Playwriting Residency Program for Harrison Middle School Students

Studies have shown that introducing children to the arts can have a dramatic effect on their development. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, many schools in New Jersey, especially those in low-income districts, have been forced to entirely remove arts programs from their curriculum. As the educational arm of Premiere Stages, the professional Equity Theatre-in-Residence at Kean University, the Play Factory helps to fill that void.

Hudson City Savings Charitable Foundation recently notified Premiere Stages of a $5,000 award to establish an in-School Residency program at Washington Middle School in Harrison. The grant will be used to develop and implement a new seven-week playwriting intensive program, culminating in an in-school showcase of student works produced by Premiere Stages using professional actors. The purpose of the Residency is to specifically support and augment the classroom teacher’s curriculum and reinforce students’ understanding and fulfillment of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Literacy and the Arts.

The Play Factory program is dedicated to introducing and cultivating the arts experience for low-income children. It introduces students to the craft of theatre with an eye toward increasing literacy, supporting English language learners, modeling the collaborative process, and encouraging self-expression.

In the eight short years since its founding, Play Factory has grown to include in-school residencies in elementary, middle and high schools, two summer camps for middle school and high school students, a competitive internship program, and a summer series of children’s theatre. In 2011, The Northfield Bank Foundation awarded funding that made possible a new residency at Rahway Middle School where additional teaching artists were trained to bolster Premiere’s educational outreach efforts. In 2013, Premiere Stages is adding new middle-school residencies at ASPIRA, Inc. in Newark (pictured above are students at the final production for the Play Factory residency at Luis Munoz Marin Elementary School) and an after-school ESL residency for the Lakewood School District.

Premiere Stages Artistic Director, playwright, and professor John Wooten works closely with the school teaching and administrative staffs to create the individual residency programs.
Research Compliance Matters

Consent and Assent Forms

It is the policy of the Kean IRB that applicants are not allowed to provide non-Kean phone numbers or email addresses on their consent, assent, and debriefing forms. If the applicant does not have a Kean phone number, then they should not list a phone contact for themselves and only provide their Kean email address. Student applicants must identify themselves as a student on the consent, assent, and debriefing forms.

They should state what department and program they are from and whether they are a graduate or undergraduate student. Student applicants also must provide the name of their faculty advisor on the consent, assent, and debriefing forms. The forms should also include the Kean email address and phone number for the faculty advisor. This referral information is included for instances where participants might have further questions about the study. The contact information for the IRB should be provided for participants in case they have questions about their rights as a research participant. The IRB should only be contacted if the participants have specific questions; we are unable to answer questions about the study. For those inquiries, participants should be referred to the PI and/or their faculty advisor.

Contact Dr. Joseph Cronin jcronin@kean.edu or ext 73464 for questions and guidance related to research compliance.

Grant Administration Topics

Purchase Expenditure Requests and Approvals for Internally and Externally Funded Grants and Contracts

The approvals and dollar thresholds required to convert a requisition to a purchase order for an internally or externally funded project are as follows:

- Both the PI/PD (as Cost Center Director) and GRANT must approve all requisitions.
- ORSP approval is required if the requisition is $500 or more.
- Vice President for Academic Affairs approval is required for requisitions between $1,000 and $10,000.
- Executive Vice President for Operations approval is required for requisitions over $10,000.

Requisitions exceeding the State bid threshold (currently $30,700) must follow the State competitive bidding process requirements. Contact ORSP for guidance before attempting to enter a requisition.

All requisitions for the purchase of computer equipment (object code 5077) and computer software (object code 5034) must have OCIS approval regardless of the dollar amount.

Contact Brenda Dunlop bdunlop@kean.edu or ext. 73345 for questions and guidance relating to grant administration.

Deadlines & Reminders

Tuesday, April 2
IRB applications for April due

Tuesday, April 9
Advanced Regression Workshop

Tuesday, April 16
Advanced Topics in SPSS Workshop

Tuesday, April 23
Research Days—Keynote & Faculty Presentations

Wednesday, April 24
Research Days—Student Poster and Oral Presentations
Student Spotlight

Congratulations to the SpF13 Awardees

Twenty-two Kean University students have received a 2013 Students Partnering with Faculty (SpF) award. Through the SpF program students and faculty work together interactively to make a significant contribution in their field of study. The awards consist of faculty and student stipends and funding support for supplies and equipment as well as travel for field research and presentations at professional conferences.

A broad range of majors is represented in this year’s awards. The students receiving the awards come from Theatre, English, History, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Chemistry and Biotechnology.

These students will be part of eight separate teams, each headed by a faculty mentor. During the summer the students will spend six to eight consecutive weeks in intensive work on their projects, which will then be followed by continued activity during the academic year.

One of year’s projects is “An Emotional Journey of Delight” mentored by Dr. Rachel Evans of the Theatre department. Students will spend the summer creating a theater production for very young children, ages 2-5, and then will take the production to audiences around the state. George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick), The Growing Stage (Netcong), and Passage Theatre (Trenton) include theatre for young audiences as part of their mission and programming and have expressed interest in sponsoring performances of the new work at their venues.

Dr. Connie Hassett-Walker’s criminal justice students will look at training of police and EMT personnel to recognize and successfully interact with citizens who have hidden disabilities, including autism. The second part of the project will examine the prevalence of autism and other disabilities among probationers, prisoners, and parolees.

Other SpF13 students will be working under the guidance of Dr. James Merritt of NICSTM on a project related to drug discovery screening. One of the earliest stages in drug discovery is identification of a novel molecule that can interact with a biological target of interest. This team of students will design and synthesize a new library of approximately 50,000 novel compounds at Kean University, which will then be sent for biological screening.

Other SpF13 projects include creating white paper documents on the local origins of genocide, the local memory of genocide, and the human rights response; developing a web portal template for supercomputing jobs; creating a web-based multimedia forum to collect, preserve, and present Human Rights narratives and to showcase Human Rights advocacy projects; designing and deploying a mobile application using community dynamics; and, learning how to optimize instrumentation parameters in analytical chemistry to achieve optimal detection and mass accuracy while maintaining speed.

ORSP News

April Workshops Highlight

Register at http://orsp.kean.edu

NSF Crosscutting Programs

Susan Gannon and Lindy Foreman, ORSP
Tuesday, March 26 - UC 226
12:30 - 1:30, Lunch 12:00

This workshop will cover the major NSF programs that cut across all disciplines funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Programs that fund research, equipment and facilities, curriculum improvement, and scholarships will be described. Examples include Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) programs.

In addition to all the NSF Directorates in the Sciences and Technology, the NSF Directorates in Education and Human Resources and Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences participate in these programs.

Regression Analysis

Dr. Rene Paulson, Senior Statistician, Elite Research, LLC
Tuesday, February 12 - UC 226
12:30 - 1:30, Lunch 12:00

This session will cover a comprehensive overview of regression procedures including linear and logistic regression analysis. The goal of this session is to provide participants with the step by step SPSS application of the techniques, including dealing with categorical predictors, as well as an understanding of regression statistics, when to use them, assumptions and other common issues, and how to interpret and present the findings.
## Government Grant Opportunities

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<td>National Endowment for the Humanities - Fellowships</td>
<td>5/1/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities - Challenge Grants</td>
<td>5/1/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Institute of Justice - Research on Firearms and Violence</td>
<td>5/2/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Justice - NIJ FY 13 Research and Evaluation on Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Individuals</td>
<td>5/20/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Justice - NIJ FY 13 Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence</td>
<td>5/20/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Justice - Evaluation Research on Police and Technology in Schools</td>
<td>6/3/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities - Bridging Cultures Through Film: International Topics</td>
<td>6/12/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health - Behavioral &amp; Integrative Treatment Development Program (R01, R03, R34)</td>
<td>Various due dates</td>
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## Foundations and Corporations

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<tr>
<th>Opportunity Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Nurses Foundation - Nursing Research Grants</td>
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<td>American Psychological Foundation - Pre-College Program</td>
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<td>American Honda Foundation - Youth Education in STEM</td>
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<td>Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation - Guest Artists Initiative Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Educational Research Association - Research Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toyota USA Foundation - K-12 STEM Programs</td>
<td>no deadline</td>
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