Projects funded through the Lois B. DeFleur International Innovation Fund in the last two years exhibit several trends: the projects are responsive to institutional priorities, they build creatively on existing international partnerships and, when new institutional connections are developed, they link with existing partnerships. These characteristics are the result of leadership at the level of the college deans who increasingly engage their faculty in goal-setting that aligns international activity with priority directions of the colleges and the University. We also see patterns in the number of projects which foster faculty research with international partners while connecting such endeavors to student learning and in the engagement of local communities so they participate in and benefit from our work.

**Funded Projects for 2013-2014**

**Summer Institute for Turkish Studies**

This project aims to establish a Summer Institute that brings students from Binghamton University together with German students from Gottingen University and Turkish students from Binghamton University partner Turkish universities to study for three weeks together in Ankara and Istanbul. Students from the United States, Germany and Turkey will travel, live and study together in one of the most cosmopolitan and diverse locations in the world (July 25 - August 15, 2015). Whereas hundreds of Turkish Dual-Diploma students have studied at Binghamton, very few of our American and other international students have studied in Turkey. By designing a short faculty-led educational experience, we will encourage students to travel to this destination and prepare them for longer, independent sojourns. Gottingen University professors of Turkology Jens Laut and Hans Nugteren as well as the co-director of the German Orient Institute in Istanbul will join Binghamton Professor Kent Schull to offer 3 two-credit courses including an Introduction to Turkology, Religions of Istanbul, and Imperial Capitals of Anatolia. The group will travel the first week in Anatolia and then spend the next two weeks living on the Bogazici University campus in Istanbul while attending lectures, visiting historic and cultural sites and conducting brief research projects. In addition to the Innovation Fund grant, Professor Schull has secured matching grants from Harpur College and SUNY System Global Affairs in order to prepare this program and subsidize the actual cost, keeping the price low for students.
The Kurdish Oral History Project

The Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Kurdish Library and Museum Collection was received by Binghamton University in 2011. The Saeedpour Kurdish Collection is a significant assemblage of material documenting Kurdish culture and is reported to be the largest of its kind in North America. The collection contains more than 3000 books, journals and newspapers along with oral histories, artifacts, textiles, maps, photographs, artwork, correspondence and other unique material. Librarians Jean L. Green and Ayner de Rouen will undertake an oral history project to interview Kurdish refugees in the Greater Binghamton area between the ages of 18 and 65. The project will enable the collection of information about the experience of these individuals in Iraqi Kurdistan, their decisions to migrate, and their experiences in the United States. It is hoped that upon completion of this project and with the knowledge and expertise gained, the project can expand to Nashville, Tennessee where the largest group of Kurdish refugees in the United States lives. Development of the Kurdish collection complements the library resources that support our longstanding strength in the Middle East and our newly developing Turkish Studies Program and the Israel Institute.

This Innovation Fund grant is being used to fund highly trained student assistants and for the purchase of professional recording equipment so that the oral archives established will meet professional library standards. The equipment is also valuable for other oral history projects. The Oral History Project: Immigration from Germany funded in 2011 continues. In addition Donald Loewen, Professor of Russian Studies, has joined this project to have students undertake oral histories with Russian immigrants. Professor Lisa Yun of the English Department works in similar fashion with students to collect oral histories from the Asian diaspora. There is planning underway to make this research available as an online archive.

Continuing Development of Prior Projects

Here are a few highlights of the work that continues from other recently funded projects.

The Global is Local: A Research, Teaching and Service Partnership with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia) to Enhance Local Government and Nonprofit Capacity

Professor Susan Appe used her funds to develop our fledgling collaboration with the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and establish connections with community agencies in Bogota and in Cartagena. She effectively laid the foundation for a service-learning study abroad program to take place in summer 2016. For students who, due to work, family or financial considerations, cannot partake in semester-length education abroad, the opportunities created with this funding will provide an alternative means to experience international learning. By partnering with Javeriana’s political science/public administration program, the study abroad program will focus on capacity building in government and non-governmental organizations.

Using technology to facilitate team projects that span both universities, and applying the strategies of the Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) in this context, students have opportunities to acquire, practice and improve their skills in intercultural communication, language application, and critical thinking. An additional result of this project is that Javeriana graduates now enroll in Binghamton University for graduate study in public administration.
Translating Results from the Vanuatu Health Transition Project into Public Health Education and Outreach

Ralph Garruto used his grant to strengthen ties to the Ministry of Health in Vanuato which is resulting in increased field research opportunities for Binghamton University graduate students in the Department of Anthropology. Building on years of meticulous bio-medical anthropological research, faculty and graduate students are also providing support for public health officials to develop intervention strategies for emerging public health diseases.

Collaboration with KAIST

Professor Daryl Santos used his Innovation Fund grant to establish a capstone course for Systems Science and Industrial Engineering students to work on their design projects in collaborative teams with Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) students. This course was first offered in spring semester 2014 and was an international experience providing numerous benefits to engineering students; the project demonstrates the importance of international design codes and standards and provides experience with a global work environment. To pilot the project Professor Santos and two students traveled to KAIST during the spring break for a short period of in-person collaboration. This course is now an on-going option for senior students in the SSIE program.

Establishment of a Virtual Research Institute with VIT

Professor Bruce Murray established a virtual laboratory with colleagues from Vishwakarma Institute of Technology (VIT), Pune, India for faculty and graduate students in mechanical engineering at Binghamton University and faculty and graduate students in the VIT Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Production Engineering. This project has led to on-going cooperative training of graduate students and the expansion of collaborative research in mechanical engineering. The research lab also contributes to the establishment of Binghamton University's first on the ground research center in another country, located at VIT and including local industrial partners. It illustrates a principal directions for Binghamton University internationalization in the future in which international collaborate research strengthens graduate education, expands graduate enrollments, and prepares these students for global professional environments.

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