

For Immediate Release

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The American Alpine Club Selects 2007 Research Grant Winners

Golden, Colorado—June 2007—The American Alpine Club (AAC) recently announced the winners of the 2007 Research Grants. Ten individuals were selected and a total of over \$10,000 was awarded through various funds. Proposals ranged from man's impact on the alpine environment, including topics in climate change and avalanche research, to research identifying injury and treatment patterns for rock climbers.

The AAC Research grants typically range from \$500-2K and are given annually as a means for researchers to obtain critical "seed funding" to help secure sustainable funding opportunities. In 2005, researcher Clint Rogers received a Fulbright "Independent Scholars" fellowship after his AAC grant and this field research resulted in two published books written about his trans-Himalayan Nepal/Tibet trade investigations.

The AAC Grants Program awards over \$50,000 annually to fund cutting-edge climbing expeditions, research projects that further the scientific knowledge of the climbing community, humanitarian efforts, and conservation programs. For more information on the AAC Research Grants Program, or to apply for the next round of grants (applications due March 1, 2008), please visit: www.AmericanAlpineClub.org.

The following recipients are in receipt of this year's award:

- Teresa Chuang was awarded \$1,500 for her three year project to better understand how species' ranges shift due to climate change.
- Julie Crawford has been awarded \$1,400 for her role in continuing the work of the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA).
- Jennifer Geib was awarded \$1,000 to research how alpine plants' pollination 'niche breadth' may affect their response to pollinator density.
- Jeanette Hagan receives \$1,000 to better understand the evolution of the central Sierra Nevada frontal fault zone.
- Timothy Jang has been awarded \$500 to continue his work at the UCLA Medical Center titled: Injury and Treatment Patterns of Southern California Climbers.
- Philip Keating was awarded \$750 to use remote sensing and GIS to map high-elevation polylepis forests in Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, Northeastern Ecuador.
- Stephen Matter will receive \$1,000 to study the rate of tree-line rise on Jumpingpound Ridge.
- Ryan McKeon has been given \$1,000 for his study titled: The relationship between Quaternary glaciation and modern topography in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado: Implications for an arid "glacial buzzsaw".
- Erich Pietzsch was awarded \$1,500 for his study of wet slab avalanches in Glacier National Park, Montana.

- Jeremy Shakun receives \$750 for his project titled: Developing a Cosmogenic Chronology of Tropical Glaciation in the Peruvian Andes.

About the American Alpine Club

The American Alpine Club is the premier national organization in the U.S. devoted to the multitude of issues facing rock climbers and mountaineers. For more than 100 years, the AAC has led mountaineering adventure, scientific research, and education in the U.S. The Club's active membership ranges from beginning climbers to a "who's who" of the world's most experienced mountaineers. The organization's dedication to education and conservation drives dissemination of knowledge and continued study and scientific exploration of the high mountains of the world, from the Arctic Circle to the peaks of Antarctica. For more information on the AAC, and to learn how to become active in the organization and the sport of climbing, visit the AAC web site at www.AmericanAlpineClub.org.

About the AAC Research Grant Committee

Wm. Hugh Bollinger, Chair, is the founder and President of Pondaray, a publisher of photographic and video content. Hugh serves as a trustee and advisor to several non-profit organizations, and holds a PhD in mountain ecology and MS in plant biogeography from the University of Colorado and a BA in environmental studies from the University of California.

John M. Grunsfeld has been a member of NASA's astronaut corps since 1992. He served as NASA's chief scientist detailed to help restore the optics for the Hubble Space Telescope which he repaired during a lengthy space walk. John has logged over 45 days in space including 5 space walks totally nearly 40 hours, and holds a bachelor of science degree in physics from MIT and a MS and PhD in physics from the University of Chicago.

Raymond B. Huey works at the interface of evolution, ecology, behavior, physiology, and the environment. Aspects of Mr. Huey's work on invasive species, evolutionary physiology, and Himalayan mountaineering have considerable applied relevance. He holds a BA degree from the University of California, a MA from the University of Texas, and a PhD from Harvard University.

Walter E. Parham's professional activities have included investigations of tropical rock weathering processes, environmental geology, and sustainable agriculture in developing countries. Mr. Parham holds a PhD from the University of Illinois in geology and clay mineralogy.

W. Lowell Putnam is President/CEO of VCI, a video and communications technology company in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Putnam Family's pioneering underwriting for the AAC's Research Grants Program has allowed multiple projects to receive financial support for environment and mountain research. Lowell holds a degree in psychology from American International College.

Sarah Vaill has worked for organizations in the fields of international women's rights and philanthropy. She is a full-time writer and consultant, a part-time filmmaker, and a longtime social activist. Sarah is a graduate of the UCLA Film School's Professional Program in Screenwriting and holds a B.A. from Duke University in Gender and Hispanic Cultures.