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ONE KIT
Does Make a Difference

*By Stephen Vermette, PhD., Associate Professor
Department of Geography and Planning*



Cambodian Teachers and Students Joining Dr. Vermette on a Sampling Excursion along the Mekong River.

The International School of Phnom Penh (ISPP), gifted with a water sampling kit from the SUNY Research Foundation, provides a spectacular example of how water sampling kits can be incorporated into a school’s curriculum, and of how a Buffalo State College teacher can reach out to students halfway around the world.

Over the past three years my research has brought me to Cambodia to study

surface- and well-water quality, to conduct training workshops for the citizens of Cambodia, and to set up weather stations. On each trip to Phnom Penh, I’ve rented a boat and provided a lunch for teachers and students who join me in a day of water quality sampling on the Mekong River. While the official purpose of the sampling was to gather water quality data, my invitation to Cambodian teachers and students was

Continued on page 2

ONE KIT Does Make a Difference *(continued from cover story)*



Janette Fawcett and students (left to right: Jihye Moon, Lilo Henke and Thida Chea) reviewing findings with Dr. Vermette (not shown)

intended to expose them to water quality issues and to the use of a simple sampling kit – a case of capacity building in a developing nation. And it was simply enjoyable to share my expertise, to work on one of the world’s greatest rivers, and to take in the unique culture of Cambodia.

The sampling kit - initially developed by me in Western New York, as part of the Aquanaut program – has been used and translated into Khmer by an NGO (Resource Development Incorporated - RDI). However, the successful adoption to an educational program belongs to ISPP. ISPP is a non-profit, non-sectarian school offering a high quality English language international education to the local and expatriate community of Phnom Penh.

An invitation to ISPP staff and students to spend time sampling on the Mekong River resulted from a meeting in Bangkok between Ted Turkle and Rob Mockrish (ISPP administrator – and native New Yorker). I later hand-delivered the kits (a donation from the Research

Foundation) and trained Janette Fawcett (geography teacher) on their use. Through her leadership the kits have formed the applied-core of a 12th grade geography International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program focusing on drainage basins. The Mekong River serves as the school’s case study. As I had previously done, each month the school rents a boat and takes their students out on a sampling excursion along the Mekong River. One

quarter of the students’ grades are based on this field work, and a hypothesis-based analysis on a subset of the collected data - a senior essay.

Subsequent visits to Phnom Penh have presented me the opportunity and privilege to lecture ISPP students on water quality issues, to troubleshoot equipment, and to serve as a content expert in reviewing student work. Working in small groups, we discussed the make-up of their paper: from the structure of their graphs; to the development of a good hypothesis; to the interpretation of their findings. The connection has not broken upon my return to New York, as e-mail has provided the opportunity to continue these conversations. One kit does make a difference – coupled with a dedicated geography teacher, the financial support of a high school, and an ongoing connection with Buffalo State College and the Research Foundation. ■



ISPP Students Using the Kit to Sample Water Quality Along The Mekong River.

TITLE III PROJECT ENTERS SECOND YEAR

By Dewayne Beery, PhD., Associate Professor, Physics

The US Department of Education under the strengthening institutions program awarded a grant to Buffalo State College to improve the quantitative/mathematical performance of our students. The grant is for 5 years and began in October of 2005. The three main focus areas to the grant include:

- The general education of all students including those who take MAT 103 to satisfy their mathematics requirement
- The preparation of the pre-service K-8 teachers all of whom take MAT 121 and MAT 122
- Those students in programs that have a mathematics requirement which typically includes calculus

In general the grant seeks to foster closer communication and cooperation between the mathematics department and those client departments whose students are required to take mathematics courses. The activities of the grant are planned and carried out by three different working groups, one for each of the three categories listed above. Through careful charting of student success and performance in the introductory mathematics courses and a thorough assessment of the needs of the client departments we

offer faculty development workshops bringing together mathematics faculty and client department faculty to review the pedagogy and content of certain introductory courses with a view to improve the effectiveness of these courses. Currently we are entering our second year looking to build on the accomplishments of the first year which are summarized below.

Summary of major grant activities to date:

Title III funds were used to convert three classrooms in Ketchum Hall into smart classrooms with appropriate furniture and storage space to better serve introductory mathematics classes, particularly MAT 121 and 122 for pre-service K-8 education majors. We have stocked two of these classrooms with sets of manipulatives used in these courses for elementary education majors with the goal that the availability of the materials and the in classroom storage will encourage more use of the materials. Beginning in fall of 2007 all MAT 121 and MAT 122 sections will meet in these rooms.

A two day facilitated workshop was held May 15 and 16 of 2006 for all Title III staff and invited members of

the mathematics department for the purpose of reviewing the goals of the project and giving everyone involved a chance to come together to discuss how we measure our success.

The general education working group is headed by Ted Schmidt and includes Tina Carter, George Hole, Ron Stewart, and Abdi Hajikandi. This group opted to pilot a different approach to the MAT 103 course beginning in the fall 2006 semester. The piloted version places more emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills and visits several fundamental mathematical concepts as the context for practicing these skills. The piloted version is also more consistent with the spirit of the Intellectual Foundations philosophy. This decision was made in concert with the mathematics department and involves new text materials and a different pedagogical approach compared to standard practice currently used in MAT 103 sections. The new pedagogical approach involves more student-student interaction as well as more student-faculty interaction in an attempt to develop life thinking skills as opposed to the memorization of mathematical procedures that is common to more

TITLE III PROJECT ENTERS SECOND YEAR *(Continued from page 3)*

traditional approaches. To help the faculty that have volunteered to try this new approach we provided a one week workshop led in part by the author of the new materials which are used. The workshop was held May 22-May 26 with 8 MAT 103 instructors and 4 prospective student tutors attending. There were follow-up meetings with the faculty teaching these sections during the fall semester to provide support and share ideas as we gain experience with this new approach. In addition the Title III project made a significant investment in providing trained student tutors to be available to help students in the MAT 103 classes. During the fall 2006 semester eleven of the eighteen sections of MAT 103 were taught using the reformed method and materials.

The elementary education working group is headed by Sue McMillen and includes Dianne McCarthy, Dave Henry, Joan Nicolette, and Jody Magner. At the end of the spring 2006 semester the elementary education group administered an assessment instrument to 57 students completing EDU 312 and planning to student teach in the fall 2006 semester. Additional data was collected in two EDU sections at the end of the fall 2006 semester. The instrument used is a nationally normed instrument which measures the readiness to teach math in the elementary grades. These results will form a baseline for us to measure future success of our program and will also provide valuable data for the EI Ed department as they prepare for

future NCATE visits. During the current year we will be offering a faculty development workshop for those part-time instructors who teach the MAT 121/122 courses.

The math/science working group is headed by Javier Penalosa and includes Bill Lin, Dave Wilson, Gary Solar, and Steve Andre. This group has assembled a taxonomy of student quantitative/mathematical difficulties which are frequently encountered in various science and technology courses. An assessment instrument was constructed based on this taxonomy and pilot tested with students in seven different mathematics, science, and technology courses. The assessment will be revised and given again in the spring 2007 semester to gather data which will inform a faculty development workshop to be held for mathematics and science faculty in the spring/summer of 2007. An interesting fact is that while the grant was written to address student difficulties in calculus classes the problems that science and technology faculty are reporting to us have to do with more basic mathematical and quantitative reasoning skills than with student knowledge of or ability to do calculus.

In order to be able to track the math experiences of our students and ultimately to gauge the success of the Title III program, we have developed a database containing the enrollment and progress of all entering freshmen. These data will allow us to gauge the effectiveness of various introductory courses in preparing students for future work in subsequent

math courses as well as in their majors.

One exciting project for the current year is to create an up-to-date mathematics learning lab. The lab will be equipped with the technology and flexible movable furniture so as to create a learning environment which promotes active engagement learning. We have identified the space for this lab and the planning is progressing with the hope that the lab will be open by the end of the spring semester.

For further information about the Title III project contact Dewayne Beery, project director, or Judy Stolzman, project assistant, at GC 412 extension 4662. ■



THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION
The State University of New York

Research Incentive Grant helps Establish The Public Safety Family Support Center



A 2005 Research Incentive Grant to Robert Delprino, associate professor, Psychology, helped establish The Public Safety Family Support Center, which will provide support to emergency services professionals and their families. The Center's mission is to assist emergency services families, professionals and organizations to effectively prepare respond and cope with crisis and traumatic events. Through collaboration with community programs, agencies and educational institutions, the Center will assist in policy development, create educational forums, and conduct applied research.

For those involved in a critical incident, the impact of the incident does not end once the immediate crisis is over. The impact for some may last days, weeks, months or years. While emergency service professionals are trained to deal with traumatic events, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians all have the potential of experiencing negative psychological and physical effects as a result of a critical incident. The effects of such an event can impact their performance on the job as well as their relationships with family members and loved ones. Currently there are not many resources to help emergency services families. A goal of the Public Safety Family Support Center is to

offer a proactive approach to assist and respond to those who have had a family member or loved one exposed to a critical incident or traumatic event.

In October the Center, with the support from the New York City Disaster Counseling Coalition, Seneca Nation, and Tops Market, presented a free "communication weekend" for first responders and their spouse/partners. The workshop focused on empathy and understanding, coping and resiliency, the impact of stress on relationships, and opening communication channels. All workshop group sessions were lead by trained facilitators. The workshop provided these couples a supportive environment to share with others in the professions' issues that are unique to emergency service couples. It was an opportunity for them to reconnect and develop strategies to work through the challenges that emergency services couples and families face.

The weekend workshop was held at Beaver Hollow Conference Center in Java Center, New York. Participants included 25 law enforcement and firefighter couples from agencies in Erie County and New York State. Comments from participants indicated that the weekend was a tremendous success and participants

requested similar workshops in the near future:

"Everything this weekend was done with a spirit of excellence. Thank you for giving me a reason to hang in there."

"This weekend was an outstanding "boost" for us. Just re-connecting—re-affirming the strength already present in our marriage."

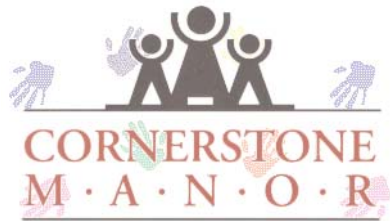
"Mental health issues are kept under cover because these responders carry guns. Open discussions such as this conference offered opportunities to discuss common problems but NOT open the doors to authority or supervisors."

"The weekend was very helpful in that it helped me to realize that other couples also have same problems and issues that I/we have."

"Continue to give these workshops because they give couples an opportunity to talk and reconnect. That is hard to do at home. It is almost impossible."

Dr. Delprino and his colleagues continue to seek additional support to organize future workshops and programs to support emergency service families. ■

RESEARCH FOUNDATION STAFF VISIT CORNERSTONE MANOR



Each year, the Research Foundation staff members join in the spirit of giving by reaching out to the Buffalo City Mission's Cornerstone Manor, a shelter for homeless women and children. Throughout the year, our staff members and project directors

collect toiletries and at holiday time we assemble individual gift bags for the women. We also collect new hats, gloves and scarves for women and children, which are used to decorate our Christmas tree, and are then brought to Cornerstone Manor along with the gift bags.

This year three of our staff members were given a tour of the new 5 million dollar building which opened its doors on August 18, 2006. It is an extraordinary facility, helping to

restore the torn lives of hundreds of unfortunate women and children. Along with their ongoing material needs, Cornerstone Manor welcomes volunteers to help with their multiple programs, such as: The Adult Learning Center, Children's Development Center, Medical Clinic and Food Service. A list of volunteer opportunities can be viewed on their website, www.buffalocitymission.org. ■

Institutional Review Board Satisfaction and Awareness Survey

The members of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Research Involving Human Subjects would like to thank the faculty and staff who completed the IRB satisfaction and awareness survey last spring. We are pleased to share the results of that survey with the campus.

A total of 113 participants completed and returned the surveys. Of these, 47 % reported conducting research with humans. Further, 44 % reported that their students conduct human subjects research. There was a great deal of overlap between these two groups: most of the faculty who reported that their students do research with humans also report doing such research themselves.

Highlights from the survey include:

- Less than half of respondents indicated that they were very or somewhat familiar with the IRB at Buffalo State. Those who conduct research with humans were somewhat more likely to be familiar. However, among that group, about 30 % report that they do not understand the federal or campus regulations to the degree that their work requires.
- Most researchers agreed that the IRB reviews protocols in a timely manner and that our procedures are neither unduly onerous nor overly lenient. However, respondents were only moderately satisfied with the IRB and the education provided on our campus.

As a result of this survey, the IRB has taken several steps to improve education on our campus.

- A new brochure highlighting the levels of review for human subjects research and ethical training requirements was sent out to the College community back in the fall.
- Members of the IRB presented a poster on the review process at the Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Fall Forum on October 19, 2006.
- Additional training workshops for the department representatives to the IRB have been scheduled. If you are a department representative and have not received training, please contact Gina Game at gameg@rf.buffalostate.edu to register.

• Introductory workshops on the IRB review process and the ethics training requirement were held in Butler Library 210 on October 24 and November 30 of last year. All faculty and staff were invited to attend. There will be another workshop on April 19, 2007 in Butler Library 210 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. If you plan on attending, please contact

Gina Game at gameg@rf.buffalostate.edu.
 • On January 26, 2007, a letter was sent to the faculty and staff clarifying issues pertaining to faculty and students conducting research involving human participants.

We thank everyone for their assistance in completing the survey so that the IRB

may better serve the campus. If anyone has questions about the IRB and its requirements or suggestions on how we may improve, we encourage you to contact Gina Game, IRB Administrator, or one of the members of the Institutional Review Board. ■

American Indian Policy and Media Initiative

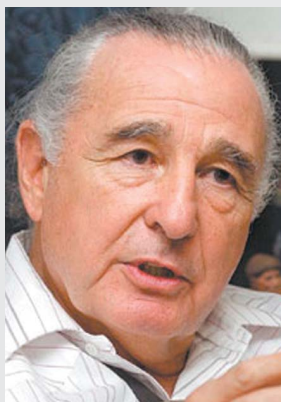
Ronald Smith, Chair and Professor, Communication Department



José Barreiro



Kara Briggs



Ben Nighthorse Campbell

The Research Foundation has a hand in starting a think tank called the American Indian Policy and Media Initiative based in Buffalo State College's Communication Department.

The Initiative gathers leading thinkers in Indian Country and the news media to consider the impact of news coverage of Native America on government policy concerning tribes.

The Initiative grows out of collaboration between José Barreiro, editor of *Indian Country Today* which is a national Native newspaper, and Tim Johnson, a former editor of that paper who is now a deputy director of the National Museum of the American Indian, with this author, chair of the Communication Department and the Initiative's director. Funded by the college, the Lannan Foundation and tribal

donations, the Initiative's work began in June 2005 when it convened a roundtable meeting in Buffalo that included retired Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Native activist and writer Suzan Shown Harjo with tribal leaders and journalists.

Discussing issues ranging from the congressional bribery scandal involving lobbyist Jack Abramoff to coverage of tribal gaming, the group agreed that the initiative could foster accuracy about media coverage of tribal nations and Native Americans by critiquing the media and also placing commentary about Indian issues in the media.

In March of this year, the initiative co-sponsored a conference in Washington, D.C., with the American Friends Committee. In May the Research Foundation hired Kara

Briggs, a longtime daily newspaper reporter who most recently worked at *The Oregonian* in Portland, Ore., to be the Initiative's senior fellow and associate director.

Briggs, a former president of the Native American Journalists Association and *Unity: Journalists of Color*, works primarily with the news media. She is building a base of contributing journalists who will write opinion columns which she will distribute to newspapers, online news outlets and magazines, in addition to the columns and reports she writes herself. So far she has published the Initiative's pieces in *The Seattle Times* and *The Duluth Tribune*, among others.

As the Initiative begins its second year, Barreiro is readying a book that collects essays on the media and Native Americans for publication. Johnson is organizing a roundtable of Native American and media luminaries to be held at Buffalo State College in November. Briggs and Smith are getting ready to launch a content survey of 20 newspaper's coverage of Native America. Briggs also is preparing to meet with Buffalo State's Communication students to talk about journalism in diverse communities. ■

Awards September 2006 – January 2007

SEPTEMBER 2006

David Henry – *New York State Education Department via subcontract from Dunkirk City School District – Young Inquiring Scientists Want to Know Project*

\$745,680

YISWTKP is a Math Science Partnership Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Title II NCLB funding, through the New York State Education Department. It is one of only two science initiatives funded statewide and part of a total pool of 13 math and science project awardees. YISWTKP is a 3-year, \$3.6 million project awarded to the Dunkirk City School District and partners: Fredonia, Gowanda, Silver Creek, and Westfield, with Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES and local non-public schools. The project's focus is to improve Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 "hands-on/minds-on" science teaching and learning through professional development to teachers. The project provides significant support for participants' classrooms in the form of science curriculum and supplies. July '06 marks the start of our third year of funding.

Dr. Henry will coordinate and oversee the professional development being provided to the teachers. He also will be coordinating the research that is infused in all of the work. This research focuses on the teacher content knowledge and beliefs and K-12 student content knowledge.

Thomas White – *National Science Foundation via subcontract from Ohio University – Locomotor Constraints and Innovations in Primitive Mammals*

\$19,984

This project follows the conceptual discoveries that have

emerged from the principal investigators' previous research that focuses on major transitions in locomotor patterns. The goal of this work is to examine the evolution of integrated locomotor systems in two vertebrate clades where different evolutionary constraints and innovations appear to have molded the evolution of morphology, gaits, and the use of mechanical energy saving systems. In mammals, researchers hypothesize that morphological constraints of the primitive function of the abdomen in locomotion appear to have limited generalized marsupials to trotting gaits and bouncing mechanics. This research will test the generality of this hypothesis and how the release from this morphological constraint in some marsupials and eutherian mammals has affected the evolution of locomotor gaits and mechanics.

Dr. White will travel to Brisbane, Australia, with Dr. Steve Reilly of Ohio University, where they will test several species of marsupials for abdominal muscle function (electromyography), locomotor gait performance (high speed video), locomotor mechanics (force plate analyses), and locomotor-ventilation integration (videofluoroscopy). The specific model taxa chosen were based on sufficiently known anatomical and/or gait data and phylogeny to indicate their probably evolutionary status in terms of abdominal design and known gaits. In addition, all 5 species are generalized terrestrial forms and are readily available (by local capture). The PIs will quantify the gaits, whole-body mechanics, anatomy, epipubic function, and abdominal motor patterns in these 5 mammalian species. These results will be presented in a phylogenetic manner in order to test hypotheses predicting functional consequences

of morphological evolution.

OCTOBER 2006

Jean DiPirro – *National Institute on Drug Addictions via subcontract from UB (Research Institute on Addictions) – Evaluation on Neuropeptide Y as a Target for Cocaine-dependence Treatment*

\$28,566

This is the first year of a five-year project. The goal of this project is to evaluate the effect of increasing neuropeptide Y neurotransmission on cocaine-craving and other cocaine-withdrawal phenomenon in an animal model for cocaine dependence. These studies are designed to assess neuropeptide Y as a possible pharmacological treatment for cocaine dependence.

Dr. DiPirro will provide supportive input on all aspects of the proposed studies. She will actively participate in the design, data collection, analysis, interpretation and communication of the proposed research. These activities will be conducted in the laboratories at the Research Institute on Addictions, University at Buffalo. Dr. DiPirro will conduct experiments, analyze data and assist in the communication of the results from these studies through conference participation and publication.

Kim Irvine – *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Demonstration of Illicit Connection Trackdown and Receiving Water Impact Evaluation for MS4s*

\$149,991

This project will develop and demonstrate a protocol for small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) to cost effectively detect, sample, and track down the source of illicit discharges to their storm sewers and to assess receiv-

ing water impacts of storm water discharges. The project also will develop performance measures that provide small MS4s with an environmental indicator to measure their efforts to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to their storm sewers.

Joan McCool – *U.S. Department of Justice – A Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women at Buffalo State College*

\$195,719

Buffalo State will utilize the resources from this grant to become a leader among institutions of higher education in proactively preventing violence against women on campus (VAWOC). A pilot study showed substantial need for this program at Buffalo State. The goals and objectives of the strategy are to:

1. conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of violence against women on campus to ensure that the project has accurate and timely information
2. develop an enhanced coordinated response team to violence against women on campus
3. develop/implement mandatory web-based training on VAWOC for incoming students
4. expand coordination between University Police and local law enforcement
5. enhance the role of University Police in reducing VAWOC
6. train campus judicial/disciplinary boards on VAWOC issues
7. implement a 24-hour student helpline focused on VAWOC.

This comprehensive program will be directed by a highly experienced and qualified team of three investigators led by Dr. Joan McCool, director of the Buffalo State Counseling Center, and assisted by co-investigators Dr. Robert Delprino, associate professor of psychology, and Chief Roger Wisniewski, Chief of the University Police Department. The advocacy partner is Crisis Services; they will

provide the training required in the project, consult on the development of the education/prevention program, and provide the extended hours coverage for the student helpline. Criminal justice partners include the Buffalo Police Department and the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

Stephen Vermette – *National Geographic Education Foundation – The New York Geographic Education Initiative*

\$100,000

The goal of this project is to maintain the activities of the New York Geographic Alliance (NYGA) and its partnership with the Center for Geographic Learning (Hunter College). Funding will be used to maintain the Alliance office located at Buffalo State College (host institution). An active office will allow for continued promotion of geographic literacy (e.g. newsletter, web page, GA activities, My Wonderful World.org, Newspaper in Education publications, NY Headwaters Advanced Professional Endorsement), as well as monitoring and responding to State/National policy issues related to geography education (e.g. Senate Bill 1376).

While maintaining the above mentioned state-wide activities, one focus of this year's budget is to develop a New York City (NYC) focused working group that brings together our partnership with the Center for Geographic Learning, and Region H and I (New York City and Long Island) districts of the NYGA. In a city that offers minimal geography instruction in the classroom, the Center will develop Foundational work – targeting instructional materials (NYC-based lessons) and initiate classroom testing. This work is a key part of the scaffold for future curricular change. The intent is to use the Center to promote a number of geography-related education models to city and associated (Teacher Consultants) TCs offer con-

siderable experience and expertise. They will work with the Center to develop workshops, maintain and enhance existing programs (i.e. Bring Geography Home Activity Cards), as well as to develop fresh outreach programs. My Wonderful World.org provides a timely resource to enhance these efforts.

The second focus of this project is to host a summer institute on the Erie Canal (ExpERIENCE 2007). It has been a number of years (long overdue) since the NYGA has organized such an institute. Summer Institutes are the lifeblood of an Alliance, providing training for, maintaining active interest of existing TCs. The Erie Canal is an icon that binds New York like no other geographical entity. ExpERIENCE 2007 is more than a summer institute. It is a unique education initiative designed to train teachers, develop curriculum, and to engage the public. The story of the canal is a part of the curriculum (4th, 7th and 11th grades), as it opened up the west to settlers ("Pathway to an Empire") and was the reason for the growth of NYC over other seaboard cities (i.e. Philadelphia) in the 19th century.

William Wiczorek – *WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Erie County Department of Mental Health -- Integrated Approaches to Planning Substance Abuse/Chemical Dependence Prevention and Treatment Services in Erie County*

\$47,490 (year 1)

This is the first year of a two-year project. In this project, the staff at the Center for Health and Social Research will provide technical and scientific consulting to community-based services organization and the Erie County Department of Mental Health. As a component of this project, the Center staff developed the Erie County Risk Indicator Data Base (RIDB) as web software that is accessed for needs assessment by prevention agencies. Other goals of this project include mapping

the location of prevention programs in Erie County and identifying areas with gaps in services.

NOVEMBER 2006

Deborah Reed-Danahay – *Russell Sage Foundation – Practicing Citizenship in a New City of Immigration*
\$38,941

Asian Indians and Vietnamese arrived in large numbers to the Dallas-Fort Worth area in the 1990's, when the regional economy was booming and jobs were sprouting up in high technology industries. While both these groups are viewed as Asian-American, they are remarkably different. Asian Indians – largely economic migrants who arrive with student visas or work permits – are well educated and highly skilled. Vietnamese, on the other hand, arrived as refugees and are more likely to be poor, less educated and dependent on state aid. Nevertheless, these two groups seem to challenge the commonly accepted precepts of immigrant political incorporation and civic life. The less educated Vietnamese naturalize at a higher rate than Asian Indians, but exercise their voting rights less. Both have high numbers of children who succeed scholastically, but neither group shows much parental involvement in schools.

This project will examine these seeming paradoxes and study the process by which these newcomers become active in American political life. Interested in the informal mechanisms by which new immigrants become civically engaged, the investigators will conduct an ethnographical examination of families, schools, workplaces, places of worship, voluntary associations and other contexts in which immigrants acquire civic knowledge. They will identify patterns in local, national and transnational political activity and attempt to document and explain observed differences and similarities between the groups, paying close attention to the importance of gender and generation.

Tom Giambrone, Robin Harris, Dianne McCarthy, Wendy McLeish – *New York State Education Department – Teacher Leader Quality Partnerships 2006-2007*
\$257,847

The purpose of this teacher preparation and professional development project is to prepare and support educators to help all students achieve high standards of learning and development in Pre K-12 through its project components of Elementary Education, Math and Science. This project supports the extension of the Urban Teachers Network to include teachers in the areas this grant has targeted. The Urban Teachers Network is a consortium of identified exemplary teachers, grades K-12, from local urban schools who work directly in partnership with BSC teacher education programs. It provides a mechanism for inservice and preservice teachers to network, communicate, and share knowledge and resources.

Kim Irvine – *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency via subcontract from Indiana University – Management of Sturgeon Point, NY, IADN Site*
\$6,610

Buffalo State College will continue to manage and maintain the Sturgeon Point, NY, IADN site as it has done since 1991. Duties at the site include: routine weekly visits to set instrumentation for sample collection; remove and mail all samples collected by the equipment; submission of weekly reports to Indiana University with the samples; and act as a local liaison for the project.

W. Michele Parente – *U.S. Department of Education – Upward Bound Math Science*
\$288,383 (fourth year funding of four-year cycle)

The Upward Bound Math Science program is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students. The goal of the program is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and sci-

ence and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in math and science.

N. John Popovich – *U.S. Department of Education via subcontract from Buffalo Public Schools – Career Fairs for CTE – Fall 2006*
\$15,000

Buffalo State College will provide Integrated Career Fairs to middle school students from the City of Buffalo. These Career Fairs will expose students to 16 major career clusters representing all career programs offered through the Buffalo Public Schools Career & Technical Education Department while reinforcing Math and ELA standards required in each area.

Sheldon Tetewsky – *Community Charter School – Evaluation Services at the Community Charter School*
\$8,400

The Center for Excellence in Urban and Rural Education (CEURE) and the Center for Health and Social Research (CHSR) will assist Community Charter School in responding to suggestions made by a New York State Education Department evaluator for improving the charter school's renewal application. Specifically, CEURE and CHSR will assess the reliability and validity of the Asset Development Assessment survey instrument and the teacher grading rubric of student portfolios.

William Wiczorek – *National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse via subcontract from University at Buffalo – Problem Behavior, Peers, and Motivational Aspects of Temperament in Substance Use*
\$134,637 (year 1 of 5)

This study will examine problem behaviors, more specifically internalizing (anxiety and mood) and externalizing (oppositional behavior, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) behaviors, peers and other factors in the development of substance abuse. The project examines multiple sources of influences including indi-

CONTINUATIONS

vidual personality factors, family background, and the social environment by implementing a longitudinal design and appropriate statistical models to examine this critically important developmental transition into adolescence. This award is a subcontract to the Buffalo State Center for Health and Social Research for recruiting the subjects (children aged 10-12 years) from the Buffalo area. Dr. Wiczorek (Co-PI with Dr. Craig Colder at UB as the project PI) will oversee the Buffalo State portion of the study and will also participate in all phases of the entire project.

JANUARY 2007

Stephen Vermette – *New York Power Authority – Buffalo’s Lake Breeze Project*
\$5,000

This project will involve setting up a network of temperature sensors across the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs. The intent of the monitoring network is to better understand the impact of Lake Erie on Buffalo’s air temperatures.

N. John Popovich – *Buffalo Board of Education – Buffalo Public Schools – Career Fairs for CTE (Career and Technical Education Program)*
\$15,000

Funding for this project will be used to provide Integrated Career Fairs to middle school students from the City of Buffalo that includes 600 students from 4 schools and an evening Career Fair open to the public. These Career Fairs will expose students to 16 Major Career & Technical Education Department while reinforcing Math and ELA standards required in each area. ■

Karen Bailey-Jones – *Aspire of Western New York Inc. – Cooperative Arrangement 2005-2007*
\$38,733

Dewayne Beery – *Buffalo Board of Education -- Buffalo Academy of Science & Math*
\$60,000

Dewayne Beery – *U.S. Department of Education – Title III – Strengthening Institutions Program*
\$259,413 (year 2 of 5)

Florence Johnson – *U.S. Department of Education – Student Support Services*
\$270,844 (year 2 of 4)

Donald Patterson – *U.S. Department of Education – Upward Bound*
\$440,337

CORRECTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

Jill Singer – *National Science Foundation – Collaborative Project: A Workshop initiative by the Council on Undergraduate Research to Establish, Enhance and Institutionalize Undergraduate Research*
\$24,510

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is disseminating information about an effective educational practice: undergraduate faculty student collaborative research. The project is using CUR’s multidisciplinary membership and infrastructure, demonstrated expertise in hosting effective workshops, and strong foundation of services and publications focused on faculty devel-

opment and institutional reform to share successful best-practice models and strategies for establishing, enhancing and institutionalizing undergraduate research. This project is an expansion of CUR’s Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research workshop, an annual, national-level workshop, to a regional focus. Workshops are being held in eight geographic regions with participants representing all types of institutions, including two-year, baccalaureate, masters, doctoral and research-intensive institutions. These institutions include Hispanic-serving, Native American-serving and historically black colleges and universities, as well as institutions in regions that have not previously been served by CUR workshops.

Michael J. DeMarco’s US Department of Energy grant is \$360,000 over three years. Dermot Coffey is Co-PI. ■

Research and Creativity Council

INCENTIVE FUNDS AWARDS

APPLICANT: **Elisa Bergslien**

TITLE: *Acquisition of X-ray Diffraction Standards and Materials Necessary for Spectra Submission to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD)*

AMOUNT FUNDED: **\$6,807**

SUMMARY:

This project will use the incentive funds to acquire the necessary standards used for calibration and associated items required to demonstrate that the PANalytical X'pert MPD X-ray Diffractometer (PW3040-PRO) at Buffalo State College can produce high quality diffraction patterns suitable for submission to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD) database.

Acceptance with the ICDD is an important benchmark for other grants programs as well. This is an important indicator of the accuracy and precision of a program's protocols and instrumentation. Thus, the materials requested are a significant step towards not only securing funding from the ICDD, but also from other programs such as the Department of Energy and the Mineralogy Society of America.

APPLICANT: **Zeki Y. Al-Saigh**

TITLE: *Characterization of Conducting Polymer Blends by Inverse Gas Chromatography*

AMOUNT FUNDED: **\$6,971**

SUMMARY:

This project will use the incentive funds to conduct experiments to characterize a novel method of conducting polymers using inverse gas chromatography. Since the blend of two conducting polymers has never been attempted, Dr. Al-Saigh and his team will use the

incentive funds to generate preliminary results on the feasibility of enhancing the conductivity of the blend using this method. It is imperative for a grant proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation, Division of Material Research (DMR) and the Department of Energy (DOE) to include preliminary data that would support the success of this project. Dr. Al-Saigh has older chromatographs that need to be updated and automated with a PC. Some of the funds requested will be directed toward this automation by integrating lab View hardware and software. This automation makes the chromatographic measurements modern and accurate. It will enable accurate data analysis of the raw data in a much shorter time.

APPLICANT: **Sheila Christopher Gokkaya**

TITLE: *Proposal to Study Soil Nitrogen Processes and Export During Winter, Point Peter Brook Watershed, Gowanda, New York*

AMOUNT FUNDED: **\$6,977**

SUMMARY:

This Project will use the incentive funds to conduct a pilot study that will justify Dr. Christopher's need to secure more funding to further our understanding of the process that regulates N retention and loss during winter. With further funding she will be able to:

- 1) use stable isotopes of NO₃⁻, combined with other chemical and hydrological data, to understand how atmospherically deposited N is processed in the soil, and trace soil N through the landscape and into the stream. There have been relatively few studies that have used the natural abundance of stable NO₃⁻ isotopes to examine N cycling and transport

during winter;

- 2) conduct a more extensive multi-year soil freezing study which would look further at N cycling under different snow-pack regimes, microbial biomass C and N, and other microbial processes (respiration and denitrification) that would help in our overall understanding of N dynamics during winter;

- 3) carry out a more rigorous sampling of the watershed during winter as well as the rest of the year (for comparison purposes) and set-up another watershed site that has mixed land uses including agricultural land use.

By achieving these 3 goals, Dr. Christopher will embark on an innovative research program with implication for climate change, a very hot topic with most major US funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

APPLICANT: **Kathleen O'Brien**

TITLE: *Restaurant Management Training Institute: Preliminary activities in support of first year funding*

AMOUNT FUNDED: **\$6,904**

SUMMARY:

This Project will use the incentive funds to support preliminary curriculum development activities necessary for a proposal for funding the first year of a restaurant management training institute at Buffalo State College. A team of three faculty members from the Hospitality Department will identify broad topical themes and specific curriculum content areas as well as develop initial training modules to be used in the first year of the training institute. With this preliminary

curriculum and training design in hand the team, along with staff of the Small Business Development Center and Campus House, will be in an advantageous position to develop proposals to be submitted to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation (BERC) for economic development funds.

APPLICANT: **Ted Schmidt, William Ganley, Susan McCartney**

Title: *USAID U.S. – Mexico Training, Internships, Exchanges and Scholarships (TIES) Partnership Initiative*

AMOUNT FUNDED: **\$6,476**

SUMMARY:

This Project supports the development of a collaborative partnership between BSC Department of Economics and Finance and Small Business Development Center and the Department of Economics at the University of Quintana Roo in Chetumal, Mexico. The partnership will construct financial linkages between Quintana Roo region’s financial institutions and small producers. In addition, the part-

nership will promote faculty exchanges, dual-degree programs, distance learning, and joint scholarship activities for Mexican students to pursue Master’s degrees at U.S. institutions. The partnership will seek additional funding from USAID’s Higher Education for Development Program.

APPLICANT: **Geoffrey R. Skoll**

TITLE: *A Comparative Study of the Death Penalty in China and the United States*

AMOUNT AWARDED: **\$7,000**

SUMMARY:

This Project will use the incentive funds to aid in the preparation of securing funds from external agencies by supporting the collection and analysis of preliminary data on this important topic. Data will be collected and analyzed through collaboration between Dr. Skoll and Professor Xiangao Zou in the College of Politics and Law, Capital Normal University in Beijing, People’s Republic of China. Dr. Skoll feels strongly that the preliminary data collected will give the support needed for a grant submission to The National

Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Law and Social Sciences division.

APPLICANT: **Scott Phillips**

TITLE: *Police Officer Panel Study (POPS): A Longitudinal Study of Police Officers from the Academy to the Street*

AMOUNT AWARDED: **\$6,990**

SUMMARY:

The incentive funds awarded to this project will provide funding to support travel to a national criminal justice conference to network with noted experts in the field of policing and police culture. Funds will also be used to purchase office supplies and books on police culture, as well as texts on the proper construction and procedures to be followed in a longitudinal research study which are not currently in the BSC library. It is anticipated that the incentive funds will aid in preliminary data to support grant submission to The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) or other U.S. Department of Justice agencies. ■

Oracle Shutdown

The Research Foundation of SUNY is implementing an upgrade to the Oracle business application system which requires a period of shutdown that is scheduled for April 20 through May 1, 2007

What does this mean for you and your Research Foundation Projects?

During this shutdown period, the business applications used to process transactions such as purchasing, travel, hiring, etc. will be temporarily unavailable. As well, cer-

tain applications you may consult for project financial information will also be temporarily limited.

We are preparing a plan now to help us to continue to efficiently serve your needs and minimize any inconvenience this interruption may cause. This will require preplanning for all of us such as, preparing and submitting forms, invoices, or paperwork in February and March, earlier than you may have otherwise. Any transactions that are not processed before the shutdown period will be

held and processed in May after the implementation is completed. We appreciate your assistance and cooperation in preplanning with us.

The staff at the Research Foundation is committed to provide a high level of customer service to you and will work to limit disruptions. Please look for continued updates on our website www.rf.buffalostate.edu and in email messages where specific instructions will be explained in detail. ■

Traveling Overseas?

Check Out Our Enhanced International Travel Assistance Programs!

The RF now provides blanket international travel assistance coverage as well as emergency health insurance benefits for all persons traveling overseas on official Research Foundation business. International SOS Assistance, Inc. International SOS is a medical and security assistance company for both emergency and non-emergency situations when you are away from home.

International SOS Assistance, Inc. continues to administer Worldwide Emergency Assistance Services including Global Security Services to travelers on a 24 hour/day, 365 day/year through their call center. This program provides access to services such as emergency and routine medical advice; prescription referrals; medical/emergency evacuation; lost document assistance etc.

Cigna's Medical Benefits Abroad (MBA)

CIGNA International's Medical Benefits Abroad (MBA) program provides payment guarantees for worldwide medical emergencies for individuals traveling less than 90 days. (Travelers should have comprehensive health insurance in place for non-emergency coverage.) Projects may purchase optional insurance from International SOS Assistance, in on a per trip basis if needed.

Benefits are fully transportable, providing coverage from country to

country around the world. Research Foundation covered MBA international business travelers have access to virtually any hospital/clinic or physician /specialist in the world. Coverage begins when an employee leaves their country of residence or permanent assignment and ends when the employee returns home.

Note: The International SOS and CIGNA MBA programs are available to anyone traveling outside the home country on official Research Foundation of SUNY business. Individuals would be RF employees or Campus employees, spouses and dependent children accompanying the traveler.

Cigna's Global Health Advantage (GHA)

The Cigna GHA program is available only to RF employees (and their eligible dependents) on RF business outside the US for more than 90 consecutive days. GHA coverage provides payment guarantees to providers worldwide. In addition to emergency coverage this plan includes routine medical coverage, most services at 90%.

The Buffalo State Campus contact for International Travel coverage is Carol Julian, Purchasing Services Coordinator at 878-4144. Important Travel Documents to take with you are available from the Purchasing office. ■

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
ADMINISTRATORS BROADCAST
WORKSHOP SERIES

EFFORT REPORTING
March 6, 2007

**Bulger Communication
Center 104
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Auditor's continued attention on effort reporting has sparked numerous findings and stories in the press. This program will give the audience guidance on everything from bare-bones reporting necessary to stay in compliance to what some institutions are developing, to help streamline their process. Whether you are in central administration or in the "thick of things" out in the department, be sure to watch this program as our expert faculty offers their insight on what they believe the government is currently focusing on and shares some best practices in use at several institutions to help you and your institution stay out of the spotlight, out of trouble, and...out of the newspaper.

FACULTY: Richard Seligman, Senior Director, Office of Sponsored Research, California Institute of Technology; Laura Yaeger, Managing Director, Higher Education Practice, Huron Consulting Group; David Kennedy, Director, Costing Policy and Studies, Council on Governmental Relations; Gunta Lidars, Associate Vice President for Research Administration, University of Rochester; Michele Codd, Assistant Director, Institute for Software Integrated Systems, Vanderbilt University

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Gina Game at gameg@rf.buffalostate.edu. Lunch will be served

CALL FOR PROPOSALS CONVERSATIONS IN THE DISCIPLINES PROGRAM

A program of Financial Support For Intercampus Scholarly Conferences Funded by SUNY Deadline: April 6, 2007
Guidelines available at:
www.suny.edu/provost/facultyawards.cfm



Hourly Timesheets- What's the Big Deal?

By Sandra Cochran, Human Resources Coordinator



Time and Leave are very important functions for the Research Foundation, both for employees and for staff who are tracking for record keeping purposes. This is an important area for Principal Investigators, particularly in relation to responsibility. Hourly time reporting may seem like a minimal task when one looks at the depth and breadth of research activity but all research projects have administrative needs and most have a budget that outlines some type of payroll activity.

There are three types of "timesheets" that the RF tracks, the hourly timesheet, the salaried hourly timesheet and the monthly exception report, otherwise known as the leave usage report. These time and leave tracking forms are audited every year by the RF internal auditors as well as outside auditors from Price Waterhouse Coopers. This assures compliance with the Government Auditing Standards, specifically the OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations.

The hourly timesheet is used to track hours worked to pay employees who are non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938, as

amended. As a private, nonprofit corporation, the Research Foundation must comply with the time reporting provisions of the FLSA, as well as New York State Labor Laws. The Research Foundation is required to maintain time records showing hours worked for nonexempt employees, those who must be paid overtime premium wages.

The hourly timesheet generally tracks undergraduate and some graduate student employee working hours. Occasionally someone is put on the RF payroll who is only working a few hours a week so it makes sense to designate the employee as an hourly employee. For example, Tutors are hired as hourly employees because their schedule may change as the project needs change. There should be a flow to the hiring process that takes place long before a timesheet reaches Sharon Bessinger, RF Human Resource Assistant. Lisa Gatti, Grants Management Specialist is the go-to person for a Principal Investigator (PI) to review his or her project budget prior to the hiring process. After the PI has an understanding of the budget, the assignment or change form to hire or rehire an hourly employee can be submitted to the RF Human Resource office. The important element here is that the form indicates the total amount of salary the hourly employee can earn for the period of time they are

working, thus assuring that the budget will not be over-expended. Once the paperwork is received by HR, Stephanie Guarin, Human Resource Assistant, reviews the data and the information is entered into the Oracle business system. Here is the big deal-payroll for hourly employees is contingent upon receipt of the timesheet; it is that very timesheet that generates the hourly payroll! That is what makes the hourly process uniquely important as compared to the other types of employee assignments and how they are paid in the Oracle system. Employees should understand that it is their responsibility to clearly mark the hours worked, calculate them and sign the timesheet. Principal Investigators, due to the requirements of the aforementioned auditing standards, must indicate the PTAOE (project, task, award, organization and expenditure type) on each timesheet submitted in order for it to be processed in the Oracle business system. The RF payroll runs on a biweekly schedule and it is important to note that hourly employees are paid in what the industry calls a two week lag. The RF-HR office staff is available by appointment to discuss matters related to payroll and benefits. Forms are available on the RF web-site: http://www.rf.buffalostate.edu/rf/Additional_Forms/time_and_leave/index.htm. ■



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THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION
The State University of New York

THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION POST

Research Calendar

February

- 23:** Research and Creativity Council
- 26:** Institutional Review Board

March

- 1&2:** Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Spring Forum
- 27:** National Council of University Research Administrators Broadcast Workshop: Effort Reporting
- 19:** Institutional Review Board
- 23:** Research and Creativity Council

April

- 23:** Institutional Review Board
- 23:** Project Directors' Recognition Reception
- 27:** Research and Creativity Council

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