

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.

Considering writing a grant proposal?
Have an idea, but don't know what to do next?
Need help sorting out your budget?
Contact our office.

William Billiter
Director of Foundation,
Corporate and Government
Relations
wbillite@hamilton.edu
(315) 859-4384

Amy Lindner
Associate Director of
Foundation, Corporate and
Government Relations
alindner@hamilton.edu
(315) 859-4678

Sheri Brennan
Assistant
sbrennan@hamilton.edu
(315) 859-4064



Hamilton

Ann Frechette: Seven and Counting

From her graduate work at Harvard University to her scholarly research at Hamilton College, Ann Frechette '90 has been successful at securing grants for her research. Among the seven she has earned to date are prestigious grants from the MacArthur Foundation's International Peace and Security Program, the Mellon Foundation, the Blakemore Foundation and the Cora DuBois Foundation, as well as a Fulbright Fellowship in Nepal. Taken together, these awards have supported advanced language study, research abroad and the completion of her dissertation.

Further, the Henry Luce Foundation awarded the College a four-year grant in 1999 that enabled us to bring Frechette back to her alma mater as the inaugural Luce Junior Professor of Asian Studies. She is continuing her foray into the grants world by submitting applications to the American Council of Learned Societies and the



Fulbright Scholars Program. She hopes her excellent record of grant success will help her leverage support for her current research, which focuses on the adoption process of Chinese children by American families.

While Ann's previous research focused on the effect of international

policies on Tibetan culture in Nepal, her newest project analyzes the institutional and regulatory system that facilitates China-U.S. adoptions. Until the 1990s, intercountry adoption from China was a small-scale, informal and largely unregulated process involving only a small number of children per year. In the past 10 years, however, it has expanded into a \$100-million enterprise, involving more than 5,000 children per year.

Given the vast increase in these adoptions, both China and the United States have taken steps to regulate the process. Most significantly, both have

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Ann Frechette on location in Dharamsala, India, back in 1994.

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signed the 1993 Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption and are now restructuring their national adoption laws and policies to bring them into compliance with it. These new laws and policies have dramatically changed the way in which China-U.S. adoptions are managed and have prompted much discussion within the international adoption community about the long-term consequences.

Frechette plans to analyze the influence of the Hague Convention on China-U.S. adoptions by exploring two issues which she believes have yet to be explicitly addressed. First, she proposes to examine the extent to which market models are useful for analyzing international adoption.

She describes her focus as follows: “Existent literature on international adoption is polarized between accounts that analyze the process as if it were a market (i.e., ‘China’s New Export: Unwanted Girls’) and accounts that avoid market language altogether through a focus on personal narrative accounts (i.e., ‘How I Met My Daughter at the Wuhan Foundling Hospital’).”

Her project focuses, in particular, on the way in which international adoption is regulated to challenge both market and anti-market views. In so doing, she will analyze the issue of choice and how it is socially mediated — how the choices families, adoption agencies, orphanages and government officials make throughout the adoption process are moderated by moral, legal and ethical norms.

The second issue deals with how participants in the international adoption process conceptualize family. She focuses on the family for a number of reasons. One, the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption is the first effective international legal agreement to address the family. Two, China and the United States are often depicted as polar opposites in their approaches to families and family life, with China as a model of “familism” — where the individual is subordinated to the interests of the family — and the United States as a model of

individualism. The China-U.S. adoption process is a site through which these models of the family are negotiated. Three, there has been much attention on the influence of new reproductive technologies on the concept of the family. The number of U.S. families created through international adoption exceeds the number created through assisted reproduction. Families who adopt from China now represent about one-fourth of all U.S. families who adopt internationally.

Grants, of course, provide the necessary funds to perform research. However, Frechette feels that her experiences in the grants world have provided much more than financial resources. She believes that grants have raised the profile of her work and that her previous projects were given a greater sense of legitimacy because they were endorsed and funded by external organizations. She was able to secure a number of institutional connections, for example, that otherwise may have been difficult to establish.

Her Fulbright Fellowship provided greater access to the U.S. Embassy and to the resources at a local Nepalese university. Her MacArthur Fellowship facilitated access to the Dalai Lama’s personal office. Moreover, Frechette credits her grant awards with providing a connection to a broader community of scholars that includes grantees from a wide variety of disciplines.

A requirement of her grant from the MacArthur Foundation, for example, was that she attend a handful of conferences over the course of the project. She notes that one of the most surprising, yet helpful, outcomes of

attending was listening to the feedback from colleagues outside her field.

“Because many of the conference participants were not anthropologists,” she reports, “I received a different kind of feedback. Their comments helped redefine my project.”

Through her affiliation with the MacArthur Foundation, Frechette was able to become a reviewer for the Global Security and Cooperation Program of the Social Science Research Council and is now also a reviewer for their International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship Program. Frechette considers her reviewing experience to be very helpful with the preparation of her own applications.

“It makes me more attentive to issues of audience,” she said. “In designing a research project, it is easy to get caught up in particular arguments and to lose sight of their general importance. In the Tibet field, in particular, it is easy to lose sight of the ‘So what?’ question. You want to contribute to particular, often very esoteric, debates, which may be very interesting to people in the field, but you cannot count on fellowship committees to be composed only of people in the field. You have to frame your work in a way that non-specialists can get excited about it too.”

Additionally, she noted that the proposals that received funding all demonstrated a logical fit between the research methods and the overall goals of the proposals. “Even when applicants appear to have the proper training, they need to explain, in detail, what they are going to do. Sometimes people worry about

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Senate and House leave NSF appropriations bills unresolved

The latest *Washington Report* from the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) reports that Congress did not finalize action on the vast majority of its appropriation bills before leaving for the election recess. The NSF budget was one of those left in limbo. The appropriation bill passed in both House and Senate, but differences between the two versions of the bill must be worked out in a conference committee. In the meantime, both the House and Senate versions of the appropriations bill give some indications of what we may be able to expect:

1) Grant size and number of awards: Some have expressed concern that a push for larger awards could disadvantage investigators from PUIs (Primarily Undergraduate Institutions) who are accustomed to applying for relatively smaller grants. Whether or not this is so, note the following language in the Senate version of the appropriations bill:

“Committee urges NSF to the maximum extent possible, to use the growth in resources being provided to make a marked and substantial increase in the average award, as well as increase the number of awards being made with special efforts made to include those individuals and institutions not well represented in the nation’s research enterprise. This

means minority-serving institutions, institutions in states that are in the lower ranks of federal funding for science and institutions that are not the major research universities.”

2) Biology: Both the House and Senate have appropriated \$26 million for NSF’s interdisciplinary effort known as “Biocomplexity.” This is an increase of 53 percent over the FY 02 level. However, the Senate’s overall appropriation for biology is a tiny fraction of its increases in other disciplines. The House appropriation is in balance with other disciplines. This is one issue that must be resolved in conference.

3) Physical sciences: Both House and Senate call for more funding for the physical sciences (about a 15 percent increase).

4) Major Research Instrumentation (MRI): Both the House and Senate increase the amount of funding for MRI over that in the president’s budget. The Senate expresses concern about the infrastructure needs of developing institutions and minority-serving institutions, and directs that additional funds go to strengthening them.

5) Undergraduate education: The Senate calls for NSF to develop a “robust and comprehensive plan” for undergraduate science and engineering education that builds on the “tech talent” program and other NSF undergraduate activities.

committing themselves to a project plan that they will have to change later, so they do not want to outline a project plan at all. In my opinion, it is important to have a plan, however provisional, from the start so as to demonstrate knowledge and facility with project planning.”

Frechette’s recent and pending applications, to Fulbright and the ACLS, request research support for the 2003-04 academic year. Fulbright

grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Since the program’s inception, more than 250,000 participants, chosen for their leadership potential, have had the opportunity to observe each other’s political, economic and cultural institutions.

Bush nominates Gioia NEA chairman

President George W. Bush nominated poet, critic and educator Dana Gioia as the next chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. He would be the ninth NEA chairman. Composer/musician Michael Hammond, who assumed office as the eighth NEA chairman on Jan. 22, 2002, died one week later. Musician Eileen Mason currently serves as acting chairman.

“I am deeply honored by President Bush’s nomination to be chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts,” Gioia said. “If confirmed by the Senate, I shall do my best to be worthy of this public trust. I am particularly excited by the opportunity to help guide an agency whose role is so important to our society and culture. The arts enliven and enlarge our humanity. Especially in such challenging times, they nourish the spirit of our nation.”

Dana Gioia serves as a vice president of the Poetry Society of America Board of Governors, along with Billy Collins, Anna Rabinowitz and Mary Jo Salter. His books of poetry include *Daily Horoscope*, *The Gods of Winter* and *Interrogations At Noon*, which won the 2002 American Book Award. He wrote the libretto for Alva Henderson’s opera, *Nosferatu*, and his translation of Seneca’s *The Madness of Hercules* was performed by Verse Theater Manhattan in 1996.

The American Council of Learned Societies is a private, non-profit federation of 66 national scholarly organizations. The mission of the ACLS, as set forth in its constitution, is “the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and the social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies.”

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.

Mark Bailey, assistant professor of computer science, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation's Operating Systems and Compilers program for \$46,995 for his collaborative research project, Branch Elimination by Condition Merging.

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

The French Department, in collaboration with the Kirkland Arts Center, received a grant from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture to participate in Tournees, a French film grant program. The grant will enable the department to show five contemporary French films during the year and to open them to the general public.

Hong Gang Jin, professor of Chinese, was awarded a \$32,000 research grant from the National Science Council in Taiwan that will support her research project on second language acquisition and experimental studies of multimedia effects on language acquisition.

John LaGraff, assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a \$41,224 Cottrell College Science grant from the Research Corporation to support his research project, Structure-Function Relationships of Microcontact Printed Protein Patterns Investigated by in-situ Scanning Force Microscopy." In addition, he submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation's Nanotechnology Undergraduate Education program requesting \$100,000 for his project, Integrating Nanoscience into the Undergraduate Liberal Arts Curriculum.

Seth Major, assistant professor of physics, was awarded a \$24,882 Cottrell College Science grant from the Research Corporation to support his research project, Investigation of Observational Constraints on Quantum Geometry Effects.

Matthew Evans, visiting assistant professor of geology, submitted, in collaboration with his colleagues from Cornell University and SUNY Cortland, a proposal to the National Science Foundation requesting \$67,971 to support their research project, Geothermal Fluid Fluxes of Heat and Carbon in the Central Nepal Himalaya.

Sharon Wering Rivera, assistant professor of government, submitted a proposal to the George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation to support her research project, Shaping the Russian Mind: Elite Views Toward Democracy and the Market Under Yeltsin and Putin.

George Shields, professor and chair of chemistry, submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation requesting \$245,899 to support his research project, Calculating Acid Dissociation Constants in Aqueous Solution. In addition, Shields, along with **Mark Bailey**, **Karen Brewer**, **Tim Elgren**, **Gordon Jones**, **Robin Kinnel**, **John LaGraff**, **Herm Lehman**, **Ian Rosenstein** and **Ann Silversmith**, have been awarded a \$99,909 grant from the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program to implement a high school-to-college bridge program. The program will introduce incoming first-year students to intensive research experiences during the summer before their first year of college.

Lisa Trivedi, assistant professor of history, submitted a proposal to the American Council of Learned Societies and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation requesting support for her project, Bound by Cloth: Women textile workers in Bombay and Lancashire, 1860-1940.