

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

Message from Dr. Beth Paul, Stetson University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



This has truly been an exciting and productive year! To highlight and celebrate a few of our faculty, student and staff initiatives, along with events and programs at Stetson, I introduce our first Newsletter from the Office

of the Provost. The first newsletter covers this year's Model Senate event, the recently created Office of Grants, Sponsored Research and Strategic Initiatives (or "The Grants Office"), and the 2014 Summer Grant Awards that support our faculty in scholarship and research activities. Surely, one could write a book-length publication to showcase all that is happening throughout Stetson's academic program. I hope the examples showcased here inspire and delight you.

We plan to begin by publishing the newsletter once every semester and invite your ideas for future articles. Please send your suggestions to Rick Tysor and Robin Carter.

Thank you for all that you do to create a vibrant University dedicated to excellence in education. The work we are collectively doing makes a difference in the lives of our students today, and will shine in the transformative lives they lead for years to come. Best wishes for a reflective and productive summer.

Model Senate

Stetson University hosted its 43rd annual Floyd M. Riddick Model U.S. Senate from March 13 – 15, 2014. Over 100 students from Stetson University and multiple other schools from across the nation gathered in the Carlton Union Building to learn about the legislative process through a hands-on

approach. The model senate is one of the many programs that support Stetson's core value of Personal and Social Responsibility. It is the nation's first senate established at an institution of higher education and has grown through the years to become a major event that attracts national speakers, but how did it begin?

Upon returning from a Model U.N. meeting in Miami, John Fraser (one of Dr. Bailey's former Political Science students) asked Dr. Bailey if it would be possible to start a model congress at Stetson. Because of the size of Congress, it was quickly decided to go with the smaller Senate. Dr. Bailey sought help from Howard Baker, a Republican Senator from Tennessee. Baker then contacted the Parliamentarian of the U.S. Senate, Dr. Floyd Riddick, who helped modify the rules of the real Senate to work for the model senate. Stetson's model senate was officially founded in 1971.

In the model senate, students are randomly assigned to a Senator by the planning committee. The students assume the roles of their Senators and strive to play their parts as accurately as possible. In one particular year, a student showed up in a wheel chair and white hair to represent Senator John



Stennis who had been wounded by an attacker. This practice of representing Senators is still going on today. In fact, there are judges who identify the five students who most closely represent their Senators and these students are recognized during a

banquet on Saturday, the last day of the senate.

Not only do students play their Senators as accurately as possible, but the entire model senate is replicated as closely as possible to the real Senate. Students have the opportunity to be involved in

committees, craft legislation, and participate in floor sessions. Students vote on current issues and amend bills. There is even a modified filibuster rule that students can utilize. High school students are also recruited as pages to deliver notes and communications.

During this year's senate, students tackled many current issues facing the United States such as tax reforms, Obamacare, and the Keystone Pipeline. More specifically, the model senate passed legislation for the expansion of the Keystone Pipeline, raised the minimum wage, instituted universal background checks for gun ownership, and commemorated the life of Nelson Mandela. On Friday evening, Norman Ornstein, from the American Enterprise Institute, gave a public lecture entitled, "*Congress: The Broken Branch?*"

Model senate is both enjoyable and impactful for students. Students gain real world experience that they cannot receive anywhere else. Dr. Bailey stated "students begin to understand the dynamics of political compromise and the fact that you can take a strong position on issues and still work together."



Additionally, many students are selected to play Senators who have opposing viewpoints to

their own and it allows them to look at issues from a different perspective.

Some notable individuals who have participated in the model senate have excelled in the political arena including three Republican Florida Senators, Andy Gardiner, Joe Negron, and Jack Latvala. Presently, Senators Negron and Latvala are both vying for the presidency of the Florida Senate. Many current Stetson students were inspired by the model senate and hope to also pursue political careers.

Grants Office

Stetson University has always been an institution

that highly values learning and takes pride in the quality education of its students. Within the past year, the University has enhanced support for faculty and staff innovation, scholarship, and creative activity through a new Office of Grants, Sponsored Research, and Strategic Initiatives.

Dr. Elizabeth Paul, Stetson's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, stated "the University has long defined the role of faculty as including teaching, first and foremost, as well as scholarship and service. Such a *teacher-scholar* role, through which student and faculty learning are intertwined, creates a most vibrant learning environment for all. Teacher-scholars are passionate lifelong learners. Their curiosity inspires students, innovates curricula, and drives scholarly and artistic inquiry that contributes to the advancement of knowledge and society." Dr. Paul believes that the engaged lifelong learning of faculty is essential to developing engaged students who are committed and open to a life of continued learning and action.

One way the University supports teacher-scholar vibrancy is through its new Office of Grants, Sponsored Research, and Strategic Initiatives. The goal of the Office is "to develop a university culture that encourages, supports and advances grant seeking and success and teacher-scholar excellence" by assisting in attaining grant funding for research, creative, and curriculum projects by faculty, students, and staff as well as grants for other University initiatives. In the past, the University had an Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations that reported to University Relations and sought gifts for scholarships and the Stetson Fund or capital campaign. This office has been replaced by the Grants Office. Two staff members from the former office now work for the new Grants Office. The director of the Grants Office, Carol Buckels, came from Missouri to direct the office, which reports to the Provost's Office.

The Grants Office works with faculty and staff to secure grant funds from government agencies (federal, state, and local levels) as well as private foundations. The Office accomplishes this by identifying funding opportunities, developing

funding plans, and reviewing and editing proposals, among many other services. More specifically, the Grants Office will interview faculty members about their research interests and send this information to a contract grant researcher who then creates a list of opportunities that includes application deadlines, guidelines, and any other funder requirements.

In its first year, the Grants Office has already taken steps to increase grant opportunities. In March 2014, the Grants Office provided four faculty with a two-day grant training session in Daytona Beach.

Additionally, Carol Buckels, Sidney Johnston (Grants and Contracts Manager), and Dr. Kimberly Reiter (Associate Professor of History) traveled to Washington, D.C. in February 2014 to attend the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Dialogues. They were able to meet with program officers from the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), and other agencies to become more aware of future grant opportunities.

Stetson faculty currently in the process of applying for a grant or waiting for a response to their applications are Dr. Christopher Bell, Dr. Cindy Bennington, Dr. Karen Cole, Dr. Joel Davis, Dr. Alan Green, Dr. William "Tandy" Grubbs, and Dr. Michael King, among others. Dr. Grubbs' scholarship grant to the NSF includes co-Principle Investigators Dr. Hala El Aarag, Dr. William Miles, Dr. Paul Sibbald, and Dr. John York. The Grants Office is also working with Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown on attaining several grants that would fund three projects currently in progress. The



From left to right: Sidney Johnston, Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown and Carol Buckels.

projects include establishing Florida's first state-wide poverty conference in fall 2014, developing a poverty simulation in spring 2015, and creating a Jr. Hatters program –

a year-long project with teacher candidates to impact poverty by mentoring at-risk students.

One notable grant recently awarded is from the

Jessie Ball duPont Foundation. This \$100,000 grant is advancing a campus-wide internship program and facilitated the hiring of Stephanie Ryan, the new Internship Coordinator. These funds will create an improved internship program for Stetson students and will better prepare students for career success after graduation.

For additional information, contact the Grants Office at 386-822-7462 or visit the website at

<http://www.stetson.edu/administration/provost/media/newsletter-spring-2014.pdf> for a full list of services offered, FAQs, webinars and other training opportunities and grant forms. New grant opportunities are posted on the website each Tuesday. The Office is located at 219 East Michigan Avenue across from the Rinker Environmental Learning Center.

Summer Grants

Stetson University supports teacher-scholars through summer grants for scholarly and creative activity. The application deadline is in early fall with notifications of decisions delivered in December. Below is a list of faculty who were awarded Summer 2014 grants and a brief description of their activity. Congratulations to all faculty who received awards!

- **Dr. Tony Abbott** – Using Geographic Information System software to create a digital interactive map of Florida sites described by William Bartram in his 1791 book.
- **Dr. Christopher Bell** – Traveling to Tibet to study the literary texts of Dorje Shugden.
- **Dr. Gary Bolding** – Creating a multimedia project involving music, visual art, and storytelling.
- **Dr. Wingyan Chung** – Developing a framework for examining the evolution of social-media-based human-interaction networks in support of public policy decision making.
- **Dr. Roslyn Crowder** – Conducting research on the mechanism by which TNF (tumor necrosis factors) proteins cause apoptosis (or programmed cell death).
- **Dr. Stephen Ellis** – Developing a large-scale immersive installation to present in a theatre

space.

- **Dr. Kimberly Flint-Hamilton** – Examining the experiences and worldviews of Black Catholic scholars during the Civil Rights Era.
- **Dr. Mayhill Fowler** – Traveling to Moscow for archival research in support of her book which demonstrates how ethnic diversity and governmental intervention shaped cultural production and reception in the early Soviet Union.
- **Dr. Melissa Gibbs** – Examining the quantity of eggs produced by female armored catfish and the age at which these females become reproductively active.
- **Dr. Alan Green** – Conducting research on what political and legal structures are indispensable for the economy to grow through the use of household survey data.
- **Dr. Laura Gunn** – Collaborating with researchers and former colleagues at the Imperial College London to complete five public health studies.
- **Dr. Melinda Hall** – Investigating the uses of disability in horror narratives, both fiction and film.
- **Dr. Jamil Khader** – Writing an introductory chapter to a book-length study of disposability and neoliberalism in Palestinian literary and culture production.
- **Dr. Michael King** – Examining the relationship between the gustatory cortex (the part of the brain responsible for taste) and the reactions to taste in rats.
- **Dr. Katya Kudryavtseva** – Studying the role of art institutions in promoting Malevich and incorporating this work into a book.
- **Dr. Jason Martin** – Examining the leadership styles of academic library leaders.
- **Dr. Matthew Roberts** – Producing an augmented reality project which will map sounds and images to specific locations.
- **Dr. Matthew Schrager** – Conducting research on the effects of curcumin on spatial memory in the elderly.
- **Dr. Leander Seah** – Conducting research in Singapore and writing two chapters of his book manuscript on maritime China and Chinese migration.
- **Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown** – Studying contemporary homelessness discussing the implications for educators.
- **Dr. Paul Sibbald** – Constructing new molecules with important biological and medicinal uses.
- **Dr. Margaret Venzke** – Investigating the land register in Istanbul in support of her book regarding 16th-century Ottoman land administration.
- **Dr. Nancy Vosburg** – Focusing on an anthology of critical essays on memories of the Spanish Civil War and the postwar years. She is the co-editor of the volume and will author one chapter.
- **Dr. Rebecca Watts** – Writing a book on the interpretation of slavery at public plantation sites in the south.
- **Dr. Matthew Wilson** – Comparing the athletic team performance incentive clauses to the academic team performance incentive clauses of Division I women’s basketball coaches’ contracts from the 2011 NCAA basketball tournament.
- **Dr. John York** – Conducting research on metal compounds to understand how they bind to a pollutant.

○ *Articles Written by: Alex Gallimore*

○ *Edited by: Carol Buckels, Robin Carter, and Rick Tysor*
