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Quest
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity
May 11, 2011
NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Refugee program brings outreach award to UT

A program that helps refugee families from Burundi find a place in the Knoxville community has been recognized as one of the top five public university outreach programs in the United States.

"Ready for the World," a University of Tennessee initiative to prepare students for a global culture, has won the W.K. Kellogg Outreach Scholarship Award for the partnership it built among university and community agencies that assist Burundians relocated to East Tennessee by the U.S. State Department.

The UTK/Burundian partnership

The UT program will compete with four other public universities for the C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award in November at the annual conference of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A-P-L-U) in San Francisco. UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek called the award a sign of the growing importance of the university's academic engagement with the community.

"We could not be more delighted at this honor," Cheek said. "While many schools include a global component in their curriculum, UT has served both the local community and an international constituency by focusing academic expertise on real problems."

Project leaders Denise Bates and Allison Anders, both assistant professors in the UTK College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences developed an organization named Healthy Transitions that worked with Burundians in Knoxville to establish a Burundian community organization, youth programs, English language programs for adults, and job skill development.

Partners in the initiative include UT's Center for the Study of Youth & Political Conflict, the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center, UT Athletics, the College of Law, Sport 4 Peace, and other UT departments. With help from the university, the Burundians established a tax-exempt organization called SODELA, the Solidarity, Development, and Light Association. Since 2007, the project has involved nine faculty, 71 graduate students, and 32 undergraduates, who invested about 2,000 hours in direct engagement. More than 50 academic presentations and poster sessions have resulted from the initiative, which was undertaken with early financial support from the UT Ready for the World fund.

Pursuit now accepting papers for fall 2011

Faculty members in any college who have an undergraduate doing an advanced, original, research-based paper should encourage the student to submit to *Pursuit*, UT's journal of undergraduate research.

Edited and reviewed by UT undergraduates, *Pursuit* is now accepting submissions for the Fall 2011 issue. Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2011, for priority consideration and June 30, 2011, for all other submissions. Submissions can be made through the Pursuit website at http://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit/ Copies of the Spring 2011 issue are available by request from Sharon Pound (spound@utk.edu).

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT KNOXVILLE

http://research.utk.edu

Capacity Catalog goes live on UT research web site

The Office of Research is rolling out the first online version of its Research Capacity Catalog for the University of Tennessee. It can be viewed at research.utk.edu/rcc/.

The catalog, which serves as access to all organized research efforts on the Knoxville campus, includes entries for some 203 Organized Research Units and other institutional frameworks for research.

Organized in 22 categories from Agriculture and Anthropology to Social Sciences and Social Work, the catalog presents consistent descriptions of active, vital research groups at the university. It includes a short summary about each group, as well as information about research personnel, facilities, and special research initiatives.

Research units can be accessed by tags (keywords), by discipline, or alphabetically. A search function can be used to seek specific names or words through out the corpus of the catalog.

"The Research Capacity Catalog serves as the gateway to a vibrant and widely varied UT research community," said Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research. "The catalog should become the primary entry point for people – both internal and external – who need to locate UT researchers on specific topics or problems."

Categories have been assigned to the research entities to showcase the interdisciplinary nature of the university's ORUs. A major goal of the catalog is promoting interdisciplinary teams, Reed said.

"The catalog is still a work in progress," he said. "We specifically encourage every ORU on campus to edit its entry and update the descriptive material to reflect current interests and capabilities.

"Research units that do not have a listing are urged to submit a research statement to the Office of Research inclusion."

UTK to partner with Knox schools in pilot STEM program

Two UT colleges and all 13 Knox County public high schools will participate in the first countywide rollout of the Pre-Collegiate Research Scholars Program. Rising seniors from all 13 Knox public high schools will work under the direction of their high school teacher mentors and UT faculty mentors in UT research laboratories.

The 2011-12 pilot program involves two colleges, Arts & Sciences and Engineering. The program's goal is to develop a model for hosting high school students in UT research laboratories so that they may experience the excitement of scientific research and engage in their own original research. Selected high school students participate in the pilot program only upon the recommendation, and receive ongoing support from, collaborating teacher mentors at their respective high schools.

Details: http://tinyurl.com/KCSPreCollegiate and http://service.utk.edu/pre-collegiate/index.shtml

Webinar explores faculty interests in copyright

University Libraries is hosting a free webinar titled "Copyright and Faculty Rights" for UT faculty on Thursday, May 12, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 in Hodges Library, Room 251.

The program, put on by Academic Impressions, will focus on fair-use laws in teaching and research, as well as protecting and managing personal copyrights.

The program features Kevin Smith, JD, the scholarly communications officer for Perkins Library at Duke University, and Steven McDonald, JD, general counsel for the Rhode Island School of Design. The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs is sponsoring the event.

Registration: Jane Row (jrow@utk.edu)

Review chooses Porter for editorial board

Robert Porter, director of research development in the Office of Research, has been named to serve on the editorial board of Research Management Review, a publication of the National Council of University Research Administrators.

Porter, who presents workshops on proposal development to UT faculty and staff, has been widely published in the literature of research administration. He has an article in press at the moment: "More Paper Out the Door: Ten Inexpensive Strategies to Stimulate Proposal Development."

Porter said that RMR will focus on practical advice for proposal writers – how-to articles and case studies.

QUEST NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

Attending vet can make emergency changes to animal protocols

Research procedures that use animal subjects must have protocols on file with and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Tennessee. When a research situation changes, researchers are required to file an amendment to the existing protocol. Forms for amending protocols can be found at http://iacuc.tennessee.edu/forms/

All procedures described in the amendment must be approved by the IACUC prior to use. When emergencies mandate a change in the protocol – for example, if an animal becomes fractious during a procedure and must be sedated with a drug not listed in the existing protocol – the IACUC has authorized its attending veterinarian, Patricia Coan (974-5634, pcoan@utk.edu), to approve emergency additions or drug substitutions to previously approved protocols for the sake of animal welfare.

The changes are valid only for the animal or experimental group being used at that time. To remain in compliance, principal investigators must amend their protocols to indicate the proposed changes will be used in the future.

Changes in personnel on a project also require submission of a personnel amendment to the IACUC. Copies of certificates of completion for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Learning Library need to be sent to the IACUC Office (336 Ellington, CAMPUS 4564) and enrollment in the Occupational Health Program must be complete to finalize adding personnel to a protocol.

Opportunities

Gates Foundation opens Round 7 of Grand Challenges solicitation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is accepting proposals for Round 7 of Grand Challenges Explorations on topics including ways to

- explore nutrition for healthy growth of infants and children
- apply synthetic biology to global health challenges
- create innovative ways to accelerate, sustain, and monitor eradication of poliovirus
- create the next generation of sanitation technologies
- design new approaches to cure HIV infection
- create low-cost, cell phone-based solutions for improved uptake and coverage of childhood vaccinations

Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, nonprofit organizations and for-profit companies. Initial grants will be US $100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US $1 million.

Key date: May 19, 2011, deadline

Details: www.grandchallenges.org/gce

UT students can seek startup business funding

The Boyd Venture Fund is soliciting applications from student companies for its inaugural seed-finding grants.

The fund will support any legally established business owned by students enrolled in a UT degree program. All UT Knoxville students regardless of discipline or degree program are eligible to apply, including those recently graduated.

Up to $10,000 is available for award to a company or companies considered worthy by the review panel. Criteria include need for capital, viability of business concept, and growth potential.

The fund is administered by the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the UT College of Business Administration and is funded by Randy Boyd, president and CEO of Pet Safe Corp.

Key dates: May 13, 2011, electronic submission to CEI@utk.edu (subject line: "The Boyd Venture Fund")

Contact: Tom Graves (tgrave10@utk.edu, 865-974-6131), Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Remember ...

The Office of Research wants to receive news of faculty honors and recognitions. Contact Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu).

Lab accidents lead to call for worker safety review

A recent spate of lab-related accidents has led Mark Smith, director of UT's Environmental Health & Safety Office, to recommend that UT personnel review all safety practices that apply to injury and environmental hazards.

The events include

- spontaneous ignition of hazardous waste in a waste storage room. Lab workers reportedly had not received appropriate training for dealing with the waste material.
- injury to a researcher's hand because guards and safety devices on a piece of lab equipment had been disabled.
- worker exposure when a radioisotopic liquid was splashed into the worker's eyes. The worker was not using protective eyeware.
- abandonment of a container of elemental sodium on a loading dock.
- a fire alarm when a beaker of oil left unattended overnight on a hot plate overheated.
- disposal of a strong acid rinse in a lab sink, in violation of Environmental Protection Agency and Knoxville Utilities Board regulations.

Faculty, staff, and students working in campus laboratories must be aware of all relevant fire, materials-handling, and safety regulations. The objective of the university's environmental health and safety programs is the protection of life and property and the prevention of accidents and environmentally-related ailments, Smith said.

Details: http://web.utk.edu/~ehss/

2011 Collegiate Inventors Competition Now Accepting Entries

The Collegiate Inventors Competition has recognized, rewarded, and encouraged hundreds of students to share their inventive ideas with the world. The competition promotes exploration in invention, science, engineering, technology, and other creative endeavors and provides a window on the technologies from which society will benefit in the future. Each year up to 12 finalists in graduate and undergraduate divisions receive an all-expenses paid trip to present their work to a panel of expert judges in Washington, D.C. In 2010, the top graduate prize was $15,000 and the top undergraduate prize was $10,000. Other prizes are awarded to select finalists. Academic advisors of each winning entry also receive a cash award. The deadline is June 24, 2011. For additional information visit: http://www.invent.org/collegiate/enter.html.

Society seeks to honor undergrad science teaching

The Society for College Science Teachers is taking nominations for its Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award for 2012.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the achievements of teaching colleagues who have enhanced the profession as outstanding teachers of science. The annual award is based upon a selection process that evaluates nominees according to the following ranked categories: 1) teaching excellence, 2) scholarship, and 3) service.

Nominees need not be a member of SCST but should have been actively involved in teaching undergraduate science for the previous five years. Nominations may be made by colleagues or students; self-nominations are also encouraged.

Key date: June 1, 2011, submission of application.

Details: http://www.scst.org/SCST/Grants_%26_Awards.html

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Contact: Bill Dockery, dockeryb@utk.edu, 865-974-2187. Archived at http://research.utk.edu/news