

2007 PTL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AWARDS

Eleven Part-Time Lecturers received Professional Development Fund (PDF) Awards in 2007. The Rutgers Research Council administers the \$5,000 Professional Development Fund for Part-Time Lecturers. The awards in 2007 ranged from \$250 to \$850. Last year 14 PTL's received awards ranging from \$200 to \$400. This funding is intended for any professional activity related to a PTL's teaching, e.g., attending a conference, delivering a paper, doing a research project. This fund is negotiated by the PTLFC-AAUP-AFT with Rutgers University Central Administration and proposals have been submitted to create a joint decision-making committee as well as increase the total amount of the Fund.

Format for PDF Proposals:

Name

Department/ decanal unit/
campus

Amount of funding requested

Semester during which funds
will be expended

Project statement, including
how the project relates to
professional activities at
Rutgers (limited to one page)

Note: Apply in the Fall for
Spring disbursement. Funds
are dispersed only to
individuals holding a PTL
appointment at Rutgers for
the semester in which they
will expend the funds.

Congratulations to the 2007 Part-Time Lecturer Professional Development Fund Awardees. They are as follows:

Tzu Min Chang (Asian Languages and Cultures, New Brunswick) for a project exploring student beliefs in learning Chinese, effective methods of instruction and the correlation between instructional methods and student achievement in Chinese heritage language classes.

Andrew Demirjian (Visual and Performing Arts, Newark) to purchase industry-standard software for performance video.

John Douard (Philosophy, New Brunswick) to offset some of the expenses relating to participation in a session he organized on psychiatry in criminal justice and the expression of disgust in the law at the Congress in Padua.

Rachel Goldman (History, Newark) to offset travel expenses to present a paper at the Athens Institute for Education and Research on "Green Gifts and Purple Raiments: Cultural Constructions of Colored Clothing in Classical and Hellenistic Greece."

David Howe (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, New Brunswick) to purchase equipment and cultures to raise a selection of micro-crustaceans.

Harold W. Kramer (Labor Studies and Employment Relations, New Brunswick) to offset travel expenses to Venezuela on an educational trip with 10 students who will learn about land reform and rural development.

Debra Miller (Fine Arts, Camden) to offset expenses involved in curating of the exhibition entitled "Going Global, Breaking Boundaries."

Elizabeth Miller (Visual and Performing Arts, Newark) to bring chamber music groups to the Newark Campus to perform concerts for our students.

Jeffrey Podoshen (Business, Camden) to offset travel expenses to attend the annual Society for Marketing Advances Conference.

Ann Rosen Spector (Psychology, Camden) to offset travel expenses to San Francisco to appear on a panel entitled "Multicultural Mentoring" at the Association of Women in Psychology.

Peter Sugarman (Geological Sciences, New Brunswick) to offset costs associated with presenting a paper entitled "Hydrostratigraphy of the New Jersey Coastal Plain: Sequences and Facies Predict Continuity of Aquifers and Confining Units" at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America.

PART-TIME PROFILE: Steve Peterson



Steve Peterson has been a part-time lecturer in the Rutgers-New Brunswick Math Department since 2002. His participation on the PTLFC-AAUP-AFT Bargaining Team (along with his community activism

in the area of New Jersey housing) reflects a determination to expose error and right wrongs.

Beginning in 2000, Steve and his wife, Violet, have been active in their community regarding the "scandal in new home construction" in New Jersey, as documented by the New Jersey Commission of Investigation (SCI). Discovering numerous code violations in their local township, prevalent throughout their development and across the State, their work revealed that thousands of homes were poorly built and were not properly inspected. Angry homeowners exposed the deplorable state of new construction, the failures of the local construction offices, and the lack of meaningful oversight by the State. The SCI conducted an extensive investigation, documenting construction and governmental problems all over New Jersey, which had cost thousands of homeowners millions of dollars. The Petersons are still involved trying to change the laws and to hold the responsible officials accountable.

Steve now brings this tenacity and good sense to the bargaining table in service of PTL's at Rutgers. Through his involvement in the housing scandal, Steve learned the real power of citizens working together to achieve change. In his own community, action resulted only when homeowners with a common interest banded together and presented a set of problems, proposals, and a unified front to the local Township governing body. Then, the local officials had to listen and take action. This collective action applies to employee negotiations as well. Steve has already proven himself to be valuable with his careful eye to detail in negotiations with the administration.

After receiving a BA in mathematics and political science from Tulane, Steve joined the Peace Corps

and served two years in Malaysia as a math teacher. He went back to graduate school at the University of New Mexico and the University of Notre Dame, earning a Ph.D. in mathematics. He has worked at Bell Laboratories and Accenture as a telecommunications engineer, specializing in network management and telecommunications in Asia. He currently works at ETS as a text specialist, while also teaching at Raritan Valley Community College. Another multi-tasking PTL at work, similar to Amanda Eckstein who was profiled in the last newsletter!

When asked why the AAUP-AFT union and negotiations are so important to PTL's, Steve says, smiling: "There is a saying in Malay, 'sekit sekit lama lama jadi bukit' (Little by little, eventually it becomes a mountain). Through concerted, patient, united action we can achieve our goals."

CONTRACT ACTION NEWS UPDATE

The Part-Time Lecturer Faculty Chapter of Rutgers AAUP-AFT negotiates a separate contract with the administration at Rutgers University, but the full time faculty & TA-GA group and PTLFC are paying close attention to each other's progress, including an observer from each group sitting with the other team at the table. This sends a strong symbolic message of solidarity. You, the members, are very important in the bargaining process because it is your willingness to participate in Contract Actions that will send a message to the administration that members want a decent contract. Standing up for your priorities is essential; they are the specific proposals you want to become part of the contract. You are the final step of approval for any contract negotiated by your bargaining team. After the team reaches a tentative agreement, you vote whether or not to ratify it. Thus, the real power in any negotiations is in the hands of the members. But this begins with the survey and continues all the way to the ratification vote. Writing letters, attending rallies, or other imaginative ways of highlighting the important of your issues will show the administration that members are watching. Contact Karen Thompson, <mailto:karent@rutgersaaup.org>, if you'd like to be part of the contract action team.

A strong membership is vital to getting a decent contract. So please encourage others to join and verify that you are a full member today.

JOIN TODAY! Visit www.rutgersaaup.org