

Scholarship in Action

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs



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CSUSB Faculty Interview; Dr. Davida Fischman

Tips from an Insider:

Becoming a part of the Community

Ask anyone in academia and they can tell you that obtaining and administering grant funding is no easy feat, but CSUSB's own Davida Fischman sure makes it look easy.

In fact, if she were a baseball player she'd be batting .700! The ORSP's internal database reflects Fischman's almost unbelievable grant record as 35 for 50. Most recently awarded a multi-million dollar grant for Mathematical ACES: Algebraic Concepts for Elementary Students (see SPOTLIGHT, p.3), Fischman credits her collaborators and broad base of supporters for her outstanding record of successes.



ORSP asked Fischman to share some of her experiences in obtaining grant funding and for any words of advice she may have to pass onto less experienced project directors. What could possibly

be the secret to her success? Approachable, knowledgeable, and humorous, Fischman confided that, "Part of the reason I can do so much is that I love what I do. If you don't like it – don't do it. You have to do these things only because you want to..."

And if you want to do it, Fischman advised to start small and progress to larger projects with more funding. Agencies need to be convinced that you can implement a successful project.

Continued, p.2...

"You have to talk to people. You have to read things... You have to become part of the community."

Dr. Davida Fischman



Scholarship in Action
Vol. 3, July 2010

Tips from an Insider: continued from page 1

Start Small: Fischman advised that an individual's track record will make a difference; publications and past grant work will carry much weight when a reviewer contemplates one's qualifications to administer a new grant. Fischman compared the quest for grant funding to the desire for gaining access to financial credit as an eighteen-year-old. You cannot ask for a million dollars at eighteen. You have to build up credit in the grant world in the same way. Start small, prove yourself capable and then build up. Fortunately, CSUSB provides an



enormous amount of on-campus support for faculty, Fischman stated. There are opportunities to write proposals for mini-grants for the Office of Academic Research and TRC and/or get on panels to evaluate and discuss other proposals. Take advantage of these on-campus opportunities, Fischman advised.

Additionally, Fischman couldn't stress enough the importance of taking advantage of opportunities to collaborate and learn from more experienced faculty. By talking to others and building relationships, Fischman knows faculty can learn about what is going on in the community and bounce ideas off more experienced ears. Participation is how new faculty can learn where innovation is needed, what projects/ideas may benefit students and the community at large and how to find the right funding opportunity to make those ideas come to life. Fischman stated, "You build credit by participating – not just by being there."

Become Part of the Community. That is why Fischman advised, "You have to talk to people. You have to read things... You have to become part of the community." Quick to clarify she did not mean faculty should network, "Networking can be an empty thing," Fischman stated. "It's more about building yourself a part in the community."

..One of things that people don't see when they see that you have been awarded a lot of things – they don't see all the times that you weren't awarded....

Dr. Davida Fischman

Fischman: *"When you're part of the community – things happen!"*

Fischman encouraged faculty to cut out a niche in his/her own professional community, "...so, if you're in geology – you need to be in the geology community... When you're part of the community – things happen! You talk to people – you get invited to collaborate." Many times Fischman credits finding out about open funding opportunities because contacts in her community notify her or invite her to collaborate.

Fischman pointed out that becoming a part of your community also allows you to build a broad base of support. Experience taught her that you cannot have a project hinge on any one person. Fischman stated, "You think that someone is going to do something, and he can't. You think someone is going to be there, and she can't. All kinds of things happen. Even in the most wonderful team - everybody has issues in life..."

A larger support base may also include other valuable resources. Fischman credited Deans Rob Carlson and Patricia Arlin for providing outstanding support and resources. In addition, grant writer Leticia McCart has been instrumental in helping Fischman to write some proposals by helping to translate some of her ideas to a third party. The longer Fischman has been involved in her community, the more resources she has built and the more awards she's received. She feels the correlation to a good support base and her success in obtaining grant-funding go hand-in-hand.

.....Try, Try Again. When begged to divulge what she felt could possibly be the 'secret to her success'

Fischman felt it all boiled down to collaboration, being a part of her community and just plain old stubbornness. "You can call it perseverance if you want a better word but it's stubbornness," Fischman joked. "One of things that people don't see when they see that you have been awarded a lot of things – they don't see all the times that you weren't awarded..."

Fischman stressed that faculty cannot give up after receiving a "declined" response to a proposed project.

Continued on page 12...



SPOTLIGHT: AWARDS

Detailed award information is available to view or print on the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs website at <http://research.csusb.edu>

SPOTLIGHT: *“Mathematical ACES: Algebraic Concepts for Elementary Students (ACES)”* by Davida Fischman will target the critical juncture in the mathematics education continuum as students move from elementary concepts to algebra. The project will serve 60 teachers over five years. ACES will develop a distributed, classroom-based, cadre of grade-level leaders; teachers who adopt math as their area of expertise and provide math leadership to colleagues. The

innovative aspect of this project is that instead of removing teachers from the classroom to assume coaching type assignments, the program creates a new model for distributed grade-level leadership in which a widespread network of teacher leaders who remain in the classroom, whose professionalism is highly respected by their colleagues and administration, who guide their peers in enhancing their teaching, and whose leadership is a natural outcome of this professionalism rather than a district-appointed position.

Academic Affairs

Shimakawa, Ellen

\$9,199
HHS/RGF

Arts & Letters

Alexander, Kristine

\$75,000
CA Dept. of Education

Theatre Arts

Perry, Margaret

\$5,000
City of San Bernardino

De La O, Armalyln

\$30,031
Various

World Languages

Nelson, Terri & Doueiri, Dany

\$99,859
StarTalk 2010

Nelson, Terri

\$200,000
CSU Long Beach Foundation

Business & Public

Administration

Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship

Stull, Mike

\$90,000
County of SB

Skiljan, Michelle

\$95,929
CAP Riverside

Institute for Applied Research

Sirotnik, Barbara & Bockman, Shel

\$5,000
Various

Sirotnik, Barbara & Bockman, Shel

\$22,872
CSUSB

Sirotnik, Barbara & Bockman, Shel

\$37,000
Cal Poly Pomona Foundation

Sirotnik, Barbara & Bockman, Shel

\$49,500
SANBAG

Education

Educational Psychology & Counseling

Nam, Sang

\$81,623
Korean Nat Institute for Spec Ed.

Sandlin, Ruth

\$346,841
Riverside Superintendent of Schools

Eggleston, Carolyn

\$27,000
City of San Bernardino

Language, Literacy & Culture

Spitzer, Sue

\$188,714
RCOE

Spitzer, Sue

\$20,000
Various

Science, Mathematics & Technology

Jesunathadas, Joseph

\$17,840
RCOE

Information Resources & Technology

Academic Computing & Media

McNaught, Leon

\$21,778
Dept. of Rehabilitation

McNaught, Leon

\$15,360
Various

Natural Sciences

Carlson, Robert

\$194,400 + \$554,915
Dept. of Energy

Biology

Middleton, Kevin

\$64,201
NSF

Center for Enhancement of Mathematics Education

Fischman, Davida, Jesunathadas, Joseph & Lloset, Giovanna

\$2,943,399
NSF

Computer Science & Engineering

Turner, David

\$16,000 + \$27,000
NSF

Geological Sciences

McGill, Sally

\$31,953
NSF

Melchiorre, Erik

\$25,000
NSF

Mathematics

Lo, Min-Lin

\$22,040
Mathematical Assoc of America

Ventura, Belisario

\$6,000 + \$53,000
University Enterprises, Inc



SPOTLIGHT: AWARDS

Detailed award information is available to view or print on the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs website at <http://research.csusb.edu>

SPOTLIGHT: The "Maternal Intervention Project" by Faith McClure and Laura Kamptner will address the needs of incarcerated mothers and their young children aged 0-5 years at Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center (a county jail in north San Bernardino) by providing a 60-hr. attachment-based, psychotherapeutic parent education class and a

post-release, re-entry program to assist these mothers and their young children as they reunite. It is expected that this intervention program will strengthen these very high-risk families and therefore improve the developmental outcome for these young children.

Physics

Lederer, Susan

\$56,500

LPI (NASA Affiliate) USRA

Usher, Timothy
& Stanley, Brett

\$10,000

CA Space Grant Consortium/UCSD

Woodney, Laura

\$40,000

NASA

Water Resources Institute

Longville, Susan

\$45,000

CA Dept Water Resources

Longville, Susan

\$10,000

SB Valley Water Conservation Dist.

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Psychology

Crawford, Cynthia

\$247,748

HHS/NIH

Psychology...continued

Garcia, Donna

\$64,426

NSF (Tulane University)

McClure, Faith &
Kamptner, Laura

\$100,000

First 5 of San Bernardino

Student Services

Admissions

Rosas, Olivia &
Sanchez, Elaine

\$250,000 + \$250,000

US Dept. of Education

University Institutes and Initiatives

Nat. Center Excellence in
Distance Learning

Hull, Steve

\$85,000

UCLA

Community University

Partnerships

Podolske, Diane

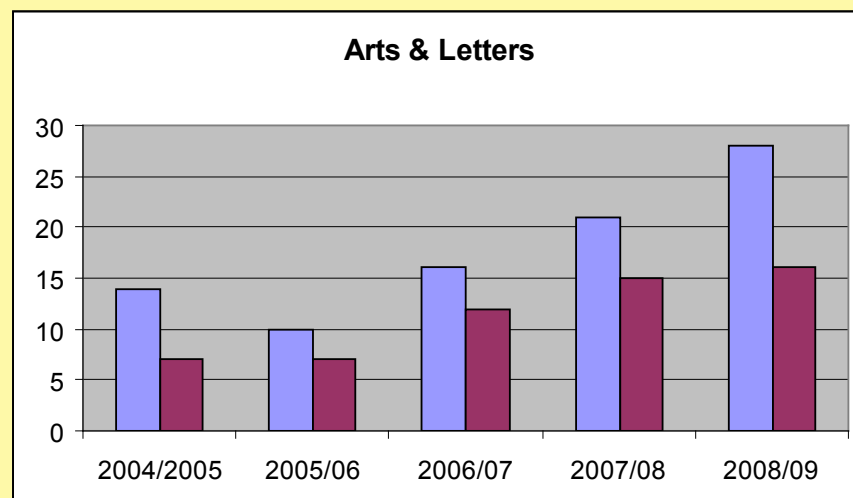
\$1,800

Various

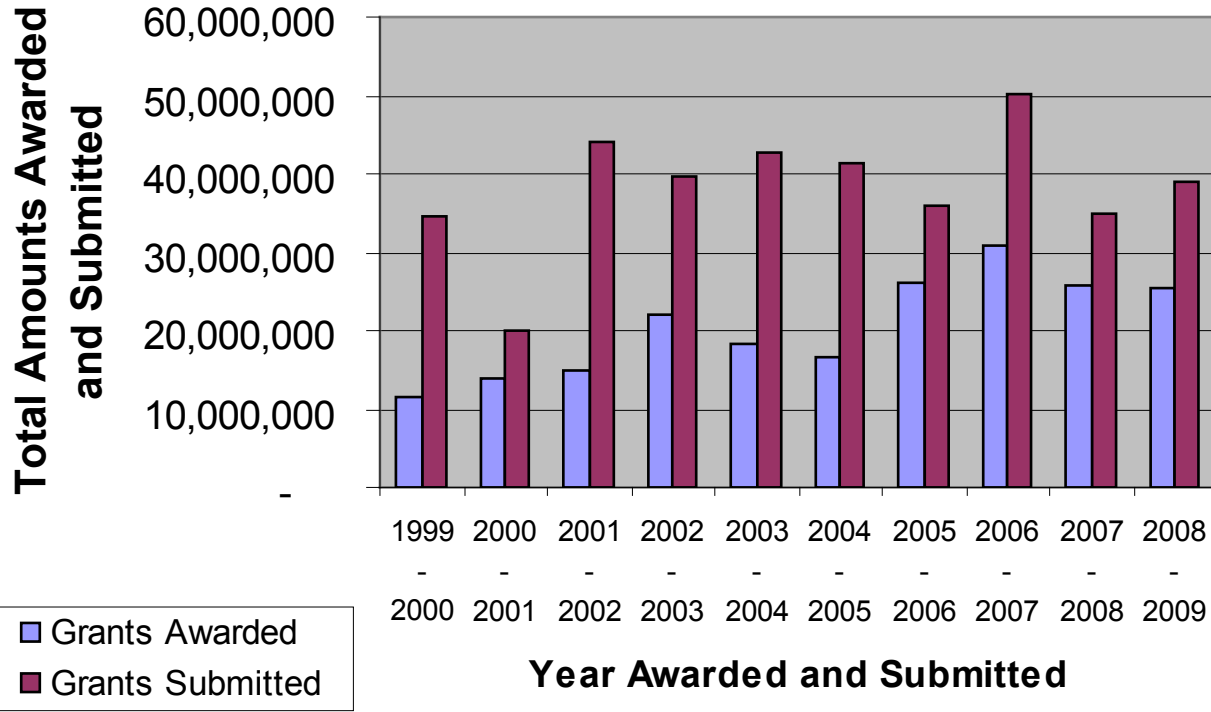
Words from ORSP Interim Director, Dr. Ellen Shimakawa

Congratulations, College of Arts and Letters!

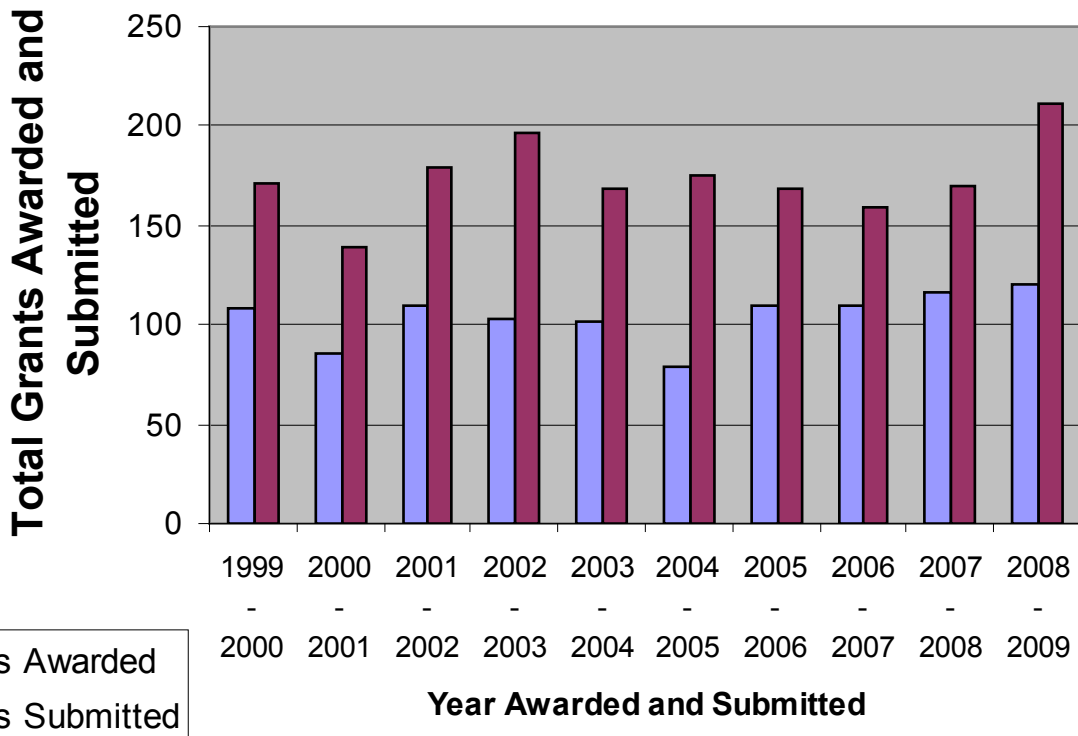
Application submissions and awards data over the last 5 years in the College of Arts and Letters shows that persistence pays off. A sustained effort in increasing the number of applications has doubled the number of awards over the past 5 years!



Total AMOUNTS of Grants Awarded and Submitted



Total NUMBER of Grants Awarded and Submitted



Charts courtesy of Admin Analyst/IRB, Michael Gillespie

Mark Your Calendar!

Plan to apply for these upcoming and repeating grant opportunities....

<u>Annual Deadline</u> (as of 2010)	<u>Program Announcement</u>	<u>Program purpose</u>	<u>Max's: \$\$, Yrs</u>	<u>Agency</u>
21-Jan	MRI major research instrumentation	Shared research Instrumentation	\$100K - \$4M; 3 yrs (acquisition)	NSF
*25-Jan, May 25, Sep 25	Interventions & Practice, Research Infrastructure Program (IP-RISP)	Mental Health Research Infrastructure dev't, community-based research	\$500K/yr, 5 yrs	NIH NIMH
25-Jan, May 25, Sep 25	MBRS - RISE (research initiative for scientific enhancement, R25)	Increase URM biomedical, behavioral research Ph.Ds - "building URM pool"	No effective limit, though must be appropriate, 5 yrs	NIH NIGMS
**27-Jan	Infrastructure Support Program for HBCU and MI's	DoD relevant STEM URM workforce training - instrumentation and sometimes research	\$375 - 800K, 3 yrs	DoD
22-Feb	USDA H.S.I. Education Program	Promote and strengthen the ability of H.S.I.'s to carry out higher education programs that attract, retain, and graduate outstanding students in fields relevant to USDA work force.	\$250K, 3 yrs	USDA
1-Mar	Undergraduate Research and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences (URM)	Increase the number, diversity of those pursuing graduate studies in NSF relevant biological research.	\$ 1 M, 5 yrs	NSF
27-Apr	California "ITQ" [for Teacher Education] - school districts are leads	Improve teaching and learning in America's schools.	\$ 1M, 4 yrs	CA CPEC
**1-May	Minority Science and Engineering Program (MSEIP)	M.S.I long-range improvement in STEM education programs increasing the flow of URM into STEM careers.	Multiple programs: \$100K - \$200K max.	USDE
21-May	Building Research infrastructure and Capacity (BRIC, was RIMI)	Improve biomed., behavioral research infrastructure, training, competitiveness	\$650K/yr (and 1 time renov. \$\$); 5 yrs	NIH NCMHD
25-May	Minority Access to Research Careers, USTAR training grant (MARC, T34)	Increase URM biomedical, behavioral research Ph.Ds - "elites"	No effective limit, though must be appropriate, 5 yrs	NIH NIGMS
*25-May, Sep 25	Interventions & Practice, Research Infrastructure Program (IP-RISP)	Mental Health Research Infrastructure dev't, community-based research	\$500K/yr, 5 yrs	NIH NIMH

* PAR extended to Jan 2011

**Not competed every year

Mark Your Calendar!

Plan to apply for these upcoming and repeating grant opportunities....

<u>Annual Deadline</u> (as of 2010)	<u>Program Announcement</u>	<u>Program purpose</u>	<u>Max's: \$\$, Yrs</u>	<u>Agency</u>
25-May, Sep 25	MBRS - RISE	Increase URM biomedical, behavioral research Ph.Ds - "building URM pool"	No effective limit, though must be appropriate, 5 yrs	NIH NIGMS
**1-Jun	Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)	URM healthcare, allied health workforce	\$1 M/yr; 3 yrs	HRSA
15-Jun	Humanities initiatives at institutions with high Hispanic enrollment	Enhance the humanities content of existing programs, develop new programs, or lay the foundation for more extensive endeavors in the future	\$100K, 3 yrs	NEH
15-Jun	Title V	Institution-wide, sustainable strengthening of H.S.I.'s	Multiple Programs. Individ: \$575K PER YEAR eg.; 5 yrs	USDE
24-Jun	Hispanic Health Services Research Grant Program	Develop healthcare service research capabilities on the campus that focus on the Hispanic community	\$100K/yr, 2 yrs	US HHS
28-Jun	CIPAIR/NASA	Strengthen STEM curricula at Minority Institutions to increase NASA relevant research and workforce	\$450K, 3 yrs	NASA
**6-Aug	Research & Education Program, HBCU/MSI	DoD relevant research, also STEM workforce education (Centers)	various: \$1M/yr; 5 yrs & \$125K+/yr; 3 yrs	DoD
7-Aug	HUD Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC)	Expand H.S.I.'s community development efforts; allows building	\$600K; 3 yrs	HUD
*25-Sep	IP-RISP	Mental Health Research Infrastructure dev't, community-based research	\$500K/yr, 5 yrs	NIH NIMH
25-Sep	MBRS - RISE	Increase URM biomedical, behavioral research Ph.Ds - "building URM pool"	No effective limit, though must be appropriate, 5 yrs	NIH NIGMS
5-Nov	California "Song-Brown" (for Nursing)	Capitation - support faculty, support services costs of training RNs, also Special Programs for ed. Infrastructure, preceptorships in underserved areas...	\$240K, 2 yrs	CA OSHPD

* PAR extended to Jan 2011

**Not competed every year

Calendar chart courtesy of ORSP Interim Director, Dr. Ellen Shimakawa

Presentations, Publications, Exhibitions & Performances

Arnold, Jean

Presentation

March 2010

“The Victorian City: a Public Space Linking Capital, Spectacle, and Diamonds”

PCCBS (Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies) Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Berdan, Frances

Publication

2010

“Mesoamerican Ethnohistory.”

Ancient Mesoamerica vol. 20: 211-215.

Publication

2010

“Production and Use of Orchid Adhesives in Aztec Mexico: the Domestic Context.”

Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, vol. 19, Issue 1: 148-156.

Presentation

June 2010

“Aztec Glyphic Messages in New Spain: the meaning of phonetic glyphs in Sahagun’s illustrations.”

Invited paper presented in conference on Negotiating Conflict, Warsaw, Poland.

Berdan, Frances

Presentation

June 2010

“The Art of Featherworking Before and After the Conquest.”

Invited Lecture, Warsaw, Poland.

Research

2010

Research on Mesoamerican Turquoise Mosaics in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution and Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C., May 24-27.

Carlson, David

Presentation

May 2010

“Trickster Hermeneutics and Constitutionalism: The Postindian Subject in Gerald Vizenor’s White Earth Narratives”

NAISA (Native American And Indigenous Studies Association) Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ.

Chau, Donovan

Publication

2010

““At the Cross-Roads of Cultures? A Historic and Strategic Examination of Kenya-Somalia Relations”

Journal of the Middle East and Africa, 1, 1: 67-83

Chau, Donovan

Publication

2010

“Global Security Watch” Kenya. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Choi, Myung

Publication

2010

“Employing the Grotesque as a Communication Strategy: The History of an Artistic Style”

Lewiston NY: The Edwin Mellen Press

Fryxell, Joan

Publication

2010

“Comparison of the 1902 Eruption to the other historic eruptions of Soufriere St. Vincent”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #49-2, p. 101.

Gervasi, Kareen

Presentation

2010

“A discourse explanation of the use of reported speech in Spanish conversation”

XXVII Biennial

Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. February 11.

Janiskee, Brian

Publication

2010

“Local Government in Early America: The Colonial Experience and Lessons from the Founders”

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Jany, Carmen

Presentation

January 2010

“Positional and Cooccurrence Restrictions on Ejectives”

National Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, January 7-10, Baltimore, MD. Also published 4-page paper & extended abstract to their website.

Publication

January 2010

“Syllable Structure and Extrametricality: A typological and phonetic study”

with Matthew Gordon, Carlos M Nash, and Nobutaka Takara. Studies in Language, 34:1, p. 31-166..

Publication

2010

“The Phonetics and Phonology of Chuxnab’n Mixe”

Linguistic Discovery. 11.

Presentations, Publications, Exhibitions & Performances

Jany, Carmen

Presentation

January 2010

“Obstruent Voicing and Sonorant Devoicing in Chuxnabán Mixe”

Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages Annual Meeting, January 7-10, Baltimore, MD.

Presentation

February 2010

“The Chuxnabán Mixe Online Dictionary: An Example of Participatory Research Fostering Digital Fluency”

First International Conference on Heritage Languages, University of California, Los Angeles, February 19-21.

Presentation

April 2010

“Issues and Challenges in the Orthography Development for Chuxnabán Mixe”

Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America, University of Utah, April 9-11

Presentation

April 2010

“Assimilatory Processes in Chuxnabán Mixe”

Workshop on American Indigenous Languages, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 30-May 1

Jerez-Gómez, J. David

Presentation

February 2010

“Cervantes’ Voyage to Parnassus and the Soldier’s Voice”

Renaissance Conference of Southern California (RCSC), 54th Annual Meeting, Huntington Library, CA, February 6.

Presentation

February 2010

“Literatura y clandestinidad: Contexto y difusión del bando de expulsión de los moriscos de Valencia de 1609”

16th Annual University of New Mexico Conference on Ibero-American Culture & Society: Moros, Moriscos, Marranos y Mestizos: Alterity, Hybridity & Identity in Diaspora. University of New Mexico, February 25 - 27.

Presentation

April 2010

“Hacia una literatura sin fronteras: Lectura canina y cultura del libro en el Coloquio de los perros de Cervantes”

22nd Annual California Cervantes Symposium, California State University, Fresno, April 16-17.

Jerez-Gómez, J. David

Publication

2010

“Pancracio de Roncesvalles prendado de Preciosa: Realidad y canon poético en la sociedad cervantina de La gitanilla y el Viaje del Parnaso, Calíope”

Journal of the Society for Renaissance & Baroque Hispanic Studies. (Accepted for publication in 2010 forthcoming number)

Martin, Elizabeth

Presentation

March 2010

“International e-marketing strategies of US multinational corporations aimed at French-speaking audiences”

Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 24-26.



Melchiorre, Erik

Publication

2010

“Geochemical fingerprint of placer gold from the Middle Camp District, Quartzsite, AZ”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #51-11, p. 105.

Publication

2010

“Stable Isotope record of Archean and Cambrian serpentinizing fluid composition from stichtite”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #51-10, p. 105.

Presentation

2010

“Stable Isotope Astrobiology at Hispanic Serving Institutions: Si Se Puede”
NASA Astrobiology Science Conference, Program with Abstracts, April 26-29, 2010, Johnson Space Center, TX.

Melchiorre, Erik & Robertshaw, Peter

Publication

2010

“Chemical analysis of glass beads from medieval al-Basra (Morocco)”
Archaeometry 52 (3):355-379.

Presentations, Publications, Exhibitions & Performances

McGill, Sally

Publication
2010

“New Holocene slip-sate site along the central Garlock fault, Searles Valley, Southeastern California”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #12-1, p. 55.

Publication
2010

“Latest Pleistocene Slip Rates along the San Bernardino Strand of the San Andreas fault”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #21-4, p. 69.

Publication
2010

“Preliminary results from Mystic Lake: A new paleoseismic site along the Northern San Jacinto fault zone”

Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 42, no. 4, paper #32-5, p.83.



Nadeau, Kathleen

Publication
2010

“Marxist Anthropology”

21st Century Anthropology: A Reference Handbook, edited by James H. Birx (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications), pp 473-479.

Publication
2010

“Peasant Societies”

21st Century Anthropology: A Reference Handbook, edited by James H. Birx (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications), pp 235-244.

Publication
2010

“Ideology and Anthropology”

21st Century Anthropology: A Reference Handbook, edited by James H. Birx (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications), pp 453-462.

Robertshaw, Peter

Presentation
2010

“Reconstructing early glass trade at Gao Saney and Gao Ancien (Mali), 700-1000 A.D., using LA-ICP-MS”

Poster presented at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, St. Louis, April 2010

Ruml, Ted

Presentation
March 2010

“The Role of ‘Close Reading’ in Teaching Eighteenth-Century Literature”

Organized & Chaired Roundtable at American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

Trapp, Roland

Presentation
April 2010

“Polygonal Cable Links”

at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications session on Physical Knotting and Linking and Its Applications

Presentation
April 2010

“On the Ropelength of Alternating Conformations”

at the American Mathematical Society Meeting in St. Paul, MN.

Wolfgang, Aurora

Publication
2010

“Reclaiming the Works of Early Modern Women: The Problem of Authorship, Gender, and Interpretation”

Nouveau recueil des lettres des dames de ce temps (1635),” Intertexts 13.1 (Spring 2009) : 46-71. (with Sharon Diane Nell) N.B. Issue date of Spring 2009 but journal didn't appear until 2010.

Zentner, Scot

Publication
2010

“Freedom and Marriage”

Marriage and the Church, ed. N. P. Miller and R. Gane (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2010).



Government Contract Workshop Hosted by CSUSB

Thanks to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and RGF Consulting Corporation for choosing Cal State San Bernardino to host a regional government contract workshop this past April 7-8th!

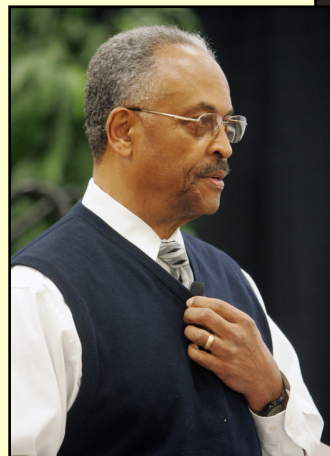
Small business owners and individuals from institutions of higher education came to the San Manuel Student Union at CSUSB and received valuable training in how best to compete for federal Health and Human Services contracts. The successful two-day workshop was attended by about 70 participants each day, drawing from as far away as Texas!

According to Teneshia Alston of DHHS, 90 percent of new jobs in America are created by small businesses and workshops similar to this one thus are instrumental in helping to stimulate our

local economy. Reinforcing Alston's point, Robert G. Flowers, Jr., the president and CEO for RGF Consulting, cited a recent article published in the Baltimore Sun describing Johns Hopkins University's \$908 million in government contract revenues for 2006.

Guest speakers, Alan Elgandy and CSUSB's own Michelle Skiljan shared insights on how to get started writing a contract proposal and stressed the importance of marketing your business, your skills, and your ideas.

Best of luck to all the participants in their future quests for government contract funding! Please be sure to check our web site and newsletters for future training opportunities.



NEW Grant Workshops Coming this FALL!

Check our website for dates and information.

Tips from an Insider: continued from page 2...

Fischman asked, how could you think of giving up when you know you have a great idea, the internal/community support to implement that idea, and the written reviews containing clear advice on how to succeed with a resubmission? This experienced grant administrator doesn't see how she could pass up the opportunity to resubmit when everything is so aligned in favor of success. Plus she knows the more you write and submit, the better your submissions become and the less declines you'll receive.

"Read the reviews carefully," Fischman advised, "because people give it a lot of thought." Faculty should have confidence in knowing reviewers take much time and consideration when reading proposals and writing critiques. The reviewers, just like the program staff, want to read good proposals and vote to fund innovative projects. They all take their jobs very seriously. Fischman revealed that sometimes there may be contradictory reviews but if that should happen faculty should talk to program staff before making revisions for a resubmission. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification.

Talk to Program Staff. Fischman encouraged grant seekers to not be afraid to speak to program staff. "They're very approachable. They're very helpful. Their goal is to have really good proposals to review.... They are not there to trip you up in any way-shape-or-form – they really are there to help you."

Program staff can confirm you are applying for an opportunity that best suits your needs or advise you if your project goals are not congruent with the agency's mission. Fischman recalled one experience when program staff listened carefully to her project goals and advised her that although she described a good idea, she was applying for the wrong grant. In actuality, it was the right grant but Fischman's experience talking to program staff let her know that she was not explaining her project succinctly. Conversations with program staff aided in how she approached explaining her ideas on paper so that it was clear to reviewers that her project fit with the agency's mission.

Fischman warned not to expect advice specific to how you should write your grant; program staff advice can be very general. "They are careful not to be too specific... they're careful not to tell you that you should do this or you should do that because they don't want that. They don't want to be the people to write the projects...there is a reason why these projects are very open ended. They want to get innovation. They want to get people with different ideas."

Whether it be because of her innovative ideas or her proven abilities to administer successful projects, Davida Fischman proves you can succeed in obtaining grants if you love what you do and surround yourself with a broad base of supporters and collaborators.

But, she still joked, "Stubbornness counts for a lot..."

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