A Message from the Dean

We are grateful to Dorothy and O.J. Small for their gift to the Faculty Development Fund in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the College of Charleston. As you will see throughout this publication, the Small family gift has gone to support research and scholarship conducted by both faculty and students in HSS. Faculty traveled abroad to China, England, India, and Ireland because of the Small family’s generosity. Students conducted research and delivered their findings at professional conferences. Faculty and students conducted interviews with World War II veterans, preserving their stories of sacrifice and service. These opportunities and others became realities because the Small family believes that discovery of knowledge and its transmission are essential to the continued success of the College of Charleston, HSS, our faculty, and students.

O.J. Small has long been a supporter of the College of Charleston. A graduate of the class of 1941, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a captain during WWII. Returning to Charleston after the war, he opened an accounting firm in the 1950s. He served as a member of the College of Charleston Board of Trustees during the 1960s, working to secure the membership of the first woman to the Board of Trustees. Since that time, Mr. Small has remained a steadfast friend of the College and a strong supporter of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

It gives me great pleasure to thank Mr. Small and his family in this public fashion. Because of visionary supporters of higher education, such as Mr. Small and his family, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is able to support some of the very best Teacher-Scholars in the nation to teach the next generation of bright and inquisitive students. We thank Dorothy and O.J. Small for playing a vital role in this important partnership.

Cynthia J. Lowenthal, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr. Zeff Bjerken
Religious Studies
Project: Ladakh’s Buddhist Renaissance: Tradition and Modernity at the Crossroads
Bjerken traveled in India to investigate locations and resources for a potential future summer study tour. He hopes to develop the College’s first Religious Studies summer program, which will also be the College’s first summer program based in India. Students can then immerse themselves in the cultural heritage of Ladakh, engage in fieldwork through visits to Buddhist monasteries, pilgrimage sites, and Tibetan refugee camps, and examine contemporary trends in western spiritual tourism.

Dr. Scott Peeples
English
Project: The Civilians’ War: Letters from Charlestonian Women, 1861-1865
Peeples and his student, Kara Mirmelstein, presented a paper at a national conference on unpublished letters written by women from Charleston, S.C., during the Civil War. In his own words: Without funding from the Small Fund, we would not have been able to present our work at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, where we received valuable suggestions and learned about other scholarship on Civil War writing.

Dr. Dana A. Cope
Sociology & Anthropology
Project: Bulk Sampling and Screen Washing to Recover Micromammal Fossils in the Upper Section of the Uinta Formation, Uinta Basin, Utah
Since the last third of the 19th century, the Uinta Basin in northeast Utah has become well-known worldwide as a vital area for understanding the geology, environments, and vertebrate fossils of the middle time period of the Eocene Epoch. Cope took five students to “Uinta C,” a micromammal locality, where they spent time hauling matrix, screen washing, looking for fossils, and identifying and cataloguing fossils in the field. In his own words: The students’ time in Utah taught them what ‘real camping’ in the desert is like. Their field experience will help them get into graduate school and is truly a life-changing experience.

In his own words: I have served as a guide for summer cultural tours to the Himalayan regions of India and Pakistan, and what I have learned from my participation in these study tours is that students benefit most from cultural immersion and study at sites that are carefully chosen to introduce them to an interdisciplinary understanding of religions.
**Dr. Timothy L. Carens**  
**English**  

**Project: Archival Research on the Late-Victorian Discourse of Anglo-Irish Relations**

Carens worked with student Erin Wooten (pictured at right) on archival research at the British Library in London. The duo discovered and retrieved articles and illustrations that document British attitudes toward Ireland in the 1880s. 

*In his own words:* The material we discovered establishes the political and historical context of the late-Victorian novel, *Diana of the Crossways*, by George Meredith. In this novel, the marriage plot unites an English politician with the Irish heroine, and I now have the basis for arguing that the novel reflects the liberal political conception of the colonial relationship between England and Ireland.

---

**Dr. Jason Coy**  
**History**

**Project: Sorcery and the Supernatural in the Age of Reason**

Coy, along with student Bill Harris, conducted bibliographic research during their week-long research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago. At the Newberry, Coy was able to examine a variety of German and English texts on sorcery and the supernatural from the 16th and 17th centuries. 

*In his own words:* The funding afforded me the opportunity to launch a new research project that will eventually lead to the publication of a book on the persistence of beliefs in sorcery and the supernatural during the Age of Reason, contributing to the scholarship on the end of the European witch-hunts.
Dr. Doryjane Birrer  
English  

Project: The Power of Narrative: Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials* Trilogy and Postmodern Cultural Discourse  

Birrer worked with undergraduate English major Melissa Glasscock. The grant funded the team’s travel to and participation in the “Fantasy Matters” national academic conference at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in November 2007. There they presented individual papers on the “real-world” relevance of contemporary British writer Philip Pullman’s award-winning *His Dark Materials* trilogy within key socio-political contexts.  

*In her own words:* Melissa and I had recently completed a substantial summer research project on Pullman’s trilogy, and the Small grant allowed us to share the results of our research in a significant public academic forum in our project’s field of study; it also allowed us to receive scholarly feedback on our work that will help shape its revision into a collaborative faculty-student publication.

---

Carol Ann Davis  
English  

Project: Anatomy of a Book Launch: Adventures in Marketing and Launching *Psalm*  

Davis published her first book of poetry, *Psalm*, in 2007. The grant funded work on a book guide that accompanied *Psalm*, and it allowed Davis’s students, Annah Browning and Elizabeth Stephenson (pictured above with Davis), to accompany the author to book-launch events at Poet’s House in New York City. In addition, Davis performed a reading at The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., which the students also attended.  

*In her own words:* O.J. Small’s generosity allowed me to share with two very dear and diligent student-poets what is the most exciting development in my professional life so far: the launching of my first book of poems. I hope these experiences help to encourage Annah and Elizabeth as they embark on their own creative journeys and to show them that all the hard work is worth it as the rewards are immeasurable.
Dr. Bethany C. Goodier
Communication

Project: Stories of Socialization and Silence: Narratives of Female Residents’ Training Experiences

Existing literature on medical education and training has been written largely about, by, and for males. In 2004, Goodier conducted an in-depth analysis of the narratives of female physicians regarding residency training experiences. She worked with student Kateland Kammel (bottom photo) and used funds from the O.J. Small grant to expand her data set to include physicians from outside the Charleston area.

In her own words: A study analyzing the experiences of female physicians across subspecialties will create a more holistic picture of the training experience and illuminate areas of potential discrimination, bias, and gender stereotyping inherent in the current system.

Dr. Guoli Liu
Political Science

Project: China Rises to the Challenge of Modernity: Change Amid Stability

Liu co-wrote a book focusing on China’s struggle in meeting the challenges of modernity. Funding allowed him to conduct field work and research in China, where he was able to obtain the latest Chinese research materials and real-life experience of modernity from people in different social statuses.

In his own words: Funding from the Small grant enabled me to visit various sites including the capital city of Beijing, the economic and financial center in Shanghai, a mid-sized coastal city, a large industrial city, a small city, and villages in Tonghai and Huaxi. These sites represent China at different stages of modernization.

Dr. Chris Warnick
English

Project: Expressive Pedagogy and ‘The Freshmen Experience’ at Cornell University, 1963

Warnick traveled to Cornell University to research archives of student writing from the 1960s and 1970s.

In his own words: In doing this research, I discovered that the writing program at Cornell was informed by the work of Theodore Baird, an extremely influential writing instructor at Amherst. I plan on writing an article that further examines this connection, which will expand my field’s understanding of writing instruction during this pivotal time period.
**Dr. Hollis France**  
Political Science

**Project: Internationalizing The Curriculum: Study Abroad as a Tool for Redefining and Reconstructing National Identity in a Global Context**

France sought to explore the relationship between the study abroad experience and identity formation. She interviewed College of Charleston students who studied in Cuba for a semester and found that study abroad encounters not only allow a student to interrogate what it means to be a “global citizen,” but also to see how their previous conceptions of self and nation can strengthen, not contradict, this world context.  

_In her own words:_ Funding from the Small grant allowed student Kaylee Rodgers and me to present our proposal at the 2008 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference in San Jose, California. Kaylee’s role was imperative to understanding the transformative nature of study abroad programs from the student perspective.

---

**Dr. Tim Carmichael**  
History

**Project: Saudi Arabian Newspapers, 1977-1987**

Carmichael worked with student Harriet Ward to catalogue a collection of Saudi Arabian newspapers. Carmichael is analyzing Saudi coverage of African affairs, while Ward is doing follow-up research in England for her B.A. thesis.  

_In his own words:_ This funding enabled a useful and fun collaborative effort between a professor and a student. Notably our work bridged Middle Eastern and African Studies, two fields that are less commonly studied by CofC students. This project contributed both to a new direction of research for myself and to the scholarly development of Ms. Ward. Additionally, the initial organizing and cataloging of my personal collection of Saudi Arabian newspapers has been a vital step in preparing them for eventual donation to the CofC Library’s Special Collections section.

---

**Dr. E. Moore Quinn**  
Sociology & Anthropology

**Project: Participant Observation Fieldwork in Northern Ireland: Studying Selfhood through Memory and Verbal/Visual Forms**

Moore is pictured at left enjoying “the culture of the half-door” in rural Ireland. While in Ireland, she studied change through textual memory. Part of her project’s research includes the possible future involvement of students in study-abroad objectives.  

_In her own words:_ I am most grateful to the Small family for helping to fund my project. The grant allowed me to travel more extensively throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and to examine in greater detail culture change on the island as a whole.

---

**Dr. Hollis France**  
Political Science

**Project: Internationalizing The Curriculum: Study Abroad as a Tool for Redefining and Reconstructing National Identity in a Global Context**

France sought to explore the relationship between the study abroad experience and identity formation. She interviewed College of Charleston students who studied in Cuba for a semester and found that study abroad encounters not only allow a student to interrogate what it means to be a “global citizen,” but also to see how their previous conceptions of self and nation can strengthen, not contradict, this world context.  

_In her own words:_ Funding from the Small grant allowed student Kaylee Rodgers and me to present our proposal at the 2008 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference in San Jose, California. Kaylee’s role was imperative to understanding the transformative nature of study abroad programs from the student perspective.

---
Dr. Bryan Ganaway and Dr. Bill Olejniczak
History
Project: Experiencing Total War – Oral Interviews of World War II Veterans and Civilians in the Lowcountry
Students in Ganaway’s History 241 class conducted 57 oral interviews of World War II veterans and local civilians to preserve their stories of sacrifice and service. Following the interviews, the students helped Ganaway (pictured at left) set up two forums. One forum brought a major WWII scholar to campus, and the other invited two veterans and one civilian to talk about their war-time experiences.
In his own words: The generous funding from the Small fund enabled us to fulfill the mission of the College and provide a liberal arts education with a civic component. The project built bridges between generations, between the campus and the local community, and enabled the students to see that service is an essential part of learning.

Garrett Doherty
English
Project: The Crazyhorse Emerging Writer Prize and Brief Residency
In his own words: It’s great that the project pushes forward with one stroke literary writing in many good ways: it rewards a deserving writer from the pages of Crazyhorse with a prize (and so entices other talented writers to want to be published in Crazyhorse and win that prize); and it rewards students at the College with a reading from and interaction with a talented writer. It lets students see real, live writers of literature in action.

Dr. Michael Ruscio
Psychology
Project: The Neurobiology of Social Behavior
Ruscio and students Katie Parker and Adrian Gomez (Parker, Ruscio and Gomez are pictured at right) embarked on a research project regarding the neurobiological basis of social behavior. The two undergraduate students were closely involved with this research. The team’s results will be presented at an international meeting in Groningen, Netherlands.
In his own words: The Small grant provided me with the opportunity to further develop my laboratory research program and give undergraduate students hands-on opportunities to conduct research in neuroscience.
Dr. Cynthia May  
Psychology  
Project: Memory, Aging, and Emotion

May and four students (Kim Fuller, Tracy Taylor, Kirsten Biernot and Tim Lempert – pictured at left, below) worked on a project that demonstrated that younger and older adults show heightened memory of negative information relative to positive or neutral information. Both age groups were able to use incentives to change their pattern of recall, but older adults were more successful at accentuating the positive over the negative.  
*In her own words*: Funds allowed us to recruit 100 new senior citizens for the study and allowed us to offer our subjects a stipend for participating in the experiment. The study advances our understanding of aging and memory and provides insight into ways to modify materials to make them more memorable for seniors.

Dr. George E. Dickinson  
Sociology & Anthropology  
Project: A Profile of Death  
Education Offerings in Medical and Nursing Programs in the US and UK

Dickinson traveled to Montreal, Canada, to present a paper on teaching thanatology (the study of death) at the Association for Death Education and Counseling’s Annual Meeting. Specifically, he was asked to discuss the US and UK medical and nursing schools’ emphasis on end-of-life issues, based on his research over the past several years.  
*In his own words*: Useful contacts were made with individuals regarding their related research on end-of-life issues. In addition, I was asked to write a guest editorial, based on my presentation, for the association’s journal.
McStotts and former professional photographer Ginny Brown collaborated to re-photograph historic images of Charleston from the 19th and 20th centuries. (See two photos below on the intersection of King Street and Calhoun.) The duo will select images to accompany an academic journal article currently in progress about the use of re-photography to interpret urban change.

_In her own words:_ Without the Small grant, we wouldn’t have been able to do this project, which has been so revealing about change in Charleston.

---

Hoffmann attended seminars on how to combine traditional college students and inmates into a single productive class.

_In his own words:_ The grant allowed me to attend a training institute that teaches how to organize classes that combine two different student populations: traditional ‘outside’ college students and ‘inside’ inmate students who collaborate to learn the same material. Without this training, I would have been ill-prepared for constructing a meaningful curriculum and would not have gained the practical knowledge for addressing the challenges and opportunities that emerge in this unique class structure.
**Dr. J. Michael Duvall**  
**English**  

**Project: Taking Out the Trash with Frank Norris: Detritus and (Non)Modernity in his Early Novels**

Duvall examined archival materials on late-19th century fiction writer Frank Norris at the University of California, Berkeley for a project on Norris’s interest in waste. Using this research, he presented a paper to the Frank Norris Society at the American Literature Association meeting in San Francisco, and he will complete a scholarly article this summer on the topic.  

*In his own words:* Thanks to Mr. Small’s generous and indispensable support, I was able to thoroughly comb the Norris archive, uncover an important contemporary discourse on San Francisco’s sanitation system, and present the preliminary findings of my research to other Norris scholars.

---

**Dr. Catherine Veninga**  
**Political Science**

**Project: Capital Investment and Demographic Change in Charleston, South Carolina: Phase I**

Veninga and student Tom Skwierawski (pictured above) compiled two data sets: four decades’ worth of census data and tax assessment data for the city of Charleston. The data will provide background support for future studies and classroom activities regarding the local urban landscape.  

*In her own words:* The funding allowed me to compile and clean important base-line data that will be useful in a number of my on-going projects.
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is the largest academic unit of the College of Charleston. Home to nearly 170 faculty and eight departments, HSS graduates the largest number of students every year.

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Staff

Cynthia J. Lowenthal, Dean
Kathleen A. DeHaan, Associate Dean
Kristin M. Romness, Director of Development
Cassandra P. Foster, Editor and Assistant to the Dean

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424
http://www.cofc.edu/~hss
(843) 953-0760