

Published by the Office of Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations, *Faculty Grants Quarterly* is an internal newsletter created for Hamilton College faculty members to report on funding and research trends of public and private funding sources, as well as the grant and scholarly activities of their colleagues.

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Have an idea, but don't know what to do next?
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Contact our office.

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Hamilton



Katie Kodat, winner of a McIntosh Fellowship

McIntosh Fellowship supports Kodat's book on federal arts policies and cultural production

Throughout her academic career, Katie Kodat, associate professor of English and American studies, has pursued interdisciplinary research that explores the connections between literature and the arts.

Kodat recently capitalized on her scholarship in this unique subject area by winning a \$15,000 Millicent C. McIntosh Flexible Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The award will be matched by a \$5,000 commitment from Hamilton. McIntosh Fellowships are awarded to especially promising, recently tenured faculty members in the humanities at liberal arts colleges.

The grant will enable Kodat to complete her book, *"Don't Act: The Cold War Politics of Art"*, an interdisciplinary study of the relationship between federal arts policies and cultural production in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s. The book will examine how the current controversies over federal arts funding are tied to the United States' "victory" in the Cold War — a victory that has unexpectedly exposed the historical limitations of conventional U.S. justifications for government support of the arts. *"Don't Act"* explores the importance of Cold War

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cultural diplomacy (starting with the “goodwill tours” undertaken during the Eisenhower administration) to the emergence of systematic federal arts funding.

Kodat will argue that current difficulties faced by efforts to continue public subsidies for the arts are due not only to anxiety about offensive art, but also to the disappearance of the political and social conditions that created widespread support for

Kodat earned a Ph.D. and masters’ degree in English from Boston University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Baltimore (though her undergraduate studies began at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, where she majored in piano performance). She has written numerous book reviews and articles for such publications as *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Mosaic*, *Twentieth Century Literature* and *The Southern Quarterly*; an essay on jazz and canon formation will soon appear

“The McIntosh Fellowship comes at a crucial point in my project — right when what I most need is simply the time to sift through the material and pull it together.”

— Katie Kodat

such programs in the first place by allowing them to be perceived (and often presented) as proofs of uniquely American freedom of expression. Cold War cultural diplomacy was a crucial precondition for the creation of a domestic program of federal support for the arts. Kodat believes that, with the end of the Cold War, these programs lost their most compelling reason for existence.

Securing external funding via grants can be difficult and frustrating, particularly in the humanities where funding is not as readily abundant as in other fields. For example, before receiving the McIntosh Fellowship, Kodat submitted proposals to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Radcliffe College Bunting Fellowship program and the Stanford Humanities Center in search of an organization that would be willing to support her work. Despite the disappointments, Kodat was persistent in her search, and this persistence led to her ultimate success. After receiving the McIntosh Fellowship, she learned she had been named an alternate for a 2002-03 residency at the new Visiting Scholars Center of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

in *American Quarterly*, the official journal of the American Studies Association. Before joining the Hamilton faculty she was a reporter and dance critic for *The Baltimore Sun* and correspondent for *Dance Magazine*. Her work in dance also includes a 1992 summer choreography workshop in Boston with the Mark Morris Dance Group, where she danced sections of *Gloria* and *Grand Duo*.

The McIntosh Fellowships are named in honor of Millicent C. McIntosh, the late president of Barnard College, a noted humanist and educator, and are supported by a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation to The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Millicent McIntosh served as a trustee of Kirkland College and received an honorary degree from Hamilton.

Grant news

NSF’s future directions

Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation, has used some recent public speaking engagements to outline the agency’s long-range plans. According to the director, the agency’s chief concerns include:

1) Improving the quality, size and diversity of the workforce. Colwell admits to having mixed results with current programs that seek to increase the number of underrepresented groups and is now exploring financial support for minority students as part of a larger effort to examine issues related to diversity.

2) New tools and materials to promote research. A report that examines the nation’s scientific research infrastructure needs will be released soon. NSF will use this report to determine future funding initiatives. Preliminary data from the report suggest that more comprehensive projects are needed, and Colwell expects NSF to take the lead in the area.

3) Improving the efficiency of university-based research. Based upon a study of academic-research practices ordered by the Office of Management and Budget, the NSF expects to make changes to programs that provide academic-research support, specifically with regard to the size of the awards and the duration of the grants.

Other top agency officials add that environmental research will continue to play an increasingly important role in NSF’s portfolio. In fact, the agency is currently developing a 10-year strategic plan that will specifically address environmental research and education. A draft of the plan will be released and available for public comment this summer; a final draft will be released in the fall. Additionally, the NSF does not expect to see significant increases in its budget.

Both the House and Senate versions of the fiscal year 2003 budget proposal call for the allocation of a \$425 million increase from the 2002 package the agency received. However, approximately \$60 million reflects the transfer of programs, such as the National Sea Grant program, from other agencies to the NSF jurisdiction. While not directly linking funding to success rates, the NSF has stated that it does not expect the number of research proposals or the (average) 30% success rate to change significantly over the next few years.

Scientists gather at Hamilton to discuss climate change on Antarctic peninsula

Scientists from around the globe met at Hamilton's campus in April to discuss environmental changes on the Antarctic Peninsula, the effects of a long-documented warming trend on plants, animals and ice conditions, and whether similar conditions have existed previously over recent geological time. The peninsula, which extends northward toward South America, was the site of the collapse of an enormous ice shelf, dubbed the Larsen B, in late March that made headlines around the world.

The conference, supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Hamilton College and Colgate University, was titled "Antarctic Peninsula Climate Variability: A Historical and Paleoenvironmental Perspective." Scott Borg of NSF's Office of Polar Programs said the meeting had been planned before the disintegration of the Larsen B ice shelf because the Antarctic peninsula has long been the focus of multidisciplinary scientific investigations into long-term climate trends. Other ice shelves have disintegrated along the peninsula in recent years and other



Jonathan Overpeck '79, of the University of Arizona Institute for the Study of Planet Earth and professor of geosciences, delivered the keynote address at the international conference on Antarctica held at Hamilton.

severe and rapid changes in the ecosystem there have attracted the interest of scientists.

Conference participants explored how atmospheric and oceanographic factors have affected the climate system of the peninsula in the past, using evidence from marine sediment and ice cores. They also looked at current conditions and attempted to discern links between the local conditions on the peninsula and other regional and global climate events.

Even in Antarctica, there appear to be marked variations in climate trends. Researchers with NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research project in Antarctica's Dry Valleys recently published a paper in *Nature* arguing that the continent of Antarctica has cooled measurably throughout the last 35 years. That paper acknowledges the existence of a documented warming trend on the peninsula.

Among the topics covered were the decay of ice shelves on the peninsula, the decrease in sea ice cover in the Southern Ocean around the peninsula, increases in mean annual

summer and winter temperatures, shifts in penguin populations and changes in vascular plant density and distribution.

The conference also gave scientists their first opportunity to review sea-floor data from the Larsen B shelf area collected on an NSF-supported research cruise earlier this year. Eugene Domack, a conference organizer and a Hamilton professor of geology, conducted a ship-borne survey of the region aboard the NSF's research vessel *Nathaniel B. Palmer* a few months prior to the Larsen B shelf collapse. Domack said that sea-floor photographs illustrate a seascape littered with a pavement of stones most likely released by icebergs from the previous break up of segments of the Larsen B system in 2000 and 1999. Preliminary study of sediment cores from in front of the Larsen B, he added, suggest that the Larsen B collapse may be unprecedented in the roughly 12,000 years since the last ice age.

A Sampling of Awards and Submissions

Please join the Office of Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations as we extend congratulations to the following faculty members who have recently received awards or submitted proposals.

Vivyan C. Adair, assistant professor of women's studies and co-director of the ACCESS Project, **Erol M. Balkan**, James L. Ferguson Professor of Economics and co-director of the ACCESS Project, and **Sharon S. Gormley**, coordinator of the ACCESS Project, have received a second contract from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for \$489,734 to fund the ACCESS Project, which provides educational opportunities for low-income single parents.

Herman K. Lehman, associate professor of biology, was awarded, along with a colleague from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a \$199,464 grant for his project, "*Collaborative Research: Octopamine-Mediated Behavioral Development in Honey Bees - Social and Endocrine Regulation of Tyramine Beta-Hydroxylase*," from the National Science Foundation.

Barbara J. Tewksbury, Stephen Harper Kirner Professor of Geology, was awarded, along with colleagues from Carleton College, College of William and Mary, and Montana State University, an approximately \$4.2-million grant titled "*Collaborative Research: Combining Real and Virtual Professional Development for Geoscience Faculty and Graduate Students*."

Stephen M. Festin, assistant professor of biology, was awarded a \$144,459 grant from the National Institutes of Health - National Cancer Institute for his project, "*Antiestrogenic Mechanisms of Alpha-fetoprotein Peptides*."

Eugene W. Domack, professor of geology, and a colleague from the Madison County Planning Department submitted a proposal to the Central New York Regional Planning Committee requesting \$23,972 to fund an environmental analysis of the Oneida Creek Delta in South Bay, Oneida Lake.

George A. Gescheider, professor of psychology, and a colleague from Syracuse University have submitted a research proposal to the National Institutes of Health requesting \$1,112,721 for "*A psychological study of vibrotactile temporal summation*."

Vincent O. Odamtten, professor of English, has submitted a proposal to the National Endowment of Humanities Fellowship program requesting \$40,000 for his project, "*The Reign of Tobi Sri II and Developing Courseware for Teaching Africana Studies*."

Kirsten E. Paap, assistant professor of sociology, along with a colleague from the University of Cincinnati, submitted a proposal to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health requesting \$131,440 to fund their project, "*Volunteer Firefighter Safety: Cultures and Structures*."

George C. Shields, professor and chair of chemistry, along with **Mark Bailey**, **Karen S. Brewer**, **Timothy E. Elgren**, **Gordon L. Jones**, **Robin B. Kinnel**, **John R. LaGraff**, **Herman K. Lehman**, **Ian J. Rosenstein** and **Ann J. Silver-smith**, has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program requesting \$100,000 to implement a high school-to-college bridge program.

Lisa N. Trivedi, assistant professor of history, submitted a proposal to the American Institute of Indian Studies to fund her project, "*Bound by Cloth: Women textile workers in Bombay and Lancashire, 1860-1940*."