



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.

Interested in seeking funds for your research or scholarly project? Do you need technical assistance with writing your grant proposal? Contact my office.

Alfredo Medina, Jr.
Director, Office for Sponsored Research
Siena Hall 219
Phone: (518) 782-6558
Email: amedina@siena.edu

Colesante and Biggs Grants Making a Difference in the Lives of Disenfranchised Youths

By Alfredo Medina, Jr.

After 10 years of quality summer programming for historically underrepresented students via the Urban Scholars program, Dr. Robert Colesante, associate professor of education, has expanded the original program from a 3-month summer institute to a yearlong effort that, in addition to providing exposure to college life, will focus on talent development and academic achievement.



Left to right: Ajanee Cade, Ajanti Cade, and Cwnnai Cade working on a photojournalism project as part of the Saturday Seminars.

However, getting to this point has not been an easy road for both Colesante and Dr. Donald Biggs, visiting scholar and co-director, of the Urban Scholars program. The project originated back in 1995 under the tutelage of Dr. Biggs at the University of Albany, when Colesante was just a doctoral student at the time. With minimal support from the University and limited knowledge of external funding opportunities, Colesante and Biggs operated the project on a “bare

bones” budget. However, armed years of knowledge and first-hand experience of working with disenfranchised youth coupled with numerous publications, articles, and proceedings on this very topic, Colesante and Biggs are ready to take the program to greater heights that will provide area middle school students with year-round activities with the support of numerous funding sponsors, something that was almost non-existent a decade ago.

During the past 6 months, both Colesante and Biggs have successfully written and submitted several grant applications to fund various components of the Urban Scholars Program. Just this past summer, Colesante and Biggs received a grant for \$2,500 from their long-time partner, the New York State African-American Research Foundation for its *Saturday Seminars* project. Participants from the Hackett and Livingston middle schools, including New Covenant Charter School, will spend 24 Saturdays at the college working on various projects that includes music development, choreography, journalism and various academic projects with Siena faculty.

Funding Opportunities

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars and Institutes

Deadline: March 1, 2005

Grants for Summer Seminars and Institutes support national faculty development in the humanities for school teachers and for college and university faculty. Seminars and institutes may be as short as two weeks or as long as six weeks. Summer seminars and institutes:

- (a) Extend and deepen knowledge and understanding of the humanities by focusing on significant topics, texts, and issues;
- (b) Enhance the intellectual vitality and professional development of participants;
- (c) Build a community of inquiry and provide models of excellent scholarship and teaching and research in the humanities.

NEH anticipates that awards for Seminars would range between \$45,000 and \$120,000 for a grant period of one year, and that awards for Institutes would range from \$80,000 to \$200,000 for a grant period of 15 months.

Evertt Helm Visiting Fellowships Lilly Library, Indiana University

Deadline: April 1, 2005

The Lilly Library is soliciting applications for visiting fellowships in residence in its collections. The Lilly Library is the principal rare book and manuscript library of Indiana University. Its holdings support research in British, French, and American literature and history; the literature of voyages and exploration, specifically the European expansion in the Americas; early printing, and the Church, children's literature, music; film, radio and television; medicine, science, and architecture; and food and drink. Project proposals should demonstrate that the Lilly Library's resources are integral to proposed research topics.

Successful applicants will receive an award up to \$1,500 in support for travel, living, and/or research expenses.

Colesante & Biggs Grants Making a Difference in the Lives of Disenfranchised Youths

Continued from previous page

The Urban Scholars program has recently received a \$4,700 award via the City of Albany's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to support *Academies for Urban Youth*, a joint venture between Siena College and various Albany faith-based organizations. While the collaborators are faith-based organizations, the program is open to students from all walks of life regardless of their religious affiliation. Students will have an opportunity to participate in challenging projects that includes working in college laboratories, classrooms, and other Siena facilities. In addition, the Urban Scholars program currently receives close to \$40,000 in funding from the Albany City School District's 21st Century After-School Network (CAN), a federally funded program administered by the state Education Department that provides Urban Scholar participants with a "college experience".



Far upper left: Dr. Chris Amaya, assistant professor of biology, working with a select group of Urban Scholar participants in one of the Morrell Science Center labs.

Rep. Ronald J. Canestrari (D-106th Assembly District), chairman of the State Assembly's Higher Education Committee, has also lent his support to the Urban Scholars program by securing a \$5,000 appropriation item through the State budget for 2004-05. "The funding is in recognition of the fine work that you are doing and certainly reflects the respect and attitude that I have for your efforts", Rep. Canestrari added.

With more funding opportunities available for disenfranchised youth and many more long nights of cranking out new grant proposals, it is clearly evident that both Colesante and Biggs are here for the long run and hope to continue making a difference in the lives of our urban youth.

If you would like to learn more about the Urban Scholars program, feel free to visit the Urban Scholars website at www.siena.edu/uyli.

Grant Activities & Highlights

The Office for Sponsored Research would like to congratulate the following individuals for their time and effort in applying for and/or securing an external grant award during the Fall 2004 term.

Robert Colesante, associate professor of education and co-director of Urban Scholars Program, along with **Donald Biggs**, visiting scholar and co-director as well, have received several grant awards to support various components of the Urban Scholar program: (1) grant award from the City of Albany's Community Development Block Grant program in the amount of \$4,700 to support *Academies for Urban Youth*; (2) grant award in collaboration with the Albany City School District for \$39,170 from the NYS Education Department to support after-school activities; and (3) an appropriation item for \$5,000 secured by Assemblyman Ronald J. Canestrari.

Rose Finn, assistant professor of physics, recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$310,913 to support her research project entitled *RUI: The Environmental Dependence of Star Formation at $z \sim 0.8$* . Dr. Finn will officially begin in the Fall 2005 term.

Donna Heald, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, submitted a proposal to the Bender Scientific Fund requesting \$9,994 to support her research project *Investigation of Polymeric Coupling Agents to Improve the Lifetime of Dental Composite Materials*.

Jason Hofstein, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, submitted a proposal to the Bender Scientific Fund requesting \$10,000 to support his project entitled *Characterization of Chemical Markers in Environmental Tobacco Smoke*.

Daniel Moriarty, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, submitted a grant proposal to the Bender Scientific Fund requesting \$10,000 to support his research project entitled *Disulfide Bond Formation in Mutants of a Marine Snail Toxin, α -conotoxin Iml*.

Pablo Muchnik, assistant professor of philosophy, submitted a proposal to the New York Council for the Humanities in the amount of \$7,125 to support his Signature Program entitled *Siena's Symposium on Living Philosophers: The Work of Richard Rorty*.

Mark Rosenberry, assistant professor of physics, recently submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation requesting \$155,993 to support his proposal entitled *RUI: Effects of Coatings on Polarized Gases*. Dr. Rosenberry was also invited to submit a proposal to the Research Corporation in the amount of \$38,567 to support his research on *Characterization of a Dual Species ^{21}Ne - ^3He Maser for Use in a CPT Measurement*.

Allan Weatherwax, associate professor of physics, has submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation requesting \$26,969 in collaboration with RPI entitled *Collaborative Research: Improved Undergraduate Astronomy Laboratories and Public Outreach with a Modernized Hirsch Observatory Control System*.

Grant Highlights

Chemistry Professor and Students Attend ACS Regional Meeting

With funding support from National Science Foundation, Karen Quaal, professor of chemistry, and principal investigator of the *NUE: Introduction of Nanotechnology into the Undergraduate Curriculum* project along with three of her students presented a paper and undergraduate poster at the American Chemical Society Northeast Regional Meeting (ACS-NERM) held in Rochester, NY from October 31 to November 2, 2004. The posters are currently on display in the Morrell Science Center.

Signature Program Update

The Center for the Study of Government and Politics to Co-Sponsor First Woman President Symposium



The Center for the Study of Government and Politics in conjunction with the SRI and other various campus units will host the "First Woman President Symposium" on March 4 and 5, 2005 on the Siena campus. The symposium will bring together an outstanding cadre of

academics, journalists and politicians studying the issue of women in political leadership. For more information: www.siena.edu/sri/FirstWomanPresConf.asp.

Best Excuses for Late Proposals

Below are the Top 10 best excuses for the late proposal, provided courtesy of the National Council for University Research Administrators (NCURA).

- 10 The computer broke down.
- 9 I thought the deadline/target date was a suggested date.
- 8 I didn't know I had to go through your office.
- 7 My colleague's wife just had a baby and we couldn't get it done before that.
- 6 My department chair just told me to submit it today.
- 5 I didn't know this office existed.
- 4 My Co-PI is on a beach in Burma and I can't reach him.
- 3 I do my best writing at the last minute – can't you work around my schedule?
- 2 You guys in the Grants Office are so good, I know you can do this.
- 1 Best excuse of all: Well it really only takes you a minute to sign your name, doesn't it?

Scholarship Opportunities for Students

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship Program

Dear Faculty,

As the designated campus representative for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship Program, I would like to inform you that my office will be accepting applications from students starting February 1. If you know of any senior, preferably on the President's List, that is planning to attend graduate school in the fall of 2005, please encourage them to apply. **Deadline for application submission is March 15.** A selection committee will review each application and make two nominations to the Foundation. To be eligible, a student must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be a senior or a recent graduate (as of May 2000)
- ❖ Have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or better
- ❖ Plan to attend graduate school, starting fall 2005
- ❖ Be nominated by Siena College

The Foundation awards 45-50 scholarships annually. The maximum scholarship amount available for each Scholar is \$50,000 per year. The scholarship covers a portion of educational expenses, including tuition, living expenses, books, and other required fees. The maximum length for each award is six years. Please keep in mind that this is a highly competitive program with over 1,200 candidates annually, so please recommend your most coveted students.

NSF Update: Initial Implementation Guidance Regarding Implementation of the Revised NSF Cost Sharing Policy

The following provides basic implementation details that are available to date with respect to the revised NSF-approved cost sharing policy:

1. The new cost-sharing policy, as approved by the NSB, eliminates program-specific cost sharing, and requires only the existing statutory cost sharing requirement (1%). The statutory cost sharing requirement applies to all unsolicited research proposals. This includes all proposals submitted in response to NSF program announcements and those submitted solely in response to the NSF Grant Proposal Guide.
2. All previously issued program solicitations that specify a cost sharing requirement remain valid, unless program managers issue a formal amendment modifying the cost requirement. (At this point, none have opted to do so.)
3. The revised policy will be effective for all new NSF program solicitations issued after October 14th. This includes those not yet published on the NSF website (i.e., still in draft form).
4. Formal implementation of the policy will be forthcoming in a widely-distributed NSF Important Notice and via changes to official NSF policy documents including the Grant Proposal Guide and Grant Policy Manual.
5. Cost sharing commitments contained in current active awards remain unchanged.