

Grant Scope

Sam Houston State University
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

A Member of The Texas State University System



A Message from the Associate Vice President



Welcome to a new year at Sam Houston State University. This year promises to be very productive in research at SHSU, and I encourage you to make it a part of your activities. In supporting research at SHSU, the offices of Research and Sponsored

Programs and Research Administration (formerly Contracts and Grants) are striving to become one united office. After some minor renovations, Research Administration will relocate to the Adams House where we will have a one-stop center for facilitating research. This move will help us serve faculty efficiently while integrating the activities of pre- and post-award areas of research. The only downside to this merger is that we may be temporarily dispatched to other locations on campus while the Adams House is being renovated to accommodate our staff. In an effort to eliminate any inconvenience to faculty, our phones and e-mails will remain the same at our temporary locations. The major goal of our offices is promoting research at SHSU. We will do whatever we can in helping you find funding opportunities, in getting a successful project together, and in administering your award. Please allow us to assist you in facilitating your research endeavors.

Sept/Oct 2009

Librarians in the 21st Century

Sam Houston State University's (SHSU's) Department of Library Science is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). The department has focused on educating school librarians since first offering courses during the 1929-1930 academic year, giving it the distinction of being the oldest, continually running Library Science program in the state of Texas.

Approximately 80% of Library Science students are from South Texas; thus, one special directive of the department has been to provide a Master of Library Science (MLS) program specifically tailored to South Texas students, particularly in the Rio Grand Valley. The program offers traditional face-to-face, hybrid, and online classes at a number of locations including Corpus Christi, McAllen, Edinburg, and Brownsville. Laredo, located in West Texas, is also served by SHSU.

Full-time faculty possess an educational background in either library science or a related educational field, and one of the unique features of this Library Science program is that the faculty have traveled to the aforementioned sites teaching the required courses since first offering them in the early 1970s. This accounts for more than 35 years of service to the South Texas region lending credibility to the success the department has earned in recent years.

An important asset to SHSU, the department has garnered a little more than \$1.2 million in grant funds in the last three years. In 2007, the Library Science department was awarded, through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS),

See IMLS, page 2

Grant Workshops

Date	Time	Department	Location
Tuesday 10/06/2009	3-5 p.m.	Social Sciences	PACE Conference Room (CHSS C002-D)
Thursday 10/29/2009	3-5 p.m.	Science	LSC 321
Thursday 11/12/2009	3-5 p.m.	Education	LSC 321

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its first Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant—a three-year grant providing a little more than \$330,000 to SHSU and its Library Science department. This federal grant provided twenty students with full tuition, books, a laptop computer, and it also paid for their librarian certification exam. In addition, the grant compensated for all expenses to state and national library conferences, which participants attended. The PI responsible for overseeing the work accomplished on this first grant was Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Associate Professor and Acting Chair for Library Science.



The 20 scholarship recipients from the 1st IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant (2007-2009)

Based on the success of the first grant, the Department of Library Science was recently awarded their second Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant—a three-year grant providing a little more than \$900,000 to SHSU and its Library Science department. Distributed by the same prestigious institute, IMLS, the federal grant will provide full scholarships for South Texas teachers interested in pursuing a MLS degree. One of the unique features of this grant is that it will allow forty students to vie for the scholarship instead of twenty students. Another unique feature of the grant will be technological updates by providing students with E-book readers, called Kindles. This time the leadership of the project has been the responsibility of two junior faculty members of the department: **Dr. Tricia Kuon** and **Dr. Holly Weimar**.

Dr. Kuon received the bulk of her education at the University of Wyoming completing her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction in 2000. She joined the Library Science faculty at SHSU as Assistant Professor in 2007. Before coming to SHSU, she spent several years as a professional librarian and early childhood educator lending credibility to her position as Library Science Assistant Professor. Dr. Weimar possesses a diverse educational background receiving her B.S.Ed. at Stephen F. Austin State University (1984), her MLS at SHSU (2002), and her Ed.D. at the University of Houston in 2007. In conjunction with

pursuing her doctoral degree, she joined SHSU's Library Science department as an adjunct professor. Ultimately, she joined the department in a full-time capacity as Assistant Professor in 2007. In referencing the first Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant, Dr. Weimar said that it was “definitely the ‘backbone’ for launching into the second grant,” and the success of the first grant also resulted in the aforementioned increase of applicants. Both Dr. Kuon and Dr. Weimar concur that there is a tremendous need for librarians in South Texas. Dr. Weimar explained that a study by an independent research consultant, Keith Curry Lance, showed a significant correlation between strong school libraries with a certified librarian in place and “improved student achievement,” which is the goal of the Library Science department at SHSU.

Dr. Weimar explained that “librarians have such a tremendous impact on the school because they are able to aid teachers since they see every student in school,” and also “the librarians’ knowledge of good-quality literature currently available will help teachers make the necessary curriculum connections.” Dr. Kuon added that, “we really want administrators to recognize the importance of librarians”—they benefit students by encouraging a love of reading, which increases student achievement goals. She also explained that the future librarians “who study in our program will learn not only how to operate the library, but also what methods will work for encouraging students to want to read—this is a big focus.” Dr. Kuon explained further that “overall it’s about fostering a love of reading.”

In researching the targeted areas in South Texas, Dr. Kuon said, “South Texas school libraries have a remarkable need for trained librarians, and they receive a lot of federal funding for their libraries for books and technology; however, they are shorthanded in the school library field, and our program is working to help fill that gap,” which will ultimately strengthen the school library system. With almost half of their librarians’ anticipated retirement over the next ten years, the combination between the immense need for strong school libraries and



Dr. Tricia Kuon & Dr. Holly Weimar: the PIs for the 2nd IMLS Grant (2009-2011)

the strong program SHSU presented after receiving the first grant were two substantial reasons for the second grant award. In speaking with Drs. Bell, Kuon, and Weimar regarding the





Dr. Holly Weimar: Assistant Professor, Library Science & PI for IMLS grant

differences and similarities of these two prestigious and federally-funded grants, they concur that the two awards offer similar advantages to all recipients, but this time IMLS awarded additional monies to assist in payment for all

that was required of each scholarship recipient. As stated on the Library Science Web site, “students chosen as recipients of grant funds will receive tuition to complete the 36-hour course of study, textbooks, laptop computers to aid in completing the coursework, E-book readers, and paid travel to the American Library Association (ALA) Conference, the Texas Library Association (TLA) Conference, and the SHSU Department of Library Science Children’s Book Festival and Young Adult Conference.” It seems that the only two major differences between the two grants are the increase in scholarship recipients and the technological advances provided to each student. While primarily serving students in the low-income South Texas ISDs (e.g., San Antonio ISD), Dr. Bell elaborated that there are strict requirements for making application to the MLS program and the scholarship itself. Each prospective scholarship recipient must provide a writing sample, attend a face-to-face interview, and provide a statement of need in the form of a biographical essay. She also confirmed that the response to the first scholarship offered in 2007 was so great that there was a waiting list created because of the 150+ inquiries/applications received; Dr. Kuon stated that the application response for the second grant was so phenomenal that the application deadline was extended an extra week because of the 500+ applications received! Once the forty students have been chosen, instruction

is scheduled to start in the Spring semester 2010 and the students’ anticipated graduation is set for August 2011. While Dr. Kuon states that “it’s not every day that you’re offered the chance to earn a free master’s degree,” she also adds that for these prospective MLS students “this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity.” She explained that before they have graduated, each student will most likely have a job in a library because they are required to complete an internship during their last year of the program. Also, in evaluating the program itself, Dr. Kuon said that the Library Science department will be sending out surveys to the library administrators who will generate feedback on the librarian’s performance strengthening the MLS program as a whole.

It should be noted that SHSU was one of only two Texas universities amongst the 33 institutions nationwide to receive the IMLS grant for 2009. As stated on <http://libscigrant.wikispaces.com/>, the “Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The



Dr. Tricia Kuon: Assistant Professor, Library Science & Co-PI for IMLS grant

Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.” ORSP is proud of this distinguished department, and we wish them continued success with this project and future IMLS grants.

Dr. Rick White Selected as Research Ambassador to Germany



Dr. Rick White in Rothberg, Germany during the Chemistry department’s Study Abroad course

The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP) would like to recognize one of Sam Houston State University’s (SHSU’s) Chemistry professors, **Dr. Rick White**. Recently, he was selected by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to serve as Research Ambassador for research and study in Germany for the 2009-2010 academic year. He will work this year as Research Ambassador in conjunction with his regular teaching duties at SHSU.

For the purpose of research and study in chemistry and textiles, Dr. White and his wife, Dr. Janis White (professor and Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences), have taken numerous groups of students to several European countries, including Germany, over the past several years. Based on this extensive experience, Dr. Rick White is the logical choice for this esteemed position.

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Visit us online for more funding opportunities
http://www.shsu.edu/~rgs_www/funding.html



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Dr. White from page 3

In highlighting some of the success he has earned in past years, Dr. White was the recipient of a scholarship (in 1998 and in 2002) to teach at the University of Würzburg in conjunction with conducting research in organic photochemistry. This scholarship was granted through the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), and it provides further evidence for his current achievement.

In a recent comment, he explained that, “the Research Ambassador is to promote undergraduates to carry out research in Germany, and for faculty to carry out collaborative programs with German universities. There are a number of funding agencies to help students travel to Germany for a summer. For example, the DAAD funds many students to spend summers in Germany doing research. The experiences will help them in their careers as they work in an increasingly smaller world.”

Dr. White recently traveled to New York for the purpose of attending the Research Ambassador’s training session. While there, he accumulated numerous brochures and other information, which will facilitate his discussions about the multiple scholarship opportunities available for students at SHSU and at other universities. During the year, he will be working with other educators at universities around the U.S. promoting these academic opportunities to other faculty and students. In a recent quote made to Today@Sam, Dr. White stated that, “being chosen as a Research Ambassador for this year is an honor for me, and it will bring distinction to Sam Houston State University as I talk to people about enhancing their educational opportunities by carrying out work in Germany.”

The Web site for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is <http://www.daad.org/>. On this site, there is information regarding scholarship opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students, plus there are stipend and other scholarship information for PhD, Postdocs, and Faculty. If interested, please direct any and all questions to our new Research Ambassador, Dr. Rick White at chm_rcw@shsu.edu.

Funding Opportunities

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

CFDA Number: 45.149 Proposal Deadline: Dec. 8, 2009
Web site: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/SCHC.html>



Disaster Resilience for Rural Communities

CFDA Number: 10.310* Proposal Deadline: Jan. 20, 2010
*Note: NSF lists program under
CFDA Numbers 47.075 and 47.041
Web site: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/disaster.html>

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Dr. Jerry Cook, Delia Gallinaro, Dr. Holly Weimar, Dr. Tricia Kuon, Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Dr. Rick White, and Brian Blalock.

If you are interested in pursuing either of the funding opportunities listed above, please contact ORSP for additional assistance. Thank you.