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DR. ANDREA BARTOLI



An anthropologist by training and a specialist in the study of peacemaking, Dr. Andrea Bartoli has spent much of the past six years focusing on a most troubling human artifact: genocide. In particular, Dr. Bartoli's research attempts to analyze and understand the antecedents of genocide, with the goal of applying that understanding to both historical and real time instances.

The co-editor of *Somalia, Rwanda and Beyond: The Role of International Media in Wars and International Crisis*, Dr. Bartoli is also the founding director of Columbia University's Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), is a senior research scholar at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and is a teaching fellow at Georgetown University. He became a member of the faculty in ICAR in 2007.

The study of genocide is one of many trends in conflict analysis research that have emerged during the field's twenty-five years of existence. Human rights, dynamical systems and gender studies have joined the more traditional foci of political, anthropological and sociological theory in illuminating the causes of conflict.

As the Drucie French Cumbie Chair in the

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research@mason is a quarterly newsletter that highlights many of the outstanding and innovative research efforts of the students and faculty here at Mason. This certainly is an exciting time for research as we continue to see growth in many of our programs. In an effort to keep the Mason research community informed, **research@mason** will also provide updates on federal, state and university policy changes, organizational updates and other topics of interest to all faculty and staff involved in research.



ITEST Game Design Project
DR. KEVIN CLARK

The Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) Game Design project is the collaborative initiative to expand the "Be The Game" program at McKinley Technology High School in Washington, DC. **Kevin A. Clark**, Associate Professor in the Instructional Technology program in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), is the Principal Investigator (PI) on this National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project, "Game Design Through Mentoring and Collaboration." The Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) of this project is **Kimberly Sheridan**, Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in CEHD and the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA). In addition to McKinley students, the project is comprised of students from Ballou High School and other middle schools in the District of Columbia; and is also open to students in Maryland and Virginia.

The project's primary goal is to increase motivation, achievement, and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) content of middle and high school students from urban public schools

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Soon, Mason will be receiving the first of what we hope will be many awards funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the stimulus package signed by the President on February 17, 2009. While this is certainly good news, there will be additional record keeping and reporting requirements accompanying these awards.

The goals of the Recovery Act are job creation, economic growth, and strengthening of the middle class by updating infrastructure, improving energy independence, educational opportunities, health care, and protecting those in greatest need. Section 1512(c) of the Recovery Act, requires recipients of ARRA funding to report quarterly on their use of the funds. The reports will be due on the 10th day after the end of the quarter, beginning with the quarter ending June 30, 2009, due July 10, 2009. The Office of Management and Budget(OMB) is currently working with agencies to determine how the reports will be collected for the July 10th reports, but a new online reporting tool at www.FederalReporting.gov will be ready for report submission by the October 10 reporting deadline. Detailed reporting instructions for using the system will be available in late August, 2009.

The reports will contain:

- The total amount of recovery funds received from that agency
- The amount expended or obligated
- A detailed list of all projects including name of the project, description of the project, evaluation of the completion status of the project
- Estimate of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained by the project. This is a new requirement for ARRA funding only. More guidance is expected from the government regarding the calculation of these estimates, but they will be based on FTE (full-time equivalent) jobs for part time and temporary positions
- Detailed information on subcontracts awarded by the recipient, or aggregate reporting on subcontracts below \$25,000

These reports will be made public on a new website, Recovery.gov. In keeping with the Administration's plan to provide "unprecedented transparency" to the taxpayer, the website will be available to provide detailed information regarding how the stimulus dollars are being spent. Because the Recovery Act is meant to stimulate the economy, recipients will be expected to spend in a timely manner, and the agencies will be monitoring expenditure rates closely. They may consider termination of the award if no allowable expenditures have taken place after 12 months. The National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other agencies have been updating their websites regarding obtaining ARRA funding and the reporting requirements. During the past month, OSP has been working closely with faculty on their Recovery Act proposals with over 65 recovery proposals in process for late April and early May deadlines. OSP is also prepared to work with PIs and unit administrators to make sure award requirements are met, including the increased level of reporting. For more information and links to specific agency information regarding implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, see the [research website](#).

RECOVERY ACT OPPORTUNITIES

A large number of funding opportunities are becoming available as federal agencies implement the Recovery Act. We encourage you to search for grant opportunities at Grants.gov or visit the [research website](#) for the most current information.



These opportunities are highly competitive and limited. We recommend you contact the agency program officer to determine if your research project is best suited for a Recovery Act funding.

UPDATE Director of Sponsored Programs

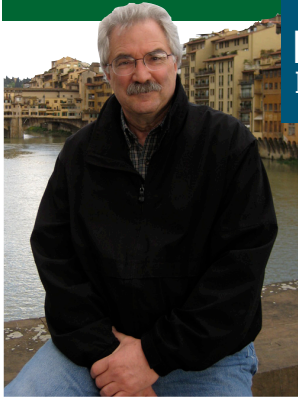


The past few months have been extremely busy for the Mason research community. We continue to see positive trends in research levels with expenditures through the 3rd quarter reaching \$72M. Also, activity related to the stimulus package and recovery funding has been steadily increasing over the past few weeks. The benefits to research are obvious, as the funding provides a tremendous opportunity for the federal government to support the exciting work of our faculty, but there are also some unique challenges facing Mason and other research universities. During the month of April, our proposal submissions were approximately three times the normal volume with 150 proposals submitted – 70 were for ARRA funds. All proposals were submitted on time and we worked very closely with faculty and unit administrators to set very clear timelines to reduce the risk of missed deadlines because of grants.gov delays. Now that the first wave of ARRA proposals is behind us, we are hopeful that our success rate will be high. We also are working on developing guidelines and procedures that will help PIs meet the increased reporting that goes along with the transparency and accountability requirements of ARRA. Frequent updates regarding ARRA funding opportunities and reporting requirements can be found on the [research website](#).

Fiscal year end is fast approaching and there are a number of clean-up efforts underway including a

review of all cost sharing on active sponsored awards. During the last week of April most units received a summary of their FY09 cost share commitments for FY09. All committed cost share expenses must be charged using an activity code established at the time of award. It is always important to code cost sharing correctly, but there is added importance this year because it is our base year for the F&A (indirect) cost rate negotiation. During the base year, cost sharing (amongst other things) will be reviewed and analyzed closely by the Office of Naval Research when our rate agreement proposal is reviewed and audited. Therefore, it is critical that all cost share being tracked using the activity code is coded appropriately prior to year end. We appreciate your assistance in reviewing your sponsored projects to make sure cost sharing has been charged correctly and where necessary adjustments are made. If you have questions about cost sharing or the process for using the activity code please do not hesitate to contact Mike Laskofski at mlaskofski@gmu.edu or Patrick Miller, Compliance Manager at pmiller5@gmu.edu.

More generally, if you have any [training](#) needs or there are new staff members in your units who are involved with research administration, please let us know. We always enjoy the opportunity to come out and meet with faculty and staff. Please feel free to contact Mike Laskofski at mlaskofski@gmu.edu or Pat Sperry, Training Manager at psperry@gmu.edu if there is anything we can do.



HUMAN SUBJECTS REVIEW BOARD (HSRB)

BY GREG GUAGNANO, CHAIR OF THE MASON HSRB

Dr. Roger Stough, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, asked that I address human subjects issues highlighted

in an article appearing in a recent issue of the journal *Nature* (Pruning the Regulatory Tree, *Nature* 457, 534–535; 2009). I am offering my insight as Chair of the George Mason Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB).

In the *Nature* article, the authors suggest revising the federal regulations that govern human subjects in research. I don't necessarily disagree with that sentiment, but that revision must be initiated at the federal level and not simply within the Mason community. Mason research is bound by the federal regulations as they are currently written. George Mason receives federal funding, so we must comply with these regulations to continue to be eligible for Federal funds. Even if we would choose to ignore the federal regulations, as a state agency, we would be required to comply with the Code of Virginia, and the Virginia State law that is more restrictive than federal. The difference: the great majority of HSRB applications would have to go to the full board for review under state law. This would add significantly to the average time it takes to review most protocols.

Our Office of Research Subject Protections (ORSP) recognizes that the vast majority of Mason research involves minimal risk. As a result, we have a brief application form compared to many of our peer institutions. As well, we have a one-page informed consent form, which is about 2-3 pages shorter than most of our peers. Because we recognize that the great majority of our research is minimal risk, we in no way try to impose the strict interpretation that most medical institutions impose on social-behavioral researchers. Many universities that have medical centers have a tough time separating the minimal risk social-behavioral research from the much riskier medical research. Thus, they often apply those rigorous standards to social-behavioral research. We don't have that problem. Indeed, in terms of an annual average, we exempt about 10% of all applications, and we expedite around 80% (e.g., review by a single board member designated by the chair). Thus, out of the more than 500 research protocols that are submitted annually, only about 10% of those reach the full board for review. Expedited

review takes, on average, 10 to 14 days, given that the applicant has provided the information required by federal law (see above discussion of federal versus state law). Most delays in this process occur because the applicant has not included information that is necessary for the board member to make an informed decision. Thus, it often goes back to the researcher for clarification. Indeed, last year we looked at every study submitted during a 3-month period and 99 of the 100 submitted contained incomplete information. In an effort to try to get complete applications and speed up the process, we created a checklist of information needed to satisfy the federal regulations, and that checklist is now part of the application form. We will evaluate the effectiveness of that change during the same 3-month period this year.

In my opinion, which is without empirical evidence, the reason for incomplete submissions occurs because researchers often approach the review process as burdensome "hoop" that must be jumped through rather than a natural part of

“As chair of the board, I am committed to making sure that our review process will never unnecessarily delay any research at Mason”

the process of research. I understand this view having submitted many research proposals in my 18 years here at Mason. However, we are bound by the federal regulations, and we must stop viewing this process as adversarial or one that can be changed within Mason. I hope our 10% full board review speaks to the ORSP and board commitment to streamlining oversight. Dr. Stough has opened a dialogue between the board, ORSP, and faculty members conducting research involving human subjects. The intent is to provide education in and discussion of the process of protecting human subjects in research. This is a step in the right direction and will hopefully remove the view of the board as adversarial among a few of our colleagues.

One last comment, regulation is not going away. Personally, I agree with the idea that the federal regulations could stand some reworking. However, until that happens, we must do the best we can to make the process here at Mason work. As chair of the board, I am committed to making sure that our review process will never unnecessarily delay any research at Mason.

FIRST MASON AWARD IN 2009



Alan J. Abramson,
Public and International Affairs
“Strengthening Fairfax County Non-profits” - Fairfax County, sponsor



Cheryl Choy,
Office of the Provost
“Confucius Institute for Virginia at George Mason University”
Peoples Republic of China, sponsor



Maria Massi-Dakake,
Religious Studies
“Harper Collins Study Qur’an Project” - Institute on Religion and Civic Values, sponsor



Kenneth P. Dere,
Computational and Data Sciences
“Using the CHIANTI Atomic Database with Python”
NASA, sponsor



Harold A. Geller,
Physics and Astronomy
“Assessment of Arlington Planetarium”
Arlington Public Schools, sponsor



Mark Goodale,
ICAR
“SGER: Revolution & Counterrevolution in Bolivia”
National Science Foundation, sponsor



Nigel Waters,
Geography and Geoinformation Science
“Fairlington Villages GIS Project”
Fairlington Villages Condominium Association, sponsor



Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley,
Public and International Affairs
“Strategic Trade Control Legal and Regulatory Development Training and Assistance to the Government of Jordan”
US Department of State, sponsor



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where the vast majority of students are minorities. The project uses a mentoring model within the classroom where the students work in collaboration with more experienced student mentors and teachers. Early in the project, Clark and Sheridan discovered high school seniors became excited about video game design and technology, but had little or no idea about the steps required to pursue those careers and disciplines. "We realized that we can motivate these students, but they also need to know the basics about getting to those goals. We needed to expose them to the pathways to the education necessary for becoming an engineer or computer programmer," Clark said.

In an effort to address this issue, the project began to host "STEM Summits." The first Summit was held at George Mason University, and included over 100 students and their parents who attended presentations from faculty, staff and admission experts. Students and their parents also toured the campus, and spoke with current students. "Parents are the key to getting these students on the right track and they don't always know the right process," Clark said. He hopes that through the ITEST collaboration, high school students will get to see the pathways early on, and begin making strides toward achieving their education and career goals for the future. The second Summit featured the ExxonMobil Dream Tour, and Dr. Bernard Harris, the first African American astronaut to walk in space!

Students in the ITEST program are also given opportunities to attend and present at conferences. For instance, last year students attended George Mason's Innovations in eLearning conference and had the opportunity to meet Sid Meier, creator of the Civilization game series. They have also presented at The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (IITSEC) in Orlando, and will be presenting at the National Educational Computing Conference in Washington, DC this summer.

In addition to his roles as a researcher and educator, Clark

- is the father of two school-aged children. He said, "There are definitely
- levels of importance and impact
- that my children have on the type of
- work that I choose to get involved
- in." This is shown in my service activities, which include: running a weekly
- tutorial program, serving on the Next
- Generation advisory board of PBS,
- being an active volunteer in my children's elementary school, speaking
- to middle and high school students
- in Virginia and Washington, DC, and
- serving on committees for my local school district.

- Clark's advice to faculty newly interested in applying for NSF grants is to
- serve on a review panel. "NSF has so
- many programs available that you
- may find you are applying for the
- wrong one! NSF is always looking
- for reviewers, so be proactive and
- volunteer to serve on a review panel.
- Serving on a review panel provides
- you with a window into NSF's funding
- priorities and how proposals are
- evaluated."

- Clark is currently on study leave to
- explore the feasibility of establishing
- a research center focused on

NEW BLOG...



Provost Peter Stearns

The new provost blog, which I attempt to replenish fairly regularly, is intended to provide another channel of communication (and response) between the provost and the university community (and beyond). We're a big place, and getting the word out about current issues, successes and problems needs every possible attention, and blogging is now a vital aspect in this process. At the same time, without indulging personal whims too much, the blog also provides some opportunity to chat more informally and sometimes editorially about what's happening in and around the University. While not every issue can be prudently aired in this format, there is an effort to promote greater transparency, and to deal honestly with challenges and troublespots, and not just trumpet the good stuff.

provostblog.gmu.edu

educational media and technology. Through partnerships on and off campus, Clark sees the proposed center as a vehicle to impact student learning, and inform research and practice for diverse populations nationally and internationally. "We have to take responsibility and make changes based on what we know. As members of university faculty, we should be resources to the community and offer our expertise to complete that part of the circle," Clark said.

Clark has authored several publications and given numerous presentations related to game design and instructional technology. For more information please visit his website at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~kclark6>

{ KEVIN CLARK }



PRE-SUBMISSION DEADLINE

In recent months, research institutions nationwide have witnessed increased unpredictability in the functionality of Grants.gov (the electronic submission portal for Federal grant-making agencies). Created in 2002 as a single access point for all grant programs offered by 26 Federal agencies, Grants.gov has been unable to keep pace with the growth in electronic proposal submissions. In March 2009 alone, Grants.gov saw an increase in proposals submissions of 78%. One of the by-products of this increasing submission burden has been delays in the processing of proposals by Grants.gov. At Mason, OSP staff have experienced delays of many hours and in some cases, days.

Mason's increased proposal volume (up approximately 25% since FY07), coupled with the frequency of electronic proposal submissions through Grants.gov, prompted the Research Council to adopt a four

working day pre-submission deadline for all proposals. This four-day period will provide OSP the critical time needed to review the proposal and minimize the risk of missed deadlines.

We conducted an analysis of similar institution's pre-submission requirements and discovered a range of 3 to 10 working days. The Mason requirement is below the average deadlines at other institutions.

Adherence to the four day deadline is necessary. However, we do recognize there may be exceptional circumstances where research opportunities are discovered without much lead time. In these cases, we will continue to do all we can to ensure sponsor deadlines are met. If you have any questions regarding this process please contact Carol-Ann Courtney at ccourt1@gmu.edu or (703) 993-2297.

(F&A) COSTS EXCEPTION DATABASE

OSP has developed a new searchable database for facilities and administrative (F&A) or indirect cost exceptions of non-federal funders. The database contains confirmed F&A policies of many private funders to which Mason principal investigators frequently apply. F&A rates in this database may be applied to proposals without requesting a formal F&A cost waiver. Please let us know if a sponsor to whom you regularly apply is not in the database and we will contact the organization for confirmation of their F&A policy. The new database is located on the [Resources page](#) of the OSP website.

FY09 is Base Year for University's F&A Rate Proposal

The University is required to submit to the federal government a Facilities and Administrative Rate (Indirect Cost) Proposal every three years. Our next submission will be based on the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The federal government will come on site to audit our proposal during spring/summer 2010. The proposal is developed using the results of our space survey, which is being conducted this semester.

The space survey is prepared to determine how much space was used this fiscal year to conduct the various activities of the University, such as instruction, sponsored instruction, organized research, other sponsored activities, department

administration, college administration, and student services. The importance of accurately functionalizing our space cannot be over-emphasized, because it drives the F&A recovery rate that will be used by the University for FY11 - FY13. Space liaisons responsible for completing the survey have been identified in each unit, but they will need input from research faculty in order to complete their reports. The Controller's office is responsible for coordinating this effort, and we appreciate the assistance from space liaisons, approvers, and faculty members. Questions are welcome and may be directed to Mira Levine (mlevine1@gmu.edu), Carol McGinnis (cmcginn2@gmu.edu), or Beth Brock (ebrock1@gmu.edu).

**{ ANDREA
BARTOLI }**



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Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution – and as of July 1, ICAR's Director – Dr. Bartoli says he finds ICAR an ideal professional setting. By its very nature ICAR can draw on the multiple disciplines necessary to clarify the complex underpinnings of genocide and

other conflict issues. The disparate needs of both research and practice can be met with the strengths of ICAR's programs (four degree options, 25 full time faculty, 40 research/adjunct faculty), allowing for the type of cross-fertilization necessary to advance any field of study. In particular, Dr. Bartoli notes the bridge research offers between disciplines, as ICAR graduate students seek out expertise across Mason in pursuing their individual research interests.

Dr. Bartoli indicates there is tremendous potential here at ICAR for developing and deepening methodological approaches and conceptual bases in the research arena, and for providing practical resources and professional assessment support to agencies such as the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and others involved in the conflict resolution arena. Current ICAR projects in Bolivia, Gaza and the Congo speak to the depth and range of faculty research efforts. Dr. Bartoli expects to continue and expand on these and other critical research agendas as ICAR moves forward under his leadership.

**INSTITUTE FOR
CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION**

FY09 FISCAL YEAR END DEADLINES

My how time flies! Yes, Fiscal Year 2009 is quickly coming to a close and with that comes important deadlines and reminders to note.

- May 29, 2009: Last date to submit personnel reallocation paperwork (Funding Change Form) to the Budget Office or OSP, whichever is appropriate.
- June 19, 2009: Last date to submit journal vouchers to General Accounting. Please note that any journal vouchers which impact a sponsored fund must be sent to OSP for approval. Please do not send these to General Accounting without OSP approval as this will delay the processing.
- May 25, 2009-August 24, 2009: Pay periods for summer salary. Just a reminder that faculty who engage in summer research only, or a combination of teaching and/or administrative duties and research,

may be paid no more than 33% (13/39ths) of their prior academic year salary for all summer work. The amount of salary paid per pay period during the summer session of six pay periods may not exceed the academic year per pay period normal salary rate.

- In order for summer benefits to be charged properly, funding for all 9 month faculty members who are either partially or fully funded off a sponsored project is moved to their home E&G org for the period May 25, 2009-August 24, 2009. If appropriate, new Funding Change Forms need to be submitted effective August 25, 2009.

If you have any questions concerning the impact of fiscal year end deadlines on sponsored funding please contact Beth Ives at (703) 993-2989 or bives@gmu.edu.

Health Insurance Subsidy for GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Office of the Provost is proud to announce that beginning in the Fall 2009 semester, Mason will be providing 100% health insurance coverage for eligible graduate students! This subsidy has been years in the making, and we are proud to finally offer this subvention through Aetna Student Health. The timing couldn't be better for us to provide some extra support to our students in light of this economically stressful time in our country's history.

We are often asked, "What constitutes an 'eligible graduate student'?" An 'eligible graduate student' is a doctoral or MFA student who meets all of the following criteria:

- He/she is a "full time" graduate student as defined by the University Catalog
- He/she is supported by a tuition waiver or grant
- He/she is appointed to a graduate assistantship with a stipend of at least \$10,000 per academic year

Eligible students can receive this subsidy for up to three years. While the intent is to pay 100% of the premium each year, the amount of subsidized coverage could be reduced in the event of insurance premium increases or financial exigency. Mason will determine the percentage of the premium that it will cover on an annual basis.

Please peruse the [web pages](#) dedicated to this subsidy for further information. These pages will be updated as more information is made available; please check back for updates.

We are looking forward to launching this new health insurance subsidy in order to better facilitate our students. We appreciate the efforts of the staff and faculty who have helped in the planning process and who will help to make it a success in the future!



FISCAL YEAR 2009 SPONSORED PROGRAM ACTIVITY

We continue to see growth in the number of proposals submitted and awards received. Congratulations to all who have been successful in their pursuit of externally sponsored funding.

FY09 PROPOSALS

	NO.	VALUE
Q1	199	\$66.5 M
Q2	232	\$116.3 M
Q3	235	\$91.7 M
TOTAL	666	\$274.6 M

TOTAL FY 08 - 851 for \$344.0 M

FY09 AWARDS & INCREMENTS

	NO.	VALUE
Q1	210	\$22.6 M
Q2	172	\$27.1 M
Q3	154	\$24.0 M
TOTAL	536	\$73.8 M

TOTAL FY 08 - 715 FOR \$95.0 M

FY09 EXPENDITURES

Q1	\$26.9 M
Q2	\$23.3 M
Q3	\$21.8 M
TOTAL	\$72.0 M

TOTAL FY 08 - \$79.9 M

FALL 2008 EFFORT REPORTS

Fall 2008 Effort Reports on Sponsored Projects for the period August 25, 2008 through January 9, 2009 were sent out via email the first week of April 2009. If you received one of these effort reports in your mailbox please do the following: Print out the report, review the information and if it accurately reflects your effort expended during the Fall semester, sign and date the report and return to Patrick Miller at Mail Stop 4C6. If the report does not accurately represent your effort or if you have questions, please contact Patrick Miller at pmiller5@gmu.edu or (703) 993-2979.

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