Killgore Research and Research Enhancement Grants are internally funded grants awarded to faculty and students each fall. There were 28 applications presented to the committee this year. Congratulations to the awardees:

**Faculty Grants**

Jeffrey Babb, Mark Keith, and Pradeep Racherla – Understanding Privacy Risk with Location-based Mobile Devices and Applications: A Study of WTAMU and the Surrounding Community

Brock Blaser – Forage Production and Livestock Performance with Winter Wheat and Triticale

Butler Cain – Debating Contempt by Publication in the New York Legislature, 1827-1829

Maxine Debutte-Smith – Effect of Chronic Ovarian Hormone Withdrawal on Consequences of 2VO in Middle-aged Female Rats

Nick Flynn – Analysis of Factors Related to Acrylamide Production in Potatoes

David Hart – Leo Strauss and the Business of Philosophy

Dean Hawkins and Ralph Bruno – Effect of Fertility Enhancing Therapy at the Time of Artificial Insemination on Reproduction Performance of Lactating Dairy Cattle

Matt Kuennen – The Effect of Dietary Flavonoid Supplementation on Irritable Bowel Syndrome-associated Morbidities in Otherwise Healthy Female Athletes: A Feasibility Study

Don Topliff and Kevin Lager – Assessment of the Blood Metabolic Profile in Transition Jersey Dairy Cattle

Qian Xiao – A Longitudinal Model of the Dynamics between HMO’s Consumer-friendliness and Preventive Health Care Utilization

**Student Grants**

Yasemin Celik – Water Efficiency and Shade Tolerance in Legumes

Kenneth Chapin – Genetic Supplies for the Long-term Preservation and Recovery of DNA

Lena Cottle – The Effects of Organ Tissue from Euthanized Equine Carcasses on the Carbon and Nitrogen Content in Compost Material

Kyle Ganow – Does Perceived Predation Risk Influence Speed of Bats Returning to Their Roosts

Chesa Morris – Effective Interventions to Assist Homeless Women in the Amarillo Area

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**On The Calendar**

**December, 2010**

- **8 – EPA Grants and Debarment Webinar**
- **27 – NSF MRI applications due**
- **Look for DTRA’s Broad Agency Announcement**
- **February, 2011**
  - **18 – NSF Day; Texas State University – San Marcos**
**Tactics for the "Intellectual Merit" Section of an NSF Grant Application**

**Question:** I'm writing a proposal for an NSF grant. The "intellectual merit" section seems to have very specific requirements and not much room to make a case. Can you offer me some tips or tactics?

**Expert Comments:** For Intellectual Merit, PIs should convey how important the research is in its context or field, but many of them are too vague as to the originality, creativity, and potentially transformative nature of the work they propose. Reviewers key in on these terms. They want to see these aspects of intellectual merit shine through.

For originality and creativity, one approach would be to summarize the current thinking in the field and ask yourself: How is my proposal new or different from others? Then convey that in specific terms in the application.

For example, perhaps it's well-known that scientists have been studying a certain metal because it has unusual properties they believe could have a beneficial application to society. But you see a different beneficial application and propose a different set of experiments to get there, or perhaps you propose a different way of achieving the original goal and can give reasons why your methods have a greater chance of success.

For the "potentially transformative research" part of the application, take the answer to the previous question and ask yourself how your work potentially changes the direction or challenges the conventional wisdom of the field. If your experiments with the metal succeed, it will prove that the previous line of thinking overlooked important factors.

While it's true that "potentially transformative" only means your work might change the field, it's important to say what will happen if your findings do go in a direction that contradicts or sheds new light on the conventional, resolves a long-standing issue, or brings a brand-new new perspective.

**Expert Comments:** Dr. Michael Lesiecki, executive director of the Maricopa Advanced Technology Education Center (MATEC), Phoenix.

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**Online Resources for Educators and Researchers**

Sponsored Research Services is compiling a list of articles filled with grant-writing tips. Go to our main web page or click here to go directly to our Grant Writing Tips page.

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**Pathways Symposium A Big Success!**

Over 400 students from throughout the Texas A&M University System participated in the 8th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, held at WTAMU October 22-23. The Symposium is hosted by a different System school every year and offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to present original research and connect with others in their field.

Awards were given for poster and oral presentations by specific disciplines and for best overall presentation by academic level. Winners from WTAMU are Juan Gil-Donato, First Place Overall, Doctoral Student; Kara Kraich, First Place, Agriculture; Andres Diaz, First Place, Business and CIS; Ashley Smith, First Place, Education; Paige McCurdy, Third Place, Education; Brian Yates, First Place, Environmental Science; Sarah Brown, Third Place, Environmental Science; Erica Thomas, Second Place, Life Science; Jonathan Horton, Third Place, Mathematics; Prabin Nyaupane, Third Place, Physical Science; Dana Hanselmann and Jennifer Ewers, tied for Second Place, Humanities; Eva Harder, Second Place, Humanities, Oral Presentation. Congratulations to all the winners and participants.

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**NOTE THIS:**

**NSF Day (See Calendar on page 1)**

This free, day-long workshop, hosted by Texas State University, will provide an in-depth look at the National Science Foundation —its mission, priorities, programs and proposal review process. Representatives from the seven NSF directorates will make presentations on their programs and be available for discussions of potential research proposals.

Preregistration for this event is required. Contact Sponsored Research Services for details.
Does NASA Have Opportunities for Your Students?

NASA offers a number of scholarships and paid summer internships for students with majors or academic concentrations in engineering, mathematics, computer science, technology, physical or life sciences and medical related fields. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and enrolled full-time at an accredited university. Deadlines for applications vary by program and generally fall in late winter to early spring.

Check out the NASA site here!

Sponsored Research Services exists to serve the needs of research faculty and students in their pursuit of funding for research projects. We are in the Killgore Research Center, 187. Call us at 651-2984.

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Merry Christmas

From the office of Sponsored Research Services

Research Connection is a new e-newsletter, and we encourage you to forward it, print it, and share it. If this is your first time to see Research Connection, and you want to keep receiving it, just click here and hit SEND, and we will do the rest! Topic suggestions concerning sponsored research are always welcome. Contact the editor via email here.

Tracking Your Progress and Success

These charts compare research proposals for external funding in Fiscal Year 2010 (FY 10) with the current totals for this year (FY 11).

Figure 1 displays the awarded dollar amounts (including new and continuing awards).

Figure 2 displays the number of proposals submitted and those awarded.

This will be updated in each issue of Research Connection.

Figure 1

Submissions/Awards

Figure 2

Research Connection is published by Sponsored Research Services of West Texas A&M University PO Box 60217, Canyon, TX 79016-0001 E-mail: srs@wtamu.edu Website: www.wtamu.edu/srs Editor: Steve McLean