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News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Five best-of-show awards given at undergraduate exhibition

Five undergraduate projects won best-of-show awards among the 187 research and creative projects in UT's 15th annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement.

The undergraduates and their projects:

❖ **Seth Alexander Collins**, School of Art, for "Digital Environments," mentored by Emily Bivens, assistant professor

❖ **Pawel Kosentka** and **Sarah Sprague**, ecology and evolutionary biology, for "Evolution of fungal toxins in the mushroom family Inocybaceae," mentored by P. Brandon Matheny, assistant professor

❖ **Emily Napier**, earth and planetary science, for "Paleoecologic Analysis of Edrioasteroid (Echinodermata) Encrusted Slabs from the Chesterian (Upper Mississippian) Kinkaid Limestone of Southern Illinois," mentored by Colin Sumrall, lecturer

❖ **William Scott Murphy**, journalism and electronic media, for "Baby We Were Young," mentored by Bob Legg, associate professor

❖ **Megan Johnstone**, nutrition, for "Effect of Branched Chain Amino Acids on Mitochondrial Metabolism and Cell Cycle in Cancer Cells," mentored by Michael Zemel, professor



Screen capture of "Baby We Were Young," which won best of show for William Scott Murphy.

A total of 85 individuals received awards at some level for 56 entries. In all, about 300 undergraduates presented their work at the exhibition.

The Sustainability prize went to **Virginia Leola Browning**, **Justin Allen Ridenour**, and **Daniel Scott Teters**, whose project compared the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of hydrogen fuel cell hybrid vehicles to battery-driven electric cars in an urban environment. Paul Frymier, associate professor of chemical engineering, was the faculty mentor. This is the first year for the prize, which was sponsored by the UT Office of Sustainability.

To see a list and photo gallery of all award winners, visit http://research.utk.edu/eureca/winners_11.shtml

UTK undergraduate interns named for summer 2011

Some 119 UT Knoxville undergraduates will spend summer 2011 as research interns for faculty scholars and researchers.

The Office of Research has announced the names of undergraduates who will receive \$2,000 internships as part of the program, which is sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor. The interns will engage in research or creative projects for two months under the guidance of individual faculty mentors. Projects may include a student's undergraduate thesis, a part of the faculty mentor's research program, another research project, or an ongoing project begun previously.

A list of student interns, their majors, and their faculty mentors is posted at http://research.utk.edu/undergrad/internships/utk_winners_11.shtml

Animal labs need to prepare for inspection

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is required by the Public Health Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International to inspect all animal housing and use areas twice a year. The UTK IACUC routinely completes these inspections in April-May and October-November each year.

As the IACUC visits your laboratory area, please realize that the goal of the inspection is to confirm that the expected standards of animal care and use are being maintained. A sound and compliant laboratory benefits the entire university community and supports successful research results.

We encourage you to check your lab areas prior to the inspection for some of the commonly identified deficiencies:

--Is your approved animal use protocol readily available to all laboratory staff? Has your staff read the protocol?

--Is the emergency veterinarian contact information posted in the animal use area?

--Is the animal use area clean and uncluttered? Is the equipment clean? If applicable, are records of anesthesia machine calibration readily available?

--Are controlled substances/drugs correctly labeled and stored properly? Are the drugs in date? Is appropriate documentation available for IACUC review?

--Are all individuals involved with the protocol listed in the personnel table, or have they been added to the protocol via an amendment? Is documentation of personnel training up to date and available to review?

As the PI of an animal research protocol, one of your most important responsibilities is to provide initial and continuing training to your research and animal care personnel. The training is to include the specific procedures listed in the approved protocol and reminders to your personnel that only the specific procedures in the approved protocol may be performed. Any change in procedures must be approved by the IACUC prior to the initiation of the change.

Contact: Elizabeth Bailey (ebailey@utk.edu, 865-974-3631), IACUC coordinator

Office of Research seeks feedback on opportunities information

The UT Office of Research is seeking to improve the way it provides information about funding opportunities to faculty and staff on the Knoxville campus. A short, simple survey has been prepared to give faculty researchers, scholars, and others connected with sponsored programs a way to rate the procedures the Office of Research already uses, to identify their own sources of information, and to give suggestions about new sources of funding knowledge. If you would like to provide input or comment on resources provided by the Office of Research, please take the anonymous survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fundingopps>

NIMBioS soliciting project proposals for 2012

The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis is seeking proposals for scientific and educational activities for 2012. Projects must be at the interface of biology and mathematics. NIMBioS will support working groups, investigative workshops, postdoctoral fellows, researchers on sabbatical, and short-term visitors.

Key date: September 1, 2011, deadline for proposals

Details: <http://www.nimbios.org>

FAQ information added to compliance page

The web site for compliance activities in the Office of Research Compliance has been enhanced with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) feature about the Institutional Review Board (IRB). This FAQ covers questions that a student researcher might have about creating a Human Subjects/IRB protocol, from how to get started to how to close out of a protocol. The FAQ is also appropriate for faculty teaching research-related courses or any course that may deal with human subjects.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/humansubjects/> and http://research.utk.edu/forms_docs/human_subjects_faq.pdf

Undergrads from 16 universities came to Marco conference

The Marco Institute's first Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Renaissance Studies on April 8 featured 30 student presentations, eight by University of Tennessee students and the rest from schools including Northwestern, Ohio State, Harvard, and the universities of Virginia and Miami. Sixteen schools were represented.

Nine University of Tennessee professors volunteered as session chairs, and Dyan Elliot, John Evans Professor of History at Northwestern, delivered the plenary lecture. Sponsors included the UT Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Office of Research, Chancellor's Honors Program, College of Architecture and Design, School of Art, and the departments of history, English, religious studies, classics, and modern foreign languages and literatures.



Opportunities

UT Extension looks for collaboration opportunities

The University of Tennessee Extension Service is seeking ways to collaborate with UT faculty and researchers on issues that might involve interaction on a county basis. The initiative to collaborate comes as Extension completes a 10-year strategic plan designed to enhance future growth, create innovative programs, attract quality people, improve organizational efficiency, and increase the visibility of Extension.

"With our continuing budget challenges and the many pressing social issues that we face, I'm sure there are many opportunities for us to work together to build on your research base, address local needs, and improve the lives we serve," said Tim Cross, dean of Extension.

The strategic plan intends to brand county Extension offices as "Your Local UT Campus."

Cross solicits comments, suggestions, and other feedback about collaborations focused on local projects.

Contact: Tim Cross (tlcross@utk.edu, 974-7114)

SWORPS offers expanded research, evaluation support

The Social Work Office of Research and Public Service is offering an expanded repertoire of research and evaluation services to university organizations and other groups that must report outcomes to stakeholders, manage and analyze data, develop capacity, or assess opinions and needs of communities.

Services offered include evaluations of programs and training; needs assessments; demographic studies; focus groups, surveys, and interviews; database design and management; and statistical analysis.

Contact: Maryanne Cunningham, SWORPS associate director, (mcunningham@utk.edu, 865-974-7514)

Details: <https://www.sworps.tennessee.edu/html/evaluation>

Award will recognize engagement in junior faculty

Pre-tenure faculty who include community engagement in their research and scholarship can apply to the 2011 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty. The award is sponsored by the New England Resource Center for Higher Education and emphasizes community-based scholarly work across faculty roles. The award will be presented at the 17th annual conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis on October 9-11, 2011.

Key date: Friday, April 29, 2011, submission of application

Details: http://www.nerche.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=585&Itemid=120

SSRN opens access to scholarly reference database

The Social Science Research Network has announced the release of more than 6.7 million references drawn from papers published on the SSRN web site over the past five years.

The references, plus more than 4.2 million citations linked to SSRN papers, have been extracted by the CiteReader project and proofread by human editors.

SSRN Chairman Michael Jensen reports that the reference extraction project is still in process, with 182,000 of the 270,000 full-text papers completed. Jensen said the CiteReader database currently underrepresents law papers because those papers typically use footnote-style citations. More than 6.9 million footnotes from more than 60,000 papers have been processed, and priority is now being given to processing papers with footnotes.

Details: <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/DisplayJournalBrowse.cfm>

Undergrad travel grants available in social sciences

The Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is offering a limited number of travel grants, up to \$200 each, for undergraduate students presenting the results of research that they have conducted at a regional or national, discipline-specific meeting during the fiscal year 2010 - 2011. In order to be eligible, the student must be a junior or senior, the student's mentor must be a CUR member or the student's home institution must be a CUR institutional member and the student's home institution must match the \$200 CUR travel grant.

Details: <http://www.cur.org/socscistudenttravel.html>

Contact: James LaPlant (jlaplant@valdosta.edu)

Virginia Tech hosts gathering on wireless communications

Virginia Tech is hosting its 21st Symposium on Wireless Personal Communications and the accompanying 7th annual Wireless Summer School. Topics will include networks, cognitive radios, and multi-antenna systems. Keynote speakers include the NSF's Andrew Clegg, speaking on "Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS): A New National Science Foundation Initiative."

The events will be held June 1-3, 2011, at the Inn at Virginia Tech and the Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg, VA.

Key dates: April 29, 2011, registration date for presenters; May 18, 2011, early registration discount.

Details: <http://wireless.vt.edu/symposium/2011/>

ORAU seeks recent master's, doctoral graduates

Master's and doctoral graduates within five years of graduation who are interested in working at a national laboratory can apply to the Postdoctoral and Post-Master's Research Associates Program administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities. The one-year appointments include a competitive salary, relocation assistance, benefits, and immigration assistance, as needed. Positions are project-specific.

Position listings: <http://www.orau.org/ornl/postdocs/ornl-pd-pm/default.aspx>

Application (registration required): https://www2.orau.gov/ORNL_POST/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fORNL_POST%2fdefault.aspx

UT, ORNL host genomic sequencing symposium

A symposium on high-throughput sequencing and computational analysis has been scheduled for May 9, 2011, at the UT Conference Center.

The University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory are collaborating on the meeting, titled "High-Throughput Sequencing and Computational Analysis at UTK and ORNL: Opportunities and Limitations."

The symposium is designed to inform about available resources at the two institutions; identify personnel, space, and instrumentation needs; and provide pathways and mechanisms that will allow end users to access the appropriate research tools. Any UT and ORNL faculty, staff, and students can register for the day-long meeting.

Registration: alayton@utk.edu or kdaumer@utk.edu

Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Publication Available

Faculty members who mentor undergraduate researchers recently gathered during Research Week 2011 to share tips and best practices and to highlight recent successes. Participants were provided a booklet produced by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) titled "How to Mentor Undergraduate Researchers."

The Office of Research is making these booklets available to other faculty mentors. The supply is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. To request a copy of this CUR publication, please send an email to Sharon Pound at spound@utk.edu.

Deadline extended for OIT Summer Teaching Institute

The Office of Information Technology and the TENN TLC have extended the deadline for proposals for the UT Summer Teaching Institute, which will provide three tracks for three modes of instruction: face-to-face enhanced, blended or hybrid, and online. Amount of stipend depends on track chosen.

Key date: April 24, 2011, at 12 a.m., submission of proposal to tenntic@utk.edu

Contacts: iloboda@utk.edu, tolsen@utk.edu