

**MELLON INNOVATION FUND**  
**Projects Funded**

**Winter 2008**

***Philosophy and Psychology Workgroup and Visiting Scholar Series in Moral Psychology***

Grant Category: General Education, Research and Scholarship

Primary Project Activities: research seminar for faculty, visiting scholars speaker series, collaborative development of a vehicle for sharing the project's results

Principal Contact: David Cumiskey, Philosophy

Collaborating Faculty: Kahan, Koven, Kelsey, Nigro, Sargent – Psychology; Okrent, Stark-Philosophy

**Project Abstract:**

The proposed faculty workgroup and visiting scholar series for the 2008-9 academic year support curriculum development, research, and community interest related to the recently established General Education Concentration in Philosophy and Psychology. This project aims to galvanize, cultivate, and enjoy the rewards of a collaborative, interactive active community of faculty and student scholars addressing a set of issues at the intersection of Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience that are of rapidly accelerating academic, social, and cultural importance. Part of this project's motivation is to explore the unique curricular opportunities that will emerge as both research communities and individual Bates faculty members continue to investigate and to understand the relationships among the organization of the mind, the workings of the brain, patterns of moral decision making, and action.

**Spring 2008**

***Diversity and Domains of Life: A Speaker Series and Scholar-In-Residence Program in Psychology***

Grant Category: Achieving Diversity

Primary Project Activities: speaker series, scholar-in-residence, feedback discussion with campus members

Principal Contact: Michael Sargent, Psychology

Collaborating Faculty: Boucher, Douglass Fraser-Thill, Kahan, Koven, Low, Kelsey, Langdon, Nigro, Scottham - Psychology

**Project Abstract:**

Historically, researchers in psychology have for the most part attempted to draw conclusions (about psychological structures, processes, and functions) that were generalizable across both domains and populations. One goal of teaching was to disseminate such conclusions. Recently, some psychologists have called for a greater focus on understanding how psychological phenomena differ across domains and across various groups. Consistent with this call, the Bates Psychology Department is about to adopt a new diversity requirement as part of its major

curriculum. As we consider how to best implement this requirement, we propose to bring to campus three speakers who can provide examples of how research can at once focus on diversity and move from the laboratory to domains outside the lab. We also propose to bring to campus a scholar-in-residence who would provide feedback to the Psychology faculty on how best to implement the new diversity requirement.

### ***Latin America On-Campus Studies Program***

Grant Categories: General Education Innovation and Achieving Diversity

Primary Project Activities: faculty development planning and web site development

Principal Contact: Karen Melvin, History

Collaborating Faculty: Baltasar Fra-Molinero, Maria Ortiz, - Spanish; Sonja Pieck, Environmental Studies; Charles Carnegie, Anthropology

#### **Project Abstract:**

The Latin America On-Campus Studies Program seeks to better integrate courses in the Latin American Studies GEC and strengthen diversity on campus through three main components: a symposium, film series, and a web site. Eight faculty members from five departments sponsor this collaborative project. We will plan an interdisciplinary symposium and film series based on multiple courses within the Latin American Studies GEC. These events will be open to the Bates and wider communities. We will build a Latin American Studies web site to provide a tangible and enduring presence on campus.

### ***North Atlantic Research Group Curricular and Professional Development***

Grant Categories: General education innovation, research and scholarship

Primary Project Activities: development of a new General Education Concentration course, monthly exchange of research and curricular ideas, workshop with visiting scholars

Principal Contact: Michael Jones, History

Collaborating Faculty: Ambrose Jr., Biology; Ásgeirsdóttir, Politics; Johnson, Retelle - Geology, Marden, Bigelow

#### **Project Abstract**

The North Atlantic Research Group, a group of faculty from Anthropology, Biology, Environmental Studies, Geology, History, and Politics fosters interdisciplinary collaborations in teaching and research efforts focused on the North Atlantic. The group currently collaborates on research and supports the North Atlantic Studies General Education Concentration. We propose to build on current collaborations and strengthen the relationship between the physical and natural sciences on the one hand and the social sciences and humanities on the other by: 1) developing a new course, "Climate and History", that ties together the natural and social sciences and the humanities, 2) holding monthly meetings to exchange scholarship and curricular ideas, and 3) bringing together interested faculty, students, and community members in a workshop to explore common themes to the North Atlantic, develop a Colby, Bates, Bowdoin seminar for 2009 and ultimately a CBB summer institute that will engage students and faculty in studies of the North Atlantic.

## ***Public Health in a Liberal Arts Curriculum: Growing a General Education Concentration***

Grant Category: General Education

Primary Project Activities: attend AACU workshop, organize a faculty development seminar, convene a public health conference/workshop, and develop an interdisciplinary public health course.

Principal Contact: Kathryn Graff Low, Psychology

Collaborating Faculty and Community Consultant: Erin Guay, M.P.H. (Healthy Androscoggin); Palin, Biology; Lindkvist, Anthropology

### **Project Abstract:**

This project will support the development and expansion of the public health general education concentration at Bates College. A team of three faculty members and a community partner will attend an AACU workshop on undergraduate public health curricula in July, 2008. The AACU team will then organize a faculty development seminar for those teaching in the GEC at which information from the workshop will be disseminated, faculty will share their health-related research interests, and community partners will discuss health-related initiatives and needs in greater Lewiston-Auburn. In addition, a public health conference/workshop will be planned for 2009 which will involve faculty teaching in the GEC, community partners, guest speakers, and students. Finally, an interdisciplinary public health course involving community-based work will be developed in 2009, to be taught as part of the GEC in short term 2010. The faculty development seminar and workshop will be evaluated, as will the public health course offering.

### **Fall 2008**

## ***Developing a Capstone Seminar: Interdisciplinary Synthesis and the Role of Diverse Lived Experiences within Environmental Studies***

Grant Categories: General Education Innovation and Achieving Diversity

Primary Project Activities: Workshops with visiting faculty and with Bates faculty addressing interdisciplinarity and diversity in the academic program, summer retreat for program faculty, host a faculty discussion on interdisciplinary capstone courses

Principal Contact: Holly Ewing, Environmental Studies

Collaborating Faculty: Parrish, Pieck, Skinner - Environmental Studies; Costlow, German/Russian and ES; Lewis, Economics and ES; Rebecca Sommer, Biology and ES; Wenzel, Chemistry and ES

### **Project Abstract:**

The Environmental Studies Program will develop a new 400-level, interdisciplinary capstone course to serve as the primary location of upper level interdisciplinary synthesis within the major. All members of the Environmental Studies Program Committee will participate in workshops with visiting scholars to facilitate their development of the course and pedagogical strategies to move students from cursory multi-disciplinary consideration to the challenging work of interdisciplinary synthesis. This required seminar will be team-taught, theme-based, and will deal explicitly with ethnicity, race, gender, and/or class as these social categories of experience situate issues both within the local community and across the three major

subdivisions of the environmental studies major: aesthetic and cultural perspectives, ethics and social justice, and scientific and quantitative approaches to environmental issues.

***Poverty, Health and Human Rights: A Cultural Comparison of Spanish and US Physicians' Views on Patient Worth***

Grant Categories: General Education, and Research and Scholarship

Principal Contact: Heidi T. Chirayath , Sociology

Primary Project Activities: research, development of a new course in the Public Health General Education Concentration

**Project Abstract:**

Growing public support for universal health care in the US makes this a critical time to gain perspectives on patient "worthiness" from health providers in other social and cultural contexts. I will extend my analyses of US physicians' attitudes toward the poor through a comparative study of physicians in Spain, a country with a changing universal health care system and unique public notions about the deservingness of the poor. Comparing a society that frames health care as a human right to one that views it as a privilege will reveal ways that cultural perceptions of indigence and worth shape medical policy and practice. Financial support from the Mellon Innovation fund will enable me to take my research in new directions, adding international and interdisciplinary perspectives. I plan to capitalize on the energy generated by my new scholarship by enriching the Public Health GEC through the development of a multi-disciplinary team-taught class in Health and Human Rights.

***Research Mentor Trial and Pilot Study on Maternal and Developmental Effects of Arsenic Exposure in Mice***

Grant Categories: Research and Scholarship

Principal Contact: Rebecca Sommer, Biology

Collaborating Faculty: Nancy Kleckner, Biology

Primary Project Activities: research, data generation for new external grant proposal, establish guidelines for evaluating Research Mentor support of student research.

**Project Abstract:** This is a new pilot project in R. Sommer's Laboratory designed to generate data necessary to write a competitive Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) proposal to the National Institute of Health (NIH). It includes initiation of a Research Mentor position on a trial basis to provide additional teaching opportunities and research mentoring for our students and to increase the research productivity of the faculty. If well received, the experience and evaluation of the trial position may strengthen Bates ability to apply for institutional grants in support of new and creative ways of supporting student research. A plan for a larger implementation of the program could become part of the next IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) or Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) proposals.

***Teaching and Learning with Wabanakis at Bates***

Grant Categories: General Education and Achieving Diversity

Principal Contact: Joseph Hall, History

Primary Project Activities: teaching collaboration with visiting scholars, public talks and consultations with individual faculty by Wabanaki scholars, review of insights with staff and administrators working on Bates' participation in Wabanaki-BBC Collaborative

**Project Abstract:**

Two Wabanaki scholars will be invited to collaborate in the teaching of History s28, "Wabanaki History in Maine" during Short Term 2009. Other project activities include consultation between these scholars and individual Bates faculty who are considering teaching about or working with Wabanakis, as well as one or two public talks to the campus community about the challenges and importance of talking with and about Wabanakis on campus. Their expertise and presence will also provide members of the Bates College community with an opportunity to find ways to improve our still nascent connections to Wabanaki communities. Lastly, this collaboration will further the efforts of Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby colleges to improve their relations with Wabanakis.

**Winter 2009**

***Philosophy and Psychology Workgroup and Visiting Scholar Series in Moral Psychology: 2009 -2010***

Principal Contact: David Cummiskey, Philosophy

Collaborating Faculty: Kahan, Koven, Kelsey, Nigro, Sargent - Psychology; Stark, Okrent - Philosophy

Grant Category: General Education, Research and Scholarship

Primary Project Activities: research seminar for faculty, lectures by and interactions with visiting scholars, and development of a vehicle for sharing the project's results

**Project Abstract:**

The proposed faculty workgroup and visiting scholar series for the 2009-10 academic year continues collaborative work in support of curriculum development, research, and community interest related to the recently established *General Education Concentration in Philosophy and Psychology*. Faculty will explore the unique curricular opportunities that will emerge as both research communities and individual faculty members continue to investigate and to understand the relationships among the organization of the mind, the workings of the brain, patterns of moral decision making, and action. Renewal of the Mellon Innovation Grant will strengthen the nascent ties between the departments, forge an additional interdisciplinary dimension to the academic life of Bates College, and provide support for a forum in which faculty and student scholars receive regular feedback on scholarly projects from project collaborators.

***'Considering Africa' — Development of Interdisciplinary, Introductory, Team-Taught Course "African Perspectives on Human Rights, Justice and Renewal"***

Principal Contact: Dauge-Roth, French

Collaborating Faculty: Bessire, Art & Visual Culture; Brasuell, Multicultural Center; Buck, Education; Chapman, Music/ African American Studies; Eames, Lindkvist,

Anthropology; Hill, Politics/ Women and Gender Studies; Houchins, African American Studies/ Women and Gender Studies; Read, French  
Grant Category: General Education, Adding Diversity to the Academic Program  
Primary Project Activities: faculty development, consultation with African Studies scholars at area institutions, interdisciplinary course design and assessment

**Project Abstract:**

Bates faculty and staff collaborating to develop the General Education Concentration, “Considering Africa” will gather with African Studies colleagues at other Maine colleges in a series of meetings to review scholarship and pedagogical approaches to teaching African Studies. This working group will design an interdisciplinary, team-taught course – “African Perspectives on Human Rights, Justice and Renewal” – to serve as a gateway to the GEC, and to increase students’ exposure to and foster their interest in Africa’s historical and contemporary cultural and political dynamics. The course adds to the Bates curriculum an offering which helps realize a faculty goal of ‘enhancing students’ capacity for global citizenship’ and provides a vehicle for collaborations among faculty and colleagues at area colleges engaged in similar intellectual pursuits. Bates instructors – and guest lecturers – will teach the course in Winter 2010 and Winter 2011 as a pilot project, using time between offerings to improve course content, evaluate its impact on students’ learning and interest in the GEC, and assess the pedagogical insights of interdisciplinary course-work and this particular team-teaching approach.

***The Nation State in a Global World: Curriculum & GEC Development, Interdisciplinary Faculty Workshop, and Quebecois Separatist Speakers on the Bates Campus***

Principal Contact: Francesco Duina, Sociology  
Collaborating Faculty: Richter, Asgeirsdottir - Politics; Pieck, Environmental Studies; Carnegie, Anthropology;  
Grant Category: General Education, Research and Scholarship  
Primary Project Activities: research and a scholarly article; development of a new GEC course; faculty workshops; and, campus speaker series.

**Project Abstract:**

Linked to scholarly research which seeks to understand the relationship between separatist movements and regional integration efforts, this project focuses on the future of the nation state in the era of globalization. Duina’s inquiry will shift to focus on social movements in the EU and NAFTA, and examine how movements have *used regional integration efforts* in their policies and programs. This research will build the basis for campus visits by speakers from Quebec’s nationalist movement, a new course for the Globalization GEC, as well as a lunch workshop series with four Bates faculty members, similarly engaged in research and teaching about nation-states and the impact of globalizing forces on them.

***Curriculum Innovations in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics***

Principal Contact: Hong Lin, Physics and Astronomy

Collaborating Faculty: Côté Chemistry; Jayawant, Mathematics; Sommer, Biology/  
Environmental Studies

Grant Category: General Education, Adding Diversity to Pedagogical Perspectives

Primary Project Activities: faculty workshops, speaker series

**Project Abstract:**

Faculty in mathematics, the natural sciences, and related fields will convene two workshops to rethink the way students are introduced to science and math at Bates. The purpose of the workshops is to provide a venue in which faculty can share and discuss their curriculum innovation ideas with their peers, identify groups who would like to work together to pursue the ideas, and encourage the groups to develop their concepts into projects implementable within the context of our new general education program. In the first workshop, we will convene interested faculty in science and math to discuss a variety of novel curriculum ideas and projects, defined broadly enough to include student/faculty research. A second workshop will provide a venue for the presentation, discussion, and further development of each project. Speakers with pertinent expertise will be invited to Bates to augment the discussions among Bates faculty. These workshops are expected to spawn projects that will be the basis for grant proposals, integrated into the Bates curriculum, and serve as models for other institutions.

***Latin America On-Campus Studies Program***

**Principal Contact:** Sonja Pieck, Environmental Studies

Collaborating Faculty: Claudia Aburto Guzmán, Baltasar Fra-Molinero, Francisca López, Maria Mercedes Ortiz – Spanish; Val Carnegie, Anthropology; Karen Melvin, History; Clarisa Pérez-Armendáriz, Politics

Grant Category: General Education, Adding Diversity to the Academic Program, Research and Scholarship

Primary Project Activities: faculty development and planning meetings, symposia, film screenings, and production of a web site

**Project Abstract:**

The Latin America On-Campus Studies Program seeks to better integrate courses in the Latin American Studies GEC and strengthen diversity on campus through three main initiatives: a symposium, film screenings, and web site. To forge connections among courses, faculty members from several departments will select and use a theme to link multiple classes within the Latin American Studies GEC and to serve as a basis for the symposia and film series. Each fall semester from fall 2009 through 2010 a campus film screenings will be organized around the selected theme; during winter semesters through 2011, an interdisciplinary symposia – featuring Latin America Studies faculty and student scholars on campus and from outside – will examine the themes in depth. This On-Campus Studies program will foster ties, both formal and informal, among faculty members with an interest in Latin America and create opportunities for interacting with additional faculty whose interests – gender, culture, and indigenous peoples – are related through topics featured in our courses, films, and symposia. This program of activities will extend opportunities to o students and faculty to examine diversity – race, ethnicity, gender, class, environmental justice, geography and epistemology – presented in various forms in our planned symposia and films.

### ***Buddhist Approach toward Dying: A Vietnamese Perspective***

Principal Contact: Trian Nguyen, Art and Visual Culture

Grant Category: Research and Scholarship, Adding Diversity to the Academic Program

Primary Project Activities: research and conference paper production

#### **Project Abstract:**

Support from the Mellon Innovation Fund will be used to conduct field research for writing a scholarly paper to address the Buddhist approach toward dying from a Vietnamese perspective. This research project represents a new direction and enlarges the scope of my scholarship. Methodologically, it includes individual and group interviews as well as general surveys to generate the data necessary to write this conference paper. In addition, the new research also incorporates an interdisciplinary approach to the subject by calling for examination of scriptural texts as well as visual images and scholarly works about them. The research not only will strengthen my scholarship and provide a better understanding of a central concern of life, but also enable integration of knowledge and experience of my early religious and academic training. With these additional approaches and frameworks, this research project will enhance and enrich my existing courses at Bates College.

### ***Writing for Social Change: Developing a General Education Concentration***

Principal Contact: Kirk D. Read, French/ Romance Languages

Collaborating Faculty: Bartel, Harvard Center; Hager, Writing Workshop; Hall, History; Kane, Sociology; Langdon, Psychology; Nigro, Psychology

Grant Category: General Education

Primary Project Activities: faculty development, conference/ workshop, General Education Concentration development

#### **Project Abstract:**

This project supports the development of a 'Writing for Social Change' (WSC) general education concentration at Bates College. Multiple courses addressing the subject of social change are offered in the curriculum. This cross-disciplinary working group of faculty and staff members seeks to explore ways to infuse a writing concentration into the course work of faculty teaching those courses. The working group will meet twice during the spring and fall terms of 2009 to discuss criteria for a 'Writing for Social Change' concentration and to plan a 'Writing for a Social Change' conference/ workshop. During the 2009 - 2010 academic year, the conference (which will include a civic journalist, a civic blogger and a speechwriter) will be presented to faculty interested in teaching courses included in the GEC. The working group will meet three times during the fall semester 2009 to formalize writing criteria in a WSC GEC. The faculty development conference/workshop will be evaluated by participants.