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NEA Grant to Bolster Viking Choral Festival

The 2008 Viking Choral Festival will get a substantial boost thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, through its *American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Genius* program. **Rick Bjella** and **Phillip Swan** collaborated to develop plans for a 4-day EXPERIENCE *American Choral Masterpieces* WEEKEND focusing on the choral works of some of America's great composers. "We are most excited to have a chance to perform some of America's greatest choral music; commission a new work; have Cantus, the Midwest's finest male ensemble; and enjoy this with some of the finest young singers in the Midwest as part of the festival chorus," says Bjella.

The festival weekend, to be held February 21-24, 2008, will open with a daylong Young Midwestern Composers workshop headed by **Joanne Metcalf**. The workshop will give aspiring young composers an opportunity to receive constructive feedback on their work, and to discuss the techniques of arranging and composing in a collaborative workshop setting — a terrific investment in the next generation of great American composers.

The main event opens on February 22, with 60 quartets of singers coming from high schools (and a few colleges) throughout the Midwest to participate in the festival choir alongside Lawrence singers. Bjella and Swan are particularly excited that the quartet invitational format — a departure from the tradition of inviting 3 – 5 choirs in their entirety — will make the festival accessible to singers from rural and inner city schools that may not be able to field a full choir of the requisite quality. A high-

light of the festival will be the world premiere of a new choral work commissioned especially for this event.

In addition to singing great American choral literature, participants will also have a chance to witness the pros in action. The festival weekend will feature a concert by Cantus, a men's choir from Minneapolis that currently includes Lawrence alumnus Shazore Shah '99.

The EXPERIENCE *American Choral Masterpieces* WEEKEND will be a terrific opportunity to showcase Lawrence University and the Conservatory of Music to some of the nation's top high school singers and composers. Nathan Ament, the director of Conservatory admissions, is already working with Bjella and Swan to ensure that Lawrence makes the most of our chance to turn festival participants into future applicants.

The **National Endowment for the Arts** offers a wide variety of grant programs supporting the arts in various forms, including music, visual arts, literature, theatre, folk arts, and more. The NEA's primary grant-making focus is on creating opportunities for the public to enjoy arts experiences that would not otherwise be available. It also offers a few other grant programs that may be of interest to Lawrence faculty, such as the Creative Writing Fellowships. A complete look at NEA grant programs can be found at:
<http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/index.html>

FaCE Grants to Continue

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest announced that its Faculty Career Enhancement (FaCE) grant program will continue, thanks to renewed support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Over the past three years, the FaCE program has supported the professional development of ACM faculty and has fostered connections and collaborations across ACM campuses. Supported activities have included workshops, faculty travel to other ACM campuses, modest research grants for mid-career faculty, and other

professional development activities. Lawrence faculty have a good track record of securing FaCE Enhancing Scholarly Agendas grants, landing eight awards since 2004 including one to **Jane Parish Yang** this spring.

Looking ahead, FaCE will focus on innovative multidisciplinary and multi-campus collaborations, collaborative faculty-student research, and dissemination of project results throughout ACM and beyond.

Enhancing Scholarly Agendas grants are available to faculty exploring a new line of research or to prepare for a successful sabbatical. As many as 15 grants of up to \$3,000 each may be awarded during the 2007 fall semester. *Applications are due November 1 to Nancy Wall.*

Check out the FaCE website for proposal guidelines and more information on research grants, workshops, and other supported activities. <http://www.acm.edu/faculty/face/index.html>

Pieper, Schober Gifts a Testament to Excellence

Lawrence was fortunate to receive two gifts this academic year to establish endowed professorships. Each and every professorship that Lawrence receives is a remarkable act of generosity. But these two gifts are special even among the select company of endowed professorships, because of the nature of the donors' relationships with Lawrence. Or, more precisely, because of what those relationships *aren't*.

Walter Schober would probably seem right at home mingling with a Lawrence Reunion class. But Mr. Schober isn't an alumnus. He isn't even the parent of an alumnus. His niece, Amanda Schober, is a graduate of the Class of 2001 and his only connection with the college.

A visit to campus left Mr. Schober deeply impressed with both Lawrence's educational philosophy and the level of engagement displayed by the entire campus community. Here at Lawrence he found a living example of his vision of exceptional liberal education. Mr. Schober was inspired to become a major donor to the college. His largest gift yet came this spring, when he gave \$2.5 million to establish the Walter Schober Professor of Environmental Science, the post to which **Marcia Björnerud** was recently named.

Similarly, neither Richard Pieper nor the Pieper Family Foundation had any relationship with Lawrence before inviting the col-

lege to compete for a \$1 million Pieper Family Servant-Leader Professorship. In addition to the written application and interviews with President Beck, Mr. Pieper made a point of simply walking the campus and chatting with students. He was impressed by President Beck's emphasis on strengthening the Lawrence tradition of service and community engagement, and by the honor code that make ethics an everyday concern for students.

At Lawrence, Mr. Pieper found a place where notions like "service" and "honor" are lived, not merely talked about. That integration of ideals with action led the S & R Pieper Family Foundation to award Lawrence a \$1 million gift to establish the Pieper Family Servant-Leadership Professorship. On July 1, **Alan Parks** will officially become the first holder of the professorship.

The gifts themselves are remarkable and newsworthy. But these particular gifts, coming as they do from people who lack an alum's natural connection with the college, speak volumes about the work we do here. The philosophy of robust liberal education, the practice of individualized learning, the incredible commitment of the faculty and the terrific engagement of the students — these factors have combined to make Lawrence something truly special. Bravo!

ENST Course Re-imagined Thanks to HP

The introductory environmental science course (ENST 150) connects principles of biology, chemistry, and geology to real-world environmental issues such as resource limitation, pollution, and environmental degradation. So far this has been a classroom-based undertaking, but that is about to change thanks to a grant from Hewlett-Packard's *HP Technology for Teaching* program.

Jeff Clark headed up the ambitious project planning group, which included co-PIs **Jodi Sedlock** and **Dave Thompson**, collaborators **Andrew Knudsen** and **Marcia Björnerud**, and technical advisor **David Berk**. They re-imagined the intro ENST course as a learning experience that would seamlessly integrate classroom studies with field and laboratory work, with wireless-enabled Tablet PCs providing a single platform for work in all three settings.

Hewlett-Packard loved the project, and agreed to provide 21 wireless HP Tablet PCs as well as a docking station, digital projector, digital camera, wireless access point, and other equipment. In addition to the product donation, HP also provided a cash award to support curriculum development, project expenses, and conference attendance.

With Tablet PCs in hand, ENST students will be able to collect data in the field, connect directly with existing lab equipment to conduct analysis in real time, then bring their findings back to the classroom for discussion. Clark and Berk will equip the Tablet PCs with ArcGIS and some will be connected to GPS units. This will allow students to record the exact position of sampling sites, annotate electronic base maps with field notes and digital images, and analyze field data for geospatial trends.

ENST 150 will be the primary beneficiary of the HP equipment, but not the only one. The Symposium on Environmental Topics, the Capstone in Environmental Studies, and environmental studies summer research students will all be able to make use of the Tablet PCs.

The *HP Technology for Teaching* program is an annual competitive grant offered by Hewlett-Packard. Each year, HP gives about 40 higher-ed grants, each consisting of a product donation package (contents determined by HP) and a cash award. The specific technology package offered through this program changes from time to time, so be sure to check the HP website for current information.

http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/higher_ed_main.html

Hoft-March Wins Grant for Film Festival

If you attended any of the five French-language films on offer at last winter's month-long French film festival, you can thank **Eilene Hoft-March**, who coordinated the project and secured a grant to support it.

Hoft-March won a grant from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture to help underwrite the cost of the series, which featured five French-language films made within the last five years. Lawrence was an ideal recipient for the grant, which made possible a valuable opportunity for members of the Lawrence community to experience Franco-phone cultures through contemporary films, despite the lack of a regular local venue for foreign films.

Many countries have government-sponsored grant programs to support opportunities for cultural exchange, whether it be a film festival, conference, or foreign travel. Some private foundations have a specific interest in promoting better understanding of and relations with particular countries as well. Listed here are just small sampling of such grant-makers:

The Japan Foundation

<http://www.jfny.org>

Makes small grants to support arts and culture exchange as well as Japanese studies projects, has a Japanese film and literature library available, and has a new institutional grants program for expanding academic Japanese study programs.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture

<http://www.frenchculture.org>

Offers a variety of grants to promote French arts and culture, including film, art, music, literature, and more.

German Academic Exchange Service

<http://www.daad.org>

Offers a variety of opportunities for individual students, faculty members, and study groups to travel to Germany for academic study.

National Italian American Foundation

<http://www.niaf.org>

Culture and Heritage Grant Awards available to support projects related to Italian-American culture and history.

Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain's Ministry of Culture & US Universities

<http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/pcc/>

Grants available for scholarly research in Spain, symposia, and opportunities to promote Spanish arts and culture.

More Grants News. . .

Fred Snyder secured a \$31,606 grant for the Academy of Music from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The two-year award will support scholarships for Fox Cities children and youth who wish to study music at the Academy but require financial assistance.

Emily Thiem '08 and **Jessica Beyer '09** will receive funding to spend the summer engaged in collaborative research with faculty, thanks to a \$7,000 grant from the Monticello College Foundation. The Foundation supports the educational endeavors of women, and provided the award to foster the development of women students of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics.

Lawrence will share a \$19,500 WiscAMP grant with UW-Oshkosh to support summer research assistantships in science and math for students who are underrepresented minorities (URM). The WiscAMP program seeks to nurture and encourage students from URM groups to enter STEM professions. The grant funds will be split between Lawrence and UW-O depending on the number and quality of eligible student applications.

Martyn Smith has applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, through its Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants program. The grant will support the creation of the Digital Cairo Project, an interactive website featuring translations of important Arabic texts, maps of Cairo with historical overlays showing changes in the city over time, and photo tours of key historical structures in Cairo. The centerpiece of the project will be Smith's translation (the first ever) of al-Maqrizi's *Khitat*.

Andrew Knudsen submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation through its Major Research Instrumentation program. If funded, the grant will provide funds to purchase a new powder X-ray diffractometer. The instrument would receive heavy use by the geology and chemistry departments, and would also be useful for some research in biology, physics, and anthropology.

Janet Anthony requested support from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies for a special program in cello pedagogy. The grant

will fund eight days of instruction for Lawrence cello students in teaching the introductory Suzuki curriculum to beginning cellists. Students completing the program will be certified to teach Suzuki Book I for cello.

Fred Snyder submitted proposals to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation and the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. The grants will allow the Academy of Music to offer two of its Early Childhood Music classes to children in seven area Head Start centers, bringing arts education to some of the Fox Cities' most disadvantaged kids.

Dena Skran requested funding from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, to support an outreach program targeted to middle school children. Dena and collaborating students will work with local teachers to provide a unit on the geography, history, and culture of West Africa, to be followed by a project planned and implemented by the middle school classes to collect school supplies to be donated to West African children.

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IMPORTANT REQUEST:

If you have received a fellowship or grant, have applied for one, or are aware of a colleague who has done so, please forward the specifics to Jenna Stone in the development office, so it can be included in subsequent newsletters.

Office of Corporate, Foundation and Sponsored Research Support

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Biology & Chemistry Students to Benefit from Merck/AAAS Grant

Lawrence landed its second Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program grant, thanks to the great work of coordinator **Brad Rence** and the biology and chemistry faculty. The two departments worked closely to develop the proposal for this grant, which will support student participation in cross-disciplinary collaborative research projects and other interdisciplinary learning opportunities.

The USRP grant program is funded by the Merck Institute for Science Education and administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A nationwide competition is held annually and just 15 new grants are made each year, making this repeat award quite a feather in Lawrence's cap.

The \$60,000 grant will provide three years of support for students to collaborate with faculty on research projects that bridge biology and chemistry, emphasizing for student participants the close interrelationship between the fields. Three research projects will be

conducted. **Ron Peck** will examine the mechanisms by which ancient bacteria-like life forms use the same pigment that we have in our retinas (rhodopsin) to convert sunlight into usable cellular energy. **Nick Maravolo** and **Dave Hall** will study various molecules that might be responsible for plant senescence, exploring some remarkable parallels with animal aging. **Dave Hall** and **Nancy Wall** will look at the potential toxicity of nanoparticles, which are becoming increasingly popular for various uses, on both single cells and whole animal development.

In addition to the student summer research stipends, the Merck/AAAS grant will support a weekly summer lab meeting for students to report their progress and discuss challenges, an annual summer research symposium, and a school-year biochemistry seminar series.

Summer Musings

Have you been thinking about applying for a grant? And then thinking some more? It is not uncommon for faculty to have a great project in mind but discover that their good intentions for grantseeking get lost in the school-year whirlwind of teaching, grading, and committees.

Summer is a great time to dust off those good intentions. Here are some steps you can take to get your idea polished up and ready for the grants process:

- ✓ Clearly articulate your idea. Write a summary of 75 words or less, that succinctly answers the classic "who, what, where, when, why, and how" questions.
- ✓ Pay particular attention to *why* — Why is the project important to you? To your students? To your department? To Lawrence? To your field of scholarship?
- ✓ Make a ballpark estimate of how much it would cost to fully fund the project, including equipment purchases or rental, travel expenses, honoraria, stipend and benefits for you and any student researchers, etc.

Then go talk to the Provost or the Associate Dean of Faculty — or if you know you'll be seeking external funding, to Beth Giese or Jenna Stone in the development office. This preliminary work will help them quickly identify your best options for funding.