Quest
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

July 13, 2011

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Office creates new way to learn about funding sources

The Office of Research is introducing a new automated method of notifying UT Knoxville scholars of funded research opportunities.

The Automated Announcement Delivery System will use a combination of RSS feeds and a keyword orientation to search funding sources and notify individual investigators of opportunities that may be a match for their research interests. Charlie Senn, director of proposal management, developed the program to provide personal and effective matching funding opportunities to UT Knoxville's research faculty.

The program will be announced to College of Engineering faculty on July 14 by e-mail. The Office of Research has created an initial personalized keyword list for all research-oriented faculty on the Knoxville campus using each member's professional website. This keyword list is used to determine whether a faculty member will be notified of a particular funding announcement. Faculty can update, expand, or change their individualized keyword lists to fine-tune the announcement notifications they will receive in the future. Keywords can be updated as often as needed to accommodate changing research interests. Investigators can tailor their funding search through accurate and comprehensive keyword descriptions and rely on AADS to relay all funding opportunities that match.

Other colleges will be brought into AADS as the program is broadened.

Resources for AADS include narrated PowerPoints describing the AADS system and details regarding search keywords:
AADS Introduction: http://research.utk.edu/pd/aads-1.shtml
AADS Keyword Email: http://research.utk.edu/pd/aads-2.shtml
Keyword Syntax Instructions: http://research.utk.edu/pd/aads-3.shtml
Contact: Charlie Senn at aadsadmin@utk.edu

More research communication venues

The AADS is the latest in a number of communication venues the Office of Research uses to present information to faculty and staff on opportunities and solicitations, proposal development and submission, compliance activities, training, and other relevant topics.

1. On the Office of Research web site: http://utk.edu/research

2. News & Opportunities: a newsletter on green paper stock containing news of policy changes, announcements, and opportunities. Distributed to the mailbox of every tenured or tenure-track faculty, and everyone whose work falls under an R-account. Appears every two to three weeks during fall and spring semesters

3. Awards & Recognition: a newsletter on gold paper stock listing all recent awards that have been processed by the Office of Research, as well as news of recent accomplishments by faculty and others. Distributed to the same list as the green newsletter. Appears as material warrants.

4. Listservs for specific agencies:

- Solicitations that limit the number of submissions from UT: limitsub@listserv.utk.edu
- NASA: utknasa@listserv.utk.edu
- Department of Energy: utkdoenv@listserv.utk.edu
- National Science foundation: utknsfnv@listserv.utk.edu
- National Institutes of Health: utknihnv@listserv.utk.edu
- Department of Defense: utkdod@listserv.utk.edu
- A combination of all of the above sources except limitsub: utcompi@listserv.utk.edu

5. Listserv for Sponsored Programs policy announcements: oralert@listserv.utk.edu

6. Outreach and broader impact: ut-reach@listserv.utk.edu

7. Community of Science: this comprehensive database of oportunities is available to all University of Tennessee faculty, staff, and students above the level of undergraduate: http://cos.com

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Online database showcases undergraduate research activities

Students and faculty who are interested in undergraduate research and creative achievement activities across the UTK campus can now go online and search a database that lists more than 1,000 student activities at https://uropps.research.utk.edu/. These activities took place between the summer of 2009 and the summer of 2010.

In addition, the new opportunities database allows faculty to list upcoming opportunities for which students can apply online.

"We hope that when faculty members are looking for students to work on research or creative projects, they will go online and post these opportunities for our undergraduates," says Dr. Gregory Reed, associate vice chancellor of research. "Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to match students with faculty research and creative interests."

Reed notes that UTK's undergraduate research website at http://research.utk.edu/undergrad has undergone significant expansion over the past few months, including highlights about undergraduate research projects, advice on how students can get involved, and lists of numerous activities scheduled throughout the academic year. He says that undergraduate research is a key component to the Top 25 initiative on the UTK campus, contributing to improved retention and graduation rates.

Undergraduate Research Brochures Available

New brochures that promote undergraduate research and creative achievement on the UTK campus are available for distribution. The brochures describe centralized undergraduate research resources and activities, such as internships, EUReCA and the *Pursuit* journal, and highlight eight students and their specific research projects. Colleges or departments that have opportunities to distribute these brochures to students and/or parents can contact the Office of Research at utkur@utk.edu.

Office devoted effort, attention to undergrad research

In Fiscal Year 2011, increasing undergraduate participation in research became an emphasis in UT Knoxville's initiative to be ranked in the top 25 public universities in the nation. Already-existing programs were expanded and new programs were created to promote undergraduate involvement in research.

The traditional Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity drew 187 projects and some 300 student participants, 85 of whom were recognized as winners in some category. For the second year, EURēCA was part of an expanded Research Week that saw a variety of research presentations across the campus. The week was capped by publication of the second number of *Pursuit*, the scholarly journal edited and published by UT undergraduates.

The Office of Research supported 118 undergraduate research internships with UT Knoxville faculty in summer 2011.

The office also created an online inventory of more than 1,100 campus research experiences for undergraduate participation involving some 300 faculty and developed an online tool for faculty to announce upcoming opportunities.

Office staff made presentations to five conferences, including the Technical Society of Knoxville, the Black Issues Conference, and instructor training for UT's Student Success Center. For the second year, undergraduate scholars presented poster sessions to state legislators for Posters at the Capitol. UT also had a presence at TN-SCORE, a statewide undergraduate research conference sponsored by EPSCOR and the Council on Undergraduate Research.

Marketing for UT undergraduate research included development of a brochure, a "PURSUit" logo, and promotional T-shirts, as well as an expanded undergraduate research web site and a Facebook page with 250 friends.

Looking for good news . . .

With summer travel and vacations, the submission of recognitions to Office of Research newsletters has diminished a bit. If you or a fellow faculty member has a brag point – an academic accomplishment, an honor or office – please send the news to Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu) for inclusion in Awards & Recognition.

Quest NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

Researchers share NSF funding, decision-making with local high school

UT Knoxville faculty members identified a barrier to having high school students in their labs during the summer when they included a local high school teacher in the planning and development of their proposal. They responded by building into the proposal the resources needed to overcome that barrier and recently received funding from the National Science Foundation for the project.

Steven Ripp (Center for Environmental Biotechnology), Jennifer DeBruyn (biosystems engineering and soil sciences), and Syed Islam (electrical engineering and computer sciences) learned from Oak Ridge High School science teacher Sharon Thomas that students were reluctant to take advantage of UT research experience because it competed with summer employment. Thanks to stipends written into the proposal, Thomas can now compensate high schoolers with summer research stipends, just like those graduate and undergraduate university students receive.

This novel approach of incorporating the best practices of community engagement in sponsored research is one that UT's Office of Research is exploring with other principal investigators. One such opportunity for PIs is the Pre-Collegiate Research Scholars Program currently being piloted in full partnership with the central office of Knox County Schools.

Details: http://service.utk.edu/pre-collegiate/
Contact: Elizabeth Burman (ebuman@utk.edu)

IRB committee revises procedures

The Institutional Review Board that oversees human-subjects compliance for UT entities in the Knoxville area has revised several policies and procedures, and instituted a Blackboard-based review checklist and documentation. The new procedures were effective July 1, 2011.

Serving on the IRB -- Membership on the IRB will be for a term of five years on a rotating basis. To ensure an adequate pool of potential members, all departments or colleges requiring IRB services must provide candidates who can serve on the committee.

Chairing the IRB – The position of chair will also rotate and, to provide for continuity in leadership, the vice-chair will serve as the chair-in-training.

The IRB and Blackboard – The IRB has implemented a review checklist and changed its processes to include posting on a Blackboard site for review and discussion by committee members. The new procedure should permit early resolution of some issues and reduce the need for commentary at the full IRB committee meetings. In the rare circumstance that a human-subjects protocol might not receive approval, the IRB administrator can work with the investigator to resolve issues in time for the next meeting of the committee.

Project shutdown – If an adverse event occurs that requires the closure of a project, all information will be gathered and reviewed, and a resolution will be returned within 10 business days of the initial report.

Contact: Brenda Lawson, IRB administrator (blawson@utk.edu, 865-974-7697)
Details: http://research.utk.edu/humansubjects/

A revised edition of the IRB Guide for Faculty, Staff, and Students is available at http://research.utk.edu/forms_docs/irb-handbook.pdf

ORNL schedules workshops in neutron-scattering techniques

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is offering a series of workshops on various neutron-scattering technologies for researchers, graduate students, and postdocs who are interested in learning more about neutron-scattering techniques and data analysis.

The workshops will be conducted at ORNL's Spallation Neutron Source or the High Flux Isotope Reactor. Workshops are free, but space is limited and registration is required. Topics include:

- Neutron Powder Diffraction (August 31- September 2, 2011)
- Introduction to the EQ-SANS (September 6-7, 2011)
- Getting to Know the NOMAD (September 12-13, 2011)
- Neutron Diffraction @ TOPAZ (September 29 – October 1, 2011)

Contact: Allen E. Ekkebus (ekkebusae@ornl.gov, 865-241-5644)
Details: http://neutrons.ornl.gov/calendar/

M-CERV offers seed grants to campus investigators

M-CERV, the Microbiology across Campuses Educational and Research Venture, is accepting applications for seed grants that will facilitate intercampus and interdisciplinary research projects involving microbiology.

Projects funded by M-CERV are expected to result in substantial extramural grant applications and funding. A requirement for the application will be participation by more than one tenure-line investigator from different administrative units, one of whom will be based at UT Knoxville. Investigators from Oak Ridge National Laboratory must be funded through an affiliated UT department or program.

Awards must be spent in FY 2012 (ending no later than June 30, 2012) and can be used for graduate research assistants and fellows, as well as supplies and equipment. First year grants are limited to no more than $10,000, and promising projects may qualify for a second-year award of $5,000.

Key date: Friday, July 22, 2011 – electronic submission of application to Jeff Becker (jbecker@utk.edu) and Stephen Oliver (@soliver@utk.edu)
Details: http://research.utk.edu/funding/m-cerv.shtml

Certificate in proposal writing available through office

The Office of Research is offering a Certificate in Grant-Writing and Proposal Development for members of the UT Knoxville research community.

The certificate program comprises courses from the professional development curriculum now offered by the office and includes required courses and electives. Additional courses offered by the UT Employee and Organizational Development Office may augment the certificate but are not required for this certification.

The program is designed to give investigators a broad but thorough understanding of the grant-writing process, from locating appropriate funding opportunities and solicitations to evaluating the requirements of funding agencies and preparing a responsive proposal document. It will also provide an in-depth knowledge of the processes and procedures for submitting proposals at UT Knoxville.

There is no charge for participating in the course or the certificate program. Investigators will not need to invest departmental or research resources in outside training, which is often expensive but not focused on the needs and requirements of UT research administration. Courses **completed previously through the Office of Research will count toward achieving the certification.**

Contact: Lesli Rowan (ortraining@utk.edu)
Details: http://research.utk.edu/training/certify.shtml

SHORT DEADLINE: DOE seeking to establish Industrial Assessment Centers

The U.S. Department of Energy is soliciting proposals for as many as 30 Industrial Assessment Centers that will employ innovative methods to ground students in core engineering, energy, and business principles and increase their understanding of management systems, industrial technologies, supply chains, energy efficiency, and sustainability.

Each IAC is expected to train from 10 to 15 students a year to work directly with small and medium-sized industrial and manufacturing facilities in assessing industrial processes and energy management issues.

Key date: August 2, 2011 – submission of application
Details: https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/?doc=DE-FOA-0000490&agency=DOE

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution.
QUEST News & Opportunities is published on alternate weeks for the faculty of UT Knoxville by the Office of Research with assistance from Creative Communications. Job #9195
Contact: Bill Dockery, dockeryb@utk.edu, 865-974-2187. Archived at http://research.utk.edu/news