The Office of International Affairs announces the Interdisciplinary Lectures, Seminars, & Conferences on International Themes Spring 2007 Grant Digest.

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Mary Ann G. Abiado, Department of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology
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Developments in Personalized Health Care: An International Speaker Series
Daniel Sedmak, MD., Center for Personalized Health Care, College of Medicine

MIGRATING PERFORMANCE: NEW CONTEXTS FOR CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN TRADITIONS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Lesley Ferris, Department of Theatre
Katey Borland, Department of Comparative Studies, Newark

PROJECT ABSTRACT: The Center for Folklore Studies, the Departments of Theatre and Spanish and Portuguese, and the Lusophone Globalicities Working Group are organizing a colloquium that brings together research interests from a variety of faculty and graduate students at the university. The colloquium will examine dance, music, ritual, and festival traditions from Latin America and the Caribbean as they are brought to the cities of North America and Europe by migrants, professionals, and enthusiasts. The Peruvian scissors dance, once performed by indigenous rural dancers, can be seen in Toronto and Tennessee's Dollywood; Trinidad's Carnival provided the original inspiration for London's Notting Hill Carnival, now the largest street performance in Europe; drumming ensembles modeled on the blocos of...
Northern Brazil are a popular social activity in Berlin, London, and Amsterdam; Dominican vodu practitioners serve both migrants and Spaniards in Madrid; and Italy and Israel are centers of a burgeoning salsa dance craze. The colloquium will complement a touring exhibition entitled "Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival" that will be located in the new OSU Urban Arts Space (downtown in the old Lazarus Building). The exhibition opens in London in September 2007 and will be touring to North America with the first stop of the tour in Columbus. The College of the Arts, the Department of Theatre, the British Council, and the Ohio Arts Council are sponsoring the Columbus component of the tour. The majority of participants in the colloquium will be OSU faculty and grad students working on related topics. We seek funding to support four invited speakers to this colloquium. They are Roberto Da Matta (Professor Emeritus, University of Notre Dame), Guha Shankar (American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.), A. Ruth Tompsett (Principal Lecturer, Middlesex University, London), Cristina Sanchez Carretero, (Department of Anthropology, Madrid).

Da Matta is a leading scholar of Brazilian culture and theorist of Carnival; Sanchez researches Dominican immigrants and vodu in Madrid; Shankar studies the cultural politics of the post-colonial Caribbean, and Tompsett is the leading carnival scholar in Britain (and she is the co-curator of the exhibition).

PROJECT TIMELINE: March 2008
PROJECT SPONSORS:
Office of International Affairs
Center for Folklore Studies
Department of Theatre
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Lusophone Globalicities Working Group

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND WAR

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Yana Hashamova, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures
Helena Goscilo, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh

PROJECT ABSTRACT: The interdisciplinary conference on women and war, which engages political ideology, history, sociology, psychology, cultural studies, cinema, and literature, will ask (and attempt to answer) questions such as: what is the role of women in war or military conflicts beyond the well-studied victimization? Can the
often contradictory expectations of women and their traditional roles be (re)thought? What is the significance of the fact that two of the most conflict wracked parts of the world in recent years the Balkans and Central Asia—share the legacies of the Soviet system and what is the consequence of these legacies for women in times of war? Geographically, the conference will focus on Central/Eastern Europe, the US SRI Russia, and the Balkans; historically, on WWII; the wars in Afghanistan (1979–1989) and secessionist Chechnya (1994–96, 1999–); and the Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia war (1992–95). Two concurrent conferences are being planned: the first one, to be held at the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on World War II and the second, to be held at The Ohio State University, with an emphasis on more recent military conflicts (Afghanistan, Chechnya, and the Balkans). Both conferences (envisioned as two parts of one) will attempt to address the question of gender polarization and politicization during the times of war, to re-think gender identities and positions in religious and military clashes, and to elaborate a discourse on the subject of motherhood and fatherhood in war and will contribute to pursuit of knowledge that can unravel problems related to violent conflict, identities, and security.

PROJECT TIMELINE: October–November, 2007
PROJECT SPONSORS:
Office of International Affairs — Mershon Center for International Security Studies
Center for Slavic and East European Studies
Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures
Department of Comparative Studies
Department of Women’s Studies
Film Studies
Women in Development
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

SOMALI STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
David Kraybill, Center for African Studies

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
10th Triennial Conference of the Somali Studies International Association (SSIA) will be held on the OSU campus August 16–18, 2007. The SSIA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing research and the exchange of information between Somalis in the Horn and in the
Diaspora, and organizations and individuals interested in Somali communities.

The three-day conference will involve an estimated 3-400 participants of diverse backgrounds and disciplines in a series of presentations and panel discussions addressing critical challenges in Somali Studies. One important challenge facing Somali Studies investigators and practitioners is how to critically propose new ways of understanding the social and economic impacts of globalization on Somali communities, and more important, how to describe and analyze the link between Somali Diasporas in Australia, Europe and North America, and those in the homeland. Understanding issues pertaining to children and education; political participation, citizenship and civic engagement; unemployment and labor force participation; gender roles and family dynamics, the interaction between government institutions and Somali immigrants are extremely critical. Other challenges of critical importance include new ways of understanding and explaining the prolonged Somali political and social conflict, and the ways in which local, regional, international, and transnational bodies influence the dynamics of the political conflict among Somali communities. Issues pertaining to conflict resolution and political consensus building and social and economic development are of paramount importance.

The opportunity to host the SSIA Conference will provide an invaluable opportunity to focus attention on Somalia at a time of extreme crisis for the nation and its diasporic community. In accordance with The Ohio State University’s Academic Plan objectives, the conference will contribute to faculty and student, development, academic programming, the quality of teaching and learning, and to the creation of a diverse university community.

PROJECT TIMELINE: August 16-18, 2007
PROJECT SPONSORS:
Office of International Affairs
Mereshon Center for International Security Studies
Institute for the African Child, Ohio University
Capacity Building Initiative
Colleges of the Arts and Sciences
Center for African Studies
Economic and Community Development Institute
Department of African American and African Studies

CROP BIOFORTIFICATION AND HUMAN NUTRITION

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Richard Sayre, Department of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology
Mary Ann G. Abiado, Department of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology
Mark Failla, Department of Human Nutrition

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
An interdisciplinary lecture series on crop biofortification and human nutrition will involve 12 monthly presentations by international experts. Biofortification of staple food crops, such as cassava, sorghum, and rice, has been attracting investment from international organizations and foundations primarily for preventing malnutrition in poor countries. Despite the obvious benefits of molecular biotechnology techniques in biofortifying crops with macronutrients and minerals and vitamins, the general public still has shown poor understanding on the linkage of bench-type biofortification research, field trials and direct and tangible applications of these products to human nutrition. The lecture series aims to provide learning opportunities for the university community and the general public on practical benefits of crop biofortification in providing highly nutritious staple crops and promoting human health. The lecture series may also open avenues for future collaborative projects among university departments.

PROJECT TIMELINE: September 3, 2007–August 4, 2008
PROJECT SPONSORS:
Office of International Affairs
College of Education and Human Ecology
Department of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology

DEVELOPMENTS IN PERSONALIZED HEALTH CARE

AN INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Daniel Sedmak, MD., Center for Personalized Health Care; Department of Pathology, College of Medicine

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The Center for Personalized Health Care, in collaboration with the Office of Global Health Education in the Office of Health Sciences and the Center for HOPES at the College of Public Health, is organizing a series of international seminars by some of the most prominent scholars and pioneers in the areas of genetics, proteomics, pharmacogenomics, biomedical informatics, health care economics and policy, and health ethics at the Ohio State University campus.
Health care is in the midst of a paradigm shift. While traditional medicine focuses on diagnosis and treatment of diseases, personalized health care focuses on personalized health promotion and disease prevention. Personalized health care is defined as gene-based medical care combined with health information technology, which has the potential to transform the quality, safety, and value of health care for patients in the future.

The Ohio State University Medical Center is one of the early leaders in advancing this personalized approach of health care. Working with our partners in other OSU colleges, we are pursuing a strategic agenda that will allow scientific discoveries in genetics, proteomics, pharmacogenomics, and biomedical informatics to further our mission of improving people's lives through innovations in research, education and patient care. We are the first public university (of 18 research and educational institutions) to become a member of the Personalized Medicine Coalition, a non-profit organization comprised of industry, government, and education and research partners whose mission is to educate policymakers and healthcare leaders and to advance personalized medicine. The international speaker series in personalized health care will help develop a broad understanding of the latest developments in personalized health care outside of the United States. The lectures will help explore and promote collaboration opportunities between OSU and international leaders in personalized health care. Most importantly, the series will serve as a forum to foster interdisciplinary research and education opportunities between Medicine and other academic areas within the Ohio State campus.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Fiscal Year 2008
PROJECT SPONSORS:
Office of International Affairs
Center for Personalized Health Care
College of Medicine Office of Global Health Education
College of Public Health

The Office of International Affairs competitions are held two times per year, during fall and spring quarters. Awards range from $1,000–$3,000 for travel grants and up to $5,000 for seminars and conferences. For more information about the grant competition and other funding sources available to faculty and students please visit the OIA website at: http://oia.osu.edu/grants.html