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news & opportunities

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Research Scholarship Creative Activity

Meeting will present information about JIBS

An information meeting about the UT-ORNL Joint Institute for Biological Science will be held at the Black Cultural Center on Melrose Avenue from 9 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. on Monday, 7 April. JIBS Director Gary Sayler and Reinhold Mann, associate director of ORNL, will provide overviews of the facility; and researchers from UT and the Lab will review their programs.

At 12:30 p.m. those with ORNL security badges will travel to the Lab to tour the JIBS building. Contact Gary Sayler (974-8080, sayler@utk.edu) for more information.

UT may pay faculty privilege tax again

UT faculty and staff who are obligated to pay the Tennessee professional privilege tax can have the university pay for one license, provided there are no changes to the state enabling legislation. For more information about UT's participation, see http://www.utk.edu/tntoday/article.php?pk=625. To see which professions are covered by the state law, see http://tn.gov/revenue/tntaxes/proftax.htm.

Thanks for COS update

Thanks to a large number of UT faculty who responded to the Easter week request to update their profiles in the Community of Science data base.

One of the major features of the COS funding-opportunity service is the opportunity to post a CV that details a faculty member's career history and scholarly interests. That CV — "profile" in COS terms — is accessible worldwide to other researchers who are seeking collaborators on projects. It also serves as a resource for UT faculty to seek collaborators both on and off campus, and additionally allows UT administrators and staff a way to locate faculty with a particular expertise. Anyone with questions can contact Bill Dockery (865-974-2187, dockeryb@utk.edu), who is the university liaison with COS.

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Upcoming UT Science Forums

April 4
"Better Results with Hearing Aids Through Analyzing Speech," Robert A. McLean, professor emeritus, statistics

April 11
"Groundwater, Oil Spills, and Computers," Jack Parker, research professor, civil & environmental engineering

April 18
"Nanoscience–Tiny Treasures," Laura Morris Edwards, Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory & UT Department of Materials Science & Engineering

April 25
"Biofuel--Or Is It Biofuelishness?," Henry Fribourg, professor emeritus, crop ecology

Penn speaker to share advice on university-community engagement

A national leader in academically based community-service courses will speak at UT Knoxville on Wednesday, 9 April, at 10:30 a.m. in the Shiloh Room at the University Center.

Ralph Rosen, a classics professor at the university of Pennsylvania, will share with UT faculty his experience in creating and teaching ABCS courses that integrate research and teaching with learning and doing in inner-city public schools in Philadelphia. Many of the U Penn courses are interdisciplinary and engage both university faculty and students with public school teachers and pupils.

The presentation is being sponsored by UT Knoxville Provost Robert Holub, vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Brad Fenwick, vice chancellor for research and engagement.

"UT has been successful in attracting more and more qualified students, and many of them have a resume full of volunteer activities," Holub said. "We want them to take the next step to service and civic engagement."

Holub and Fenwick pointed to the observations of Amy Guttmann, president of Penn, who remarked on the rationale behind academically based community-service courses: "Service is not just about caring for others. It is about learning and applying what is learned in the classroom." Guttmann has said the courses are not second-rate, watered-down, applied field sessions for credit. She said, "These courses bring about structural, enduring community improvements such as effective public schools, neighborhood economic development, and vital community organizations."

The community-service courses are another dimension of Fenwick's research position, which also includes a mandate to engage the university's research efforts with the community.

"UT has increased research efforts — and we are quite proud of everyone's efforts — but are we doing all we can to have that research benefit our local community?" Fenwick said. "We can do more and, as Tennessee's land-grant institution, it is our duty."

Penn boasts more than 60 ABCS courses. Information about their program is available at www.upenn.edu/ccp/abcs-courses/academically-based-community-service.html.

NASA announces 2-year research plans

The NASA Science Mission Directorate has posted its plans for solicitations for 2008 and 2009. The list includes announcements of opportunities (A0s), cooperative agreement notices (CANs), and the ROSES NASA Research Announcement (NRA).

Projects set for 2008 include the NASA Lunar Science Institute, a Joint Dark Energy Mission, and a New Frontiers Mission. For 2009, the list includes solicitations for Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences, a Solar Probe, Discovery Missions, an Exoplanet Probe. and various Stand Alone Mission of Opportunity notices.

To see a table of the proposed solicitations, go to http://science.hq.nasa.gov/research/sara_grant_sols.html and click on "Planned SMD Solicitations" in the middle of the page.

NASA intends to update the planning list whenever changes in dates are announced.

Austrian embassy seeks scientist network

The government of Austria, through its embassy in Washington D.C., has established the Office of Science and Technology Scientist Network that is intended to establish bridges between the North American and Austrian scientific networks. The Austrian office seeks to provide information on science, research, and technology policies between Austria and North American and support the initiation of research and development projects.

The OST Scientist Network is part of an emphasis started in 2001 to support Austrian scientists in North America and to provide news of research openings and opportunities in Austria. More information is available at http://www.ostina.org/.

Undergrad showcase opens Thursday

The annual Undergraduate Exhibition of Research and Creative Activity opens to the university and the public on Thursday, 3 April, at 9 a.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

In its 12th year, EURCA puts on display the best research projects and scholarly and creative activities taken on by UT Knoxville undergraduates with the collaboration of faculty mentors.

Setup of the exhibits takes place between noon and 4 p.m. Wednesday, 2 April, with judging between 5:30 and 8 p.m.

The awards ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. Thursday and a reception with refreshments will follow at 6 p.m.

The exhibits will remain on view through 3 p.m. Friday.

Jane Taylor, UTOR administrative specialist, managed production of the exhibition.

Montgomery hired for external relations

Paul Montgomery has joined the UT Office of Communications and Marketing as the director of external relations. Montgomery's work will focus on helping UT Knoxville faculty win federal research monies. He has legislative experience, as well as work in various federal agencies.

Montgomery has duties similar to those of Lillian Mashburn, who retired last year as director of federal relations.

'A Public Conversation . . .'

The UT School of Journalism and Electronic Media is hosting "A Public Conversation on Web Journalism" at various sites on 3-4 April. Additional information: http://www.cci.utk.edu/node/5298.

Defense Department funds medical projects

Under the Defense Appropriations Act for FY08, the Defense Department has $50 million for research in a number of health issues, including alcoholism research, blood cancer epilepsy research, inflammatory bowl diseases, lupus, scleroderma, and social work issues, among others.

The program is administered through the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command. A chart summarizing solicitations, deadlines, etc., is available at http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/pdf/08prmrpreftable.pdf.

The NSF Science, Technology and Society Program

The STS program supports research that examines the relationships among science, technology, engineering, and society, especially from historical, philosophical, social, cultural, policy, and ethical perspectives. The four emphases of STS are studies in ethics and values in science and technology, studies in history and philosophy of science and technology, and studies from social perspectives, and policy studies. Support can come in the form of awards for scholars, standard grants and collaborations, postdoctoral fellowships, conference and workshop awards, and other opportunities.
Important dates: Agency target dates: 1 August 08, 1 February 09, and on the same dates in following years: More information: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08553/nsf08553.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Digital Library

The goal of the NSDL is to create and develop a network of digital environments and resources for STEM learning at all educational levels from pre-K through lifelong learning. The NSDL program is intended to enable the discovery, selection, organization, and effective use of quality learning and teaching resources appropriate for educators and learners at all levels. The NSDL network should provide reusable, shareable and interoperable learning objects across traditional STEM disciplinary boundaries.
Important dates: 27 May 08, optional letter of intent; UTOR deadline for full proposal, 23 June 08. More information: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08554/nsf08554.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Q Is it advisable to contact the Sponsored Programs Office ahead of the internal submission deadlines?

A Yes, it is better to coordinate any final proposal document issues or signature approval issues ahead of time so plans can be made if there are problems that may need assistance from the Office of Research be resolved by the internal deadline.

Q Does the UT Office of Research make an exception in its three-day and five-day proposal deadlines when the university is closed for an official holiday?

A No. By definition, a holiday is not a business day. To meet its obligations to give proposals a thorough review, the UT Office of Research requires that electronic proposals be submitted to the Sponsored Programs unit at 8 a.m. five full business days in advance of the agency due date. For proposals on paper, the deadline is at 8 a.m. three full business days in advance of the agency due date. Faculty are encouraged to take holidays into account in planning their proposal preparation.

Scheduled holiday closings for the rest of the calendar year include
Memorial Day, Monday, 26 May
Independence Day, Friday, 4 July
Labor Day, Monday, 1 September
Thanksgiving, Thursday & Friday, 27-28 November
Winter Break: Monday, 22 December 22 — Friday, 26 December

The official list of UT holidays is available at https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=34,283561&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

Grand Challenges in Global Health

The Grand Challenges Explorations will offer awards of up to $100,000 for research that fosters early-stage innovation in global health research and expans the pipeline of ideas that merit further eploration in the study of antimicrobial resistance, HIV, tuberculosis, international health, and infectious diseases or agents. Unrestricted location, citizenship, or residency.
Important date: Deadline, 15 May 2008. Detailed information is available at http://www.gcgh.org/explorations.

Matshushita International Foundation Research Grant

The foundation will offer as much as 500,000 yen for a yearlong research project that seeks to promote mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. The research activities in the humanities and social sciences pertain to establishing international relationships, solving existing issues between Japan and other contries or proposing measures that foster understanding.
Important date: Deadline, 16 May 2008. Detailed information is available at http://matsushita-kokusai-z.or.jp/mif-e.htm#ResearchGrants.

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface

Burroughs Wellcome Fund's award program fosters the early career development of postdoctoral scientists with backgrounds in the physical and computational sciences whose work addresses biological questions but whose field is not biology. Possible projects may deal with measurement or manipulation of biological phenomena, building probabilistic tools for medical diagnosis, etc.
Important date: Deadline, 15 April 2008. Detailed information is available at www.bwfund.org.

Antarctic Artists and Writers Program

The National Science Foundation's Division of Antarctic Sciences is accepting proposals from writers and artists who want to create serious writings and works of arts that increase public understanding of the Antarctic region and the research and education taking place there. The program is open to both accomplished professional and early career artists and writers.
Important date: The full proposal is due 18 June 2008. Detailed information is available at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12783&org=NSF&from=home.

Search for the Richness of Human Life and Activity

The Toyota Foundation in its research grant program offers up to 20 million yen for one- and two-year projects that focus on "Revitalizing Local Communities Under Globalization." PhDs, MDs, and other professionals of any citizenship or residency are invited to submit proposals for cross-disciplinary survey and basic research projects that are firmly oriented toward problem resolution and have the potential to answer whether local communities facing globalization can restructure to harness their latent vitality in the context of the state and the international community.
Important date: Final deadline, 10 May 2008. Detailed information is available at http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/03entry/e_gd_kjp_kenkyu.htm.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SCHOLARS

Send us your
1. nominations for "Scholar of the Week," a new feature coming soon to the Office of Research web site
2. news of any scholarly or professional awards or recognition you've received as a faculty member. All levels of scholarly achievement are eligible for newsletter publication.

E-mail research@utk.edu.

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