NEH Summer Stipend Award Success

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Dr. Lida Cope a 2015 Summer Stipend to support her work on “Rediscovering the Legacy of Czech Emigré and scholar Svatava Pírková Jakobson (1908-2000)” full time for a period of two months. An applied linguist in the Department of English, Dr. Cope is foremost interested in mapping the ethno-cultural journey of Texas Czechs, and Dr. Jakobson is her catalyst. She will write two articles aimed to invite interest in Jakobson’s work by folklorists, ethnomusicologists, and Slavic linguists and Czech dialectologists. “The manuscripts, fieldnotes, letters, notebooks filled with Czechoslovak folk songs, and recordings of Jakobson are a treasure trove of very interesting data on the life, language, culture, and particularly the music of Czechs and Slovaks in New York City and Czechs and Moravians in Texas. Her legacy needs to be resurrected and her place in these areas of scholarship restored. This work will be just as relevant to scholars interested in language, ethnicity and culture of immigrant enclaves in the United States and elsewhere,” says Cope. The bulk of the collection is located in the Briscoe Center for American History in La Grange, Texas. Dr. Cope is the sole researcher to have full access to the unprocessed materials, and she is helping to sort and identify them.

The 2015 NEH Summer Stipend support comes after the College nominated Cope’s application for a second time. “For the first round, the [NEH] reviewers felt I had focused more on processing the collection than writing about Jakobson’s contributions,” she adds. To rewrite, she shaped the narrative around the two articles and away from the different parts of the collection not immediately relevant to them. Also, Dr. Cope engaged an NEH program officer in several discussions about the project who then provided input on an early draft of her proposal. Furthermore, Dr. Cope benefited from feedback by a trusted colleague or two. In 2014, attending an NEH Summer Institute entitled, “America’s East Central Europeans: Migration and Memory,” at Columbia University she accessed additional resources at Columbia’s Butler Library’s collection of rare manuscripts and at the NY Public Library. Each careful step, from acquiring panel reviewer comments and peer feedback to attending an Institute that granted her access to further materials, led to an award that will support time, effort, and travel. Congratulations, Dr. Cope!

College Reassignment Awards

Seven faculty in Arts & Sciences received reassignments awards! Be sure to extend your congratulations to the following 2015-2016 Grant-Seeking Reassignment Award recipients: Colin Burns, Chemistry; Marie Lounsbery, Political Science; Eli Hvastkovs, Chemistry; Kyle Summers, Biology; Trip Lamb, Biology; David Pravica, Mathematics; and, Yong Zhu, Biology. Congratulations!

Award recipients are to engage in grant-seeking and proposal development activities in support of research and creative activities, and the Office of Research is here to assist you in identifying funding opportunities and preparing competitive grant proposals.

Please contact Gina Betcher, grants program specialist, for proposal development assistance.
Demystifying the DoD

On April 15, Gina Betcher, grants program specialist, attended the NC Biotechnology grantsmanship training event: “Demystifying the Department of Defense.” Julie Lucas, a Principal Scientist with the MRI Global Research Institute, presented on the DoD funding process and white paper development, and tips on finding a way to DoD funding were shared by PIs in Eric Elbogen (Forensic Psychology, UNC Chapel Hill), Christopher Rhea, (Department of Kinesiology, UNC Greensboro), entrepreneur Joseh DaCorta (Entegrion), and Cari Green (Novan Therapeutics). The DoD issue different calls for support: a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is typically open, with an unknown amount of available funds; a Request for Proposal (RFP) is topic-based, with a specific timeframe (30-to-60 days) to respond; and a Research Funding Idea (RFI) is a call for our own innovative ideas to influence the DoD to shape a topic or release support through a BAA. The two main research development agencies within the DoD are the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DTRA</th>
<th>DARPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds basic research with applied emphasis</td>
<td>Funds high risk, high reward research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% required university participation</td>
<td>Finite 2-to-4 year projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Releases topics in the fall</td>
<td>Continuous rolling deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I: QUAD plus 4 page white paper</td>
<td>“Abstract” of 8 pages; may include Quad chart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award mechanism: a grant, sometimes a contract</td>
<td>Award mechanism: contract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The DoD want to solve problems related to defense, from the kinds of weapons used to the ability to create mass causalities and societal disruption, and problems related to disease pathogens of interest. DoD enabled Novan Therapeutics to develop a salve for treating burn wounds and stopping the burn, on site. DoD supported Entegrion in developing Resusix™, which dehydrates pathogen-inactivated plasma to replace frozen plasma. Transformative and specific: Resusix™ provides blood supply to remote regions. Each product underwent clinical trials, with a number of investigators contributing to the resulting solution. On building a track record with the DoD, Rhea emphasized learning the military acronyms, attending military meetings and sharing a Quad chart to pitch your solution to members in attendance. Elbogen stressed that tailoring any bid should address the Heilmeier Catechism and it must be tangible and specific to a problem the military want to solve: “DARPA doesn’t want to support hypothesis-driven research, they want to solve a problem.” Below is the format for a Quad chart, provided by Julie Lucas, Ph.D.

Title of Project, Topic Number, Submitting Principal Investigator, Organization (Arial 24 pt, Bold)

| Objective: Clear, concise (1-2 sentence) description of the goal of the effort (Arial 12 point) |
| Description of Effort: Brief description of the technology proposed for investigation and methodologies to be used during the course of investigation (Arial 12 pt) |
| Benefits of Proposed Technology: Brief statement that identifies the net advantages of the proposed technology over current practices and other competing technologies. (Arial 12 pt) |
| Challenges: A bullet list of the technical or scientific challenges being addressed (Arial 12 pt) |
| Maturity of Technology: Describe the maturity of the proposed technology with respect to the Technical Readiness Level (TRL) at project start and anticipated TRL at project end (Arial 12 pt)* |
| Research Area: Indicate the Research Area: Reference Attachment 8 of this BAA (Arial 12 pt) |
| Major goals/milestones by fiscal year: |
| • Bullet list (Arial 12 pt) |
| Proposed Funding ($K): TOTAL $K (Arial 12 pt) |
| Year 1 Funding: $K |
| Year 2 Funding: $K |
| etc. |
| Period of Performance: (months) (Arial 12 pt) |
| PI contact info: e.g. Dr. Marge N. Overra, (123) 123-1234, Marge.N.Overra@innovationsrus.com (Arial 12 pt) |
Third Annual Reception for Faculty

On Monday, April 20, 2015 the Third Annual Reception for Faculty: Grant and Contract Award Recognition Reception was hosted by the College of Arts & Sciences. Recognized were 85 faculty members for their receipt of 81 external grant and contract awards, and 40 internal competitive awards for FY 14-15. Faculty from every department was recognized.

Held in the Green Room in the Croatan, light refreshments and wine was served, and conversations flowed to quiet down to hear the research figures from Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans and from Dean William Downs the forward vision for the great advancements being made today through research in the College. The College looks forward to hosting the 4th reception where we will see as many familiar faces in our colleagues who currently wait to be recommended for a full award. Your hard work is recognized. Congratulations!

Federal Agency and ECU Updates

The National Science Foundation, through FASTLANE, have enabled automated checks of applications to verify compliance in format and inclusion of all required documents. An Error result will prohibit submission of the proposal to the NSG. A Warning will allow the proposal to go through. The list of checks for compliance based on funding mechanism type (i.e., equipment grant, international travel, research) is available here and will be posted on the Office of Research THCAS website.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) want to remind applicants who hire graduate and undergraduate student personnel that they must be enrolled in the era Commons. Information is available here.

The NIH provide Grants Process Overview which is a template for success on conducting the preliminary work to the beginning stages of proposal development through to completing a grant application. As a refresher, review here.

The Office of Sponsored Programs ECU has determined the compliance for use of rates of F&A. ECU’s rate agreement establishes different rates for research, instruction, and other sponsored activities based on where those activities are performed. The recovery rate of F&A varies depending on where the majority of the funded activities take place. An Off-Campus determination, whether adjacent or remote, is made when project activities take place in a facility that is not owned by ECU and for which rent is directly allocated to the project as a direct cost. Details on what rate to use when are available in the policies and procedures for the University sixth bullet down from here.

The Office of Research THCAS requests reader panelists for applicants to put forward for nomination for the NEH Summer Stipend 2016. Please contact the grants program specialist, Gina Betcher, for full details on how to participate. Refer to funding opportunities in the Humanities for information on what to prepare and when to submit for nomination.

The Office of Innovation and Economic Development (OIED) is hosting a forum 5-15: “How Do I Fund Project Development” as part of the Small Business Innovation Research or Tech Transfer aims. Go here to register.
Awards

External grant and contract awards made to faculty between July 1, 2014 through April 27, 2015 exceeded $4.1M. Below is a list of awards since October 16, 2015. Be sure to congratulate faculty award recipients in Arts & Sciences!


Ahmad Atta, Biology, “Utilizing Chaperones for intervention in cancer as therapeutic and biomarker targets.” Golfers Against Cancer.


Marcelo Ardón, Biology. “CAREER: Trajectories of ecosystem recovery in coastal wetlands under a changing climate: connecting the dots with student research, citizen science, and classroom data analyses.” National Science Foundation (NSF).


Traci Birch, Geography, Planning and Environment. “2015 NC Coastal Policy Fellowship.” NC Sea Grant.


Jean Golden, Psychology, “Abstinence Education (Project INSIGHT).” NC Department of Public Instruction.


Karen Mulcahy, Geography, Planning and Environment. “A Proposal to Develop a Digital Geospatial Feature Class of the Locations, Attributes, and Scanned Images of Water and Sewer As-built and Site Plan Sheets.” City of Greenville Utilities.


Randall Parker, Economics, “Two Field Trips to D.C.” Charles Koch Foundation.


Susanne Rawson, History. “Conservation of a NASCAR Trophy.” NASCAR.


John Rummel, Biology, “Planetary Protection Research, Plans, and Activities.” SETI.


Sam Sears, Psychology, “Ask the ICD Patient Website.” Medtronic Inc.


Baohong Zhang, Biology, “Elucidating the Role of microRNA during cotton fiber development.” Cotton Incorporated.
Funding Opportunities

Humanities

NEH Digital Projects for the Public DUE June 10 The program offers three levels of support for digital projects: grants for Discovery projects (early-stage planning work), Prototyping projects (proof-of-concept development work), and Production projects (end-stage production and distribution work). While projects can take many forms, shapes, and sizes, your request should be for an exclusively digital project or for a digital component of a larger project.

NEH Humanities in the Public Square DUE June 24 This program supports scholarly forums, public discussions, and educational resources related to the themes of the new NEH Initiative, The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square.

NEH Research and Development Preservation and Access DUE June 25 Tier I (planning) and Tier II (implementation) levels of support are available for projects that find ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation’s cultural heritage.

NEH Summer Stipend 2016 Applications for Nomination DUE July 15 into 2303 Bate Bldg. The College is limited to nominating two applicants. Follow NEH application guidelines from 2014 (NEH will update two months ahead of the deadline) and submit a strong hard copy draft of items 1 thru 4 by July 15. Results will arrive last week of July. The full proposal is due to the NEH for nominees October 1. For more info: betcherg@ecu

Social Sciences

USDA Farm Business Management and Benchmarking (FBMB) DUE May 27 provides funds to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers.

NSF Perception, Action and Cognition DUE June 15 Supports research on perception, action and cognition. Emphasis is on research strongly grounded in theory.

NIH R21 Home and Family Based Approaches for the Prevention Of Early Childhood Obesity DUE June 16 Applications should focus on infants and young children (to age 6 years) and emphasize the role of home environment and the influence of family/extended family members and parents (including guardians/substantial care providers) within the child’s home environment. The direct goal of this initiative is to fund research that will advance knowledge for innovative approaches to the prevention or management of overweight in children less than 6 years of age, with potential for future research clinical trial applications either in the home or linked to a community setting.

Admin for Children & Families: Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program DUE June 24 Awarded will be expected to develop a targeted and medically accurate approach to reducing teen pregnancies through abstinence education.

Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute Engagement Award: Knowledge, Training and Development, and Dissemination Awards. Required LOI DUE July 1. These awards support projects that encourage active integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders as integral members of the patient-centered outcomes research/clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) enterprise.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Award Initiative Notice for Conference Support DUE July 1 The purpose of EAIN is to provide guidelines for available funding support for meetings and conferences that align with PCORI's Mission and strategic plan.

NSF Dear Colleague Letter—Youth Violence: Opportunity for Breakthroughs in Fundamental Basic Research The BCS, SES and SBE still want to hear from you regarding the topics of interest (not limited to) listed on the colleague letter page. The letter should be directed to sbe-youth-violence@nsf.gov

Education Research

NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) DUE May 15 An NSF-wide program that supports international activities across all NSF supported disciplines. The primary goal of PIRE is to support high quality projects in which advances in research and education could not occur without international collaboration.

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Proposal in Antarctica DUE May 22 The program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program.

Bringing Theory to Practice—Well-being Research Project Grants DUE August 1 Projects should provide justification for best practices for deepening and sustaining the institution’s commitment to whole-person development.

NSF Research Training Groups in the Mathematical Sciences DUE June 2 The RTG program supports efforts to improve research training by involving undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and faculty members in structured research groups centered on a common research theme.
Environmental & Life Sciences

EPA Office of Pesticide Programs National Farmworker Training DUE June 8 The EPA aims to provide financial assistance to an IHE or other eligible org for pesticide safety program, including training and education, aimed at reducing exposure to pesticides for agricultural workers, their families and the community.

DARPA Biotechnologies Office—Technologies for Host Resilience (THoR) DUE June 9 This is a BAA with a deadline! This program strives to discover host tolerance mechanisms in order to identify a suite of interventions suitable for use in humans to mitigate the deleterious effects of infectious diseases.

NC Biotechnology Center—Biotechnology Innovation Grant DUE noon July 15 Support is provided to enable commercialization of early-stage university life science inventions that have significant commercial potential.

NC Biotechnology Center—Collaborative Funding Grant DUE noon July 22 supports a university-company partnership that will advance a company's technology toward the marketplace. University investigators and companies first form the collaboration and then apply together through the university.

NSF- Collections in Support of Biological Research DUE August 11 The program provides funds: 1) for improvements to secure, improve, and organize collections that are significant to the NSF BIO-funded research community; 2) to secure collections-related data for sustained, accurate, and efficient accessibility of the collection to the biological research community; and 3) to transfer collection ownership responsibilities.

NOAA BAA Grants Notice DUE rolling no later than September 30. The purpose of this notice is to request applications for special projects and programs associated with NOAA's strategic plan and goals. This BAA is a mechanism to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through our competitive discretionary programs. To pitch & influence NOS, OAR, OED, NMFS support.

Opportunities for Early Investigators

DHHS Mentored Research Scientists Development Award (Parent K01) DUE June 12

DHHS Independent Scientists Award (Parent K02) MID-CAREER Due June 12

DHHS Tobacco Regulatory Science Small Grant Program for New Investigators DUE June 16

NSF-Faculty Early Career Development Program DUE July 21

Helpful Links

Link to Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices

Link to the US Department of Energy Funding Opportunity Exchange.

ECU libraries SPIN Database

Grants.gov Search for Grants

Arts & Sciences Office of Research

Physical Sciences

Department of Energy Water Power Program—Wave Energy Prize—Due June 15 The 20-month design-build-test competition will offer participants seed money ($2M) and a chance to take part in two rounds of testing, the second being an opportunity for finalists to test their scaled WEC prototypes at the nation's most advanced wave-making facility, the Naval Surface Warfare Center's Maneuvering and Seakeeping (MASK) Basin at Carderock, Md., beginning in the summer of 2016.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities—Endeavor Scholarships and Fellowships DUE June 30. Oak Ridge has partnered with the Australia Endeavor Scholarships and Fellowships Program. The program is internationally competitive, and merit based and provides AUD $272,500 (USD $213,295) for study, research or professional development opportunities between AUS and the world.

Department of Energy—Argonne National Laboratory—Applications for Beam Time: Advanced Photon Source DUE July 10 Scientists from around the world come to the APS to conduct forefront basic and applied research in the fields of materials science; biological science; physics; chemistry; environmental, geophysical, and planetary science; and innovative x-ray instrumentation.

NSF-GeoPRISMS Program DUE July 15 The PRISM program supports basic research investigations into the coupled geodynamics, earth surface processes, and climate interactions that build and modify continental margins over a wide range of timescales.