

Cornerstone

Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Winter 2015 | Office of Research and Grants



Faculty Spotlight

Mary Shepard Wong, PhD
Professor, Department of Global Studies,
Sociology, and TESOL
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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In an unprecedented achievement for an APU faculty, Mary Shepard Wong, Department of Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL won ...
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Student Spotlight

Cynthia Toms Smedley
Graduate Student
Department of Higher Education
School of Behavioral and Applied Science

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Cesar Chavez is credited with saying "The end of all education, should surely be service to others." ...
(continued on page 2)



Calendar and Events

Forthcoming events and scholarly ephemera sponsored by the Office of Research & Grants (ORG).

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Excerpts from
wise people



The Quest

Uniform Guidance Series: Part I

Major changes are on the grants administration horizon. The Federal Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, also known as Uniform Guidance or Super Circular. This is a federal grant reform combining eight circulars into one document. For APU, the guidance takes effect July 2015. What does that mean? What practical effects should we anticipate for APU? With new rules, institutions are expected to revise their policies, procedures, and training as necessary. This affects not only universities, hospitals, and other entities receiving federal grants, but also federal granting agencies like the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

In this issue of the Cornerstone, we present Part I of our Uniform Guidance Series which gives an overview of the Uniform Guidance. In an upcoming Cornerstone edition, Part II will provide more details on changes affecting APU.

Implications for Researchers. The Uniform Guidance is being enacted with the intention of (1) streamlining processes associated with the awarding of federal funding, (2) easing the administrative burden on grant applicants and recipients, and (3) reducing the risk of waste, fraud and abuse.

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Congratulations!!

Recent grants

Mark Eaton (CLAS English) *American Literary Supernaturalism 1875-1925*. Funded by Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (\$15,000)

Anupama Jacob, Rukshan Fernando (BAS Social Work) *Changing Profiles of Poverty: New Directions for Social Work Education and Practice*. Funded by New York Community Trust (\$15,000)

Nathanael Meckes (BAS Exercise and Sport Science) *The Effects of Carbohydrate Beverages on Field-Based Performance Tests*. Funded by Herbalife International of America, Inc. (\$14,995)

Jennifer Shepard Payne (BAS Social Work) *Decision-Making Processes of Urban Clergy Who Counsel Individuals*. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation (\$19,570)

Mary Wong (CLAS Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL), Peter Storey (Open University of Hong Kong), Icy Lee (Chinese University of Hong Kong), **Chong Ho (Alex) Yu** (CLAS Psychology) *Evaluation of the Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme in Primary Schools (PNET) in Hong Kong*. Funded by Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Government (\$181,864).

Evelyn Yee (University Libraries) *California Mission: Historical Japanese Preservation and Research Project*. Funded by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation (\$9,765)

CREV Faculty Research Fellowships (2015-2016)

Steven Wilkens (SOT Theology and Philosophy) *Philosophy: A Christian Approach to the Big Questions* (book project)

Joshua Rasmussen (SOT Theology and Philosophy) *Necessary Existence* (book project)

Ethan Schrum (CLAS History and Political Science) *Administering American Modernity: The Instrumental University in the Postwar United States* (book project)

Emerging Scholar

Rachel Castaneda (CLAS Psychology) selected as a 2015 Emerging Scholar by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

Student Spotlight

Cynthia Toms Smedley



... Yet, modern higher education has been critiqued for educating students for upward mobility rather than Christian hospitality and sense of place. As an APU graduate student, I had the opportunity to be prepared - as a scholar, teacher, and administrator - for a life of service and hospitality. Beginning the doctoral program while living in Uganda and finishing while working at the University of Notre Dame, the practitioner-scholar model permitted me the benefit of formal education alongside applied praxis. Perhaps most importantly, I was introduced to professors with rich research agendas who offered the vision of how to convert my pursuit of education for justice into scholarly endeavors. From publishing a research paper on religious minority group experiences in Dr. Alexander Jun's Diversity in Higher Education course to co-authoring papers with my research group and presenting at professional conferences, I learned the skill of research, writing, and publishing. I was honored to receive the

Cynthia is amazingly adept at simultaneously juggling a variety of tasks successfully and has enormous sophistication in applying theory to practice both in the classroom and in the field. She balances her gifts with a remarkable commitment to hard work, and her attitude and approach to life is contagious.

Dr. Alex Jun, BAS Higher Education

Social Justice and Diversity Advocate Award in 2011 and to continue receiving encouragement and informal mentoring from program faculty. Dr. Karen Longman invited me to help with research on

leadership, and Dr. Laurie Schreiner allowed me to contribute to a research group on thriving. All of these experiences wet my appetite to apply solid research methods to better understanding the impact of international volunteerism on global development in rural communities. My research endeavors were supported by a Dissertation Fellowship Award that allowed me to interview 61 participants from three grassroots cooperatives in Costa Rica. My dissertation was not only cross-cultural, it was conducted in Spanish, and I was completely supported and guided through the process of translating language and knowledge. Many people finish their dissertation and never want to see it again. But, I loved the research I conducted and the communities that I worked with while exploring questions of power, impact, and balance of justice between colleges and community partners. Presenting my findings at professional conferences has led to an invitation for publication in book form. My research will continue as I am a co-PI on a recent grant award for \$40,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation for a global engagement assessment project. At the doctoral hooding ceremony, Dr. Bob Welsh, Dean of the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences, gave each graduating student a charge on their life. He looked me squarely in the eyes and said, "Cynthia, I charge you to find ways to make Christian Higher Education an agent for social change." I accept his charge, and I could not have asked for better preparation for the journey ahead.



Calendar & Events

Faculty Spotlight

... a Hong Kong bid for the *Evaluation of the Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme in Primary Schools (PNET)*. Funding of \$181,864 will be provided by the Educational Bureau of the Hong Kong Government.

The 18-month project will involve over 12,000 surveys to teachers, parents, students, and school heads in 100 schools and include in-depth case studies of eight schools. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of using foreign English-speaking teachers in Hong Kong's primary schools and inform policy-making regarding future hiring and deploying of foreign teachers in Hong Kong's primary schools. Dr. Wong is grateful to the leadership at APU and colleagues in ORG who offered enthusiastic assistance as she had to break new ground to engage in this unique international research project. Dr.



Wong assembled an outstanding team which includes: Dr. Icy Lee from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Peter Storey from the Open University of Hong Kong, Dr. Xuesong (Andy) Gao from The University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Chong Ho (Alex) Yu from APU CLAS Department of Psychology.

Dr. Wong has been the Director of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) field-based programs since she came to APU in 2000 and took the lead in launching the TESOL online program in 2008 which she directed until 2012. She is a Fulbright Scholar (2012-2013) and honorary research fellow at Chinese University Hong Kong where she conducted research on collaborations of foreign and local teachers in primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. In 2012, she was invited by Hong Kong's Education Bureau to present her findings to the 70 members of the NET scheme. She subsequently was asked to submit a bid for their formal evaluation which resulted in her recent award.

Dr. Wong has strong interests in China and Asia, in general. She has a Masters in Chinese. Her husband is from Myanmar, and her son-in-law is from India. She has traveled to Thailand each January since 1998 to teach in Chiang Mai for the APU masters' degree in TESOL. But this year, Dr. Wong and her husband headed home from Thailand via Hong Kong, so they could meet her new research team face-to-face for the first time. She expects to take at least six more trips to Hong Kong over the next year and a half. Dr. Wong has a son Justin, who is a junior majoring in Computer Science at APU, and a daughter Laura Wong Ravinder, who is a 2008 APU Physics major and now is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Chicago. (MCM)

Events

Sabbatical Leave Lunches

- March 25, 2015 – Renee Pozza
 - March 31, 2015 – Randy Fall
 - April 13, 2015 – Robert Duke
 - April 22, 2015 – Juanita Cole
 - April 30, 2015 – Carrie Peirce
- TEDx @ APU**
April 7, 2015

Compliance Partners

IRB (human subjects research)

- March 4, 2015: Full Board Review Application deadline for March 18 meeting
- April 1, 2015: Full Board Review Application deadline for April 15 meeting

IACUC (animal research)

- March 11, 2015: Protocol or amendment deadline for March 18 meeting
- April 8, 2015: Protocol or amendment deadline for April 15 meeting

Consultations

Dr. John Trent Writing Consultation (contact ORG for appointment)
March 18-19, 2015

Workshops

Responsible Conduct of Research:

- March 18, 2015: Peer Review
- March 23, 2015: Conflict of Interest
- March 2015: Research with Animal Subjects (Date TBD)
- April 2015: Authorship and Plagiarism (Date TBD)

Grant Development:

- March 25, 2015: Grant Proposal Development | Budget
- March 20, 2015; May 22, 2015: Funding Opportunities
- ORG Faculty Research Panel ****NEW**** (Date TBD)



We, as faculty, often focus on the professional rewards of research but

Research is its own reward...

I view research as a new way of experiencing reality. Every new answer raises a new question.

Aja Lesh, PhD, Dean, School of Nursing

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(The Quest, continued)

Some changes will have direct impact on principal investigators (PIs). For example, one positive change is the requirement that funding opportunities must provide information on the application review criteria and process. We already see this happening in recent funding announcements.

Others areas that have been identified for changes include: a) subawards administration and monitoring; b) administrative requirements; c) costs principles; d) property and procurement standards; e) indirect costs rates; and f) effort reporting. More details are provided below for those who are interested.

At APU, updated protocols will need to be in place by July 1, 2015. The changes are comprehensive, thus an “all hands on deck” mentality is needed for successful and timely implementation. APU’s Office of Research and Grants and Business Office have already invested significant time studying the upcoming Uniform Guidance requirements and their impact on current APU policies and procedures. The quest for successful implementation of the Uniform Guidance at APU continues. (MCM)

Avid Reader Details

There are a myriad of changes relative to subawards including: subrecipient indirect costs rates, fixed amounts subawards, risk assessment guidelines, monitoring obligations, reporting, prompt payments, withholding of payments, subrecipient audits obligations, conflict of interest, and more.

Areas in the administrative requirements that have been adjusted are related to implementation plans for performance measurement, internal controls, potential aspects related to program income, etc. Clear positive outcomes for the recipient community include: a) notices of funding opportunities released for 60 days for most program announcements and no less than 30 days under special determination; b) cost sharing and matching clarifications; and c) revisions of budget and program plans

Changes in costs principles relate to areas such as allowability, allocability, and reasonable explanation. With regards to indirect costs, there are some changes on allocation of utility costs and minor adjustments directly impacting proposal preparation (e.g., the availability of one-time rate extensions).

Property and procurement standards related to federal grants have also become important parts of the conversation. A one-year grace period to comply with these revised standards is given, extending implementation to July 1, 2016, for the procurement standards.

Uniform Guidance clarifies the monitoring of effort and effort reporting. Grantee institutions are expected to ensure sufficient internal controls are maintained.

Audit requirement changes are expected to result in a reduced pool of audited entities. Audit oversight will now focus on the highest areas of risk for waste, fraud, and abuse of federal program dollars.

Reference | 2 CFR 200: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/26/2013-30465/uniform-administrative-requirements-cost-principles-and-audit-requirements-for-federal-awards>



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.

Aristotle



Writers' Retreats 2015

- ◆ Traditional Writers' Retreats: June 16-19, July 7-10
- ◆ Early Career Writers' Retreat: June 9-12
- ◆ Top Performers Writers' Retreat: May 26-29

TEDx

TEDx @ APU

We are excited to note the Office of Research and Grants is partnering with the Center for Research on Ethics and Values in hosting APU's first TEDx event on April 7, 2015.

LEDx

The Office of Research and Grants (ORG) exists to empower the university community, to nurture research and funding opportunities supportive of the scholarship cornerstone at Azusa Pacific University.

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