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RESEARCH TRACKS

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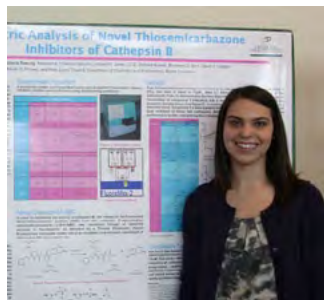
IN THIS ISSUE

NEH Summer
Stipend
Announcement
2

Research
Spotlight
2

IRB CITI Training
Policy Update
3

Funding
Opportunities
4



URSA Scholars Week Showcases Top Undergraduate Research

The 2011 edition of Scholars week was the largest ever, with over 200 students presenting results of their research and scholarly activity.

This spring, Baylor's Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Achievement (URSA) sponsored its annual Scholars Week.

In its four-year history, the event has grown from a single day of poster sessions and oral presentations into a week-long celebration of the outstanding work of our undergraduate students.

According to URSA Director Susan Bratton, this year's event was the largest ever, with over 200 students from 20 academic departments presenting their work.

"We're seeing a lot of growth in participation," she said. "Between Scholars Week and the Honors presentations, we had 10% of the graduating class presenting results of original scholarship."

One of the goals of Scholars Week is to encourage integration of research experiences into undergraduate classes, and faculty are responding by providing a wide variety of research opportunities to their students.

While the fastest growth in participation has been among students in science and math fields, the arts and humanities continue to be well represented.

"There were also some very strong interdisciplinary sessions this year," Dr. Bratton said, "with groups of students exploring topics such as the intersection of history and supreme court cases, or legal trends and scientific investigations, like the interpretation of impacts of the recent Gulf oil spill. That type of work should enhance the résumés of not only students who apply to graduate programs, but also those interested in law."

The impact of our undergraduates' research doesn't stop with Scholars Week. Many of the projects presented during the event have led to further, real-world opportunities for the student authors at off-campus professional and academic meetings.

Going forward, Dr. Bratton and the rest of the URSA steering committee hope to enhance Scholars Week by providing more recognition of outstanding student work and of faculty effort in mentoring undergraduate researchers.

For more information on Scholars Week or other URSA programs, visit the URSA website at <http://www.baylor.edu/ursa>.

Office of the Vice Provost for Research

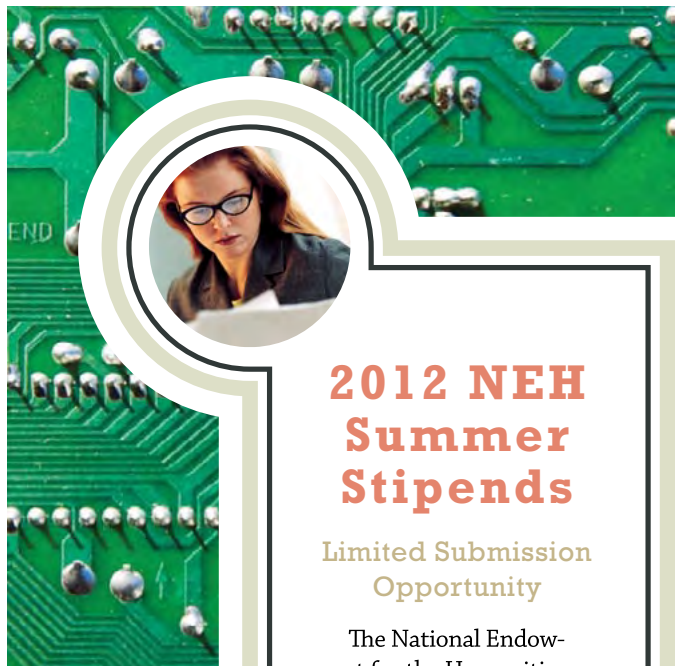
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BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST
FOR RESEARCH



2012 NEH Summer Stipends

Limited Submission Opportunity

The National Endowment for the Humanities supports advanced research and scholarship through their annual Summer Stipend program. The program provides \$6,000 to support two months of full-time research on humanities topics of interest to the academic community or the public.

Because applications to the program are limited by institution, the OVPR holds an internal competition to determine the authorized Baylor applicants.

For the 2012 Summer program, applications are due to the OVPR no later than Friday, September 2, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

Like the full NEH proposal, the internal application requires letters of recommendation, so please allow time for your recommenders to submit their letters before the deadline.

For more information on the program, or to apply, visit the OVPR website at: <http://www.baylor.edu/research/vpr/index.php?id=30441>.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Research Spotlight: External Funding

USDA Grant Supports Research on Rural Business Success

Charles Tolbert and Carson Mencken from the department of sociology have received a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to study the impact that different types of financial institutions have on the emergence and development of small, rural businesses.

Dr. Tolbert, professor and department chair, and Dr. Mencken, associate professor, will use data from the US Census Bureau to chart the changing landscape of rural financial institutions and to study the impact of those changes on credit availability for small firms.

The research aims to quantify the extent to which locally-owned financial institutions contribute to the success of rural businesses.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Tolbert and Mencken on their recent funding success.

NIH Encourages Cover Letters

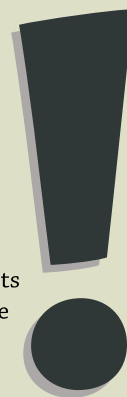
While not shared with reviewers, a cover letter submitted to the National Institutes of Health with a grant application can assist the institutes in referring your application to a best review group and give them other helpful information, according to a post in the applicant section on the website of the Center for Scientific Review. CSR is the division within NIH that reviews the majority of grant applications.

The post suggests "popular reasons to use a cover letter," with details about each; it also explains how such a letter can be composed. More information and helpful tips are available at: <http://cms.csr.nih.gov/ResourcesforApplicants/CoverLet>.

Final Report Reminder

Don't forget, principal investigators on all OVPR-funded grant programs (FRIP/YIDP, URC, URSA, AHFRP) are required to file a final report within 60 days of the end of the project period.

For projects concluding at the end of FY 2011, final reports are due on **August 1, 2011**. The final report form is available on the OVPR website, located at: <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php?id=16998>.



CITI training now required for human-subjects investigators

Baylor's Institutional Review Board (IRB) has updated its policies to require online training for any investigator performing research involving human subjects. Michael Sherr, associate professor of social work and IRB chair, said that beginning with the fall 2011 semester, investigators must complete training through CITI before submitting a protocol to the IRB.

CITI training consists of online modules that present information on social and behavioral research topics. At the conclusion of each module, users must pass a short quiz to satisfy the training requirement.

Dr. Sherr said the new requirement is intended to bring Baylor's policies into line with those of peer institutions. "Before we created this rule, the OVPR looked at what the rest of the Big 12 and other research-intensive institutions require of their human-subjects investigators," he said. "They found that Baylor was among the only ones not requiring ongoing training."

While CITI training has been available and encouraged in the past, the new rule makes eight of the 17 social and behavioral research modules mandatory, with the remaining nine available as optional resources.

"The eight required modules are at the core of just about everything we do at Baylor," said Dr. Sherr, "and depending on the type of research they do, faculty will find the optional modules

helpful, as well."

The optional modules cover more specific topics like using children as subjects, collecting data on the internet, and managing conflicts of interest.

Dr. Sherr said the IRB hopes to foster an environment of education and dialogue on these important issues. "We encourage faculty working with students – whether in coursework, theses & dissertations, or lab work – to make CITI a part of their students' ethics training and research methods instruction," he said.

Once complete, CITI certification is good for four years, a period intended to balance the need for up-to-date training with respect for investigators' valuable time. "The OVPR's research found that other institutions' policies ranged from mandatory annual renewal to requiring training every five years," Dr. Sherr said. "As a board, we chose to require an update every four years."

Faculty are encouraged to complete the CITI training at their earliest convenience to avoid last-minute stress before submitting a protocol to the IRB.

To get started, visit <http://www.baylor.edu/research/irb/index.php?id=79632> and click the "CITI for Researchers" button. If you have questions or experience problems using CITI, contact IRB Administrative Assistant Jill Combs at Jill_Combs@Baylor.edu or 254-710-3708.

Test Yourself:

How well can you answer these sample questions from the required CITI modules?

A researcher leaves a research file in her car while she attends a concert and her car is stolen. The file contains charts of aggregated numerical data from a research study with human subjects. The consent form said that no identifying information would be retained. Which of the following statements best characterizes what occurred?

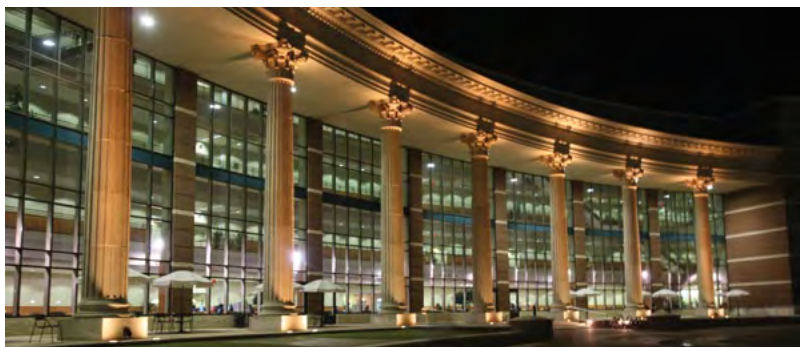
- A) The subjects' privacy has been violated
- B) Confidentiality of the data has been breached
- C) There was both a violation of privacy and a breach of confidentiality
- D) There was neither a violation of privacy nor a breach of confidentiality

According to the Belmont Report, implementing the principle of respect for persons involves:

- A) Ensuring that risks to subjects are no more than minimal.
- B) Ensuring that subject selection is fair.
- C) Making it clear to subjects that they may withdraw from a study.
- D) Providing compensation that is commensurate with time requirements.

How Did You Do?

To learn the answers to these and other questions, complete your CITI training today!



Federal Agency Grants

Opportunity Title	Due Date
Dept. of Ed. Special Education Research Grant Programs http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncser_rfas/ncser_systemic.asp	07/21/2011 (LOI)
National Endowment for the Arts - Art Works http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/GAP12/ArtsEdAW.html	08/11/2011
NSF Law and Social Science Program http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5422	08/15/2011
NSF Cultural Anthropology Scholars Awards http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5321	08/16/2011
NIH Cutting Edge Basic Research Awards (CEBRA) (R21) http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-222.html	08/19/2011
NIH Small Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control (R03) http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-003.html	08/22/2011
NSF Cognitive Neuroscience Program http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5316	08/27/2011
National Endowment for the Arts - The Arts in Media http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/AIM/Calendar.html	09/01/2011

Foundation Grants

Opportunity Title	Due Date
Humanities Texas Grants for Community & Media Projects http://www.humanitiestexas.org/grants/applications/index.php	08/15/2011 (LOI)
W. M. Keck Foundation Science & Engineering Program http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/science-engineering.html	08/15/2011 (LOI)
Oncology Nursing Society Small Grant Program http://www.ons.org/Awards/FoundationAwards/SmallGrant	09/01/2011 (LOI)
Urban Communication Foundation Gary Gumpert Research Incentive Grant http://urbancomm.org/awards.php#gpm1_2	09/01/2011

QUESTIONS?

For more information on locating and applying for funding opportunities, contact Blake Thomas at x3153.