

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

**FROM:** Candace C. Archer  
Facilitator ICS Grant Writing Group

**RE:** **ICS Grant Writing Group Annual Report – AY 2008-09**

The Grant Writing Group sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) was established several years ago in order to increase the number of quality grant submissions by faculty in the under-funded humanities and social sciences. In 2008-2009, the group has continued to provide support and resources for both junior and mid-level faculty to apply for research support. This group has contributed positively, not just to grant activity at BGSU, but also to faculty research and research productivity. The following information provides an overview of the activities and successes of the ICS Grant Writing Group for Academic Year 2008-2009

### **Goals and Activities:**

To encourage a high level of grant activity, the group continues to pursue several specific goals, which are:

- to identify possible funding opportunities for group members, including internal and external grants.
- to provide both general and specific information about the grant writing and the submission process.
- 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 on draft proposals to faculty group members.

In order to meet these goals, the ICS Grant Writing Group conducted the following activities since September 2008:

- We met as a workshop group to discuss grant proposals in draft stages. The workshop group consisted of 8-9 people who were actively pursuing grants and seeking feedback on their proposals to improve the quality before submission. The group met throughout the school year.
- We sponsored a workshop on the National Endowments for the Humanities Fellowship application and review process. The NEH Fellowship is one of the most competitive and sought after grants in the humanities and humanity based social sciences. In this workshop, former NEH reviewer and recipient Neil Englehart explained the NEH process and offered advice for prospective applicants.
- We continued to post and exchange information about grant opportunities via the group's Blackboard website (see example Appendix C). The site contains information on grants, deadlines, meetings, and announcements. This site is open to any scholar on campus and

has a larger membership than the workshop group. This site extends the mission of the group by providing information to the larger ICS and BGSU community on grant opportunities in the underfunded humanities and humanities based social sciences. It allows workshop members a forum to ask questions, post their proposals and share their experiences with others in the community. Individuals who are not committed to participating in the workshop (on-line community members) can utilize the resources available on the site, find information on granting opportunities and access helpful information on the grant writing process. Appendix B identifies the membership of both the workshop group and the on-line community.

As the group leader and facilitator, I performed several tasks to assist group members in achieving their goal of grant submission.

- I met with individual group members to discuss their research, and identify potential foundations and funding opportunities for their projects.
- I have acted as a liaison between the BGSU office of Sponsored Programs and Research (SPAR) in two capacities. First, I met with Director, Cynthia Price to understand changes within SPAR, services provided by SPAR and how SPAR could assist our membership. As well, I informed our members of opportunities for internal grants. This led to a large amount people applying for and receiving internal grants.
- I facilitated workshop meetings and tried to answer questions and troubleshoot problems that members had regarding anything related to the grant process.
- I maintained the web site, managed administrative issues, and facilitated communication among workshop members and on-line community members.

### **Grant Submissions:**

Since September 2008, those who participated in the workshop group portion of the ICS Grant Writing Group have actively submitted a wide variety of grant applications. Grants have been from major granting agencies and smaller, lesser-known foundations. As well, the workshop group has been very active in submitting internal grants. In summary,

- Six major external grant applications were submitted to national agencies or foundations
- Four smaller external grants were submitted
- Five internal grant applications were submitted. All five were funded.

Appendix A, is an aggregate reporting of the grants submitted by those in the workshop group. Most of the larger external grants that have been submitted are either pending a decision or were not funded. While this may seem disappointing, this is to be expected considering the level of competition for awards. However, the amount of submissions and the dollar amounts applied for suggests how active our workshop group was in submitting major grants during the last academic year.

### **The Future of the Grant Writing Group:**

The ICS Grant Writing Group will continue next year and will strive to encourage its members to apply for internal and external grants as a way to promote faculty research in the underfunded humanities and humanities based social sciences. The goals for next year are as follows:

- to encourage current workshop members to continue in the group and continue to actively submit grants, but also seek out new members from the faculty.

- to continue to expand the on-line community in terms of information and members.
- to apply for more grants with deadlines in the fall and encourage the membership to be thinking of potential grants to apply for over the summer
- to continue to negotiate the grant writing process through SPAR and the office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences.
- to continue to work with SPAR to understand with differences between applying for humanities based grants and science based grants.

The past academic year has provided many challenges and opportunities for the university as well as faculty members trying to continue their active research agendas. The ICS Grant Writing Group provides an opportunity for scholars to seek funding for their research, get information on the funding opportunities that exist, and present drafts of their work to increase the quality of their applications. This past year has been a very successful one for the Grant Writing Group and we anticipate AY 2009-10 will be just as productive.

## Appendix A

### Aggregate Reporting of Grants Submitted

(with status and amount requested)

#### BGSU Internal Grants:

*Total internal funds awarded \$39,500 (or equivalent)*

Faculty Enrichment and Mentoring Grant, \$5,000 (or course release). PIs – Ellen Gorsevski and Amy Robinson.

- TWO submitted November 2009 and
- TWO awarded Winter 2009 (each \$5,000 or course release plus \$1,000 for each mentor)

Faculty Enrichment and Mentoring Grant, \$5,000 (or course release). PI – Amilcar Challu

- submitted spring 2009
- awarded spring 2009 (\$5,000 or course release + \$1,000 for mentor)

FRC Research Incentive Grant, for “Desiring Gaze: Race, Sexuality, and U.S.-Cuba Relations.” PI – Susana Peña

- awarded summer 2009 (\$10,000)

FRC Research Incentive Grant, for “Counting the Asian Remnants of War: A Research Database on Non-State Armed Groups.” PI – Neil Englehart

- awarded summer 2009 (\$11,500)

#### External Grants:

*Total External Funding Requested: \$1,392,376 (9/08-5/09)*

*Amount External Funding Pending Decision: \$1,146,526*

*Amount Awarded to Date: \$4,200*

*Amount Requested but not funded: \$95,000*

Toledo Community Foundation grant for “Therapeutic Horse Riding for Toledo’s At-Risk Youth: A Sustaining Project for Early Intervention and Life Enhancement.” Co-PI – Ellen Gorsevski

- \$21,000 requested
- Decision Pending

Organization of Research on Women and Communication. PI – Ellen Gorsevski

- \$1,000 travel grant requested
- decision pending.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, for “The Criminal Element: Mexican Banditry and National Identity” PI – Amy Robinson

- Submitted May 2009, \$50,400 requested
- Pending decision (December 2009)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, for “The Desiring Gaze: Race, Sexuality, and Cuba-U.S. Relations.” PI – Susana Peña

- Submitted May 2009, \$50,400 requested
- Pending decision (December 2009)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, for “The political economy of hunger in Bourbon Mexico” PI – Amilcar Challu

- Submitted May 2009, \$50,400 requested
- Pending decision (December 2009)

Ford Foundation for “Latino Relationships: Sexuality, Health and Quality of Life.” Co-PI – Sandra Faulkner

- Submitted April 2009, \$153, 834 requested
- Pending decision

The National Institutes of Health Challenge Grant RFA, A Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for “WSW (women who have sex with women): Social Networks, Media Use, and STI reduction.” PI – Sandra Faulkner

- Submitted April 2009, \$969,342 requested
- Pending decision

University of Florida Latin American Studies library travel research grant for “Desiring Gaze: Race, Sexuality, and U.S.-Cuba Relations,”

- Awarded Summer 2009, \$1,000

National University of Singapore Postdoctoral Fellowship. PI – Tiffany Trimmer

- Submitted fall 2008, \$45,000
- Not Funded

Robert Penn Warren Center at Vanderbilt University's "Immigration and the American Experience Fellowship." PI – Tiffany Trimmer

- Submitted winter 2009, \$50,000
- Not Funded

NEH and National History Center's "Immigration Revisited" Summer Institute. PI – Tiffany Trimmer

- Funded, Summer 2009, \$4,200

## **Appendix B**

### **ICS Grant Writing Group Participants**

#### ***Workshop Membership:***

Candace Archer (Assistant Professor, Political Science Department)  
Amilcar Challu – (Assistant Professor, History Department)  
Neil Englehart – (Associate Professor, Political Science Department)  
Sandra Faulkner – (Assistant Professor, Communications)  
Ellen Gorsevski – (Assistant Professor, Communications)  
Susana Pena – (Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies Department)  
Amy Robinson – (Assistant Professor, Romance and Classical Studies)  
Tiffany Trimmer – (Assistant Professor, History Department)  
Andrew Schocket (Associate Professor, History Department)

#### ***Additional members who participate through on-line community:***

Vibha Bhalla (Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies Department)  
Cynthia Ducar (Assistant Professor, Romance and Classical Studies)  
Valeria Grinberg Pla (Assistant Professor, Romance and Classical Studies)  
Beatrice Guenther (Associate Professor, Romance and Classical Studies)  
Christina Guenther (Associate Professor, German, Russian and East Asian Languages)  
Kristen Rudisill (Assistant Professor, Popular Culture)  
Jolie Sheffer (Assistant Professor, English)