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Office of Research & Engagement

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Process starts for selecting FY13 Organized Research Units

The Office of Research is preparing for annual hearings on Organized Research Units on the UT Knoxville campus.

The hearings, scheduled for March 5-6, 2012, will help determine which existing ORUs will receive continued funding and which emerging ORUs will receive first-time support.

Organized Research Units are groups of faculty organized to do research that has the potential of making an impact on a defined topic or discipline. The purpose of Office of Research support is to help ORUs organize to pursue external funding with the goal of becoming self-sufficient, usually within a five-year period, or to help sustain existing ORUs with a large return on investment.

There are two steps in the ORU support process:

1. ORUs, existing or emerging, must submit brief written progress reviews and proposals for funding that will guide the group toward work that supports the highest research priorities of UT Knoxville.

2. A number of selected ORU directors will be invited to give public presentations on their proposals and to answer clarifying questions.

Key dates: February 6, 2012, at close of business – electronic submission of proposal narrative to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu, 865-974-0437); March 5-6, 2012 – hearings on selected ORU proposals

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

Riedinger takes interim position with Office of Research

Lee Riedinger has been named interim vice chancellor of research for the UT Knoxville campus.

Riedinger, a longtime UT physics professor and administrator at UT and ORNL, will continue to serve as director of the UT-ORNL Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education. He began his interim role on January 1, 2012. He has served as interim VC/ research at UT in the past.

He is replacing Wes Hines, who is returning to the Department of Nuclear Engineering as department head. Hines was appointed to the interim role in August 2010.

Knoxville-related projects win UTRF support

Four projects involving UT Knoxville faculty are among eight selected to receive funding from the UT Research Foundation's Maturation Funding.

The awards went to

Jayne Wu, UT Knoxville, and **Shigetoshi Eda**, UT Institute of Agriculture, for a portable diagnostic tool that provides rapid on-site detection of infectious diseases and physiological conditions

Ling-Ling Ann Chen, **Lei Shi**, and **J.W.L. Lewis** of the UT Space Institute for a clinical trial of a low-cost, high-quality vision assessment tool for children and young adults

William Hofmeister, **Lino Costa**, and **Alexander Terekhov** of UTSI for novel electrodes for high-energy density supercapacitors

Mingjun Zhang and **Scott Lenaghan** of UT Knoxville and **Neal Stewart** of the Institute of Agriculture for an automated high-throughput nanoparticle manufacturing process using English ivy

The Maturation Fund supported four additional projects at the Health Science Center in Memphis, including work by Michio Kuroso and Joy Debnath; Monica Jablonski, Mallika Palamoor, and Huiling Li; Hasaan Amoazen, Catherine Crill, Gretchen Potts, and Richard Helms; and Denis Diangelo.

A total of 44 proposals were submitted from the UT System's four campuses and three institutes. A total of \$120,000 was awarded in the annual competition. Since its inception in 2007, more than \$600,000 has been awarded to some 50 projects. The next solicitation for Maturation Funding will be announced in October 2012.

Details: <http://utrf.tennessee.edu/techtransfer>

Applications taken for UTK undergraduate internships

Up to 75 internships will be awarded to undergraduate students for work with UT Knoxville faculty mentors in summer 2012 on research or creative projects. Students must submit

- ❖ an application form
- ❖ the student's current UT transcript or academic history
- ❖ a written narrative no longer than two pages
- ❖ a schedule indicating the level of effort and schedule

Faculty mentors are crucial in the choice of an appropriate scholarly project and ensuring that it is carried out using professional approaches and methods. Undergraduates may undertake work on their undergraduate thesis, on problems in the mentor's research program, or other appropriate projects.

Students supported by this program must present it at the annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement or at another suitable public or professional forum.

The UT Office of Research administers the internship program using funds from the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of Research for the purpose of increasing the participation of undergraduates in the UT research enterprise.

Key date: February 24, 2012 at noon – electronic submission of application packet to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu)

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

XSEDE announces summer computational conference

The Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment will be holding the XSEDE12 conference July 16-19, 2012, in downtown Chicago. XSEDE is the provider of advanced cyberinfrastructure services that has succeeded TeraGrid. Both are programs of the National Science Foundation that serve the U.S. open research community by linking the nation's supercomputer facilities into a network with extreme computational capacity and resources for visualization and data analysis.

The XSEDE12 conference continues a series of TeraGrid meetings that provided tutorials, a visualization showcase, poster sessions, and technical workshops, as well as keynote and plenary speakers from the highest levels of the computational science community.

The new conference will also provide talks by software vendors and various social and networking opportunities for scientists and students. Awards will be made for best papers, presentations, and visualizations, and the proceedings of the conference are to be published.

Details: <https://www.xsede.org/xsede12-conference-announced>

Application process opens for summer GRAs

The Office of Research is accepting applications for Summer Graduate Research Assistantships for summer 2012. Faculty members must apply for support for a named graduate student who will assist in a research project that advances the faculty member's research agenda and may partially fulfill the student's graduate degree requirements.

The assistantships provide a total stipend of \$3,600 for May, June, and July, for a 50% level of effort from the student.

Each department or school can submit one application for every 20 full-time faculty members (or fraction thereof) in that unit. A faculty member can submit only one application.

A subcommittee of the Research Council will judge the applications on the basis of the quality of the project and the active involvement of the graduate student.

Applications from faculty members who have not received significant research incentive funds from the university recently will be given preference, and the awards will be distributed over as wide a range of disciplines as possible.

Key date: February 17, 2012 at noon – electronic submission of a completed application to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu).

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/gra.shtm>

Spring grant-writing courses available

Online registration is open for the Office of Research Professional Development Program, a series of training and educational workshops that is aimed at preparing faculty, staff, and graduate students to pursue external funding and participate in sponsored programs.

The office also offers a certificate for completing a sequence of courses in grant-writing and proposal development. All courses are free to UTK faculty, staff, and students.

Key dates: Courses begin in late January, 2012

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



White House catalogs federal STEM investments

The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy has released a comprehensive listing of STEM education investments that are associated with federal agencies. The document, titled The Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Portfolio, is an inventory of all federal programs that support STEM educational investments, not including post-doc or fellowship programs. The inventory details 252 investments worth \$3.4 billion in federal funds across 11 federal agencies. Some 169 additional programs funded through earmarks or ARRA monies were also mentioned in brief.

The inventory will inform the creation of a strategic plan for federal STEM investment that is to be released in 2012. The work has been undertaken as a part of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2011.

Details: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/12/09/ostp-releases-federal-stem-education-portfolio>

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/costem_federal_stem_education_portfolio_report.pdf

Web page will highlight summer research opportunities

One effective way to recruit the best students to UT Knoxville is to bring them to campus for research activities in the summer. Summer research programs can help high school students choose UT for their undergraduate careers, and undergraduate research experiences can encourage them to pursue graduate degrees in Knoxville.

The Office of Research is building a web page that will promote summer research activities occurring on the Knoxville campus. Already on the list are opportunities at NIMBioS, TN-SCORE, Sensing and Signaling in Arts and Sciences, CURENT, and Synthesis and Characterization of Advanced Materials in Engineering.

Those who have summer opportunities for high school or undergraduates are encouraged to submit them to Sharon Pound (spound@utk.edu) for inclusion on the web page.

UTK Interim export control officer appointed

The Office of Research has appointed an interim compliance officer to fill in for Robin Witherspoon, who has been UT's export control officer for the last seven years.

Dairin Malkemus (dmalkemu@utk.edu, 865-974-0232) will be working on export control issues on an interim basis while a search is conducted for a permanent export control officer. Malkemus was a chemical engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 18 years.

Witherspoon is leaving UT for a position as chief export control officer at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Contact Malkemus for questions about compliance with federal export control regulations and practices.

December issue of funding newsletter is online

The December 2011 issue of Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 4) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- ❖ NSF INSPIRE/CREATIV Webinar Report
- ❖ NIH Funding for International Programs
- ❖ Echo but Don't Parrot Agency Language
- ❖ NSF MRI Revisited, an Update for 2012
- ❖ Finding the Common Denominators of Successful Grants
- ❖ How Your Proposal Will Be Reviewed at NSF, NIH, DoED, IES, DOE, NASA, USDA/NIFA, etc.
- ❖ Health Information Technology Funding
- ❖ Funding for Grad Students and Postdocs
- ❖ Research Grant Writing Web Resources
- ❖ Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
- ❖ Agency Research News
- ❖ Agency Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps
- ❖ New Funding Opportunities
- ❖ About Academic Research Funding Strategies

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The Office of Research subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

Kellogg engagement award nominations solicited

Nominations are currently being accepted from UT Knoxville departments for the 2012 Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award. One project will be selected for submission by UTK to the regional Kellogg competition.

The winners of five regional awards are celebrated at two national conferences and also become finalists for the national C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award. The winning UTK nominee will be provided support through the Office of Research to complete and submit a final application for the regional award. In addition, all nominees will be considered for news stories throughout the year and may be encouraged and/or assisted in pursuing additional funding and showcasing opportunities.

Limited Submission: The chancellor can make only one nomination to this competition. Self-nominations are welcomed. Contact Elizabeth Burman (eburman@utk.edu) with questions.

Key Date: January 20, 2011 -- Nomination deadline

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/pd/magrath.shtml>

Gates Foundation seeks inquiries about healthy growth

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is soliciting letters of inquiry for research on healthy growth among children in the first 1,000 days of life. The foundation will invest \$15 million on research to discover the cause of faltering growth in young children and to identify effective and affordable interventions to promote healthy growth.

Key date: January 25, 2012 at 10 a.m. Pacific Standard Time – submission of letter inquiry

Details: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/GrantOpportunities/Pages/healthygrowth.aspx>

Another Gates solicitation still open:

Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth

Key date: January 31, 2012 – submission of letter of inquiry

Details: http://gapps.org/index.php/research/healthy_birth/

UTK to partner with Knox County Schools in pilot STEM program

Two UT colleges and 13 Knox County high schools will participate in the second year of the countywide Pre-Collegiate Research Scholars Program. High School seniors will be working under the direction of their high school teacher mentors and will be assigned to UTK faculty mentors. The program's goal is to host high school students in UT research laboratories so that they may experience the excitement of scientific research and engage in their own original research.

Two UT colleges are partnering with Knox County to continue the pilot stage of the program for the 2012-13 year. Faculty in the College of Engineering and the College of Arts and Sciences who are interested in serving as faculty mentors should register online as soon as possible.

Key date: February 6, 2012 – last date to register as a potential mentor.

Details and registration form: <http://service.utk.edu/pre-collegiate/index.shtml>

