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Office of Research & Engagement

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Research

Scholarship

Creative Activity

Coming soon to an office on White Avenue

In March, the Research Business Office will move from the UT Conference Center to the UT Research Office at 1534 White Avenue. Vice Chancellor Brad Fenwick has announced.

"Our intent is to consolidate the research administrative functions in one location," Fenwick said. "We'll be able to serve our faculty better and to gain the advantages of efficiency and workplace synergy among the staff."

The word "Centers" has been dropped from the name of the office.

Four staff members will take up residence on the first floor of the White Avenue Building, including Elizabeth Neilson, budget director; Renee Thomas, business manager; Connie Brock, account assistant, and Judy Carver, account specialist. They will join retiree Daisy Bolton, who also handles business duties for the office on a part-time basis. Neilson and Thomas are new to the office.

The office provides support for operations of all units that report to Fenwick, said Neilson. Its responsibilities include overseeing budgetary and administrative operations; assisting with quantitative evaluations of productivity and budgets; providing support for principal investigators on contracts, budgets, personnel, and purchasing; and assisting with the financial management of contracts and grants.

Other duties involve tracking personnel records, time sheets, reimbursements and special payments, invoices, transfer vouchers, and other financial documents.

Phone numbers for the staff will remain the same in the new location.

New hires filling research org chart

The empty spaces in the organizational chart of the UT Office of Research are being filled.

Luana Henley is the first new face visitors see when they come in the front door of 1534 White Avenue. Henley joined the office in January as a program/resource specialist who is seated at the reception desk on the first floor. Luana provides support for the office's sponsored-programs, proposal development, and information activities, and is the first contact point for both visitors and callers. She comes to White Avenue from the animal science department.

Downstairs in the Sponsored Programs unit, Phillip Campo has joined the office as an IT technology specialist with data-entry responsibilities.

Upcoming UT Science Forums

7 March

"Robotic Heart Surgery"; Jeffrey Everett, UT Medical Center.

14 & 21 March: *Spring break*

28 March

"Dogwood Diseases: More Bark or Bite to Tennessee's Nursery Industry?"; Mark Windham, Institute of Agriculture department of entomology & plant pathology.



Neilson



Thomas



Brock



Carver



Henley



Campo

New newsletter will track awards, research progress

On 12 March, the UT Office of Research begins publication of a new newsletter spotlighting the honors and accomplishments of UT Knoxville researchers, scholars, and creative faculty. A sister publication to this one, *Awards & Recognition* will feature a biweekly rundown of all awards handled by the UTOR Sponsored Programs unit, as well as news of national-level honors and awards, international invited speaking engagements, publication in top journals, and other faculty recognition of significance.

Awards & Recognition is designed to celebrate the achievements of UTK faculty and raise the profile of research and similar activities in the Knoxville academic community. It will appear in faculty mailboxes on alternate weeks with *News & Opportunities*.

Please contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu, 974-2187) with news of UTK faculty accomplishments.

Office of Research does first system-to-system submission

The UT Office of Research has successfully submitted its first proposal to the National Institutes of Health using a direct electronic transfer between the office's Coeus proposal management program and the NIH's Grants.gov proposal submission program. The milestone was achieved on 5 Feb, when a proposal from the chemistry department was transferred to Grants.gov.

Jim Lloyd, director of electronic submission for the UT Office of Research, said that system-to-system process (S2S) streamlines proposal submission, eliminating double-entry paperwork and reducing the workload both of the principal investigator and Sponsored programs staff.

"When you fill out the proposal data in Coeus, you have made your proposal, and Coeus fills out all the required forms," Lloyd said. "No more filling out PureEdge forms, then filling out an Office of Research yellow sheet. The proposal is put into the system by the PI, not by a data entry person."

Lloyd said the ability to do S2S has great potential to lessen the effort it takes to get a proposal out the door.

5 March 08

Research Council schedules forum on 'The Road Ahead'

The Research Council of the UT Faculty Senate will sponsor a forum for faculty titled "Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity: The Road Ahead" on Wednesday, 5 March, from 4 p.m. till 5:30 in Room 307 of the Science, Engineering, and Research Facility.

A panel of seven faculty members will focus on several issues: "Is the UTK intellectual community growing? What are our opportunities and constraints? Is research and scholarship promoted and recognized? Visions for the future of UTK as flagship of the university?"

The forum is one of four envisioned to provide a town-hall-styled meeting intended to empower UTK faculty. All faculty are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Safety

Chemical inventories due 1 March 08

Updated chemical inventories are due to the UT Office of Environmental Health and Safety by 1 March 2008. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Environmental Protection Agency require that the university report all hazardous materials stored on site. Departments or offices that have updated their reports in the past 12 months are not required to file another report. Contact: Pam Koontz (pjkoontz@utk.edu, 974-5084).

EPA requires hazardous waste training

All UT staff and faculty who deal with hazardous waste must receive and document waste-handling training in accord with an agreement between the university and the Environmental Protection Agency. UT must demonstrate full compliance with waste-handling requirements in an upcoming report to EPA. UT safety staff anticipate that departmental training records will be audited during 2008. A 20-minute self-study Power Point program and quiz is available from April Case (acase3@utk.edu, 974-5084).

TTDC offers grants to prepare for high-tech business startup

UT faculty who are considering creating a business to develop and commercialize technology they have developed can get financial support for several of the steps necessary to begin a startup.

The Tennessee Technology Development Corp. sponsors a SBIR/STTR Phase 0 Grant program that will fund such activities as assistance in writing a proposal, filing patent papers, or project-related literature searches.

The Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program is mandated for federal agencies like the departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Homeland Security, the EPA, the NSF, and NASA. Each must set aside a portion of their research

and development monies to stimulate innovation in high technology among qualified small businesses.

TTDC's Phase 0 program provides money to help the small businesses prepare to seek SBIR/SBTT funding. More information is available at www.tntechnology.org. Applications for the grant program will be accepted starting 17 March 2008.

Through its Center for Industrial Services, the Institute for Public Service offers some of the training and support that startups with Phase 0 support can purchase to improve their ability to work in a federal environment. The CIS web page is at www.cis.tennessee.edu/government/research_grants/.

Friday is deadline to submit abstract titles for Research Day symposium

Faculty and students with research interests in animal and human health and disease are invited to submit abstract titles for the upcoming Comparative and Experimental Medicine Research Day Symposium. The deadline is 7 March 2008.

The event offers graduate students, medical and veterinary residents, and postdocs the opportunity to gain experience presenting their research in platform and poster sessions. The topics can be as varied as nutrition, infectious diseases, biomedical engineering, and related policy issues.

The program will feature a keynote address, multiple presentation sessions, an instructional lunch for students, and a concluding dinner. Oral presentations will be judged on strengths in analysis, organization,

delivery, and response to questions. Participants judged to have the best presentations will receive travel awards.

The UT Office of Research is joining the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Graduate School of Medicine, and the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station in sponsoring the event, which will take place on 17 June 08 in the Plant Biotechnology Building on the Agriculture campus.

Visit www.vet.utk.edu/research/index.shtml for additional information (click on the caduceus on the left side of the page). Contact Buddy Moore (rmoore1@utk.edu, 974-0227), CVM associate dean for research, or Misty Bailey (mrbailey@utk.edu, 974-7446) with any questions.

UTK, Lab internships available to undergraduates

The UT Knoxville Office of the Chancellor is funding up to 10 internships for under-graduates who will work with a faculty mentor for two months in the summer of 2008 on research or creative projects. Worth \$2,000 each, the internships are designed to increase the participation of UTK undergraduate students in the research enterprise. Faculty mentors provide guidance in the choice of a project and the practice of professional approaches and methods.

In a similar program, Oak Ridge National Laboratory will fund up to 10

internships allowing students to work directly at the Lab with professional ORNL researchers. The stipend on these internships is also \$2,000 for two months. Undergraduates should explore possible projects in advance with ORNL researchers or UT faculty with ORNL connections.

Completed proposals must be received at the Office of Research no later than noon, 11 April 2008. Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu, 974-0437) has more information about the programs and can guide undergraduates to the appropriate forms.

If you have new faculty or graduate students who need an introduction to the Community of Science online database of funding opportunities, contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu, 974-2187). One-hour programs are available for departmental meetings, graduate colloquiums, or other scheduled gatherings. Help for individuals is also available by phone or e-mail.