

University of San Diego

Academic Grant Awards – Fall 2014

Scott Anders, MA, Director of EPIC, School of Law, has been awarded the following grants:

- \$17,405 for his participation on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) being convened to provide to the City of Chula Vista unbiased, third-party guidance as it develops and implements a residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing tool under its Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade program. The scope of work of the committee includes soliciting, reviewing, and scoring proposals; conducting the interviews of the top scoring proposal teams; participating in the recommendation presentation to the City Council and the City Commissions; and reviewing the selected program for clarity and scope. This is a 15-month award funded by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E).
- Two-year, \$65,000 Service Agreement with SDG&E to provide policy, quantitative, and technical support to the City of San Diego for development and monitoring of its Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (CMAP). These EPIC services include the development of a 2035 Scenario Emissions Reduction Estimate; development of a Quantitative Method of Monitoring CMAP Progress; and ongoing quantitative and technical support.
- One-year, \$50,000 grant from The San Diego Foundation, the Blasker Environment Grants Program to develop an updated regional greenhouse gas emissions assessment, and monitoring and implementation framework, standardized for local jurisdictions to use in climate action planning. EPIC has also received an award from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for \$54,265. During the next year, EPIC will provide SANDAG with quantitative, policy, and technical support to assist with development of an updated regional green gas inventory.
- \$50,174 for a subcontract with the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), the US Department of Energy, Southern California Rooftop Solar Challenge II is the Prime Sponsor. This 18-month project will build on work conducted during Phase I. EPIC will develop reports on regulatory and policy analysis, and monitor related regulatory rulemakings, legislative activity, and legal activity, creating summaries to be used in project outreach and communications channels.

Mary Barger, PhD, Nursing, has been awarded \$9,998 for her research project, “Effects of Sleep, Fatigue, and Timing of Post-Date Inductions Among Nulliparae.” Support for this study, awarded by Stanford University School of Nursing Alumnae Legacy Project Grant Committee, is examining the effects of sleep duration and fatigue on the pregnancy outcomes of women who are induced for post-date pregnancies. The study will be looking for potential predictive factors for successful induction and for adverse obstetrical outcomes, especially cesarean birth.

Adina Batnitzky, PhD, Sociology, is the recipient of a subaward from UCSD, State Coastal Conservancy (Prime) for \$7,014. The agreement, “Testing the feasibility of coastal direct seafood markets,” constitutes a one-year project, collecting data and providing public awareness about the local fishing industry. The goal of the work being done on this Collaborative Fisheries Research West (CFRS) project is to facilitate an increased diversity in the types of seafood consumed as well as an overall increase in the total demand for the local San Diego fishing industry.

Bahar Davary, PhD, Theology and Religious Studies, has been granted a two-year, \$18,000 subaward by UC Davis, prime award the Henry Luce Foundation, for her role in making accessible to the academic community as well as to the community at large the scholarly work of the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (EWIC). The Encyclopedia is an interdisciplinary, trans-historical project that compiles essays by scholars on all women in Muslim majority societies and in Muslim minority societies.

Laura Deitrick, PhD, Director of the Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research, SOLES, received a \$22,000 subcontract from Nash Associates. During summer 2013, Dr. Deitrick provided

technical assistance to the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, as they implemented their Community Transformation Grant received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sarah Gray, PhD, Marine Science and Environmental Studies, has once again been awarded \$65,393 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation (Special Projects) Program. This latest in a continuing series of support from NOAA and her continuing dedicated work studying the impact of land-based sources of pollution on Caribbean coral reefs is for an 18-month period.

Dr. Gray also received an \$18,055, 18-month grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), prime award the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Her ongoing work has been studying the effect of pollution on Caribbean coral reefs; this current award is for a project titled “Quantifying Watershed Erosion Control Impacts on Coral Reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Aaron Gross, PhD, Theology and Religious Studies, is the recipient of \$39,000 from The Foer Foundation, Inc., in support of his scholarship on food, animals, Judaism, and religion, including a final revision of the book manuscript, *The Question of the Animal and Religion*, the completion of an essay for peer review, and the proposal of a new course. The work is to be completed during the Fall 2013 semester.

Melissa Halter, PhD, Director of the Center for Health and Wellness Promotion, **Moisés Barón**, PhD, Assistant Vice President of Student Wellness, and **Steve Sprinkle**, PhD, Director of the Counseling Center, who co-authored the grant proposal, “University of San Diego Suicide Prevention,” have been awarded a \$300,000, three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Earlier this semester the Wellness Area launched the “Not on My Watch” initiative, a comprehensive campaign to prevent suicide. With this award, USD will work to enhance and strengthen its suicide prevention efforts.

Peter Iovine, PhD, Chemistry, received a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (Research at Undergraduate Institutions) towards the “Synthesis and Characterization of End-Functionalized Starches for Generating Functional Hybrid Polymers and Novel Self-Assembled Architectures” This research explores the possibility of making and studying hybrid polymers – materials consisting of both natural and synthetic polymers. Dr. Iovine and his students will be studying and incorporating starch, an abundant and cheap raw material, into hybrid polymers with the aim of lessening the use of synthetic polymers and ultimately shrinking our dependence on petrochemicals used in applications such as biomedical, personal care, and packaging.

Ron Kaufmann, PhD, Marine Science Graduate Program, will serve as mentor to Elizabeth Lopez, graduate student in Marine Science and Environmental Studies, who is being recognized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to receive a 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) award. The program recognizes and supports outstanding research-based graduate degree seeking students selected early in their graduate careers for their demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers. The Fellowship stipend is currently \$32,000 for a 12-month tenure period and an exemption from paying tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing. Elizabeth’s research project, “Quantitative Comparison of Marine Fish Communities on Submerged Wave Energy Structures and Adjacent Natural Reefs in the Pacific Northwest” will be conducted with Dr. Sarah Henkel at Oregon State University.

Daniel Sheehan, PhD, Physics, was awarded \$4,000 by Paradigm Energy Research Corp. to support a student working in the lab during the summer session 2013.

Drs. Mary Barger, Sally Brosz Hardin and Sally Weinrich, received a \$10,000 Research grant from the Jonas Foundation for their research, “Improving Wellness in Homeless Military Women.”

Matthew Zwolinski, PhD, Philosophy, has been funded \$12,500 by the Charles Koch Foundation for his project “Philosophical and Economic Foundations of Political Liberty.” During the current academic year, the award will be used for a reading group, course development, and a student research fellowship.