

Professional Development Grants for Retirees Program Report

July 21, 2024

2024 PDGR Awards. For the 2024 grant year, the UMRA PDGR Committee reviewed 10 applications for Professional Development Grants for Retirees. The PDGR Committee recommended that seven be funded with awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Four of the awards went to first time applicants. Once again, the awards covered a diverse set of topics including such things as immigration, U.S. election systems, Native American art, and childhood tantrums. The award recipients represented the Morris and Twin Cities Campus. A list of awardees and brief summaries of their projects are listed below. More information can be obtained from the [2024 PDGR Abstracts Page](#).

1. Ferolyn Angell; Lecturer in Dance, Humanities Division, University of Minnesota, Morris; *Presentation of film "Crossings.....moves, Stories of Forced Migration" – A Dance Theater Project.*

Ms. Angell has produced a film that will facilitate discussions of current issues surrounding the topics of immigration and refugees. Her award will be used to sponsor screenings in Germany and Minnesota.

2. Dale A. Blyth, Ph.D.; Professor, Associate Dean & Howland Endowed Chair for Youth Development Leadership, University of Minnesota Extension and School of Social Work, College of Education and Human Development; *Exploring the International Dimensions of Extended Learning and Youth Development.*

Dr. Blyth will use his award to address two current opportunities: 1) to launch a Global Extended Learning & Youth Development Association and 2) to advise on youth engagement efforts emerging in the Somaliland region of Ethiopia – Grow Our Food, Grow Our Future.

3. Mark Bohnhorst, J.D.; Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; *More New Thinking about Presidential Elections and Alternative Voting Methods.*

Mr. Bohnhorst's award will support his program of research and publication concerning election systems and the rebuilding of American democracy and the rule of law.

4. Katherine Fennelly, Ph.D.; Emeritus Professor of Public Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs; *Analysis of a Government Program for the Assimilation of Jewish Immigrants to the United States between WWI and WWII: Archival Research and a Case Study.*

Dr. Fennelly proposes to delve into the Foreign Language Information Service archives held by the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota to better understand how her grandfather, a Jewish Hungarian immigrant, rose to become the head of a prestigious espionage unit in the Office of Strategic Services during the Second World War. The archival research will be incorporated into a series of academic and public presentations.

5. Andrea Gilats, Ph.D.; College of Continuing and Professional Studies; A

Traveler's Art Quest in Native America: Documenting a Collection of Contemporary Native American Beadwork.

Dr. Gilats will use her award to learn how Native American bead art has evolved over the past thirty years, discover how tourism has affected bead art, revisit selected historical sites so that she can write more accurately about them, and visit the Red Cloud Heritage Center at Pine Ridge, SD, to explore whether it might make an appropriate home for her bead work collection.

6. Michael Potegal, Ph.D., Associate Professor; Program in Occupational Therapy, College of Pharmacy; *Are there EEG Signatures of Tantrum-proneness in the Brains of 3 Year Olds?*

Dr. Potegal will use his award to support statistical consultation with the University of Minnesota's Biostatistical Design and Analysis Center and complete analysis of EEGs recorded from tantrum-prone 3 year olds. He hopes to identify EEG-tantrum correlations.

7. Thomas Skovholt Ph.D.; Professor Emeritus, Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education and Human Development; *Resilience and Burnout Prevention for Health and Helping Professionals.*

Dr. Skovholt has been invited to present his research on resilience and burnout prevention at the University of Stavanger Hospital in Norway and conduct a workshop there. His award will be used to support his travel expenses.

Current members of the PDGR Committee are John Bantle (Chair, Minneapolis Campus), Jan Hogan-Schiltgen (Minneapolis Campus), Barb Nemecek (Minneapolis Campus), Pieranna Garavaso (Morris Campus), Nancy Carpenter (Morris Campus), Dennis Falk (Duluth Campus), Kate Maple (Minneapolis Campus), Michael Potegal (Minneapolis Campus) and Will Craig (Minneapolis Campus).

Submitted by John Bantle, Chair