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News and Opportunities

Office of Research

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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Ballentine facilitates corporate, foundation support

The Office of Research is reaching out to corporations and private foundations in an effort to win support for research projects and other sponsored programs.

Susan Ballentine, a 17-year veteran of UTK's Development Office, has worked in the Office of Research for two years to identify corporate sponsors and private foundations interested in supporting university initiatives.

"We are seeking to put potential sponsors from corporations and foundations in touch with faculty whose scholarly interests match the sponsors' needs," Ballentine said. "We work to arrange for corporate and foundation representatives to visit campus so we can make introductions to our faculty."

Through Ballentine's efforts, representatives of the American Cancer Society visited campus and met with scientists whose research matched ACS interests. She has made contact with organizations as diverse as Teledyne Brown Engineering, Energy Solutions, EADS, Remotec, Sisken Steel & Supply, and Camel Canvas.

Ballentine also facilitated support for UT's entry into the Solar Decathlon sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. With assistance from a number of national and regional firms, the UT Living Light house placed eighth overall and took first place in two categories in a national competition that was staged recently on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

One major part of Ballentine's portfolio includes liaison responsibilities between the university and the Y-12 National Security Complex. Ballentine serves as the UT counterpart to Debbie Reed, the B&W Y-12 director of liaison with the university. UT and Y-12 are seeking to share expertise and educational and research opportunities among faculty, students, and weapons-plant staff.

Ballentine and Reed have already contacted several UT colleges about collaborations with Y-12 and they will talk with the remaining colleges soon.

"Faculty who have a specific idea for a corporate or foundation contact can let me know, and I will begin the process of making the connection and building relationships," she said.

Contact: Susan Ballentine (ballentine@utk.edu, 974-4863)

TEPO fund added to SARIF arsenal of support

The Office of Research has created a new fund to support faculty who need to meet program managers at federal agencies, corporations, and foundations.

The Travel to Engage Program Officers (TEPO) Fund will cover one-third of transportation expenses for faculty (including tenure-track and research) who are visiting program officers of funding agencies. Faculty seeking TEPO aid must submit a detailed description of the proposed meeting(s) or conference.

Requests for TEPO support will be reviewed when received by the associate vice chancellor for research.

TEPO is part of the Scholarly and Research Incentives Funds (SARIF) program, which offers funding to faculty members whose departments fall under the chancellor of UT Knoxville.

Contact: Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu)

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/internal.shtml>

Scan-friendly newsletter

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UTRF accepting proposals for Maturation Fund

The UT Research Foundation is seeking proposals for its Maturation Funding Program.

UTRF will provide up to \$15,000 for projects related to an existing UT invention or creation disclosure, or to an invention/creation disclosure submitted at the same time as the Maturation Fund proposal.

Projects should provide new data or further demonstrate the proposed technology to increase its commercial readiness. The UTRF support must be used on direct costs -- labor, materials, and services necessary to demonstrate the project.

Proposals are limited to three pages that describe the technology, the plan of work, expected results, a budget, and an assessment of the commercial opportunities for the technology.

Key date: November 18, 2011 – electronic submission of a proposal to the associate vice chancellor for research (tayloje@utk.edu)

Details: http://utrf.tennessee.edu/PDF/Mat_Funding2011.pdf

Joint Institutes count as on-campus for F&A purposes

Because of the requirements of UT's contract with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, for the purposes of facilities and administration (F&A) charges, projects taking place at any of the joint institutes at Oak Ridge National Laboratory should be considered on-campus. The buildings that are considered property of the university include the joint institutes for Biological Science (JIBS), Computational Sciences (JICS), Heavy Ion Research (JIHR), and Neutron Sciences (JINS).

Contact: Debbie Hampstead (dhampste@utk.edu)

Honors Program taking proposals for honors classes

The Chancellor's Honors Program is seeking proposals for UH-200-level courses for academic year 2012-2013 that will offer interdisciplinary courses to engage some of the university's most talented undergraduates. The program is open to creative course design and experimental pedagogy and will favor courses with interdisciplinary goals.

Faculty should submit a course description, a sample syllabus, a CV, and a brief explanation of the way the proposed course will contribute to the honors curriculum. Note: All courses, including previous courses, must be submitted for consideration.

Key date: December 1, 2011 – submission of proposal to Lisi Schoenbach (aschoenb@utk.edu)

Details: <http://honors.utk.edu/faculty/teach/teach.html>

Provost's Mic/Nite included table on research



Charlie Senn speaks with Diana Moyer at the Office of Research's table at the recent Mic/Nite evening of Pecha Kucha talks by UTK faculty. Senn and Sharon Pound provided information and publications to attendees at the evening of short lectures, which was sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

Six receive first Office of Research grant-writing certificate

Six Knoxville faculty have completed the requirements for the first Certificate in Grant-Writing and Proposal Development program.

Eric Foch (Exercise and Sports Science), **Shelley Hanes** (Biomedical Engineering), **Richard Karel** (Office of Information Technology), **Lisa Lindley** (Nursing), **Diana Moyer** (Center for the Study of Social Justice), **Kimberly MacArthur** (Electrical Engineering), **Jason Caudill** (Education Psychology and Counseling), and **Karen Franck** (Extension) completed the curriculum, which is designed to help faculty, staff, and students create winning proposals for sponsored programs. The certificate program includes a series of workshops and online courses, including

- Writing Successful Grants, Part I and II
- Finding Funding
- Success with Proposal Development (PDT)
- Strategies for Success in Sponsored Research
- TERA/PAMS
- Building the NSF Grant Proposal
- Building the NIH Grant Proposal
- Career Development Grants for Pre- and Post-Docs
- NSF Career and Bridge Grants
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- IRB/Human Subjects Research

Details: Write ortraining@utk.edu.

Five outreach awards made to UT faculty

Faculty projects from five UT Knoxville colleges have been awarded up to \$2,000 each for community engagement projects in 2011.

The projects range from a forensic science course for high schoolers to a study of results from a housing program for the homeless.

The funding, provided by the UTK Office of the Chancellor through the Outreach Incentive Grants program, will help faculty to pursue projects that fulfill the university’s mission to exchange knowledge and resources with the wider community.

Receiving the awards are

- ❖ **Katherine Ambroziak** from Architecture and Design, for studies of an Odd Fellows Cemetery Memorial in East Knoxville.
- ❖ **Sandra Mixer** from Nursing, for a study with East Tennessee Children’s Hospital to research expressions and patterns of care among Hispanic and other underserved Caucasian families.
- ❖ **David Patterson** from Social Work, for a study of formerly homeless residents at Flenniken Landing.
- ❖ **Hollie Raynor** from Education health and Human Sciences, to develop nutritional counseling in a worksite wellness program at Radio Systems Corp.
- ❖ **Dawnie Steadman** in Arts and Sciences, to engage Knox County high school students in forensic science.

Contact: Elizabeth Burman (eburman@utk.edu)

Battelle creates postdoctoral fellowship

Battelle Memorial Institute is soliciting applications for new PhD recipients for its Gordon Battelle Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship. The fellowship takes the recipient to Battelle headquarters in Columbus, OH, for applied research in large-scale information analysis, cybersecurity, bioinformatics, toxicology, biomedical imaging, biobased fuels and products, and applications of nanoscale materials science to problems in energy, health, and national security. Two fellowships will be available.

Key date: February 1, 2012 – submission of online application, resume, two-page statement of research interests.

Details: <http://www.battelle.org/CAREERS/fellowship.aspx>

Faculty with NSF funding can apply for undergraduate supplement

UT Knoxville faculty who have funding from the National Science Foundation are eligible to apply for supplemental funding that will provide Research Experiences for Undergraduates as part of their project.

The NSF funds more than 100 active projects at UTK, and creating REUs on those projects can significantly increase the number of undergraduates who have the opportunity to engage in research. The Office of Research will provide editorial support for any NSF-funded faculty who apply for the REU supplement and fill out the three-page application by January 1, 2012.

Details: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09598/nsf09598.htm>

WANTED!

Faculty nominations for Scholar of the Week



The Scholar of the Week is a service of the UTK Office of Research. Through this award we recognize the recent important research, scholarship, and creative accomplishment of our faculty members. Recognition by peers as an independent, original, and substantive researcher includes:

- ❖ Publication of original research in rigorously refereed major journals
- ❖ A major exhibit or performance at a national or international venue
- ❖ A record of national grant or fellowship support awarded through peer-review
- ❖ National or international prizes or awards
- ❖ Invitation to hold endowed lectureships
- ❖ Invited lectures, particularly at major scholarly meetings

Faculty members may be nominated only by deans, department heads, and other faculty members. Nominations should include a short paragraph that includes the department and rank of the scholar, states his or her specific field of work within the discipline, and describes the scholar’s most recent noteworthy accomplishment. The paragraph may also list significant previous scholarly awards and memberships.

Please send your nominations to Alan Rutenberg at arutenberg@utk.edu and provide a photograph or a link to a photograph. Descriptions should be in simple, nontechnical language for a general audience, but when relevant they should also include citations for the benefit of other scholars.

Gates Foundation calls for work on preterm births, healthy babies

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is investing \$35 million in support of groundbreaking projects that will help women and children live more prosperous and healthy lives.

The funding will support two new Grand Challenges in Global Health programs: Preventing Preterm Birth and Discover New Ways to Achieve Healthy Growth.

The birth initiative, undertaken in cooperation with the Global Alliance for the Prevention of Prematurity and Stillbirth, will seek to support research that limits infections and improves nutrition for pregnant women.

The healthy growth initiative will study growth issues in the first 1,000 days of life and effective and affordable interventions that promote healthy growth.

A related initiative, “Biomarkers of Gut Function and Health,” will seek noninvasive measures of intestinal functioning in infants.

Details:

- Preterm birth initiative: <http://www.gapps.org/healthybirth>
- Healthy growth initiative: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/GrantOpportunities/Pages/healthygrowth.aspx>
- Biomarkers initiative: http://www.grandchallenges.org/biomarkers/Pages/Gut_Function_Biomarkers.aspx

Application instructions: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/ApplicationInstructions.aspx>