Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends Awarded
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Fifteen faculty members have been awarded Vincent B. Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends

Fifteen faculty members have been awarded Vincent B. Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends for 2011-2012. The grants and stipends, in the amount of about $2,500 each, are awarded to full-time faculty for a variety of scholarly and creative projects and for activities that enhance teaching or contribute to professional development.

Coffin Grants may be used for various purposes including travel expenses, computer hardware and software, equipment and supplies, staff assistance on a particular project, and course release. Summer stipends may be used for release time to engage in scholarly or creative activities in lieu of teaching a summer course.

Coffin Grant Recipients

Amanda Carlson, assistant professor of art history, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S), is co-editing a volume entitled *Africa in Florida*. This collection, which will explore 500 years of African presence in Florida, will include an introduction, an interview with Babalawo (high priest of the Yoruba religion) and poet Adrian Castro, and two essays written by Carlson. Her grant funds will contribute to the cost of reproduction rights and indexing for *Africa in Florida*, which is expected to be published in late 2011 or early 2012.

Bernard den Ouden, professor of philosophy, A&S, will apply his grant toward student trips to agricultural museums. These visits will give students an opportunity to examine historic farm machinery and will support student interest in designing agricultural technology for poor communities in the developing world.

Paul Higgins, assistant professor of physical therapy, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP), will use grant funds to purchase balance training equipment for a research project examining the effect of balance training programs on athletic performance. The project will give University High School students an opportunity to work alongside students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

Aimee Miller, assistant professor of communication, A&S, will apply her grant toward participant compensation and transcription for her study on privacy and communication issues for divorced parents. She will interview approximately 30 people in to understand how divorced parents manage privacy as they develop new romantic relationships.

Jessica Nicklin, assistant professor of psychology, A&S, is conducting research to determine whether sharing specific goals helps or hinders future performance. She will apply grant funds toward participant compensation and the purchase of materials.
Ingrid Russell, professor of computer science, A&S, will apply grant funds toward the expense of attending the 43rd ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education in Raleigh, NC in March 2012. Russell plans to submit a paper presenting the results of her current project, Project MLeXAI, which is being funded by the National Science Foundation.

Ken Steen, associate professor of composition and theory, The Hartt School, will travel to the Centre d’Art Marnay Art Centre (CAMAC) in France for a one-month artist residency in the summer of 2011. Steen will apply his grant toward travel expenses and computer hardware/software. While at CAMAC, Steen plans to collect sound and video to create an “immersive multi-channel soundvideo installation.”

Erin Striff, associate professor of English, A&S, will use grant funds for course release in fall 2011. She will use this time to focus on writing a full-length play, The As-if Sisters, which explores several literary themes involving adoption. Striff plans to submit her work to several developmental playwriting conferences in the spring.

Summer Stipend Recipients

Joyce Ashuntantang, assistant professor of English, Hillyer College, will apply her stipend toward travel expenses to Cameroon, West Africa in July 2011. Ashuntantang will be continuing her search for the missing manuscript of Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart, identifying new texts for her course ENB 230 Literature Across Non Western Cultures, and discussing a possible study abroad program with the University of Buea.

Robert Carl, professor of composition and theory, The Hartt School, will apply his stipend toward travel expenses incurred during his residency with the Hacettepe University Conservatory of Music, Ankara, which began in May 2011. While in Turkey, Carl will be teaching a masterclass to composition students, lecturing, and will have one of his own works performed in concert.

Hirokazu Fukawa, associate professor of sculpture, Hartford Art School, is using his stipend for travel to Japan. In collaboration with Professor Hirokazu Sato from the Kyoto University of Arts and Design, Fukawa will continue developing a study abroad program for 2012. This program will allow University of Hartford students to immerse themselves in Japanese culture and study closely with their Japanese peers.

Adam Goodworth, assistant professor of physical therapy, ENHP, will apply his stipend toward a research study that investigates how the human brain coordinates linear and body segment motion during curvilinear walking. Goodworth plans to present his results at the Society for Neuroscience conference in November 2011.

Yu Lei, associate professor of insurance, Barney School of Business, will be examining the effect of third-party monitoring on the accuracy of insurers’ loss reserve estimation. Once her research is complete, Lei plans to submit a manuscript to a risk-management
Claudia Oakes, assistant professor of health sciences, ENHP, will be using her stipend to complete data analysis for her research project on the impact of home modifications provided by Rebuilding Hartford Together, a non-profit that improves the houses of low-income homeowners in Hartford. Oakes plans to submit the results for publication in the Journal of Housing for the Elderly.

Brian Swartz, assistant professor, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, is creating a design guide to endorse standard methods and innovative techniques in bridge construction. With the help of the stipend, Swartz will publish the guide through the Bridge Committee at the Post-Tensioning Institute.