President’s Monthly Research and Development Highlights

Humanities

Prof. Stephanie Hom (MLLL) was recently awarded the Lily Auchincloss Post-Doctoral Rome Prize in Modern Italian Studies from the American Academy in Rome. The fellowship, awarded to “30 emerging artists and scholars... who represent the highest standard of excellence in the arts and humanities,” includes an 11-month residency at the American Academy in Rome, where Hom will focus on her creative and scholarly pursuits.

Prof. Sandie Holguin (History) recently received a year-long fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to pursue her research on the history of flamenco. Receipt of this highly competitive award will allow her to research extensively in Spanish archives. By examining flamenco, she hopes to uncover keys to the construction of Spain’s cultural identity at a regional, national, and ultimately international level.

Prof. Norman Stillman (History), has just published The Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World. On Monday, April 26, 2010 the New York Public Library sponsored a colloquium to celebrate the publication of this multi-volume work. Stillman served as the Executive Editor of this landmark in scholarship published by Brill. The five volumes are written by internationally-renown scholars from North America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Collaboration

Prof. Chris Weaver (Computer Science & the Center for Spatial Analysis) was named an awardee of the 2009 Digging into Data Challenge, an international grant competition sponsored by NEH, NSF, JISC (UK), and SSHRC (Canada). Prof. Weaver will receive $100,000 from NSF to collaborate with digital humanities scholars at Stanford ($100,000 from NEH) and Oxford (£100,000 from JISC) on their project “Digging into the Enlightenment: Mapping the Republic of Letters.”

Students

• OU Drama Senior, Paul Stuart won the Irene Ryan Award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He and five other OU Drama students took home honors, including internships and awards, bringing home over half of all of the national honors given during the festival.

• Aimee Dilley, Industrial Engineering Junior, received a nationally competitive Dwight D. Gardner Scholarship from the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

• Nicole Biggs, a doctoral candidate in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, won the Oklahoma Israel Exchange Young Artist Competition held at the University of Tulsa in April. She won artist management assistance, as well as a concert tour to Israel.

Service

Prof. Keith Gaddie (Political Science) and Associate Dean Kelly Damphousse (CAS) have been named co-editors of Social Science Quarterly, the official journal of the Southwest Social Science Association. Social Science Quarterly, SSQ is the oldest interdisciplinary social science journal in the United States and is published by Wiley-Blackwell Publishers.
Funding

- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Zoology) PhD candidate Rich Zamor has been awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation for his research on understanding the factors underlying the invasion success of the toxigenic golden algae in freshwater lakes and reservoirs throughout the southern US.

- Drs. Richard Sigal, Faruk Civan, and Deepak Devegowda (all of Petroleum & Geological Engineering) have been selected for an award of $1,053,778 from RPSEA for the project “Simulation of Shale Gas Reservoirs Incorporating Appropriate Pore Geometry and the Correct Physics of Capillarity and Fluid Transport.” This is a three year project. The RPSEA funds are supplemented by $225,000 from a consortium of five companies formed to support the project. RPSEA is a non-profit corporation that manages research contracts on selected areas of hydrocarbon production for DOE.

- The Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms (CAPS) received or has been notified to receive $2.4 million new funding since Jan. 2010, from NOAA, FAA, ONR, the private sector and foreign governments across 8 projects. Most of these projects are led by Prof. Ming Xue, CAPS director, while two are led by Prof. Xuguang Wang of Meteorology and Dr. Fanyou Kong of CAPS.

- Prof. Ari Berkowitz (Zoology) received a National Science Foundation award of $180,000 for 2 years for a project entitled, "Selection and generation of limb movements by a combination of multifunctional and specialized spinal interneurons."

- Prof. J. R. Cruz (Electrical and Computer Engineering), received two research grants and one travel grant from the International Storage Industry Research Consortium (INSIC) to conduct research on signal processing and coding for the next generation of extremely high-density hard-disk drives and tape systems.

- Prof. Melissa Stockdale (History) has received funding for a one-month research grant to Russia from IREX (the International Research and Exchange Board) to finish research on her book manuscript, “A Hard Country to Love: Patriotism and National Identity in Russia’s Great War, 1914-1918.”

To the OU Faculty: Work on Aspire 2020 will continue over the summer. Your input is important to this process. If you are off campus this summer, you can continue to keep up with events, updates, and discussions on the Aspire 2020 website. The interactive format will allow you to make suggestions and engage in dialogue with other faculty who are interested in improving research, scholarship, and creative activities at OU. Please visit:

https://Aspire2020.ou.edu