

Faculty Abstracts

2011-12 Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Faculty Research Grants

Barbara L. Andersen

Psychology – *A Biobehavioral Intervention for Patients with Gynecologic or Breast Cancer Recurrence*

There are currently no efficacious treatments for breast or ovarian cancer recurrence. Thus, the diagnosis brings extreme psychological stress and important immune changes for patients as the disease progresses. Our previous clinical trial (1990) showed that a psychological intervention for women with breast cancer reduced patients' distress, improved immunity, and reduced their risk for recurrence and breast cancer death. Now, our laboratory is piloting an intervention tailored for women with recurrence. We have sufficient funds to conduct psychological and health assessments, but no funds for biologic (immune) assays. Coca-Cola CDW funds will provide for assays, enabling testing of additional hypotheses regarding the patients' psychological responses and inflammatory processes.

Esther Baker-Tarpage

Dance – *Shifting Traces: Contemporary Dance Africa*

Shifting Traces: Contemporary Dance Africa is an online databank that highlights contemporary dance in 56 African countries. While facing challenging working conditions, numerous African-based dance artists are producing innovative and socially relevant performance. African women dance artists, specifically, lack support and visibility in the dance field. Coca-Cola CDW funds will allow me to include interviews and documentation of the work of women choreographers in the databank. Funds will be used for travel for one faculty person and one graduate student assistant to the *Festival Internacional de Dança Contemporanea*, in Maputo, Mozambique, in November 2011 to interview women artists and film their performances. These will be added to the 35 choreographer profiles on www.shiftafrica.wordpress.com

Mary Jo Bole

Art – *Winifred, Ruth, Winifred: A Full Scale Intricate, Mosaic Bench Celebrating a Lineage of Women*

Spanning ten years in the making, Bole's full scale, intricate, mosaic and bronze bench celebrates a lineage of women. The surface of the bench is made up of tiny ceramic pieces (tesserae) that are one-eighth to one-sixteenth of an inch, to create a sober, stoic pixilated image. The muted, black and white tonal range intends to suggest a history of photography (from which images have been taken). Silver luster tesserae suggest early processes like the daguerreotype. Bole intends to consider her entire life span as "contemporary" right along with what she calls the "Victorian left-over Culture." Coca-Cola CDW funds will cover costs of the final steps in the completion of this work of art, including grouting, bronzing, six student assistants, and transportation.

Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick

Communication – *Gender-Typing in Perceptions of Scientific Contributions*

This study examines gender stereotyping in perceptions of scientific work. Perceived quality and relevance of a scientific contribution may depend on the author's sex, perceiver's sex, and the research topic. Research topics are subject to gender-typing, such that research involving children or technology, for example, may seem more "suitable" for females or for males. Such

gender-based stereotyping would undermine fairness and excellence in science such that men may be more likely than women to get encouraged and promoted in academic careers. Moreover, self-stereotyping could lead women to be more self-critical and less persistent in pursuing an academic career. Coca-Cola CDW funds will support a survey of a sample of 80 individuals.

Mytheli Sreenivas

History and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies – *Counting Indians: Population and the Body Politic, 1800-1970*

My research investigates the inter-connected histories of reproduction, gender, family, and population in modern India. Funding from the Coca-Cola CDW grant will allow me to examine the archives of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), an international organization that played an important role in Indian population control campaigns during the 1960s. I plan to examine the flow of ideas, funds, and personnel that brought together international concerns about population growth with the Indian government's often coercive programs for "family planning." Coca-Cola CDW funds will support research at IPPF in London.

Graduate Student Abstracts

2011-12 Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Graduate Studies Research Grants

Lindsay Bernhagen

Comparative Studies – *Sounding Bodies: Music, Gender, and Intimacy*

This dissertation explores musical experience in terms of feelings of intimacy generated among participants who share a musical activity. The goals are to examine the popularity of gendered musical contexts (such as festivals and camps) for women and girls in terms of shared musical experiences that are had therein to determine how women and girls identify musical contexts in which they engage, how shared musical experiences affect interpersonal relationships, and how sharing musical experiences shapes the way music becomes meaningful. Special emphasis is placed on how gendered notions of intimacy, pleasure, and danger are used to construct shared musical experiences. Coca-Cola CDW funds will support research during the Michigan Womyn's Festival. Doctoral research.

Wenjuan Bi

History – *Living with Separation: Chaozhou "Widows" and the Transformation of Gender in Rural China*

My dissertation, by focusing on the lives of rural "widowed" women in China's southern immigrant communities, explains why rural women failed to step out from their domestic confines when China began the process of modernization in the early twentieth century. By comparing the different mechanisms through which traditional and modern gender ideologies were established in local society, it allows me to explain why Republican urban elites, different from traditional rural gentry and later Communists, lacked the ability to inculcate modern ideologies in local society and failed in their effort to "modernize the people." Coca-Cola CDW funds will help defray expenses involved in travel to rural China for fieldwork. Doctoral research.

Alexis M. del Sol

Dance – *Coconut Complex: Critical Analysis and Artistic Representation of Bicultural Identity*

My final project utilizes auto-ethnographic research to explore dual consciousness. Through live dance performance, children's educational outreach and dance scholarship I provide a voice to those who experience bicultural identity, specifically women; fill a gap in dance history related to Latina artists and teach young students how to communicate their own stories about identity through dance. Coca-Cola CDW funds will help defray expenses involved in travel to Cuba for fieldwork. Master of Fine Art project.

Colleen E. Kennedy

English – *The Renaissance Odor di Femina: Olfactory (Self-)Representations of Early Modern English Women*

This project builds upon recent sensate studies in Renaissance studies, but has a decidedly feminist perspective as I discover how certain bodily effluvia was gendered feminine in Renaissance writings by male authors, especially in erotic and aromatic sonnet sequences, but also in midwifery manuals, medical tracts, and plague pamphlets. In contrast to the dichotomizing odors of the female body in such male-authored works, I argue that women also employed their own decidedly olfactive language in the presentation of their own work as "nosegays" or "posies," terms used for poetry anthologies, floral arrangements, and for preventive herbals culled from housewifery manuals. Coca-Cola CDW funds will help defray the expenses involved in archival research in London and Washington, DC. Doctoral research.

Lara Elizabeth McCormick

Anthropology – *A Histological Study of Subsistence and Nutrition and its Impact on Bone Remodeling in a Prehistoric Peruvian Population*

The aim of this project is documentation of microscopic factors of bone in female skeletons from a prehistoric population of southern Peru and interpretation of these factors by synthesizing subsistence and nutritional information. This study is unique with its incorporation of three skeletal sites into the analysis of a genetically homogenous population with regional variations in nutrition and cultural activities. Examination of human skeletal remains within this context allows the opportunity to study factors that impact bone remodeling and age-associated bone loss without the compounding factor of genetic factors; this will shed light on studies of osteoporosis in modern populations. Coca-Cola CDW funds will be used to purchase needed equipment and provide a small stipend to three undergraduate assistants involved in laboratory research. Doctoral research.

Rikki Patton

Human Development and Family Science – *Exploring Life Experiences and Treatment Needs among Sex Workers*

Sex workers experience multiple risks, including an increased vulnerability to HIV infection and transmission, substance abuse, violence and victimization, mental health problems, and dysfunctional family experiences. A comprehensive intervention approach is needed in order to mitigate the numerous risks that sex workers experience. However, adequate data to effectively guide intervention development is lacking. The current study will gather information that will inform the future development of a comprehensive treatment tailored to the needs of male and

female sex workers. Coca-Cola CDW funds will be used to provide a \$40 gift card to each interview participant. Doctoral research.

RaShelle Peck

Comparative Studies – *Bodies of Transgression: Cool Poses for Kenyan Hip Hop*

My project investigates hip hop cool poses, which are the stylized performances artists and fans use as modes of expression in hip hop culture. In Kenya, hip hop cool poses are viewed as an imitation of the west, although many Kenyan artists insist that the poses are part of a distinct and localized rap music culture. By exploring this interplay, I will document evidence that hip hop cool poses represent alternative ways of thinking about gender. Since both male and female artists use cool poses, they challenge understandings of masculinity and femininity, contest social boundaries, and articulate new ways of expression. Coca-Cola CDW funds will help defray expenses incurred for fieldwork in Kenya. Doctoral research.

Anna Peterson

History – *The Cost of Women's Labor: Norwegian Maternity Leave, 1800-1940*

Between 1880 and 1940 working-class unions, women's right associations and the state actively debated the parameters of maternity leave legislation in Norway. Unions claimed to represent the interest of workers, while feminists argued that they spoke for the particularities women faced as mothers and workers. Meanwhile the state needed to maintain an image both at home and abroad. This project investigates the struggle between reformers and activists prior to the Second World War and sheds new light on Norway's current reputation as a promoter of egalitarian gender policies. Coca-Cola CDW funds will help defray expenses during archival research in Oslo. Doctoral research.

Jamila D. Smith

Education and Human Ecology/Teaching and Learning – *Still Waitin' to Exhale: An Intergenerational Narrative Analysis of Black Girls and Women*

“‘Still waitin’ to exhale’: An intergenerational narrative analysis of Black girls and women” examines the ways that representations of Black womanhood as “at risk” and “in crisis” in social discourse informs the intergenerational narrative production of contemporary Black mothers and daughters of differing geographic, class, age, and other backgrounds. Coca-Cola CDW funds will enable travel to two southern states for Smith and four participants where focus group interviews will take place. Doctoral research.

Rashana Smith

Dance – *Portraiture and Perception*

Portraiture and Perception explores the complexity of social identity within groups of women. Master of Fine Arts candidate Rashana Smith from the Department of Dance combines video portraits, live dance performances, and online educational tools that examine the roles women play in group dynamics. Videos and performances will premiere at Urban Arts Space in downtown Columbus, Ohio from March 13-30, 2012. Online educational tools will be available at <http://www.rashanaworks.com/> Coca-Cola CDW funds will be used for the purchase of small equipment and materials needed. Master of Fine Arts project.

Heather Thompson-Gillis

English – *Gender, Class Mobility, and Alternative Communities in Nineteenth Century American Literature*

This project explores the representation of gender and class mobility in American literature discussing nineteenth-century utopian and other alternative communities. Working to correct the elision of socioeconomic class analysis in literary scholarship, it suggests that alternative communities (consisting of homes and families outside of the middle class ideal) are prime sites for the disruption of class and gender norms. I am particularly interested in studying the function of women in these communities and their responses to the alternative family structures that they inhabit. The focus of this specific research is Abba Alcott and the Fruitlands community. Coca-Cola CDW will cover costs involved in conducting archival research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Doctoral research.

Amanda L. Weinstein

Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics – *Gender and Metropolitan Area Productivity, Poverty, and Income Inequality*

Gender studies in economics are often centered on the impact the economy has on women, but far less research has examined how women are in turn affecting the economy. This research measures the impact of growing numbers of women in the workforce and in small businesses on U.S. metropolitan areas from 1980 to 2000. The impact of female employment share on wage growth, poverty, and income inequality is empirically estimated and initial results indicate the impact is both positive and significant. These results suggest that gender is an important aspect to understanding the determinants of regional economic growth. Coca-Cola CDW funds will be used to purchase a data set and software for analyses. Doctoral research.

Salene Wu

Psychology – *Relationship of General and Health-Related Anxiety and Worry to Markers of Inflammation in Women with Recurrent and Metastatic Cancer*

Cancer recurrence, a return of disease following remission, is stressful and lowers quality of life (QOL). The emotion of anxiety is related to lower QOL in cancer patients. Worry, the rehearsal of potential negative events, often causes anxiety and is especially severe for women with cancer. Anxiety is linked to inflammation, the immune response to bacteria or viruses. Inflammation leads to cancer progression and reduced QOL in breast and ovarian cancer. Anxiety and worry may also lead to lower QOL through inflammation. This study will be the first to examine the relationship of anxiety and worry to inflammation in recurrent breast and ovarian cancer. Coca-Cola CDW funds will be used to provide a \$25 gift card to each of 40 project participants. Doctoral research.