

## **SFAGO Special Projects Committee: Latest Grant Recipients**

By Douglas Franks

Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

At the most recent meeting of SFAGO's Special Projects Committee, we covered a lot of ground in a customarily convivial atmosphere. Among the highlights of business conducted were two grant applications that we approved.

One application was from the Ann Arbor AGO Chapter. The chapter requested funds for a Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced (POEA) scheduled for next summer. They expect to enroll some 20 students who will study with a team of distinguished organ instructors. The Ann Arbor Chapter has lined up strong support from local churches and the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University.

The five-day camp is designed for students with previous organ experience to expand and enhance their organ-playing skills. Students will receive private organ instruction on a daily basis. Other educational opportunities will include sessions on playing theater organ and carillon, improvisation, and pipe-organ building. The week will feature multiple organ concerts, a silent film with organ accompaniment, a hymn festival, and an Evensong service. The POEA will conclude with an organ recital by the students. The director of Ann Arbor AGO's POEA is a graduate organ student at the University of Michigan who attended several POEs in the past. Our committee approved Ann Arbor's request for \$1500.

The second application was from Dr. Ann Marie Rigler, professor of organ at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. She requested support to continue her research on a video-based project titled "Conversations and Legacies: Exploring Late 20th-Century Organ Pedagogy Through Oral History." Since April 2011, she has interviewed 18 prominent organ scholars/educators in ten states. The Special Projects Fund grant will enable her to travel and interview four West-Coast teachers: Dr. Carole Terry of Seattle (University of Washington), David Dahl of Tacoma (Pacific Lutheran University), Dr. George Ritchie of Portland (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), and Dr. Sandra Soderlund of Oakland (Mills College).

Dr. Rigler intends to donate her finished research to the Organ Historical Society American Organ Archive in Princeton, New Jersey or the AGO Library in Boston so that future generations of scholars may use the interviews as primary source material for their research. She hopes to eventually publish a book accompanied by a DVD (or other format) of her extensive and wide-ranging interviews. Our committee approved Dr. Rigler's request for \$2500.

The Special Projects Committee is pleased and privileged to be able to assist AGO chapters, non-AGO institutions, and independent organists from around the country as they work to complete worthwhile projects, all of which create new resources and opportunities for members of our profession. As always, we are indebted to past SFAGO chapter members who had the foresight some 30 years ago to establish the Special Projects Fund precisely for this purpose.

The next grant application deadline is April 15, 2014.

*(March 2014 SFAGO Newsletter)*