

Research Tracks

Volume V

Issue 2

Mark your Calendars

Research Appreciation Day

This year's Research Appreciation Day is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2009. This event is the Vice Provost's opportunity to express his appreciation to all faculty who have submitted applications for external funding during the past two years.

The featured speaker at this year's event will be Dr. James Heath, the Elizabeth W. Gilloon Professor and Professor of Chemistry at Caltech.

Look for more details in upcoming issues of *Research Tracks*.

Internal Grant Opportunities

Don't forget, the OVPR has set application deadlines for next year's round of internal grants:

FRIP, YIDP, URSA: 02/04/09

URC: 02/25/09

Research Tracks is a publication of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. If you have comments or suggestions for future stories, please contact us at research@baylor.edu.

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OVPR Colloquium Series brings noted glaciologist to campus

This fall, the OVPR Colloquium series will feature Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson from The Ohio State University. The Colloquium Series is presented by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research in cooperation with the College of Arts & Sciences and the Department of Geology.

Dr. Thompson is one of the world's foremost authorities on paleoclimatology and glaciology. He has led more than 50 expeditions during the last 30 years, conducting ice-core drilling programs in the world's polar regions as well as in tropical and subtropical ice fields.

Recently, Dr. Thompson and his team developed lightweight solar-powered drilling equipment for the acquisition of histories from ice fields in the high Andes of Peru and on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

The results of these histories have contributed greatly toward the understanding of the Earth's past, present and future climate system.

Dr. Thompson has received numerous honors and awards, and his research has been featured in hundreds of publications, including *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Adventure* magazines.



What: OVPR Colloquium Series featuring Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson

Where: Baylor Sciences Building, room D.110

When: Thursday, October 30.
Presentation begins at 7:30 p.m., refreshments served at 7:00.

He has received the Dan David Prize, awarded annually by Tel Aviv University to three individuals for outstanding achievements impacting the past, present, or future of our world, and the Seligman Crystal Award, awarded by the International Glaciological Society for outstanding contributions to the field. Dr. Thompson was also recently honored by *Time* magazine as one of the publication's 2008 "Heroes of the Environment."

Funding Spotlight

Faculty Research Investment Program

The OVPR provides funding through the Faculty Research Investment Program (FRIP) to help faculty prepare competitive proposals for external funding.

Awards range from \$10,000 to \$25,000, with preference given to applications which address specific problems mentioned in a critique of a prior external proposal, or to strengthen or produce a proposal with high likelihood of attracting significant outside funding.

Faculty of all academic ranks are eligible to apply. For more information or to read previously funded abstracts, visit the [OVPR web page](#).

The deadline for submitting a complete FRIP application to OSP, including all routing forms and signatures, is February 4, 2009 at 12:00 PM.

Young Investigator Development Program

The Young Investigator Development Program (YIDP) provides funding to newly-appointed faculty to help prepare external funding applications.

Tenure-track faculty appointed in the last four years are eligible, and awards range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

For more information, or to read previously funded abstracts, visit the [OVPR web page](#).

The deadline for submitting a complete application to OSP, including all routing forms and signatures, is February 4, 2009 at 12:00 PM.

Compliance Corner

Institutional Review Board Meeting Schedule Released

The Institutional Review Board is responsible for ensuring human subjects are fully informed regarding the conditions of their participation in research, and that the risks and benefits of research are appropriate for all subjects.

All research activities involving human subjects must be submitted to IRB using the online submission form. Protocols can be reviewed and approved in three ways depending on the type of research involved. In all cases, investigators must complete [online applications for approval](#), after which the IRB chair determines the appropriate steps for review.

Exemption waiver

For projects which pose little or no risk to participants, including anonymous surveys, study of data previously collected from adults, and non-personal interviews, the IRB chair may grant exemption from IRB review. Investigators who believe their protocol is exempt from IRB review must submit a completed online application to the IRB chair, who will determine whether or not an exemption waiver is appropriate.

Expedited review

The IRB chair may grant 'Expedited review' to projects which do not involve invasive procedures, sensitive behavior questions, children, or other groups requiring special protection. If the IRB chair determines the protocol qualifies for expedited review, he assigns two members of the board to conduct the review. The board members then make recommendations for approval and/or revisions.

Full-board review

Projects which do involve children or other protected groups, sensitive behavior, or more invasive procedures must be approved by the full board at an IRB meeting. The board meets monthly during the academic year to consider proposals for research. In order to have a proposal placed on the agenda for a meeting, the proposal must be submitted to the IRB no later than two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

For questions regarding IRB procedures or other compliance matters, visit the [IRB web site](#) or contact IRB Chair Matthew Stanford at Matthew.Stanford@baylor.edu.

IRB Meeting Schedule:

Fall 2008

November 10
December 8

Spring 2009

January 12
February 9
March 2
April 6
May 11

Baylor study sheds light on Americans' religious beliefs

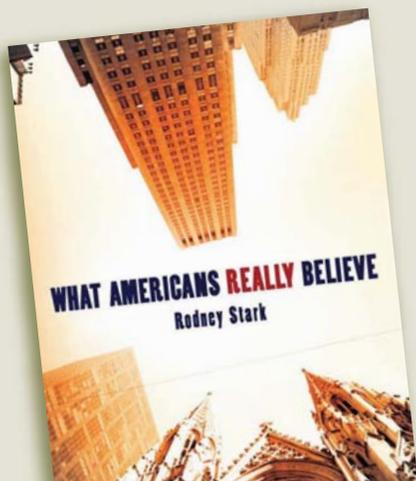
Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion has released the results of a nationwide survey revealing unexpected findings on the ways Americans view issues of religion and faith.

The study's results challenge many commonly-held beliefs about the nature of religion in contemporary life and reveal surprising truths about Americans' religious experiences.

According to the survey, significant numbers of Americans believe they have heard God's voice, felt the protection of a guardian angel, or witnessed a miraculous healing.

The survey also revealed that despite the prevalence of recent best-selling books on the rise of atheism, non-believers remain a relatively small group whose ranks are not growing quickly.

The results of the study are published in a new book "What Americans Really Believe," by Dr. Rodney Stark, professor of sociology and co-director of the institute.



Recent External Funding Awards

NIH grant funds research on treatments for hot flashes in post-menopausal women

Dr. Gary Elkins in the department of Psychology and Neuroscience has conducted preliminary research which indicates that hypnosis can significantly reduce the self-reported frequency and severity of hot flashes in post-menopausal women.

He recently received a grant from the NIH to allow him to expand his research and study the effectiveness of hypnosis in reducing both perceived and physiologically measured effects of hot flashes. This research will help to clarify whether hypnosis reduces hot flash symptoms, or only patients' perception of symptoms.

In addition to testing the effectiveness of hypnosis as a treatment for hot flashes, the \$485,000 grant will facilitate research on possible moderating factors such as cognitive expectancies and hypnotizability.

Foundation grant supports completion of commentary text

Dr. Jeff Fish of the Classics department has received a grant from Harvard University's Loeb Classical Library Foundation to allow him to complete a translation and commentary of Philodemus' *On the Good King According to Homer*.

Dr. Fish has already extensively studied the original papyrus scrolls using digital imaging technology unavailable to earlier scholars. His prior work was funded in part by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research through University Research Committee and Arts & Humanities Faculty Development Program grants. Combining this previous work with his upcoming year of study, Dr. Fish will produce a key manuscript to help scholars better understand this important ancient text.

Visiting researchers must have agreements in place

In order to satisfy requirements from Baylor's insurance carrier and to clearly define the rights and responsibilities of all parties, Visiting Scientist/Scholar agreements are required for all non-Baylor researchers or scholars who plan to be on campus and use Baylor equipment or resources.

Faculty wishing to host a visiting scholar must notify the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at least one month before the visitor's arrival.

For more information, or to initiate the process of requesting a Visiting Scientist/Scholar agreement, visit the [OVPR web site](#) and fill out the [Request for Visiting Scientist/Scholar Agreement](#) form.

A yellow sticky note with a purple pushpin at the top left corner. The word "Reminder!" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font on the note.

Reminder!

Federal Agency Grants

| Opportunity Title | Number | Full Proposal Due |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Enduring Questions: Pilot Course Grants http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/EnduringQuestions.html | 20081113-AQ | November 13, 2008 |
| NEH on the Road Exhibition Grants http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/NEH_OnTheRoad_GuidelinesForSelectedVenues.html | 20081231-MR | December 31, 2008 |
| Discovery Research K-12 http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=500047 | nsf08609 | January 8, 2009 |
| NEA Literature Fellowships: Translation Projects http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/LitTranslation/index.html | 45.024 | January 9, 2009 |
| Research Initiation Grants to Broaden Participation in Biology http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=10676 | nsf09501 | January 12, 2009 |
| National Geothermal Database http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&opId=18424 | DE-PS36-08GO98020 | February 3, 2009 |
| Cyber-Physical Systems http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503286 | 08-611 | February 27, 2009 |
| NINR Program Projects in Symptom Management Research http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/refills/RFA-NR-09-003.html | RFA-NR-09-003 | April 16, 2009 |

Foundation Grants

| Opportunity Title | Full Proposal Due |
|---|-------------------|
| British Academy Visiting Fellowships http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/visfells.cfm | November 23, 2008 |
| Japan Society for Promotion of Science Fellowship Program http://fellowships.ssrc.org/japan/postdoc/ | December 1, 2008 |
| Humanities Texas Major Grants for Media Projects http://www.humanitiestexas.org/grants/applications/index.php | February 15, 2009 |
| Scholarly Communications http://www.mellon.org/grant_programs/programs/scholarlycommunications | Continuous |
| Abell-Hanger Foundation Grants http://www.abell-hanger.org | Continuous |

QUESTIONS?

To learn more about locating and applying for funding opportunities, contact the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at research@baylor.edu