



University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
**Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative  
Exchange**

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News and Opportunities

Office of Research

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4-14-2010

## Office of Research, News & Opportunities, April 14, 2010

University of Tennessee Office of Research

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### SciVal tool will allow UT to identify research strengths

The UT Office of Research has purchased access to an online tool that will identify faculty who have established international prominence in interdisciplinary fields of study or are on the verge of doing so.

SciVal Spotlight, a product of Elsevier, is an online analysis program and data base that combs more than 16,000 publication sources worldwide and discovers clusters of topic-related articles and citations that indicate established or emerging areas of research excellence.

Spotlight takes advantage of the fact that researchers tend to self-organize around problems or topics that have an associated literature. The software identifies clusters of papers that define a topic and analyzes related citations to determine how influential individual papers are. Papers can also appear in more than one cluster.

"Spotlight is a way of measuring how influential a faculty member's research is. It's a counterpoint to the more traditional measures of number of publications and amount of research funding," said Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research.

The program identifies distinctive competencies, those topic areas in which a university's faculty lead the world, and emerging competencies, topic areas in which faculty are showing up as among the world's leading authorities. For 2008, the most recent data year available, UT Knoxville showed distinctive competencies in 14 topic areas and emerging competencies in an additional 73 areas.

An interactive circle chart also accounts for the size of the disciplinary cluster. Smaller circles indicate a small field of inquiry, while larger circles indicate a large number of researchers publishing on a topic area.

Access to SciVal Spotlight is available to any faculty member, administrator, or academic support staff. In April, Elsevier will update the SciVal Spotlight with articles and citations published in 2009. For the first time, that update will also include an analysis of humanities publications and citations. Faculty, administrators, or staff wishing to access SciVal Spotlight should contact Office of Research administrators Beth Neilson (eneilson@utk.edu) or Renee Thomas (rthomas4@utk.edu).

### More than 200 students present at undergrad exhibition

The recent Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement concluded UT Knoxville's first-ever Research Week on March 25 in the University Center auditorium. Some 219 student participants presented 164 research and creative projects in the two-day event.

Recognized by the UT Office of Research with top awards were Charles Edmunds, Stephen Newlin, and James White from the College of Engineering and Michael Jungwirth in the College of Arts and Sciences. Jungwirth won the Frank Harris III Undergraduate Research Award.

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society honored Lauren Rogers, Steven Coley, and Toby Thomas in the College of Architecture and Design; Oleg Ovchinnikov in physical sciences, College of Arts and Sciences; and Bonnie Farr and Rachel Grubb in the School of Music.

Details: [http://research.utk.edu/eurca/winners\\_10/shtml](http://research.utk.edu/eurca/winners_10/shtml)

### Summer GRA recipients announced

The UT Office of Research has named 25 graduate students as recipients of summer 2010 graduate research assistantships from the office's Scholarly and Research Incentive Funds program.

Details: [http://research.utk.edu/funding/gra\\_2010.shtml](http://research.utk.edu/funding/gra_2010.shtml)

### Office selects undergraduate summer interns

Some 88 undergraduates have been chosen for research internships with UT Knoxville faculty during summer 2010. The internships, supported by the Office of Research and the Office of the Chancellor, will provide the students with \$2,000 for two months while they work on a research or creative project with a faculty mentor.

Details: [http://research.utk.edu/internships/utk\\_winners\\_10.html](http://research.utk.edu/internships/utk_winners_10.html)

### Research Week debuted new undergrad research journal

A new scholarly journal edited by UT undergraduates and devoted to their research debuted on the Knoxville campus during Research Week.

## *Pursuit*

*Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research at the University of Tennessee* is the first publication at UT Knoxville dedicated specifically to the research scholarship of the campus' undergraduates. It will appear biannually in spring and fall semesters.

Copies of the journal were distributed at the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement on March 25. The journal is also published on Trace, the library's Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange (<http://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit>).

*Pursuit* is the brainchild of Payal Sharma, a senior in biochemistry and molecular biology, who proposed the publication to the UT Office of Research. Todd Skelton, a senior in College Scholars, was elected editor-in-chief and Will Barnes and Jenny Bledsoe served as managing editors. An editorial review board of 22 undergraduates chose the eight articles published in the first issue.

The UT Office of Research and the Chancellor's Honors Program sponsored the publication. Three copies have been sent to the office of each dean or department head on campus. Individual copies of the spring issue are available by e-mailing the Office of Research (research@utk.edu).

### *Pursuit* accepting submissions for fall

Submissions for the fall 2010 issue of *Pursuit* will be accepted through May 31, 2010. Submissions should be analysis-based reports of scientific projects, critical scholarship, or critiques of creative works written by undergraduates of all colleges at UT Knoxville. Graduating seniors may submit articles within one year after their graduation.

Details: <http://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit>

### Undergraduates sought for editorial review board

UT faculty are asked to notify students with an interest in scholarly publishing that the *Pursuit* editorial staff is seeking undergraduates willing to serve on the journal's editorial review board. Students in all majors are eligible. Applicants should have strong writing and editing skills.

Jenny Bledsoe has been elected editor of the fall number; Will Barnes and Nathan Sebbins will serve as managing editors.

Applicants should submit a current resume and writing sample via e-mail to [pursuit@utk.edu](mailto:pursuit@utk.edu) or on paper to F101 Melrose Hall, Chancellor's Honors Program Main Office.

Key dates: April 14 at 7 p.m. in Melrose Hall Conference Room, *Pursuit* information session; May 14, deadline for applications to editorial board.

### CUR Quarterly seeks notice of undergrad research articles

The Council on Undergraduate Research is soliciting submissions for the summer issue of the *CUR Quarterly*, which will feature highlights of undergraduate research. UT faculty who have undergraduates with recent peer-reviewed scholarly or research publications should encourage the students to submit brief descriptions of the publications to the quarterly. The publications must be in print and must include one or more undergraduate co-authors. UT Knoxville is a member of CUR, which promotes research and scholarship among university undergraduates nationwide.

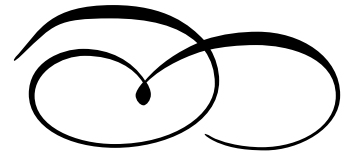
Solicitation details: [http://cur.networkats.com/members\\_online/submissions/substart.asp?action=welcome&cid=69](http://cur.networkats.com/members_online/submissions/substart.asp?action=welcome&cid=69)

Submission format: <http://www.cur.org/quarterly/highlightsample.html>

### CUR membership is available free to UTK faculty, staff, students

UT Knoxville is an enhanced institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research, an affiliation of colleges, universities, and individuals that share a focus on providing undergraduate research opportunities in the belief that "inquiry-based learning, scholarship, and creative accomplishments foster effective high levels of student learning." The organization includes about 600 colleges and universities. The enhanced CUR membership allows any interested UTK faculty, staff, or student to register for a password-based login that will provide access to the group's members-only web site. Other benefits include an electronic subscription to *CUR Quarterly*, a journal on undergraduate research issues, and a monthly e-newsletter. The newsletter covers Washington policy news and information about upcoming programs and meetings. To become a member, click on the "individual online" application link, fill out the online form, and select UT as the institutional affiliation in the dropdown box. There is no charge to UT faculty, staff, or students.

Details: [www.cur.org](http://www.cur.org)



## NIH issues notice on limiting second no-cost extensions for ARRA awards

The National Institutes of Health has reiterated its position on second no-cost extensions for awards made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The policy statement notes: "To meet the legislative goals of creating jobs and increasing the tempo of scientific research, NIH expects grantees to work expeditiously to employ scientific staff and conduct their research consistent with the terms of award. Any unexpected delays should be addressed promptly to ensure the timely completion of all grant activities."

The NIH expects researchers to spend ARRA funds "in a timely and expeditious manner in accordance with the expected pace of research."

While no-cost extensions of ARRA awards are possible without prior approval, NIH grantees seeking additional time must be able to document that no other sources of funding are available for completion of the work and that closing an award after a one-year no-cost extension would cause "irreparable harm" to the research under way, or harm or risk to subjects of the research.

**Details:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-067.html>

## COGR advises on 3 DOE requests for comment on data collection

In recent days, the Department of Energy has posted three different "Proposed Agency Information Collection" notices in the Federal Register (see links below). There is no reference to a specific American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program, but each notice has a consistent theme: DOE is requesting approval from the Office of Management and Budget formally to expand ARRA data collection.

The Council on Governmental Relations (of which UT is a member) understands that the initial impetus was based on sharp critique by the Government Accounting Office and the DOE inspector general in regard to the DOE Weatherization program. The heightened scrutiny has been championed to all DOE ARRA programs by Recovery Team leadership at DOE. Enthusiasm for the expansion of reporting requirements is not shared by everyone at DOE, or at OMB, for that matter.

COGR will respond to each Federal Register Notice. Since each notice includes almost the exact same language, COGR expects to respond to each with essentially the same response. A summary from one of the FR notices is shown below. This same language appears in all three notices.

The notices invite "public comment on a proposed emergency collection of information that DOE is developing to collect data on the status of activities, project progress, jobs created and retained, spend rates and performance metrics" under the ARRA. Comments are solicited on whether the information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, the accuracy of agency estimates of the burden posed by the collection, ways to improve the value of the collected data, and ways to minimize the burden of data collection.

COGR has drafted a preliminary response stating that research universities should not be covered by the DOE request for emergency information collection because the reporting problems are limited to the DOE weatherization initiative under ARRA.

COGR encourages ALL COGR members to respond to DOE, especially those who have received ARRA funding from DOE. A copy of the draft response is available from Bill Dockery, UT Office of Research ([dockeryb@utk.edu](mailto:dockeryb@utk.edu)).

**Details:** See DOE invitation to public comment at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-6721.pdf>

## Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations (Round 5)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is seeking proposals to explore new ways of approaching global health problems. The topics for Round 5 include

- Creating low-cost cell-phone-based applications for priority global health conditions
- Creating new technologies to improve the health of mothers and newborns
- Creating new ways to protect against infectious diseases
- Creating new technologies for contraception.

Criteria for choosing proposals include

- A topic that fits within the goals and disease priorities of the Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health program
- A topic that contains a roadblock in need of radical new thinking for a solution
- A project that fits within the phased structure of the foundation's initiative.

Scientists outside of traditional global health disciplines and researchers in the developing world are encouraged to apply.

A preliminary award can be worth \$100,000; follow-up awards for successful projects can total \$1 million.

**Key date:** 19 May 2010, applications must be submitted online.

**Details:** <http://www.grandchallenges.org/explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

## Hewlett Foundation offers environmental grants

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is accepting unsolicited letters of inquiry about funding in two areas of possible interest to University of Tennessee faculty: (1) the Western U.S. and (2) energy and climate.

The Hewlett Foundation envisions an ecologically vibrant West where the landscape is unspoiled and people and wildlife thrive. It invests in a range of efforts to help build broad-based support for conservation and ensure that Western ecosystems and species thrive.

The foundation's environmental program is committed to dramatically lowering global emissions of greenhouse gases and traditional pollutants worldwide. As it attempts to achieve this goal, the program pursues strategies in global climate policy, national energy policy, and sustainable transportation.

**Key dates:** Letters of inquiry in these areas are accepted continuously and must be submitted online using the form available at this link:

<http://www.hewlett.org/grants/grantseekers/environment-program>

**Details:** Applicants are advised to read carefully the appropriate program pages at <http://www.hewlett.org/programs/environment-program/>

## Council calls for seminar papers on creating research culture

A seminar on creating a culture of research on campuses nationwide has been scheduled for Oct. 15-16, 2010, at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. The conference will target deans, faculty IT specialists, librarians, and research officers. The Council on Undergraduate Research and the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences is joining William & Mary in sponsoring the event, which will present innovative projects related to promoting research. Contact [ccas@wm.edu](mailto:ccas@wm.edu) for details and submission forms.

## UT Science Forum

Science Forums are held in Room C-D in the Cafe at the Thompson-Boling Area. The public is welcome, and attendance is free. Lunch is available in the Cafe, or attendees can bring their own.

April 16

"The End of the Universe" by Soren Sorenson, professor and head, Physics and Astronomy

April 23

"Developing Conservation Agriculture Systems in Africa" by Forbes Walker, associate professor, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

April 30

"The Power of Optimal Control: From Confining Rabies to Improving CPR" by Suzanne Lenhart, professor, Mathematics

## Grant Foundation solicits proposals to link policy and practice

The William T. Grant Foundation is seeking proposals supporting research into policies and practices that affect youth between the ages of 8 and 25 in the United States. This program seeks to promote understanding of what affects the acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence by both policymakers and practitioners. The areas of focus include education, justice, child welfare, health, family support, employment, and youth programs.

**Key date:** May 6, 2010, submission of letters of inquiry using online application system.

**Details:** [http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding\\_opportunities/research\\_grants/rfp\\_for\\_the\\_use\\_of\\_research\\_evidence/use\\_of\\_evidence](http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/research_grants/rfp_for_the_use_of_research_evidence/use_of_evidence)