

Dee Family Technology Grants Funding Criteria

The Dee Family Technology Awards provide support for faculty projects using technology in research or applying technology to pedagogy. Funds are distributed based on a competitive proposal process and proposals are reviewed by the Academic Resources and Computing Committee.

In order to qualify for funding, a successful proposal must fit into one of the following general categories:

1. Projects specifically related to faculty research or scholarly activities.
2. Discipline-specific software to enable a faculty member to enhance an existing course, or to develop a new course.
3. One-time technical support for the development of special software related to a specific course.
4. Costs associated with one-time faculty training in an area of information technology directly applicable to the academic mission of the institution.
5. Requests for specific pieces of hardware are acceptable. However the hardware should be essential for completion of a project in one of the four categories above.

Funds available for award during Spring 2003 total \$15,000. Given the limited availability of funds, restrictions exist related to the funding of information technology by the Dee Family Technology Awards:

1. During this initial phase, project requests are limited to a maximum of \$5,000.
2. Faculty and staff office computers are not funded. Under certain circumstances, an individual may require a machine that exceeds the campus standard. In such a case, this may qualify for funding.
3. Equipment or technical support for student or departmental laboratories are not supported.
4. Only projects directly related to information technology are funded.

**Dee Family Technology Awards
Proposal for Funding**

Due Monday, May 5, 2003

Project Title: CALABAR! Creating an hour-long documentary video on Old and
New Calabar, Nigeria.

Project Director: Dr. Vicki Ramirez

Department(s): English

College(s): Arts & Humanities

E-Mail: vramirez@weber.edu

Extension: x6669

Other Members of Project Team: Photographers in Calabar; African advisory panel

Instructions:

1. Please complete each section in the space provided. The justification section should not exceed two single-spaced typed pages.
2. You are required to obtain the signature of an ARCC representative for your college, indicating that she/he is familiar with the proposal, and can speak to it during funding deliberations.
3. Your department chair's signature is also required, indicating that she/he supports the proposal, and that the proposal is in keeping with departmental goals related to information technology and its applications to the academic mission of the institution. Your Chair's signature also indicates her/his commitment to help support the project financially if so indicated on the budget page.
4. Submit one copy of the proposal, together with all relevant signatures, by 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2003. The proposals should be submitted to Ken Cuddeback, MC 1501.

ARCC Representative:

I have read the proposal and discussed it with the Project Director.

ARCC Representative

Comments:

Department Chair:

The Department has reviewed this project within the context of overall information technology planning within the Department. If the budget page indicates financial support from the Department, I agree to commit those funds to this project.

Department Chair

Comments:

College Dean:

I have reviewed this project. If the budget page indicates financial support from the College, I agree to commit those funds to this project.

College Dean

Comments:

Abstract (project summary): In November, 2006, I will travel to Calabar, Nigeria, where I lived and taught at the University of Nigeria in the 1980s. I wish to return to conduct research for a travel narrative piece I'm writing entitled *Under African Skies: A Photo-journalist's Journey through Old and New Calabar*. I will conduct interviews, take day trips, and visit places of local interest for the sake of writing a *National Geographic*-type essay. As I am currently on my first sabbatical at WSU, I have the time to film footage for a video version of the written travel essay. It will be a 60-minute documentary on this famous town in southeast Nigeria, situated near the Cameroonian border. The video will cover many of the places and people that I include in my written piece. Calabar is unique in several ways: it was the headquarters of British rule Nigeria, and it was an infamous slave port. It is also near wild habitat, and is located on two rivers. I intend to explore key historical aspects of Calabar in **Part 1**, along with a visual tour of the city and its surroundings.

Part 2 of the video piece will include contemporary Calabar, the focus of which will be an interview with David Duke of Cross River State. In June, 2005, this American-educated governor announced on National Public Radio a new state initiative focusing on the development of a tourist industry in Nigeria's southeast corner. I wish to examine his ideas, find out what progress has been made, explore the challenges he faces, and take a look at some of the places of interest Duke wants travelers to see when they visit his state. During my three-week stay I will visit several tourist destinations, such as Obubu Cattle Ranch, Cross River State National Park, Agbokin Water Falls, and the Afi Mountains Nature Reserve. I will also look briefly at Calabar as eco-tourist destination, based on the endangered Mandrill monkey whose habitat includes Calabar.

Finally, as Calabar is the home of the indigenous Efik people, while Ikot Ekpene on the Calabar River is home to the Ibibio tribe, I will visit several waterside villages to record cultural song and dance in these outlying locations.

I will have a WSU student filmmaker edit and put together a Ken Burns-style documentary that will include music, song and dance, interviews, and still photos of the region and its peoples.

Objectives and goals of this project: I have several reasons for undertaking this ambitious project:

1 I'm on sabbatical, have the time, and am familiar with the region. Also, lined up is a crew of friends and associates to facilitate my travel and research there.

2 There is a dearth of written or visual material pertaining to contemporary African life in general, and related to African tourism in particular. This is uncharted territory.

3 As a scholar of African Anglophone literature and a professor in the English dept., my areas of teaching include African literature. Moreover, I am currently designing a creative writing course treating travel narrative.

Identify specific courses and/or programs that will directly benefit from this project:

1 At WSU I teach World Literature 3510, and we read several contemporary African writers. The visual aspect of the video will be invaluable to my students, most of whom know nothing about Africa. The video of contemporary rural and urban life will enhance their understanding of a culture similar to what they are reading about.

2 At WSU I teach writing courses within our Creative Writing Program. I am designing a hybrid “genre” course on travel narrative and writing. In this class students will read examples of travel narratives and watch several travel programs. Then they will create their own travel narrative. If I am funded, the video and digital cameras will be used in this course, made available to students to create their own short travel videos.

If applicable, describe how this project will help to increase faculty productivity or enhance competency in some area of information technology. Although I will not be handling the technical side of this project beyond filming live video and taking still photos, I will gain competency in creating the travel video/documentary. This is a viable technical and creative writing niche. Students can learn how to document travel essay with visuals. Most critically, they will gain experience writing informative and professional scripts for their pieces.

Describe how the success of this project will be evaluated. Beyond the written article I will produce, the video I’m planning will be entered in competitions for documentary films. According to how professional it turns out, I hope to make it available to Educational TV. I will also make the video available to colleagues interested in diversity, or in the African continent. I plan to arrange a presentation of the film and the making of it at Special Collections in the Stewart Library for the university community.

Timeline:

Summer, 2006: conduct pre-trip research on Eastern Nigeria, with a focus on the history of Calabar as governmental seat of British rule.

July-November: read the classic works on European travel in Africa, including but not limited to contemporary writers (Alan Moorehead’s *The Blue Nile*, Paul Theroux’s *Dark Star Safari*), and 19th and early 20th century writer-adventurers (Isabelle Eberhardt’s *The Nomad*, David Livingstone’s *The Life and African Exploration of David Livingstone*, Henry Stanley’s *Through the Dark Continent*, Beryl Markham’s *The Splendid Outcast*, and Richard Burton’s *First Footsteps in East Africa*).

Late November-early December, 2006: Fly to Calabar and spend several weeks traveling, interviewing, recording music, shooting video footage, and taking photos to accompany the article. I will begin writing the piece while there, and finish it after I return in December.

January-April, 2007: Materials will be handed over to the video editor, and after he produces an edited piece, an advisory group of Nigerians from Calabar will be asked to view and comment on the piece. I will write a script and again have the advisory panel of Africans view the finished video to make comments and corrections. The video film will be revised one final time if necessary.

Budget

Note: Please be as specific as possible regarding requested hardware, software, or other resources. If funds are being committed from other resources, please so indicate.

Requested hardware/software	Cost
Olympus SP-320, 7.1 Megapixel	260.00
Olympus 1 GB card	75.00
Olympus E-7AE 220v adapter	40.00
CTA AA niMH Batteries charger &4-pack	20.00
Camera Case	4.00
Hitachi D2GX3200 DVD Camcorder 2.12 Megapixel, 2.7" widescreen, USB 2.0	600.00
Rode Videomicrophone-Cam mounted Shotgun mike w/Integrated Shock	150.00
Bescor TH-660 Tripod w/case	200.00
Bescor Bes-0108ATM shoulder pack 12 VDC	16.50
Franzus 50 Watt International Converter	16.50
BPR Medium backpack	100.00
Total	1482.00