

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Faculty Research Awards Committee, I write to announce the selection of the 2010-2011 Copeland Colloquium theme. The topic proposed, “International Development: Successes, failures, and future directions,” was submitted by a group of faculty as an outcome of cross-disciplinary discussions. The group includes: Dan Barbezat, Javier Corrales, Margaret Hunt, Chris Kingston, and Steve Rivkin. These faculty members will serve as the lead sponsors and organizers of the 2010-2011 Copeland Colloquium, however, it is hoped that additional members of the Faculty will wish to participate in the selection of Copeland Fellows and support of the program. The Copeland Fellows will be in residence for both semesters of the academic year.

These colleagues describe in their [proposal](#), the history of international development over the last fifty years as an evolving discipline, and their desire to “review in a broad context” its “achievements and relevance” at a moment that they view as ripe. “The world is fast becoming one made up of multiple poles of economic and political influence, frequently the result of political events that owed little to international development wisdom,” they believe. The group notes that there have been numerous paradigms in international development practice that have come and gone since World War II, and that over the past ten years, development scholars have sought to examine development programs and to assess the programs’ effectiveness in newly defined, inclusive terms. “A review of the subject [development programs] implies a broadening of view, potentially including the subjective examination of what happens to individual humans to be found in the arts, contending ideas of what human progress might mean, and the political analysis of a world evolving away from the sovereignty of the nation state and the simplistic notions of rich and poor countries,” the theme group wrote. Our colleagues see “Such a fertile, essential, multidisciplinary debate” as being well suited to the Copeland model.

The theme group’s intent is to bring several scholars to Amherst College to pursue independent research related to a broad examination of international poverty and the responses to it. They would also consider as Copeland Fellows scholars who are capable of synthesizing existing research. The group would like to encourage applications from scholars with experience in the field, principally through ongoing or completed doctoral work, but also as professionals involved with development organizations. They would also welcome interest from those who have demonstrated their ability to communicate their ideas to various audiences—from policy experts to undergraduates—and participate in public dialogue on these issues. It is the group’s hope to create an environment in which a broad section of the Amherst community will participate in this project; to this end, they will plan four colloquia to explore current issues in the field, encouraging participation by the Copeland Fellows, invited speakers and discussants, and members of the Amherst community.

The group has invited two Copeland Fellows and will choose two more from among nominations from the Amherst Faculty and through a national or international fellowship competition. Nominations are welcome for Copeland Fellow candidates from any discipline, vocation, or profession. It was the Copelands’ intention that preference be given to nominees who are not graduates of Amherst. Your nomination should include a copy of the candidate’s curriculum vitae, a letter from the nominee containing a brief description of the work proposed to be undertaken during the Colloquium, and your own written statement specifying your reasons for supporting the candidate. I would appreciate receiving your nominations April 1, 2010, so that the selection of Copeland Fellows may be completed soon.

From among the theme group’s members one or two Faculty Sponsors will be assigned to each Copeland Fellow. The sponsors will be available to the Copeland Fellows as advisors and mentors and will facilitate the Copeland Fellows’ interaction with other faculty members and with students. Faculty Sponsors will also provide workspace for the fellows, as well as limited administrative services through their departments.

Further information regarding the Copeland Colloquium can be found at
https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/colloquia/copeland_colloquium

All my best,

Gregory S. Call
Dean of the Faculty

Professor of Mathematics