Newcomb Grants Awarded to Faculty  
Fall 2012

Research Grants
Taby Ahsan  
Biomedical Engineering  
*Stem Cell Research & Mentoring*
This project will determine the cytoskeletal state of induced pluripotent stem cells and will develop the professional skills of a biomedical engineering student.  
Student: Liz Zipf

Jennifer Ashley  
Communication  
*Protest Aftershocks: The Chilean Student Movement & the Aesthetics of Dissent*
Explores how Chilean students are transforming their critique of neoliberal education into a national conversation about the failings of democracy.

Jean Dangler  
Spanish and Portuguese  
*Gender Debate in Isabel de Villena’s Vita Christi and Jaume Roig’s Espill*
Women and men correspond to one another in the devotional realm of the Vita Christi, while they maintain a vast divide in the medical/biblical realm of the Espill.

Elizabeth Derryberry  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
*Evolution of Complex Displays in Manakins (Pipridae)*
Project will fund student researcher to assist in developing a well-resolved, complete phylogeny for manakins to act as a framework for comparative research on the diversification of complex visual displays.  
Student: Amie Settlecowski

Shanshan Du  
Anthropology  
*Fatalistic Collision with a Cosmo-Social Structure: Epidemic Suicide*
Funding in support of one student assistant to prepare a book manuscript and relevant articles.  
Student: Jieni Li

David C. Heins  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
*Back to the Future II: Life History Shifts of Colonizing Threespine Stickleback*
Funding in support of student travel to Alaska to study the life history changes in threespine stickleback fish populations that occurred thousands of years ago as glaciers receded and formed freshwater lakes.  
Student: to be determined

Jennie Lightweis-Goff  
Gender and Sexuality Studies/English
The Tourist and the Quadroon: Afterimages of Sexual Slavery in the New Orleans Travel Narrative
Travel to the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in Boston to present on representations of enslaved and free women of color in travelers’ accounts of New Orleans.

Tatjana Pavlovic
Spanish & Portuguese
Sixties Cinema in Spain: The Geraldine Chaplin and Carlos Saura Story
Geraldine Chaplin shaped Saura’s artistic vision during his most productive years. This project reevaluates Chaplin’s role in 1960s cinema.

Cori Richards-Zawacki
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Effects of Vocal and Visual Signals on Mate Choice in Poison Frogs
Study of the relative roles of natural and sexual selection in generating the diversity of color and pattern in the strawberry poison frog found across the Bocas del Toro Archipelago of Panama. Funding includes travel to Panama by student ecology & evolutionary biology major.
Student: Julia Berkey

Thomas W. Sherry
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Estimating Population Abundance of Pseustes Poecilonotus, a Prevalent Bird Nest Predator
Funding in support of an ecology & evolutionary biology major who will study and employ mark (using passive integrated transponders) and recapture methods. Funding includes student’s travel to LaSelva Biological Research Station in Costa Rica.
Student: Briana O’Malley

Caroline M. Taylor
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Shorebird Prey Abundance and Composition in northern Gulf of Mexico Habitats
Grant in support of undergraduate research assistant, an ecology & evolutionary biology major, to assess the shorebird prey abundance (Benthic invertebrates) and composition at a variety of habitats and microhabitats. Funding includes student’s travel to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and to Fourchon, Louisiana.
Student: to be determined

Teresa Villa-Ignacio
French & Italian
Poethical Import: Translationships in Contemporary French-American Poetic Exchange
Travel to Paris to conduct research by visiting libraries and conducting interviews for book manuscript.

Justin Wolfe
History
The Nobles are Finished: Gender, Race, and Citizenship in Postcolonial Nicaragua through the Eyes of Aristocratic Women, 1807-1847
Grant in support of a Latin American Studies major to organize and code a collection of private letters that will offer insights into the debates and transformations of this period in postcolonial Nicaragua.
Student: Madeline White
**Teaching Grants**
Elio C. Brancaforte  
Germanic & Slavic Studies  
*Exhibit of Fairy Tale Illustrations*  
Grant will help support an exhibition of materials and a reception for a student-run exhibition to be held at Special Collections in Jones Hall in conjunction with the Grimm Reckonings course offered by the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies.

Emily Clark  
History  
*New Orleans and Senegal, 1400-present*  
Funding to host a public/campus talk and a classroom visit by Professor Hilary Jones, a participant in a conference exploring the comparative and shared histories of New Orleans and Saint-Louis, Senegal. Conference in New Orleans is second in a two-conference series; the first was held in Senegal during summer 2012.

**Community Engagement Grants**
Red Tremmel  
Gender and Sexuality Studies & Office for Gender and Sexual Diversity  
*Formation of a Queer-Feminist Collective*  
This project will produce a uniquely networked knowledge base that will improve undergraduate women's service learning engagements, leadership skills, and overall education about coalitions and the diversity of gender/sexuality based projects in the greater New Orleans area. Funding includes stipend for one student assistant.  
Student: Jessica Callahan

Kristin Wintersteen  
Stone Center for Latin American Studies  
*Down by the River: Visualizing Environmental History Along Louisiana’s River Road*  
Support for a public history project that explores the intersections of African American and environmental history as the riverscape transformed from plantation to chemical plant. Funding includes stipend for one student assistant.  
Student: Heather Fraser

**Special Initiative Grants**
Barbara Jazwinski  
Music  
*Contemporary Music Concert Featuring Women Composers*  
Funding to support a campus visit by five members of *Lunatics at Large*, an ensemble from New York City that specializes in contemporary music with a special interest in promoting works by women composers.

Melissa Pausina  
Music  
*The Pierrot Project*  
In celebration of the centennial of the premier of Schoenberg’s monumental work *Pierrot Lunaire*, the Lunar Ensemble will hold a two-day workshop at Tulane University. Students can attend an academic
lecture about *Pierrot Lunaire* and can interact with professional performers through attendance at rehearsals, recitals and concerts.

**Newcomb Grants Awarded to Students**  
**Fall 2012**

**Independent Research Grants**
Natalee Buisson  
Major: Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering  
Faculty Sponsor: WT Godbey  
*Assessing the Availability of Plasmid DNA Delivered into Cells via poly(ethylenimine) (PEI)*  
Project is an attempt to discover how DNA is separated from PEI inside the cell during the gene therapy process.

Erin Cessna  
Majors: Theater, Sociology  
Faculty Sponsor: Sara Valentine  
*Shelby, Lemoyne, Louise and Dick*  
This is an original one-act, one-woman play that follows four unique characters as they explore their ideas on life, love, and legacy. The project will include the production of this play and a written analysis of the creative process involved and is an Honors Thesis.

Julia Chen  
Major: Public Health  
Minor: French  
Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Theall  
*Knowledge and Attitudes of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection, Vaccine, and Male Vaccine Recommendations among College Students Age 18-23*  
Four semi-structured focus groups will be conducted with 16-20 Tulane students. Data on knowledge of and attitudes towards the HPV infection and vaccine are also assessed through a two-part, web-based survey that includes a true/false questionnaire and open-ended questions.

Lula Fotis  
Major: Film Studies & Digital Media Production  
Faculty Sponsor: Mary Blue  
*Mindy*  
Grant will fund the writing, producing, directing, and editing of this film, a capstone project.

Amanda Foy  
Majors: Spanish, Mathematics  
Faculty Sponsor: Tatjana Pavlovic  
*From the Rosary to Rock Music*  
Project investigates the work of director Luis Bunuel with actress Silvia Pinal, including travel to Madrid to visit the special archive on Bunuel at the Filmoteca Espanola and the Residencia de Estudiantes where Bunuel studied. This project is an Honors Thesis.
Jessica Greenberg  
Major: English  
Minor: Dance  
Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Mark  
Research Trip to Germany  
Grant will fund travel to Germany to tour historic sites and conduct interviews using memoir, letters, and WWII photographs from recipient’s grandfather, Harry Nowalsky, as guides. Nowalsky facilitated the adoption of the first German-Jewish orphan, and project includes the continuing search for Bella and her family.

Sabrina Lynch  
Majors: Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Damir Khismatullin  
Study of interplay between macrophages and mast cells in platelet-endothelial cell interactions. Platelet adhesion to human endothelial cells activated by mediators released by tissue macrophages and mast cells will be studied under static conditions.

Mercedes Plessmann  
Majors: Studio Art, Spanish  
Faculty Sponsor: Adam Mysock  
Walls  
An investigation of industrial and interior design to create useful and decorative household goods that incorporate the fine arts and innovative uses of space. This project is an Honors Thesis.

Zhenzhen Shi  
Majors: Biochemistry, Philosophy  
Minor: Economics  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Nancy Hopkins  
The Effect of the Phytoestrogen Glycinol on Mesenchymal Stem Cell Biology  
This project will investigate the potential for glycinol to prevent and treat osteoporosis without the increased risk of breast cancer usually associated with hormone replacement therapies.

Conference Attendance/Presentation Grants  
Emily Cardinas  
Majors: Public Health, African Studies, Environmental Studies  
Minor: Social Innovation/Social Entrepreneurship  
Faculty Sponsor: Carol Whelan  
Attend Ashoka U Exchange Conference on Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at University of San Diego.

Amelia Conrad  
Major: Political Science & International Development  
Minor: Spanish  
Faculty Sponsor: Colin Crawford  
Attend Wheatley International Affairs Conference in Provo, Utah.

Melissa P. Herman  
Major: Neuroscience
Minors: History, Philosophy
Faculty Sponsor: Beth Wee

Meredith Kurz
Major: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Faculty Sponsor: David Heins

Allison Madera
Major: Sociology, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Minor: Psychology
Faculty Sponsor: Yuki Kato
Paper presented: *An Exploration of Women’s Experiences during Disaster Recovery: A Look at Progress Village, Florida* at American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences in Las Vegas.

Henrietta Matheson
Major: Psychology, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Laurie O’Brien

Sofia-Jeanne Roggeveen
Major: Psychology, Cognitive Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Carrie Wyland
Paper presented: *The Relationship between use of Facebook, Narcissism, Empathy, and Perspective-taking* at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting in New Orleans.

**Community Engagement Grant**
Kristina Crouch and Donata Henry
Major: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Latin American Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Donata Henry
*Get the GIST and Get Inspired: Girls in STEM at Tulane University*
The GIST Program will provide fifth- through seventh-grade girls with the opportunity to meet and work with women faculty and student role models in STEM.
Newcomb Grants Awarded to Faculty
Spring 2013

Research Grants

Gaurav Desai
English, ADST
*Frail Skiffs Tossed on the Ocean of Life: Gender and Romance in Nineteenth Century Zanzibar*
Funding to supplement a visiting fellowship at Cambridge university and to do archival work in India researching the autobiography of a 19th century Zanzibar princess

Scott Grayson
Chemistry
*Exploring the effect of Branching within Polyesters for Elucidating the Physical and Biophysical properties.*
Polyesters branched on the nanoscale have resulted in many state-of-the-art materials, like the foam used in car seats. Yet many fundamental aspects of their structure remain poorly understood. Linear analogs will be prepared and studied.

Katherine Jack
Anthropology
*The Voice of an Alpha Male: Vocal Pitch, Dominance, and Androgen levels in wild white-faced capuchins monkeys.*
Over a four week period, a research team will collect vocalizations and fecal samples (to measure androgen levels) from select groups of male capuchin monkeys.
Student Research Assistant: Chelsey LeBlang

Katherine Johnson
Sociology
*Working & Nursing: Breastfeeding Experiences of Tulane Students, Staff, and Faculty.*
Breastfeeding has received much attention as a public health and feminist issue, yet many women still face barriers at work/school. This project addresses women’s experiences at Tulane.
Student Research Assistants: Amy Mills and Monika Cohen

Oana Sabo
French and Italian
*French and English at Crossroads: Migrant Authors in the Transnational Literary Marketplace: 1980-2010*
Research on two immigrant women writers in Quebec, Regine Robin and Ying Chen

Sara Valentine
Theatre & Dance
*Improvisational Voice and the Jazz Idiom*
Conference and five-day intensive workshop with vocalists, musicians and educators at the University of Louisville, Kentucky.

R. Enrique Varela
Psychology
Early Indicators for Autism Spectrum Disorders
The objective is to identify environmental and child risk factors for Autism Spectrum Disorders and map these factors to behavioral, emotional, and cognitive profiles.
Student Research Assistant: Katie Sauvigne

Special Initiative
Taby Ahsan
Biomedical Engineering
A Series in Excellence: Women Engineers
Host a 6-part seminar series in Fall 2013 titled “A Series in Excellence: Women Engineers” that would include members of the National Academy of Engineering with a specialty in Bioengineering/Biomedical Engineering

Teaching Grants
Adam McKeown
English
Elizabeth Cary’s Miriam: 400 Years
Host talk by Professor Elizabeth Hageman commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first English play published by a woman under her own name. Talk addresses Cary’s life and work in the context of the recovery of early modern women’s writings.

Community Grants
Catherine Michna
English
The Prison Industrial Complex, Civil Rights Histories, and Their Impact on Communities in New Orleans: Students at the Center Book Publication Collaboration.
A summer editing & publication project with the students at the center program at Eleanor McMain secondary school.
Student Research Assistants:
Lena Grossman, Katherine Grover, Juliana Stricklen

Newcomb Grants Awarded to Students
Spring 2013

Research Grants
Katy Chapellie
Major: Dance, Digital Media Production
Faculty Sponsor: John Allen
SUMAC (Systems for Understanding Movement and Choreography) Workshop
This workshop’s schedule focuses on pushing the boundaries of dance and choreography while working personally with Susan Marshall& Company in an environment conducive to creative learning

Lee Chedister
Major: Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics
Faculty Sponsor: Walter Lee Murfee
Identifying the relationship between aging and lymphatic growth
The objective of this project is to determine whether impaired lymphatic growth is impaired during aging.

Clara Clatanoff  
Major: Environmental Studies, Latin American Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: Kristin Wintersteen  
*Socioeconomic Development and Cross-Cultural Understanding through Community-Based Rural Tourism in the Andes Region of Peru.*  
Conducting research for honors thesis in Cusco, Peru through working with local organization called Sierra Productiva that is in the process of integrating a small scale rural tourism program into local Quechua Communities.

Danielle DiPietro  
Major: Public Health, International Development  
Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Theall  
*Humanure Project*  
The project goal is to establish a women’s collective centered on sanitation infrastructure. The purpose of this group is to incentivize toilet use for women, provide valuable hygiene and health lessons, and bolster economic agency.

Rachel Fried  
Major: Public Health  
Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Andrinopoulos  
The Wetland Assimilation project grant is for an internship working on an ongoing project entitled “The Wetland Assimilation Within the Central Wetlands Unit (CWU) of Bayou Bienvenu.”

Hannah Gilder  
Major: Neuroscience, Spanish  
Faculty Sponsor: Paul Colombo  
*The Role of Phosphatase-Kinase Balance in Age-Related Decline in Multiple Memory Systems.*  
Examining a particular cellular signaling pathway in regard to cognitive aging.

Chelsey LeBlang  
Major: Psychology, Anthropology  
Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Jack  
*The Voice of an Alpha Male: Vocal Pitch, Dominance, and Androgen levels in wild white-faced capuchin monkeys.*  
Over a four week period, a research team will collect vocalizations and fecal samples (to measure androgen levels) from select groups of male capuchin monkeys.

Claire Neely  
Major: Psychology  
Faculty Sponsor: Laurie O’Brien  
*The Effect of Confronting Sexism on Women’s Well-Being*  
An experimental study examining women’s psychological well-being after confronting sexism.

McCall Raftus  
Major: Sociology, Social Policy & Practice
Faculty Sponsor: Stephanie Arnett  
*The Gender Gap: Barriers in Access to Equal Education for Girls in Rural Peru*  
Travel to Peru to study the causes of the gender gap in primary education.

Rachel Springer  
Major: Neuroscience, Spanish  
Faculty Sponsor: Jill Daniel  
*Hippocampal Estrogen Receptor Alpha Localization in ovariectomized Rats exposed to Estradiol in Middle Age*  
The purpose of this project is to determine the location of ER alpha, which has been previously shown to augment hippocampal-dependent memory processes in middle-aged female rats.

Pamela Svorinic  
Major: Neuroscience  
Faculty Sponsor: Jill Daniel  
*Impact of Treatment with Low Levels of Estradiol on Memory in Ovariectomized Rats*  
This project will explore in administration of low doses of estradiol has an effect on learning and memory in ovariectomized rats.

**Conference Attendance Grants**  
Clara Baba  
Major: Latin American Studies, Public Health  
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe  
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium  
*Elaboro yy la ley 18.826 en Chile: Una investigacion sobre sus percepciones sociales y las perspectivas de la gente*

Elizabeth Bobo  
Majors: Spanish, Latin American Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe  
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium  
*"Fighting Today’s Problems with Yesterday’s Tactics: (Allusions to) Police Reform in Post-Dictatorship Argentina"*

Bianca Falcon  
Major: Latin American Studies; Political Science  
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe  
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium  
*"The Prada President: The Changing Representation of Latin American Politics"*

Ann Olivier  
Major: Public Health  
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe  
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium  
*El rol de la nutricion en las escuelas publicas de Valpariso.*

Olivia Pallissard  
Major: Latin American Studies, Environmental Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium
“Green Eggs and Turtles: Costa Rica’s Playa Ostional Sea Turtle Experiment and ‘Consumptive Conservation’”

Jennifer Rosenthal
Major: Public Health
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium
La Opinion Publica del Programa Nacional de Alimentacion Complementaria en Chile, The Public Opinion of the Chilean Supplementary Feeding Program

Robyn Smith
Majors: Political Science; Latin American Studies
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium
“Exploring the Purpose of Truth: An Evaluation of the Brazilian National Truth Commission”

Sarah Swig
Major: Political Science and International Development
Faculty Sponsor: Edith Wolfe
Presented paper at Latin American Studies Symposium
Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press in Argentina