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News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

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UTK undergraduates share research with Tennessee Legislature

Six undergraduate scholars from UT Knoxville joined students from seven other Tennessee universities to showcase their research for members of the Tennessee Legislature recently.

The six participated in a day-long poster session in the state Legislative Plaza and were introduced to lawmakers by state Senator Tim Burchett, who represents Knoxville in the Legislature. Greg Reed, UT associate vice chancellor for research, hosted the students for the event.

Allison Thigpen presented research outlining the potential impact of various federal plans for healthcare reform on Tennessee and its agencies. Her poster brought her an interview with a reporter from WPLN, the National Public Radio affiliate that serves Middle Tennessee. Thigpen's mentor is Michael Fitzgerald, professor in political science.

Using mapping techniques and equipment developed at UT, Adam Duncan and Alex McLemore presented research showing that coal mining in Virginia is polluting the Clinch River in Tennessee. Paul Ayers, professor in biosystems engineering and soil science, mentored their research.

Andrew Hahn described research into synthesizing differing formulations of DCB-3503, a powerful antitumor compound developed by his mentor, David Baker, professor in chemistry.

Kevin Kuo presented work on how myosin proteins in *Arabidopsis thaliana* communicate growth information related to the development of root hairs on plants. Andrew Nebenfuehr, associate professor in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, is Kuo's mentor.

Todd Skelton's poster topic was the pending U.S. Supreme Court case *Free Enterprise Fund v. PCAOB*, which will decide whether the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board violates the Constitution by removing the Securities and Exchange Commission from presidential oversight. Skelton's mentor is Theodore Brown, Jr., a lecturer in political science.

About 45 students participated, representing UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, Austin Peay, East Tennessee State, Middle Tennessee State, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, and the University of Memphis.



From left to right: Alex McLemore, Adam Duncan, Kevin Kuo, Todd Skelton, Allison Thigpen, and Andrew Hahn participated under the sponsorship of Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research.

Senator, noted author offer keynotes for Research Week

Undergraduate researchers, scholars, artists, and performers will be in the spotlight for UT Knoxville's first-ever Research Week.

The week of 21-26 March will see a concert, an honors symposium, a student paper competition, and an art competition. The Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURêCA), in its 14th year, will cap the week of celebration.

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, former state governor and president of UT, will open the week with a keynote address on 22 March.

Richard Rodriguez, a writer known for his book *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*, will keynote the honors symposium Monday evening.

Research Week schedule:

Sunday 21 March

- 4 p.m.—The School of Music is sponsoring a concert of the UT Symphony Orchestra Ensemble at the Cox Auditorium in the Alumni Memorial Building.

Monday 22 March

- 8 a.m.—Alexander delivers Research Week keynote address, Toyota Auditorium, Baker Center for Public Policy. Reception follows.
- 9 a.m.—Honors Symposium featuring presentations by undergraduate honors students, Baker Center.
- 12:20 p.m.—Rodriguez delivers keynote address for symposium, Baker Center.

Tuesday 23 March

- Sigma Xi Graduate Student Research Paper Competition, Rooms 225, 226, & 227, University Center. Reception follows.

Wednesday 24 March

- Noon—EURêCA exhibit setup & judging, University Center Ballroom.

Thursday 25 March

- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.—EURêCA exhibition open to public.
- 6 p.m.—EURêCA awards ceremony, University Center Auditorium.

Sigma Xi solicits student abstracts for competition

The UT Knoxville chapter of Sigma Xi is sponsoring its annual student competition for undergraduates and graduates conducting research at UT. The competition is based on an abstract and an oral presentation, which will be judged by a faculty panel in each of the major areas represented. Prizes include \$150 for first place and \$75 for second place in each category.

The competition coincides with Research Week and the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement in March.

Key dates: 28 Feb 2010, electronic submission of abstract to Hairong Qi (hqi@utk.edu); 23 Mar 2010, presentation competition date; 25 Mar 2010, award reception.

Details: <http://aicip.ece.utk.edu/sigmaxi/2010>

Coeus has new web address

Faculty and administrators who have trouble accessing the old Coeus URL must switch to a new URL.

The old Coeus web site uses the "utmem" address, which will no longer be active after 28 February 10. The new address includes the new "uthsc" address.

The new URL is <https://coeusprd.uthsc.edu/coeus/CoeusWebStart.jsp>

Contact: Lesli Rowan (865-974-9310, rowanoak@utk.edu).

Respondents sought for OIT survey of technology needs

The Office of Information Technology is seeking to determine the needs of the UT campus for information technology. Scott Studham, chief information officer for UT, asks for faculty, staff, and students to answer a short survey at <http://survey.utk.edu/mriWeb/mriWeb.dll?l.Project=OITTECHNOLOGYSUR>

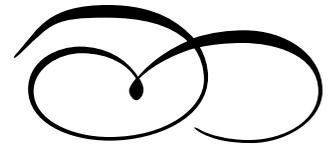
Respondents are entered into a drawing for \$100.

Upcoming presentations at the UT Science Forum

The UT Science Forum is held at noon on Fridays in dining rooms C & D at the Thompson-Boling Arena. Participants can brown-bag or buy lunch at the Arena.

26 February: "Advances in Cardiovascular Care at a Dedicated Heart Hospital," John Mack, M.D., medical director of the UT Heart Lung Vascular Institute and cardiothoracic surgeon

5 March: "New Technologies to Help People with Lung Disease, Paul Branca, M.D., pulmonologist, University of Tennessee Medical Center



Office of Research proposal writing courses scheduled

The Office of Research is pleased to announce a continuing series of faculty workshops focused on grant writing and interacting with funding agencies. The fall workshops were well-attended and the evaluations were excellent; the spring series will repeat the topics offered last fall plus five new ones:

- ❖ Writing Successful Grants, Parts 1 & 2
- ❖ Finding Funding
- ❖ Building the NSF Grant Proposal
- ❖ Building the NIH Grant Proposal
- ❖ NSF Career Award Workshop
- ❖ Building the NEH Grant Proposal
- ❖ Building an Interdisciplinary Research Team
- ❖ Career Development Grants for Pre- and Postdocs
- ❖ Strategies for Success in Sponsored Research

Each topic will be offered twice: Tuesday morning from 8:30 – 10:30, and Wednesday afternoon from 3 – 5. The full schedule, course descriptions and registration information can be found at:

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/training/calendar.shtml#gw>

Contact: Bob Porter, Director of Research Development (reporter@utk.edu, 974-3053)

Opportunities

UT Undergraduate Summer Research Internships

Up to 75 internships will be awarded to undergraduate students who will be working on a research or creative project with a UT Knoxville faculty mentor for two months in summer 2010. The fellowships, worth \$2,000, are sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of Research and are intended to increase the participation of undergraduate students in the UT research enterprise. Applications must include a student transcript, a written narrative, a schedule of research activities, a signed application form, and an electronically submitted proposal.

Key date: 12 noon, 19 March 2010, submission of all documents to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu), Office of Research, 1534 White Ave. Bldg., Room 104.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/internships/>

UT Congressional Internship Program

The university is developing a congressional internship program that will put students into congressional offices in Washington, D.C., to serve U.S. representatives and senators. Five students will be selected for the internship, which will take place in May and/or June.

Key date: 1 March 2010, application must be submitted through the UTK Career Services online program HIRE-A-VOL.

Details: <http://studentaffairs.utk.edu/congressionalinternship/>

Princess Grace Theater & Playwriting Grants

The Princess Grace Foundation, through its awards program, is offering scholarships, apprenticeships and fellowships in theater, playwriting, dance, and choreography. Applicants must be nominated by the dean or department chair of their academic program or the artistic director of a company.

Key dates: 31 March 2010, postmarked application for theater and dance; 30 April 2010, postmarked application for dance (performance and choreography).

Details: <http://www.pgfusa.com/>

Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are seeking proposals for preservation and/or interpretation of World War II Japanese American internment sites.

Key date: 4 March 2010, paper submission of application to National Park Service.

Details: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/HPG/JACS/index.html>

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

The National Endowment for the Humanities is soliciting proposals to assist small and mid-sized institutions in preserving humanities collections. Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions — such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, colleges, and universities — improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities that are the focus of their projects.

Key date: 18 May 2010

Details: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>

Two Opportunities for Education Research

Under funding-numbers ED-GRANTS-020410-001 and ED-GRANTS-020410-002, the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Research is soliciting proposals for research projects in a variety of educational topics, including reading and writing, mathematics and science education, cognition and student learning, teacher quality, social and behavioral context for academic learning, education leadership, post-secondary education, adult education, and education technology, among others.

Key dates: 24 June 2010, submission of proposals under 001; 16 Sept 2010, submission of proposals under 002

Details: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppld=51562>
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppld=51565>

Advanced Architectures & Critical Technologies for Exascale Computing

The Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research in the U.S. Department of Energy is soliciting proposals for interdisciplinary teams of computer science/computer engineering researchers in the areas of Advanced Architectures and Critical Technologies for Exascale Computing. Multi-institutional applications with cohesive emphasis on transformational discoveries that address key barriers on the path to exascale computing are encouraged. Partnerships among academic institutions, national laboratories, and industry are strongly encouraged. This program is managed in cooperation with NNSA and DARPA. This announcement invites applications for basic and applied research to address fundamental challenges in the design of energy-efficient, resilient hardware and software architectures and technology for high performance computing systems at exascale.

Key date: 26 March 2010

Details: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=Z3T0Lm1fDXjICQkLtQbYhszxxW1L2LHjdy60zLk4gVJl1sDp7v31!-1299818899?oppld=51442&mode=VIEW>