Take Advantage of Summer Time

As the Spring 2011 semester winds down and we all look forward to summer vacations, I ask you to use the time to sort through the many ideas floating in your head for which we can apply for grant funding.

As you weigh the pros and cons of each idea, I ask you to put them into the context of King’s Strategic Plan. Will the idea provide student opportunities for research? Will it enhance King’s academic programming or provide an opportunity for outreach into our community? Will it help both students and faculty learn more about our global community?

Some projects may be short term, one year funding opportunities; some may be multi-grant opportunities stretching over several years. This is the time to dream and gaze toward the stars!

As always, I’m here to help sort through the ideas and find funding opportunities that match our needs. These are both exciting times for King’s College and challenging times for our world. Let’s work together to harness the excitement and find solutions to our challenges!

Have a very happy and safe summer!

Two Exciting New King’s Projects Receive Grant Funding

Even with the growing national deficit on the minds of many, King’s College has been fortunate to receive word of two exciting new projects being funded. This success is in large part, due to the scholarly merit of both proposals and the capability of King’s to perform the work as promised.

Dr. Jonathan Malesic’s proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities entitled, “Enduring Questions Course on the Value of Work” received funding in the fully requested amount of $24,920. This highly competitive program (only 7% of more than 200 applications submitted) will provide the framework for Dr. Malesic to develop the course and teach it twice during the 2011/2012 academic year.

A paradox of modern working life is that we see work as a necessary evil but expect to find fulfillment in it. Answers to the enduring question—“Why Work?”—emerge from the highest human ideals, yet they reflect the most concrete concerns about providing for oneself and one’s family. All workers, at all levels of education, can give an answer to this question, though most can also give good reasons not to work. Our deep ambivalence toward work makes serious reflection on its place in our lives imperative.

College students are in a unique position to consider why to work, as they are both preparing for professions and gaining the skills and knowledge appropriate to leisurely reflection on life. Students often say that education’s value is in the job it can help them attain, but few have seriously considered work’s wider ethical significance. This course, then, should hook students’ interest through the enduring question, helping them answer it through investigating and arguing with classic philosophical, religious, literary, and social scientific texts. As part of the funded project, and in addition to a rigorous reading list, students will study work in film and travel to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to view a strong collection of work by the late 19th-early 20th century American painter Thomas Eakins, who specialized early in his career on scenes of leisure but later painted many portraits of professionals with the tools of their trades.

Dr. Ron Supkowski’s subcontract award with the Ben Franklin Technology Partnership and Solution Mining Inc. (SMI) will study “Interactions of Temperature Variation on Precipitation of Iron from Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)” SMI is currently developing a treatment facility which will treat the effluent from the Old Forge Borehole located in Lackawanna County, which releases approximately 50 million gallons per day of AMD into the Lackawanna River. The products of the treatment shall include clean water, minerals, and geothermal energy. The venture will provide economic, industrial and energy resources from what is currently a severe economic and environmental liability.

A series of tests will be performed to deduce the precipitation rate of iron
oxide from samples of Old Forge AMD with temperature as the variable factor. The test method will be similar to that which has previously been developed through a joint effort between Solution Mining, Inc. and King’s College where the precipitation rate at ambient temperature was observed and plotted.

The actual bench-scale testing shall be performed at the laboratory facilities of King’s College. Dr. Supkowski, will oversee the testing protocol development, field sample collection, delivery to the laboratory, and laboratory testing. This will also provide King’s student interns with valuable research experience and opportunities.

Serving a 21-county area, the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania is located on the campus of Lehigh University in Bethlehem. Ben Franklin Technology Partners is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and is funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority.

As Congress tries to reduce spending through the 2011 Federal Budget, we’ve started to see programs announce reduced funding and higher competition for available funds remaining. Congratulations to these King’s faculty members whose hard work and creativity resulted in winning proposals. Our students and community will benefit greatly.

**Recent Grant Activity at King’s College**

**Frederick C. Sauls, Ph.D.,** has submitted an application to the National Science Foundation’s Basic Scientific Research to Support Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes Program. Methamphetamine and amphetamine each exist in two mirror-image forms, which bear the same relationship as a right and left hand. Determination of which form is present in evidence is important in forensic situations. Present methods require substantial time and equipment. “Methamphetamine and Amphetamine Chirality Determination by Spectroscopy of Cyclodextrin Complexes” will help to develop a quick, simple, and reliable test to provide more information to forensic investigators. The principles developed will help understand how chiral (handed) molecules interact. Funding request - $376,414 for the three-year project.

**Faculty Opportunity for Funded Summer Study**

- **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars and Institutes for College Teachers.** Each year the NEH’s Division of Education Programs offers teachers opportunities to study a variety of humanities topics in Summer Seminars and Institutes. Please contact the specific projects listed on the NEH website (www.neh.gov/projects/si-university.html) for more information about the programs and the application process. While the annual application deadline is March 1 and over for this year, new projects will be announced this summer for the 2012 summer session. This may be a way for you to enhance your study of particular areas of interest. NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes are designed primarily for teachers of American undergraduate students. Adjunct faculty, community college faculty and first-time participants are encouraged to apply. Participation is based on competitive written applications. Summer Scholars are awarded fixed stipends to help cover travel costs, books and other research expenses, and living expenses.

**Robin Field, Ph.D.,** is one of 24 college teachers nationally to be selected for participation in the 2011 NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers entitled “The Cultural and Historical Development of Modern India.” The program is sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association who received NEH funding for the project. The institute is designed to be an intense, interdisciplinary engagement with Indian history and culture, providing participants with a rich interplay of resources, seminars, and site visits.

**BIE Leadership Presents at NASBITE International Conference**

**Bindu Vyas, Ph.D.,** Project Director of King’s U.S. Dept. of Education Business and International Education Program grant recently presented a concurrent session, “Anatomy of a Success BIE Grant Application” with **Karen Baker,** Director of Academic Grants, at the NASBITE International Conference in Charleston, SC. The session was designed to share tips on successful BIE application submissions. **Dr. Paul Lamore,** BIE Project Co-Director, and BIE Business Partner, **Michael Horvath,** NEPA Alliance, also attended the conference.

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