Academic Affairs Update, February 2015

University of Northern Iowa. Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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Professional Development Assignments Propel UNI's Contributions to Scholarship and Iowa

Every fall, a committee comprised of one faculty representative each from CBA, COE, and CSBS, and two representatives from CHAS, evaluates applications for Professional Development Assignments (PDA). A PDA provides full regular salary for one semester or half-salary for an academic year.

During their PDA, award recipients devote their full time to their proposed projects and do not teach or perform other UNI responsibilities. At the end of their projects, recipients compose a report describing their work.

Full-time faculty holding tenure, or full-time probationary faculty who have received a successful third-year review by the time of application, are eligible to apply for these competitive awards. While there are no quotas per college, department, new faculty or senior scholars, tenured faculty applicants are prioritized.

PDA recipients’ work is directed by the Master Agreement's Article Seven, including their agreement “to return to full-time employment for a period twice as long as the assignment following the year of the award.”

The application deadline is fairly early in the fall semester, so faculty often start planning the application during the summer. Faculty research, creative activities, and completion of a terminal degree all qualify as potential projects for PDA funding.

No matter their form, funded projects are meant to benefit not just UNI, but Iowa citizens. PDA applications must describe a proposed project’s contributions to a discipline, how the work will be disseminated (such as via scholarly presentation, publication, or performance), and possible external funding that can enable expansion of the project.

Visit the Funding/Awards page for more information.

2015-2016 PDA Recipients

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<td>Christina Curran</td>
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<td>Chris W. Ogbondah</td>
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<td>Andrey N. Petrov</td>
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<td>Aleksandar Poleksic</td>
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<td>M. D. Salim</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>A Web-Based Decision Support System for Optimizing Snow Removal Assets in Varying Temperatures</td>
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Jeremy Schraffenberger  
Languages and Literatures  
*What Passes: Poems and Lyric Essays of Memory and the Body*

Theresa A. Spradling  
Biology  
*Testing Geographic Range-Expansion Models: Population Genetics of a Colonizing Parasite*

Siegrun Wildner  
Languages and Literatures  
*Holocaust Survivor Testimony and Narrative Representation: The Mauthausen Experience*

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*Academic Affairs Update* is edited by Dr. Adrienne Lamberti  
(UNI Department of Languages and Literatures)  
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