**Coffin Awards 2017-18**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Douglas Eichar, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice,** will use his award for a course release in order to free up some time to work on his book, *The Racial Foundations of American Exceptionalism.* This book examines the central role that racism played in the origins, as well as the role it continues to play in the maintenance of the “exceptional” institutions that distinguish America from its peer group of nations: e.g. weak central government, limited welfare state, low level of unionization, and high level of incarceration.

**Warren Goldstein, Professor of History,** will take a course release in order to work on his book, *Self-Defense, Resistance, and Rebellion: The Hidden History of Violence in the African American Freedom Movement.* Despite popular mythology that only the non-violent movement led by Martin Luther King produced substantial change in African-American rights, Goldstein contends that the struggle depended on the interplay between nonviolent, forceful, threatening, and violent tactics – a dynamic nearly erased from public consciousness.

**Colleen Krause, Assistant Professor of Chemistry,** will be constructing an all-inclusive, inkjet-printed sensor chip with an integrated counter and working/reference electrodes, similar to that of a glucose meter test strip. This developed sensor chip will provide the foundations for another chip that could detect multiple target proteins elevated in patients with cancer.

**Yingcui Li, Assistant Professor of Biology,** will conduct research experiments on the genetic cause of osteoarthritis. This work is essential to advance the treatment of this debilitating disease and Yingcui is excited to be able to share this investigative process with her undergraduate students. In addition to this analysis, Yingcui will begin to prepare her findings for publication in today’s leading research journals.

**Sundeep Muppidi, Professor of Communication,** will present at this summer’s International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference in Cartagena, Colombia. Sundeep will present his paper “From POD to Podcasting: Pushing the Envelope on Communication for Empowerment in the Digital Age.” He is part of an invited panel titled “Communication and Development: Theory and Practice in the age of digital and social media” along with other panelists from the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Bowling Green State University and Texas State University, San Marcos.

**Ingrid Russell, Professor of Computer Science,** will attend the 22nd annual conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE-17), which will be held in Bologna, Italy in July. The conference, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery’s special interest group in computer science education, is consistent with Russell’s NSF-funded research which explores the project-based approach to teaching introductory artificial intelligence courses using the unifying theme of Machine Learning. She anticipates collaborating with international faculty at ITiCSE-17 in an effort to add to the project several international faculty affiliates.
Bryan Sinche, Associate Professor of English and Modern Languages, will utilize his award for a course release in order to complete his manuscript: Published By Himself: Self-Publication and Nineteenth Century African American Literature. This book focuses on the hundreds of self-published books and pamphlets written by African American men and women throughout the 1800s and provides a unique perspective on how these publications might be understood as a sort of textual performance used to negotiate the economic, social, and political challenges endemic to African Americans life in nineteenth-century United States.

BARNEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Hyun Jung Lee, Assistant Professor of Marketing, will begin research on the effect of marketing activities on nonprofit organization performance. This study will attempt to test the long-term effect of marketing expense on commercial and donation revenue in nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. This award will provide the monetary funding needed for data collection and analysis and provide an opportunity to present her findings at the 2018 Marketing and Public Policy Conference.

Rebecca Ranucci, Assistant Professor of Management, is utilizing her grant to study the impact of ownership on managerial decision-making. Drawing on theory from strategic management and related disciplines that inform managerial practice within publicly-traded, mutual, and non-profit organizations, this project will empirically study the relationship between organizational ownership form and managerial strategic decision-making within an industry with a mix of these ownership forms. She hopes to share her findings at the Academy of Management Conference in 2018.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Adam Goodworth, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, has recently completed, with the help of his lab, an extensive longitudinal study on the postural control of infants. He will use this award as a course release to provide time to analyze the data to characterize the way infants develop neural and biomechanical balance mechanisms. This study is unique in scope and has the potential to be a groundbreaking paper in the field of neurophysiology.

Colleen Munoz, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences and Nursing, will use her grant to obtain urinalysis equipment and supplies for hands-on classroom activities (HS 320, Introduction to Human Pathology) and research purposes. Munoz will emphasize to students the value and practicality of urinalysis in providing non-invasive evidence of health and disease of multiple organ systems. The equipment purchased will also be used in her line of research that explores biomarkers and health outcomes with dehydration and chronic low water intake.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE

Sigridur Bjarnadottir, Professor of Civil/Environmental/Biomedical Engineering, aims to develop the Coastal Community Social Vulnerability Index (CCSVI) for the U.S. that accounts for shock, exposure, and resilience in quantifying hurricane hazard vulnerability. An accurate
A vulnerability index/map could aid the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in allocating funds to prepare highly vulnerable areas for future hurricanes.

**Kiwon Sohn, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering**, will use time granted by a course release to begin training a CETA Robotics Team in preparation to host the “Building a Regional Humanoids Competition” here at the University of Hartford in 2018. This competition will target young engineers (both university and high school students) in Connecticut with an interest in gaining interdisciplinary knowledge in the robotics field.

**HARTFORD ART SCHOOL**

**Cat Balco, Associate Professor of Fine Arts**, skilled at creating abstract paintings about energy, gesture, repetition and vibrant color, will add a new dimension to her art with a focus on the topic of manufacturing. Cat is excited to begin a new creative project she calls "Strike Zone", which will feature a series of large abstract paintings where color – especially color with cultural significance – and the painterly language of gesture respond to mechanical and human rhythms of manufacturing.

**THE HARTT SCHOOL**

**Glen Adsit, Professor of Instrumental Studies and Director of Bands**, along with Toronto based and Pulitzer Prize winning composer, Michael Colgrass, are developing a system of teaching musical composition to students of any age, even in a large ensemble classroom. Their method and pedagogy, shared through countless workshops, clinics and professional conferences, are now being prepared for publication with a video component to help educators meet the national core standards in music composition.

**Kenneth Nott, Professor of Music History**, will use his grant for travel expenses to visit two manuscript collections at the British Library in London and the University of Hamburg, Germany, in order to further his research on the oratorios composed by Handel in collaboration with librettist Thomas Morell. Professor Nott also hopes to publish two papers on this subject that were formerly presented at conferences.

**Hillyer College**

**Michael Robinson, Professor of History**, will use a fall course-release to conduct work on his project “Connecticut in the Space Age.” Using personal recordings with Connecticut’s aerospace engineers, Robinson hopes to shed light on NASA’s strategic partnerships of the past in the hope of offering lessons for the future – for both historians and today’s policymakers.