Newcomb Grants Awarded to Students  
Fall 2013

Independent Research Grants

Katy Chappellie  
Majors: Dance, Digital Media Production  
Faculty Sponsor: Mary Blue  
*Tech Connect Short Film* is a project in which the student will conduct casting calls, produce, direct, shoot, edit, and screen a short film.

Veronica Ely  
Major: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
Minor: Psychology  
Faculty Sponsor: David Heins  
*A Peek into the Past: Early Life History Changes of Colonizing Threespine Stickleback Fish*  
Grant funded the collection of threespine stickleback and the investigation of phenotypic life history shifts in a population in early stages of colonization of Scout Lake in Alaska.

Lena Franklin  
Majors: Music Composition, Business Management  
Faculty Sponsor: Maxwell Dulaney  
Workshops will be conducted for 2 female undergraduate composers at Tulane with the members of the Dal Niente Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Amber K. Fessler  
Major: Undeclared  
Faculty Sponsor: Michael J. Blum  
*Genetic Analysis of an Antagonistic Plant-Animal Interaction*  
The study examines the factors that influence the emergence and maintenance of plant-herbivore interactions. DNA sequencing and genotyping analysis are used to make pair-wise comparisons of the genetic patterns in populations of an invasive tree and parallel patterns in a newly described species of specialist caterpillar.

Rachel Herschlag  
Major: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
Faculty Sponsor: John Schenk  
*Morphological Characterization of a New Species of Podostemaceae*  
The research utilizes scanning electron microscopy to assess variation among individuals of under-described species of Ledermanniella (Podostemaceae).

Chani Jensen  
Majors: History, Anthropology  
Faculty Sponsor: Jana Lipman  
*Politics of Identity: Creating Tibetan and Hmong Communities in the United States*  
Research concerns how political status, government policy, and the group identities of Hmong and Tibetan communities are created internally and perceived by the broader public and the extent to which these perceptions are based on reality and/or perpetuated by resettlement policies as a direct result of political definition.

Mwende Katwiwa  
Majors: Political Economy, African Diaspora Studies  
Faculty Sponsor: April Rice
Student-run biweekly girls’ focus groups with the 10th and 11th grade Upward Bound girls to discuss issues they face as high schoolers, girls, women of color, and residents of New Orleans.

Sophie Kontur
Majors: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, neuroscience
Faculty Sponsor: John J. Schenk
Project infers how the plant genus *Paronychia* evolved and dispersed across North America using nuclear DNA sequences to generate a molecular phylogeny in order to determine the biogeographic history of *Paronychia*.

Mary Lachapelle
Majors: Philosophy, Digital Media Production
Faculty Sponsor: Mary Blue
*Wonderland* is a capstone project reflecting the student’s creative and intellectual growth and showcasing her abilities as a filmmaker.

Sabrina Lynch
Majors: Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics
Faculty Sponsor: Damir Khismatullin
*Platelet-cancer cell interactions in hematogenous metastasis of breast cancer*
Project investigates the role of receptors in the formation of breast cancer-platelet aggregates in order to better understand the shielding of breast cancer cells from immune cells by platelets and its role in metastasis.

Sonia Rao
Major: Cell & Molecular Biology
Faculty Sponsor: Matthew Burow
Identifying downstream kinases of LKB1 regulating the inhibition of MMP-1 in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cell lines.

Hannah Strobel
Major: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Faculty Sponsor: David Heins
Comparative Genetics of Schistocephalus Parasites in Sculpin and Stickleback Hosts
Project uses mitochondrial gene sequencing to assess genetic differences between between Schistocephalus infecting three species of host fishes.

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**Newcomb Grants Awarded to Faculty**

**Fall 2013**

Rebecca Atencio
Department: Spanish & Portuguese
*Gender, Race, and Class in Contemporary Brazilian Literary and Cultural Production: A Talk by Professor Regina Dalcastagnè*
Regina Dalcastagnè is one of Brazil’s foremost critics of contemporary Brazilian literature. Grant funded a presentation at Tulane on her current research on women and urban space in the contemporary Brazilian novel.

Mary Blue
Department: Communication
*Teaching Women to Create Post Production Sound for the Film and Television Industry*
Grant funded a 5-day course in Pro Tools 11 audio production software in preparation for offering a new course and training students to restore and remaster the audio interviews in the Newcomb archive to make them audible and more accessible.
Elizabeth Derryberry
Department: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
*Urban dependent selection on bird song* is a project comparing current and historical songs from urban and rural habitats for a subspecies of white-crowned sparrows in order to compare evolutionary trajectories of each location.

Anne Dunlop
Department: Art
Grant funded the production of a catalogue for the exhibition *Early Modern Faces: European Portraits, 1480-1780*, which will open in the Newcomb Art Gallery in the spring of 2014.

Michael Hoerger
Department: Psychology
*Supporting Psychosocial Cancer Care Through Student Engagement in Research*
Project engages 4-5 undergraduate women in a combination of collaborative and faculty-driven research aimed at improving psychosocial cancer care for the New Orleans community.

Katherine Johnson
Department: Sociology
*Working and Nursing Project Addendum: Conference Mentorship Experience*
Grant funded the continued mentoring of two student research assistants through attendance of a conference that provided networking with feminist scholars in engaged settings and had a focus on gender and reproduction.

Felicia McCarren
Department: French & Italian
Grant funded a presentation and lecture at two events in Paris in December, 2013 concerning research on gender in the history of performing arts.

Thomas Sherry
Department: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
*Linking fledgling survival to food availability in fragmented and unfragmented tropical forest.*
Students will organize, transcribe, and analyze nest video data to test the hypothesis that avian diversity-poor sites in tropical understory forest have higher food availability due to competitive release, and should produce fledglings with higher fitness.

Katherine Theall (SPHTM) and Ashley Wennerstrom (SOM)
Departments: Community Health (KT) and Med-Gen Internal (AW)
*Safe Spaces: Fostering equitable partnerships to prevent violence*
Project develops an academic-community partnership to address interpersonal violence. Faculty, students, and community organizations will collaborate to assess community perspectives on violence. This information will be used to develop a tailored prevention program.

Sunshine Van Bael
Department: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
*Microbiological diversity and defense in ant agriculture*
Grant funds employment of an undergraduate in the study of the influence of ant microbiology on the ants’ immunity to diseases and the health of a fungus that the ants raise for food.

Teresa Villa-Ignacio
Department: French & Italian
*Poethical Import: Translationships in Contemporary French-American Poetic Exchange*
Grant funded travel to record interviews with women poet-translators, which will serve as primary source material for a book and will be archived in the Tulane University Library’s Digital Collections as part of a podcast series.

Anne-Marie Womack
Department: English
*Figures and Fallacies: Pedagogy Strategies for Analysis and Invention*
Project re-envisions fallacies, arguing that they are not black-and-white errors but rather depend upon the audience and context in which they are used. Work shows that fallacies overlap with successful strategies in persuasion from rhetoric, literature, science, and statistics.