This year, Dr. J. Heath Anderson continues his field research on ancient Mesoamerican societies in the Tula region. Threatened more than ever by urban development, this area of Mexico is crucial to the American past and rich in ancient remains that researchers like Anderson are confident will provide insight into complex societies.

This endeavor, “The Tula Region Epiclassic Interaction and Migration Project”, is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. It continues and expands on his 2012 pilot project, also supported by an NSF grant, called “Cerro Magoni Mapping and Excavation Project.” This leg of the project will allow the team to conduct more extensive excavations.

Anderson will be traveling to Mexico’s Tula Region with a team of graduate assistants and undergraduate field school students to perform LiDAR-based topographic mapping, reconnaissance, and excavation in collaboration with Mexican colleagues and local populations. The goal is to gather and study materials from the region in order to permit a better understanding of the intensity, direction, and character of cultural interactions that culminated in the formation of the Toltec State.

The Toltecs lived in the Tula region of Mexico in AD 900. Anderson posits that “the centralization of power and population in the Tula region…was accomplished during preceding centuries by combining formerly autonomous and perhaps antagonistic polities into a single state.”

What makes Dr. Anderson’s project so urgently important is the threat the Tula Region has been facing for the last decade, a threat often posed to landscapes rich in historical and cultural value: urbanization. Before and during the first project Anderson led at Cerro Magoni, development agents were rumored to be visiting local residents to persuade them to sell their land. As this threat continues to grow, Anderson and his team view this as one of the final chances archaeologists might have to recover and study Cerro Magoni’s unique and ancient remains.

With support from the National Science Foundation and Minnesota State University, Mankato, Dr. Anderson and his team have been at the front line of archeological discoveries in an important region of Mexico since 2012, and plan to continue through the summer of 2017.
The purpose of a Faculty Research Grant (FRG) at MSU, Mankato is to encourage excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activities among MSU, Mankato faculty by providing seed funding for faculty projects.

**Congratulations to the Fall 2015 FRG Award Winners!**

**Barbara Carson** (SBS)
“Assessing the Impact of Judicial Discretion on Criminal Sentencing in Australia”

**Julie Carlson** (COE)
“A Certain Kansas Lad—Autobiographical Memoir—with Collective Edited Works of Dr. Lloyd Burgess Sharp, Pioneer in Outdoor Education”

**Bradley Coulter** (A&H)
“Resurrecting the Pantograph: Artisan Printing Through Digital Means”

**J. Ruth Dawley-Carr** (COE)
“Social Responsibility and *Convivencia* in Cuban Citizenship Education: Aims, Practices, and Challenges”

**Laura Jacobi** (A&H)
“What Motivates Students in the Online Classroom? Faculty and Student Perspectives on Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivators”

**Allison Land** (CSET)
“Counteraction of Human APOBEC3A by HIIV-2 Vpx”

**Megan Mahowald** (CAHN)
“An Exploratory Study of How Professional Development Affects Speech-Language Pathologists’ Literacy Knowledge, Beliefs and Practices”

**David Sharlin** (CSET)
“Thyroid Hormone, IGF, and Brain Development”

**Jacob Swanson** (CSET)
“Development of an Air Quality Sensing Network to Elucidate the Impact of Aircraft Emissions in South Minneapolis”

**Dorothy Wrigley** (CSET)
“Biocementation with Streptomyces: Proof-of-Concept”

**Qun Zhang** (CSET)

**SPRING 2016 FRG**

**Workshop:** February 24, 2016, 10-11am, CSU 203
**Deadline:** Thursday, March 17, 2016

Check out our [website](#) for the FRG Guidelines.
Research News

National Science Foundation Grant Proposal Guide Update, effective January 25th, 2016

Editorial changes have been made to either clarify or enhance the intended meaning of a sentence or section to ensure consistency with data contained in NSF systems or other NSF policy documents. Throughout the PAPPG, website references, as well as Division or Office names, have been updated to reflect current information. Check out the guide here.

“Ten Blunders That Will Disqualify Your Grant”

The Grant Training Center focuses on ten common mistakes applicants make when writing and submitting grant proposals, including, “Not allowing sufficient time to write”, “Not following instructions”, and “Lack of preliminary data or research”. Read more about these and other points here.

FY16 Q1 Funding

July 1, 2015 -- September 31, 2015

Number of Submissions 36
Amount of Submissions $6,471,744.72

Number of Awards 34
Amount from Agency $4,714,561.89

Supplemental Funding per the Business Office $147,011.70

Total FY16 Q1 Funds $4,861,573.59

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