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News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

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Exceptional projects top EURēCA award list

An engineering project that developed a wall structure for sustainable family gardening in Haiti, a nutrition project on signaling pathways in genes, a violin solo, an art project, and a study of protein-coupled receptors took home the top awards in the 2012 Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement on March 29.



Wanda Costen, associate professor of retail, hospitality and tourism, (r) discusses posters from the College of Engineering that were presented at EURēCA.

Some 60 awards were handed out on the college and school levels, in addition to six awards recognizing the best overall research, scholarly, or creative projects. Approximately 300 undergraduate individuals or teams entered projects in the exhibition. For a complete list of winners, see http://research.utk.edu/eureca/winners_12.shtml

The "Green Wall" project of **Patrick Beasley, Brianna Cooper, Chad Tague, and Joe Yantis** won the Office of Research Best-of-Show award and the Environmental Sustainability Award. **Daniel Yoder**, professor in biosystems engineering and soil sciences, was faculty advisor to the group.

"The significance of our project is to help alleviate food shortages in Haiti," said Cooper, one of the undergraduates on the project. "Added benefits are providing cooling in the home and clean water at little or no cost for the Haitians.

"What drew us to the project was the ability of our design to help others."

Barrett Updegraff in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, won the William Harris III award for his project, "A one nucleotide substitution within the iNOS gene promoter enhances cross-talk between two distinct signaling pathways." His advisor was **Jason Collier**, assistant professor in nutrition.

Phi Kappa Phi award winners for the College of Arts and Sciences included

- ❖ **Diana Lowrie, Simon Sok, and Rachel Landrith** for "A survivor-ship story: The snugly sidekicks journey to defeating childhood cancer," advised by **Carolyn Staples**, professor of art
- ❖ **Madelyn Crawford** for "C-terminal his6-tag influences the function of a model G protein-coupled receptor," advised by **Jeff Becker**, professor in microbiology

- ❖ **Inna Karsheva** for her violin performance of "Grand Concerto No. 4, Movement I" by Henri Vieuxtemps, mentored by **Miroslav Hristov**, assistant professor in the School of Music

Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research, presided over the 16th EURēCA awards ceremony and expressed gratitude to the many faculty members, division representatives, judges and staff members who helped make the event possible.

Reed recognized Phi Kappa Phi honor society and the UT Office of Sustainability for supporting best-of-show prizes for the competition.

"The value of discovery and creativity is not limited to the academic life," Reed said. "It is fundamental to success in all aspects of life."

He noted the significance of the undergraduates' participation in the competition: "You have the desire to expand what is known, what already exists, what could be. That characteristic will serve you well no matter what career path you choose."

In participating in EURēCA, UT student scholars "have already become a change agent," Reed said. "Never lose that attribute and you will amaze yourself by what you accomplish in your life."

Pursuit now taking undergraduate papers for fall 2012

UT faculty in any discipline are invited to encourage their undergraduates who have produced excellent papers to submit the work to *Pursuit*, the *Journal of Undergraduate Research at the University of Tennessee*.

The *Pursuit* editorial board is soliciting research-based scholarly articles for the fall 2012 number. Research papers in the humanities and social sciences of no more than 30 pages and in engineering and the sciences of no more than 15 pages are welcomed. Endnotes should be used instead of footnotes.

Graduating seniors have up to one year after graduation to submit their work. Work must have been done as a UT undergraduate.

Key date: May 31, 2012 - priority submission deadline
July 31, 2012 - deadline for other submissions
Submit electronically to <http://trace.tennessee.edu>

SSRN begins network on rhetoric, communication

The Social Science Research Network has created the Rhetoric & Communication Research Network (RCRN) to serve a worldwide online community that seeks research information for all areas of rhetoric and communication studies.

Seven e-journals are already listed in the network, including the History of Rhetoric, Rhetoric & Public Discourse, and the Rhetoric of Academic Disciplines.

The new network will be part of the broader Humanities Network that SSRN sponsors.

Details: <https://hq.ssrn.com/login/pubSignInJoin.cfm?>

KnoxHMIS nominated for Magrath engagement award

The Knoxville Homeless Management Information System has been submitted as the University of Tennessee's nomination to the 2012 C. Peter Magrath/W.K. Kellogg Foundation Award competition.

David Patterson, professor in the College of Social Work, directs KnoxHMIS.

Registration opens for health research symposium

Free registration to the 2012 Comparative & Experimental Medicine and Public Health Research Symposium is open through Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Registrants meeting the deadline will have a name tag, and lunch will be available to them.

Registration details: <http://tiny.utk.edu/CEMPH12Register>

Symposium details: <http://www.vet.utk.edu/research/symposium/>

Welcome UTK, Newest ACRDC Consortium Member

On January 1, 2012, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville became the 7th Consortium Member of the Atlanta Census Research Data Center. Julie Hotchkiss travelled to Knoxville last fall to educate faculty, staff, and students at UTK about how they might be able to take advantage of the newest research resource within driving distance. The enthusiasm of those in attendance was not lost on Dr. Gregory Reed, UTK Vice Chancellor for Research, who began the process of making UTK a Consortium member almost immediately after that visit.

UTK will hit the ground running with two projects already active. One project by Nicholas Nagle, Department of Geography (with co-authors from University of Colorado), is developing a methodology that will allow researchers to impute spatial addresses for public use micro data. Nicholas was also awarded (along with co-author Seth Spielman at University of Colorado) one of the eight recently announced NSF/Census Research Cluster grants for a second project. Sunha Choi (College of Social Work) also has an approved project titled, "Contextual Effects of Community Characteristics on Healthcare Behaviors of Older Foreign-born Individuals," which will use the MEPS data to investigate health service utilization behavior among older foreign-born individuals.

(With thanks to the ACRDC Newsletter, Vol. 3, Issue 1, <http://www.aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc>)



Summer deadline nears for Knox schools project signoffs

Faculty who are involved in research or outreach projects with Knox County Schools should know that teachers and principals from the school system are often not available during the summer. The Knox County grants review board meets year-round but does not have access to other school personnel while school is out for the summer.

Principal investigators at UT Knoxville who have summer deadlines for proposals or who need letters involving Knox County Schools participation must submit their requests no later than Monday, May 7, 2012, to have them considered in the review board's May review cycle.

Details: Knox County Schools grant procedures - <http://grants.knoxschools.org/> (bottom of page)

NIMBioS leaves Blount Hall for Claxton location

NIMBioS, the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, is expected to open for business at a new location on Monday, April 16. The institute will occupy offices on the first and second floors of the Claxton Education Building at 1122 Volunteer Boulevard.

The new location will provide NIMBioS with a tiered auditorium, two classrooms, two conference rooms, a meeting room, and a large informal break area, as well as improved videoconferencing and webcasting capabilities. Phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

The institute will be leaving the fourth floor of Blount Hall, which it has occupied since it was created by a National Science Foundation award more than three years ago.

Foundation seeks one nomination for brain research

The Brain Research Foundation has invited the University of Tennessee to nominate one senior faculty member to submit a letter of intent for its 2013 Scientific Innovations Award.

The Brain Research Foundation program is supporting promising projects that may be too innovative and speculative for traditional funding sources.

The nominee must be at least an associate professor with tenure working in the area of brain function in health and disease.

NOTE: LIMITED SUBMISSION. The University of Tennessee (including the Health Science Center in Memphis) can submit only ONE letter of intent. Contact Bob Porter (reporter@utk.edu) or Debbie Smith (dsmith@uthsc.edu) with an expression of interest by April 16, 2012.

Key date: July 2, 2012 - Submission of electronic letter of intent (see website)

Details: <http://thebrf.org/Sub+Pages/BRF+Grants>

SPOTLIGHT ON SARIF

The UTK Office of Research administers over \$1.1 million to support research and creative activities through its Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds (SARIF). Seven programs are available to faculty and principal investigators whose departments fall under the jurisdiction of the chancellor of UT's Knoxville campus. The programs can provide internal support for costs of scholarship that are often overlooked by external funders.

In upcoming issues, NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES will focus on individual SARIF programs in order to make faculty more aware of the internal support that is available to them.

EPPE, the Exhibit, Performance, and Publication Expenses Fund

The intent of EPPE is to help faculty defray expenses from disseminating the results of their scholarly activity through publication, performance, or exhibit.

The fund does not cover the cost of preparing submissions, only costs associated with already accepted works.

Costs covered include preparation of manuscripts, diagrams, or photographs; page charges; mounting or framing artworks; rental of exhibit space; preparation of programs; or other costs related to instrumental or other performances. Not covered are typing or reprint charges.

Applications are taken at any time during the year and are reviewed monthly by a committee of the Faculty Senate's Research Council.

Guidelines for preparation of an application are online (see below) and the application is to be submitted to Jane Taylor (taylor@utk.edu), Office of Research.

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

Forum planned on future of research libraries

The UT Libraries will host a forum on the future of research collections in North America in the digital age on Monday, April 23, 2012, at 3 p.m. in the Hodges Library auditorium.

Bernie Reilly, president of the Center for Research Libraries will speak on "The Center for Research Libraries Faces the Future." He will discuss how the role of research libraries will change as libraries move away from a focus on collections and ownership toward one centered on access and connectivity.

The CRL is an international consortium of university, college, and independent research libraries, that supports advanced research and teaching by preserving and making available primary source materials in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Deadline extended: Abstracts for the Society of Mathematical Biology conference

Would-be presenters at the upcoming conference and annual meeting of the Society for Mathematical Biology have extra time to submit abstracts for oral presentations and poster sessions.

Researchers desiring to do oral presentations have until April 13, 2012 to submit an abstract. The deadline for poster sessions is June 15, 2012.

The event will take place July 25-28, 2012, in the Knoxville Convention Center. Sponsors include the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis and the University of Tennessee.

Details: <http://nimbios.org/SMB2012/>

Proposals for freshman seminars due April 9

Faculty desiring to develop and teach a First Year Studies 129 seminar for fall 2012 have until April 9, 2012, to submit a proposal.

Class size is limited to 18, and faculty receive \$1,500 for research support.

Details: <http://web.utk.edu/~frohsem/>

Calling all accomplished faculty

Awards & Recognition, the Office of Research newsletter that publishes the accomplishments of UT faculty, is seeking news items about faculty honors, offices in professional societies, invited presentations, and other indicators of the quality of work done by faculty at the university.

Please share this information with Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu) for inclusion in future newsletter issues.

Faculty receive discount at conference

The Governor's Innovation Conference is offering a discount to all UT faculty, staff, and students who want to attend the two-day conference, which will focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and venture capital investment.

The conference is scheduled for April 26-27, 2012, at the Downtown Sheraton in Nashville. Speakers will include Gov. Bill Haslam and Bill Hagerty, Tennessee commissioner of economic and community development, as well as a long list of business and entrepreneurial officials.

Details: <http://www.tntechology.org/conference>

