REPORT OF THE FINAL PANEL

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS)
SUBPROGRAM
FY 2013-14

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fifty-two (52) proposals requesting a total of $2,197,745 were submitted for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2013-14 to the Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Research & Development Program. Proposals were solicited for creative and scholarly activities undertaken by faculty in arts, humanities, and social sciences disciplines.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

To conduct as thorough, objective, and expert a review as possible within the Board’s monetary constraints and timeframe, a two-phase review process was adopted. Panels of out-of-state experts evaluated all proposals and provided funding recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Phase I: In-Depth Review by Subject-Area Panel

In Phase I of the review process the fifty-two (52) proposals were distributed, based on the primary discipline selected by each applicant, among three subject-area panels corresponding to the general disciplines eligible for funding consideration through ATLAS. Each panel was comprised of two to four out-of-state experts with broad expertise in the disciplines represented by the proposals, as well as familiarity with similar competitive grants programs for arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines. Using the criteria set forth in the FY 2013-14 ATLAS Request for Proposals (RFP), panel members worked individually and then collaboratively by telephone and e-mail to determine which proposals in each subject area met all eligibility requirements and were most likely to produce results of high quality and impact. In this phase of the review process, each subject-area panel member acted as “primary discussant” for an assigned portion of the proposals and completed an in-depth critique of each of his/her assigned proposals after discussing its relative merits and shortcomings with the other panel members. Through a telephone conference, the subject-area panel members jointly ranked the proposals in the order in which they believed that the proposals should be funded. The panels carefully scrutinized the budgets of those proposals ranked as fundable and recommended modifications where appropriate.

Phase II: Final Panel Review and Interdigitation of Recommended Proposals

A final panel (hereafter referred to as the “panel”), comprised of three senior out-of-state professionals whose expertise spans the eligible disciplines and who had served as chairs of the subject-area panels, was convened in Phase II of the process. This panel met on March 11, 2014, through a teleconference, to discuss and compare the various groups of top-ranked proposals and, ultimately, to interdigitate the rankings of the various proposals across the subject areas and devise final funding recommendations for the Board of Regents.

The four criteria used by the panel in making its funding recommendations are: (1) the significance of the project to its current field of study or art practice and its interest for broader academic and/or lay audiences; (2) the strength of the proposal’s argument for the conceptualization, definition, and organization of the project; (3) the quality of the applicant’s previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant’s preparations for the current project; and (4) the feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project. The panel also considered the
appropriateness of the budget request in making final funding recommendations. Thirty (30) proposals were included in the discussions held during this conference.

The panel was informed that $285,000 had been budgeted to fund ATLAS projects in fiscal year 2013-14. Utilizing the criteria described above, the panel recommended twenty-two (22) proposals which it strongly believed were worthy of support and placed them in the “Priority I” category, detailed in Appendix A. These proposals request a total of $942,032 and are ranked in descending order according to merit. Though funds are available to support only a limited number of the highly recommended proposals, the panel strongly urges the Board of Regents to seek supplementary resources to provide funding for as many additional proposals as possible. Should additional resources become available, the panel recommends that proposals be funded in order of rank.

The budgets for the top-ranked proposals were scrutinized closely during the review process. Budgetary reductions were recommended in several cases, as noted in the panel comments. Unless indicated in the panel’s comments, project work plans and timelines should not be affected by the budgetary reductions.

Appendix B lists those proposals that were ranked Priority II. In general, proposals listed in Appendix B are considered of high quality, but raised questions or concerns among the reviewers that precluded them from being ranked among the Priority I proposals. Applicants whose projects were ranked Priority II are encouraged to consider the reviewers’ comments and, if appropriate, revise and resubmit their projects when ATLAS proposals are next solicited.

Appendix C lists proposals that were ranked Priority III by the subject-area panels and not recommended for funding in this competition. Priority III projects are ranked as such because the review panels had serious questions about their feasibility, potential for impact, and/or scholarly/artistic merit. Applicants whose projects were listed in Appendix C are encouraged to review the consultants’ comments and, if appropriate, revise and resubmit their projects for funding consideration in future ATLAS competitions.

Appendix D gives comments and funding stipulations for each of the twenty-two (22) proposals highly recommended for funding.

Appendix E lists the out-of-state experts who served on the final and subject-area panels.

Appendix F summarizes all proposals submitted for funding consideration to the ATLAS competition and provides the following information for each proposal: proposal number, title, discipline, institution, principal investigator, and BoRSF funds requested.

PANEL COMMENTS REGARDING FY 2013-14 PROPOSALS

The Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram of the Board of Regents Support Fund’s Research and Development Program is designed to provide support for major scholarly and artistic productions with potential to have a broad impact on regional and/or national levels. Particularly during these times of uncertain resources, the panel applauds the Board of Regents and the State of Louisiana for their continuing support of this program, which provides funding to important disciplines with limited outlets for grant funding.

Louisiana’s support of the arts, humanities, and social sciences is exemplary and extends well beyond the faculty members who receive these awards. Departments and campuses across Louisiana are strengthened by the presence of such successful faculty who model academic and creative excellence both to other faculty and to students. The out-of-state experts who serve on subject-area and final panels are
extremely impressed with the State’s forward-looking support of its unique culture and research and say as much across professional circles. Proposals and the carefully designed and managed peer review process is evidence of the submitting institutions’ and the State’s commitment to research and artistic production at the very highest levels. The panel commends the researchers, artists, administrators, and State governing bodies for their support of these traditionally under-funded disciplines and strongly encourages the Board of Regents to continue its investments.

For a decade the ATLAS program has encouraged and supported a diverse range of scholars and artists which, when viewed as a whole, comprises a remarkable picture of the depth of talent, invention, research and accomplishment of the faculty of the State of Louisiana. Overall, the quality of proposals has been extremely high, with the number of proposals recommended for funding in every year vastly exceeding the number that can be funded with available monies. Enhancing the research and artistic profile of any college or university creates benefits not only for all residents of the campus, but the entire State through generative innovation and education. ATLAS applicants reflect the kind of diverse expertise – across social sciences, humanities, and the arts – that is at the heart of a vibrant culture and growing economy. Louisiana can claim a leadership role in promoting competitive accomplishment with broad-based impact across professional and lay audiences. The State should make every effort to publish the accomplishments of ATLAS recipients and the program as a whole within and outside of Louisiana and to propose the program as a model for other states seeking to link local culture, creativity and research to the global circulation of ideas.
# APPENDIX A

**ATLAS PROPOSALS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

**(PRIORITY I) (22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Proposal #</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Recommended</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>005ATL-14</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
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<td>LSU-BR</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$942,032</strong></td>
<td><strong>$887,633</strong></td>
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The first three (3) proposals in Appendix A are ranked “1” (i.e., first). In the panel’s opinion, these proposals are of nearly equal merit; as such, they are listed in ascending order of proposal number. Proposals ranked 4 through 22 are listed in descending order of merit and, thus, priority for funding.

The panel recommends that as many Priority I projects as possible be funded in the order of their ranking and at the levels specified. At a minimum, the panel recommends funding the top eight (8) proposals for a total amount of $285,000.
APPENDIX B

MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY II
BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS BUT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (8)

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<tr>
<th>007ATL-14</th>
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<th>009ATL-14</th>
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<td>032ATL-14</td>
<td>039ATL-14</td>
<td>052ATL-14</td>
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</table>

Note: Priority II proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. Subject-area panel reviews for these proposals will be provided to the applicants in July 2014.
### APPENDIX C

**PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY III BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (22)**

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**Note:** Priority III proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. Subject-area panel reviews for these proposals will be provided to the applicants in July 2014.
APPENDIX D

COMMENTS AND FUNDING STIPULATIONS
FOR PROPOSALS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING
(PRIORITY I)

General Comments and Stipulations

This section provides comments and stipulations set forth as conditions of funding for the twenty-two (22) proposals highly recommended by the panel. Comments are provided in rank order. Each proposal’s rank is located in the upper right corner of the comment page.

Unless specified in the panel’s review comment, no reductions in the scope of work of projects recommended for funding should be allowed in any case. If the work plan submitted for a project does not correspond in scope to that of the original proposal and/or does not reflect reductions recommended by the panel, the award should be vacated and funds thereby made available should be used to fund other worthy projects. Any returned or unawarded ATLAS funds should be allocated to projects recommended in Appendix A, at the level suggested by the panel and in descending order according to rank.
PROPOSAL NO. 005ATL-14

TITLE: “Thomas Jefferson and His Modern Fate”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Andrew Burstein

Thomas Jefferson is a canonical figure in American history, a touchstone for our understanding of both the past and present. Dr. Burstein proposes to show how his place in contemporary political culture reveals significant features of Jefferson’s character and of our own times. The proposal is beautifully written and totally convincing. The project is engaging, original, and imaginative, and will certainly attract both scholarly attention and a wider audience.

Dr. Burstein holds an endowed chair at LSU and has published eight books, all with major presses. He is clearly a scholar of unusual accomplishment and distinction. The sample demonstrates well that the finished work will be lucid, eloquent, stimulating, and well documented.

Dr. Burstein has a proven record of accomplishment and experience completing works such as this. He has drafted five of seven total chapters in this project and will certainly finish it on schedule. The resulting book is already under contract with a major university press.

The project is strongly recommended for funding of $49,500. The travel request does not appear to be essential for completion of the work as planned, so it is recommended that this be eliminated given ATLAS’s extremely limited resources.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $49,500
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSAL NO.</th>
<th>045ATL-14</th>
<th>Rank: 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE:</td>
<td>“Salt Water Conflict: Examining Why States Engage in International Maritime Disputes”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTITUTION:</td>
<td>University of Louisiana at Lafayette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</td>
<td>Elizabeth Nyman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Nyman proposes to write a book titled *Salt Water Conflict* to study international conflict over oceans and their resources. Such conflict is common in general, and also between democratic states which otherwise tend not to go to war with each other. International law is a vibrant and dynamic area, which concerns itself with maritime cases brought before international courts or subject to third-party arbitration. Dr. Nyman’s book, aimed at political scientists, political geographers, and environmental policymakers and scholars, will explore what types of maritime resources and problems attract the attention of states, and hence may generate interstate conflict in the future. The work will be particularly relevant to Louisiana, with its strong offshore oil industry.

The international relations field within political science is preoccupied with territorial conflict. The literature on maritime conflict is incredibly scarce – not only in international relations but also in economics. *The Economist* recently published two articles on subjects related to Dr. Nyman’s: “Governing the Oceans: The Tragedy of the High Seas: New Management is Needed for the Planet’s Most Important Common Resources” and “Governing the High Seas: In Deep Water: Humans are Damaging the High Seas; Now the Oceans Are Doing Harm Back” (February 22, 2014). It is clear from these that the governance of oceans is an important area requiring a mix of political and economic analysis; that ocean issues are likely to trigger conflict between countries; and that there is very little research to guide our thinking about maritime governance. Dr. Nyman’s book, then, has great potential to make an important contribution in a research area where little analysis is available.

Dr. Nyman received her PhD in 2010 and was appointed an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2012. She already has a strong record of publications, with one co-authored book as well as five articles published and one forthcoming in peer-reviewed journals. The proposal is well conceived, defined, and organized. It is a resubmission of a previous proposal, and since last year’s application Dr. Nyman has improved and made progress on her project.

From the narrative account of her career, it appears that Dr. Nyman has been interested in, and working on, international ocean politics in an ongoing way, first in college, then in graduate school, and now as an assistant professor. This is excellent focus on her part. The various research activities she has been involved in over the years (archival research, interviews, and so forth) over a long time period (including her undergraduate years) and in many different countries (which exhibit different kinds of maritime issues), have well prepared her for this project. The plan of work is feasible, and it is very likely that Dr. Nyman will complete the project in the proposed time period.

The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $28,885
PROPOSAL NO. 047ATL-14  

TITLE: “In the Mind of the Maker”

INSTITUTION: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Charles Richard

Professor Richard is a public intellectual interested in writing more for a general audience than an academic one. His proposed project, *In the Mind of the Maker*, is an illustrated collection of essays about memory and imagination from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes cognitive neuroscience, anthropology and folklore, computer visualization science and technology, engineering, filmmaking, and Louisiana cultural studies. This project captures living Louisiana history in the beautiful form of wooden boat building. The book will include personal essays, participatory observation, and first-person reflections focused on the boat builder, Edward Couvillier, one of the remaining members of the French Acadian (Cajun) community who recalls firsthand the traditional way of life once lived in the Atchafalaya Basin, and the larger, more universal questions implied by his creative process. This is a study of the artisans who continue to carry on this fading tradition, which adds a preservationist dimension. It should appeal to historians, boat builders, folk artists, and, particularly given the power of the writing, the general reading public.

The proposal is beautifully written and a pleasure to read. Professor Richard takes into account all of the variables of accomplishing his project and addresses them in ways that are deeply conversant with getting work produced in his field. The project is clearly organized, defined, and focused. Though the work is one of creative nonfiction, the skill set of a documentary filmmaker is evident in the project’s conceptualization. Indeed, provided producers are successful in securing the necessary funding, there will be an accompanying documentary directed by the applicant. Ideally the film’s release would coincide with the book’s, though the book project will continue whether or not funding is found for the film.

Professor Richard has won several prestigious awards for his work in film including the 2005 Alfred I. DuPont Columbia Award, a CINE Golden Eagle, an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and more. He has also been recognized for his nonfiction works, including articles for the *Sunday Los Angeles Times, Southern Living*, and *Coastal Living*. He was commissioned to write the book *A Place Worth Preserving* about the history of the Louisiana Governor’s Mansion and contracted to write a book entitled *The First Fifty*, which documents the remarkable institutional history of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The applicant is the Joseph P. Montiel/BoRSF Endowed Professor of English at UL Lafayette and now holds the rank of full professor; he is also an endowed Research Fellow with the Computing and Visualization Enterprise (CAVE) at the university’s LITE Center. He is an established, proven professional with numerous projects to his credit, which promises the quality of this work will be extremely high. The work sample that detailed an artisan boat-builder describing how a boat is built from living wood was germane to the proposal, as well as deeply engaging and highly persuasive.

The work plan is specifically outlined and gives the panel confidence that the project can be accomplished within the time period of the grant.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:** $50,000
PROPOSAL NO. 012ATL-14  

TITLE: “Southern Sexualities and the National Imagination”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Katherine Henninger

In the 2012-13 ATLAS competition, the panel strongly recommended this project as one of high quality and significance, but felt that the writing sample continued to need some additional work, especially considering the maturity of the project as a whole. The sample provided in this year’s proposal has addressed this concern; it is very strong. The project as described promises to find an audience in and contribute significantly to several scholarly fields, particularly American and Southern studies.

Dr. Henninger has designed this project adroitly, placing it at the intersection of regional (Southern) and sexuality studies, and presenting it as part of the “new Southern studies” investigation of the relation between region and nation. The chapter outline is thorough, detailed, and persuasive.

The applicant has an excellent track record as a scholar (one monograph, eleven articles, and two reviews since getting her PhD in 1999), and she is already a recognized authority in the field of the new Southern studies. Both the writing sample and the proposal give strong evidence of a meticulous scholar committed to very high standards.

The project is well underway, with preliminary drafts of all chapters complete. ATLAS research leave would clearly help Dr. Henninger revise and shape these drafts (some of which have been crafted for publication in journals) into the unified book she aspires to write.

The panel strongly recommends funding of $49,500 for this excellent project. The request for purchase of source materials ($500) did not appear essential for completion of the project, so it is recommended that this be eliminated given ATLAS’s extremely limited resources.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $49,500
PROPOSAL NO. 024ATL-14

TITLE: “Color and Imagination – Commissioning, Recording, Publishing and Performing New Works for the Double Bass”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Yung-Chiao Wei

The proposed project aims to both expand the repertoire of bass compositions and make them available in print, on DVD and on CD. The total project includes not only the publications, but also concerts at Carnegie Hall and in Taiwan, as well as participation in conferences and summer programs. The CD will consist of new works for bass and piano commissioned from composers Ming-Hsiu Yen and Matthew Tommasini and played at performances in Asia, Europe and Carnegie Hall. The proposed DVD will feature video of performances of the new commissions as well as explanations and demonstrations of the applicant’s unique technique, which resulted from the successful mastery of a handicap. The intended audience includes students and teachers of string instruments and classical music enthusiasts.

Professor Wei is a gifted and compelling double bass performer. She has received a number of awards over a significant period of time and has produced successful students. She has trained at leading institutions and her list of performances, both national and international, is impressive. In addition, the work samples submitted were excellent and a highlight of the proposal, amply demonstrating her command of the instrument and the inspired quality of her playing. The panel agreed that her playing is some of the best experienced from this complex and unusual instrument.

Other aspects of this proposal are impressive as well. Professor Wei persuasively argues the need for more work written for the string bass, and plans both to commission new pieces and transcribe master works are excellent. Also notable was the plan to commission pieces which combine Eastern and Western traditions. Music thrives by such hybridization and this proposal promises to expand the vocabulary of classical music in a variety of ways.

Other aspects of the proposal, however, are more problematic, presenting several elements without a clear sense of how they integrate into a unified project. There is mention of a dance collaboration with Sandra Parks, but the nature of that collaboration is not specified. The DVD will include two works already composed for Professor Wei and an unstated number of newly commissioned works, as well as a demonstration of what she indicates is a unique technique. Although the applicant states that the purpose is to make this technique, which extends from the practice of Tai Chi and Yoga, more available, the technique is not explained in the application and the panel is unable to determine the value of including it on a DVD. Participation in the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Germany happens before the majority of work occurs and appears only tangentially related to the key elements of the project. Professor Wei has clearly made substantial preparations for the project, but the sheer number of activities causes some concern that the project as proposed, with several different aspects and products, can be completed in the ATLAS timeframe. The pace at which the numerous planned activities would have to proceed seems frantic, though the commissions, CD, and transcription portions of the project should be easily completed, and at an exceptionally high quality, during the ATLAS period.

The project is strongly recommended for funding of $32,860, to support the salary request, commissions of new works, travel for Professor Wei’s accompanist, support personnel, CD recording and publication costs, and music printing. Portions of the project related to the DVD and concerts are not recommended.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $32,860
PROPOSAL NO.  011ATL-14  

TITLE:  “Ministers versus Doctors: The Rhetoric of America’s First Smallpox Inoculation”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Barbara Heifferon

The controversy surrounding the first attempt to inoculate Americans against smallpox is a well-known chapter in the history of medicine, in part because it involves one of the most famous Americans of the eighteenth century, Cotton Mather. Dr. Heifferon examines this subject from a new perspective, largely adopted from the work of Michel Foucault and – more importantly – from her own experience in the history and analysis of rhetoric. The result will be an important scholarly study with implications for our understanding of Colonial America, the history of public health, and the relationship of science and religion.

The applicant is a scholar and teacher of rhetoric, a demanding and often under-appreciated field. Her earlier work on the rhetoric of health care provides a sound basis for the current project. Given the heavy administrative and teaching burdens she carries, she has been an energetic and productive scholar and the current project is both extremely ambitious and extremely well defined.

Dr. Heifferon’s emphasis on the rhetorical aspects of the inoculation debate is original and convincing. She shows a mastery of the source material and a firm grasp of the necessary analytical methods. Particularly impressive is her skillful examination of the often paradoxical role that religion played in the controversy, shaping the arguments of the physicians, just as science often shaped those of the clergy.

Dr. Heifferon has made significant progress on this project during the year between ATLAS submissions and has received an encouraging response to her work to date. The panel is confident she will be able to complete the project during a year of ATLAS support.

The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $38,462
PROPOSAL NO. 042ATL-14

TITLE: “Marketing Milton: Publishers, Politics, and an English Literary Canon 1641-1776”

INSTITUTION: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Elizabeth Bobo

In the 2012-13 ATLAS competition, Dr. Bobo’s project was left unfunded when budget reductions were required. It was an excellent project then, when the panel wrote: “The proposal, significantly revised from the previous submission, demonstrates very clearly how her project will contribute to and have an impact on a variety of interconnected fields: Milton studies, English literary history more broadly, and the history of the book. It is striking that there is no study to date of Milton’s reception, of the critical shaping of his place in the English literary canon, and of the social, political, and economic history behind the publication (of various editions of) his works. This project, then, promises to be highly significant.” It is an even better project now, one that is sure to have an impact not just on Milton studies, but on the broader field of print studies.

Dr. Bobo has made excellent progress on the project since last year, and the work she has done bears testimony to its sound conceptualization. She writes: “Progress made since last year’s ATLAS Grant submission is fourfold. First, I have written a new essay, ‘Milton’s Stationers: Reframing Seventeenth-Century Literary History; this section is to be included in Chapter 1, part 2. The manuscript has been included in the Example of Work. Second, I revised the manuscript ‘Jacob Tonson’s Populuxe Literary Canon,’ the contents of which comprise the foundation of Chapter 2, part 2. Third, I researched and drafted the secondary literature review, updating the scholarship to include work published between 2010 and 2013; this new information will be included in the Introduction.” This is very impressive progress as Dr. Bobo concurrently maintained all of her university commitments. As a result of her persistence, the project is well underway and will certainly be completed in timely fashion. The timetable presented in the proposal is reasonable.

Dr. Bobo will use ATLAS funding to support completion of her first book. The detailed nature of the proposal itself, the design of the project, its manifest importance, and the remarkable amount of research she has already undertaken while shouldering a heavy teaching load all indicate that the finished work will be impressive and a significant contribution to its field.

The proposal is strongly recommended for reduced funding of $15,642. The travel request does not appear to be essential for completion of the work as planned, so it is recommended that this be eliminated given ATLAS’s extremely limited resources.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $15,642
PROPOSAL NO.  040ATL-14                        Rank:  8


INSTITUTION:       Tulane University

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:        Adeline Masquelier

Broadly, Dr. Masquelier is interested in “the role that religion plays in the shaping of modernity in Niger.” Her particular focus is “on young Muslim men in Niger, using youth as a lens through which to understand identity fashioning, civic engagement, political participation, and social reproduction in a Muslim society.” In Niger, 75% of the population is younger than 25 years old, so she has chosen a keenly relevant social subject. But this group’s importance is more than demographic: amidst “mounting concern about potential radicalism among unemployed young men,” Dr. Masquelier aims to challenge “analyses of the so-called youth factor in Muslim contexts [that] describe Muslim youth as a volatile force, easily swayed by Islamist rhetoric.” The significance of her project is that she reveals a “fluid and situational” cultural dynamic through which “young men make choices about the role Islam plays in their lives.” In contrast to stereotypes of radicalism and fanaticism, this account reveals “how young Nigerian men use the language and values of Islam to shape possible livelihoods.” She shows the ways they construct themselves as ethical subjects, often in surprising fashions, as in adopting “hip-hop culture in pious terms.” Her book “will challenge assumptions that the Islamic revival is an irreversible trend leading to the homogenization of the Muslim world.” This important finding will contribute to a range of debates on foreign policy, diplomacy, and economic development.

Evidence for the quality and strength of Dr. Masquelier’s previous work is impressive. Her research has been supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has published two books as well as an edited volume. Her 2009 book received a Melville J. Herskovits Award for best scholarly book on Africa, and the Aidoo-Snyder award for best scholarly book about African women. Dr. Masquelier’s record of publications and funding speak strongly both to the strength of her previous work and the promise of her current proposal.

There are two notable strengths to Dr. Masquelier’s proposal: that it draws upon more than 20 years of research in Niger, and that it features an array of theoretical topics and subjects. In addition to a focus on young men and Islam, Dr. Masquelier has formulated a range of broader questions about “youth, generation, and consciousness,” as well as “globalization and popular culture.” These latter two thematic areas represent an expansion of her previous focus on religion and modernity. In combination, they involve a powerful, multifaceted analytical frame: “my study will stress the extent to which new forms of Muslim religiosity emerge in tandem with new models of personhood and public life, new patterns of consumption, and new understandings of power and political action.” Dr. Masquelier’s subjects “have unprecedented exposure to global flows of goods, information, and images,” which they respond to “through the medium of religious discourse as well as secular discourses inspired by hip-hop and the language of welfare.” She has formulated a dexterous, mobile form of attention to the discourses and cultural objects that are circulating through the lives and thoughts of young male Nigerians.

Dr. Masquelier has completed three chapters; she proposes to finish the four additional chapters and the full manuscript by May 2015. Given her steady and substantial publications record and this reasonable work plan, she is very likely to complete this project within the timeframe of this grant.

Given the limited funds remaining in the ATLAS program, the proposal is strongly recommended for reduced funding of $20,151 to provide Dr. Masquelier with release time to complete her work. If additional funds become available, the budget should be restored as much as possible, up to the requested amount of $49,917. The work plan may be adjusted to accommodate the reduction in funds.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:        $20,151
PROPOSAL NO. 010ATL-14

TITLE: “Louisiana Linguistic History as Reflected in the Records and Practices of the Catholic Church, 1720 to 1955”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Sylvie Dubois

Dr. Dubois is a distinguished scholar who uses language as data for observing how language forms and is formed by culture. By creating corpora of real people using language (in essence, she is eavesdropping on the conversations of real people), she enables linguists, anthropologists, and social historians to study actual communities in Canada, in Louisiana, and in other parts of the world. She has particular interest and expertise in how bilingual communities use language and deal with the linguistic presence of the “other” community. The emergence of Creole or Cajun language is only part of the phenomenon of cultural change, or what the applicant calls “linguistic dynamics.”

In the current project, she will use 230 years of correspondence to and from the Catholic Church in Louisiana to analyze the changes in language during a formative period of the American experience. (This expanse of time is equivalent to moving from the world of Benjamin Franklin to that of Dwight Eisenhower.) Since much of the correspondence is in French, she can analyze the role of the Church in an emerging bilingualism that will ultimately lead English to become the language of the Church in the U.S. In other words, this is a study of the formation of Louisiana culture because the language captures the real lives of people in their social identities. The project as defined in this proposal is better aimed at potential readers than was the case in the previous submission.

Dr. Dubois has an international reputation in linguistics. With two essays published and two accepted in the past year, she is professionally active and visible. Her current project is very clearly conceived and organized, consisting of two major components: transcription and analysis. Dr. Dubois has moved along this year from transcription efforts to an analysis of her findings, and she is very well launched on that part of the project. Given her past achievements and the quality of the work in progress, there is no doubt that the project will be finished in the timeframe Dr. Dubois envisions. The quality and importance of her work is very likely to interest the two academic presses she plans to contact regarding publication.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit an updated proposal in the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $50,000
**PROPOSAL NO.** 015ATL-14  
**Rank:** 10

**TITLE:** “Black-Arab Encounters: Representations of Blackness in Arabic Literature”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Touria Khannous

Arabic literature between the sixth century CE and the present offers not only differing racial attitudes and views, but also diverse theories of race. The proposed project would describe and analyze that theoretical development, and relate those findings to contemporary constructions. The focus on representations of black Africans in Arabic literature and film could potentially hold wide appeal and interest across a variety of disciplines.

Dr. Khannous’s background and progress to date indicate she is well prepared for the current project. The outline of the project is appropriately detailed, and presents a complex development with clarity while promising rich detail. The work samples, from chapters 1 and 3, are critically sophisticated and polished; indeed, the latter seems to have been published as a book chapter in 2011. The selection of the work of Howard Winant and Michael Omi among contemporary theorists is warranted, although their paradigm is designed for application to the United States. Perhaps Dr. Khannous would be wise to include a consideration of the anthropology of race, to balance a sociological approach.

The panel is somewhat concerned, however, about the timeline presented in the proposal, which is not entirely clear. It suggests only one chapter is finished, though the remaining five are “in draft format” or “partially completed.” But the project goals only address four of these remaining chapters. The panel believes that completion during or immediately following the ATLAS year is feasible, but this was not fully evident from the information provided.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit an updated proposal in the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:** $39,013
Title: "Poetry: A Guide for the Perplexed"

Institution: Loyola University New Orleans

Principal Investigator: Mark Yakich

Dr. Yakich’s excellent project aims to attract a wide audience of students and teachers of poetry and the general public. At the heart of the project is the assumption that there is a disconnect between poetry and the American reading public. That assumption is widespread in communities of practicing poets and teachers of poetry. It is a valid issue—one that deserves to be addressed—and a book on the subject should be of interest to practicing poets, teachers of literature, and the general reading public. The work postulates that the reading and writing of poems assumes that a mastery of one skill is related to the other. This approach has long been foundational in college writing courses but is not yet articulated in books about poetic invention, and was a positive feature of the proposal.

The project is well conceived and designed. The applicant strongly argues the need for a guide for the teaching of poetry, which this book might fill. The work will address creating and analyzing poems, help readers/writers see the complexity of poetry anew, and show ways of engaging poems that are relevant to the world outside of literature. The manuscript will include sections on “prosody, voice, point of view, imagery, metaphor,” as well as aesthetics, politics, critical theory and the role of poets in society today. The project is strong in its sample and overall conceptions, though the list of topics to be addressed would benefit from some additional detail.

Dr. Yakich has entered mid-career as a poet, fiction writer, and essayist, and he has excelled as a writer. His poetry has won several prizes, is critically praised, and is published by a prestigious house, Penguin. In addition, the work sample is crystal clear and beautifully written. The work is imaginative, fresh and vital. The sample—the proposed book’s opening chapter—was accepted for publication in the Atlantic.

Given Dr. Yakich’s impressive record of achievement, there is a high likelihood this project will be completed. His past work has interested excellent publishing houses. He has obviously met his past deadlines, and is a finisher. He has also planned this project to coincide with a sabbatical from teaching, which will give him time to devote to completing the project or at least advancing it to a point where it can be completed shortly after a return to teaching.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $46,466
The subject of Dr. Berkowitz’s project, *The Rise of Botox*, involves an increasingly popular, aggressively marketed surgical procedure, the usage of which surged by 5,000% between 1997 and 2012. Originally targeting older women, advertising campaigns and medical pitches are increasingly directed at younger and younger women. In 2012, 46% of Botox users were younger than 50, and patients aged 19-34 comprised 15% of users. But it is not the procedure that interests Dr. Berkowitz as much as how patients think about it – how they are attracted to it, and what significance they attribute to this operation and its transformative capacity. These are cultural issues that trace the appeal and imagined potential of these treatments to powerful discourses and underlying frameworks of identification in the United States. In this time-sensitive project, Dr. Berkowitz aims to analyze “the rise of medical consumerism and gendered ageism” in a manner that “will generate further understanding about how the ‘medical industrial complex’ continues to enhance their corporate profits through selling the promise of youth, beauty, and the illusion of control.”

In addition to its timeliness and focus on the exploding popularity of a medical procedure, this project’s strength lies in its analytical attention to changing gender dynamics in the U.S. Dr. Berkowitz’s approach aligns with new feminist scholarship “that extend[s] and complicate[s] the once dominant victim-agent debate.” Rather than trying to locate women on one side or the other of this important line, Dr. Berkowitz thinks carefully about the procedure itself, analyzing “how Botox is situated within a larger commoditization of surgical experiences and how stories people tell about Botox are couched within an epistemological context of neoliberalism.” This perspective provides a broader sociological frame by which to understand how certain gendered decisions appear as natural or inevitable. In Dr. Berkowitz’s view, “women’s agency and empowerment are increasingly confined to the aestheticization of their physical appearances tied to consumerism.” This is an important argument because it demonstrates the importance of “how Botox is normalized” as part of “the medicalization of aging” and “the growing trend of expanding medicine to seemingly healthy bodies.” One weakness of the project is that Dr. Berkowitz is not tapping similar research in science studies and the anthropology of science, which would buttress the strength of her argument – in particular, the work of Joseph Dumit (*Drugs for Life*) and Alexander Edmonds (*Pretty Modern*, on plastic surgery in Brazil). As well, her attention to whiteness, evident in her previous work on gay men, seems underdeveloped, even though its bearing is crucial in contextualizing her claim that “Botox is quite literally changing the face of America.”

Dr. Berkowitz is an established scholar of gender and sexuality, having published in a number of important sociology journals. An indicator of the substantial interest in her work is that one of her articles, “Maternal Urges, Biological Clocks, and Soccer Moms” (2011), has been reprinted in three edited books. Her previous subjects – drag queens negotiating their gender and sexual identities; gay fathers contending with normative ideas about family and parenting – clearly attuned Dr. Berkowitz to the value of symbolic interaction and performance theories as analytical frames for thinking about gendered dynamics. Her current project continues her previous attention to “the meaning-making aspects of social life,” and she deploys a consistent set of fieldwork methods: in-depth interviews combined with informal ones and conversations. This strongly suggests that Dr. Berkowitz, as a seasoned qualitative researcher, will produce a deeply informed, richly realized account of this intriguing anti-aging technique.
Dr. Berkowitz is well on her way to finishing this project. She has completed three and a half years of research, which generated a great wealth of qualitative data that she has already fully analyzed. She is at the writing stage now and has drafted four of the book’s proposed seven chapters. As well, she has already presented aspects of her findings in five conference presentations. Her manuscript is under contract with NYU Press, which indicates confidence both in the quality of this work and its likelihood of being completed soon. Dr. Berkowitz presents a very reasonable schedule for writing and revising the remaining chapters, making it highly likely that she will finish this project during the timeframe of this grant.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $50,000
Dr. Miller is developing professional visibility for her work at the intersections of literature, history, and race. Her particular focus as a specialist in comparative literature is the Caribbean and Latin America. Her first book (2005) examined doctrines about mixed race (mestizaje) in the literature, visual culture, and political discourse in this region in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her current study extends her recent work on the politics and poetics of art produced by slaves or about slavery in Cuba and the U.S. Her thesis is that poetry inspired emancipation efforts by individuals and communities. Clearly, this subject resonates with popular audiences in the U.S. – consider only two recent movies, Twelve Years a Slave and Django Unchained, that offered very different artistic responses to American slavery. What makes Dr. Miller’s work so engaging is that it is comparatist in scope, dealing with the U.S. and Cuba, and that it contextualizes the verse of six poets, two of whom were born in the eighteenth century. She extends her analysis into current society by considering two living poets, Rita Dove and Nancy Morejón, demonstrating the historical persistence of memory and tradition before and after Emancipation. The project should hold appeal for academic and non-academic readers alike.

The project is very well conceived. The introduction establishes the methodology and critical framework, and it is evident that Dr. Miller can make a persuasive argument about the value of poetry as a historical source of dialogue in the tradition of the slave narrative. Whether she can show that a “poetics of emancipation” emerges cannot be certain at this point, but this is the core of her argument. It would be possible to extend the argument to artists other than poets and to authors outside of the Americas. But that may be work for a future project. Dr. Miller shows significant engagement with the scholarship of other critics and historians dealing with slavery and literature. As the sample demonstrates, her thesis is well informed by current research, and she knows where she fits in the critical dialogue.

Dr. Miller has published one monograph (2004) with the University of Texas Press that has been very well received. An edited volume appeared last year through Duke University Press, and she has published approximately two dozen articles or chapters. Such productivity augurs well for the quality and impact of her new monograph. She has already talked with two university presses about the manuscript.

It appears that about 70% of the research for this project has been completed, along with drafts of all the chapters. It might be a challenge to meet the demands of the timetable Dr. Miller has set, based on the somewhat vague account of the work already accomplished. However, the panel believes that the combination of a one-semester sabbatical and ATLAS support should provide sufficient time to complete the manuscript.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit an updated proposal in the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $45,953
**PROPOSAL NO. 036ATL-14**  
**Rank: 14**

**TITLE:** “Tragedy Transfigured: Moral Agency & Contemporary Art”

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Alison Denham

Over a broad field of representation, from ancient Greek tragedy to contemporary art, Dr. Denham proposes to investigate the relationship between moral agency and artistic representation. The project seeks to argue that agency is “non-deliberative” in many instances. The role of artistic (including musical) works in shaping affect becomes a source of moral influence on this analysis. The thesis and arguments presented are very interesting and likely to find a wide audience across the disciplines the analysis touches.

The proposal is clear in its purposes and definitions, is well grounded in the bibliography, and builds on Dr. Denham’s previous work. The sample shows that she has a particular range of oeuvres in mind, though the proposal does not present sufficient detail about the works to be included or how they will fit into the extremely well-developed argument; any future application should specify the major targets of analysis.

The applicant has an excellent record of publication and other work in this field, but the timeline and work plan included in the proposal are anachronistic, suggesting that the majority of work to be done (including some specific activities for which funding is requested) will take place in 2013-14, before ATLAS funds from the current competition could be provided. Prior to provision of any funding, the plan of work must be revised to address in detail the calendar period of the grant.

The project is strongly recommended for partial funding of $46,599 if sufficient resources are available. The proposed travel to Britain, which appears to take place before the grant period, should be eliminated. Issues related to the schedule of activities during the grant period should be fully resolved with Board staff before funds are provided. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:** $46,599
**PROPOSAL NO. 049ATL-14**  
**Rank: 15**

**TITLE:** “Dimensions of Women in Isolation: World Premiere and New CD of Works for Solo Voice and Piano by Libby Larsen”

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Monroe

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Claire Vangelisti

Dr. Vangelisti’s project, *Hear Me! – Dimensions of Women in Isolation*, will add to the literature for solo voice and piano by commissioning new pieces from the composer Libby Larsen. The commissioned song cycle will focus on the theme of isolated women in diverse cultures. This theme, carried across different components of the project, imparts an aspect that is uncommon, interesting, and unifying. The commissioned pieces and others, all collected around the theme of the isolated woman, will be recorded on a CD, featuring Dr. Vangelisti as the vocal soloist and pianist Dr. Richard Seiler. The anticipated audience will range from academics/experts of Art Song, teachers of voice, and students of voice to general music enthusiasts.

This is a well-conceived proposal. Dr. Vangelisti stresses the musical abilities of both performers and the composer, as well as the relationship between them. She also persuasively explains the thematic gender elements, which unify the project on an ideational level. There is a fine balance and integration of conceptual structure, intellectual elements and genuine emotion.

The applicant’s earlier work is excellent, as are the samples of the performances provided with the proposal. There is a welcome sense of individual voice and style in Dr. Vangelisti’s performances. Libby Larsen’s career is likewise impressive and numerous recordings of her work are available, arguing that this work might be commercially produced. The additional works proposed for the recording give the project even greater commercial potential. Both Dr. Vangelisti’s previous work and the preparations for this project underscore the likelihood that the finished works and recordings will be of very high quality.

This project includes three major activities: commissioning a 17.5 minute song cycle for soprano and piano by Libby Larsen; presenting the world premiere performance of this song cycle at the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and recording of the commissioned song cycle and other works related to the theme of the isolated woman. The panel is confident that the work can be completed during the timeframe proposed.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available this year, the panel recommends that the applicant revise the proposal and work sample for the next ATLAS cycle.

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:** $50,000
PROPOSAL NO. 023ATL-14  

TITLE: “Ancestral Modernities: Middle Passage Memory & Religious Globalization"  

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge  

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Peter Sutherland  

Dr. Sutherland aims to provide “a visionary account of Black Atlantic globalization,” one that regards much of the cultural traffic in commemorating and remembering the slave trade as fundamentally oriented toward interpreting our current moment rather than the past. This is a potentially insightful approach because it draws into view many phenomena – mostly religious, but also technological and economic – that would fall outside of a strict sociological attention to race and racial identity. As well, as its title indicates, Ancestral Modernities is about the temporal conflations and confusions that “recent forms of Middle Passage memory” entail. Dr. Sutherland traces this dynamic through an eclectic and seemingly disconnected series of nine case studies of contested cultural production. But he aligns them to reveal “a multi-vocal Black Atlantic,” with a variety of different responses to neoliberal globalization, where more dominant familiar discourses on the African diaspora would insist on a more monolithic, unified racial subject. Dr. Sutherland argues that his disparate case studies amount to “sacred geographies of redemption for the global era,” but whether this vision is entirely borne out either in his analysis or in the distinct cases is not entirely clear. Without knowing, for instance, how “redemption” is proposed and achieved in each setting, it is not certain that the unity he discerns is actually realized.  

The strength of this proposal is its ambitious scope and distinctive sensibility about the spatial and temporal dimensions of memory projects; but this scope can also be a weakness, because Dr. Sutherland’s argument sprawls and sometimes seems vague. To begin with, his “corpus of visions” or selected case studies feature “ancestral slaves, Vodou Iwa, Japanese Buddhist mantras, and a Beninese view of the Holy Spirit.” Dr. Sutherland casts each of these together as “transnational religious discourse and practice,” but he seems to give no consideration to how such highly differentiated religions might be more distinctly oriented than unified. This problem is compounded by his critical attention to neoliberalism. Dr. Sutherland deploys “each case-study to critique loose or inaccurate conceptions of neoliberalism.” This seems to render the distinct settings and events in artificially uniform fashion, as “cultural vectors of occult economies” “at the neoliberal nexus of ‘casino capitalism,’ ‘structural adjustment’, and the ‘withdrawal of the state’ from social/ist commitments.” Again, this may well be a compelling account in the end, where the underlying similarities provide a substantive basis for the abstractions Dr. Sutherland formulates, but the proposal needs to make a clear statement that the relative differences in the case studies are being taken fully into account.  

Dr. Sutherland has considerable administrative and teaching duties, which have limited the quantity of his publications, but their quality is strong. He has the additional challenge of having amassed a great deal of material (based on the 16 years he has spent compiling materials on Middle Passage memory) that he is seeking time to organize and develop further. His clear organizational skills speak strongly to his thoroughgoing preparation for this undertaking and the likelihood that the final book manuscript will be an accomplished and significant work. Dr. Sutherland has been in contact with an appropriate publisher, whose interest in this project also is a good indicator of its relevance and import.  

Dr. Sutherland has completed drafts of the manuscript’s introduction and six of its proposed seven chapters. Some of these subjects are addressed in several of his journal publications and so are quite likely well developed. In addition to finishing and revising the manuscript, Dr. Sutherland proposes to undertake three short fieldwork trips, to Benin, St. Croix, and Nantes, France; data gathered will be incorporated into two of the book’s chapters. His rationale for pursuing these short trips seems reasonable and will contribute to the overall strength of the final product, but they may somewhat complicate his plans to complete this manuscript within or immediately following the ATLAS year.  

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.  

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $39,564
PROPOSAL NO. 013ATL-14

TITLE: “Waste People: Class Structure and the Significance of White Trash in America, 1500 to the Present”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Nancy Isenberg

Contemporary American political discourse bristles with assertions about “class warfare,” but it is not clear that anybody knows what “class” means. Economists can describe the increasing gaps between the richest citizens (“the one percent”) and the rest, but they do not draw “class lines” based on income. Politicians cite the need to expand and protect the middle class; they celebrate the inspirational stories of social mobility, individuals who have “risen” from humble origins to professional success (usually measured by wealth).

Into this conceptual morass Dr. Isenberg boldly ventures. Her fifteen-chapter monograph has already attracted a contract from Viking – a very respectable trade press that will guarantee a wide lay audience as well as the attention of professional historians – and the volume will generate a great amount of discussion. Her central argument is that, far from being a classless society, the U.S. quickly built structures, processes, laws, and values that instantiated a “bottom class” – what she calls the “waste people”. This “war on the poor” has thus existed from the nation’s origins. The applicant’s approach to social and political history is provocative and controversial, but the book will likely make a mark because of its rigorous attention to sources and its willingness to make broad arguments about culture.

Dr. Isenberg’s scholarly career is impressive. She is the author of three previous monographs and the co-editor of another volume. She has more than a dozen significant chapters and articles published in the past ten years. The current project promises to continue her record of success. The manuscript is very far along, with eleven of fifteen chapters drafted, and will certainly be completed in timely fashion.

This is a well-organized, clearly described monograph. The chapters are logically connected and trace the development of Dr. Isenberg’s argument over more than four centuries. The sample provided, of chapter 11, is scholarly yet rhetorically appropriate for the broadly defined target audience. Still, the panel noted a few points that might benefit from additional consideration. First, the project’s vast sweep from the colonial past to the present makes it seem more a popular history than an original work of scholarship and it might benefit from the inclusion of complications, reversals, dialectics, and the like. Second, missing from the account is deep thought given to the “whiteness” of white trash. What happens to race? Some reference to David Roediger’s work here seems essential. Moreover, some of the sharpest analyses of white trash have been penned by black Americans, from Douglass to Baldwin, who are likewise not cited.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $50,000
In his dissertation, Dr. Darden developed theoretical and empirical models of an individual’s decision to smoke cigarettes and the proposed project is a continuation of this previous work. He was initially drawn to this topic because he was intrigued by the question of why a rational individual would engage in such unhealthy behavior – especially in the early twenty-first century, at which time the adverse health consequences of smoking are well documented. From the perspective of an academic economist, if an empirical study can demonstrate that there is a market failure (smokers are uninformed of the health risks of smoking; smokers are internally conflicted in that they want to quit but cannot), then a policy intervention to encourage people to stop smoking would be justified. Dr. Darden’s work has an audience within the economics discipline, but also promises to be of practical relevance to public health officials, policymakers, pension funds, and doctors.

Dr. Darden is the first social scientist to be granted access to important secondary data from the Framingham Heart Study (FHS), which followed two cohorts of individuals over 50 years and established a connection between smoking and heart disease. He proposes to use the FHS data to address two questions about smoking and death. First, to what extent is the relationship between smoking and expected longevity, or mortality, muddled by factors such as alcohol drinking and lower body mass index? In other words, people may die not because of smoking per se, but because of behaviors that correlate with smoking. Furthermore, there is an issue as to which way the causality goes – does smoking cause poor health, or does people’s poor health make them smoke? Because they do not cope with these two problems – correlation and causation – standard statistical methods may generate misleading statements about the relationship between smoking and death. By way of contrast, with the insertion of the FHS data, Dr. Darden’s empirical model will allow him to simulate mortality under various counterfactual smoking scenarios, which will enable him to disentangle correlation and causation.

In a second paper Dr. Darden proposes to model individual smoking behavior as a function of parental health and smoking behavior. If an adult smoker observes a parent experiencing what he calls a “smoking related health shock”, the adult smoker may quit. Analyzing this health shock effect empirically may inform anti-smoking policy. Dr. Darden’s modeling is structural rather than descriptive, in that the model with its estimated model parameters can be simulated under different counterfactual smoking patterns, enabling him to develop a better understanding of how individuals respond to parental health shocks. The fact that the FHS covers two cohorts (middle-aged adults and old-age parents) is important here.

The project is strongly conceived, defined, and organized. It is puzzling, however, why this project would be classified as economics. Here and there in the narrative, Dr. Darden suggests the importance of the fact that he is taking an economics approach, but the actual project seems to be a rather straightforward public health project. There is nothing in the proposal to suggest that the individuals in Dr. Darden’s various models are maximizing utility subject to constraints; individuals just do whatever they do, and the project’s purpose is to disentangle the resulting complex correlation patterns. Overall, Dr. Darden’s strength appears to be on the empirical side – he employs structural in place of descriptive modeling to address complicated questions of correlation and causation – and not so much on the theoretical side, as in, why people smoke in spite of what is commonly known about the adverse health effects of smoking, or why this middle-aged adult continues smoking even after observing a parent die from lung cancer, whereas that middle-aged adult in exactly the same situation quit smoking.
Dr. Darden is a recently appointed assistant professor, and thus does not yet have a long track record of scholarly publications. However, all indications are that he is already active in submitting papers to peer-reviewed journals in economics, health economics, and public health. According to the proposal, one of his submitted papers is in the second “revise and resubmit” round at the *Journal of Political Economy*, which is a leading journal in the economics discipline. The proposed plan for the current project is feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Darden will complete the project in a timely manner.

The project is highly recommended for funding if sufficient resources are available. If funding is not available this year, the panel encourages the applicant to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:** $49,416
PROPOSAL NO.  014ATL-14  

RANK: 19

TITLE:  “Etiologies of Sexuality and the Making of the Congenital Body”

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Benjamin Kahan

This is a very strong project with a central argument that is theoretically sophisticated and bold, even brave. Its argument and method will be controversial since, as Dr. Kahan states, “queer theory has been hesitant to discuss the fraught etiological history of sexuality, focusing instead on epistemological questions.” Given Dr. Kahan’s embrace of his approach, the project is likely to have a broad and important impact.

Like Dr. Kahan’s first book, *Celibacies*, this new project promises to contribute to a field by striking out in a new direction – not just by following a path already trodden by others. The applicant clearly has the ability to make such a theoretical intervention effectively. His suggestion that congenital difference is a better strategy for queer politics than “strategic essentialism” seems very promising. That said, the panel wonders whether the (mainly literary) evidentiary materials on which Dr. Kahan has chosen to draw will actually be strong enough to bear the weight of his (historical) argument as he now states it. But this is by no means a fatal flaw. Indeed, it is conventional now to make very strong historical claims based on relatively thin evidence drawn primarily from literary sources. Indeed, when sexuality is the topic, literary sources are often as good as any other kind of evidence available.

Dr. Kahan has a very strong publication record: a book published in 2013 by Duke University Press, five articles and six reviews since his 2007 PhD. Both his published book and this meticulously crafted project proposal give assurance that he will produce a second book of very high quality. In addition, he has made good progress on the project since the last proposal submission, making it almost certain that he can complete the project during an ATLAS year. Dr. Kahan has revised drafts of three chapters, and will complete chapter 4 during a research leave this spring. This leaves the final chapter to be written and a revision of the whole manuscript to be completed during the year of ATLAS funding.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available this year, the panel recommends revision of the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $41,236
Dr. Walton seeks support for writing her chapters of a co-authored (with Helen Regis) book about the New Orleans Jazz Fest. The book, she indicates, will serve “three purposes: 1) the first-ever history of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, one of the world’s largest music festivals; 2) an ethnography of the fans and producers of the festival, the thousands who arrange their yearly calendars around the festival and a devoted few who even changed jobs to be near; and 3) a call to rethink affect and desire in social theory, particularly the theoretical concept of ‘sincerity’ as a force in social/class/racial structures, using this as a case study of what can and cannot be ‘accomplished’. ” This is an interesting and worthy project, which clearly will attract both academic and popular audiences, with a particular appeal within Louisiana.

The panel is concerned, however, that Dr. Walton has not yet sufficiently demonstrated the significance of the project to a current field of study. In particular, she did not make clear in the proposal what she means by a “call to rethink affect and desire in social theory, particularly the theoretical concept of ‘sincerity’ as a force in social/class/racial structures, using this as a case study of what can and cannot be ‘accomplished’. ” To address the panel’s concern, this claim needs to be more concretely situated in the context of conversations about affect in social theory.

This project is the culmination of years of collaborative anthropological work with Dr. Regis, which has “produced more than two dozen oral history interviews, 300 surveys, hundreds of photographs, and 200 conceptual maps, all of which have been deposited in the Archives.” Dr. Walton clearly has the ethnographic experience required to complete her portion of the work, and the writing sample indicates strongly that her contributions will be excellent. She has co-edited one book and written (and co-authored) a number of articles, giving evidence of the quality of her previous work. In terms of the current project, a good deal of the work has already been done. Though the timetable appears to be somewhat ambitious, particularly given Dr. Walton’s teaching commitments, the panel is confident that what remains could be accomplished during the time requested through ATLAS.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $19,650
The current “crisis in the Humanities” recalls for Dr. Rovee an earlier upheaval during the Depression, when Romanticism was “dislocated from its central place in the curriculum” by the New Critics. The subject of canon formation has wide appeal currently, and Dr. Rovee’s project would contribute to the ongoing discussion. He did not, however, make clear what the significance of this project is to particular scholarly fields, or to which field(s) the project would contribute. If it is twentieth-century American poetry, then he will need to take greater pains to show how this project will intervene in issues and questions that currently animate that field. Rethinking the relation of the New Critics to Romanticism may have value in itself, but the proposal must make a stronger case that such rethinking will have significance more broadly.

Dr. Rovee is a productive scholar whose future work holds great promise based both on the quality of the work sample provided and his past scholarly productions. He is the author of one book (2006), two important articles, and a great many reviews, all of high quality. The current project is very strong and well described and the work sample on Keats is admirably substantive.

Although the proposal is excellent, it lacks some much-needed specificity. Dr. Rovee describes the project succinctly, but he does not satisfactorily address two issues. First, what makes him sure that more exact knowledge of the New Criticism’s relation to Romantic poetry will speak to, or have an impact on, the current “crisis in the Humanities?” Second, and more important, what exactly will each chapter be about? Dr. Rovee tells us only that each will discuss how a particular Romantic poet was read by the New Critics. This scheme raises several questions: what is the value added by these multiple chapters? Why not concentrate on just two or three poets, or even just one as representative of them all? What do we gain by reading the chapters in the order he proposes? Is this order suggestive of an underlying pattern, conceptual or chronological, or is it random? Though the individual pieces are strong, the structure of the work as a whole remains somewhat nebulous.

Though the panel was concerned that it may be overambitious, the schedule of work presented in the proposal is admirably detailed and Dr. Rovee is well positioned to complete the work within a reasonable timeframe.

The project is highly recommended for funding if sufficient resources are available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: $47,780
PROPOSAL NO. 021ATL-14                                                    Rank:  22

TITLE:  “Thinking the Event”

INSTITUTION:  Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:  François Raffoul

Pursuing a line of inquiry that arises from his monograph, *The Origins of Responsibility* (2010), the development of which was supported by an ATLAS award in 2006-07, Dr. Raffoul proposes to investigate the concept of “event” in the writings of such Continental philosophers as Arendt, Heidegger, Marion, Romano, Derrida, Levinas, and Nancy. Once thinking eschews views of essence or substance, event becomes the central category of understanding what happens. But that apparent agreement quickly breaks down, when it becomes plain that event is differently construed by the writers. The project is to find a solution in seeing event as what “comes in excess in relation to the subject.”

Dr. Raffoul has built a substantial scholarly career and his work has been consistently of the highest quality. Preparations for this project promise to continue his previous success. The proposal clarifies a difficult subject and argues its case comprehensively, setting out a detailed trajectory of work. The work sample on Jean-Luc Nancy and democracy is excellent and illuminates well the argument of the book.

There is an extremely high likelihood that the project will be completed elegantly. Dr. Raffoul has made significant progress on the work over the past year, largely rethinking chapters 6 and 7 in the prospectus. Four of seven chapters are drafted, with plans to complete two more in spring 2014. Indeed, the work is very far advanced and the panel was not convinced that Dr. Raffoul requires ATLAS support to finish.

The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle if sufficient work remains to be done on the project.

BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:  $26,956
APPENDIX E

OUT-OF-STATE EXPERTS WHO SERVED AS FINAL AND SUBJECT-AREA PANELISTS

I. Final Panel

Nicholas Bromell
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English
University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Susanne Lohmann
Professor
Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Program on Human Complex Systems
University of California – Los Angeles

Carol Martin
Professor
Department of Drama
Tisch School for the Arts
New York University

II. Arts Subject-Area Panel

Carol Martin, Chair
Professor
Department of Drama
Tisch School for the Arts
New York University

Stuart Dybek
Distinguished Writer in Residence
Northwestern University

Cora Cohen
Independent Artist
III. Humanities Subject-Area Panel

Nicholas Bromell, Chair
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English
University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Bruce Chilton
Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Department of Religion
Bard College

Kathryn Grossman
Professor
Department of French and Francophone Studies
Penn State University

James Sheehan
Dickason Professor in the Humanities
Stanford Humanities Center
Stanford University

IV. Social Sciences Subject-Area Panel

Susanne Lohmann, Chair
Professor
Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Program on Human Complex
Systems
University of California – Los Angeles

John Hartigan
Professor
Department of Anthropology and Americo Paredes Center for Cultural Studies
University of Texas at Austin
APPENDIX F

AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS) SUBPROGRAM
FY 2013-14
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

52 TOTAL PROPOSALS

32 HUM Humanities
12 ARTS Arts
  8 SOC SCI Social Sciences

TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS REQUESTED: $2,197,745
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Proposal # &amp; Discipline</th>
<th>PI Name(s)</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
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<td>001ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Jacqueline Bach</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Reel Teaching: Education in/through Documentaries, Biopics, and Reality Television</td>
<td>$47,021</td>
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<td>002ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Lynne Baggett</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Idiosyncrasies and Innovation: An exhibition and publication analyzing the design of incised letterform carvings from 17th and 18th Century grave markers</td>
<td>$49,612</td>
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<td>003ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>James Bennett</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>A Family of Interest, a short story sequence</td>
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<td>004ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Dana Berkowitz</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>The Rise of Botox: How the anti-aging wonder drug is changing the face of America</td>
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<td>005ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Andrew Burstein</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson and His Modern Fate</td>
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<td>006ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Alejandro Cortazar</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Historias de amor, historias de la nación: romanticismo e identidad cultural en México</td>
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<td>007ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Brannon Costello</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Lost in the Futurama: The Comics Art of Howard Chaykin</td>
<td>$49,639</td>
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<td>David Culbert</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Nazi Cinema Propaganda: Riefenstahl’s Aesthetics and National Identity</td>
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<td>Michael Desmond</td>
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<td>Representation of Self &amp; Community in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Organic Architecture</td>
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<td>Sylvie Dubois</td>
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<td>Louisiana Linguistic History as Reflected in the Records and Practices of the Catholic Church, 1720 to 1955</td>
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<td>011ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Barbara Heifferon</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Ministers versus Doctors: The Rhetoric of America’s First Smallpox Inoculation</td>
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<td>Katherine Henninger</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Southern Sexualities and the National Imagination</td>
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<td>Nancy Isenberg</td>
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<td>Waste People: Class Structure and the Significance of White Trash in America, 1500 to the Present</td>
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<td>Benjamin Kahan</td>
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<td>Etiologies of Sexuality and the Making of the Congenital Body</td>
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<td>Touria Khannous</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Black-Arab Encounters: Representations of Blackness in Arabic Literature</td>
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<td>016ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Pamela Monroe</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Turning the Tide on Poverty: A Multistate Analysis of Innovations in Economically Distressed Communities</td>
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<td>Daniel Novak</td>
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<td>Victoria’s Accursed Race: The Cagots, the Body, and Race in Nineteenth-Century England</td>
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<td>018ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Elisabeth Oliver</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>A Searchable Glossary of Anglo-Saxon Legal Terminology</td>
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<td>Solimar Otero</td>
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<td>Montada: Re-possessing Afrolatina/o Storytelling and Ritual</td>
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<td>020ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
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<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Dynamic Group Teaching: Global Perspectives on Teaching Piano to Children and Adults in Groups</td>
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<td>021ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>François Raffoul</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Thinking the Event</td>
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<td>Christopher Rovee</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Romanticism and the New Critics: The Reading of Lyric in the American University, 1930-1960</td>
<td>$47,780</td>
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<td>023ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Peter Sutherland</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Ancestral Modernities: Middle Passage Memory &amp; Religious Globalization</td>
<td>$39,564</td>
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<td>024ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Yung-Chiao Wei</td>
<td>LSU-BR</td>
<td>Color and Imagination – Commissioning, Recording, Publishing and Performing New Works for the Double Bass</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td>027ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Nathan Henne</td>
<td>Loyola</td>
<td>More than Translation: Using the Popol Wuj as a Guide to Teach Indigenous Literatures</td>
<td>$41,788</td>
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<td>Mark Yakich</td>
<td>Loyola</td>
<td>Poetry: A Guide for the Perplexed</td>
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<td>029ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Valerie Jones-Francis</td>
<td>Nicholls</td>
<td>Reflecting 19th Century New Orleans Musical Traditions and Cultural Blueprints</td>
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<td>Shana Walton</td>
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<td>Jazz Fest: Love Stories and American Dilemmas</td>
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<td>031ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>David Porter</td>
<td>SUBR</td>
<td>Reconstructing the First Long Text in English: An English Encyclopedia at the 7th Century School of Canterbury</td>
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<td>032ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>William Ahearn</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
<td>Completing a book entitled The Imprecise Muse</td>
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<td>Brian Brox</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
<td>Early Voting in American Elections</td>
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<td>035ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Michael Darden</td>
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<td>Smoking, Morbidity, and Mortality: Evidence from a Long Panel</td>
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<td>036ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Alison Denham</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
<td>Tragedy Transfigured: Moral Agency &amp; Contemporary Art</td>
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<td>037ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Patrick Egan</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
<td>Innovation from Without: The Quality of Foreign Direct Investment in Developing Countries</td>
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<td>Faycal Falaky</td>
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<td>Movement and Stillness: From Pascal to the Arab Spring</td>
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<td>Emily Dickinson and American Constructions of Time in the 19th Century</td>
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<td>Adeline Masquelier</td>
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<td>Navigating Uncertainty: Youth, Islam, and Citizenship in Niger</td>
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<td>041ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Marilyn Miller</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
<td>Freed Verse: Poetics of Emancipation in Cuba and the United States</td>
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<td>042ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bobo</td>
<td>UL Lafayette</td>
<td>Marketing Milton: Publishers, Politics, and an English Literary Canon 1641-1776</td>
<td>$20,685</td>
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<td>043ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Vincent Bouchard</td>
<td>UL Lafayette</td>
<td>The Movie Commentator in Africa: Between Propaganda and Popular Appropriation</td>
<td>$49,200</td>
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<td>044ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Keith Dorwick</td>
<td>UL Lafayette</td>
<td>True Learning: The Depictions of Teaching and Education in C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Dorothy Sayers and Other Christian Authors of the 30s and 40s</td>
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<td>045ATL-14 SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Elizabeth Nyman</td>
<td>UL Lafayette</td>
<td>Salt Water Conflict: Examining Why States Engage in International Maritime Disputes</td>
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<td>046ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Clai Rice</td>
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<td>Folk Illusions: A New Category of Folklore</td>
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<td>047ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Charles Richard</td>
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<td>In the Mind of the Maker</td>
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<td>048ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Mark Clark</td>
<td>UL Monroe</td>
<td>Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci public performances and workshops</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prop. # &amp; Discipline</td>
<td>PI Name(s)</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Proposal Title</td>
<td>Amount Requested</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>049ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Claire Vangelisti</td>
<td>UL Monroe</td>
<td>Dimensions of Women in Isolation: World Premiere and New CD of Works for Solo Voice and Piano by Libby Larsen</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td>050ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>John Gery</td>
<td>UNO</td>
<td>In Clear Disarray: A New Collection of Poems</td>
<td>$23,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>051ATL-14 ARTS</td>
<td>Richard Goodman</td>
<td>UNO</td>
<td>Storyville</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>052ATL-14 HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Mary Mitchell</td>
<td>UNO</td>
<td>The Slave Girl in the Archive</td>
<td>$18,764</td>
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2013-14 COMPETITION: SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Number of Proposals: 52
  Arts: 12
  Humanities: 32
  Social Sciences: 8

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED: $2,197,745