Request for Proposals for Faculty & Graduate Student Research Grants

The Killgore Research Committee is now accepting applications for the FY2013 Killgore Faculty Research and Graduate Student Research Grant Programs. We ask that WTAMU administration and faculty assist the Committee by notifying potential applicants (faculty & graduate students) of this opportunity. Grants are available for all disciplines. All FY2013 proposal guidelines must be followed for consideration of award. Eligibility requirements, guidelines and forms are available at wtamu.edu/academics/grants.aspx. Deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2012.

Special notes on this year’s program:

1) Two sets of guidelines have been prepared for this competition: one for "Traditional Research," the other for "Creative Arts Research."

2) Undergraduates may not apply for this competition but may apply for the President’s Undergraduate Summer Research Program in early 2013. More information can be found at: wtamu.edu/academics/undergraduate-summer-research.aspx

3) Faculty mentors may sponsor multiple students.

4) Graduate student budgets have been increased: maximum budget is $3,500.

Note the following important dates regarding the grant proposals:

- **November 1, 2012 (5:00 p.m.)** – One signed paper copy of the completed proposal is due to the Sponsored Research Services (SRS) office, Killgore Research Center, Room 184.
- **Early November** – Graduate students give presentations before the Committee.
- **November 19, 2012** – Anticipated award(s) announcement.

Questions may be directed to Steve McLean, Grant Coordinator, 651-2983, smclean@wtamu.edu or Dr. Angela Spaulding, Dean of Graduate School and Research, 651-2732, aspaulding@wtamu.edu.

New Staff Member at SRS

Sponsored Research Services is proud to announce an addition to our team - Glenda Norton. Glenda has recently relocated to Canyon from Tucumcari, NM, where she worked for a local CPA firm and assisted with administrative tasks. As compliance becomes a larger and larger part of our lives, we’ve embraced the need for a SRS Compliance Officer – a duty currently shared by Kaaren and Steve. Glenda will act as the assistant in helping us stay on top of the Financial Conflict of Interest and Export Control areas of compliance. She is also our “go to” person in keeping SRS running and with event coordination. Her title is Compliance Assistant and Office Manager. Welcome, Glenda!
Welcome New Faculty!
We are delighted to welcome several new faculty members who have joined us since last fall.

Billy Blodgett
Assistant Professor of Social Work

Tim Bowman
Assistant Professor of History

Zixia Cao
Assistant Professor of Marketing

Jan Hindman
Assistant Professor of Curriculum & Instruction

Henry Poduthase
Assistant Professor of Social Work

Sean Pullen
Assistant Professor of Music and Choral Activities Director

John Richeson
Assistant Professor of Animal Science

And welcome back to

David Parker
Professor and Commercial Core Lab Director

President's Undergraduate Summer Research Grant Program Shines

On August 15, the 2012 President’s Undergraduate Research Scholars had lunch with President J. Patrick O’Brien, Interim Provost Wade Shaffer, and Chief Research Officer Angela Spaulding, where the students discussed their summer research projects. This cadre of 18 students studied a wide variety of subjects and represented 11 departments across campus. 16 faculty members mentored the students in these projects. A summary booklet of the research results can be accessed here.

For more information on the 2013 President’s Undergraduate Summer Research program, visit the summer research website.

Division of Labor
In response to WTAMU’s Lean Six Sigma initiative, Sponsored Research Services is announcing a new division of labor to streamline our grant specialists’ service to our investigators. Investigators are always welcome to consult with either grant specialist, and Dona and Steve will continue to work with one another on projects; however, they will each serve as the primary point of contact for requests, queries, and proposal development according to the following breakout:

Dona DeOtte (ext. 2982) is serving the College of Agriculture, Science and Engineering; the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; and most researchers that work outside of the traditional academic departments.

Steve McLean (ext. 2983) is serving the College of Business, the College of Education and Social Sciences, the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities, the Graduate School, and is also the Grant Coordinator for all internal grants.

Volunteers Needed for Atchison and Dalton’s Autism Research

Dr. Timothy Atchison, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Leslie Dalton, visiting professor of communication disorders, are seeking young individuals with autism spectrum disorder to volunteer for both audiological and cognitive testing. Data gathered from the testing will be used to further their research on a more reliable tool in diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The researchers are looking for volunteers between the ages of 15 and 25. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Dr. Atchison at tatchison@wtamu.edu.
New Indirect Cost Rates This Year
West Texas A&M University has a new federally negotiated Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate (i.e., indirect cost) agreement effective September 1, 2012. The new federal on-campus rate of 39% is applied to a Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base amount and not to salary and wages (S&W) only. These rates apply to all externally-funded projects, including agreements with private business. For further information, read the full announcement from Rick Johnson, Associate Vice President and Controller, and Kaaren Downey, Executive Director of Sponsored Research Services (SRS). Please contact SRS for assistance in applying these rates to your externally-funded proposal budgets.

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. Call us at 651-2984.

Sherman’s Lagoon by Jim Toomey

Applying for External Funding?
If you have found a funding opportunity and want to apply, let us know at Sponsored Research Services. Start by filling out a "Notice of Intent" to apply — here is the link to the "NOI." When you have filled out the form, email it to SRS or bring it by our offices at Killgore Research Center 184, and we will get the process started.

Major Research Instrumentation Program from NSF
The Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Fields that may apply include engineering; mathematical and physical sciences; geosciences; computer and information science and engineering; biological sciences; social, behavioral and economic sciences; education and human resources; and cyber infrastructure. Development or acquisition of research instrumentation for shared use is encouraged.

Instruments are expected to be operational for regular research use by the end of the award period. For the purposes of the MRI program, proposals must be for either acquisition or development of a single instrument or for equipment that, when combined, serves as an integrated research instrument (physical or virtual). The MRI program does not support the acquisition or development of a suite of instruments to outfit research laboratories/facilities or to conduct independent research activities simultaneously. Further guidance on appropriate requests can be found in the MRI Frequently Asked Questions at their website: http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri. Proposal budgets can be up to $4 million.

NSF accepts only a limited number of submissions from each institution, so investigators are encouraged to contact SRS as soon as they decide to apply. If necessary, an internal competition may be required to determine which proposals will be sent to NSF. Deadline for applications is January 24. For more information, contact your grant specialist at SRS.

WT CONNECTIONS is Now Online!
With the assistance of the Department of Communication and Marketing, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has produced a beautiful 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. Contact information, photos, project interests, and active awards are listed. When you go to WT CONNECTIONS online, you will find the information listed above in an easy-to-search format. Our goal is to have this information on all WTAMU faculty members on this page. To submit your information, download this document, fill it out, include 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 online version as a collaborator reference to our counterparts in this region of the country.
Financial Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Form

In our last Research Connection, we told you about the revisions to the Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) regulations that would be implemented this summer. One of the changes was a requirement for training related to the regulations. We have received several calls from faculty members wondering why the training is required if they are not participating in research. The answer is simple: all faculty, full-time and part-time, are eligible to participate in externally-sponsored projects. Therefore, as a potential investigator, all faculty are required to complete both the training and the disclosure.

Completion of both the training and the disclosure is auditable for WTAMU, so if you have not completed both, please take a few minutes and do so. Completing the disclosure form is a quick task for most because it will be a negative disclosure. You can find a copy of the disclosure form here. After completing the form, send it to srs@wtamu.edu or bring it by Killgore Research Center, Room 184. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kaaren Downey at 651-3554 or kdowney@wtamu.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

Information for Student Research

Did you know SRS will be happy to provide a short overview on WTAMU student research opportunities for your classes? There are great opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students. Email SRS at srs@wtamu.edu to schedule a presentation.

USDA Funding Priorities for Research

When developing a proposal to submit to a federal agency, it is important to understand that agency’s mission and strategies. In order to be a successful grantee, your research plan must address this focus.

This article will focus on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its funding agency, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. USDA’s mission statement is “We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science and efficient management.”

USDA’s Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 is to:

- Assist rural communities to create prosperity so they are self-sustaining, re-populating, and economically thriving;
- Ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing our water resources;
- Help America promote agricultural production and biotechnology exports as America works to increase food security; and
- Ensure that all of America’s children have access to safe, nutritious, and balanced meals.

In July 2008 NIH, NSF and DOE convened a committee to examine the current state of biological research in the US. The committee produced a report titled “New Biology for the 21st Century.” The committee outlined four challenges in food, environment, energy and health that could be tackled by the “New Biology.” The four challenges are:

- Generate food plants to adapt and grow sustainably in changing environments.
- Understand and sustain ecosystem function and biodiversity in the face of rapid change.
- Expand sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels.
- Understand individual health.

USDA’s approach to this report was to establish an agency known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). One of NIFA’s programs, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is charged with addressing critical societal issues such as those identified in the “New Biology” report. In order to accomplish its strategic plan, AFRI is charged with funding research, education, and extension grants and integrated research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including: farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, urban and agroforestry, rural communities and entrepreneurship, aquaculture, human nutrition, food safety, biotechnology, and conventional breeding.

Providing this support requires that AFRI advances fundamental sciences in support of agriculture and coordinates opportunities to build on these discoveries. This will necessitate efforts in education and extension that deliver science-based knowledge to people, allowing them to make informed practical decisions.

To address these challenges, AFRI has developed 5 priority areas in which RFAs are released to provide funding. Currently these areas are:

- Food Security and Hunger - boosts domestic agricultural production, improve capacity to meet the growing global food demand, and foster innovation in fighting hunger and food insecurity in vulnerable populations.
- Climate Change – helps producers adapt to changing weather patterns and sustain economic vitality while also reducing

(Continued on page 5)
greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural and forest production systems.

- Sustainable energy – contributes to the President’s goal of energy independence with a portfolio of grant programs to develop optimum biomass, forests, and crops for bioenergy production; and produce value-added bio-based industrial products.
- Childhood Obesity – ensures that nutritious foods are affordable and that individuals and families are able to make informed, science-based decisions about their health and well-being.
- Food Safety – works to provide a safer food supply and reduce the incidence of food-borne illness by addressing the causes of microbial contamination and antimicrobial resistance, educating consumer and food safety professionals, and developing enhanced food processing technologies.

Highlights:

- USDA is increasing its emphasis on interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary team approach research.
- If you are developing a proposal to one of these programs, make sure your proposal helps NIFA advance its priorities.
- 2012 AFRI RFAs are to be released (Look for them in your email in October).
- Other RFA’s will be released outside these programs.

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. The fiscal year starts September 1.

**Research Connection** is an e-newsletter published by West Texas A&M University’s Sponsored Research Services, 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 Steve McLean, Editor, via email here.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom

Tracking Your Progress and Success

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