Past Mutual Mentoring Micro Grant Projects

These projects are intended as examples of previously funded grant activity, and applicants are encouraged to creatively develop Mutual Mentoring projects that address their unique circumstances, challenges, and cultural “norms.”


Harry Bermudez, Assistant Professor of Polymer Science & Engineering
Dr. Bermudez participated in a biophysics/biomaterials international workshop held at the Universidad Autonoma de Sonora in Mexico. Through this visit, he was able to identify potential research collaborators and build an international network of mentoring partners within the biomaterials field.

Ana L. Caicedo, Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Caicedo visited the laboratory of her mentoring partner at Texas A&M University to learn more about lab techniques that she will use in a future field study. While visiting her mentoring partner, Dr. Caicedo also developed contacts with the Department of Horticultural Sciences and Institute of Plant Genomics and Biotechnology at Texas A&M.

Jeungok Choi, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Due to the increasing use of online/distance courses in nursing education, Dr. Choi worked on developing a new model for web-based mentoring of NP (Nurse Practitioner) Ph.D. students. Dr. Choi met regularly with a team of on-campus faculty mentoring partners, and hopes to develop future papers and articles about their work.

Jane Degenhardt & Asha Nadkarni, Assistant Professors of English
Drs. Degenhardt and Nadkarni used their grant to establish a peer writing group to work on their respective book manuscripts and book proposals. They met twice monthly to track their writing progress and worked with professional writing coaches and editors over the course of the year.

Peter A. Graham, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Dr. Graham wrote two papers and commented on a third at this year’s Eastern Division Meeting of the APA, all focusing on the work of David Lewis. To aid him in this project, Dr. Graham met regularly with his department chair and two other mentors. He used his grant to offset the costs of books, meetings, and APA conference fees.

Aline C. Gubrium, Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Gubrium worked closely with an external mentor at the City University of New York to develop a workshop centered on youth participatory action research. Dr. Gubrium used her grant to meet with her mentoring partner in New York, discuss methodologies, and start planning a workshop to be held either in Amherst or New York.

Shona Macdonald, Assistant Professor of Art, Architecture and Art History
Dr. Macdonald invited an external mentor (a leading artist, critic, writer, curator, and professor) to UMass Amherst as a visiting artist. During this visit, her mentor gave a talk on his studio practice and career development, met with junior and senior faculty, and talked with MFA graduate candidates within the department.

Lisa S. Scott, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Scott visited the lab of an external mentor at the University of Rochester to gain more experience with a specific type of infant eye-tracking methodology, as well as tracking equipment. Her goal is to receive a federal grant to support her research using this particular methodology.

Shawn Shimpach, Assistant Professor of Communication
Dr. Shimpach worked closely with his mentoring partner, a professional writing coach and editor, to prepare journal articles (focusing on the result of new global economics on television programming) for submission to peer reviewed scholarly journals. He and his mentoring partner met regularly to discuss his writing process and progress.

Nathanial A. Whitmal, III, Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders
Dr. Whitmal organized a mentoring group consisting of junior and senior faculty (both in and outside of his department) to work on a federal research grant. Dr. Whitmal attended a grant proposal workshop (as part of a national conference) and brought back grant writing ideas and feedback to his mentoring group.

Micro Grants 2008–2009

Brent Auerbach, Assistant Professor of Music and Dance
To build a national network of senior and near-peer mentors active in the field of Brahms scholarship, Dr. Auerbach attended a joint meeting of the American Musicological Society (AMS) and the Society for Music Theory (SMT) in Nashville, Tennessee. At the meeting, Auerbach served on a panel in his area of research and gained valuable exposure to the editors of the Brahms Studies journal.

Enobong Hannah Branch, Assistant Professor of Sociology
As part of her grant, Dr. Branch participated in the Sociological Professional Delegation to South Africa to build substantive relationships with South African and American scholars researching contemporary race, ethnicity, class, and gender structures in South Africa. By enlarging her network of external senior mentors, Dr. Branch was able to make progress on a new cross-national research project.

Tanya Fernando, Assistant Professor of English
Dr. Fernando used her grant in the summer and fall of 2008 to hire a professional writing coach to edit her manuscripts as well as to provide mentorship on how best to balance teaching, research and scholarly writing. As a result of her external mentoring partnership, Dr. Fernando made significant progress on a book proposal and chapter about the Modernist use of the aesthetic of “shock” and its connections to theories of race and sexuality.
Mila Getmansky Sherman, Assistant Professor of Finance and Operations Management
To provide more networking opportunities to women in her field of study, Dr. Getmansky Sherman helped found and organize the Early Career Women in Finance Mini-Conference. As part of the conference, pre-tenure women in finance shared and received feedback on recently-completed manuscripts and developed important external peer mentoring relationships.

Dayo Gore, Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies
Dr. Gore used her grant to arrange formal mentoring meetings with Dr. Komozi Woodward, a Professor of American History and Africana Studies at Sarah Lawrence College, and Dr. Jeanne Theoharis, the Endowed Chair in Women’s Studies and Associate Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College-CUNY, both of whom serve as reviewers for important journals in Dr. Gore’s field. In addition, Dr. Gore participated, along with Dr. Theoharis, in a roundtable on women and gender in post-1945 U.S. History at the 14th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women.

Haivan Hoang, Assistant Professor of English
To foster a community of scholars interested with Asian/Asian American concerns in the field of rhetoric, composition, and literacy studies, Dr. Hoang co-designed and launched a website for the Asian/Asian American Caucus, which is part of the National Council of Teachers of English. As part of the grant project, Dr. Hoang fostered conversations among senior and junior colleagues in her field of study, enriched her knowledge of scholarly resources, and developed her leadership within her community of scholars.

Fidan Kurtulus, Assistant Professor of Economics
Dr. Kurtulus used her grant to expand her professional network by attending three major research conferences: the Western Economics Association Conference, the American Economics Association Conference, and the Annual Meetings of the Society of Labor Economists. At these conferences Dr. Kurtulus received constructive feedback in preparation for publication of her research, met with near-peers at other institutions, and identified senior mentors who could serve as outside reviewers for her tenure evaluation.

Young Min Moon, Assistant Professor of Art, Architecture & Art History
Dr. Moon used his grant to invite distinguished inter-disciplinary artist/curator Yong Soon Min, a Professor of Art at the University of California Irvine, to the University of Massachusetts. As part of her visit, which coincided with the installation of her work at the Smith College Museum of Art, Min met with undergraduate and graduate students and faculty and discussed the curatorial practice and interdisciplinary career possibilities with Professor Moon.

Melissa Mueller & Janine Solberg, Assistant Professors of Classics & English
As part of their shared Micro-Grant, Professors Mueller and Solberg formed a near-peer scholarly writing workgroup, met twice monthly to critique drafts of each other’s writing, and hired a professional writing coach and editor to help them complete their book manuscripts and draft chapters, respectively.

Christine Rogers, Assistant Professor of Public Health
To build Mutual Mentoring connections with other environmental professionals in the state, Dr. Rogers joined the Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP) and hosted a SWEP meeting at the University of Massachusetts. In addition, to develop a stronger research connection with environmental epidemiologists, Dr. Rogers attended the annual meeting of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiologists in Pasadena, California.

Jonathan Skolnik, Assistant Professor of German and Scandinavian Studies
Dr. Skolnik used his grant to build interdisciplinary mentoring relationships that support his recent research into how German Jewish exiles and African Americans in Hollywood during the Hays Code era dealt with racism and segregation. To do so, Dr. Skolnik consulted with noted scholars in his field during trips to Yale University, the German Studies Association Meeting, and the Association for Jewish Studies Conference.

Lianhong Sun, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering
To strengthen his pedagogical skills and build a network of support from senior faculty, Dr. Sun paired with his department chair and instructors both at the University of Massachusetts and at other institutions and participated in range of mutual mentoring activities. As part of his grant Dr. Sun co-taught a class with his chair, held regular pedagogical meetings with his chair and other noted teachers on campus, and attended a career development workshop at the 2008 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) meeting in Philadelphia.

Laura Valdiviezo, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Dr. Valdiviezo used her grant to strengthen her mentoring network on campus and expand her understanding of how the pedagogy of Multicultural Education supports a commitment to equity, social justice, and diversity. To do so, she met regularly with Drs. Sonia Nieto and Masha Rudman, received feedback on her syllabi, and presented her findings to faculty in her department.

Stephen Watts, Assistant Professor of Political Science
To expand his knowledge of quantitative social science methods and strengthen his network of external senior faculty mentors, Dr. Watts attended the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research’s (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Watts met with researchers from other institutions, acquired valuable statistical training that will lead to future collaborations, and received mentoring from graduate students with quantitative research experience.

Lisa Wexler, Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Wexler used her grant to build a substantive mentoring relationship with Dr. Laurence Kirmayer, the Director of the Culture & Mental Health Research Unit at McGill University and an important researcher of stress resilience in indigenous populations. To do so, she traveled to the Institute on Indigenous Mental Health Research (IIMHR), where she met with Dr. Kirmayer and researchers in her field; learned strategies for managing multi-site, qualitative research projects; and gained important information about the study of indigenous populations.

Micro Grants 2009–2010
Joselyn Almeida-Beveridge, Assistant Professor of English
Having secured a publishing contract for her monograph, The Panatlantic: Reading Britain, Africa and the Americas in the Nineteenth Century, Dr. Almeida-Beveridge worked closely with a copyeditor to help her prepare for publication. As a peer mentor on campus, she shared the knowledge and skills she acquired from her experience with the copyeditor.

Benita Barnes, Assistant Professor of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Dr. Barnes expanded her research internationally by connecting with well-established senior scholars and administrators possessing international higher education experience. She met regularly with two on-campus mentors. She also consulted with Dr. Ann Austin of Michigan State University at a national professional conference to further broaden her network of educators interested in international faculty development.

Maria José Botelho, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Dr. Botelho supported her Reimagining School Literacies research project by establishing mutual mentoring relationships with reading experts Dr. Peter Johnston of the University at Albany State University of New York and Dr. Arthur Auer of Antioch University. Dr. Botelho travelled to her mentors’ institutions and invited them to participate in a cross-pedagogical dialogue at UMass Amherst, through which she collected information on the ways these prominent educators integrate critical, multiple, and/or holistic language arts practices into their teacher education programs.

Mwangi wa Githinji, Assistant Professor of Economics
Dr. Githinji used his grant to travel to London to meet with Professor Ha-Joon Chang of Cambridge University and Professor Thandika Mkandawire, Chair of African Development at the London School of Economics. While in London, Dr. Githinji began collaborating on an article with Professor Ha-Joon Chang. In addition, he worked with both professors on developing a plan to establish a broader network of economists interested in political economy development of Africa, laying the groundwork for future research, collaboration, and mentoring.

Karen Kalmakis, Assistant Professor of Nursing
In order to further her research of the health impacts of violent sexual victimization, Dr. Kalmakis established a scholarly work group comprised of faculty on campus with similar research interests and local mentors who discussed career opportunities at regularly-scheduled luncheons. Dr. Kalmakis also traveled to Minnesota to explore future research and gain access to the national Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Sexual Assault Response Team database.

Lisa A. Keller, Assistant Professor of Education Policy, Research and Administration
Dr. Keller expanded her network of mentors by meeting with senior colleagues who helped her develop a plan for disseminating her research and connecting her with the most relevant scholars and professionals in her field. Dr. Keller worked with her mentor, Dr. Barbara Plake of the University of Nebraska, to produce six journal articles, and also traveled to a writing retreat and networking event.

Jenna L. Marquard, Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Dr. Marquard formed an interdisciplinary and cross-career-stage mentoring pod with a graduate student in engineering and a graduate student in English. Dr. Marquard and her engineering student hired the English student to edit and coach them through a number of papers, conference presentations, and an N.S.F. grant. In addition, the two graduate students benefited from both female faculty and peer mentoring.

**Rachel Mordecai, Assistant Professor of English**

Dr. Mordecai used her grant to build upon and instigate mentoring relationships with prominent academics in the field of Caribbean literature at the New School and Brown University. By visiting scholars at these institutions, Dr. Mordecai gained knowledge about publishing in her area of focus, as well as ideas about how to re-frame her dissertation into a book manuscript.

**Karen Y. Morrison, Assistant Professor of W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies**

Dr. Morrison furthered her work on the familial dimensions of racial integration and segregation in the social history of Cuba by solidifying mentoring relationships with two prominent academics in her field at Rutgers University. Both mentors are serving as reviewers of a monograph on which Dr. Morrison is currently working, and one visited UMass Amherst in order to give a formal talk and meet with students and faculty. In addition, Dr. Morrison hired a professional editor to assist with her book project.

**Jon Olsen, Assistant Professor of History**

Dr. Olsen used his grant to visit prominent figures in the field of digital humanities and history. By doing so, Dr. Olsen has built a network of mentors that can support him as he prepares to apply for external funding for digital history projects at UMass Amherst. Dr. Olsen disseminated the research, teaching, and community outreach knowledge acquired from these meetings at monthly brown bag lunch sessions in his department.

**Trea Andrea Russworm, Assistant Professor of English**

Dr. Russworm used her grant to develop mentoring relationships with scholars interested in positioning themselves as interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary Americanists within the academic publishing industry. As part of this effort, she drafted a book proposal for a collection of essays on race and American studies, titled "Rac(e)ing American Studies: Transdisciplinary Approaches," and used the project as an opportunity for near-peer and group mentoring. Faculty from the Five Colleges were invited to participate in the project, and Dr. Russworm traveled to meet with scholars from Northwestern University and Brown University. She also attended the International Sidney Poitier Conference to seek out other prominent and rising scholars in her field.

**Frank Sleegers, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning**

Dr. Sleegers used his grant to build a relationship with an internationally-acclaimed professor of landscape architecture in the field of phytoremediation and urban renewal. The relationship helped Dr. Sleegers gain valuable information on remediating derelict urban brownfields and expand his interdisciplinary network.

**Erin Snook, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology**
Dr. Snook used her grant to obtain training in qualitative research methodology so she could support her study of physical activity among individuals with multiple sclerosis. To do so, Dr. Snook attended the Qualitative Health Research Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. After becoming more familiar with qualitative interviews, data coding, and identification of themes, she is now prepared to conduct a research study, share her knowledge with faculty in her department, and include the material in her undergraduate measurement and statistics course.

Melissa Wooten, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Dr. Wooten used her grant to expand her network of mentors, and to acquire guidance for her first post-dissertation research project, a study of the interaction between local communities and schools in Hampden and Hampshire counties. She identified and visited scholars at Princeton and Stanford Universities, and attended a regional sociology conference in Boston.

Elena Zaretsky, Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders
Dr. Zaretsky traveled to the Harvard School of Education and Tufts University to observe and acquire knowledge of neuro-imaging techniques and reading disabilities in pre-reading-age children. Dr. Zaretsky shared this information with a cross-disciplinary group of junior and senior faculty members at UMass Amherst who are also engaged in reading-disordered research.

Barbara Krauthamer, Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Krauthamer used her grant to work on a book project, tentatively titled “Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery,” which examines photographs of free and enslaved African-Americans during the Civil War Era. Dr. Krauthamer traveled to New York numerous times throughout the year to work closely with her mentor, Professor Deborah Willis, a leading scholar of African American photography at New York University, on preparing a final manuscript for publication.

James Chambers, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Chambers used his grant to establish a mentoring partnership with a successful senior scholar at a regional institution who also works in his field (the intersection of chemistry and neuroscience). The external mentor reviewed Dr. Chambers’ article manuscripts and grant submissions to the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, provided feedback, suggested new collaborators whom may be interested in co-PI grants, as well as suggested strategies for current and future grant proposal submissions. Dr. Chambers also used his grant to attend the Gordon Research Conference on Bioorganic Chemistry, where he networked with prominent scholars in his field.

Lorraine Cordeiro, Assistant Professor of Nutrition
Dr. Cordeiro established a research-intensive mentoring partnership with a senior faculty member at UMass Amherst who reviewed drafts of her manuscripts and grant submissions, as well as a writing coach who helped her devise a detailed three-year writing plan for scholarly productivity. She also used a small portion of her grant to offset travel costs to Cambodia, where she gathered pilot research data about medicinal tea usage among pregnant and postpartum women.
Alexandra Jesse, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Jesse used her grant to expand her network of mentors in the United States and gain a better understanding of North American research funding opportunities for speech perception by attending regular meetings and presenting her research at the renowned Haskins Laboratories Institute in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Jesse’s time at Haskins led to a collaborative pilot study with a prominent scholar in her field.

Agnès Lacreuse, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Lacreuse developed a research partnership with Dr. Judy Cameron, an international expert on the effects of aerobic exercise on the brain and cognition. As part of the grant, Dr. Lacreuse traveled to Dr. Cameron’s lab at the University of Pittsburgh and obtain guidance on research methods, grant and article submissions, as well as maintaining a productive work/life balance. She also hosted a presentation by Dr. Amanda Dettmer, a Post Doctoral Researcher at the University of Pittsburgh.

Lisa Minter, Assistant Professor of Veterinary and Animal Science
Dr. Minter formed a Mutual Mentoring network with Dr. Katherine Knight, Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Dr. Knight visited UMass Amherst to facilitate two workshops, one for female faculty in the sciences and one for female graduate students. The goal of the workshops was to help explore what it means to be a good mentor and “mentee,” and how to seek out and structure productive mentoring relationships throughout the career span of female scientists.

Eric Poehler, Assistant Professor of Classics
Dr. Poehler worked on a project that combined an online, searchable bibliographic catalog and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping software to create a unique method for searching, accessing and analyzing existing scholarship on the ancient city of Pompeii. He is interested in pursuing federal funding to support his project, and used his grant to work closely with Dr. Bernard Frischer, former director of both the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities and the Digital Humanities Center.

Luke Remage-Healey, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Remage-Healey created a mentoring network focused on topics in behavior and neuroscience research. His team was comprised of representatives from three different labs that are currently conducting research that is complimentary in scope, training expertise, and research methodology. Regular meetings provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical appraisal of research projects, increased collaborative research opportunities among the faculty, and increase interactions among Amherst College undergraduates with UMass research faculty.

Rebecca Spencer, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Spencer used her grant to prepare a new graduate course on the Neurobiology of Brain Disorders. She attended a week-long training session sponsored by the Marine Biological Laboratories titled, “Teaching about Neurobiology of Brain Dysfunction,” which enabled her to build a network of teaching faculty from the medical schools at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the
University of Pittsburgh. She was in regular contact with her fellow session participants who simultaneously designed their own neurobiology courses at their home campuses.

**Senay Solak, Assistant Professor of Finance and Operations Management**
Dr. Solak designed a mentoring network to enhance his primary research areas (aviation operations management and technology portfolio management), as part of which he worked closely with Dr. Mark Hansen from the University of California Berkeley, a well-known researcher with complementary perspectives on topics in aviation research. By forming a mentoring network with this senior scholar, Dr. Solak acquired a broader and more multidimensional view of his research area. He also used his grant funds to travel to the national meeting for the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, where he presented a paper on a theme relevant to their common interests.

**Micro Grants 2012–2013**

**Gülrü Çakmak, Assistant Professor of Art, Art History, & Architecture**
Dr. Çakmak used her grant to work with an editor who helped her as she transformed her dissertation into a book manuscript. As a non-native speaker of English, Dr. Çakmak had previously relied on colleagues and friends for feedback on her manuscripts, but her book project represented a much larger, more complicated project. The process of working with an editor helped her improve the overall readability, fluidity, and structure of her text.

**Kristen DeAngelis, Assistant Professor of Microbiology**
Dr. DeAngelis used her grant to travel to an International Society for Microbial Ecology symposium, a widely attended meeting held every other year, and to meet with her new mentor, Dr. Kornelia Smala of the Julius Kuhn Institute in Braunschweig, Germany. These important mentoring opportunities helped Dr. DeAngelis further her research on the nature of interactions between plants and soil organisms as well as helped her establish a research program in environmental microbiology and microbial biology.

**Laura Furlan, Assistant Professor of English**
Dr. Furlan used her grant to bring Dr. Chadwick Allen, the Coordinator of the American Indian Studies Program at Ohio State University and the editor of Studies in American Indian Literatures, the primary scholarly journal in her field, to UMass. During his visit, Dr. Allen provided feedback on Dr. Furlan’s book manuscript, shared strategies on applying for outside research grants, and gave a public lecture.

**Dori Gonen-Hacohen, Assistant Professor of Communication**
Dr. Gonen-Hacohen used his grant to work with an experienced local editor who helped him learn how to better edit his own manuscripts. Working with Ramón Solórzano, Gonen-Hacohen completed two articles, which have recently been submitted to peer-reviewed journals, and also made significant progress on others.

**Denise Ives, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Development**
Dr. Ives used her grant to attend an invitation-only working conference on discourse analysis in education at The Ohio State University with Dr. Jeri Willet, a senior colleague in her department.
Dr. Ives used the opportunity to present and receive feedback on a current research project in the data analysis stage, titled "Ms. Wagner's Wolves: The Discursive Co-construction of Teacher Identity;" she participated in a special session led by Dr. Judith Green of the University of California at Santa Barbara; and made connections with many other prominent researchers in her field.

**Lisa Lehmberg, Assistant Professor of Music & Dance**
Dr. Lehmberg used her grant to present her research with Dr. Victor Fung of the University of South Florida at the International Society for Music Education (ISME) World Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece. Dr. Lehmberg’s mentoring work with Dr. Fung, an internationally-respected researcher in the socio-psychological aspects, multicultural issues, and international perspectives of education, helped her with her own research data analysis, manuscript writing, networking, and teaching.

**Yasu Morita, Assistant Professor of Microbiology**
Dr. Morita used his grant to develop a mentoring relationship with Dr. Christopher Sassetti from the UMass Medical School in Worcester. Dr. Sassetti, a leader in the study of tuberculosis, helped Dr. Morita develop his professional network within the U.S. tuberculosis research community (Dr. Morita recently relocated to the U.S. from Japan). Together, they also worked toward strengthening the ties between the Microbiology Departments at UMass Amherst and the UMass Medical School.

**Flavia Montenegro-Menezes, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning**
Dr. Montenegro-Menezes used her grant to work with a local editor and establish a regular feedback loop for her scholarly writing. Dr. Montenegro-Menezes also used a portion of her grant to attend a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) event, “Cultural Landscapes: Preservation Challenges in the 21st century," at Rutgers University.

**Britt Rusert, Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies**
Dr. Rusert used her grant to develop external mentoring partnerships with Dr. Gene Jarrett, Professor of English and American Studies at Boston University, and Dr. Alondra Wilson, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Columbia University. Her grant funds were used to host two visits to UMass by her mentoring partners, during which they offered talks on their research to faculty and students.

**Dong Wang, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**
Dr. Wang used his grant to network with national researchers focused on nitrogen-fixing symbiosis. Dr. Wang hosted a workshop at the Plant Biology Annual Symposium, which featured Dr. Graham Walker of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a speaker and Dr. Jeanne Harris of the University of Vermont as a participant. Dr. Wang also traveled to the laboratory of Dr. Douglas Cook of University of California Davis to acquire research material, learn techniques, share information, and plan future collaborations.

**Angela Willey, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies**
Dr. Willey used her grant to work with an editor who assisted with her book project, an interdisciplinary text that spans the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Dr. Willey engaged Claudia Castañeda, an experienced editor with a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies who has written about the history of science, feminist theory, and conceptions of intersectionality. In addition to providing feedback, Dr. Castañeda helped Dr. Willey sort through and prioritize feedback received from UMass and Five Colleges colleagues.

Micro Grants 2013–2014

George Bradley Bennett, Assistant Professor of Accounting
Dr. Bennett formed a mentoring relationship with Dr. Jeff Cohen, Professor of Accounting at Boston College and editor of Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory. Dr. Bennett attended workshops at Boston College with Dr. Cohen, which helped him meet other faculty with similar research interests. Drs. Bennett and Cohen also worked together on new research projects focusing on auditor judgment and decision making. Dr. Cohen visited UMass-Amherst and participated in workshops held by the Isenberg School of Management, allowing for extensive interactions with other faculty and Ph.D. students.

Caryn Brause, Assistant Professor of Architecture + Design
Professor Brause used her grant to attend the Building Technology Educator’s Society conference with the goal of developing a national network of digital technology educators. Brause also strengthened her local network by meeting with Landscape Architecture Professor Mark Lindhult, a senior faculty member teaching digital design, to discuss ways to integrate digital technology with design studio courses. In order to create mentoring relationships to support the Architecture + Design Program’s development of digital fabrication resources, Brause also traveled to the University of New Mexico and visited colleagues at their facilities.

Peter Chien, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dr. Chien built a network of experts in his scientific field in order to acquire advice and mentorship for targeting grant proposals. He established relationships with local experts, primarily from the Boston area. Because connections with a large scientific audience are crucial to a newly independent scientist, he also used his grant to attend the Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phage meeting, one of the longest-running and best-attended meetings, an opportunity that allowed him to showcase his science as well as make stronger connections with his scientific peers.

Darrell Earnest, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies
Dr. Earnest used this grant to investigate quality mathematics instruction in algebra, both nationally and internationally. As part of this project, he participated in the Psychology of Mathematics Education annual meeting in Kiel, Germany; collaborated with senior scholars from Tufts University and the Technical Education Research Center in Cambridge, MA; and worked with senior mentor Dr. Farshid Hajir in the UMass Amherst Department of Mathematics and Statistics on developing two education courses focusing on the teaching of elementary mathematics.

Geng-Lin Li, Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Li used his grant to build a Mutual Mentoring network with Dr. Heather Richardson in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Department at UMass Amherst and Dr. Adam Carter from the Center for Neural Science at New York University. As part of the grant, Dr. Carter – an expert on two-photon live imaging of brain slices – visited UMass Amherst and presented a seminar on functional properties of neurons and circuits in the prefrontal cortex. The three also worked on a new research program on how binge drinking among teenagers affects brain development.

**Michele Markstein, Assistant Professor of Biology**

Dr. Markstein’s grant supported the development of an off-campus mentoring network with two leaders in the field of genetics and disease, Dr. Pamela Geyer and Dr. Lori Wallrath at the University of Iowa. Dr. Markstein used the grant to visit the laboratories of Dr. Geyer and Dr. Wallrath to discuss mutual research interests, National Institute of Health funding, and possible collaborations. Her mentors also provided critical feedback on grant proposals.

**Stephen A. Paparo, Assistant Professor of Music Education**

Dr. Paparo used his grant to establish a mentoring collaboration with Carol McAmis, Professor of Voice at Ithaca College. Paparo and McAmis, both certified practitioners of the Feldenkrais Method of Somatic Education, combined their complimentary backgrounds in choral music and voice, respectively, to deepen their knowledge of the applications of the Feldenkrais Method. They also developed curricula and instructional materials for undergraduate courses, which extended Dr. Paparo’s research on the implementation of the Feldenkrais Method as an instructional technique in the choral classroom.

**Fareen Parvez, Assistant Professor of Sociology**

Dr. Parvez used her grant to work with an editor toward publication of her book manuscript, *Politicizing Islam: A comparative analysis of Islamic revival in France and India*, based on participant observation in Islamic movements in Lyon, France, and Hyderabad, India. She also visited L’Institut d’Etudes Politiques d’Aix-en-Provence to meet with senior scholars on the topic of Islam in France.

**Jessica D. Schiffman, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering**

Dr. Schiffman used her grant to expand her professional network and learn about navigating tenure by attending the 2013 National American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) meeting in San Francisco, CA. At this conference, she delivered research presentations to the polymers and biomaterials communities of chemical engineers. She also attended two events, a workshop and a luncheon specially designed to teach female Chemical Engineering faculty members about managing their research groups, navigating the tenure process, establishing new collaborations, and building strong mutual mentoring networks.

**Priyanka Srivastava, Assistant Professor of History and Economics**

Dr. Srivastava used her grant to work toward the publication of her dissertation, “Creating a Healthy and ‘Decent’ Textile Labor Force: Health Sanitation, and Welfare in Colonial Bombay, 1896-1950.” She formed a small mentoring network with two external near-peer mentors. Working closely with them, she gained knowledge about reframing and publishing her
dissertation as a monograph. She also used a portion of her grant to hire a writing coach to get professional advice on her dissertation-to-book project.

**Lisa M. Troy, Assistant Professor of Nutrition**
Dr. Troy used her grant to form a Mutual Mentoring network focused on translating scientific research for policy-decision making. As part of this project, Dr. Troy presented at the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Annual Symposium and traveled to meet with collaborators at the University of California Los Angeles Center for Health Policy Research, with whom she co-wrote a paper for publication and discussed next research steps.

**Micro Grants 2015–2016**

**Carey Clouse, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**
Dr. Clouse used the mentoring grant to seek out and meet with a number of experienced faculty mentors at the University of Oregon, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and UCLA during the 2015-2016 academic year. These meetings consisted of active working sessions in which she developed her tenure dossier documents. She then shared the advice she received from her mentors with other tenure-track faculty and graduate students at UMass. The grant-funded activities strengthened valuable academic peer networks, produced tangible written work for the dossier, and extended useful advice to other UMass tenure-track faculty and aspiring academics.

**Patrick Flaherty, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics**
Dr. Flaherty built an interdisciplinary network of senior faculty in data science and genomic life sciences for the purpose of receiving mentorship in developing grant proposals, manuscripts, and a new course in genomic data sciences. His mentoring team included senior faculty at UMass Amherst in computer science and at UMass Worcester in bioinformatics. He used portions of the grant for travel to meetings with members of his mentoring team where he received grant proposal and manuscript review as well as assistance in developing a new course in statistical machine learning with big biomedical data sets.

**Kirsten Leng, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies**
Dr. Leng used her grant to bring Dr. Linda Mizejewski, Professor in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Department of Comparative Studies, and the Film Studies Program at the Ohio State University, to UMass Amherst to share her expertise in the fields of humor/comedy, gender, and cultural studies, and her experience working on initiatives to enhance diversity at her home institution. During her visit, Dr. Mizejewski provided feedback on Dr. Leng’s manuscripts and grant proposals, shared strategies for applying for external grants, gave a public lecture, and met with students and faculty.

**Sandy Litchfield, Assistant Professor of Architecture**
Professor Litchfield’s grant supported her efforts to connect and collaborate with architects who work and teach at the intersection of art and architecture. The grant acted as an initiator for interaction and exchange with two tenure track professors - Professor Anthony Titus from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, whose research investigates the cross disciplinary exchange between painting and architecture, and Professor William O’Brien from MIT, whose work incorporates architectural artifacts as a mode for representation in design. Each practitioner was
invited to give a talk to the UMass Department of Architecture, which inspired discussions among faculty and students about the cross-disciplinary potential that exists between visual art and architectural design.

**Antonio Nieves Martinez, Assistant Professor of Student Development**

Dr. Antonio Nieves Martinez was supported by the grant to develop an off-campus network of leading scholars in the field of ethnic studies and education: Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade from San Francisco State University; Dr. Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales from San Francisco State University; and Dr. Patrick Camangian from the University of San Francisco. The grant award covered travel costs to professional conferences in New York and Washington D.C. in order to discuss curriculum and program development, research interests, and possible funding opportunities. In addition, the mentors provided in-depth feedback related to Dr. Martinez’s ongoing community-engaged research in the Pioneer Valley area.

**Johan Mathew, Assistant Professor of History and Economics**

Dr. Mathew expanded his professional network and finalized his book manuscript for publication. He traveled to New York to meet with Dr. David Ludden, professor of history at New York University, to receive feedback on his manuscript and meet with several other scholars in South Asian and Middle East studies at NYU. They began preparations for organizing a conference and a roundtable on his book, entitled "New Book Discussion: Margins of the Market."

**Mary T. Paterno, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

Dr. Paterno used the grant to build a mutual mentoring relationship with Dr. Mary Regan, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore. Dr. Paterno developed goals for a career in reproductive health research with feedback from Dr. Regan through regular phone calls and video conferences. By working with Dr. Regan's research team, Dr. Paterno strengthened specific research skills, while providing valuable new insight as a nurse-midwife. In addition, Dr. Regan traveled to UMass Amherst to meet with Dr. Paterno, present her research at the College of Nursing, and connect with other faculty. Their mutual mentoring also yielded a co-authored journal article published in the journal Birth.

**Regine Amy Spector, Assistant Professor of Political Science**

Dr. Spector used her grant to form a mentoring relationship with Dr. Rudra Sil from the University of Pennsylvania. He provided feedback on her book manuscript and future research directions. Dr. Sil gave a talk at the UMass Amherst Political Science Department’s Political Economy Working Group and met the department’s faculty members and graduate students interested in labor politics and historically-informed approaches to political economy research. He also gave a public lecture on his new book manuscript on Russian politics.

**Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Assistant Professor Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies**

Dr. Sullivan’s grant funded her participation in the annual SPACE: Black Sexuality Studies Collective retreat, hosted by scholars from the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad. Attendance at the retreat enabled Dr. Sullivan to complete revisions on her book manuscript while collaborating with junior and senior black sexuality studies faculty from a
range of institutions on course development, conference programming, and the initial development of an edited collection.

**Caroline Yang, Assistant Professor of English**
Dr. Yang used her grant for a professional developmental editor. She worked with the editor to revise and resubmit a journal article, "The Asian-Owned Store and the Incommensurable Histories of War in Narratives of the City," as well as complete her book manuscript, "Reconstruction's Labor: The Chinese Worker in American Literature after Slavery.”