

SELECTED 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 of submitted proposals.

MARY BETH BARTH, director of critical languages, submitted a proposal to the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program. Her request to bring an Arabic language teaching assistant to campus has been approved.

STEPHEN J. ELLINGSON, assistant professor of sociology, was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Louisville Institute for support of his project *Green Partnerships*.

HONG GANG JIN, professor of East Asian languages and literatures and director of the Associated Colleges in China Program, was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program supporting her project *ACC Post-Study Abroad Field Experience Program in China for U.S. Undergraduate Students*.

CAMILLE Y. JONES, assistant professor of chemistry, submitted two proposals to the American Chemical Society. The first requested \$40,000 for her project *Expansion and Shrinkage of Cages in Structure II Clathrate Hydrates: The Effects of Temperature and Guest*, and the second requested support for her project *Project SEED: Densities of Clathrate Hydrate-Forming Solutions*.

KARL N. KIRSCHNER, visiting assistant professor of chemistry and co-director of the Center for Molecular Design, submitted a proposal to the Humboldt Foundation requesting support for his project *The Creation of Ramachandran Plots for Polysacchrides — Understanding the Allowed Conformational Space of Glycosidic Linkages*.

JUDITH OWENS-MANLEY, associate director for community research, was awarded an \$8,500 grant — via a sub-award from Princeton University — from the Corporation for National and Community Service in support of her project *Learn and Serve America*.

WILLIAM A. PFITSCH, associate professor of biology, was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Li-Cor Environmental Education Fund to support the purchase of equipment.

SHARON W. RIVERA, assistant professor of government, submitted a proposal to the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research requesting support for her project *Leadership and Democratization in the Postcommunist Transitions*.

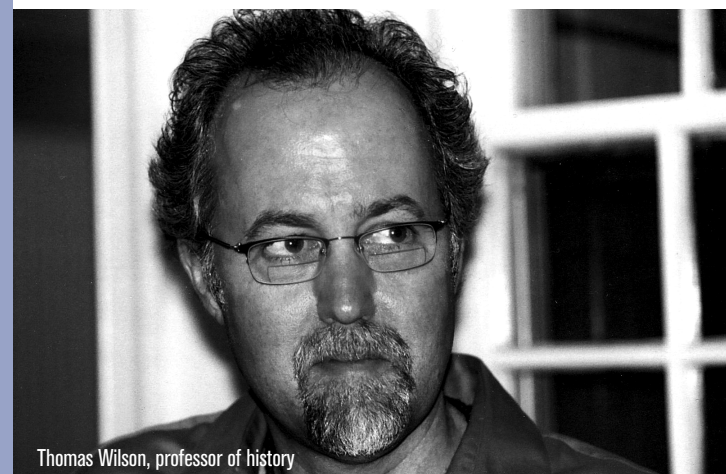
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Hamilton FACULTY GRANTS NEWS

Published by the Office of Foundation, Corporate and Government Relations, Faculty Grants News reports on funding and research trends of public and private sources, as well as the grant and scholarly activities of Hamilton's faculty members.



Thomas Wilson, professor of history

Wilson Developing Book with Assistance of NEH Fellowship

THOMAS WILSON, professor of history, needed some dedicated time for research and writing to complete his latest book, a historical analysis of Confucian sacrifice and controversies over its practice. He applied for, and eventually won, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities that enabled him to devote a full year to the project.

Wilson's research focuses on the cult of Confucius. The ancestral cult established by his followers and descendant probably dates to soon after Confucius's death in 479 BCE and the imperial cult established by the court dates to the seventh century. He examines the cult's place among imperial cults to the gods and the interactions between the court and Confucius's

descendants. Wilson argues that the boundary between the imperial cult and the ancestral cult was shifting, in part, because ancestral worship constituted an archetype of virtually all imperial cults — even those in which the sacrificer was not a descendant of the venerated.

"In a sense, this project began in 1979 when I was studying Chinese at the Stanford Center in Taipei," Wilson explained. "We went on a field trip to observe a ceremony in a temple devoted to Confucius where meat and wine were offered to a tablet bearing his name. At that time, I couldn't really see the main part of the ceremony. All I could see was a group of boys performing a series of carefully executed steps — a dance of sorts — on the front platform while music was performed, all very slowly."

As a graduate student studying Confucius, Wilson often thought about that ceremony which ran contrary to his understanding of Confucianism. "At the time, I regarded Confucianism as one of the world's greatest philosophical systems. Little did I realize that it was so much more," he added.

With the NEH proposal, Wilson highlighted the broad implications of his project. First, he noted that Confucian studies tended to focus primarily on philosophy — ethics and metaphysics — and had not given due weight to the central importance of rituals. What had been written about rituals primarily focused on family rites, mourning and the emperor's sacrifice. Wilson proposed to expand on this work by examining sacrifice as a primary mode of ritual action. Secondly, he contended that the book would contribute to the broader study of sacrifice. While Wilson would draw from Confucian sources for the book, his research ultimately could be used by other scholars to examine Vedic, Greek and Roman systems of sacrifice.

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GRANTS NEWS

FASTLANE'S PROJECT REPORTS SYSTEM GETS AN UPGRADE

The National Science Foundation made enhancements to its project reports system in Fastlane in November. These enhancements enable NSF to track project reporting requirements and submissions by award and to assist grantees in submitting the reports expeditiously. The Project Reports System link under Award and Reporting in the Proposals, Awards and Status link has been modified to show the reporting requirements for each award. As part of the enhancements, principal investigators and co-principal investigators will be notified via e-mail of reports that become due or are overdue. Sponsored project offices will receive a copy of the e-mail notice as well, via the awardee e-mail address that is maintained in Accounts Management/Organization Information.

PLEASE NOTE, AS PART OF THESE CHANGES, ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS THAT END ON OR BEFORE 09/30/2006 HAVE BEEN WAIVED.

BUSH BUDGET PLAN FOR '08 HAS ONLY MODEST INCREASES FOR FEW AGENCIES

President Bush unveiled his domestic fiscal year 2008 federal budget plan in early February. Universities and colleges can expect to see modest increases in funding for discretionary grants in the areas of advancing global competitiveness and energy security (*Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly*, February 2007). The plan would boost funds in particular for the Energy Department, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, and the National Science Foundation. The plan also reprises a proposal for math and science competitiveness programs introduced last year, including a foreign language program that would fund higher education institutions to partner with K-12 education agencies to implement comprehensive programs.

Some scientists were angered with the proposed budget for the NIH, which will be held virtually flat over last year's appropriation, while others were encouraged to see an increase of more than a hundred billion dollars to NSF's budget. While some of the increase to NSF's budget can be attributed to the reshuffling of the EPSCoR program, there are increases for certain education programs, including the Math and Science Partnership program.

Bush's budget request for the National Endowment for the Humanities seeks funding of \$141.355 million, an increase of \$400,000 over the agency's FY 2007 budget request. The 2008 request includes \$15.2 million for the agency's We the People program, which encourages and strengthens the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture. It also includes \$1.4 million for NEH's recently launched Digital Humanities Initiative (DHI).

NIH TAKES "PROACTIVE STEPS" TO SOFTEN FLAT BUDGET IMPACT

The National Institutes of Health will not receive any additional budget increases in FY2007. In response, the NIH has taken steps to hold down costs on research projects while keeping the number of competing grants as high as possible and protecting new investigators (*Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly*, January 2007).

Primarily, this means that grantees will not receive cost-of-living increases on continuing projects. Individual institutes may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis for scientific and program reasons, but supplements will not be figured into future costs.

NIH is seeking to maintain the number of new and competing renewal grants at about 9,500, close to the same

number awarded in fiscal year 2005. The goal is to stabilize the yearly variation in the number of awards made.

MORE CHANGES FOR GRANTS.GOV

Federal e-grants officials are moving ahead with plans to make the central Grants.gov Web site more user-friendly to all federal grantee communities (*Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly*, September 2006). The major change will be the conversion of application forms to Adobe from Pure Edge. All applications after April 1, 2007, will be made in Adobe, making the system more compatible for Mac users, who have had to cope with a system oriented to Windows-based computers.

LAWMAKERS PASS LAST-MINUTE NIH AUTHORIZATION

Congress recently passed a new reauthorization bill for the National Institutes of Health, the first reauthorization the agency has received in 13 years (*Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly*, December 2006). The reauthorization bill caps the number of institutes at the current 27 and raises the funding limit for the agency, although that limit will not be met by Bush's proposed budget. ■

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"That was my proposed project, although I already find myself on a different track than where I thought I would be at this point." Wilson believes this often happens with grant-funded work. After having a significant amount of time to focus on a project, central foci often undergo some revision. "I tend to write grant proposals on the basis of what I was thinking up to last week — or last summer — and so my

proposals tend to be out of date by the time I begin working on the project."

For example, Wilson is now working on a chapter on Confucian theories of ghosts and spirits, which begins by refuting the misconception that Confucius was a religious agnostic. He argues that an agnostic Confucius appeared only as recently as the late 1920s and 1930s, when Western-educated Chinese

scholars sought to construct an image of Confucius consistent with secular humanism.

"It wasn't part of my original chapter outline, but the modern construction of Confucius is really the backdrop of my main focus on excavating the figure of Confucius, who was profoundly concerned with abiding by ancient rituals of feasting spirits. It is important to include that in the book," Wilson said.

In addition to his leave, Wilson's NEH grant enabled him to visit the libraries of Harvard and Princeton universities, as well as the Library of Congress. He researched Ming-Qing sources on imperial liturgies of sacrifice, including collections of writings, records of court debated in the veritable records, and the collected writings of key memorialists who participated in the debates and others who served as ritual officers of the court performing the imperial rites.

Wilson has extensive experience with grants — he has held nine fellowships or grant awards since 1992, including

awards from the Institute for Advanced Study, the Pacific Cultural Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, the U.S. Department of Education, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions or other scholarly tools. Fellowships support full-time work on a humanities project for a period of six to twelve months. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges, universities, or primary or secondary schools, or they may be independent scholars or writers. ■

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