Puget Sound Faculty Grants Update

February 2012
Volume II, Issue 7

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Approaching deadlines for UEC grants

Faculty Research March 1

Burlington Northern Curriculum Development April 1

Link to application forms and information here.

Begin your search here

The Grant Advisor is a great place to begin a discipline-specific funding search.

See page 3 for more search engines to help you locate agencies that are ready to support your work.

Brought to you by the Office of Associate Deans and the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Our goal is to share with you a variety of opportunities and search tools that may be helpful in your research or stimulate new ideas.

Selected Requests for Proposals (RFPs)  Remember to submit a Grants Notification form before contacting any granting agency.

NEW Anthropology

Wenner-Gren Foundation

Post Ph.D. Research Grants and Osmundsen Initiative

Deadline: May 1 and November 1 each year

Award: $20,000 grant, and up to $5,000 additional for the Osmundsen Initiative supplement

Post-Ph.D. Research Grants are awarded to individuals holding a Ph.D. or equivalent degree to support individual research projects. The program contributes to the Foundation’s overall mission to support basic research in anthropology and to ensure that the discipline continues to be a source of vibrant and significant work that furthers our understanding of humanity’s cultural and biological origins, development, and variation.

The Foundation supports research that demonstrates a clear link to anthropological theory and debates, and promises to make a solid contribution to advancing these ideas. There is no preference for any methodology, research location, or subfield. The Foundation particularly welcomes proposals that employ a comparative perspective, can generate innovative approaches or ideas, and/or integrate two or more subfields.

The Osmundsen Initiative provides the opportunity for applicants to demonstrate how their work would scale up from a rich anthropological analysis of a local situation or focused topic to address broader issues of contemporary social or intellectual concern. When answering this question, applicants should emphasize how an anthropological approach differs from other disciplines in its unique capacity for addressing such issues.

In recent years the Foundation has been concerned that Anthropology as a discipline does not have the public profile that some of the other social sciences have. We have also been concerned that Anthropology has tended to become rather insular. Much of the research speaks primarily to academic anthropological concerns and audiences without emphasizing the broader significance of the research or the particular value that an anthropological approach holds for presenting wider concerns. In many cases anthropological research is also presented in a style and language that is not immediately assessable to non-anthropologists.

The main goal of the Osmundsen Initiative is to support the highest quality anthropological research that at the same time demonstrates the unique qualities of anthropology to make a significant contribution to contemporary concerns and/or interests.

See the Wenner-Gren Foundation for application guidelines.

NEW Chemistry and Engineering

Environmental Protection Agency – National Center for Environmental Research Centers for Sustainable Molecular Design

Deadline: April 25, 2012 (Solicitation opened December 27, 2011)

Award: Potential funding up to $5 million for a period of 4 years, cost sharing not required

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications for an interdisciplinary center focusing on the sustainable molecular design of chemicals. The aim of the center will be to develop a set of parameters and strategies that will establish design criteria regarding the properties of chemicals that will lead to the development of intrinsically less hazardous substances when compared to those currently used in society. These newly acquired criteria and design principles will direct researchers towards the generation of novel chemicals that will minimize, and preferably eliminate, associated potential environmental and human health impacts that may occur during the life cycle of that chemical. The Center will explore methods, establish knowledge bases, and develop guidance for eliminating and avoiding those attributes or properties of a chemical that most significantly influence their potential impacts.  Visit the EPA website for applications details.
University Enrichment Committee (UEC)

The UEC provides funds to support faculty for research, sabbaticals, course development, travel and conference participation. Look here every month for upcoming deadlines and reporting reminders for active grants.

Faculty Research — March 1
Burlington Northern Curriculum Development — April 1

Application forms are located in University Resources for Faculty Professional Development. Forms and information are also available for:

- Conference Participation
- Departmental Travel
- Conference Participation: Pedagogy
- Enrichment
- Martin Nelson Summer Research
- John Lantz Senior Fellowships
- John Lantz Sabbatical Enhancement Award
- Sabbatical Leave
- Course and Seminar
- Grant-Assisted Leave
- Presidential Discretionary (Hewlett) Fund
- Trimble Asian Studies Award
- Cultural Currency
- Release Time

If you have questions regarding University Enrichment Committee grants, please contact:

Sarah Moore, Associate Dean
879-3207

Lisa Hutchinson, Academic Support Specialist
879-3429

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Best of Luck

Stacey Weiss and Mark Martin, as co-PIs, have just submitted a preliminary grant proposal to the National Science Foundation for a project titled “Investigating proximate and ultimate aspects of a sexual dimorphism in microbial communities of the striped plateau lizard.” Their project offers an opportunity for Puget Sound undergraduate researchers to work collaboratively on field work in Arizona with students from Tucson Magnet High School.

Kena Fox-Dobbs submitted a collaborative grant proposal to the National Science Foundation titled “Evolution of small mammal trophic ecology during the Neogene in the Great Plains: Linking ecology and paleoecology with biogeochemistry.” The project proposes to study the ecological evolution of the small-bodied mammal herbivore guild in the Great Plains, in response to well-documented regional and global environmental and climatic shifts over the last 14 Ma using the carbon (δ13C) isotopic composition of hair and tooth enamel to reconstruct diet for extant and extinct species.

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A Word from Jane Kenyon Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations

People give to People

The Golden Rule of fundraising is that people give to people. All of us have found employment opportunities, recreational activities or community service opportunities by networking and building relationships with people we interact with. So, too, we can find grant funds by building relationships. Museum Director and Professor of Biology Peter Wimberger kept in touch with a former student who became a teacher. Peter told the former student about his work developing museum education kits for use in the K-12 schools. The teacher and Puget Sound alumnus had a small family foundation. He loved the idea and indicated that his family foundation might be interested in providing funding to develop a new kit. Through careful collaboration with University Relations, Peter secured grant funds to develop a new kit.

Relationships are at play in every aspect of life. In a recent discussion with faculty, Humanities professor Doug Sackman advised new grantseekers to get to know their program officer while applying for grants. Use the grant application as an opportunity to learn more about how the program officer thinks: what are his/her biases? Who are the reviewers? What is motivating the agency’s interest in funding the initiative or research opportunity?

One of the most overlooked ways of developing that connection with a granting agency is if your grant is not funded. Once you are over the disappointment of not getting funded, contact the program officer to ask if they might give you some feedback; use the moment as an opportunity to learn more. What were the weaknesses the reviewers found? What can you do to strengthen your application the next time you apply? How many applications did they receive and how many were they able to fund? What were the qualities in the funded applications that were lacking in your application? What is the outlook for funding for next year? This is your opportunity to begin to establish a connection with the program officer that you will come to appreciate the next time you apply. If the officer expresses interest in aspects of your work, keep in contact about it during the dormant period between the release of RFPs. Next time around, the officer will remember you and welcome your inquiries.

Internal Opportunities

University Enrichment Committee (UEC)

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These search engines are a good place to start a discipline-specific funding search

Michigan State University Libraries: Posted grant opportunities and grant-related resources organized by discipline. Also general information on proposal writing and grant research.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA): NEA supports nine disciplines in the arts and arts education, including literature, poetry, preservation, access, and translation.

Grants.gov: The primary source to find and apply for federal grants.

The National Academies: Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Research. Links to associateship and fellowship opportunities, especially for young scientists.

US Department of Education (ED): Search the Forecast of Funding Opportunities for upcoming RFPs.

Decade of Behavior (FundSource) For research in behavioral and social sciences

Duke University Funding Opportunities For all disciplines, with advanced search options

The Illinois Researcher Information Service (IRIS) is a unit of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign.

The Grant Advisor: A leading source of information on grant, research, and fellowship opportunities in the United States.

More RFPs

NEW Visual Arts
National Gallery of Art – Center for the Advanced Study of Visual Arts
Visiting Senior Fellowship Program, 2012–2013
Deadline: March 21, 2012
Award: Stipends for two-month fellowships range from $6,000 to $8,000, depending on relocation requirements.

The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts announces its program for Paul Mellon and Ailsa Mellon Bruce Visiting Senior Fellowships. Fellowships are for full-time research, and scholars are expected to reside in Washington and to participate in the activities of the Center throughout the fellowship period. Lectures, colloquia, and informal discussions complement the fellowship program. Those who relocate to Washington will be provided with housing in apartments near the Gallery, subject to availability.

Applications will be considered for research in the history, theory, and criticism of the visual arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, landscape architecture, urbanism, prints and drawings, film, photography, decorative arts, industrial design, and other arts) of any geographical area and of any period. Applications are also solicited from scholars in other disciplines whose work examines artifacts or has implications for the analysis, interpretation, and criticism of visual form.

See the CASVA website for more details and link to applications.

On Campus

Puget Sound Sustainability Pilot Grants
Deadline: Proposals accepted on a rolling basis.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) is accepting proposals for Sustainability Pilot Grants from faculty and students interested in conducting research projects on campus sustainability.

Previously funded projects include the Live Green House worm bin; Bike Shop low-cost bike rentals; Thermometers in Dorm Rooms; and (Bus) Pass It Along.

Proposal forms and information about project evaluation criteria can be found on the SAC website.

If you have questions about the program, contact Joel Elliott, at x8593.

Grants Notification Form

Puget Sound faculty intending to submit a proposal for funding to an outside agency must complete and submit this form to ensure internal review by offices responsible for grant review and administration. Please allow 10 business days for review and approval.

Completion of the notification form helps Puget Sound grants administrators facilitate a relationship between the proposed funding agency and faculty applicants, and also avoid potential conflicts of interest between applicant goals and university funding goals.

Please direct questions to Associate Dean Alyce DeMarais, or Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Jane Kenyon.

For assistance with grant budget proposals, contact Senior Accountant Stefanie Lund.

Be sure to visit the Grant Resources webpage. The site provides resources to assist faculty in procuring funds to support research, programs, projects and initiatives to achieve the university’s mission.
CONTINUING Science and Engineering – all fields
National Science Foundation – Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI)
Deadline: Proposals accepted anytime
Award: $10,000 to $100,000+ for a period of one to three years

The specific objectives of RUI are to (1) support high-quality research by faculty members of predominantly undergraduate institutions, (2) strengthen the research environment in academic departments that are oriented primarily toward undergraduate instruction, and (3) promote the integration of research and education.

The involvement of undergraduate students is an important feature of RUI, providing them with research-rich learning environments. However, the overriding purpose of RUI is the support of faculty research, which maintains faculty members’ intellectual vibrancy in the classroom and research community. Proposals submitted through RUI are accepted in all fields of science and engineering supported by the Foundation, including research on learning and education. RUI is fully integrated into the regular disciplinary programs of the Foundation, and RUI proposals are evaluated and funded by NSF programs in the disciplinary areas of the proposed research.

Many research projects do not fit neatly into a single NSF program, and NSF disciplinary programs often cooperate in the review of interdisciplinary research and shared-use equipment proposals.

The principal difference between RUI proposals and “regular” NSF proposals is the additional requirement that RUI proposals must include an RUI Impact Statement that describes the expected effects of the proposed research on the research and educational environment of the institution (see Proposal Preparation).

See the NSF website for program guidelines and proposal guidelines.

NEW Arts and Culture
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Deadline: Letters of Inquiry accepted year round; organizations whose projects fit the foundation’s goals will be invited to submit a grant application
Award: $5,000 - $100,000+

The Nathan Cummings Foundation seeks to create a stronger and more socially just society by building the field of Art and Social Justice and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities. The objectives for Arts and Culture funding are:

ART: To support community-based artistic and cultural projects that illuminate social and economic justice issues.
PRACTICE: To support convenings and training programs for artists, cultural workers and community members that impart information and skills that can be used to achieve social change.
COMMUNICATION: To support diverse media and innovative delivery systems that document and disseminate the work of the field.
POLICY: To support public policies that strengthen artistic and cultural communities and enable creators and their collaborators to create broad alliances in pursuit of common goals.

Priority will be given to initiatives that:

• Have national or regional impact;
• Address issues that are timely and relevant;
• Involve participating artists or cultural institutions that demonstrate effective practices; and
• Have broad and innovative plans for the dissemination of the work.

The Nathan Cummings Foundation’s Arts and Culture Program Guidelines build on our earlier efforts to sustain and share community-building models developed by small and mid-sized, culturally specific and community-based arts institutions. Our new objectives represent an expanded vision that acknowledges the roles that artists and cultural workers play in stimulating social change and championing economic justice in both traditional and non-traditional venues. By addressing art through the lens of social justice, we will continue to affirm artists and arts institutions that value and encourage creativity, innovation and risk-taking while fostering cross-cultural conversations that transcend race, ethnicity, class, age and geography. We will also support private, public and corporate policies that benefit artists, arts organizations and constituent communities; as well as cross-disciplinary strategies that align the arts community with others with similar or complimentary interests.

See the foundation website for links to grantees and inquiry guidelines.