Hayter-Young Grants
Hayter-Young Grants ($250) are used to support MA student research or small PhD projects. We awarded six of these grants in summer 2013. Here is how the recipients used their funds:

Scott Abel
The Hayter-Young grant supported my research in Malaysia and Singapore during the latter half of May 2013. I researched the pirates of Malaya during the colonial era at the Arkib Negara in Malaysia, the National Archives of Singapore, and the National Library of Singapore. I focused on piracy before 1914 in the Straits of Malacca and other bodies of water around the peninsula. Having exhausted available sources in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the archives, I also looked up the development of maritime infrastructure during the colonial era. In Singapore, I found evidence that its port was the home of pirates who used the place as a base of operations, which supports some of the secondary literature.

William “Buddy” Avila
Thanks to the Hayter-Young grant, I traveled to Michigan State University this summer to consult their library’s Comic Art Collection to identify primary sources for my MA research essay. Initially planned to devote most of my attention to material found in The Comics Journal and Comics Buyer’s Guide and to investigating the archive’s large sub-collection devoted to Eclipse Comics. However, my research plans changed as the result of unexpectedly finding some particularly useful sources whose existence I was unaware of: files of newspaper clippings related to comic books and AIDS as well as files on individual authors and illustrators. These sources yielded invaluable information. I left the archive after five days with an armload of quality sources. I appreciate that the Hayter-Young Grand afforded me the luxury of embarking on a week of uninterrupted work in the world’s foremost archive for the study of comic book literature and enabled me to uncover numerous primary sources which I never would have had the opportunity to access otherwise.

Greg Bereiter
A Hayter-Young grant from the Department of History enabled me to conduct dissertation research at several key archives in Lyon, France, during June 2013. Thanks to this grant, I carried out research at the Archives municipales de Lyon, Archives départementales du Rhône, and Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, where I examined a vast range of manuscript sources germane to my dissertation on extremist clergy and religious violence during the French Wars of Religion. I am most grateful for the support I received from the Hayter and Young endowments this past summer.

Mathieu Billings
Due to the generosity of the Earl W. Hayter and Alfred F. Young Endowment, I was able to conduct research at the courthouse in LaSalle County, Illinois this June. There I found answers to my dissertation’s primary research question: What did “politics” mean to working-class Irish-Americans between 1815 and 1845? In the late 1830s, a large Irish emigrant community arrived in central Illinois to work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Civil and criminal records involving prominent members of this community – including their testimonies – revealed mentalities and associational structures in Irish-American labor factions. Thanks to the Hayter-
Young Endowment, I was able to explore how the politics of Irish laborers in America influenced the development of Irish-American politics.

Ian Burns
The Earl W. Hayter and Alfred F. Young Endowments helped fund a three-week summer research trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland. Using these funds, in combination with a Departmental Large Grant, I was able to continue to pursue a line of inquiry I began in my first semester at Northern Illinois University: tracing the effect of the Third Home Rule Crisis upon notions of Irish masculinity. Funding from the Hayter-Young Grant allowed me to add critical time to my research trip, permitting me to investigate the hypothesis that 1910-1914 paramilitary propaganda and rhetoric successfully complemented and intensified the polarization of the island, leading to the redefinition of popular notions of masculine identity in first unionist and then nationalist communities. Archival materials, from speeches and personal letters to broadsheets, and pamphlets clearly displayed that during this period notions of ‘manliness’ underwent a redefinition, affecting many Irish men’s senses of masculine identity, as well as how these masculinities were constructed and projected in the public sphere. My archival research allowed me to locate sources suggesting that the emerging masculine constructions of 1910-1914, their embodiment in paramilitary action, and the martial rhetoric and admonitions that accompanied them, discredited and in many ways emasculated the politics of consensus, creating a space for radical alternatives to emerge in domestic Irish politics.

David Downs
The Hayter-Young grant I received for summer 2013, combined with a Large Grant (below), allowed me to conduct research in Irish archives. In addition to the National Library and Trinity College Dublin, from June 26 through June 28 I also visited the National Archives of Ireland, where I found Irish Free State and Republic of Ireland government materials relating to commemoration and memory of the South African War. The Hayter-Young grant also enabled me to travel to Belfast from June 30 to July 4, where I spent several days researching in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. There I primarily focused on its Colonel Edward Saunderson collection. A prominent unionist leader at the time of the South African War, his opposition to nationalism in Ireland has provided important context for my study of nationalist reactions to the war.

Large Grant Awards
Larte Grants ($500 to $1,000) support Ph.D. summer research projects. In 2013 we awarded four of these grants. Here is how the funds supported the recipients’ research:

Greg Bereiter
This summer I used the Large Grant from the Department of History to conduct dissertation research at numerous archives in French cities such as Lyon, Mâcon, Aix-en-Provence, Arles, Narbonne, and Toulouse. While researching at these archives, I examined countless manuscript sources germane to my dissertation project on extremist clergy and religious violence during the French Wars of Religion. This research was conducted immediately upon completion of my tenure as a Chateaubriand Fellow at the Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). I am sincerely appreciative for the opportunity to conduct research at various key archives in southern France during summer 2013.
Mathieu Billings
Due to the generosity of the NIU History Department’s Large Summer Research Grant, I was able to explore archives in the State of New York which will contribute toward my dissertation. Late in July, I traveled to the Westchester County Archives, the Albany Hall of Records, and the New York State Library, where I accessed court records and newspapers from the 1830s and ‘40s. There I found answers to my primary research question: What did “politics” mean to working-class Irish-Americans between 1815 and 1845? In Westchester County, my inquiries into Irish faction fights exposed hierarchies in labor camps on the Croton Water Works, suggesting a transition towards formal political networks in New York City. Whig and Democratic newspapers vigorously debated the legality of foreign participation in elections while simultaneously competing for the working-class Irish vote. In Albany, I explored criminal records, naturalization documents, and newspapers, which revealed associational structures in Irish-American factions suggestive of working-class political mentalities. Overall, my time in New York gave me the chance to explore how the politics of Irish laborers in America influenced the development of Irish-American politics. Again, I offer my gratitude to the Large Summer Research Grant for this opportunity.

Ian Burns
Funds from the Department of History’s Large Grant permitted me to spend nearly three weeks conducting archival research in Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland during August of 2013. My research, conducted mainly at the National Library of Ireland and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, revealed a wealth of information in the form of memoirs, personal letters, circular pamphlets, internal memoranda, as well as miscellaneous ephemera—ranging from political luncheon speaker lists to hastily written notes on parading and proper marching technique—all related to the two largest paramilitary volunteer associations in Ireland from 1912-1914: the Ulster Volunteer Force and Irish Volunteer Force. These sources will allow me to begin to compose what I tentatively consider a second section of my dissertation, examining in a comparative context, the sectarian nature of the primarily Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force, and the religiously amalgamated Irish Volunteer Force during the Third Home Rule Crisis. From my preliminary look at sources gathered in these archives I anticipate being able to document and analyze the fundamental, vocal, and organizing sectarianism of the Ulster Volunteer Force, the near blindness of the Irish Volunteer Force regarding any sectarian motivation on either side of the conflict, and especially in anticipating the cooperation of the two bodies in the removal of the British presence in Ireland. My research also allowed me to properly periodize sectarian changes that occurred in these organizations over time, as well as to identify geographical differences in the type and intensity of overt sectarian language and behavior.

David Downs
The Large Grant I received for summer 2013 enabled me to travel to Dublin, Ireland, where I conducted research on my dissertation, titled “Imperialism, Irish Nationalists, and the South African War.” While in Dublin I conducted extensive research in the National Library of Ireland, mainly in the personal papers of key nationalist political leaders, as well as the John Dillon and Michael Davitt collections at Trinity College Dublin. My findings in these institutions will allow for a more nuanced analysis of the relationship between the South African War and the development of Irish nationalism in the years leading up to Irish independence.