

**RESEARCH AND
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Dr. Jeffrey Bortz Receives Guggenheim Fellowship

Jeffrey Bortz, a professor of history at Appalachian State University, has received a fellowship the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to support his research of the labor movement in Mexico and Latin America. The Guggenheim Fellowship is the leading scholarly award in the United States that is made to all fields of creative endeavors. Bortz is one of 180 scholars, scientists and artists from the United States and Canada to receive a 2009 fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation. There were more than 3,000 applicants for this year's awards.



“It is a great honor to be the first scholar from Appalachian to receive a Guggenheim,” Bortz said. “I immediately thanked my wife, Josie, who is from Mexico City and who is responsible for so much of what I have learned about Mexico.”

The fellowship will support a full year of research in Mexico during 2010, during which time Bortz will consult national, state, municipal and private labor archives, as well as cultural repositories as he explores how the labor regime functioned after the revolution of 1910. The research will support his proposed book “From Victory to Defeat: Gangsters, Workers, and Citizens in Mexico’s Labor Regime, 1923-1959.” While in Mexico, Bortz will analyze how the rise of the market economy, increasing urbanization and the emergence of popular culture re-shaped ideas of gender, class, nation and authority and behaviors predicated on those ideas which led to the defeat of great railroad strikes of 1948 and 1959 and the end of workers power in Mexico.

“The goal of scholarly research is to have an impact on one’s field, and the Guggenheim will provide me the resources to carry out significant research in a field that I love greatly, Latin American history,” Bortz said. He said the fellowship also will benefit his work in the classroom. “I have always believed that the secret to good teaching was good research, and that in the long run, the best teachers were the faculty who loved their fields and endeavored to carry out high-level scholarship, a belief confirmed by these rewards,” Bortz said. “So in a way, I have to thank my many students at Appalachian, graduate and undergraduate, whose critical questioning pushed me to be a better scholar and teacher than I would have been otherwise.”

Last year, Bortz published “Revolution within the Revolution: Cotton Textile Workers and the Mexican Labor Regime, 1910-1923” (Stanford, 2008). His research in that volume discovered a workers revolution within the broader Mexican revolution, creating a pro-worker labor regime by 1923.

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment. One of the hallmarks of the Guggenheim Fellowship program is the diversity of its fellows. The ages of this year’s fellows range from 29 to 70; their residences span the world, from Waipahu, Hawaii, to New York City and from Toronto to Glasgow; and their fellowship projects will carry them to every continent. In all, 62 disciplines and 68 different academic institutions are represented by this year’s fellows. Since its establishment in 1925, the Guggenheim Foundation has granted more than \$273 million in fellowships to nearly 16,700 individuals.

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Appalachian ARRA Response Website

The University has created a website to outline Appalachian's response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA provides significant opportunities that align well with both Appalachian's Strategic Plan and UNC Tomorrow. Of particular importance are teaching, research, and outreach activities that engage the campus with the community and the region—activities that have a significant, measurable impact on economic transformation.



The website is designed to provide information on important contacts, funding opportunities and links to other information resources. New details about funding and new RFPs—as well as new policies on compliance and accountability—emerge daily. Please visit the ARRA website at <http://www.arra.appstate.edu> regularly for the latest information.

Professor Receives Funding to Continue Research on Riparian Restoration

Dr. Gabrielle Katz, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, has received \$10,000 to continue her research on the effects of hydrologic restoration on the San Pedro River in southeastern Arizona.

In 2002, The Nature Conservancy purchased the two farms where Dr. Katz has been conducting research. These farms previously pumped large quantities of alluvial groundwater for crop irrigation until the restoration project reduced the pumping rates to negligible levels. The Nature Conservancy's goal has been to improve both the river and surrounding land's ecosystem conditions by restoring base flows and groundwater hydrology.

Dr. Katz's research has been to test the hypothesis that the ecosystem's previous degradation can be reversed by a management strategy focused on restoration of groundwater levels and base flows. This hypothesis has not been previously tested. The research will provide natural resource managers with key information (such as the effectiveness and time-span) about riparian restoration, including adaptive adjustments in management if needed. In addition, the research will address several fundamental questions about riparian ecosystem dynamics, including a potential alternative approach to dealing with issues related to invasive species management.

It is expected that the reduced groundwater pumping will improve the area's ecosystem. However, such changes have not yet been documented in the research and may be delayed due to regional drought conditions; a possible lag time for ecosystem change that is greater than the study period; or, fundamentally irreversibility of site degradation.

In previous years, Dr. Katz has received funding for the data collection from Appalachian's University Research Council and the Arizona Water Protection Fund.

Golden LEAF Announces New Grantsmaking Strategies to Strengthen State's Economy

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors recently took bold action to address the challenges of the state's current economy and also awarded over \$4.6 million in new grants. Rather than cut back the Foundation's grantsmaking efforts in a down economy, the Board authorized new initiatives, new funding strategies and new ways of doing business to provide flexibility and reduce administrative burden for grantseekers.



"There is no doubt that these are tough times," said Dan Gerlach, President of the Golden LEAF Foundation. "It will take hard work, determination, and creativity on the part of all of us to build the North Carolina we want to have."

While other foundations may be forced to reduce their grantsmaking, Golden LEAF will maintain its strong commitment to support job growth. For the coming year, the Board:

- Strengthened its commitment to Tier One counties across North Carolina with up to \$35 million for its Community Assistance Initiative;
- Provided \$10 million in economic assistance for projects across North Carolina that create or add substantial jobs and investment;
- Provided \$10 million for the development of two new initiatives: (a) to increase North Carolina agriculture jobs, markets and farm income in specific areas and (b) to ensure that the growing aerospace industry has the highly-qualified workers it needs to hire now;
- Created a new initiative to fund short-term training to get North Carolinians to available good-paying jobs as quickly as possible;
- Earmarked over \$3 million for scholarships for children from rural counties, especially farm families, to attend college;
- Replaced the annual grants cycle with an Open Grants Program. The Open Grants Program will allow for acceptance of letters of interest year-round, ensure timely answers from Golden LEAF staff and board, and reduce administrative burden for grantees;
- Almost doubled direct Foundation investment in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties through Access Capital, an investor in community-development projects in rural areas;
- Provided \$5 million to support the creation of a new loan-guarantee program to leverage over \$25 million in new loans for qualified businesses needing access to capital in these tough times;
- Will seek ways to complement the federal stimulus package, in order to make sure North Carolina gets the full benefit; and
- Cut the Foundation's administrative budget substantially to allow more resources for grants.

"At the Golden LEAF Foundation, we are unwavering in our determination to provide support for projects that will help to grow jobs, strengthen communities and build the knowledge, talent and skill of North Carolinians. In tough times, we are mindful of the importance of every dollar we spend," said Gerlach.

For more information on the changes to Golden LEAF's grant opportunities, please visit <http://www.goldenleaf.org/grants/grant-seekers/> or contact the Office of Proposal Development.

News of Note... From the Grants Resource Center's GrantWeek for May 4, 2009

GAO Issues ARRA Application Recommendations

A new report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) — the first of two commissioned by Congress to address Grants.gov overload expected to last through August 2009 — recommends that the government do more to inform applicants about alternatives to submitting via Grants.gov. GAO suggests that Recovery.gov and federal agencies begin posting prominent notices (similar to the one posted recently by [Grants.gov](#)) about application options and guidance for what to do if applicants try unsuccessfully to submit through Grants.gov. The recommendations are aimed at ensuring that every grant application submitted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) receives equal consideration.

News of Note... From the Grants Resource Center's GrantWeek for April 27, 2009

New ARPA-E Solicitation Takes on Valley of Death

The U.S. Department of Energy's newest arm, the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), has issued its first solicitation. With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the agency will support high-risk, high-payoff, transformational, energy-related research and development. The solicitation is online at

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=5tSfKNJpsQNzC2nn1QNSMthzQf7gmpHVhq2gR4bDDZMfQC6273Bc!1115390264?oppld=47045&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>.

ARPA-E aims to serve as a bridge over what it calls "the valley of death," where good technological advances die before making it to market. For additional details on this opportunity, contact Bradley Poston at Bradley.Poston@hq.doe.gov or the Office of Proposal Development.

NIH's ARRA AREA Program Competition Announced

Linda Anthony, Program Manager

The National Institutes of Health's much anticipated Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program was just announced, and interestingly, the new announcement is part of NIH's American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. Applications are due **September 24, 2009**.

The AREA program is designed to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. In a major change, applicants may now request up to \$300,000 per award, as opposed to the \$150,000 limit in past competitions. An additional change to eligibility increases the total amount an applicant organization can receive in research grants and/or cooperative agreements from NIH to \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in each of four or more of the last seven years.

Approximately 50 awards will be made under this ARRA opportunity. A new Parent AREA R15 Program Announcement (PA) will be released in the coming months and will be in effect beginning with the October 25, 2009 receipt date. This new PA should continue the increased funding levels as well as continue the new eligibility requirements. For more details, contact Denise Russo at 301/451-7972 or R151@mail.nih.gov, or contact the Office of Proposal Development.

One Step Forward, One Step Back for Grants.gov

Grants.gov has posted an alert warning of the need to follow application instructions particularly carefully thanks to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance directing agencies to identify temporary methods for accepting grant applications outside of Grants.gov.

With American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding opportunities expected to increase federal applications by 60 percent, a volume that OMB found would put Grants.gov at a "significant risk of failure," these agencies have opted to use alternative submission processes: Corporation for National and Community Service, National Air and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

So the applicant community must prepare to re-master some individual agency application systems that the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 - and the establishment of Grants.gov as a single portal for all federal grant applications - was meant to render obsolete.

Like the agencies, Grants.gov itself was tasked by OMB to respond to the increased volume ARRA opportunities will create. As the managing agency for Grants.gov, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a 90-day plan to increase system capacity, improve submission processing speed, and enhance the Grants.gov user experience.

Foundations Surveyed, Findings Confirm Some Fears

Twelve hundred U.S. foundations were surveyed in early 2009 on the impact of the economic crisis, and many of the findings, released by the Foundation Center this month, are bleak:

- Close to two-thirds of the surveyed foundations predict reductions in the number and/or size of their grants in 2009;
- 43% expect to reduce the *overall* number of grantees they fund in 2009;
- 46% anticipate decreasing the number of *new* grantees they will fund;
- 37% will reduce the amount of capital support they provide; and
- 44% will reduce the number of multi-year grants.

Still, the Foundation Center says, "most foundations will not abandon their grantmaking priorities-from health to the arts to international grantmaking-despite the severity of current economic conditions." About 83% of those surveyed will maintain or increase their current program areas, and a full 94% will maintain their current geographic targets. Note that large foundations are less likely than others to reduce the number and length of awards this year, and community foundations "are mounting a particularly vigorous response to the economic downturn," with 35% of respondents launching special initiatives at the local level.