

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS FUNDING EXPRESS

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Geology Department Receives \$146,000

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Grant from NSF

Plants play a key, though complex role in the water balances of landscapes. The presence or absence of vegetation within a watershed can have profound impacts on patterns of infiltration, runoff and streamflow. The effects of vegetation on these hydrological processes, however, are often simplified in models and management strategies by ignoring the layout of vegetation within a watershed and, more importantly, the relationships between topography and vegetation.

Dr. Ryan Emanuel, Assistant Professor of Geology at Appalachian and his collaborator Brian McGlynn, Associate Professor of Watershed Hydrology at Montana State University, received \$146,000 in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding to address these deficiencies by combining principles of watershed hydrology and landscape ecology in a new project funded by the National Science Foundation's Hydrologic Sciences program.

Their research project will provide a framework for considering interactions between topography and vegetation and their effects on runoff generation and streamflow. Field sites in forested, mountain watersheds of North Carolina and Montana will allow Emanuel and McGlynn to test the importance of climate in determining the strength of topographic and vegetation interactions at the watershed scale. Their results are expected to reconcile sometimes-disparate ways in which hydrologists and ecologists consider the movement of water through terrestrial ecosystems; the research also has broader implications for predictions of hydrologic fluxes from landscapes that are subject to natural and human-caused vegetation changes.

According to Dr. Emanuel, "In addition to addressing important issues in hydrological modeling and natural resource management, this project will strengthen the connection between two universities whose proximity to very different mountain ranges kindles a common commitment to research, education, and outreach within these beautiful and hydrologically important regions."

The work will increase participation of underrepresented populations in the sciences. Both Emanuel and McGlynn are directly involved in programs to provide research opportunities and mentoring to underrepresented populations, including the American Indian Research Opportunities program at Montana State and the Faculty Fellows Program at Appalachian. The project has so far employed two undergraduate research assistants from Appalachian, Anna Hazen and Michael Oxendine. The project will facilitate a field-based course for students from both Appalachian and Montana State in coming years. Students will visit experimental watersheds in both Montana and North Carolina and learn about the ecohydrology of both regions.



Appalachian receives \$375,000 grant to implement South African Legislative Fellows Program

Appalachian State University has received a \$375,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to implement a two-year South African Legislative Fellows Program (LFP) designed to strengthen understanding of the U.S. legislative process and enhance appreciation of the role of civic society and its engagement in the political process.

Appalachian will implement the program in collaboration with Africa Governance Transformation (AGT), a non-governmental organization in South Africa.



The goals of LFP are to strengthen South Africa's democracy, assist in the empowerment of mid-level government professionals and enhance technical skills and institution-building capacity for South African legislative professionals. The target groups are the National Parliament and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Parliament, as well as local government professionals in the KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa.

The program will be directed by Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa, Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development, and Dr. Marvin Hoffman, Director of the Master of Public Administration program in the Department of Government and Justice Studies.

"The purpose of the grant is to show how a strong, vibrant democracy works and how the sharing of powers occurs between our three levels of government," Hoffman said. "We are honored Appalachian was chosen for this project."

Young South African leaders between the ages of 25-35 from local, provincial and national legislative bodies will be selected to travel to the United States to participate in seminars and internships with a variety of government agencies and advocacy groups, including the U.S. Congress, N.C. General Assembly and various county and municipal governments in North Carolina. Participants will be placed in legislative and governmental units that correspond with the size of their governmental units in South Africa.

For more information, contact [Dr. Lutabingwa](#) or call the Office of International Education and Development at 828-262-2046.

Research Development Officer Spotlight



Dr. Ed Brewer joined the Appalachian State University faculty in 2007. His research interests include the relationship of personality to effective communication, time and probability issues in organizational and interpersonal communication, organizational culture and free speech issues.

Dr. Brewer has published in several journals, including the Archive of Marketing Education, Business Quest, Iowa Journal of Communication, Ohio Communication Journal, The Journal of Public Advocacy, and The Free Speech Yearbook. Dr. Brewer teaches organizational communication classes in the Department of Communication.

As Research Development Officer (RDO) for the College of Fine and Applied Arts, Dr. Brewer is available to inform and encourage faculty about the process of applying for external research funding, which is becoming increasingly emphasized at Appalachian and by the UNC system as a whole. While his role as RDO is not to "write" grant proposals for faculty, Dr. Brewer is available to answer questions (or help you find the answers) and help guide external funding efforts, including helping identify possible funding sources.

He can be reached at brewerec@appstate.edu or (828) 262-2221.

For additional information on Research Development Officers, contact [Dr. Pollyanne Frantz](#) (x 7789).

News of Note...



From the Grants Resource Center's GrantWeek for August 17

Writing to your Audience: An NEH Guide

Preparing a proposal for a federal grant program requires a well-planned approach. One key strategy is making certain the proposal addresses the right audience. Fortunately, there is no need for guesswork when writing to a federal agency. The proposal will be read by a well-educated audience with general knowledge of the field the proposal pertains to, but not necessarily by specialists with the same training as the principal investigator. Brett Bobley, director of the Office of Digital Humanities (ODH) at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), recently wrote a post to ODH Update to provide insight into crafting a proposal for the appropriate audience.

Bobley explains that at NEH, peer reviewers, NEH staff, and members of the NEH's National Council on the Humanities all read applications that are submitted. Writing an application so a non-technical audience can understand it is the best strategy due to the varied nature of the readers involved. Bobley finds that the abstract and the beginning of the narrative, in particular, must be understandable to all potential readers. The abstract is the primary marketing opportunity for the proposal writer. It should highlight the key elements of the proposal, and the full proposal must support and add detail to the ideas presented in the abstract.

This is the case with other agencies and disciplines as well; every proposal should be as clear and succinct as possible. GRC's approach to proposal development parallels Bobley's suggestions. In GRC workshops, readability is emphasized over technical jargon, as simple wording increases the strength of a narrative's meaning. Make sure that everything included has impact, adds value to the proposal, and is consistent with the points presented in the abstract.

A proposal that follows these parameters will convincingly state its case to a diverse audience. Bobley recommends thinking about how you would describe the project to a stranger outside your field when writing the abstract and narrative. Seek feedback from colleagues outside the specialty addressed by the project, and ask what they believe the abstract and narrative express. If there are discrepancies between their comments and the desired interpretation, then revisions are necessary.

When refining a proposal, some additional steps can be taken to improve the probability of being funded. Jennifer Serventi, senior program officer at ODH, encourages applicants to contact a program's staff with specific questions about grant guidelines. With the answers to these questions, it is then possible to review the proposal and evaluate whether or not the criteria described in the guidelines to the grant program have been answered. In addition, NEH and some other federal agencies will review early drafts of proposals and provide feedback. There is also the option of becoming a reviewer and conferring with colleagues who have been reviewers to gain insight into the grantmaking process.

From the Grants Resource Center's GrantWeek for August 31

National Science Foundation Roundup

Two years after the America COMPETES Act directed the National Science Board to review the National Science Foundation's cost share policy, the board has issued [recommendations](#) that it believes will increase consistency, reduce institutional burden, and eliminate the perception that resource-rich applicants have a natural advantage over other applicants.

According to the recommendations, mandatory cost sharing will be reinstated for the **Engineering Research Centers** program, the **Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ESPCoR)**, and the **Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers** programs, and will be maintained for the **Major Research Instrumentation** and **Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship** programs. For these competitions, an institution's cost share will be evaluated as an eligibility requirement, not as part of the merit review.

Proposal Development Bulletin

CFDA???

You've seen the acronym, you've seen the numbers. What do they mean? CFDA is the acronym for the [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#), a free, comprehensive web-based listing of over 1,800 Federal programs, projects, services and activities providing 15 different types of financial and nonfinancial assistance or benefits to the American public.

The CFDA is a valuable resource to use if you are seeking external funding through Federal agencies and departments. Multiple search options exist, including subject, applicant types, authorizing legislation, agency name, agency regional and local offices, and keyword. Search result records include detailed information about the program like authorizing legislation, program objectives, application and award process, financial information, and program officer contact information.

The [Community of Science](#) Funding Opportunities database, the Grants Resource Center's [GrantSearch](#) database, and [Grants.gov](#) all allow users to use CFDA numbers as a search tool.

For additional information on the Office of Proposal Development, contact [Dr. Pollyanne Frantz](#) (x 7789).

Research and Sponsored Programs Report

The first reporting period for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) or the Recovery Act will end September 30, 2009.

Appalachian will submit our first status report on all Recovery projects by **October 10, 2009**.

Principal investigators and project directors receiving ARRA funding are required to submit internal monthly reports detailing the completion status of their project, jobs created or retained and the primary location of the project's activities.

Failure to submit the monthly reports will result in the grant account being frozen until the reporting requirements are met.

Initial submission reports will be available for public view at [Recovery.gov](#) beginning Sunday, October 11, 2009.

The public can also stay abreast of ARRA-funded research projects on other UNC campuses via the [UNC General Administration](#) website.

Any member of the university community who would like to learn more about the ARRA-funded projects at Appalachian should contact Susan McCracken.

For up-to-date ARRA information for Appalachian PIs, please visit the [Appalachian ARRA](#) website.

For additional information on Research and Sponsored Programs, contact [Ms. Susan McCracken](#) (x 3066).

Dear Research Compliance

Dear Research Compliance,

If a graduate student, who is also a teacher in the public school system, conducts a products of learning (i.e. action research) in their own classroom, do they need to submit an application for review to the Institutional Review Board?

Puzzled, Faculty Member

Dear Faculty Member,

If research with human subjects will be presented beyond the classroom, then it should be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

While some action research or products of learning may qualify as exempt from IRB review, the IRB or IRB administrator is responsible for making this determination, not the investigator(s).

Applications for review can be found at: www.orsp.appstate.edu/compliance/irb

Regards,
Research Compliance Officer

For additional information on Research Compliance, contact [Ms. Julie Taubman](#) (x 7981).

Post-Award Update

To insure best practices in contract & grant administration across the UNC-system, the General Administration implemented UNC-FIT effective July 1, 2009. To track compliance with FIT standards, KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) are reported periodically to GA.

Indicators include:

- Number of days to set up new grant once awarded
- Aging of outstanding C&G Receivables
- Number of delinquent federal reports
- Percent of Effort Reports submitted in a timely fashion
- Number of Cost Transfers more than 90 days after expenditure
- Timeliness of award closeouts.

Look for our standings in upcoming newsletters or compiled annually on our website.

For additional information on Post-Award services, contact [Ms. Amy Roberts](#) (x 6419).

Helpful Hints

Budget Tip of the Month

Want to include Appalachian colleagues as Co-PIs on grant proposals? Often PIs have wanted to include "honorariums" or "stipends" (i.e. a flat payment of \$300) for these colleagues, rather than calculating their time and effort on the project.

We advise not including honorariums or stipends for Appalachian personnel, because Payroll will process these payments and will deduct fringe benefits (FICA, unemployment, medical and retirement).

If you wish to include funding for your on-campus colleagues, please contact us for assistance with calculating an appropriate amount of time and effort for their participation!

For additional information on Budgets, contact [Ms. Charlotte Smith](#) (x 2694).



Getting More from [Community of Science \(COS\)](#)

Try selecting North Carolina as your activity location in a Funding Opportunities "Advanced Search." By narrowing your location, your search will pull records that fund work in that location, while eliminating those that are restricted to other locations.

Additionally, when you select North Carolina, records with unrestricted activity locations or those restricted to super-entities of North Carolina (i.e. United States) or sub-entities of North Carolina (i.e. Watauga County) are included by default.

From the Activity Location search field, select more locations. A location index will appear. Expand United States, scroll down and select North Carolina. Your selection will automatically be added to your search query.

For additional information on COS, contact [Ms. Heather Young](#) (x 8123).

Calendar of Events

TITLE: Life Sciences Proposal Writing Workshop for Novices

DATE: 9/14/09

ACTION: By invitation.

TITLE: New Faculty & Researcher Workshop

DATE: 9/18/09

ACTION: By invitation.

TITLE: Dept. Research Administrator Training

DATES: 9/25/09; 10/30/09

TIME: 10:30am – 11:30am

LOCATION: IG Greer, room 224

ACTION: Please join us.

TITLE: First Friday Series: More People. . .

More Active. . . More Days of the Week:

Physical Activity in Western North Carolina with Ms. Susan Tumbleston

DATE: 10/2/09

TIME: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

LOCATION: Belk Library, room 421

ACTION: [Click here to register.](#)

TITLE: Hayes School of Music Faculty Workshop

DATE: 10/2/09

ACTION: By invitation.

TITLE: Building a Budget

DATE: 10/9/09

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION: Academic Affairs Conference Room

ACTION: Contact [Lisa Bingham](#) to register.

TITLE: Understanding Contracts

DATE: 10/9/09

TIME: 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

LOCATION: Academic Affairs Conference Room

ACTION: Contact [Lisa Bingham](#) to register.

TITLE: Avenues of Funding

DATE: 10/20/09

TIME: 9:30 am – 11:00 am

LOCATION: Hubbard Center Classroom,

Anne Belk Hall, room 1028

ACTION: [Click here to register.](#)

TITLE: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Workshop

DATE: Coming in Spring 2010

ACTION: By invitation.

What topics would you like to see covered in ORSP workshops?

Please send suggestions to [Ms. Heather Young](#).

Visit us at www.orsp.appstate.edu

News from Other Funding Avenues

Advancement

Want to raise money for your program/research? Get started by writing a Case Statement.

A Case Statement explains your program needs and the impact a gift/grant will have. There are many good resources you can access by Goggleing "Writing Case Statements."

A Case Statement will help you organize your thoughts and make a strong argument to a potential donor. If you need assistance with a Case Statement, contact your college Director of Development or the office of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

For additional information on Advancement, contact [Mr. John Krumrine](#) (x 6734).

Federal Agenda

Did you know that Appalachian has [regulations](#) on contacting government officials?

These officials are governed by the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA), which requires that "prior approval from the Chancellor or his/her designee is required before any campus employee may initiate contact with covered federal government officials on behalf of the University."

Furthermore, Appalachian's Federal Relations staff strongly recommends that university personnel do not use university letterhead or other campus resources to conduct lobbying activities. Please contact [Dr. Lorin Baumhover](#), Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, to request approval for contacting Federal government officials.

For additional information on the Federal Agenda, contact [Ms. Meredith Whitfield](#) (x 7636).

Continued Stories

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National Science Foundation Roundup continued

Voluntary cost sharing, which the NSB found has a "perceived impact on both proposal competitiveness and institutional equity in NSF funding competitions," will be prohibited in all other proposals, and program directors will be trained to avoid soliciting voluntary cost sharing during the budget negotiation process. Without that opportunity to convince reviewers of institutional commitment and infrastructure, applicants will be compelled to beef up the Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources section of their proposals, while avoiding any mention of cost. This move is expected both to reduce administrative burden (by obviating the need for associated reporting and tracking) and to boost institutions' opportunities to recover indirect costs.

Finally, the board tasks NSF "to redouble its efforts to ensure that agency funding committed to programs is commensurate with the science goals to be achieved." At a time when NSF is focused on transformational scientific discovery, larger award amounts will be necessary to meet this recommendation.

In another COMPETES-driven change, NSF is preparing to implement a [new requirement](#) focused on the responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR). Beginning January 4, 2010, applicants must certify, through their Authorized Organizational Representative, that a plan is in place to provide RCR training and oversight to student and postdoctoral researchers involved in NSF-funded projects. Applicants will not submit their plan as part of the proposal, but will be required to produce it at NSF's request.

At the GRC 2009 External Funding Conference, strategies were discussed by program directors from several divisions and by applicants developing RCR training programs. NSF advises institutions to survey the field of tools and programs currently in use, and to review [resources](#) gathered by the National Academy of Engineering, before implementing a new RCR program. GRC asks that members submit to cantwellm@aascu.org their policies for inclusion in the GRC Resource Library. The NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide will be updated in October to reflect the RCR policy.