

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**2013-2014**  
**Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grants**

Background

The Comprehensive Plan for Faculty Development at Simpson College calls for the creation of an in-house small grants program to help faculty to continue to grow in the expertise by regularly contributing to the development of their discipline. As the plan suggests, “Although in some cases this “scholarship of discovery” can be supported by off-campus grants, Simpson College recognizes the importance of sharing this responsibility.”

To move forward on this recommendation by the Faculty Development Working Group as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan, the College announces that four Research, Scholarship and Creativity Grants will be awarded to faculty for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Process

Grant applications are due in the Faculty Development Office by Monday January 14, 2013. The format for the applications and a budget form are on the next pages. The applications will be reviewed by the Faculty Development Committee and its recommendations will be forwarded to the Dean, who will make the final decision. Proposals will be selected by March 1, 2013 for funding in the 2013-2014 academic year. The money should be spent between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014. If you need to spend money before June 1, 2013, please indicate what that money is needed for and why it needs to be spent early. Not all exceptions will be possible. Up to \$2,000 will be available for each award.

Recipients of RSC grants will be asked to submit a preliminary report and a final report.

Eligibility

All tenure track and tenured faculty members are eligible to apply. Previous recipients of RSC, Diversity, or Course Development and Enhancement grants will only be considered for a new grant if all their receipts and their final report have been submitted.

Proposals should focus on the benefits to the faculty member’s professional development. This grant is not to be used for projects that are primarily designed for course development or to benefit students. For example, a project that uses students in research is appropriate, but using the money to take students to present the research would not be. Research projects involving data collection in the area of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) are acceptable (See <http://www.issotl.org/SOTL.html> for more information ).

Projected Expenses

Each award will be for a maximum of \$2,000. The funding may be used for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, computer software, travel to libraries, or professional conferences. Faculty members may include within the \$2,000 a stipend (\$500 professor, \$600 associate professor, \$700 instructor/assistant professor) for their time. The difference in rank recognizes that faculty members in the earliest stages in their careers are often most likely to have graduate school and other expenses and are at the lowest rung of the salary scale. It should be noted, that the stipend is optional. A faculty member may choose to spend all \$2,000 on supplies and other non-stipend expenses.

**Simpson College  
Research, Scholarship and Creativity Fund  
2013-2014**

**John Benoit  
Submitted January 14, 2013**

**1. Title of Proposal**

Iowa Wind Bands, 1880-1930 – A Study of the Photographic Record



Victor, Iowa – Street concert, c. 1910

**2. Description of project for which funding is being sought:**

During the seven decades between the Civil War and the Great Depression, brass bands were one of the most important forms of public entertainment in the United States. In Iowa, virtually every town of more than a few hundred residents supported a concert band which performed evening concerts as well as provided music for parades, dances, and other civic functions. Photographers found these bands to be irresistible subjects, producing hundreds of band images in group photos and in action. I have been collecting these images for a couple of years. My collection is currently at thirty images and growing. But there are hundreds of additional images in archives, museums, private collections, and for sale.

For my 2013 sabbatical, I have proposed to study the history of Iowa's brass bands through this photographic record. I will be drawing upon images from my collection as well as other images in archives and museums around the state. My plan is to identify representative images which tell the story of brass bands in Iowa, then consult old newspapers, county histories, and museums for information about the historical context of the images. The outcome of these efforts will be three-fold:

- 2-3 articles suitable for publication in Iowa history journals and/or local newspapers;
- a PowerPoint presentation to be given to audiences with an interest in Iowa history;
- development of a database of images that can be shared publicly.

**a) Purpose:****What are the intellectual, conceptual, teaching, or artistic issues?**

Prior to the 1920s, wind bands played a vital role in the civic and cultural life of Iowa communities. They provided pleasant entertainment on quiet summer evenings. Their music enlivened local fairs and festivals. They feted visiting dignitaries and commemorated civic holidays, such as the Decoration Day and the Fourth of July. Town bands were frequently the first arts institution in which a community invested through its purchase of instruments and uniforms and the construction of permanent band stands. The photographic record captures all of this history, bearing witness to a time when small Iowa towns seemed to be more vital and aspirational than they seem today.

**How does your work fit into other endeavors being done in this field?**

While there has been a significant amount of scholarship regarding the American wind band movement as a national phenomenon, I have thus far found very little scholarship that focuses specifically upon wind bands in Iowa.

One important component of my project will be the creation of a database of extant images that I hope to publish in some form, most likely as a web site. As I envision it, this database will include a listing of all the publically accessible images that I have found along with content tags describing location, date, subject matter, format (photo, cabinet card, postcard), and location of the image (archive, museum, private collection).

**b) Feasibility:****What qualifications do you bring to this project?**

- I am a brass player. My experiences in bands and brass ensembles will enhance my ability to interpret the brass band tradition.
- I am a long time member of the Historic Brass Association. Many of the people that I have met through this organization may serve as resources about the general history of brass bands.
- I have been collecting antique photographs and postcards of Iowa bands for a couple of years now. The time I have invested in this endeavor has given me a good basic understanding of the nature and scope of the photographic record.
- I am a performer of 1920s-era jazz and dance music, a musical tradition that is tangentially related to brass band tradition insofar as it succeeded brass band music as the dominant form of popular musical entertainment in Iowa.
- As a resident of central Iowa, I am geographically well-situated to undertake such a research project.

**What have you done/will you do to prepare for this project?**

- I have acquired a collection of 30+ historical images (and growing). In addition, for the past six months, I have been downloading jpeg images of almost every Iowa band photo or postcard that I have encountered in a digital archive or on eBay.
- I have made two trips to the State Historical Society of Iowa archives in Des Moines to learn more about its policies and holdings.
- I have made a few tentative forays into reading old newspapers and county histories.

As a result, I am encouraged that there is significant amounts of information about Iowa bands to be gleaned from these sources.

- I have installed on my computer and begun to experiment with *Zotero*, a research management program.
- I intend to purchase an iPad which will assist me in my field research insofar as it will provide me with easy access to all of my images and database information while doing archival and museum research.

**What is the time period, i.e. summer, summer and academic year, academic year only?**

While some work is already underway, most of the archival work, field work, and writing will take place during the late summer and fall of 2013. I specifically requested a fall sabbatical in order to facilitate travel and picture taking. (I hope to take some current photos of locations featured in historic photos.)

**Is the work's scope commensurate with the time period of the project?**

The most significant challenge for me will be to complete two or three articles about the Iowa band history. These will be short pieces intended for the general readership of publications such as *The Iowa Heritage Journal*, *The Iowa History Journal*, *The Iowa Bandmasters Association Journal*, and local newspapers (local interest feature). The PowerPoint presentation I have proposed should be a relatively easy project to complete during my sabbatical. The database of extant images is something that I am developing anyway for my own use in my research. The challenge here will be to determine the best format and media for making this database useful and accessible to others.

**3. Project Design and Justification.**

- **This should include a specific description of the project design and activities, including location, staff, schedules or itineraries, and desired outcomes.**
- **Provide a justification for the design of your project. For example, articulate the need for travel: why must you travel rather than contact someone over the phone or use an electronic database?**

Essentially, my project consists of three types of activity:

- 1) Discovery and cataloging of images;
- 2) Research into the historical context of selected images;
- 3) Dissemination of my research in the forms described above: articles, PowerPoint, database.

As my project unfolds, my focus will naturally shift from the first two types of activity to the third.

Much of my time will be spent poring over old newspapers and county histories found on-line and in the archives of the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines. Nonetheless, I also see field research in archives and museums around the state as an important component of my work. I would like to spend approximately fifteen days travelling around the state, staying in motels in order to minimize travel time. I have divided this travel into five "expeditions," each organized around a primary research destination at an archive, museum, or conference. These trips would also include visits to some of the towns represented in my photo collection in order to see what remains of the

subject matter of the original photos as well as to seek additional information and artifacts in local museums.

The primary research destinations and possible side trips are as follows:

1. Vintage Band Festival + Historic Brass Society conference (Northfield, MN, Aug 1-4)
  - North Central, IA: Charles City, Eldora, Mason City, St. Ansgar
2. Musser Public Library photo collection + River Music Experience Museum (Davenport)
  - Iowa river towns: Burlington, Davenport, Dubuque, Keokuk, Muscatine
3. National Music Museum (Vermillion, South Dakota)
  - Western Iowa: Armstrong, Battle Creek, Council Bluffs, Dayton, Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge, Holstein, Washta
4. Iowa Band Museum (Cedar Falls)
  - Northeastern Iowa: Epworth, Reinbeck, Walker, Waterloo
5. State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City archives
  - Southeastern Iowa: Cedar Rapids, Fairfield, Keota, Traer, Victor

[South & central Iowa side trips: Des Moines, Ellsworth, Marshalltown, Mount Ayr]

#### **4. Complete budget for the project**

- **The budget should be submitted using the RSC standardized budget form available in hard copy from the Faculty Development Office.**
- **This form includes information about budget restrictions and stipends commensurate with rank.**

See attached.

#### **5. Please indicate whether, if your proposal is funded, we may share your proposal with others. Your answer to this question will not influence whether your proposal is funded.**

Yes.

**Simpson College  
Budget Proposal Form  
Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant  
2013-2014**

ITEM		AMOUNT
<b>Equipment</b>		\$
1:	Cost:	
<b>Materials</b>		\$
1:	Cost:	
<b>Personnel</b>		\$
1.		
<b>Travel Costs</b>		\$
<b>Airfare:</b>		
Mileage: Number of miles _____ @ .565/mile		
<b>Lodging</b>		\$
Number of days <u>15</u> @ \$ <u>100</u> /day		\$1500
If I am frugal, I estimate that \$100 per day would cover most of the costs of lodging, meals, and fuel as I travel about the state. I hope to make five research excursions totaling approximately fifteen days on the road.		
<b>Other Expenses</b>		\$
1: <b>Reproduction licenses</b>	Cost: 10 licenses @ \$50 each	\$500
While I plan to draw heavily upon my own photo collection to illustrate the articles and presentations that I create, I also anticipate that I will need to license images from the state archives in order to fill categorical gaps in my photo collection. The SHSI archive charges \$20 per scanned image and an additional \$30 for reproduction rights.		
2:	Cost:	
<b>Taxable Faculty Stipend</b> (\$500 professor; \$600 associate professor; \$700 instructor/assistant professor)		\$ Ø
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> (incurred between 6-1-13 and 5-31-14)		\$ 2000
<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b> (Not to exceed \$2000 including stipend commensurate with rank)		\$ 2000