data. The evaluator will be paid $100 per day for 30 days in year two.

Editor: Funds are requested in year two for professional editing of the final papers.

Graduate Tuition Remission: The graduate students will receive 9 credits of tuition support per semester at $1,526 per credit.

Subaward: A subaward will be made to the University of XYZ for their portion of the research analyzing collecting and analyzing the data and comparing the results to the PI's data results. The University of XYZ was selected because of the Co-PI's expertise in this field. A budget and budget narrative is attached for the subaward.

Publication Costs/Documentation/Dissemination – The budget includes publication fees for ten academic papers.

Other Miscellaneous: Support is requested to pay for communication with participants of the training workshop, such as postage for direct mail, faxes and telephone correspondences.

INDIRECT COSTS

The University's standard on-campus indirect cost rate is 43% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), in accordance with the effective Indirect Rate Agreement negotiated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the University’s cognizant auditing agency.
In June 2015 (FY 2016), the Office of Sponsored Programs recorded the following grants for American University researchers:

**PI:** Naden Krogan  
**College of Arts and Sciences - Biology**  
**Title:** Mechanisms Controlling Cellular Differentiation and Proliferation in a Plant Stem Cell Microenvironment  
**Sponsor:** National Institutes of Health  
**Funds:** $350,820.00

**PI:** Gregory Harry  
**College of Arts and Sciences - Physics**  
**Title:** CAREER: Integrated Research and Education on Gravitational Wave Detectors Optics  
**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation  
**Funds:** $95,266.00

**PI:** Nancy Snider  
**College of Arts and Sciences – Performing Arts**  
**Title:** Creating Opportunities for Extended Learning Beyond the Traditional Classroom and Music Studio  
**Sponsor:** The Marinus and Minna B. Koster Foundation, Inc.  
**Funds:** $10,000.00

**PI:** Michel Robe  
**Kogod School of Business – Finance & Real Estate**  
**Title:** What Drives Uncertainty and Volatility Expectations in Agriculture Markets?  
**Sponsor:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Funds:** $230,000.00

**PI:** Yujin Jeong  
**Kogod School of Business – International Business**  
**Title:** Status and Bribery: Evidence from the Revealed Accounting Records of Two South Korean Presidents  
**Sponsor:** The Academy of Korean Studies  
**Funds:** $12,000.00

**PI:** Deen Freelon  
**School of Communication – Public Communication**  
**Title:** Social Media for Social Justice: #BlackLivesMatter as 21st-century Civic Engagement  
**Sponsor:** Spencer Foundation  
**Funds:** $30,015.00

**PI:** Charles Lewis  
**School of Communication – Investigative Reporting Workshop**  
**Title:** General Operating Support  
**Sponsor:** Park Foundation, Inc.  
**Funds:** $200,000.00

**PI:** Kathryn Montgomery  
**School of Communication - Dean's Office**  
**Title:** Public Interest Framework for Protecting Consumer Privacy in the Health Wearables Industry  
**Sponsor:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
**Funds:** $154,454.00

**PI:** Christopher Palmer  
**School of Communication – Center for Environmental Filmmaking**  
**Title:** Camera Package  
**Sponsor:** Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.  
**Funds:** $2,500.00

**PI:** Deen Freelon  
**School of Communication – Public Communication**  
**Title:** Blogs and Bullets IV  
**Sponsor:** George Washington University  
**Funding Source:** United States Institute of Peace  
**Funds:** $7,900.00
Uniform Guidance and the Importance of Internal Controls Part 2: The Control Environment
By: Joe Gesa, OSP Systems Administrator

Everyone in an organization has a one of three roles in an internal control system. These include: the oversight body, management, and personnel. The oversight body provides the strategic direction of the organization while being accountable for its obligations. Management designs, implements, and ensures the operating effectiveness of the control system; while personnel operate the system and identify issues in operations, reporting, and compliance.

While all roles contribute to the organization’s success, the oversight body and the entity’s management are the drivers of the first component of internal control; the Control Environment. Made up of seven principles, the control environment provides discipline, structure, and the positive atmosphere affecting the quality of the control system.

Principle 1 - The oversight body and management should demonstrate a commitment to integrity and ethical values

In short, this principle directs leaders to set the tone at the top. All directives, attitudes and behaviors should reflect the expected standard of conduct throughout the organization. These standards should be codified and communicated along with methods of evaluating performance and the tolerance for deviation from them.
Principle 2 - The oversight body should oversee the entity’s internal control system
The oversight body oversees management’s design, implementation, and operation of the control system to include aspects of: the control environment, risk assessment, control activity, communication, and monitoring.

Principle 3 – Management should establish an organizational structure, assign responsibility, and delegate authority to achieve the entity’s objectives.
Management establishes the structure necessary to plan, execute, control, and assess the organization while in pursuit of its goals. This is accomplished through the assignment of areas of responsibility to discreet units and delegation of authority to key individuals within those units. Additionally, management documents the internal control system as a means of communicating control efforts to external auditors and to preserve institutional memory.

Principle 4 - Management should demonstrate a commitment to recruit, develop, and retain competent individuals
Competence is the qualification to execute assigned responsibilities. It requires knowledge, skills and abilities gained from professional experience, training, and personal mastery and is demonstrated in an individual’s day-to-day behavior.
Personnel must possess and maintain a level of competency that allows them to accomplish their assigned responsibilities while also understanding the importance of an effective internal control system. One way management ensures competence is through the recruitment, development, and retention of people willing and able to execute the entity’s plans.

Principle 5 - Management should evaluate performance and hold individuals accountable for their internal control responsibilities.
Accountability is driven by the tone at the top, organizational structure, and expectations of competency. It supports day-to-day decision making and is enforced through mechanisms like performance review and disciplinary action. Corrective actions can range from informal feedback to termination depending on the risk associated with the failure to execute the control system responsibility.
Management is also responsible to adjust excessive pressures on personnel. This pressure, say from constant deadlines, can lead personnel to “cut corners.” Once identified, management should take steps like adjusting workload to alleviate the strain.

With the control environment established a clearer picture of the risks facing the organization can be formed. An assessment of these risks and potential responses allows management to formulate the next component of the internal control system. Look for a discussion of the risk assessment component in next month’s issue.

References
The cerebellum is located at the bottom of the brain. And for many years, it was generally confined to the outskirts of academic discourse on cognitive neuroscience. But through her research, American University assistant professor Catherine Stoodley has discovered that the cerebellum should be front and center in understanding how the brain works. Stoodley teaches in the Psychology Department of AU's College of Arts and Sciences. As principal investigator and head of the Developmental Neuroscience Lab, she's working with graduate and undergraduate students on cutting-edge research to explore the cerebellum's vital role in cognitive development. Neuroscience at AU is thriving, and it's been identified as an interdisciplinary area for investment under the AU 2030 project.

**Developmental Disorders**

The cerebellum plays a critical part in the brain's ability to learn. As a result, the cerebellum can tell researchers a lot about developmental disorders, including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and dyslexia. "It's got half the neurons in the brain packed into it," Stoodley says. "We're finding that there are different components to this structure that are involved in movement or language or cognitive functions." While examining developmental disorders in other parts of the brain, studies tend to yield a wide variety of results that aren't always illuminative. But especially with a child who has autism, the cerebellum shows remarkably consistent signs of abnormality, she says.

Through post-doc work, Stoodley characterized certain functional sub-regions of the cerebellum, and this became beneficial for later research. "This really forms the basis for understanding what the cerebellum is doing in these disorders, because there are differences in which parts of the cerebellum are disrupted in ADHD versus autism, for example. And that is consistent with the fact that they don't look the same behaviorally," she explains.

**Research Hurdles and New Discoveries**

The advent of neuroimaging enabled researchers to better visualize and observe brain activity, and this enhanced research into the cerebellum. Additional technological innovations could bring researchers closer to helping children with developmental disorders. Neuroscientists are starting to use Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation, a research tool that sends currents from one electrode to another. When these currents run through brain tissue, they temporarily alter the excitability of that tissue. "A lot of people are proposing that this kind of stimulation could be used in a therapeutic sense. But the research has to be there first. We need to understand how it's working and what it's doing," Stoodley says.
Stoodley's research can be quite complicated. Neuroscientists believe that developmental disorders have a genetic component, and the brain is therefore not developing conventionally during those early months. Yet there's a constant interplay between how the brain is structured and how a person behaves.

"What happens is that the circuits you form in your brain are dependent on how you use your brain," she says. "So if the brain is structured differently from the start, the way the brain works is going to be different and that's going to change the structure. It's like this endless loop." Since many research breakthroughs come after discovering patterns, researchers are starting to analyze those trends in a more sophisticated way. "I think as the field moves forward, it's going to be more about big data, multivariate analysis, and pattern analysis," Stoodley says.

A Career Launched

Growing up in the textile mill town of Lowell, Massachusetts, Stoodley babysat for extra money. But it became more than just part-time work, as Stoodley was fascinated by child development. "I just found it intriguing how quickly children change. If I babysat on a Friday night, by the next Friday they would have learned numerable new words and skills. And I was always interested in the biological underpinnings of that," she recalls. During her undergraduate years at Tufts University, Stoodley was torn between attending medical school and doing advanced research. She then stumbled upon neuroscience. "I thought this could be what I use to answer these questions that are so interesting to me," she says.

Stoodley later earned her master's and Ph.D. from University of Oxford in England. After observing how children with tumors in a particular part of the cerebellum had reading difficulties, she focused her doctoral dissertation on the cerebellum's role in dyslexia. Following two post-docs—one at Oxford and the other with Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard Medical School—she was offered a position at AU in 2010. Though she rowed competitively at Oxford, these days her time is consumed by her four-year-old son. She won't turn him into another research subject, but she couldn't resist giving extra scrutiny to his development during his early months. But he's a quick study, too—perhaps taking after his mom. "I always tell my students if they complain about learning brain anatomy," she says, "if he can do it, you can't tell me this is not learnable. Because he's four, and he can tell you where the cerebellum is located."
Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a "search funding tool" training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**National Science Foundation- Computational Mathematics**

Supports mathematical research in areas of science where computation plays a central and essential role, emphasizing design ...analysis, and implementation of numerical methods and algorithms, and symbolic methods. The prominence of computation with analysis of the computational...

**Deadline: December 15, 2015**

**National Science Foundation- Economics**

The Economics program supports research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world ...system of which it is a part. This program also strengthens both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as the methods for rigorous research...

**Deadline: August 18, 2015**

**American Psychological Association- Dr. Rosalee G. Weiss Lecture for Outstanding Leaders in Psychology**

The lecturer is an outstanding leader in psychology, or a leader in the arts or sciences whose work and activities have had an effect on psychology. Award ...The lecturer is an outstanding leader in psychology, or a leader in the arts or sciences whose work and activities have had an effect on psychology...

**Deadline: December 31, 2015**

**Kogod School of Business**

**Institute Of Management Accountants- Research Grant Program**

The Foundation encourages submission of innovative research proposals in the area of accounting and finance by both academics and practitioners. The proposals should clearly communicate the purpose and scope of the proposed research project and how it relates to primary management accounting activities such as decision support, planning, and control.

**Deadline: Continues**
Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

Coleman Foundation- The Coleman Foundation Faculty Entrepreneurship Fellows Program

The Foundation's current leading initiative within its Entrepreneurship funding area is its Faculty Entrepreneurship Fellows Program. While self-employment education has become broadly accepted as a valid field of study within academia, it remains constrained by its historical roots in the school of business. Many aspiring entrepreneurs concentrate in departments outside the school of business and rarely, if ever, explore business courses. The Coleman Fellows program intends to advance three grant strategies from the Entrepreneurship Education Impact Plan. These include: Improve academic curriculum's ability to build core self-employment skills (e.g. vision, opportunity recognition, network and team development, financial management, marketing, technology utilization, sales, leadership) Increase the quality and frequency of experiential, co-curricular activities (e.g. direct quality time with business owners, mentorships, internships, incubation/acceleration, alumni engagement, entrepreneurs-in-residence, opportunities to practice applied skills) Increase frequency and quality of interdisciplinary learning of entrepreneurship concepts. The goals of the Fellows Program are 1) to build support for entrepreneurship education in non-business departments across campuses of participating schools; 2) to advance the Coleman Foundation's Definition of Entrepreneurship with focus on business creation; and 3) to cultivate cohorts of entrepreneurship educators on individual campuses and across many disciplines outside the school of business.

Deadline: Continues

School of Communication

Center for Alternative Media And Culture- Grants

Center for Alternative Media and Culture gives grants to independent films in post-production dealing with the economy, class issues, the poor, women, war and peace, race and labor. Grants are from $100-10,000 and are distributed four times a year. The Center is mainly funded by actor, Michael Moore (Roger and Me).

Deadline: Continues

Impact Media Summit- Global Visual Researcher Program

The Impact Media Summit is pleased to invite footage and image researchers from around the world to apply to our Global Researcher Program. This event is the only North American gathering of international visual researchers, producers, broadcasters and archives

Deadline: November 22, 2015

National Press Foundation (NPF)- Excellence in Online Journalism Award

This award recognizes significant achievements in the field of internet journalism. This award will be presented to an individual journalist or a media organization for outstanding use of online technology producing quality journalism. This can be as broad as an exceptional website, an innovative tablet or mobile website, or as specific as a creative app or the excellent use of digital media to report from the scene of a story. Judges will take into consideration both the quality of the journalistic work and the innovative use of online technology to honor the best intersection of the two. Entries should showcase journalistic achievement during the period of September 1, 2013, through September 1, 2014.

Deadline: October 15, 2015
Funding Opportunities Organized by School/Department

Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

School of International Services

Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation- The Switzer Network Innovation Grants

The Switzer Fellowship Network is one of the Switzer Foundations most important assets. The 550 Fellows in the Switzer Fellowship Network represent diverse fields of interest including science, law, policy, journalism, architecture and planning, among others. Fellows are based in nonprofit organizations, the business sector, public agencies and academia. Through the Switzer Network Innovation Grants program, the Foundation seeks to tap this diverse Networks collective potential for innovation and action to solve today’s complex environmental issues. This grant program intends to create a pathway toward environmental improvement that starts with sharing ideas that will lead to action and results. Through this program, we invite Switzer Fellows to work together, and with their personal networks of colleagues and organizations, to engage in shared learning, convening, collaboration and ultimately breakthrough thinking and action. Interested Fellows should be willing to take a leadership role in advancing progress on the identified issue and must share their proposed idea with the Network before the Foundation will consider an application. This builds on our belief that broader input can yield new approaches, especially from sectors outside your own familiar area of expertise. Through this program, the Foundation will help Fellows test and improve their thinking with input from the Network, provide funding to concepts that seem most promising, and have Fellows share results and invite further feedback.

Deadline: Continues

Henry Luce Foundation- The Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs

The Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs, announced in June 2005, seeks to deepen understanding of religion as a critical dimension of national and international policies and politics. Religion is an increasingly visible cultural, political, and economic force in societies around the globe. Yet our resources are inadequate for understanding its new forms and expressions, and its complex roles in public life and policy. In the academy, for example, knowledge about religion is unevenly distributed across disciplines. Scholarly expertise is rarely linked to communities of policymakers and practitioners, or to media that inform discussion and debate in the public square. One part of the Henry R. Luce Initiative provides support for programs at professional schools of international affairs in the United States. The aim is to prepare the next generation of policy specialists who will assume positions in fields such as diplomacy, development, relief work, human rights, and journalism, with a better understanding of the role of religion.

Deadline: Continues

Charles Koch Institute- Requests for Proposals: Foreign policy

Foreign policy includes, but is not limited to, matters of national defense. The United States approach to grand strategy, trade, diplomacy, defense policy, civil-military relations, intelligence, homeland security, and other areas related to foreign policy influence individual and societal well-being on a daily basis. Better understanding the connection between U.S. foreign policy, freedom, and well-being will allow for a more productive discussion about potential solutions to pressing problems. The Charles Koch Foundation is interested in supporting research that furthers an understanding of the benefits and costs of certain approaches to foreign policy.

Deadline: Continues
School of Public Affairs

**National Science Foundation (NSF)- Law & Social Sciences (LSS)**

The Law & Social Sciences Program considers proposals that address social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules. The Program is inherently interdisciplinary and multi-methodological. Successful proposals describe research that advances scientific theory and understanding of the connections between law or legal processes and human behavior. Social scientific studies of law often approach law as dynamic, made in multiple arenas, with the participation of multiple actors. Fields of study include many disciplines, and often address problems including though not limited to: Crime, Violence and Punishment, Economic Issues, Governance, Legal Decision Making, Legal Mobilization and Conceptions of Justice, Litigation and the Legal Profession.

LSS also participates in a number of specialized funding opportunities through NSF’s crosscutting and cross-directorate activities, including, for example: Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI), Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID), Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)

**Deadline: August 3, 2015**

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH) - Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp)**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) hereby notify Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s)) holding specific types of NIH research grants listed in the full Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that funds may be available for administrative supplements to meet increased costs that are within the scope of the approved award, but were unforeseen when the new or renewal application or grant progress report for non-competing continuation support was submitted. Applications for administrative supplements are considered prior approval requests (as described in Section 8.1.2.11 of the NIH Grants Policy Statement) and will be routed directly to the Grants Management Officer of the parent award.

**Deadline: Continues**

**Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation- The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation - Strengthening Democracy**

The Foundation has an open application process for grants of up to $35,000 per year for up to two years at a time. Any entity that is legally eligible to receive a grant from the Foundation may apply for a grant using the Foundation’s Small Grant Application process. However, in this focus area, the Foundation makes grants larger than $35,000 per year only to organizations that have been granted permission to apply by the Foundation. See Strengthening Democracy FAQs.

**Deadline: August 3, 2015**
Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

Washington College of Law

Open Society Foundations- National Security and Human Rights Campaign

The Open Society National Security and Human Rights Campaign provides grants to U.S.-based organizations working to promote progressive national security policies that respect human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law. The campaign prioritizes promoting new thinking, engaging new voices and constituencies, and strengthening capacity of and collaboration among organizations engaged in national security issues.

Deadline: Continues

United States Department of State (DOS)- Access to Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Assault (CSA)

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) seeks applications from qualified non-profit organizations capable of providing comprehensive technical assistance in four related fields: timely and effective investigation of criminal complaints related to CSA; successful prosecution of CSA criminal charges; short-term protection of CSA victims and prevention of re-victimization by the state or alleged perpetrators; and long-term reintegration of CSA victims into Salvadoran society. This project has an anticipated period of performance of three to five years

Deadline: May 3, 2016

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)- ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowships

ACLS invites applications for the fourth annual competition for the ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowships for collaborative research in the humanities and related social sciences. The aim of this fellowship program is to offer small teams of two or more scholars the opportunity to collaborate intensively on a single, substantive project. The fellowship supports projects that aim to produce a tangible research product (such as joint print or web publications) for which two or more collaborators will take credit.

Deadline: September 24, 2015
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Are you interested in being added to the wait list for our next RAC session?
Do you have a story or article idea? Our standard content deadline is the 20th of the month prior.
Do you have an “OSP Spotlight on Research” interview suggestion?
Do you need to scheduled a “One on One” refresher session for one of our search funding tool databases? Grant Forward, Pivot COS or The Foundation Directory Online (Professional version)?

If you need assistance with any of the above items, please contact OSP’s Communications Manager, Ms. Akidah Felder via e-mail Afelder@american.edu

What to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:
- Funding Opportunities
- GAR Updates

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