IN THE SPOTLIGHT:  

Minor League Baseball in New York City

Baseball and Brooklyn have a long and storied history. Most recently, the borough enjoyed the arrival of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Class A Rookie affiliate of the New York Mets and part of the New York-Penn League, to Brooklyn from Pittsfield, MA in 2000. That same year, the Yankees moved a team based in Watertown, NY to Staten Island. Lost in the discussion of stadium cost, economic impact, and the price of attending baseball games, is the impact of moving those teams on the communities they left, the political machinations that brought them to New York City, and what this says about Major League Baseball’s view of the minor league system. Prof. Michael Sokolow (History, Philosophy, and Political Science) plans to write a book that fills in these holes, and received funding from PSC-CUNY to help get him there.

“Most writing about baseball stadiums has to do with major league teams,” he says. “However, Major League Baseball’s decision to move two developmental baseball teams to major markets reveals something important about marketing strategy and the purpose of the minor league system. My book will explore these connections.” Sokolow hopes that his book will make a significant contribution to sports history. His work will also draw from his expertise in popular culture, which he teaches at Kingsborough.

Prof. Sokolow’s PSC-CUNY grant, “Baseball Like It Was Meant to Be”: The Brooklyn Cyclones, Staten Island Yankees, and the Growth of the New York-Penn League, provides release time for writing and a budget for research-related travel.

Faculty members can apply for PSC-CUNY funding each fall. Prof. Sokolow offers some advice to potential applicants: “Think about the contribution you could make to your field.” Serving as a proposal reviewer also contributed to his success: “Being on the other end gave me a new perspective on the characteristics of a good proposal.”

“Work with the grants office!” he adds. “They can help you.” Finally, don’t let a rejection deter you. “Re-apply. Take reviewer feedback into account.”

“I’m very much looking forward to writing this book,” he concludes. “And appreciate the support of PSC-CUNY in making it happen!”

27 faculty members received over $98,000 from PSC-CUNY to support their research in 2009-2010. Guidelines and applications for the next PSC-CUNY grant cycle will be available in fall 2009.

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Kirstin Swanson, Associate Director of Development, or Kelly Freidenfelds, Assistant Director of Development, to discuss your proposed project.

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

CURRENT CALLS FOR PROPOSALS:
Active Living Research and Healthy Eating Research and Rapid Response Grants; Active Living Research: Investigating Policies and Environments to Support Active Communities

*Please see website below for information on these and other current funding opportunities

FIND GUIDELINES:
http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfplist.jsp

WILLIAM T. GRANT FOUNDATION

INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED GRANTS:
The Foundation supports high-quality research that enhances understanding of how youth settings work, how they affect youth development, and how they can be improved; and when, how, and under what conditions research evidence is used in policy and practice that affect youth, and how it can be improved. Letters of inquiry due September 9, 2009.

FIND GUIDELINES:
http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/research_grants/investigator_initiated_grants
NSF: DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

TITLE: Law and Social Science; Economics; Geography and Regional Science (SBE—BCS); Political Science (SBE—SES)

*Please see website below for information on active funding opportunities in these areas.

FIND GUIDELINES AND APPLY ONLINE: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=SBE

ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE (ARO)

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GETTING CREATIVE:
Finding Support for Early Career Investigators

Assistant Professor Lourdes Follins (Behavioral Science and Human Services) is clear about her passion. “I have seen too many young gay and bisexual men die from AIDS before the age of 30,” she said. “I want to know why that is happening.” New investigators often find it hard to land that first grant. Competing against seasoned researchers for funds is a daunting prospect. So when Associate Professor Jose Nanin (Health, Physical Education, and Recreation) approached Dr. Follins with a new opportunity, the Research in HIV Intervention: Skills for the Community (RHISC) fellowship, she was skeptical.

The goal of RHISC is to train people of color who are junior faculty or senior staff in non-profit organizations to conduct HIV-prevention research, exploring its impact on family and community. After some thought, Dr. Follins submitted an application, and, to her surprise, was chosen to be one of only eight early career investigators to receive this fellowship.

The RHISC fellowship will give her important experience and training that will enable her to conduct the research she is so passionate about. She will receive formal mentorship from more experienced researchers, receive training in research methodology and ethics that will complement her doctoral training, learn about submitting competitive grant proposals, and interact with academics and practitioners with the same depth of interest in HIV prevention in communities of color.

This fellowship comes with clear expectations of publishing, presenting at academic conferences, and securing research funding. What appealed to Dr. Follins was the structure of the program. “Charting your own path from early career investigator to independently funded researcher can be daunting,” she says. “RHISC lays out a clear path, provides support while cultivating my interests and skills, and challenges me to become a better researcher.”

And even if you apply and are rejected, don’t write off the experience. Dr. Follins applied for RHISC following an earlier rejection. “Applying for each fellowship was helpful for me,” she asserts. “It helped me to focus in on what my real research interests are. I now have a sense of clarity that I didn’t have before.”

RECENT AWARDS

Reza Fakhari – Academic Affairs, and Kirstin Swanson, College Advancement
Con Edison, Inc. $2,500
Sponsorship of 2009 Eco-Festival

Harry Franklin – Office of the Dean of Instructional Services
Independence Community Foundation $15,000
Black Male Initiative

Lourdes Follins – Behavioral Sciences and Human Services
Research in HIV Intervention: Skills for the Community (RHISC) $30,000
Research Fellowship

Thomas Friebel – Office of Enrollment Management
Single Stop USA $70,000
Establishment of Single Stop site at KCC

Did you know…CUNY offers specialized support for faculty interested in writing grants?

Faculty Mentoring Program: links junior faculty with senior faculty in their fields, especially if desired mentorship needs cannot be met by faculty in their department or on their campus

Small Group Proposal Development: work with CUNY grants staff to develop new proposals or turn around rejected proposals.

For more information, contact CUNY at oaresearch@mail.cuny.edu