

DEAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STUDENT VENTURE GRANT APPLICATION

Please read all instructions and regulations on the reverse side of this sheet prior to the completion of this form. The original plus 6 copies of your proposal are due in the Dean's Office on the 2nd Friday of the Block by 1:00 p.m.

DATE SUBMITTED 11/11/05

NAME [REDACTED] CLASS 2006 WORNOR BOX [REDACTED] EXT. —

ID # [REDACTED] HOMETOWN (Not Address) [REDACTED]

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ WORNOR BOX \_\_\_\_\_ EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

ID # \_\_\_\_\_ HOMETOWN (Not Address) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INTENDED USE OF FUNDS

Independent Research - travel to The Sudan  
December 27th - January 21st, 2005-2006

PROPOSED DATE/BLOCK OF USE Dec. 27th - Jan. 21st

NAME OF FACULTY SPONSOR Pick Furtak

HAVE YOU BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF A PREVIOUS VENTURE GRANT Yes  No

IF SO, WHAT AMOUNT? \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT SUBMITTED? \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT OF VENTURE FUNDS NOW REQUESTED \$250

ARE YOU SEEKING OTHER FUNDING FOR THIS PROPOSAL?  Yes  No

IF YES, WHAT IS THE SOURCE? president's fund, shelter fund, possibly history dep.

If this proposal is approved, I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Dean's Office immediately if I do not pursue my project as proposed to the Dean's Advisory Committee. I further understand that all funds are to be used according to the proposal as submitted and approved by the Dean's Advisory Committee. Any changes to an approved project must be submitted to the Chair of the Committee for approval. Please note: the IRS requires that we report Venture Funds as taxable income.

SIGNATURE [REDACTED] DATE 11/11/05  
\*\*\*\*\*DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE\*\*\*\*\*

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS TO BE USED \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT SUBMITTED \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

November 11, 2005

Dear Venture Committee,

My name is Kiley Dunlap. I am a senior philosophy major. I am applying for an independent research venture grant. The aim of my project is to collect material for the final chapter of my senior thesis, and to bring the ideas I have been working with up to speed with a contemporary political/ humanitarian issue.

Last year I received the Lewis prize in philosophy and the War and Human Values Essay Contest which enabled me to get a good start on my thesis. The working title of my thesis is "An Inquiry into the Essence of Truth". In brief, my thesis consists of four parts: The first is an existential critique of the epistemological worldview. The second is an investigation into truth in the Greek sense of *aletheia*, an uncovering or revealing. The third part is about poetic thinking and aesthetic truth and the fourth is about ethical truth, moral responsibility, and evil as un-truth or anti-truth.

These are rich and pregnant themes and, I think, demonstrate much of what I have been studying in the last four years. The ethical truth piece is especially significant for me as I have attempted at every moment to not isolate myself in the merely theoretical, but to use theoretical studies as leverage to further ground myself into the world. I am very interested in how philosophy can lay the ground for an ethical orientation to the world.

My commitment to social justice has led me in many directions. I am currently a Teacher's aide at Community Prep high school, an 'at-risk' charter school. I assist with the children's club (Journeys and Memories Club) of Southern Colorado AIDS Project. This last summer I worked for a socially responsible mutual fund, the Women's Equity Fund. I spent last fall in South Africa, living and working at an AIDS hospice and studying public health. I have chaired the Queer Straight Alliance on campus, been an officer for Amnesty International and have put together many campus-wide events including a series of conversations about sexuality with religious leaders in Colorado Springs and gay rights advocates (moderated by President Celeste and Bruce Coriell). I am also going to the MAT program at CC next year, after which I plan to teach internationally or to return to my hometown (Oakland, CA) to teach in under-served school districts.

I will complete my thesis in block four and would like the opportunity to undertake a project that I feel will marry my activist commitment and my theoretical studies. I want to follow through on the ideas I espouse by visiting Sudan for three weeks January break. I have thought a lot about the subject of evil and its relationship to truth in the last four years. One of the primary conclusions of my thesis is that while people say of the Holocaust, "It will never happen again"; it is precisely the nature of truth to recover, and become hidden once again. The reality is the holocaust can and has happened again. I have read the ethical writings of post WW II Jewish philosophers (Arendt, Levinas) and

have found the only recourse we have is to take our responsibility to “bear witness” very seriously.

I have tried very hard to bear witness and make myself available to ‘limit-experiences’ (a term coined by Carl Jaspers, meaning situations where we encounter our limits as human beings, thereby becoming more human, more known to ourselves). “AIDS in Southern Africa” can seem like a terrifying headline or catch-phrase, but after nursing a dying five-year-old, I can authentically say that these tragedies do not have to be alien fears. It is very possible (and we must) own them and incorporate them into our continuum of lived experience. I seek to continually broaden that continuum, and in doing so deepen my commitment to do everything I can do leave the world a little better than I found it.

This is not merely an impassioned, flighty plea but I have dedicated a lot of time and energy to thinking deeply and complexly about these issues. I would like the opportunity to extend my War and Human Values paper, “The Banal Proves Fatal”, on the WW II Holocaust, Hannah Arendt’s notion of the banality of evil, and the necessity of witnessing, to witness for myself the human rights disaster in Sudan.

I have arranged to stay with a Sudanese family of Yemeni descent for my first week in Khartoum. This family is unique in that they are very wealthy in an incredibly impoverished country. They have governmental connections and have made their money from public utilities and oil. I am interested in this home-stay experience because I think it will capture the banal quality of modern evil. My thesis attempts to discount the popular claim that greater and more dangerous technology is to blame for the seemingly increased prevalence of evil in the last century. My argument is that bureaucracy, in its responsibility-stripping tendency, is the culprit. The petty bureaucrat is capable of committing unspeakable evils, evidenced in Arendt’s *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. The disconnect of the individual from the totality has created a false alibi; making it exceedingly difficult to locate evil in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am interested in this home-stay experience because I wish to understand the subtlety and complexity of human evil: even wardens of WW II extermination camps had homes, with their children and flower gardens on site. This is just to say that the full story of genocide will not be found in axe-wielding, uneducated child-soldiers. If we fall prey to this disassociation with human evil, we will never be in a position to work meaningfully to its end. There are very “nice” people that are complicit in and propagate evil by “just doing their jobs”: participating in, and making money from, unjust political and economic structures. I feel prepared for this home-stay experience. On my first trip to South Africa, in high school, I spent one month with a pro-apartheid, Afrikaner family.

After this home-stay I will acquire my own lodging, and for the duration of my stay will interview field workers from international humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross and UNICEF. Last year, studying public health in South Africa, I worked closely with health care workers in extreme situations. I have also lived in Black and “Coloured” townships for extended periods of time. I also did a rural home-stay in South Africa and worked with health professionals at rural clinics and shadowed community outreach

workers for three days, walking 15-20 miles per day, teaching hygiene and communicable disease basics, providing medications, and making reports on chronic patients. While I do not believe that any study can be genuinely objective, I will make the utmost effort to collect significant information. I understand that I must submit my interview questions and consent form to be reviewed by the IRB. I will work closely with Amanda Udis-Kessler next block to develop an efficient, conscientious, and sensitive way conduct my research.

I should take a moment to talk about personal safety. The State Department has warned Americans against all travel to Sudan, also stating "all travel outside the capital is potentially dangerous". While the most abject suffering is in Southwest Sudan and refugee camps across the border in Chad, I do not feel it would be responsible or helpful to enter these areas. I plan to conduct all of my research in the capital of Khartoum and the immediately surrounding areas. The state department also warns against Americans attending any demonstrations or rallies because of anti-American sentiment. I plan to conduct all of my research on an intimate basis. I also have private health insurance that will evacuate me in the case of any emergency.

I think that the benefit of this research to the CC community will be very tangible. I feel there to be a lot of undirected concern for the situation in Sudan, as it is comparable to a present-day Rwanda. Students have a sense of responsibility, yet there is a lack of meaningful information. Sudan is, for all intents and purposes, a world away. I would like the opportunity to do the little I can to collapse this gulf. I will give a slide show and talk when I return, in conjunction with the Pike's Peak Justice Committee. My thesis presentation will also be open to the community.

I have worked very carefully while at CC and I feel this project would be would be cumulative of my work. Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any further questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature area of the letter.

## Budget

Airfare, Colorado Springs to NYC:	250
Airfare, NYC to Khartoum:	1,350
Visa:	150
Ground travel in Sudan:	300
Lodging, 2 weeks:	200
Food, three weeks:	300
Digital tape recorder:	125
Translator Costs:	100
Communications (internet access/ mail):	50
Books/ Research Materials (to be done fourth block):	75
Emergency Funds:	200
Presentation (developing pictures/ slides):	50

(I will have my own digital camera and digital video camera for documentation.)

**Total: 3,150**  
**Amount requested from Venture Grant: \$850**

### Other funding sources:

- President's Fund, requesting \$1,250
- Paul M. Sheffer Memorial Fund, requesting \$1,250
- Philosophy Department, \$?

(Philosophy funding is limited. As I have already received their major prize of \$500 last year, funding is unlikely. This grant was put towards books and freeing me up to work on my thesis over the summer).

Any gap between funding received and the budget will be my accrued as my personal expense.

## Potential Research Sources

[www.amnestyinternational.org](http://www.amnestyinternational.org)

[www.genocidewatch.org](http://www.genocidewatch.org)

[www.preventgenocide.org](http://www.preventgenocide.org)

### General

David Downing. *Africa: postcolonial conflict*, Chicago: Raintree, 2004.

Benjamin A. Valentino, *Final solutions: mass killing and genocide in the twentieth century*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2004.

Adam Jones, *Genocide, war crimes, and the West: ending the culture of impunity*. London, New York : Zed Books, (Forthcoming).

Joseph Canning and Hartmut Lehmann, and Jay Winter, editors, *Power, violence, and mass death in pre-modern and modern times*. Aldershot, Hants, England ; Burlington, VT, 2004.

*Genocide and genocide* / edited by Adam Jones. Nashville : Vanderbilt University Press, 2004.

William L. Hewitt, *Defining the horrific: readings on genocide and Holocaust in the 20th century*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2004.

Sean Sheehan. *Genocide*. Chicago, Ill.: Raintree, 2004.

Samuel Totten and William S. Parsons and Israel W. Charny, *A century of genocide: critical essays and eyewitness accounts* - Second Edition. New York : Routledge, 2004.

Francis Anthony Boyle, *Destroying world order: U.S. imperialism in the Middle East before and after September 11*. Atlanta, Ga.: Clarity Press, 2004.

Haig Khatchadourian, *War, terrorism, genocide, and the quest for peace: contemporary problems in political ethics*. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 2004.

### Rwandan Genocide

Clea Koff, *The bone woman: a forensic anthropologist's search for truth in the mass graves of Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo*. New York: Random House, 2004.

Nigel Eltringham, *Accounting for horror: post-genocide debates in Rwanda*. London; Sterling, Va.: Pluto Press, January 2004.

Linda Melvern, *Conspiracy to murder: the Rwanda genocide*. London; New York: Verso, 2004.

### **Armenian Genocide**

Jay Winter, Paul Kennedy, Antoine Prost, Emmanuel Sivan, Editors, *America and the Armenian Genocide of 1915*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

### **American Indian Genocide**

David Fridtjof Halaas & Andrew E. Masich, *HALFBREED: The Remarkable True Story of George Bent*. De Capo Press, 2004.

### **Guatemalan Genocide**

Ron Theodore Robin, *Scandals and scoundrels: seven cases that shook the academy*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

### **Nazi Germany**

Gretchen Engle Schafft, *From racism to genocide: anthropology in the Third Reich*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004.

Janina Struk, *Photographing the Holocaust - Interpretations of the Evidence*. I.B. Tauris in association with the European Jewish Publication Society.

### **Burmese Genocide**

Benedict Rogers, *A Land Without Evil: Stopping the Genocide of Burma's Karen People*. Monarch Books, 2004.