

Faculty Grants

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Professors Win SUNY IIT Grant

College of Arts and Sciences professors Rachel Rigolino and Matthew Newcomb were recently awarded a SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant (IITG).

Their “Writing Across the Curriculum: Online Writing Resource Center” will provide original resources for SUNY faculty, and will centralize recommended resources to which it will link. Rigolino and Newcomb are writing instructors in the English Department’s Composition Program.

Under this competitive IITG program, grant winners develop innovations to advance the “transformative vision” outlined in the Power of SUNY strategic plan. Their innovations will be shared on the SUNY Learning Commons, enabling others to “share



Rachel Rigolino



Matthew Newcomb

and access scholarly, instructional and best practices materials.”

Rigolino’s team members include New Paltz College of Liberal Arts and Sciences instructors Mary Fakler and Joan Perisse; Linda Smith and Kate Hurd of the Teaching and Learning Center; and Lynne Crockett (MA, New Paltz), Liberal Arts and Humanities Professor at SUNY Sullivan. The team is creating original, multimedia instruction-

al resources for writing instruction across the disciplines. Visitors to the Commons will also find links to team-recommended resources.

The IITG team expects faculty to realize efficiency in their search for writing resources, and students to find the material entertaining. In fact, much of the material speaks directly to students. Through Camtasia software, for example, the team has created a colorful and animated video about subject-verb agreement. Resource Center topics include “Understanding the Rhetorical Situation”; “The Writing Process”; “Argument”; “Research Strategies”; and “English Skills.”

Four faculty members will pilot the Online Writing Resource Center in their undergraduate classes this spring.

Shimada Earns Senior Research Grant for Ancient Indian Studies

LA&S Professor Akira Shimada has been awarded a senior research grant by the American Institute of Indian Studies for 2014-15. He will be affiliated with a research institution in India, most likely the Deccan College in Pune, India, and will conduct research for three months there. Shimada, an Associate Professor in the History Department, is an expert in the history of Buddhist architecture in Ancient India. He has begun an important second book project on the decline of Buddhism

in the Andhran region of southeast India from 300 to 1323 CE. He also recently published a book chapter in an edited volume, “Guntupalle: The Oldest Rock-Cut Buddhist Monastery in the Eastern Deccan” in *Living Rock: Buddhist, Hindu and Jain Cave Temples in the Western Deccan*, ed. P. Brancaccio. Mumbai: Marg Pulibation, 2013.



Akira Shimada

James Halpern, Professor of Psychology and director of the College’s Institute for Disaster Mental Health, has received a \$93,169 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for his project titled “Community-Based Psychological First Aid Training for Palestinians and Israelis: Mitigating Conflict via Mental Health Interventions.” USAID administers the U.S. foreign assistance program, providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Victor deMunck, Professor of Anthropology, has received an \$18,515 grant from the National Science Foundation for his project, “Cultural Models of Nature Across Cultures: Space, Causality, and Primary Food Producers.”