



**OSR Grants Quarterly** is an internal newsletter produced by the Office for Sponsored Research. This quarterly newsletter was created to keep the Siena community informed of funding opportunities in their respective disciplines and to report on grant funded research and scholarly activities.

For additional information and resources, please visit the OSR website at [www.siena.edu/osr](http://www.siena.edu/osr)

## Need technical assistance with writing your next grant proposal?

Contact OSR Director:

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## Upcoming Events

This fall, the Office for Sponsored Research will host funding seminars for each School. The seminars will focus on funding opportunities in the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences and business. Watch for an email announcement in September with dates and times!

## Research Spotlight: Weatherwax to Study Space Weather, Northern/Southern Lights with National Science Foundation Grant

*Courtesy of Siena College News Services*



Siena College physics professor Allan Weatherwax, Ph.D., has been awarded a three-year, \$813,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the Earth's upper atmosphere and space weather. This is the largest federal grant ever received by a Siena College professor, noted the college's Office for Sponsored Research.

Together with the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the University of Maryland, Dr. Weatherwax will examine natural phenomena occurring in the Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere. The broad focus of this

research is directed toward improved understanding of the mechanisms that couple solar processes into the terrestrial environment. The beautiful optical displays of the northern and southern lights are but one example of the "Sun-Earth" connection.

On the downside, Weatherwax notes, changes in the "weather" at the poles can cause disruption in satellite communications. "That means TV, radio, phones, pagers, global positioning systems," he explains. "Anything electronic like that, nowadays, there's a satellite involved."

Weatherwax and colleagues will operate magnetometers, radio receivers and optical instruments at South Pole and McMurdo Stations in Antarctica, as well as instruments in Greenland and Canada. Such coordinated, global observations will further allow the study of adverse conditions in Earth's space environment that could cause disruption of satellite operations, communications, and electric power distribution grids.

From such Space Weather studies may emerge an enhanced capability to predict the possible occurrence of solar-terrestrial events that might have negative technological or societal impacts.

Weatherwax, 37, knew as a teenager that he was destined to be a scientist. He began to excel in mathematics and earth sciences. While attending Commack High School on Long Island, he lectured about astronomy at the nearby Vanderbilt Planetarium. He earned his bachelor of science degree in mathematical physics at Binghamton University, and his doctoral degree in physics from Dartmouth College, where he received a NASA/Dartmouth Space Grant and other awards. Prior to coming to Siena two years ago, he taught and did research at Dartmouth, the University of Maryland, and Washington College.

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## Selected Awards

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**Dr. Jim Nolan**, Dean for School of Business, received a \$10,000 grant award by Smith Barney Citigroup for the "Siena College Financial Literacy Program". The *Siena College Financial*

*Literacy Program* is designed to address the problems of financial literacy in young adults. In addition, in a joint effort between the Hickey Financial Technology Center and the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy, the program will address financial literacy problems plaguing our communities. These two units will work collaboratively to adapt an age-appropriate finance curriculum for middle school students

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**Dr. Allan Weatherwax**, associate professor of physics, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant that will support a Siena College led team of upper-atmospheric polar researchers that is expected to total nearly \$3 million over the next several years. This is the largest collaborative grant award to be led by a Siena College faculty member. Partner institutions involved are Berkeley, Dartmouth, Maryland, Michigan and Stanford. Dr. Weatherwax's team will probe from Antarctica, and nominally conjugate regions in the Arctic, the multi-scale electric and magnetic system that comprises the space environment of Planet Earth.

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**Gary Thompson**, Director of Library Services, has received a grant in the amount of \$11,135 from the New York State Department of Education for a project entitled *Conservation of Convivium Collection for Medieval Studies*. Funds will be used to re-house and treat manuscript leaves, along with other activities towards the preservation of the current Convivium collection.

## Weatherwax to Study Space Weather and Northern/Southern Lights with NSF Grant

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Aside from a few years as a stay-at-home dad in Saratoga Springs (his wife, Catherine, is a physician), Allan Weatherwax's research has continued nonstop. He has served as a principal investigator on half a dozen NSF grant research projects.

The most challenging aspects of his research are the extreme conditions in the arctic regions: 50 degrees below zero, at 10,000 feet altitude. In addition to wearing heavy-duty gear, "The cold makes it important that you're very prepared. You practice how you'll set up your equipment before you go," he explained. The Air National Guard provides a plane with skis on the landing gears to navigate the frigid terrain in Antarctica and Greenland.

Weatherwax has given Siena College students the opportunity to participate in his research. "The NSF likes that I involve undergraduate students," he said.

A Siena sophomore, Kevin Guidotti from Brewster, N.Y., will help set up a prototype in Greenland this August. Also involved is Justin Waterman, a senior from Sand Lake, N.Y.

"This new grant from the National Science Foundation is an honor to Dr. Weatherwax's expertise and to our college," said Fr. Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, president. "Siena congratulates Dr. Weatherwax, for expanding the research infrastructure and undergraduate research opportunities in our School of Science."

## Compliance Corner

The Human Subjects Research Review Committee (IRB) would like to inform new and existing faculty, staff and students planning to conduct research involving human subjects that an IRB application **must be** submitted for review prior to initiating any research activities.

It is the policy of Siena College, as prescribed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 46, Protection of Human Subjects that "research involving human subjects" be subject to internal review by an established IRB to protect the rights and welfare of individuals.

A minimum of seven (7) calendar days is needed between the completion of the IRB application and IRB approval. Protocols requiring full review typically range from 1-4 weeks before a decision is rendered.

Any compliance matters including technical assistance in completing an IRB proposal, screening IRB applications prior to review, and IRB classroom training, please contact Alfredo Medina at extension 6558 or by email at [amedina@siena.edu](mailto:amedina@siena.edu).

## Upcoming Deadlines

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**National Endowment for the Humanities**  
Summer Stipend Program – Due Oct. 1

**American Philosophical Society**  
Sabbatical Fellowships in the Humanities and  
Social Sciences - Due Nov. 1

**New York Council for the Humanities**  
Major Grant (< \$2,500 request) – Nov. 1  
Mini Grant (\$250-\$2,500 request) – anytime

**American Council of Learned Societies**  
ACLS Fellowship Program - Due Sept. 30  
Postdoctoral Fellowships in Southeast  
European Studies – Due Nov. 10

**W.M. Keck Foundation**  
Grants for the Undergraduate Science and  
Engineering and Liberal Arts – Due Nov. 15

**Research Corporation**  
Cottrell College Science Awards (faculty in  
astronomy, chemistry, physics) - Due Nov. 15

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## Faculty Resources

### SPIN

Siena College subscribes to the SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network), a web-based search network for faculty and scholars in all disciplines. On-campus access to SPIN is available to Siena faculty, researchers and administrators. To access the SPIN funding database, please go to <http://www.infoed.org/home/officemenu.asp> and click on the "SPIN" option.

SPIN provides up-to-date information on current national and international government and private funding sources, including fellowships, research grants, publication support, sabbatical support, curriculum development, and more. All of the data on SPIN is obtained directly from the sponsoring agencies to ensure the integrity of the information.

If you have any questions regarding SPIN, please email Alfredo Medina at [amedina@siena.edu](mailto:amedina@siena.edu) or call extension 6558.

## Signature Program Updates

### Symposium on Living Philosophers presents...

The Philosophy Department is proud to announce that Dr. Richard Rorty, perhaps the most provocative and influential thinker of our time, will inaugurate the **Symposium on Living Philosophers** Signature Program in the Fall 2005. Dr. Rorty is the author of numerous books such as *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*, *Consequences of Pragmatism*, *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*, and *Achieving our Country: American Leftist Thought in the Twentieth Century*. In an anti-foundationalist and anti-metaphysical mood, Dr. Rorty's work combines the best of the philosophical tradition with literary, political, and social theory, making him an example of the public intellectual. He currently teaches in the Comparative Literature Department of Stanford University.

The *Symposium on Living Philosophers* program epitomizes the best of the Liberal Arts education and offers Siena students a curricular alternative unique in its kind. The Symposium consists of a yearlong seminar on the work of a major contemporary thinker, culminating in a public debate that engages the invited author, participating Siena students & faculty, and other scholars. Dr. Pablo Muchnik, assistant professor of philosophy, is the director of the Symposium on Living Philosophers program.

### Globalization Studies DOE Grant Up and Running

Dr. Jean Stern, professor of political science, has begun to implement activities that will complement the Center for Globalization Studies as the result of a \$150,000 grant award under the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (Title VI-A) to develop the Globalization Studies minor jointly offered through the Schools of Liberal Arts and Business. For information about the Globalization Studies program, go to [www.siena.edu/catalog2004](http://www.siena.edu/catalog2004) and scroll down to "Globalization Studies Minor" under the academic program search menu.

### Center for Politics to Host Carl McCall

H. Carl McCall, former NYS Comptroller, will inaugurate the kickoff of the Center for the Study of Government and Politics on October 12, 2004 at 6:30 pm in the Sarazen Student Union. Mr. Carl McCall will speak about civic participation in the electoral process. H. Carl McCall served as the Comptroller of the State of New York from May 1993 through December 2002.

For more information about this and other upcoming events, please contact Dr. Len Cutler, Center Director.

