

## SUMMER-2009 FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

**Timothy Doherty, Ph.D.\***

**Associate Professor and Department Coordinator  
Department of English and Communications, Rivier College**

**Dr. Naomi Schoenfeld**, Assistant Professor, Division of Education

**Project title:** Humble Beginnings: Incorporating Operant Conditioning Activities into Teacher Education Curriculum for Teachers of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders.

**Project Abstract:**

While the classroom management strategies used in special education classrooms are based on principles that emerged from experimental psychology, pre-service teachers rarely experience the sorts of powerful examples of these principles that hands-on activities can provide. This grant will link current classroom practice in special education to historic discoveries in behavior analysis by creating the materials and activities for Rivier special education courses that will allow students to replicate early operant conditioning experiments using a responding board that mimics the classical operant chamber and their fellow-students as participants.

**Dr. Karen O. Spohn**, Associate Professor of Economics and Finance, Division of Business Administration

**Project title:** The Value of ‘Keeping the Faith’ in Bear Markets.

**Project Abstract:**

Recessions and bear markets such as the current economic situation bring corruption to the surface and an increased value to ethical behavior. Subsets of socially responsible investment such as Faith Based and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are marketed as “good” investments during these times. The proposed research tests the hypothesis that socially responsible investment and in particular faith based funds perform better in market downturns. In other words, this project attempts to estimate the value of “keeping the faith” in bear markets.

**Dr. Joel Stake**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Division of Sciences

**Project title:** Reevaluation of the Family *Agariciidae* Using Novel Molecular Markers.

**Project Abstract:**

The scleractinian coral family *Agariciidae* is an important reef-builder worldwide. The family contains three representative Caribbean genera, *Agaricia*, *Helioseris*, and *Leptoseris*. *Agaricia* and *Helioseris* are restricted to the Caribbean Sea/ western Atlantic, while *Leptoseris* contains species in both the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific. The phylogenetic relationships between these genera remain unclear, as do relationships within each genus. I propose using an integrative taxonomic approach to explore the systematic relationships that exist within and between these genera. Genetic markers developed during my dissertation research, as well as newly developed markers, will be used to generate molecular phylogenies for all Caribbean species in the family. Upon completion of the proposed systematic studies, taxonomic reevaluations will be undertaken, and current problems with nomenclature will be addressed in published revisions. ■

---

\* **TIMOTHY J. DOHERTY**, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Department of English and Communications at Rivier College, where he also directs the campus writing program and chairs the Faculty Development Committee. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1996, and is currently interested in the intersection of conflict resolution, deliberative democracy, and core education in colleges and universities.