

# Summer Research Fellowship Grants awarded

Students to pursue joint faculty research

ERIE--Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, has awarded \$15,303 in Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship Grants to 20 undergraduate students.

The grants will permit the students to pursue joint research with faculty during the summer of 1995. Grant money is used to offset research expenses such as travel, library loans, materials, and photocopying.

"Research grants give students the opportunity to strengthen their undergraduate experience," Dr. Robert Light, the college's associate dean for research, said of the annual awards. "Emphasis on research at the undergraduate level is still fairly rare, but we've found it leads to acceptance at more prestigious graduate schools, and to better employment opportunities."

Awards of \$900 were given to Randy Risjan, a sophomore business economics major from Waterford, for his research proposal, "Retail Sales and the Erie Economy;" senior engineering major James McGee, an Edinboro resident, for "Acrodynamics of Supermileage Vehicles;" Daniel Temple of Erie, a junior electrical engineering major, for "An Image Processing System for Dynamic Scene Change Detection;" Markus Rodriguez, a junior English major from Matawan, N.J., for "The House on Mango Street: A Play Production;" Erie resident Lisa Ann Borgia, a sophomore science major, for

"Evaluation of Relationships Between Shorebird Abundance and Invertebrate Densities on Presque Isle, Erie, Pennsylvania;" and to Daniel Logan, a sophomore engineering major from Glenshaw, for his research, "Stress Distribution in Granular Media."

Two math majors from Erie, junior Matthew Totzke and sophomore Timothy Wisniewski, received \$1,750 for their research, "Properties of Random Graphs." Biology majors Eileen Hyman, a junior from Wescoville, and Linda Murphy, a senior from Butler, were awarded \$1,300 for "RAPD and Isoenzyme Polymorphisms in *Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena bugensis* Populations."

Barry Guenther, a junior history major from Beaver Falls, received \$898 for his proposal, "From the Tracks at Mudken: The United States and the Manchurian Crisis, 1931-1933;" \$892 was awarded to junior psychology major Joseph Trettel and 1994 Penn State-Behrend graduate Jennifer Trich for their research, "Individual Differences in Spatial Perceptions and Mental Rotation Tasks." Trettel is from Lower Burrell.

Philadelphia resident Jotham Austin II received \$891 for "Genomic Studies of the Tumor Forming Interspecific *Nicotiana* Hybrid" and Erie resident Palestrina Truong \$873 for "Construction of a Genomic Library for Genetic Analysis of *Prunus serotina*." Both are

juniors studying biology.

Psychology majors Amy Yanacek, Kendra Hamler, and Sonya Solock received \$854 to fund their summer research, "A Content Analysis of Changes in the Portrayal of Dominance and Inequality in Pornographic Films Across Time." Yanacek, a junior, is from Meadville; seniors Hamler and Solock are residents of Pittsburgh and Sharpsville, respectively. Kenneth Hull, an Erie resident, received \$695 for "Survey of Surgical Luminaire Optical Performance." Hull is a senior mechanical engineering technology major.

One student, Erie resident Ray Graham, Jr., received two summer research grants. Graham's first award, of \$900, will be used to study "Computer Recognition of Human Facial Gestures for Improved Speech Understanding." With a second award of \$850, Graham will also study "Carbon Monoxide in Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 1." Graham is a junior majoring in electrical engineering.

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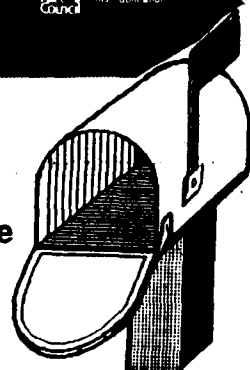
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