Quest
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES
June 27, 2012



*NIH proposal boot camp*

## Busload of faculty, grad fellows visit DC program officers

Eleven UT Knoxville faculty and 12 graduate fellows have completed the third annual Grant-Writing Institute sponsored by the UT Office of Research. After an intensive series of eight half-day workshops in late May and June, the group traveled by bus to the Washington offices of the National Institutes of Health, accompanied by Robert Porter, Office of Research director of research development, and Sharon Pound, proposal development team editor.

The boot camp is designed to immerse faculty who are inexperienced in seeking outside funding in the best practices for approaching program officers and preparing a responsive proposal. For the first time, the boot camp concentrated only on faculty seeking support from the National Institutes of Health.

**PARTICIPANTS**

***[Faculty member,** (mentor), graduate fellow]*

**Becky Bolen,** social work (Gregory Stuart), Kellie Gergely, social work
**Dawn Coe,** kinesiology, recreation, & sport studies (Hollie Raynor), Jennifer Flynn, KRSS, and Sheila Borders, public health
**Paul Dalhaimer,** chemical engineering (Eric Boder)
**Zannatul Ferdous,** mechanical, aerospace, & biomedical engineering (Timothy Sparer), Shirin Masjedi, MABE
**Vitaly Ganusov,** microbiology (Jeff Becker), Elizabeth Johnson, microbiology
**Lauren Gellar,** nutrition (Gregory Stuart), Yijia Zhang, genome science & technology
**Sungkyu Lee,** social work (Charles Glisson), Taylor Krcek, social work
**Jeff Reinbolt,** MABE (Hollie Raynor), Misagh Boroujeni and Kristin Morgan, MABE
**Nathan Schmidt,** microbiology (Igor Jouline), Chelsi White, microbiology
**Reba Umberger,** nursing (Cynthia Peterson), Tihami Qureshi, biochemistry, cellular & molecular biology
**Xiaopeng Zhao,** MABE (Sergey Gavrilets), Adam Sullivan, biomedical engineering

## SARIF support changes for foreign travel

Recent changes in the SARIF Foreign Travel Fund end its availability for events in North America but increase its funding value.

The fund now supports foreign travel only to events held outside North America. Travel to Hawaii and Puerto Rico is not supported.

The fund pays up to one third of the cost of foreign travel, and the maximum award has been raised to $1,200.

SARIF, the Scholarly and Research Incentive Funds, supports a variety of research needs for faculty whose departments fall under the jurisdiction of the UT Knoxville chancellor.

**Details:** http://research.utk.edu/funding/foreign.shtml

## Atlanta census center plans two research conferences

The Atlanta Census Research Data Center has announced two upcoming conferences showcasing research from the nationwide network of federal Research Data Centers.

On September 20, 2012, the Federal reserve Bank of Chicago will host the national RDC Research Conference, featuring papers drawn from employee-employer census data and health data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Agency for Healthcare Research and quality. **Key date:** July 2, 2012 -- paper submission.

On October 18-19, 2012, the University of Georgia will host the inaugural ACRDC Conference. Details are forthcoming.

The University of Tennessee is a member of the Atlanta CRDC, and UT scholars have two research projects under way using the RDC data, with another project pending.

**Details:** http://www.aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc/ACrDC%20Newsletter_2012_2.pdf

*From* Sponsored Program News

## Noncompliance issues can cause sponsors to return proposals unreviewed

By **David Smelser,** sponsored-programs administrator

Over the past year, the Office of Sponsored Programs has seen a significant increase in the number of proposals being returned by the sponsor for noncompliance. Sponsors are becoming more stringent in their review of formatting and other solicitation requirements, which means proposals are being returned to the principal investigator before they even make it to peer review. Sometimes the sponsor will allow an opportunity for the mistake to be corrected, but that is not always the case. Below are a few examples of why proposals are being returned by the sponsor.

1. *"The required Results from Prior NSF Support section is missing from the project description".* This is a relatively new requirement from NSF and must fit within the 15-page project description for most proposals. We have seen proposals returned without an opportunity for correction when this section is omitted.

2. *"Please remove the Awards section from the bio-sketch for PI."* NSF is reviewing biosketches much closer and any variation to its established format puts a proposal at risk of being returned.

3. *"The letters are just to indicate commitment on the part of the collaborators. They are not to expand on the substance of the project."* Unless otherwise stated in the solicitation, any letters submitted in a proposal should only address the commitment of the author. These letters should not continue the technical merit discussion of nor provide any endorsement for the proposal

4. *"The References are missing article titles which must be included along with a full listing of all author names (the use of* et al. *is not allowed in the References)."* It is very important to adhere to the formatting requirements of every section of the proposal as they are all being carefully reviewed for compliance.

5. *"The Current and Pending Support statement needs to list and identify this proposal as Pending."* Every section of the proposal serves a specific purpose for the sponsor and each section is being thoroughly reviewed for accuracy.

6. *"The Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan needs to be uploaded as a one-page Supplementary Document since it is currently contained in the Project Description."* For all sections of the proposal, be sure to double-check the page limits as well as where the document should be uploaded in Fastlane. When the sections are in the wrong location, the proposal can be returned.

While all of these examples come from NSF proposals, the lesson learned can be applied to all sponsors. When preparing proposals, it is crucial to understand and follow the sponsor and solicitation requirements. The staff of UT's Sponsored Programs unit can advise proposal writers about the details of proposal requirements.

*From the July/August 2012 issue of* Sponsored Programs News. *To receive that e-newsletter, visit http://research.utk.edu/sp/ and sign up for the ORALERT listserv.*

## INSIDE THE OFFICE

**Dairin Malkemus** has been appointed export control compliance officer for UT Knoxville, after serving as interim in the position since January 2012. Malkemus has a bachelor's in chemical engineering from Purdue and an M.S. from UT. He served 18 years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory before joining the Office of Research.

**Marsha Smith** is the new radiation safety officer for UT Knoxville. She has been a radiation safety specialist in that office since 2005. Prior to that she worked in rad health and safety with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. She has a B.S. in environmental science from UT.

**Robert Porter,** director of research development for the UT Office of Research, was one of two honorable mentions for the Falk-Krzesinski Service Award of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals. The award is given annually to a member of NORDP who has displayed outstanding service to the organization and to the research development profession.

## NIMBioS seeks postdoc applicants, proposals for working groups, workshops

The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis is accepting applications for posdtoctoral scholarship from researchers working at the interface between biology and mathematics. An annual stipend of $51,000 with UT benefits and a travel allowance of $2,000 comes with the fellowship.
**Key date:** September 1, 2012 - submission of online application
**Details:** http://www.nimbios.org/postdocs/postdoc.html

NIMBioS is also soliciting requests for support for working groups, investigative workshops, sabbaticals, and short-term visits that will foster interdisciplinary research in biology and mathematics.
**Key date:** September 1, 2012 - submission of online application
**Details:** http://www.nimbios.org
NIMBioS is supported by the National Science Foundation and headquartered at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

## Prize will honor use of newspapers for history

The National Endowment for the Humanities is instituting a new category of competitive prize for students who incorporate research using Chronicling America, the NEH program that is systematically digitizing historic newspapers in the states. The prize will be part of the NEH-sponsored National History Day.

Chronicling America is a free online data base that has captured and made available 5 million pages of newspapers between 1836 and 1922 in a cooperative project between the NEH and the Library of Congress.

Joanne Deeken, associate professor in UT Libraries, is the principal investigator on an NEH grant that is digitizing Tennessee papers.

## June issue of funding newsletter posted

The June 2012 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 2, No. 10) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

Where NSF Is Going & How It Will Get There
Reviewing the Reviewers
Writing Education-Related Grants
Intelligence-ARPA (IARPA), an Overview
Why Halloween Is Bad for Proposals, Part 3
Using NIH RePorter to Identify Your Program
Funding for Grad Students and Postdocs
Research Grant Writing Web Resources
Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
Funding for Grad Students and Postdocs
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

## NEH to award planning grants for public programming

The National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities are soliciting proposals for planning grants that will allow museums, libraries, historic places, and other organizations to prepare exhibits, interpretive materials, book/film discussion programs, living history presentations, and interpretive web sites.

The planning grants will support the early stages of project development, including consultation with scholars, refinement of humanities themes, preliminary design, and audience evaluation.

Individuals are not eligible to apply, but any U.S. nonprofit organization [IRS 501 (c) (3)] is eligible, including state and local government organizations; public, school, academic, and research libraries; museums; associations; cultural institutions and councils; and institutions of higher learning.

**Key date:** August 15, 2012 - submission of proposals for projects beginning April 2013.
**Details:** http:/www.neh.gov/grants/public/americas-historical-and-cultural-organizations-planning-grants

## Support offered for entrepreneurship study

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is soliciting proposals for its 2012-2013 Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship Program. Fifteen fellowships worth $20,000 will be awarded to doctoral students working on dissertations related to entrepreneurship.

**Key date:** September 19, 2012 by 5 p.m. Central Time - submission of proposal
**Details:** http://www.kauffman.org/research-and-policy/kauffman-dissertation-fellowship-program.aspx

## New heads to lead 6 A&S departments

**Theresa Lee,** dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has announced new heads for six of the college's 21 departments. One head was reappointed.

Anthropology, **Andrew Kramer** (reappointed)
Foreign languages & literatures, **Adrian DelCaro,** formerly of Purdue
Geography, **Derek Alderman,** formerly of East Carolina University
Mathematics, **Conrad Plaut**
Music, **Jeffrey Pappas,** formerly of Marshall University
Physics and astronomy, **Hanno Weitering**
Psychology, **Deborah Welsh**

## . . . from the NIMBioS annual report

Since the founding of the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis in 2008,
—More than 2,600 persons have participated in NIMBioS events.
—More than 100 publications and 300 presentations have resulted from work at NIMBioS.
—Participants have come from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, as well as from 47 countries.
—A total of 626 institutions were represented, 88 percent of them colleges and universities.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is an EEO/AA/Title IV/TitleIX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution. News & Opportunities is published in alternate weeks for the faculty and research staff of UT Knoxville by the UT Office of Research (1534 White Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996-1529), with assistance from Graphic Arts Services. Job #9195. **Contact: Bill Dockery** (dockeryb@utk.edu, 865-974-2187). Archived at http://research.utk.edu/news

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