Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends Awarded
Posted 6/27/2012

Thirteen faculty members have been awarded Vincent B. Coffin Grants and Summer Stipends for 2012-13.

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

**Joanna Borucinska**, professor of biology, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S), is studying variations in the hearts and coronary arteries of sharks in the northwestern Atlantic. Additionally, she is studying the effects of pollution on cod in the Baltic Sea, and will be examining the parallel between these two fish. Her grant funds will supplement expenses for travel to collect shark tissues and laboratory processing.

**Michael Clancy**, professor of politics and government, A&S, will use grant funds to travel to Italy. There, he will study the Slow Food movement, which protests the widespread fast food business. The movement emphasizes the leisurely enjoyment of quality food and believes that fast food destroys local culture and business.

**Robert Dryden**, associate professor of English, Hillyer College, will apply grant funds toward the publication of his book, *Jane Austen in a New Age*. The book examines the relationship that readers in countries all around the world have with the author. Fans think of her as a friend, which sets her apart from other popular authors.

**Janet Gangaway**, assistant professor of physical therapy, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP), will use grant funds to purchase wetsuits for aquatic physical therapy research. The wetsuits will keep patients’ torsos warm, allowing therapy sessions to be conducted in the University’s pool.

**Michelle Kunsman**, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, ENHP, will apply her grant toward educational equipment for teaching physical therapy students how to treat patients’ wounds.

**Farhad Rasssekh**, professor of economics, Barney School of Business, will apply grant funds toward the publication of his book, *Four Theories of the Market Economy: Conception, Evolution, and Application*. In it, he examines the invisible-hand proposition, the theory of comparative advantage, Say’s law of markets, and the quantity theory of money.
Michele Troy, associate professor of English, Hillyer College, will apply her grant toward travel to Germany for archival research. The information will be included in her book, *Strange Bird: The Albatross Press and the Third Reich*, about a publishing company that managed to keep printing English-language material despite German censorship.

**Summer Stipend Recipients**

Frances Altvater, assistant professor of art history, Hillyer College, will be examining the effectiveness of technology for remedial education, such as audiocasting and wikis for collective note-taking.

Catharine "Cat" Balco, assistant professor of painting, Hartford Art School, will apply her stipend toward her work on The Ellipses Project Internship Program. Ten artists in the program will teach drawing to hospice patients and gain a first-hand understanding of death.

Elizabeth Burt, professor of communication, A&S, will be using her stipend for research on Robert Underwood Johnson, an important figure in the preservation of America’s national parks. She will prepare a book proposal by the beginning of fall.

Nels Highberg, associate professor of rhetoric and professional writing, A&S, will analyze the text messages he received from Connecticut Light and Power during the October blackout. His ensuing essay will advise how to write text messages for professional situations.

Bryan Sinche, associate professor of English, A&S, will use his stipend to finish his article on Richard Henry Dana Jr. It details the conflicting view of sailors during the Civil War, as both iconic Americans and debauched outcasts.

T. Stores, associate professor of English, A&S, is using her stipend to develop a book-length manuscript of the experiences of her class, “Ch-ch-ch-changes.” The seminar brought new University students and new retirement home residents together to talk about major lifestyle transitions.