

Report to the Louisiana Board of Regents  
Review of Proposals Submitted for Funding Consideration  
In the Board of Regents Support Fund R & D Program  
Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram  
**Report of the Final Panel**

March 15, 2007

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**REPORT OF THE FINAL PANEL**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND**  
**AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS**  
**AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS) SUBPROGRAM**  
**FY 2006-07**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Thirty-eight (38) proposals requesting a total of \$1,695,728 in first-year funds were submitted for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2006-07 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 established faculty in all 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. A list of the out-of-state experts who served as members of the subject-area and final panels is appended to this report.

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

In Phase I of the review process the thirty-eight (38) proposals were distributed among three subject-area panels, corresponding to the general disciplines eligible for funding consideration through ATLAS. Each panel was comprised of one 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 2006-07 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 form for 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 15, 2007, 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 principal criteria used by the Panel in making its funding recommendations were as follows: (1) The intellectual and/or artistic significance of the project to the discipline in which it is submitted and to broader professional and lay audiences; (2) the quality of previous work and/or promise of quality of the applicant's current work; (3) the quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the 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. Twenty-one (21) proposals were included in the discussions held during this conference.

The Panel was informed that \$500,000 would be available to fund ATLAS projects in fiscal year 2006-07. Utilizing the criteria described previously, the Panel recommended twenty-one (21) proposals, requesting a total of \$925,816, which it strongly believed were worthy of support and placed them in the "Priority I" category, detailed in **Appendix A**. Twelve (12) proposals are ranked #1 and listed in ascending order of proposal number and the remaining nine (9) proposals are ranked in descending order according to merit. Though funds are available to support only twelve (12) of the highly recommended proposals, the Panel strongly urges the Board of Regents to seek supplementary resources to provide support for as many additional proposals as possible. Should additional resources become available, the Panel recommends that proposals be funded in descending rank order.

The budgets for each of the top-ranked proposals were scrutinized closely and found by the Panel to be reasonable. Thus the Panel recommended that only a small reduction of 7% be applied to each project, to ensure that as many proposals as possible be funded at a reasonable level. The rationale for this approach is presented in the comments and recommendations, below.

**Appendix B** lists those proposals that were ranked Priority II by the subject-area panels but, due to a variety of considerations including lack of available funds, not recommended for funding by the Final Panel. In general, proposals listed in Appendix B are considered of high quality and recommended for funding in the event that additional monies become available after all Priority I proposals are funded, but raised questions or concerns among the reviewers that precluded them from being ranked among the Priority I proposals. Applicants whose projects were listed as Priority II are encouraged to study 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 are not recommended for funding at this time. Priority III projects are ranked as such because the review panels had serious questions about their feasibility, potential for impact, or scholarly/artistic merit. Applicants whose projects were listed in Appendix C are encouraged to review the consultants' and reviewers' 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-one (21) 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 AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2006-07 PROJECTS**

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 a regional and/or national level. The Panel again applauds the Board of Regents and the State of Louisiana for their continuing support for this program, which provides funding to important disciplines with limited opportunities for grants funding. The extremely high quality of the proposal submissions in the program's pilot year was followed by equally strong submissions in the subsequent two years. This is remarkable given the continuing strain placed on higher education in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The opportunities for Louisiana to bolster its reputation for supporting the arts, humanities, and social sciences extend well beyond the faculty members who receive these awards. The out-of-state experts who serve on subject-area and final panels, as well as those who serve as expert reviewers for single proposals, have been extremely impressed with the State's efforts and have endeavored to voice their positive impression in professional circles. Moreover, the excellent quality of the proposals, now reviewed by experts across the country, speak to the submitting institutions' and the State's emphasis on research and artistic production at the very highest levels. The Panel commends the researchers, artists, administrators, and State governing bodies for their work and support of these traditionally under-funded disciplines.

The Panel notes that once again in this competition many more quality proposals were received than could be funded with available resources and, unfortunately, several proposals ranked as highly recommended will not be able to receive support. This indicates the great need for this kind of program. The ATLAS subprogram is important not only for the funds it distributes, but also for the increases in morale it fosters among arts, social sciences, and humanities faculty and for its tacit recognition of the significance of these kinds of serious scholarly and artistic projects to the State and its citizens. **Given the importance and potential long-range impact of the ATLAS Program, therefore, the Panel strongly recommends that the Board of Regents make every effort to allocate additional resources to support a greater number of quality projects.**

## **PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES**

The success of the ATLAS program in attracting large numbers of excellent projects leads the Panel to recommend several programmatic changes that may allow the program to capitalize on the strengths of Louisiana's arts, humanities and social sciences faculty, bolster faculty morale, contribute to the growth of the research base, and build the State's reputation for academic and artistic excellence.

The Panel urges the Board of Regents to open the ATLAS competition to all levels of faculty, rather than restricting submissions to established faculty, to enable the program both to reward productive senior scholars and accelerate the careers of promising junior researchers and artists. The inclusion of all levels of faculty in the competitions would likely increase the positive impact these awards have on Louisiana's research base in the arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines. Reviewers then may consider projects in the context of a principal investigator's career growth as well as career history, which is vital to understanding any project's potential for success and influence.

To encourage faculty to consider projects in terms of their career growth, the Panel further recommends that applicants be encouraged to request ATLAS funds both for travel to out-of-state institutions for presentation of ongoing research and artistic productions, and for establishing seminar/lecture series to bring out-of-state faculty to Louisiana institutions to present their work and interact with the applicant. These kinds of interactions are intimately related to the dissemination of research across academic communities and building the reputations of Louisiana faculty. Such activities will have the added benefit of spreading awareness of the ATLAS program both within and outside of the State.

Finally, the Panel recommends that, given the scarcity of resources and the large number of projects recommended for funding, the ATLAS program establish a pool of smaller "special merit awards" of \$3,000-5,000 each. These awards would provide worthy applicants with partial summer support to enable them significantly to advance their projects without the full academic-year leave common in the current ATLAS program. This would enable the program to provide a larger number of projects with much-deserved support, thus enhancing its impact on individual faculty, institutions, and the State's research base.

**APPENDIX A**

**ATLAS PROPOSALS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING  
(PRIORITY I) (21)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal #</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
1	003ATL-07	LSU-BR	Jay D. Edwards	\$49,307	\$45,950
1	007ATL-07	LSU-BR	Christine J. Kooi	\$40,859	\$37,690
1	009ATL-07	LSU-BR	John Wharton Lowe	\$50,000	\$46,500
1	011ATL-07	LSU-BR	Michelle A. Massé	\$49,983	\$46,450
1	016ATL-07	LSU-BR	Kevin V. Mulcahy	\$46,638	\$43,450
1	017ATL-07	LSU-BR	Lisi Oliver	\$48,207	\$44,930
1	018ATL-07	LSU-BR	Helen A. Regis	\$50,000	\$46,500
1	024ATL-07	LSU-BR	Leslie A. Wade	\$38,202	\$35,620
1	026ATL-07	LSU-BR	James Wilcox	\$50,000	\$46,500
1	027ATL-07	LSU-BR	Margherita Zanasi	\$39,450	\$36,800
1	033ATL-07	LOYOLA	Michael Ross	\$24,639	\$23,110
1	034ATL-07	SLU	Andrew G. Traver	\$50,000	\$46,500
13	030ATL-07	LOYOLA	W. Mark Grote	\$49,090	\$45,650
14	013ATL-07	LSU-BR	Jean McGuire	\$46,996	\$43,710
15	002ATL-07	LSU-BR	Jon Cogburn	\$35,786	\$33,280
16	028ATL-07	LA TECH	Marie Bukowski	\$37,591	\$35,100
17	031ATL-07	LOYOLA	Dee Wood Harper, Jr.	\$33,649	\$31,290
18	023ATL-07	LSU-BR	Meredith Veldman	\$42,585	\$39,600
19	037ATL-07	UL L	James E. Anderson	\$50,000	\$46,500
20	014ATL-07	LSU-BR	Elsie B. Michie	\$42,903	\$39,900
21	021ATL-07	LSU-BR	Gregory Schufreider	\$49,931	\$46,440
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$925,816</b>	<b>\$861,470</b>

The first twelve (12) proposals in Appendix A are ranked “1” (i.e., first). In the Panel’s opinion, these proposals are of nearly equal merit, and these are listed in ascending order of proposal number. Proposals ranked 13 through 21 are listed in descending order of merit and, thus, priority for funding.

The total amount of funding recommended for Priority I proposals is \$861,470, exceeding the amount available for ATLAS projects by \$361,470. The Panel recommends, therefore, that the Board fund the twelve (12) projects ranked “1” with the available monies. To enable the Board to fund as many projects as possible, the Panel recommends that each project’s budget be cut by approximately 7%. Should additional funds become available, the Panel further recommends that additional Priority I projects be funded in the order of their ranking and at the levels specified, which reflect the same 7% reduction.

**APPENDIX B**

**MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY II  
BY THE SUBJECT AREA PANELS AND CONSIDERED BY THE FINAL PANEL  
BUT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (7)**

010ATL-07	015ATL-07	020ATL-07	022ATL-07
029ATL-07	035ATL-07	038ATL-07	

**Note:** These proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. The subject-area panel reviews for each proposal will be provided to the applicants in July 2007.

**APPENDIX C**

**PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY III BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS  
AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (10)**

001ATL-07	004ATL-07	005ATL-07	006ATL-07
008ATL-07	012ATL-07	019ATL-07	025ATL-07
032ATL-07	036ATL-07		

**Note:** These proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. The subject-area panel reviews for each proposal will be provided to the applicants in July 2007.



## APPENDIX D

### COMMENTS AND FUNDING STIPULATIONS ON 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-one (21) proposals highly recommended for awards by the Panel. Comments are provided in ascending order of proposal number. Each proposal's rank is provided in the upper right corner of the comment page.

Although the Panel carefully scrutinized the budgets of all projects recommended for funding, the Panel did not reduce any budget to such an extent that achievement of a project's goals or execution of its work plan would be impaired. **No reductions in the scope of work plans 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, the award should be vacated and funds thereby made available should be used to fund other worthy projects. The Panel recommends that any returned or unawarded ATLAS funds be allocated to projects recommended in Appendix A, at the level recommended by the Panel and in descending order according to rank.

**PROPOSAL NO. 002ATL**

**Rank: 15**

**TITLE:** "Playing the World: Computational Emergence in Art and Mind"

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Jon Cogburn

Dr. Cogburn, who proposes to pursue his project with a collaborator at the University of Central Oklahoma, has developed an itinerary of research that addresses central philosophical questions, including (but not limited to) an attempt to mediate Platonist and Kantian arguments regarding reality, computation as a model of brain and mind, and the emergence of human cognition. His subject is of considerable philosophical and scientific interest. All of these issues are assessed with an excellent grasp of the literature and an innovative appeal to computability theory.

Work on the project is well in hand, and addresses a subset of the topics of interest. In that it is addressed to non-logicians, perhaps some inclusion of the authors' excellent work on literary theory together with the more scientific topics listed, would be helpful. This would ensure that the project would be accessible to a much wider range of readers. The Panel believes that the proposal at times might have developed fruitfully along more philosophical, less technical lines. While the technical focus of the project is interesting, its ramifications in the philosophical range suggest the immense reach that could be attained by Dr. Cogburn's work.

Dr. Cogburn has worked successfully in this field before, both independently and with his collaborator. Individually and jointly, their contributions are of a high standard, critical, and well written. His scholarly background and publication record (several articles on the subject in print or under consideration) indicate that he will be able to bring the project to fruition in a timely fashion. Much of the work in the current project has already been largely completed and peer-reviewed, so the proposed schedule appears realistic.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$33,280**

**PROPOSAL NO. 003ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** "Creole Architecture: An Anthropological View of America's Architecture"

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Jay D. Edwards

Dr. Edwards has shaped a subject of study—the historical and cultural roots of vernacular architecture in the United States—that is original, fascinating, and of potential significance to researchers in a variety of fields. This significance derives partly from the temporal and spatial breadth of this subject, but also from Dr. Edward's deft ability to combine methods and theories from across a range of disciplines. Building upon over thirty years of ongoing ethnographic and archival research throughout North America and the Caribbean, he has painstakingly assembled a compendium of architectural survey information, which he now is synthesizing into an account that promises to impact the study of architectural history. In addition to compiling a massive amount of data, Dr. Edwards has also developed several innovative conceptual approaches that underscore the potential import of this project. First, in adopting the emergent "Atlantic studies" paradigm, he devises a means to think synthetically about the diverse range of influences shaping builders' practices in the U.S. This allows him to depict these practices as encompassing an array of social and political processes, in addition to the material and technical dimensions of the architecture. Secondly, he transposes analytical models from linguistic studies of creolization in language onto the historical analysis of vernacular architecture. This enables Dr. Edwards to consider houses additionally "as symbolic systems," reflecting "contact jargons" and the impact of "formal generative-transformational grammars"—an analytical approach that is both insightful and greatly expands the relevance of his work to those outside of architectural history. Thirdly, drawing upon interpretive approaches in cultural anthropology, Dr. Edwards discerns a means of reading changing spatial logics and social norms in the material strata of houses. The sophistication of his analytical approaches and the substantive nature of his research to date virtually assure this project will be influential for a variety of scholars working in disparate fields.

The quality that stands out in Dr. Edwards' conception of this project is that, given all he has accomplished to date in this endeavor, he is able to succinctly identify and address an important deficiency—an insufficient understanding of West African sources of the American vernacular architecture. In this proposal, he delineates an efficient and canny course of field study in Senegal and Gambia that will allow him both to access the largest research library in West Africa and to make field observation of architectural styles and practices.

Dr. Edwards lays out an ambitious mix of research and writing in this proposal. But given the work he has completed to date and the well-conceived aspects of his project, the Panel is confident he will complete and submit a notable book manuscript to the University of Tennessee Press for inclusion in their Vernacular Architecture Studies by the end of this project date, in August 2008.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$45,950**

**PROPOSAL NO. 007ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Heretics and Idolaters: Calvinists and Catholics in Golden Age Holland, 1572-1672”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Christine J. Kooi

Dr. Kooi proposes an important project that follows recent historiographical trends in examining Reformation religiosity across rather than within confessional units. She is, by her training and scholarly focus, uniquely qualified to pursue this study of the relations between Protestants and Catholics in early modern Holland. By comparing Catholics and Calvinists, Dr. Kooi will be able to see what early modern religious groups shared as well as what divided them. Moreover, this project will build well on her previous work and open her research into other areas. In particular, it represents a substantial expansion of her earlier work from a single city to Holland as a whole, while addressing issues in the context of an entire century.

Dr. Kooi has published a book on the urban reformation (based on her dissertation) and two significant articles that point towards her new project. This work has been well received. The articles are deeply researched and clearly presented.

The project is carefully defined and well written, and Dr. Kooi does an excellent job of identifying the conceptual and empirical issues that she must resolve as the work progresses and comes to conclusion. The Panel has every reason to believe that this will be a major contribution to the field of Restoration history.

The Panel has confidence that Dr. Kooi can complete the work in a timely fashion, though is somewhat concerned about her slow progress over three previous semesters of leave. To maintain a steady schedule, she might consider combining her research into a single trip and blending archival work with secondary materials.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$37,690**

**PROPOSAL NO. 009ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Calypso Magnolia: The Caribbean Side of the South”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** John Wharton Lowe

One of the most intriguing aspects of new scholarship on globalization and transnationalism is the opportunity for scholars to re-conceive local or regional history. We have seen this reorientation displayed prominently in the literature of “diaspora” studies, which look at the impact of voluntary or forced (im)migration on cultures. When cultures and languages and customs collide, new worlds emerge. It is somewhat surprising that scholars of Southern literature and culture had not previously viewed the South as the Northern rim of the Caribbean, but this is precisely what Dr. Lowe proposes to explore in his monograph. Though many universities have centers associated with Caribbean studies, they tend to focus most intently on Latin and Central America. In this project, Dr. Lowe intends to examine the confluence of cultures and thus re-shape the direction of Southern studies.

This highly original project is very clearly conceived and organized, connecting nicely to previous critics’ work as well as to the applicant’s own previous scholarship. Dr. Lowe will draw on an appropriate range and diversity of authors and genres, and he will no doubt draw very illuminating conclusions from his discussion of Hurricane Katrina. His sample essay was learned and interesting. The Panel found the proposal extremely compelling.

In addition, the Panel has confidence that Dr. Lowe is well-prepared for the work and can complete it in a timely manner. He has published a large number of scholarly articles in high-quality venues, and he has several scholarly editions that are forthcoming. More importantly, he has published widely on authors relevant to the project. The scope and scale of the project are appropriate to what could be completed in a sabbatical year, and Dr. Lowe will not have difficulty accessing the materials that he needs to complete the study.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,500**

**PROPOSAL NO. 011ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Great Expectations: Gendering Age, Narcissism, and the Bildungsroman”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Michelle A. Massé

As in earlier versions of this proposal submitted to ATLAS, Dr. Massé wants to examine the Bildungsroman, the novel of education and character formation, using the psychoanalytical category of narcissism. This will enable her to illuminate an interconnected set of problems in narrative theory, genre studies, psychoanalysis, and gender. This is a complex but potentially very rewarding problem that should attract attention from a number of disciplines.

The applicant has published an important book, *In the Name of Love* (Cornell, 1992), which raises some of the issues in her current project. She has devoted a great deal of time and energy to academic administration and service, both within and outside her university, which is admirable, while maintaining an active scholarly career.

The Panel recommended funding for this project last year, but sufficient funds were not available to support it. The applicant’s progress in the meantime is impressive: she has substantially clarified some key concepts and sharpened the definition of the project as a whole. Strong last year, the project is now even more convincing and compelling.

In the light of the progress Dr. Massé made in the past year, the Panel is confident that she is on track and can keep to her well-defined agenda. She has given a number of papers on her current project and published several articles that point towards its conclusion. The project seems likely to be completed in a timely fashion and will make a significant impact in its field upon its release.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,450**

**PROPOSAL NO. 013ATL**

**Rank: 14**

**TITLE:** “Corporate Governance and Economic Development”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Jean McGuire

Dr. McGuire proposes to write two invited review chapters, possibly one article and another book chapter examining various aspects of corporate governance. North American corporate governance and financial disclosure are stringent compared to other countries. (North America sports high levels of disclosure and strong corporate governance.) Especially in light of the fact that some other countries are moving towards adopting American standards, it is important to understand the functioning and effectiveness of corporate governance systems in other countries and think about the problems that might arise if the American model is inserted into foreign systems. For example, there might be tensions between the American approach and traditional firm cultures, and the adoption of the American approach could prove problematic to the extent that it is inconsistent with institutions such as the legal system or financial markets. Dr. McGuire also proposes to organize a seminar series in which business scholars will address issues of corporate governance and economic development. The addition of a comparative and international component to the research on corporate governance is very refreshing, representing something of a break with the parochialism of American management theory. The Panel also very much likes Dr. McGuire’s proposal to organize a seminar series to integrate a fragmented literature and disseminate the research. This is critical, given that Dr. McGuire’s research could be of practical relevance to countries that are considering adoption of the American model.

Dr. McGuire has an excellent record of scholarly publication and is well positioned to undertake the proposed research. The Panel is concerned, however, that the proposed amount of research (a couple of book chapters) is rather skimpy: one would like to see at least one publication in a leading journal or a monograph emerge from this effort. This would align the project better with the objectives of the ATLAS program.

The project as presented is strongly conceived, defined, and organized, though the research component is somewhat underdeveloped. The proposed seminar series is an excellent addition. The work plan is feasible, and it is likely that Dr. McGuire will complete her project in a timely manner. Nevertheless, the Panel would like to see a greater focus on scholarly research, to propel the other ideas into the academic community.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$43,710**

**PROPOSAL NO. 014ATL**

**Rank: 20**

**TITLE:** “‘The Vulgar Question of Money’: Women of Wealth in the Novel of Manners”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Elsie B. Michie

This is a clear, original, well-defined project that engages substantively with other critics in tracking responses to capitalism in the nineteenth-century through the figure of the rich woman in Austen, Trollope, Oliphant, and James. With two well-regarded presses interested in the book, a large potential audience, and a very feasible timetable, the project is likely to be of high quality and successful in its field. Moreover, Dr. Michie’s impressive resume and preparations have qualified her well to undertake the study. In the Panel’s view, this project does not map well onto currently important topics in literary and cultural studies, though it is strongly argued and well defined. The Panel is somewhat concerned, however, that the project’s broader significance is elusive and should be more clearly delineated in the proposal.

The project is modest in its focus and does not require elaborate conceptualization. The work as presented is interesting, bringing together literary texts and philosophical materials in an excellent framework. The ways in which Dr. Michie draws together these different texts into dialogue is a model for other such studies in literature and languages. However, the Panel is troubled by the central gender argument put forth in the work. Dr. Michie’s argument is that the figure of the wealthy woman in the nineteenth-century novel functions to pose a choice between virtue and material reward. While this argument seems right, cannot the same thing be said of the rich man vis-à-vis the female heroine? Or, is virtue indeed more closely associated with wealth when the figure in question is male? These seem to be obvious questions implicit in a study focused on gender, but the Panel did not see them raised anywhere in the proposal. This omission raises the concern that her execution of the project will lack dialectical complexity and interest.

The Panel is confident that Dr. Michie can complete her project during the ATLAS year. The work plan is feasible, much of the early studies are already well underway, and the project is strongly directed.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$39,900**



**PROPOSAL NO. 016ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Book on *Politics, Policies, and Public Culture: International Perspectives*”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kevin V. Mulcahy

Dr. Mulcahy proposes to write a book that puts arts policy into a cross-national and historical context. The idea is to compare cultural policies - that is, government support of the arts and of public culture, or the politics and administration of the arts - across countries and to provide a historical perspective on public support of the arts. For example, the U.S. has a National Endowment of the Arts, but what does it actually do? How is it designed? Is it designed well? How does it compare to other countries? How have the arts been supported in history? How do private and public patronage compare across countries and over time? How do political ideologies and administrative cultures affect the support of the arts? These are the kinds of significant questions Dr. Mulcahy’s book promises to address.

The question of cultural policies - how they compare across countries and over history - is strangely understudied, perhaps because it does not obviously fall under the auspices of any discipline. It is a topic of great practical importance especially because with the rise of income inequality in the United States there exist many more extremely rich people who are likely to engage in philanthropy in the future.

Dr. Mulcahy is uniquely qualified to undertake this study. His training is in public policy and administration with a special emphasis on foreign policymaking. He is well published. In addition, his narrative career account reveals that he has spent a lot of time in all sorts of countries working on international cultural policy in some form or another.

As presented in the proposal, the project is strongly conceived, defined, and organized. Noteworthy is Dr. Mulcahy’s enthusiasm for the project: one gets the impression that this is a labor of love as well as a scholarly pursuit. As he describes his project in the proposal, it comes alive in the mind of the reader. This promises that his book will do the same. The Panel is confident, too, that he will complete the work in a timely manner. The work plan is feasible, and it is highly likely that Dr. Mulcahy will finish during the ATLAS year.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$43,450**

**PROPOSAL NO. 017ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Body Legal in the Dark Ages”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Lisi Oliver

As the Panel has noted in previous years, Dr. Oliver is working in an area where there are few literary sources. She sets out to read legal texts from the “dark ages” in order to find out what early medieval Europeans knew about the body and how they interpreted this knowledge. Her project, as such, promises to be a major contribution to the new and vital historiography of the body (long ignored or taken for granted by historians) as well as to the social and cultural history of the early middle ages.

The candidate has had an unusual career trajectory, coming to academic life relatively late after being a successful opera director. It is admirable that she has published distinguished work in a very demanding, intellectually demanding field: a book on early English Law, two edited volumes, and several scholarly articles. She has in press two papers that point towards her present project; both are thoughtful, deeply researched, and convincing. As in previous submissions, the Panel notes that the quality of her previous work as well as the samples provided with the proposal suggest that this new project will be of high quality and promises to attract a broad audience of medievalists, linguists, historians, and legal scholars.

The project statement is clearly and engagingly written. The candidate is able to make clear both the technical difficulties of her project and its wider significance. In other words, she displays both her scholarly competence and her skills as a communicator. The Panel is confident that hers will be an important book, read across disciplines. The technical challenges in doing this kind of scholarship are extreme, and Dr. Oliver handles them intelligently and gracefully, making the project more accessible and comprehensible to a general audience. The Panel commends her success in this arena.

Dr. Oliver is well organized. She knows the shape of her project, has done most of the foundational work, and has begun to link its many elements together. The Panel believes that she will complete the project in a reasonable time frame.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$44,930**

**PROPOSAL NO. 018ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Owning the Streets: Blackness, Performance, and Public Space in New Orleans”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Helen A. Regis

Dr. Regis’s project, the first systematic study of the second-line tradition in New Orleans, provides an important view onto the city’s social history and the processes by which its current distinctive styles of public performance emerged from a complex cultural past. Dr. Regis deftly combines historical research and theoretical speculations on African Diaspora cultures, along with her ten years of ethnographic work on public performance in New Orleans, in assembling an astute cultural analysis of the multiple layers of tradition and innovation encompassed by the second-line. One measure of the significance of her work is that it speaks broadly to a range of interdisciplinary scholarship in performances studies and urban studies, as well as to debates in anthropology and cultural geography. Another is that, in combining theoretical reflections with empirical observations and data, she offers a sophisticated example of analyzing dynamics of public space in “global cities undergoing spatial and social restructuring.” Her project, too, provides a model of methodological and theoretical approaches to make sense of the dense nexus of enormous creativity and stark desperation combined in many performances of blackness in postindustrial cities.

In a short time, Dr. Regis has compiled an impressive record of scholarship, one that features an abiding interest in expanding the scope of her research, both in terms of developing new topics of investigation and in making her work accessible to a wider public. This is evident in the books she has authored or co-authored, which include: an ethnography of cultural beliefs and practices related to Islam in Cameroon, West Africa (*Fulbe Voices*, 2003); a comparative policy study of faith-based initiatives related to welfare-reform in the United States (*Charitable Choices*, 2004); and a preservationist collection of oral history narratives of public march and dance traditions (*Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward*, 2006).

Dr. Regis’s proposal is well conceived and organized. She has completed extensive ethnographic and historical research and now is ready to complete a book manuscript on this subject. She has a clear and informed understanding of how her research can potentially contribute to a range of scholarship in a variety of disciplines. Given that three of the intended chapters for this book have been published as peer-reviewed articles, she is in a good position to complete the remaining four chapters by May 2008. She has some additional research tasks to complete, but these are minimal and should be accomplished in the time frame she suggests.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,500**

**PROPOSAL NO. 021ATL**

**Rank: 21**

**TITLE:** “MONDRAIN’S OPENING> <HEIDEGGER’S HOLE: Drawing/Painting – Writing/Thinking”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Gregory Schufreider

Dr. Schufreider proposes to approach the “capstone” of his career by bringing to resolution a group of issues concerning ontology that have occupied him throughout his career. Since the applicant’s doctoral work on Anselm, Martin Heidegger has proven a deep influence. A further consideration of the work of the artist Piet Mondrian has caused Dr. Schufreider to postulate that Mondrian’s opening of space might represent a correction to and an advance over Heidegger’s negation of being. In conception, the project seems brilliant, but the proposal is very abstract, indicating that the audience — at least for the volume on Heidegger — might be limited. That Mondrian’s “Wall Works,” the core of his analysis of the artist, have been largely ignored and that the essay on Mondrian has no critical frame, add to these concerns.

The idea of a “polygraph” (for which the word “digraph” might be substituted) is necessary in order to deal with Heidegger and Mondrian separately, since their only connection is the common philosophical problem that Dr. Schufreider holds they address, before any attempt at resolution. This approach to the project will require significant energy as well as ambition, but the applicant evidently has them in ample amounts. Nonetheless, the actual means by which Heidegger and Mondrian would be related to one another remained somewhat unclear to the Panel, and should be more expansively described in the proposal.

Dr. Schufreider has been working on the relations between Mondrian’s art and Heidegger’s “art of thinking” since 1994 and has drafted the first of two volumes of the project. He has also completed or published a number of articles related to the project, as well as two monographs on Anselm. Dr. Schufrieder's previous work has been of a uniformly high quality, and has been featured in both scholarly and artistic settings.

The applicant has written well on both of his subjects, and his concern to explore their relation is at a mature stage. The Panel believes that the project can be completed in a timely fashion, but much depends on the speed with which Dr. Schufreider works on a project that has been germinating for such a length of time.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,440**

**PROPOSAL NO. 023ATL**

**Rank: 18**

**TITLE:** "Jesus in Britain, 1850-1970"

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Meredith Veldman

As in her previously submitted proposals, the applicant proposes to factor the issue of beliefs in regard to Jesus into the cultural history of modern Britain, especially in regard to its alleged secularization. The project aims to mount an argument that the Victorian Jesus continues to serve as an iconic figure, but one that has promoted "a more secular national identity." The promise of the proposal lies in its analysis of whether Britain has become "secular," what is meant by secularization, and how a religious belief can serve secular purposes. At the same time, the proposal in its present form aims to assess recent challenges of claims of secularization by searching out indices of religion in modern Britain.

The applicant is well established in the field of British popular culture, has pursued an intensive program of reading and field research, and has contributed to a major textbook that constructs Western civilization in cultural terms. By means of articles and preliminary research, she has honed her particular aim, to relate portrayals of Jesus to the perceived secularization of modern Britain. The bibliography has been considerably expanded since the last submission, and now takes account of a substantial amount of scholarship in regard to Jesus and its promulgation by the BBC.

Especially in its engagement of scholarly issues, coordinated with the cultural historical approach, this conception is very strong. The plan envisages grappling with the history of scholarship as well as the history of opinions, and the bibliography suggests that the shape of the development of scholarly contributions in their relation to popular culture has been well conceived.

Given the applicant's previous work and careful preparation, her timetable seems reasonable. The relationship of the personal statement to the project as a whole, however, remains unclear. If funding is not available this year, the Panel strongly advises Dr. Veldman to revisit and reconsider this section of the proposal.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$39,600**

**PROPOSAL NO. 024ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Shelter of Last Resort: An Original Play on Postdiluvial New Orleans”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Leslie A. Wade

Dr. Wade proposes to complete and workshop a new play inspired by Hurricane Katrina and the resulting crisis in New Orleans. While he is sensitive to the situation of New Orleans now, he is also intent upon situating New Orleans in the contexts of “reimagined families and community responsibility” in a pluralistic world. As such, ‘sense of place’ is essential to the conception of this project and is conveyed very clearly in the application. His vision for *Shelter of Last Resort* takes a tragedy and examines its implications beyond its local situation, and it is compelling on the basis of its visuality, its musicality, and its actions. The play’s setting and situation are both well conceived and should appeal broadly to theater audiences.

Dr. Wade’s previous work is excellent, and includes success in both creative and scholarly realms. He has had others plays produced and won many awards for his playwriting. Equally important is his intellectual engagement with the field of theatre studies and with European stages which, the Panel is sure, informs his playwriting, general artistic concerns and sensibility. As a draft of the play is already complete, producing a final draft seems achievable. The draft of the play, moreover, is interesting and involving – highly promising in rough form.

The project proposal is clearly and precisely written, and the conception is imaginative, clear, and detailed. Though the Panel is uncertain, from the sample presented, that the “...broader philosophical conversations that have preoccupied recent ethical thinkers...” resonate at this stage, as the author claims, it is possible that further revisions will bring these considerations forward. Plays are typically created through a process of revision resulting from hearing actors perform readings of the play, a process which he has built into his proposal. The Panel also notes that the narrative form of Dr. Wade’s playwriting accomplishments is more impressive than the “Productions and Publications” list in the proposal; a traditional CV might have been useful.

The work plan follows the current preferred modes of bringing plays to complete form and full production. Redrafting animated by table readings by actors followed by a four-week workshop to get the play on its legs is a sound plan. Playwrights must bring their work to actors to hear their prose and then into the theatre to see and feel the worlds they have created. The Panel has no doubt that Dr. Wade will complete this project and secure productions of his work.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$35,620**

**PROPOSAL NO. 026ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Chipping Close”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** James A. Wilcox

Though it is difficult to assess the significance of a novel before it is written, what is clear from this application is that Professor Wilcox is a very productive novelist working out a very interesting and complex idea about the relationship of New England and the New South. It will be Wilcox’s tenth novel, an accomplishment in itself. It is likely that, like his previous novels, this work will be distributed by a major U.S. publishing house and reviewed in national publications. Thus, it will have first-rate access to both critical and general audiences.

Part of Professor Wilcox’s intention is to reprise in his new novel several themes and ideas from earlier works. This is usual for novelists of some maturity and demonstrates a reflexive understanding of one’s work. Situated in both New England and the South, this work will attempt to address iconic ideas about the American landscape in the most contemporary terms. Moreover, his proposed exploration of the relationship of the new South and New England (respectively) to the notion of the autonomous free self would certainly activate the reader's thinking with regard to agency in the twenty-first century. The situation of the proposed novel is also ingenious, charming, engaging and extremely well written. The project is exemplary.

*Chipping Close* comes in the midst of Professor Wilcox’s very productive career. He has an excellent record of completing his projects and has received impressive acknowledgement of his work in the form of reviews and “mentions” in the press as well as being selected as Notable Book of the year by *The New York Times*. The submitted application includes three chapters of *Chipping Close*, the novel he would like to complete with this grant. He is clearly very well prepared to undertake this project.

The presented work plan of this project is feasible. Given Professor Wilcox’s past experience and productivity, the Panel is certain that he will complete this project in a timely manner.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,500**

**PROPOSAL NO. 027ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “From Empire to Nation: Chinese Economic Thought in Transition”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Margherita Zanasi

Dr. Zanasi proposes to study the transformation of Chinese thinking about economic development from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, a volatile period that includes the crisis and end of the empire, the growing penetration of Western interests and influence, the establishment of the republic, and the creation of the communist state. This is an important subject in itself, for what it tells us about China, and as a comparative model for studying the histories of other developing countries.

The project is clearly and decisively presented. Though the work plan is only sketchily presented, it is clear from the proposal and sample of work that Dr. Zanasi knows exactly what she wants to do and has found the right format within which to do it. Her approach involves a strong combination of intellectual history and economic theory. It will be of interest to students of Chinese history and economic thought, and promises to contribute substantially to the literature of both disciplines.

Although still in the early stages of her career, Dr. Zanasi is remarkably productive. In 2006, she published a book on economic modernity in China (Chicago). She has also written a number of papers on an impressively wide range of topics, including economics, politics, and international relations. These works establish her credentials for undertaking the current project, and give the Panel confidence that this work will be completed in a timely manner and to the highest standards. The book is already under contract with the University of Chicago press.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$36,800**



**PROPOSAL NO. 028ATL**

**Rank: 16**

**TITLE:** “Artist Residency in Mertola, Portugal with Solo Exhibition”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana Tech University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Bukowski

This project emphasizes, albeit somewhat tacitly, the symbiotic relationship between print-making and painting, a topic of interest in contemporary art. The applicant's emphasis on the viability of print-making as a significant form in its own right is of current interest in the visual arts arena. Her work is optically engaging and has the potential to reach broader professional and lay audiences. Preparing for a solo exhibition is very specialized work, while preparing in an international venue with other artists brings the work to a wider and important international forum. The exhibition itself will secure a broad audience, and Professor Bukowski's contacts with international shows and art dealers will ensure that her work is available to critical and art-savvy audiences. In addition, Professor Bukowski plans to give lectures and workshops, and thus will make artistic contributions in the setting of Convento Sao Francisco beyond the production of her own work. This aspect of her work plan strengthens the proposal, as it assures that her work will move beyond the gallery and into the community.

Professor Bukowski has won a number of national and international prizes and a number of grants with varying degrees of importance for her printmaking. The submitted slides of her work are well executed. It works to seriously engage the viewer on an optical level, and most often succeeds. The promise of the quality of the finished project based on both her submitted work and what she has already achieved is great. Though she works in an established style, the work samples suggest that she has brought her own signature to that style. She clearly and carefully considers her work and its relationship to other artists. Her ambitions do not, however, seem to strike out in new directions, but to recapitulate and reconsider existing ideas.

An estimate of six weeks for ordering supplies and counting them seems a bit excessive. Otherwise, Professor Bukowski seems to know well the labor involved in preparing and shipping canvases, in this case 36 of them. Three months is scheduled for actual painting/printmaking time. Eight paintings and ten monotypes are completed; the work plan is to create 36 additional paintings on canvas and fifty monotypes on paper. This seems like a lot to accomplish in three months, but the Panel is confident she will complete the work on schedule.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$35,100**

**PROPOSAL NO. 030ATL**

**Rank: 13**

**TITLE:** “The Hats of Della Francesco”

**INSTITUTION:** Loyola University New Orleans

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** W. Mark Grote

Professor Grote is a prolific sculptor whose work has gained considerable exposure among both professional and lay audiences. Significantly, he situates his current work in the realm of the relationship between archeology and sculpture. This is an interesting interface which promises both to expand upon his previous work and to increase his critical acclaim. The work is whimsical and funny, but also seems to have considerable resonance. The applicant's previous work, judging from the samples submitted, has similar characteristics, and appears well-crafted. Professor Grote has won a number of important awards over a span of many years, which attests to both his productivity and accomplishments. The images of sculptures submitted on DVD are wonderful. They invite thoughtful humor. The construction looks very good and the subject matter is intriguing. His described preparations for the project in question are strongly conceived and methodical, and appear to be well underway. This suggests the work will be of high quality, and likely to be accessible to and popular with a broad audience.

The project is well-defined and its conception – using the hats of Della Francesco as inspiration and launching pad for new sculptures – is a measure of Professor Grote’s ingenuity. His goal is to produce 10-15 sculptures that mimic and interact imaginatively with the hats in Della Francesco’s paintings. Besides rendering a two-dimensional image into three-dimensional form, the sculptures add a tactile dimension that seems designed to reconceptualize the viewer’s ideas about hats as cultural items. This is an interesting idea, and strong focus for the project.

Given Professor Grote’s productivity, it is clear that he has the ability to complete his project. His work plan seems very reasonable, though the Panel would stress that the pace of any work plan can be highly individual. In addition, the uncertainty surrounding his planned residency in Rome, presented in the narrative as a crucial element of the project’s success, makes it difficult to assess the feasibility of the work plan.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$45,650**

**PROPOSAL NO. 031ATL**

**Rank: 17**

**TITLE:** "Murder in New Orleans, 1940-2000"

**INSTITUTION:** Loyola University New Orleans

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dee Wood Harper, Jr.

The importance of Dr. Harper's larger goal - "trying to make sense out of the high levels of lethal violence in New Orleans" - is difficult to overstate. Moreover, this is a timely subject, given that the homicide rate in this city, which began declining in the mid-1990s, is on the rise again. Also, Dr. Harper is deploying promising new analytical techniques "to understand murder both spatially and temporally" in regards to "variation in lethal violence from neighborhood to neighborhood." But Dr. Harper's intended audience is "primarily other homicide researchers," which may limit the significance of this project. As well, the proposal gives little indication of the explanations or conclusions suggested by research already completed.

Dr. Harper is a consummate researcher, having worked as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on numerous federal, corporate, and private foundation grants since 1965. His research has been widely published in important legal and sociology journals. In addition, his recent work on domestic violence and homeless initiatives, funded through the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation, extend well beyond academic contexts into realms that have tangible impacts on peoples' everyday lives.

Aspects of this project are well defined and easy to grasp, particularly in terms of its methods of analysis. Dr. Harper adroitly brings together several lines of inquiry that involve "covariates of murder at the neighborhood level of analysis," thus framing "the influence of such things as concentrated poverty, female-headed households, neighborhood stability, education levels, age structure...and other related issues such as the emergence of a violent culture...and the breakdown of social control." Dr. Harper's historical approach is an excellent means for examining both the rise and decline of the murder rate in New Orleans, though it is not clear that this framework will be able to encompass the notable rising number of homicides since 2000. Also unclear in the proposal are what explanations he has uncovered in the process of conducting this research. Though he alludes to a "theoretical framework for understanding murder," he does not indicate what this might entail or how it might be formulated.

Dr. Harper outlines a reasonable time frame for completing the project. A major portion of the material to be included in the book manuscript has been written and either reviewed or presented in professional contexts. He should easily complete the remaining four chapters by March 2008, as is proposed.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$31,290**

**PROPOSAL NO. 033ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Abduction of Molly Digby: A True Story of Race, Justice, and Reconstruction in New Orleans”

**INSTITUTION:** Loyola University New Orleans

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Michael Ross

This fascinating project focuses on the abduction of seven-month-old Molly Digby in the summer of 1870. By carefully examining the crime and its public resonance, Dr. Ross’s work promises to illuminate the powerful currents of racial relations, local politics, and national influences in reconstruction-era New Orleans. At once a study in legal history, a mystery story, and an analysis of critical American issues, this will be an important book with the potential of being a bestseller.

Dr. Ross has both a law degree and a Ph.D. He has practiced law, published widely on a range of subjects, and is the author of a prize-winning biography of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Freeman Miller. This diffuse background qualifies him in unique ways to undertake this project, and makes the sample of work far-reaching and fascinating. His proposal and sample, moreover, are compellingly written. Dr. Ross clearly knows the material well and can weave together narrative and analysis, local and national histories, personality and structure.

Given his publication record and his convincing account of the project, the Panel has no doubt that Dr. Ross will complete this work during the period of his grant. This time frame is ambitious, however, and Dr. Ross will need to commit fully to the work. The Panel has the highest confidence this project.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$23,110**

**PROPOSAL NO. 034ATL**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Antifraternal Tradition at the Medieval University of Paris”

**INSTITUTION:** Southeastern Louisiana University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Andrew G. Traver

Dr. Traver’s project focuses on examining the institutional and intellectual history of the University of Paris in the late thirteenth century. He seeks to understand the processes by which an essentially conservative university confronted a radical challenge to new models of ministry — indeed, new models of understanding the life of Christ. By examining the debates in meticulous detail, Dr. Traver sheds light on the intellectual and spiritual life of this medieval university. In doing so, he corrects previous historians, who have been insufficiently attentive to the full range of documentary evidence.

The project is very clearly conceived, and Dr. Traver has already completed much of the archival research. The work plan is well documented, and the book will be well organized. Because he has a distinct sense of who would publish such a volume, he will craft the book for this scholarly audience. What is needed is a sabbatical period of study for him to focus on the writing and polishing of the manuscript.

Based on his previous work, Dr. Traver is a very promising, established scholar who is well grounded in his subject. He has published extensively on it since receiving his Ph.D. in 1996, and is establishing a substantial reputation in this field. While the potential audience for this work is largely academic, it will impact a variety of disciplines under the rubric of Medieval Studies, and promises to be scholarly work of the highest caliber.

Dr. Traver offers a very feasible time line. Because of the clarity of his work plan and the fact that he has already begun drafting the book, the Panel has full confidence that he will finish this study within the award year or soon after.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,500**

**PROPOSAL NO. 037ATL**

**Rank: 19**

**TITLE:** “The Words and Pictures of the Franks Casket”

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** James E. Anderson

Dr. Anderson’s “life’s work” combines three fields — medieval Christian poetry, Anglo-Saxon Christian art, and historical liturgy — all of which are considerably in play in his study of the Franks Casket. The expanse of his expertise and scholarly accomplishments, as well as his somewhat controversial career, have prepared him well to undertake the current project.

Dr. Anderson’s research – with its emphasis on puzzles and riddles – has yielded considerable discussion in various academic communities, which could be a positive benefit for a project such as this. The proposal is thoroughly researched and clearly argued, and Dr. Anderson’s central arguments have considerable potential impact. The proposed structure of the study, which follows side-after-side the shape of the Franks casket, is unimaginative but appropriate and sensible given the project’s hypothesis/argument. Dr. Anderson has already invested a lot of time and research in this project, and at times the proposal reads like a finished work. Without a doubt, this project will contribute very significantly within its academic field and may well have considerably broader appeal, given the ramifications of its argument.

The scale of Dr. Anderson’s argument and significant knowledge needed to undertake it are impressive. The Panel is somewhat concerned, given this, that Dr. Anderson seems to be a slow publisher and might have difficulty completing five chapters and updating two others (written eight years ago) in a single award year. Nevertheless, his dedication and focus on this project makes it highly likely that he will see it to conclusion in a limited period of time.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient monies be available. The budget is reasonable and should be cut by approximately 7% as mandated for all recommended projects. Reductions in the budget may be made at the discretion of the Principal Investigator. If sufficient funds are not available in this fiscal year, the Panel strongly urges the applicant to resubmit the proposal in the next competition.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,500**

## **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  
Professor  
Department of Painting  
Maryland Institute College of Art

### **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  
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 2006-07  
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

**38 TOTAL PROPOSALS**

22	HUM	Humanities
6	ARTS	Arts
10	SOC SCI	Social Sciences

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,695,728**

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$500,000**

**Regents Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Program  
FY 2006-07 Competition  
Proposals Submitted**

<b>Proposal#/ Discipline</b>	<b>PI Name(s)</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Proposal Title</b>	<b>Funds Requested/Duration</b>
001ATL-07 ARTS/Filmmaking	Lucian Zidaru	Dillard University	Beethoven - The Complete Piano Sonatas: 8 Recitals Recorded at New Orleans and Dillard University	\$70,000* 24 months
002ATL-07 H/Philosophy	Jon Cogburn	LSU-Baton Rouge	<i>Playing the World: Computational Emergence in Art and Mind</i>	\$35,786 Academic Year
003ATL-07 SS/Anthropology & Archaeology	Jay D. Edwards	LSU-Baton Rouge	Creole Architecture: An Anthropological View of America's Architecture	\$49,307 Academic Year
004ATL-07 SS/Political Science	James C. Garand	LSU-Baton Rouge	Political Science: Explorations in the Sociology of a Discipline	\$50,000 Academic Year
005ATL-07 SS/Political Science	Robert E. Hogan	LSU-Baton Rouge	Representation in State Legislatures: How Institutional and District Conditions Shape Legislator Responsiveness	\$45,997 Academic Year
006ATL-07 SS/Political Science	James M. Honeycutt	LSU-Baton Rouge	Studies in Imagined Interaction	\$50,000 Academic Year
007ATL-07 H/History	Christine J. Kooi	LSU-Baton Rouge	Heretics and Idolaters: Calvinists and Catholics in Golden Age Holland, 1572-1672	\$40,859 Academic Year

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\* ATLAS projects are limited to \$50,000 and one academic year.

008ATL-07 H/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Alexandre Leupin	LSU-Baton Rouge	A book length study of Proust's <i>Remembrance of Things Past</i> entitled Proust's Desire	\$50,000 Academic Year
009ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	John Wharton Lowe	LSU-Baton Rouge	Calypso Magnolia: The Caribbean Side of the South	\$50,000 Academic Year
010ATL-07 ARTS/Fiction	David Madden	LSU-Baton Rouge	London Bridge is Falling Down, a novel	\$50,000 Academic Year
011ATL-07 H/Other	Michelle A. Massé	LSU-Baton Rouge	Great Expectations: Gendering Age, Narcissism, and the <u>Bildungsroman</u>	\$49,983 Academic Year
012ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Patrick McGee	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Folklore of the Future: D. H. Lawrence and the Counter-Modernist Tradition	\$50,000 Academic Year
013ATL-07 SS/Other	Jean McGuire	LSU-Baton Rouge	Corporate Governance and Economic Development	\$46,996 Academic Year
014ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Elsie B. Michie	LSU-Baton Rouge	"The Vulgar Question of Money": Women of Wealth in the Novel of Manners	\$42,903 Academic Year
015ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Richard C. Moreland	LSU-Baton Rouge	Learning and Education in Modern American Literature	\$47,618 Academic Year

016ATL-07 SS/Political Science	Kevin V. Mulcahy	LSU-Baton Rouge	Book on <i>Politics, Policies, and Public Culture: International Perspectives</i>	\$46,638 Academic Year
017ATL-07 H/History & Linguistics	Lisi Oliver	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Body Legal in the Dark Ages	\$48,207 Academic Year
018ATL-07 SS/Anthropology & Archaeology	Helen A. Regis	LSU-Baton Rouge	Owning the Streets: Blackness, Performance, and Public Space in New Orleans	\$50,000 Academic Year
019ATL-07 H/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Joseph V. Ricapito	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Persistent Icon: The Birth and Development of the Picaro in a Comparative Context	\$50,000 Academic Year
020ATL-07 H/Art History	Susan E. Ryan	LSU-Baton Rouge	Computer Couture: The History of Wearable Technology as Aesthetic Medium in the Late 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> Centuries	\$48,514 Academic Year
021ATL-07 H/Philosophy	Gregory Schufreider	LSU-Baton Rouge	MONDRIAN'S OPENING> <HEIDEGGER'S HOLE: Drawing/Painting – Writing/Thinking	\$49,931 Academic Year
022ATL-07 SS/Geography	Andrew Sluyter	LSU-Baton Rouge	Completion of a Book on the Environmental History of the Argentine Pampas	\$50,000 Academic Year
023ATL-07 H/History	Meredith Veldman	LSU-Baton Rouge	Jesus in Britain, 1850-1970	\$42,585 Academic Year

024ATL-07 ARTS/Drama	Leslie A. Wade	LSU-Baton Rouge	Shelter of Last Resort: An Original Play on Postdiluvial New Orleans	\$38,202 Academic Year
025ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Sharon Aronofsky Weltman	LSU-Baton Rouge	<u>Victorians on Broadway: The Cultural Work of American Musical Theater's Obsession with Victorian England</u>	\$47,782 Academic Year
026ATL-07 ARTS/Fiction	James Wilcox	LSU-Baton Rouge	Chipping Close	\$50,000 Academic Year
027ATL-07 H/History	Margherita Zanasi	LSU-Baton Rouge	From Empire to Nation: Chinese Economic Thought in Transition	\$39,450 Academic Year
028ATL-07 ARTS/Painting	Marie Bukowski	Louisiana Tech Univ.	Artist Residency in Mertola, Portugal with Solo Exhibition	\$37,591 2 quarters
029ATL-07 SS/Other	S. L. Alexander	Loyola Univ. New Orleans	True Live Tales of Louisiana Courtrooms	\$22,096 1 semester
030ATL-07 ARTS/Sculpture	W. Mark Grote	Loyola Univ. New Orleans	The Hats of Della Francesco	\$49,090 Academic Year
031ATL-07 SS/Sociology	Dee Wood Harper, Jr.	Loyola Univ. New Orleans	Murder in New Orleans, 1940-2000	\$33,649 Academic Year
032ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Andrew Macdonald	Loyola Univ. New Orleans	Against the Racial Grain: Hearns' "Creole" as a Metaphor for New Orleans – A Linguistic Perspective	\$32,212 Academic Year

033ATL-07 H/History	Michael Ross	Loyola Univ. New Orleans	The Abduction of Molly Digby: A True Story of Race, Justice, and Reconstruction in New Orleans	\$24,639 Academic Year
034ATL-07 H/History	Andrew G. Traver	Southeastern LA Univ.	The Antifraternal Tradition at the Medieval University of Paris	\$50,000 Academic Year
035ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Molly Anne Rothenberg	Tulane	The Cause in Question: Social Change Theory and the Problem of Excess	\$35,126 Academic Year
036ATL-07 H/Other	Michele White	Tulane	Buy It Now: Lessons from eBay (Book Project)	\$42,996 Academic Year
037ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	James E. Anderson	UL Lafayette	The Words and Pictures of the Franks Casket	\$50,000 Academic Year
038ATL-07 H/English Lang. & Lit.	Jennifer Geer	UL Lafayette	Golden Afternoons: Nostalgic Desire in Victorian Children's Fantasy Fiction	\$27,571 Academic Year

**NUMBER OF PROPOSALS: 38**

**Arts: 6**

**Humanities: 22**

**Social Sciences: 10**

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1,695,728**

**TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE: \$500,000**