

FACULTY RESEARCH FUND GRANTS, SPRING 2015

When Awarded	Recipient's Name	Unit	Dep't	Project Title & Description
Spring 2015	Deborah Avant	International Studies	JKSIS	<b>Private Security Mapping Projects.</b> The Private Security Monitor aims to promote knowledge of global private military and security services and contribute to transparency surrounding the global private military and security industry. The project has two components: a website that serves as an annotated guide to regulation, data and analysis of private military and security services (PMSCs) and a map of where PMSCs are operating, what tasks they are performing, for whom, and with what consequences for human rights from 1990 to 2012. FRF funding will allow for progress toward completion of the mapping project.
Spring 2015	Terrence Blackman	N/A	MCOE	<b>A decade of mathematics at Medgar Evers College.</b> In the fall of 2000 a new undergraduate degree program in mathematics was initiated at Medgar Evers College in Central Brooklyn New York. This program has, since then, graduated forty (40) students of color with an undergraduate degree in Mathematics. Who are these students? Why did they take the degree? How did they succeed? Where are they now? This project will collect the stories of the graduates of this program and use these narratives to explore the process of creating, nurturing and sustaining a mathematics community committed to access and excellence in an urban minority serving institution.
Spring 2015	Jennifer Cambell & April Chapman-Ludwig	University Writing Program	PEN	<b>The Road Less Travelled: Off-track Students in First-Year Writing Classes.</b> This project investigates how diverse students and faculty experience off-track writing courses and what effect quarter of completion has on students' learning. We use surveys, interviews, focus groups, and course portfolio assessment and course evaluation comparisons to learn about the experiences of participants in off-track writing courses. The goal of our project is to enhance student satisfaction with and performance in writing classes. This research may have implications for sequencing, advising, and curricula at DU, and it addresses current concerns locally and in the field of rhetoric and composition around teacher preparation, transfer student retention, and support for non-traditional and international students.
Spring 2015	Ruth Chu-Lien Chao	N/A	MCOE	<b>HIV Stigma and Emotional Outcomes:</b> The Moderating Roles of Self-Compassion and HIV Identity Centrality. Since the first AIDS death in 1981, HIV stigma continues to threaten the mental health of people with HIV. Despite the negative impact of HIV

				<p>stigma, how people handle the stigma determines their emotional outcomes. Therefore, the PI will test whether self-compassion and HIV identity centrality act as resilience resources by buffering people from the impact of HIV stigma on emotional outcomes. One hundred and twenty-eight HIV positive participants complete a survey and the data analyses will test the moderating effects of self-compassion and HIV identity centrality. Results of this proposal will be submitted to external funding agencies on AIDS/HIV.</p>
Spring 2015	Donna Beth Ellard	English	AHSS	<p><b>postSaxon futures: new histories for old english(es).</b> "postSaxon futures: new histories for old english(es)" is a three-day national conference that brings together scholars of early medieval Britain in order to reimagine Anglo-Saxon Studies as a field that is postSaxon unbound from historical period and unfreighted from national-ethnic resonances. To these ends, "postSaxon futures" is not structured as a conference in the traditional sense but as a workspace. Participants engage in a variety of break-out groups designed to broaden their linguistic competence, interdisciplinary methodologies, and temporal scope so that they can imagine the parameters of this new and emergent postSaxon field.</p>
Spring 2015	Xin Fan	Physics & Astronomy	NSM	<p><b>Microwave resonant cavity for studying spin pumping.</b> In this proposal, we aim to build a microwave resonant cavity and develop detection methods for understanding the fundamental mechanisms of spin pumping. The microwave resonant cavity is a powerful technique for studying how electrons behave at microwave frequency, which is the frequency nowadays computer CPUs work at. This will not only help expand my research capability, but also put me in competitive position among researchers in the world. An undergraduate student will be heavily involved in this research. He/she will learn about fundamentals of magnetism and have hands-on experience with useful microwave technologies.</p>
Spring 2015	Chad Leahy	Languages & Literature	AHSS	<p><b>The Rhetoric of Jerusalem in Early Modern Spain.</b> The Rhetoric of Jerusalem in Early Modern Spain proposes a substantive revision of the place of Palestine in Imperial Spanish culture and politics by studying the reproduction or replication of Jerusalem in texts and objects circulated in the sphere of the 16th- and 17th-century Spanish Court.</p>
Spring 2015	Christine Ngoc Ngo	Economics	NSM	<p><b>Industrial Development in Rent-Seeking Economies: Lessons from Vietnam.</b> My request for funding is to hire editorial services for three research projects: a book that will shortly be under review by the editorial board at Routledge, and two journal articles. Because English is my second language, the editing services would expedite</p>

				the publication process for these research projects. As a first-year assistant professor in the Economics department, the publication of these projects will substantially strengthen my professional development and academic reputation. Their publication will also add to the reputation of the Economics department, as well as the University of Denver, as the powerhouse of high-quality research, productivity, and scholarship.
Spring 2015	Manuel Bleakley Sanz	University Writing Program	PEN	<b>Writing About a Massacre:</b> A Research Initiative Toward a Creative Project. In 1968, on the verge of the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, a violent confrontation erupted between military police and protestors. Many were killed, but despite this, the government managed successfully to suppress wide-scale knowledge of the massacre, and the Games went off without a hitch. By travelling to a recently opened center that reveals new information about those events, I plan to write a cycle of short stories depicting that time and place.
Spring 2015	Max Wesibuch	Psychology	AHSS	<b>Lay Forecasts of Behavior:</b> Accuracy and Processes. Social scientists, governments, and corporations put substantial resources into predicting human behavior. Yet behavior prediction is not merely a scientific or bureaucratic endeavor: evolution has ensured that any human's well-being depends on the behavior of other humans, making it critical for people to forecast others' actions. Behavior forecasts are fundamental to the social-cognitive approach in psychology, as it is assumed that we think about other people in order to predict their behavior. Yet few studies examine if and how people accurately forecast others' behavior. I aim to fill this gap by testing if and how people forecast each other's behavior.
Spring 2015	Joshua Wilson	Political Science	AHSS	<b>Supplemental Support Structures and the Conservative Christian Legal Movement.</b> This research project proposes to provide the first in-depth examination of the relatively recent efforts of conservative Christian elites to develop the supporting institutions that provide intellectual and material resources traditionally required to build a powerful legal movement. This part of the project focuses on Alliance Defending Freedom, a prominent conservative Christian public interest law firm, networking hub, and financial resource, and its efforts to train the next generation of conservative Christian lawyers via its Blackstone Legal Fellowship program. The primary question pursued here is how the program aims at creating the resources required to effect legal and political change.