

April 25, 2007

TO: Vivian Patraka
Director, Institute for the Study of Culture and Society

FROM: Susana Peña
ICS Grant Writing Group

RE: ICS Grant Writing Group Annual Report, AY 06-07

The ICS Grant Writing group aims to increase the number and quality of grant submissions by faculty in the under-funded humanities and social sciences. In addition, we hope to provide a supportive environment for sharing and enriching faculty research. More specifically, the goals of the group are:

- to provide information about external and internal grant opportunities and application processes
- to increase the number of grant applications submitted by faculty in the under-funded humanities and social sciences
- to increase the quality of submitted grant applications by providing structured and timely feedback to faculty group members

The following BGSU faculty members participated in the ICS Grant Writing Group this academic year:

Candace Archer, Political Science
Vibha Bhalla, Ethnic Studies
Amilcar Challú, History
Neil Englehart, Political Science
Holly Myers, Environmental Programs
Susana Peña, Ethnic Studies, (ICS Faculty Associate)
Amy Robinson, Romance Languages
Andrew Schocket, History

Former group director Robert Buffington also virtually participated in the group and provided comments electronically to a least one group member.

As the list above indicates, the ICS Grant Writing Group continued to be interdisciplinary by design. The group also continued to include faculty at different stages in their careers: 1 member is an Associate Professor (Schocket), another member was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor this year (Englehart), 3 were advanced Assistant Professors (Archer, Peña, Robinson), 1 member is a beginning Assistant Professor (Bhalla), and 1 member is beginning a tenure track appointment in Fall 2007 (Challú).

The group met (as a group) seven times over the course of the academic year to discuss grant writing strategies and to go over individual grant proposals.

Members of the ICS Grant Writing Group have submitted a range of external and internal grant applications. Submissions marked by an asterisk were workshopped at a group meeting.

Seven (7) major external grant applications were submitted:

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (\$30,000): Archer* and Robinson*
National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship (\$50,400): Archer*, Bhalla*, and Schocket*
National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$454,000) on “Non-State Armed Groups: Research Database”: Englehart
United States Institute of Peace (USIP) (\$60,000) on “Promoting Political Change in Burma/Myanmar: Three Diplomatic Approaches”: Englehart

Three (3) other external grant applications were submitted:

University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center Fellowship (\$3000): Leigh Ann Wheeler from previous year’s ICS grant writing group
Princeton University Library Research Grant (\$1800): Wheeler from previous year’s ICS grant writing group
Smith College, Margaret Storrs Grierson Travel-to-Collection funds (\$1,000): Wheeler from previous year’s ICS grant writing group

Four group members also applied for internal funding through SPAR:

Research Incentive Grants Englehart (\$10,000)*, Bhalla (\$10,000)*
Faculty Mentor Grants (\$5,000): Archer (mentee)/Englehart (mentor)
Ohio Learning Network (\$5,000): Robinson for the Latin American and Latino Studies Group

Successful grants:

University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center Fellowship (\$3000) awarded to Wheeler
Princeton University Library Research Grant (\$1800) awarded to Wheeler
Smith College, Margaret Storrs Grierson Travel-to-Collection funds (\$1,000) awarded to Wheeler
Ohio Learning Network (\$5000): Robinson

Pending grants:

NEH Fellowships (2008): Archer, Bhalla, Schocket
Faculty Mentor Grant (2007-2008): Archer/Englehart

This year, former ICS Grant Group members were reaping the success of grant proposals submitted in previous years. For example, Buffington and Wheeler had NEH grants this year, and Nwauwa (RIG, \$11,500), Robinson (RIG, \$9,300), and Bhalla (Faculty Mentorship grant) received internal grants.

Other Activities:

In response to requests from group members, I created an online community for the ICS Grant Writing on BGSU’s Blackboard system (see attachment 1). The online community includes grant information and deadlines, information about upcoming group meetings, and other

announcements. The online community also allows group members to communicate with the whole group or with individual members via email.

Before the first ICS Grant Writing Group meeting, I met with Cynthia Price (Director) and Jay Samelak (Grants Coordinator) of the Sponsored Programs and Research (SPAR) office. The goal of this meeting was to clarify university procedures for submitting external grants in order to streamline this process for faculty members in the group. As a result of this meeting, I produced a document that outlined the major points discussed including SPAR's ideal timeline and process for submitting grants and web sources for searching for other grant opportunities (see attachment 2). This document was discussed at the first group meeting and posted online for group members.

Finally, I compiled a spreadsheet of information about grants particularly relevant to scholars in the under-funded humanities and social sciences (see attachment 3). This spreadsheet is organized chronologically according to dates when applications are due. The spreadsheet includes description of the grant, deadline, information about eligibility, amount of award, and URL for further information. Organized in this way, the spreadsheet allows group members to quickly make preliminary decisions about which grants they plan to apply for during the academic year.

As the director of the group, I also met with individual group members to discuss their grants, answered procedural questions via email, and commented on proposal drafts via electronic attachments.

Our major goals for AY 2007-2008 are:

- To revitalize the group with a new cohort of members.
- To expand the spreadsheet of relevant grants and fellowships available.
- To set up an introductory meeting between SPAR and the ICS grant writing group that addresses specific issues faced by faculty in the under-funded humanities and social sciences.
- To continue to submit high quality grants.

Meeting Schedule
 2006-2007 ICS Grant Writing Group
 Compiled by Susana Peña

Mtg. Date	Funding Agency/Grant	Principal Investigator(s)	Title of Grant
9/1/06	Organizational Meeting		- Shared information about grants that group members has applied for in the past (ACLS, AAUW, NEH) --Provided information about how to search for additional funding sources. --Reported back on meeting with SPAR. Provided group with synthesized version of how we should channel our grants through BGSU's SPAR office. - Scheduled other meetings for Fall semester.
9/15/06	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship	Amy Robinson	"Changing Meanings of Mexican Banditry"
9/15/06	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship	Candace Archer	"After the Crash: Financial Crisis and the Creation of Financial Architectures"
11/06	American Association of University Women (AAUW) Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship	Candace Archer	"After the Crash: The Historical Evolution and Construction of Financial Architectures"
1/24/07	Faculty Research Committee Research Incentive Grant (FRC RIG), BGSU	Neil Englehart	"Promoting Political Change in Burma/Myanmar: Three Diplomatic Approaches"
4/11/07	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship	Vibha Bhalla	"Gender, Migration, and the Making of the Indian Community in Metropolitan Detroit"
4/18/07	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship	Candace Archer	"After the Crash: The Historical Evolution and Construction of Financial Architectures"
4/25/07	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship	Andrew Schocket	"Boston King's Atlantic Revolution"