Funding New Frontiers

The University of Arizona Foundation celebrates and congratulates its 2009-2010 Grants and Awards recipients. Since 1986, the UA Foundation Grants and Awards Program – in partnership with the UA Office of the Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and Economic Development – has provided funding to faculty research and community projects within the University of Arizona. More than $200,000 was invested into selected projects last year and, to date, funding from the program has yielded a 15:1 return. We thank and honor the award recipients – past and present – who serve as pioneers of innovation, propelling the UA into new frontiers of excellence after 125 years.

"The UA Foundation Grants and Awards program is a great way to jump-start the careers of young faculty who need preliminary data to compete for larger grants. Great faculty make great universities, and seed funding such as this is important to the UA and Arizona since some of the research conducted by faculty have important spin-offs to society."

Eugene G. Snyder, PhD
Vice Provost & Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Member, UA Foundation Grants and Awards Committee

09/10 Grant Award Recipients

COMMUNITY CONNECTION GRANTS

Desiree Sportston
Community Outreach Coordinator, Arizona Cancer Center
Training UA medical, nursing, pharmacy and public health students to teach cancer and skin cancer prevention to 2,500 students at Tucson high schools

Jewel Spencer
Clinical Pharmacist, Pharmacy Practice and Science
Delivering a pharmacist-based health and wellness community outreach service program

Katherine Sterl
Coordinator, Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair
Working to increase participation in science and engineering research among under-represented populations in Southern Arizona schools

FACULTY SEED GRANTS

Joseph Traylor
Assistant Professor, Community, Environment, and Policy
Developing a cost-effective method to isolate the valley fever fungus from soil samples

John Byrd
Research Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
Obtaining data to determine how to develop algae for environmentally competitive biofuel production in the Southwest, which has an ideal climate for the cultivation of algae

David Velez
Senior Lecturer, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
Developing and testing a model of auditory processing that provides direction for treatments of auditory processing disorders

Shirley Paguio
Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment
Collecting Bolivian water samples and survey information to develop a proposal for integrating local knowledge to help communities adapt to climate change

Jing Shi
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
Studying the causes of and changes in pancreatic cancer, and testing biomarkers and drug therapies to aid early diagnosis and treatment

Law Grenier
Assistant Professor, Clinical Medicine
Conducting microscopic observations on melanoma specimens to provide insight into the biology of melanomas and possible treatments for the cancer

Amin Soroushian
Assistant Professor, Chemical and Environmental Engineering
Analyzing the nature and character of winds in the U.S. Southwest, and how they influence dust and precipitation

Elianosky Wijermans
Assistant Research Scientist, Office of Arid Lands Studies
Evaluating plant-associated microbial networks for their anti-allergic effect with the goal of identifying new treatments for allergies

Nicole Guadalbert-Hernandez
Associate Professor, Gender and Women’s Studies
Creating a large-scale, searchable database of Yaqi tribe depictions for the years 1870-1900 to be used for further research

Elizabeth Scott
Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture
Developing a post occupancy assessment tool of sustainable community development strategies to address gaps in existing built systems

Fuxi Wei
Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Surgery
Studying the potential of a sensitive and accurate non-invasive method for the early detection of pancreatic cancer

Ishak Aumu
Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Advancing dietary assessment methods with the use of emerging mobile phone technology

Yifeng Zhang
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics
Investigating the possibility of recycling rice hulls to be used in a sustainable and cost-effective way as construction material

Jennifer Jenkins
Associate Professor, Department of English
Providing digital access to “Women’s Ways” films archived at the Arizona Historical Society to support publications, curriculum, exhibits, public presentations, and several funding proposals

Melissa Tartt
Assistant Professor, Family Studies and Human Development
Studying the ways in which two adults work together to raise a child in order to highlight how co-parenting influences both adults and children

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FOUNDATION

Learn more at uafoundation.ucp.