Faculty Name: Lynn Richardson  
Project Title: Academy of Uncommon Gardens  
Project Abstract:

Drawing upon previously completed projects that investigated our relationship with industry and landscape, this new work continues to elaborate upon the ever-changing north. Using colonialism as a metaphor for the potential exploitation of the Arctic, my new work will question this financially rewarding relationship by assuming multiple forms reminiscent to the English Garden. Gardens are intertwined with architecture, design, fashion, politics, literature and social history.

This past summer I traveled to the International Research Institution the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, England. This allowed me to discover and digest the world of gardens from multiple perspectives. An informative aspect to building large-scale installation is the opportunity to experience this constructed environment both visually and physically. My preliminary research has focused on the architectural patterning of gardens including constructed pathways, gated doorways and garden ornaments. Currently I have started designing and constructed organic fabric-clad forms, and will begin building kinetic ornamental pieces. Upon completion this large-scale sculptural installation that embodies, light, sound and the physicality of three-dimensional objects will occupy an 80’ x 80’ space.

This new body of work titled Academy of Uncommon Gardens will be exhibited at the Cummings Art Center at Connecticut College, at The Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery and at the White Water Gallery in Ontario, Canada.

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Faculty Name: Heather Diack  
Project Title: Conceptual Art as Comedic Practice  
Project Abstract:

My proposed project, entitled “Conceptual Art As Comedic Practice,” is a significant opportunity for me professionally, which will allow me to develop, present, publish and disseminate new research, while also making important connections with international scholars in my field. This project consists of multiple interrelated parts, including a research trip to the archives of the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco and the special collections of the Getty Research Institute in Malibu, combined with a conference presentation and the chairing of an academic panel at the College Art Association in Los Angeles on February 24, 2012, as well as the forthcoming publication of an edited volume on conceptual art and humor. My project critically explores the intellectual and ontological challenges posed by the comedic sensibility of much conceptual art. This project will enhance both my scholarship as well as my future course offerings.

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Faculty Name: Brinda Charry  
Project Title: The Bard of Bollywood  
Project Abstract:

The project examines the complex colonial and postcolonial histories that account for Shakespeare’s presence in Indian cinema. Together, the articles will study the early history of Shakespeare performance in colonial India and Shakespearean drama as the theme of early post-independence cinema, the reworkings of the Shakespearean fraternity themes in Hindi cinema, and the adaptation of Shakespeare’s
discourse of romantic love in the Indian context. The project will study the shifting global significance of Shakespeare in the early twenty-first century and will also look at contemporary India’s engagement with this iconic Western author in terms of the negotiation between the “native” and the “colonial,” the “local” and the “global.”

Faculty Name: James Chesebrough  
Project Title: Support for European Tour with Trombone Choir of America  
Project Abstract:

In 1971, the first National Trombone Workshop took place at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Since that time, this event, now known as the International Trombone Festival, has grown to be the most prestigious gathering of professional trombonists and trombone teachers in the world.

I have been invited to travel to this festival with a trombone choir comprised of number of trombone instructors from various colleges and universities across the country. The group will be attending the 2012 International Trombone Festival at the Paris Conservatory of Music and will form the core of the Cramer Trombone Choir. This ensemble, named in honor of the late William F. Cramer, former trombone professor at Florida State University, will be one of the festival performing groups. The Trombone Choir of America will make a short performing tour in Germany, Belgium, and France before arriving at the Festival in Paris.

Faculty Name: Jamie Landau  
Project Title: Reproducing and Transgressing Masculinity: a Rhetorical Analysis of Women Interacting with Digital Photographs of Thomas Beatie  
Project Abstract:

This essay rhetorically analyzes the interaction between American women of childbearing age and digital photographs of Thomas Beatie. I argue that these ideological, emotional, and physical interactions reproduced and transgressed traditional masculinity, as well as reproduced a “pregnant (transgender) man” and “happy family,” in part through the digital photographic processes of cropping, circulating, and conversing. This study differs from existing feminist scholarship that suggests images of pregnant men propagate patriarchal control over procreation and overlook reproduction by women.

Faculty Name: Jonathan Schwartz  
Project Title: The Old New Land  
Project Abstract:

Composed of three sections, my new short film The Old New Land will re-image the earliest motion pictures shot in Palestine in 1896 coupled against contemporary portraits on either side of the dividing line between Jerusalem and East Jerusalem. This film borrows its title from Theodor Herzl’s 1902 novel, Atneuland (or The Old New Land), which depicts a collective, cooperative community centered on the use of land. The text was a fictional map of the idea of the Kibbutz. The middle section of my film will consist of portraits photographed in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, a modernized idea of the Kibbutz; it is a cooperative living village where its residents are both Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. Its name translates as ‘Oasis of Peace’ in both Hebrew and Arabic.
Many of the ideas for this film were born from research and findings that converge amongst time, place, and image representations during the late 1890’s – 1910 in Jerusalem. Further research will be conducted at the Jewish Film Archive at Hebrew University locating cinematic dialogue between the earliest films created in Jerusalem and the expansion of the Zionist movement that led to the establishment of Israel. My film will be more concerned with the confluences of time and place than it is in depicting didactic perspectives within a highly charged location. *The Old New Land* will implicitly allude to separations and borders while composing visual gestures that are contemporary in their scope while they are situated amongst the ghosts of the past.

Faculty Name: James Waller  
Project Title: “We No Longer Saw a Human Being:” The Role of truth-Telling in Peacebuilding  
Project Abstract:

In 100 days beginning in April 1994, Rwanda, a central African country the size of Vermont, saw 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus slaughtered by Hutu extremists. Since 1994, peacebuilding has been particularly problematic in a country where the group subjected to genocide must now live side by side with the killers. This project, focusing on the role of truth-telling and peacebuilding, has both a research and application focus. From a research perspective, this project seeks funding to select six perpetrator video testimonies from the Genocide Archive of Rwanda and take them through the transcription, translation, and subtitling process. I have developed a theoretical explanatory model of how ordinary people come to commit genocide and mass killing and the data from these interviews will expand the comparative reach of that model and, likely, challenge some of its underlying assumptions. From an application perspective, I believe these testimonies can prompt a discussion among the stakeholders in Rwandan society regarding the use of truth-telling in peacebuilding. Going beyond the judicial implications, I believe I can use these pilot testimonies to draw a wide range of international partners (developed through my work with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation) into this discussion who can illustrate, from their own experiences (e.g., Argentina), how truth-telling can be used to heal, rather than divide, a post-conflict society. This long-term impact of the proposed project has the potential to transform how Rwandans, and others, think about the role of truth-telling in peacebuilding.

Faculty Name: Thomas Durnford  
Project Title: “Esther Topaz: Born in a French Concentration Camp” (A story of survival during the Holocaust)  
Project Abstract:

I propose to travel during the spring/summer 2012, to complete necessary documentary video taping to be supported with digital copies of photographs, news reports, letters and associated archival documents, to complete my research into the history of the Gurs (France) concentration camp (1939-45) and the birth and early childhood of Esther Topaz – internationally renowned sculptor – and how the Holocaust experience impacted on her life and on those of her parents (who both survived the Holocaust) and those of her surviving relatives. Ms. Topaz’ parents met, married and gave birth to Esther in the camp in 1942, at a time when Jewish internees were being deported from Gurs to their deaths in Auschwitz. We will complete video interviews with Esther in her Montreal sculpture studio, as well as with recognized Holocaust experts in the U.S. and Canada (identified through the assistance of KSC Holocaust and Genocide faculty), and update interviews with specialists on the Gurs camp and the French camp system during WWII.
Faculty Name:  Heather Gilligan & Sandra Howard
Project Title:  European Premiere of “Prayer of Spring” – The Einbeck Commission

Project Abstract:

The Keene Partner City Committee has invited the community-based ensemble, The Chamber Singers of Keene, conducted by Professor Sandra Howard, to participate in a cultural exchange tour in Keene’s partner city, Einbeck, Germany from June 29-July 8, 2012. As part of this international exchange, the choir will collaborate with a German host choir for multiple rehearsals and a shared concert event. With this invitation to travel to Germany, The Chamber Singers of Keene have commissioned Professor Heather Gilligan to compose a new choral work, “A Prayer in spring,” to be featured as a European premiere during the 2012 summer tour in Einbeck. This will be the first time a music ensemble from Keene will travel to Einbeck as part of the city partnership program for a cultural exchange. This invitation will provide Dr. Howard and Dr. Gilligan opportunities to share and develop their creative and music scholarship at an international level.

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Awards to Faculty in The Mason Library

Faculty Name:  Elizabeth Dolinger & Jennifer Ditkoff
Project Title:  Keene State College Curriculum Materials Library: Rebuilding Connections and Collections

Project Abstract:

The goal of this project is to renew the mission and vision of the Keene State College Curriculum Materials Library and revitalize the collection in order to support the professional development of pre K -12 teachers with curriculum materials that are current, relevant, and aligned with NH State curriculum and the needs of KSC student teachers. Through site visits to other curriculum materials collections, interviews with KSC student teachers, local teachers, library media specialists, and school administrators, the KSC Curriculum Materials Library will have a renewed vision, as well as an articulated process for maintaining collaboration and relevance to the KSC Education Department curriculum and NH State curriculum. The project is led by Head of Access Services & Collection Development Librarian, Jennifer Ditkoff, and Information Literacy Librarian Elizabeth Dolinger and requires collaboration with the Education department. Attendance at the NY City Book Expo to view available curriculum materials and meet with publishers will help reinforce the bridge between the Library and the Education Department and help to make informed acquisitions of new materials. Phase two of the project will seek external funding and may help to purchase materials for the collection and relevant technologies necessary for the professional development of future teachers.

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Awards to Faculty in Professional & Graduate Studies

Faculty Names:  Bart Sapeta
Project Title:  Virtual Reality Pavilion (VRP) – the bridging of art, architecture, technology and multimedia

Project Abstract:
My collaboration with artist Jan Sawka on the Peace Monument Complex, Jerusalem resulted in a project that was unveiled in May 2010 at the International Poster Center in New York City under auspices of The Foundation of Understanding and in 2011 awarded by the American Institute of Architects in the Annual Design Excellence program. Recently I have been asked to join the Sawka Team on another exciting project that would bridge boundaries of art, architecture, technology and multimedia.

“Virtual Reality Pavilion” (VRP) is a code name for a transparent/ translucent structure employing switchable glass/ LED composites that allow for digital projection in their native state or 99% transparency in their active state. This project is a research of building exterior façade systems composed of materials that change their state of transparency with application of electric current. Ultimately it will result in a structure displaying advanced “building skin” capabilities ranging from transparency to opaqueness, and serving as a canvas for artistic expression while satisfying interior ventilation, heating and cooling needs, and possibly even as an energy producing element.

Participation in the development of the VRP project serves as a stepping-stone in my long-term goal of research and development of interactive building façade components. The first hand knowledge of the technology employed in contemporary projects built in Tokyo will help in guiding this research towards sustainable “building skins” that satisfy the visual and physical needs of building occupants and employ green design principles to minimize energy usage and emissions.

Faculty Name: Judith Reed
Project Title: Immigration as Forced Migration: Why Teachers (and all of us) Need to Understand Globalized Economics
Project Abstract:

Contention about immigration and the rights of immigrants is particularly heated in the U.S. today. Immigrant children are increasingly affected by policymakers whose agenda includes an attempt to exclude them from the public education system. Educators whose classrooms include immigrant children clearly need a framework for understanding how and why these children have come into their communities and schools. The phenomenon of worker migration as we know it today can only be understood in the larger context of the globalized economy and the “race to the bottom” that characterizes the multinational corporate relationship with the global South.

I am invited to present at the 21st annual conference of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) in Chicago. The theme for this year’s conference is “Reworking Intersections, Reframing Debates, Restoring Hope.” My presentation will reflect, disseminate and test my work in bringing a global perspective to local educational issues surrounding immigrants and their children. It reframes the current debate about immigration within the historical-political-economic context of a globalized economy dominated by the global North at the expense of the global South.

This presentation is a central piece in my sabbatical project this year, which involves a critical understanding of globalized economics and the implications for educators. This opportunity to test my ideas and my methods for conveying those ideas to others is critical to the development of this line of study and my own scholarly contributions to the field.
Awards to Faculty in Sciences & Social Sciences

Faculty Name: W. James Stemp
Project Title: Current Trends in Belizean Archaeology
Project Abstract:

This project involves the organization of a special symposium on “Current Trends in Belizean Archaeology” to be held at the 77th annual Society for American Archaeology conference in Memphis, Tennessee, in April of 2012. This symposium consists of sixteen paper presentations by undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to established scholars, from colleges and universities from the United States, Canada, and Europe. These presentations address numerous topics concerning recent discoveries in Maya archaeology in the country of Belize, Central America. In addition to co-organizing and co-chairing this symposium, I will have some of my research on the use of green obsidian presented with collaborators from the University of Calgary and McMaster University.

Faculty Name: A.L. Rydant
Project Title: The Efficacy of Field Course Pedagogy
Project Abstract:

This proposal requests funds to undertake continuing research on field course pedagogy. Fieldwork has long been recognized as a fundamental component of geography. Yet, most research on its efficacy relies on student and faculty testimonials, which are expectedly supportive. This project is part of an ongoing effort with faculty at two other institutions (University of Wolverhampton, UK and Plymouth State University) to move beyond the general to the more specific quantification of field course viability. To date we have created a survey and sampled students on six previous field courses; this proposal requests funds to administer the survey one final time on a UK field course and then analyze, publish and disseminate the results. The goal is to determine both the validity and reliability of our survey instrument and quantify student learning and development on a host of skill sets.

Faculty Name: Armagan Gezici
Project Title: Research Presentation at the 2012 Allied Social Science Association Meeting and Participation in American Economic Association Continuing Education Program in International Trade and Finance
Project Abstract:

I propose a project that has two components, both of which to be completed in January 2012 at the Allied Social Science Associations Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The first component entails the presentation of my paper, “Building an Investment Model from Fieldwork: Implications for Post Keynesian Theory.” In the paper, I suggest the adoption of qualitative field research in constructing an investment model. Accepting an open-system ontology as advocated by critical realism as a methodological approach, my paper argues that a coherent theoretical core can be identified in post-Keynesian investment theory. Results from a qualitative fieldwork on investment behavior by manufacturing firms in the Turkish economy are provided in support of this argument. The paper is a potential contribution to the literature on Post Keynesian economics in the field of investment theory and after my presentation I plan to submit it to Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, for publication.
The second component of my project involves participation in the American Economic Association’s Continuing Education Program that is held immediately after the annual meeting in January. This year’s course on International Trade and Finance will review some of the more important research and teaching developments in International Economics in the last fifteen or so years. Both as a teacher and a scholar of international economics, the program will help me maintain my skills and knowledge in the area.

Faculty Name: Michael M. Welsh
Project Title: One Trip With Two Tasks: (1) Presentation of Paper and Service as Discussant, Urban Environmental Politics, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, (2) Completion of Research Needed For Journal Article: Reforming the BLM From Within
Project Abstract:

This travel grant has two objectives built into one trip. The first is to fund travel to present a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in April in Chicago. The paper, “Political Discourses Revealed in Urban Master Planning: A Comparison of the Value and Provision of Public Goods Between American and Scandinavian Cities,” is one of the products of sabbatical work I undertook last Spring when I received Faculty Development Funding covering airfare for travel to Stockholm, Sweden. At this meeting I will also serve as a discussant on a related panel of papers dealing with the urban environment. The second objective while in Chicago will be to perform library archival research in the collection at Northwestern University. This will help me complete a study of the evolution of a federal land management agency brought on by the mandate to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Bureau of Land Management personnel hired to perform environmental study in the late 1970’s to current roles in agency management and policy making. The conclusion to be tested is whether the passage and work of NEPA has had the indirect effect, decades later, of making agencies more environmentally progressive.

Faculty Name: Scott Strong & Karen Cangialosi
Project Title: Molecular Identification of Prey in the Invasive Species, *Pterois volitans*
Project Abstract:

Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) are invasive predatory fishes whose introduction into the western Atlantic Ocean, has become a growing ecological concern as this invasive species has spread rapidly and decimated endemic reef fish species. Assessment of the environmental impact of the lionfish invasion necessitates analysis of its prey species. To date identification of gut content has been limited to visual analysis of prey species, which provides incomplete data as some food items are digested beyond recognition. The use of molecular gut content analysis circumvents this limitation and has been used to identify prey species for a variety of organisms. We seek to isolate and characterize DNA at the species level from the gut contents of lionfish specimens obtained from coral reefs off the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), British West Indies (BWI). Specifically, we will analyze the DNA, amplifying the cytochrome c oxidase 1 region, and use the available FISH-BOL database to identify the partially-digested fish species consumed by the sample lionfish. We hope to contribute preliminary evidence that will help estimate which native species will be most affected by the lionfish invasion and where to look for initial signs of ecological damage.
Faculty Name: Anthony Scioli  
Project Title: Research on Hope in Adults & Children  
Project Abstract:

I am seeking KSC Faculty Development Grant funding to present, and to continue, my research on hope. The work described here is part of a broader, longstanding program of research on the topic of hope which has previously been supported by Faculty Development Grants.

Specifically, I am seeking funding to attend two conferences to present my latest research on interventions to instill hope, and to develop a web-version of my new child measure of hope. With a web-based version, I will be able to collect data to establish norms as well as reliability and validity statistics. To date, this hope measure has been piloted with a small group of emotionally-challenged children. In the proposed research, the aim is to gather data from 400 individuals (200 children, ages 7 to 12, and 200 adolescents, ages 13 to 17). These sample sizes would allow for the univariate and multivariate analyses needed to establish reliability and validity.

The spiritual nature of hope requires that this dimension be addressed in a measure that is purported to capture the fullness of this emotion. Past efforts to rely on public schools for data collection has revealed that many school administrators are wary of protocols that reference “God” or a higher power. For this reason, we will rely on a web-version of the test, and solicit involvement from appropriate child-centered organizations.