**NSF’S GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (Do You Know Anyone Who Qualifies?)**

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) provides three years of support for the graduate education of outstanding individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in an NSF-supported area of science and engineering research.

Students are eligible to apply any time from their senior year to the beginning of their second year in graduate school. Disciplines encouraged to participate include: Interdisciplinary Fields of Study; Engineering; Mathematical Sciences; Computer and Information Sciences; Chemistry; Physics; Astronomy; Social Sciences; Psychology; Geosciences; STEM Education and Learning, and Life Sciences.

All applicants are expected to begin graduate-level study and research by summer or fall of 2012.

For each Fellow, the institution receives up to a $40,500 award per year (in 12 monthly increments) to cover the following costs.

- Graduate Research Fellowship stipend of $30,000
- $10,500 annual cost-of-education allowance to the institution to be applied toward the costs of educating the Fellow.

It is not too early to consider applying for this opportunity; last year’s deadline was in mid-November and the anticipated announcement date for the fellowships is early April 2012. [Here is the link to last year’s RFP.](#) Call SRS for additional details or to submit a proposal.

**Good News from Faculty**

**Dr. Gary Bigham**, Assistant Professor of Education, has been invited to submit a proposal to present at the 2012 National Conference on Education, hosted by the American Association of School Administrators. Bigham’s article in the April 2011 edition of *The School Administrator,* “The Brave New World of the Interim Superintendency” has the attention of leaders in the field of school administration.

Congratulations to **Dr. Gene Carlisle** and WT graduate Mikail E. Abbasov. Their paper, "Effects of Carbon Nanotubes on Electro-optical Properties of Dye-doped Nematic Liquid Crystal" was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics.* Carlisle is a chemistry professor at WT and Abbasov (M.S. in chemistry from WT) is a Ph.D. student at Texas A&M.

**Dr. Ashley Campbell** recently had a piece on integrating art and science in the middle school accepted as a feature article by *Science Scope*, a journal of the National Science Teachers Association. It will be published in November.

In January, **Dr. Shiquan Tao** was named as the Ross W. Wilson Chair in Chemistry in recognition of his outstanding achievements in chemistry research. Dr. Tao’s work in fiber optics and air quality research was also featured in an article in the Amarillo Globe News.

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**On The Calendar**

**September, 2011**  
20 – SBIR/STTR Luncheon – Feldman’s Diner - Noon

**October, 2011**  
17-18 – NSF Regional Grants Conference – Austin  
25 – NCURA Webinar – "International Collaborations: Negotiations and Compliance"

**November, 2011**  
11 – Pathways Student Research Symposium – TAMU  
14 – NSF Day – TAMU Commerce
WT CONNECTIONS

With the assistance of the Department of Communication and Marketing, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has produced a new publication, WT CONNECTIONS. A copy has been provided to all academic departments. This booklet provides information to potential donors and collaborators on many of our most active researchers. Along with contact information, the researchers’ pictures, project interests, and active awards are listed. An updated print version is planned, and an online version is in the process of being launched.

To submit your information, download this document, fill it out, including a brief description (100 words or less) of your project interests, and send it to Steve McLean at smclean@wtamu.edu or bring it by Room 184 in the Killgore Research Center. SRS will be promoting the on-line version as a collaborator reference to our counterparts in this region of the country.

SRS Rolls Out New Incentive Plan for Research

At a luncheon hosted by Sponsored Research Services, Dr. Angela Spaulding, Graduate Dean and Chief Research Officer, announced a pilot program of incentives for externally funded projects. Funding for this program comes from the Research Development Fund appropriations provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. All WTAMU faculty, staff, and administration submitting proposals for external funding opportunities are eligible.

Assistance for proposal submission will include such opportunities as outside grant reviewer support, proposal-related travel, and the help of a graduate assistant. There are also several financial incentives for new awards. These funds are exclusively for support and maintenance of educational and general activities which promote increased research capacity within WT. (Incentives cannot be taken as personal income.) Award incentives apply to all proposals submitted after May 1, 2011.

Certain restrictions apply. Full details are available here, or you can call SRS for more information.

For questions, contact Executive Director Kaaren Downey (651-3554 / kdowney@wtamu.edu) in Sponsored Research Services.

2011 Student Research Conference

Each year, WTAMU invites submissions from undergraduate and graduate students for the 2011 Student Research Conference. This year’s conference was held Friday, April 15. In the results below, all but one of the students listed are from WT.

Oral Presentations – Graduate
1st Rex Brandon - Agriculture
2nd Teresa Schrock - Communications

Oral Presentations - Undergraduate
1st Vincent Smith (VA Union University) - Humanities
2nd Courtney Crowley - Humanities
3rd Galdino Griego - Communications
4th Justin Lindsey - Humanities

Poster Presentations – Graduate
1st Shanal Desilva - Health Sciences
2nd Kelsey Fort - Agriculture
3rd Sharon Grasha - Fine Arts

Poster Presentations – Undergraduate
1st Maria Molina - Communications
2nd Lauren Thedford - Education
3rd Cristhian Salazar-Rojas - Engineering
4th Lori Cillo – Engineering

Submitted Paper – Humanities
1st Kyle Haugh
2nd Justin Lindsey
3rd Courtney Crowley
4th Vincent Smith

Submitted Paper – Health Sciences
1st Maryam Zamani
2nd Jo Lyons

Submitted Paper – Engineering/Agriculture
1st Rex Brandon
2nd William Walker
3rd Colin Bjostad

Submitted Paper – Education
1st Allison Smith
2nd Evelyn Munoz

Submitted Paper – Communications
1st Britanni Sena
2nd LaDez Captain
3rd Maria Molina

Submitted Paper – Business/MIS
1st Andres Diaz

Dr. McJickle’s Adrenaline Therapy Shows Promise
New Arrivals!

We are delighted to welcome several new faculty members who have joined us since last fall.

Joseph Tanner Robertson  
Assistant Professor of Ag Media and Communication

Meagan Brock  
Assistant Professor of Management

Thomas Hogan  
Assistant Professor of Economics

Neil Meredith  
Assistant Professor of Economics

Emily Kinsky  
Assistant Professor of Mass Communication

Hanna Oliha  
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

Forrest Robin Kelly  
Assistant Professor of Counseling

David Baum  
Visiting Professor of Humanities

Christopher Meerdink  
Assistant Professor of Music

Sean Humpherys  
Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems

Also, congratulations to Marty Rhoades (Postdoctoral Fellow) who is now: Assistant Professor of Environmental Science in Ag

Undergraduate Summer Research Grants

Each year the Killgore Research Committee requests proposals for the Undergraduate Summer Research grant program. Generally, awards are made in the amount of $3,500 or less and are available for all disciplines. Students made their presentations before the committee April 4. Here is the list of awardees.

Elizabeth Capt - Biology - Gender Specific Introgressive Hybridization of Mule and White-tailed Deer

John Cox - Mechanical Engineering - Examination of Density Effects on Antimicrobial Nanostructured Metal

Emily Crohare - Sports and Exercise Science - The Effect of Quercetin Supplementation on the Level of Inflammatory Markers and Overall Quality of Life

Sara Davis - Fine Arts-Sculpture - The Surveyor and the Surveyed - A Research of Identity

Matt Dolezal - Mechanical Engineering - Coating Effects on High Explosive Morphology, Density, and Performance

Mark Dubina - Biology - The Effectiveness of Consumer Model Toothbrush Sanitizers

Ashley Fisher - Art History - Popular Art Histories in the American West, 1880-1920

Christian Guidle - Chemistry/Biology - Development of a Fiber Optic Sensor for Selectively Detecting Ethanol in Organic Media

Taehee Jung - Mechanical Engineering - Development of Moment Distribution Factor for a Long-Span Bridge

Andrew Kirschbaum - Mechanical Engineering - Thermoelectric Cooling of Parked Vehicles with Solar Energy

Steffen Kurhan - Computer Science - Development of Ipad-like Technology for Off-Clinic Therapies in Communication Disorders
(Continued from page 3)

Escal R. LeMaster, Jr. - History - Religion, Morality, and Temperance on the Texas High Plains
Alexandra Muniz - Biotechnology - Tumor Site-specific Leakage Rates of Liposomes Composed of Dipalymitoylphosphadityl Choline
Julia Savala - Wildlife Biology - Does Mechanical Treatment of Salt Cedar Influence Native Vegetation
Stevi Sharp - Communication Disorders - The Use of Ipad-like Technology for Off-clinic Therapies in Communication Disorders
Nathan Tarrant - Computer Information Systems - The Understanding and Modeling of Recognizable Patterns
Samantha Williams - Business Management - Recruitment in the Panhandle of Texas
Marci Womack - Mathematics - Retention and Performance of Students in Engineering Learning Communities

National Science Foundation Conferences

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has two conference events planned in Texas during the next couple of months. The first is the Regional Grants Conference to be held in Austin, TX, and hosted by the University of Texas at Austin, October 17-18, 2011. The second is a one-day workshop hosted by TAMU-Commerce on Monday, November 14, 2011.

Attending one of the two events is a must, especially for new faculty and those less experienced in submitting proposals to NSF. Two WTAMU participants have an opportunity to attend the one-day NSF workshop in November FREE of charge under the Externally Funded Sponsored Projects Incentive Program. See the flyer (page 5) for additional details.

At both events, key NSF representatives and program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answer your questions. Additional details and registration information for these events can be found on the NSF website: [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov).

Agenda highlights include:

- Overview of NSF
- Proposal preparation 101
- Proposal and merit review processes
- Cross-disciplinary and international programs
- Breakout sessions by discipline; (opportunity for potential research proposal discussions)
- New programs and initiatives; (additional topic for 2 day conference)
- Future direction and strategies for NSF (additional topic for 2 day conference)
- Conflict of interest policies. (additional topic for 2 day conference)

Are you interested in creating a small business or learning about grant collaboration opportunities with small businesses? Both small business grant programs have collaborative opportunities for research institutions, with the STTR having a unique feature of requiring 30% of the research effort to be accomplished at a research institution.

Join us for an informative and FREE luncheon on the topic.

Dr. Allen Carrigo, Director of Operations and Support for Northwest Texas Small Business Development Centers, will be presenting how to take advantage of this opportunity.

**SBIR & STTR grants**

**Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer**

**Are you interested in creating a small business or learning about grant collaboration opportunities with small businesses? Both small business grant programs have collaborative opportunities for research institutions, with the STTR having a unique feature of requiring 30% of the research effort to be accomplished at a research institution.**

Join us for an informative **and FREE** luncheon on the topic.

Dr. Allen Carrigo, Director of Operations and Support for Northwest Texas Small Business Development Centers, will be presenting how to take advantage of this opportunity.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH • NOON–1:00 PM**

@ Feldman’s Diner

Please RSVP to Gina Woodward | gina@wtsbdc.com | 372-5151
Tracking Your Progress and Success

These charts compare research proposals for external funding in fiscal years ‘10, ‘11, and ‘12. Figure 1 displays external funds received (including new and continuing awards.) Figure 2 displays the number of proposals submitted, pending, and awarded. These are updated in each issue of Research Connection.

![Figure 1](image1)

![Figure 2](image2)

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