ORSP Research Newsletter - Spring 2009

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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Meet the New Vice Chancellor...

Dr. Scott L. Whittenburg is the new Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, effective July 1. Dr. Whittenburg is a University Research Professor in the Department of Chemistry and previously was the Associate Vice Chancellor for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness. Prior to that appointment he was the Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for Fiscal Administration.

Dr. Whittenburg joined the University as an Assistant Professor in 1979. He was promoted to Full Professor in 1989 and University Research Professor in 2003. His research is in the area of application of computers and parallel architectures to modeling of chemical systems. His most recent work has been in the computation of the magnetic properties of nanoparticles, and in Brownian Dynamic simulations of the directed self-assembly of nanoparticles into functional three-dimensional structures. Dr. Whittenburg is a member of the Board of Regents EPScoR Committee, the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Advisory Board, the CREST Executive Board and the UNO Foundation and Research and Technology Park Boards.

Summer Research Program:

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, along with the University Senate is pleased to announce the new Summer Research Program (SRP).

The SRP has three subprograms; Creative Endeavors Opportunity (CEO), Stimulating Competitive Research (SCoRe) and Summer Undergraduate Experience (SUE).

The goal of the CEO program is to increase research and creative activity on campus, and to provide support for faculty to launch programs of research, scholarship, exhibition or performance that will ultimately result in intellectual productivity.

The goal of the SCoRe award would be to increase extramural sponsored research activity and as such the expectation is that the award will enhance the researcher’s capacity to acquire future outside funding.

The SUE program supports research or scholarly experiences for UNO undergraduates in cooperation with a faculty advisor.

The CEO and SCoRe programs begin Summer, 2009 while the SUE program begins Summer, 2010. More information can be found at https://sharepoint.uno.edu/research/srp.

The SRP program is administered by Elizabeth Gordon.

ADMINISTRATION
BATES, LYNETTE  U.S. DEPT OF ED  University of New Orleans Classic Upward Bound
LAVENDER, WILLIAM  LEH  Dogs in My Life: The Photographs of John Tibeule Mendes
WALSH, KENNETH  SPARAW  Quick Compliance Tool Suite
WHITTENBURG, SCOTT  SPARAW  Data Center Conceptual Design
WHITTENBURG, SCOTT  SPARAW  Veterans Affairs (VA) Scheduling

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  MIESTUCH/ RPC  Economic Impact of the Bioscience and Healthcare Sectors

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
BEDFORD, APRIL  LOUISIANA STATE UNIV  Project Recovery Early Reading First Initiative
FLYNN, LINDA  U.S. DEPT OF ED  Louisiana Early Education Program (LEEP)
PERRY, ANDRE W  URBAN LEAGUE FCGO  Urban League Program Development and Research Project
THOMAS, PAULETTE  JEFFERSON PARISH PUB  Monitoring and Technical Assistance for CBITS
THOMAS, PAULETTE  JEFFERSON PARISH PUB  Jefferson Parish RTI/PBS PAM Project
THOMAS, PAULETTE  ST. CHARLES PARISH PUB  Responsive to Intervention – Pupil Assistance Model

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
CHARALAMPIDES, DIMITRIOΣ  NSF  Collaborative Research: An Integrative Course and Laboratory
CHEN, HUIMIN  DCM RESEARCH RESOURCE  An Integrated Constellation Sensor Simulation Environment
PONG, RONGSHA  PRESSURE VESSEL RES  Prediction of Residual Stresses and Analysis of L-PWHT
KURA, BHASKAR  PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  Online Report Management System (ORMS)
KURA, BHASKAR  CITY OF KENNER  Sustainable Environmental Solutions through Engineering Project 2
KURA, BHASKAR  CITY OF KENNER  Landfill Odor Control Management
LI, XIAO RONG  DHS  Sustainable Environmental Solutions through Engineering Project 1
LI, XIAO RONG  NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  Coordinated Search and Surveillance by a UAV Team
MORRISEY, GEORGE  TEXTRON MARINE  Design, Analysis, and Testing of Kalmar Filter for Underwater

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AMIDAL, JAMES  LOUISIANA STATE UNIV  University Transportation Center
ASHAR, ASAIF  NATHAN ASSOCIATES  The Plataforma Logistica del Istmo de Tehuantepec Project
DIXON, NANCY  LEH  Putting PRIME TIME in New Orleans Public Schools
DUFOUR, WENDEL  JEFFERSON PARISH  Implementation of the Jefferson Parish comprehensive trans. plan
FIELD, HILLY  GCR and Associates, Inc. Graduate Student Internship
GLADSTONE, DAVID  FRENCH EMBASSY  Embassy of France in the United States and UNO Partnership
JAYAWARDANA, WIJEPALA  LAKE PROVIDENCE PORT  Market Opportunities and Infrastructure Needs Study for Port
LASKA, SHIRLEY  FORD FOUNDATION  Stafford Act Study Proposal
LASKA, SHIRLEY  FEMA  Repetitive Flood Loss Reduction Project for Louisiana/Post Katrina
LASKA, SHIRLEY  GOVERNOR'S COASTAL ACT  Moraanga to the Gulf Technical Review Panel Participation
LASKA, SHIRLEY  LOUISIANA STATE UNIV  Gulf of Mexico Coastal Geospatial Information System Support
LODHI, MAHTAB  NASA  New Orleans Music, Entertainment and Educational Consortium
MASAKOWSKI, STEPHEN  NOAA  Model Testing Comparison of the Performance of Three Candidate
NELSON, MARLA  LOYOLA UNIVERSITY  The Mind Project's Cutting Edge Health Science Initiative
STUFFLEBEAM, ROBERT  UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  MOU University of Pennsylvania - Rockefeller Foundation

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
ANTHONY, NICOLA  NSF  Fine-scale Spatial Genetics Analysis of Environmental Variables
BETHEL, MATTHEW  MISS-ALA SEA GRANT CONS  Development of New Geospatial Technology/Traditional Eco
BIAR, DANIEL  SPARAW  Application of Inverse Maximum Entropy Principles in Information
CAL, YANG  CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  Spring Semester Salary and Fringe
IOUP, GEORGE  NAVAL RESEARCH LAB  Configuration, Assessment and Evaluation of Coastal Ocean
IOUP, GEORGE  UNIV OF SOUTHERN MISS  University of New Orleans Participation in LADC SCS07
IOUP, GEORGE  NASA  Continuation of IPA (Interagency Personnel Act) Assignment
KULP, MARK  UNIV OF SOUTHERN MISS  Recent Sedimentation and Stratigraphy of the Penobscot
LI, LIXIONG  U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  Inferring Cotton Fiber Length Distribution from HVI Testing
LIEBO, STANLEY  LOUISIANA STATE UNIV  Sensitivity of Spermatosoa from mice of different strains to different
MARTEL, MICHELLE  BOARD OF REGENTS  Restoration of Department Psychology Clinic
MAKAROV, DINAH  LUMCON  Understanding Coastal Communities and Wetland Resources
OCNORR, CHARLES  DARPA  Nanoscale Engineering of Multiferroic Hybrid Composites
PURKAS, ASHOK  BOARD OF REGENTS  Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LAMP) Phase III
REED, DENISE  HALCROW INC.  Provide Technical Review and Input into the Dev of Terrebone
REED, DENISE  LUMCON  Gulf Restoration in an Uncertain Future
REED, DENISE  ESPRESS PARTNERSHIP  Scientific Evaluation for BDCC
RICK, STEVEN  NSF  The Contribution of Water to Protein-ligand Binding and Flexibility
RICK, STEVEN  TULANE UNIVERSITY  Collaborative Research for the Design and Fabrication of Microscale
ROUSSEV, VASSIL  NAVAL POSTGRADUATE  Scalade Data Fingerprint for Large Forensic Data Sets
ROUSSEV, VASSIL  NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  Scalade Data Fingerprint for Large Forensic Data Sets
ROUSSEV, VASSIL  SPARAW  Cyber Defense of Enterprise Networks
ROUSSEV, VASSIL  SPARAW  Security Assessment of Cloud Computing Vendor Offerings
SCHLUCHTER, WENDY  NSF  Biosynthesis and Assembly of Phytohormones in Cyanobacteria
SCHLUCHTER, WENDY  NSF  CAREER: Elucidation of the Biosynthetic and Degradative Pathways
SIMMONS, WILLIAM  NSF  Collaborative Research: An Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer
SPINU, LEONARD  NANOHIMICS, INC  SICGER: Local Probing of Magnetization Switching
STOKES, KEVIN  NANOHIMICS, INC  Compact Night Vision Focal Array Cooling Using FlexTEC
STOKES, KEVIN  NANOHIMICS, INC  Conformable Thermoelectric Device for Waste Heat Scavenging
SUMMA, CHRISTOPHER  CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  Spring 2009 Salary and Tuition for Subshahini Puttangunta
TARR, MATTHEW  NSF  Terrestrial mars-cyclodextrin-guest complexes in aqueous solution
TAYLOR, CHRISTOPHER  CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  Taylor Summer Salary Professional Service Agreement
TRUDELL, MARK  ST. CHARLES PHARMA  Synthesis of [4C]-SCP-23
WINTERS-HILT, ZHU, WEILIE  CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  SWH Summer Professional Services Agreement
ZHOU, DONGXIAO  AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOC  Direct Growth of Type II Core/Shell Nanowire Array on TCO

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE
DRICHTA, Carl  STATE OF LOUISIANA  Zha Summer Salary Professional Service Agreement
MICHELET, Denise  U.S. DEPT OF INTERIOR  Minerals Management Service Information Transfer Meetings
Board of Regents
Support Fund Awards:
Congratulations to the following faculty who received awards from the BoR Support Fund this year:

Enhancement -
Paul Schilling, Mechanical Engineering
Golden Richard, Computer Science
Connie Atkinson, History
Michelle Martel, Psychology

Research Competitiveness -
Charles Bell, Biological Sciences

Graduate Fellows -
John Wiley, Chemistry

Diversity Fellowships -
Elizabeth Sigler, Graduate School

ATLAS -
Irvin Mayfield, Music

Professional Development
This past semester the Office of Research continued its program of holding professional development sessions. The topics for these sessions included Award Closeout, Proposal Writing, Budgeting, Subcontracts, and others. Next semester we will offer most of these topics as well as new topics. The dates, times and subject will be posted to the Office of Research sharepoint site once finalized. Continue to check the site for updates and register on-line for the opportunities. If you have any suggestions for future opportunities, please contact Carol Mitton at extension 5546 or cmitton@uno.edu.

Get Your Speedkey Early
This past summer the Office of Research started the sharepoint version of the Advanced Project/Grant ID number request form. This form allows for the assignment of the project/grant number and speed key before an award is fully executed. With the early assignment of the number and speed key, the PI is able to properly charge expenses to the project/grant number from the start date. This will minimize cost transfers and change in source 101s. More information on this form can be obtained from our sharepoint site (link: Home - Research) or contact our office at extension 6836.

Let’s Jam!
The Office of Research has held numerous Jam Sessions so far. Topics ranged from Science to Education to Liberal Arts to Public Assistance. The speakers included Dr. Mark Kulp and Dr. Mike Miner (EES); Dr. Andre Perry (Charter Schools); Dr. Shirley Laska and Dr. Monica Farris (CHART); Ken Zangla, Rose Angelocci, and Virginia Gay (TRAC); Dr. Nicola Anthony (Biology); and Dr. Denise Reed (PIES). All of the sessions were informative and interesting. If you have not attended one, you are missing out on a great way to find out what is going on at UNO. The sessions will begin again in the fall.

If you would like to schedule a session to discuss your work, please contact Carol Mitton at extension 5546 or cmitton@uno.edu. This is a great opportunity to showcase your work. The Office of Research will handle all of the details to schedule and announce the event.

“Research is what I am doing when I don’t know what I am doing.” Werner von Braun

Searching for Research Funding?
Check out I.R.I.S.
IRIS (Illinois Researcher Information Service) is a research funding database that is maintained by the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. IRIS allows researchers to define their funding searches by research keywords and other parameters. The entire UNO community has access to this database of more than 8,000 federal and private research funding opportunities in every field – from arts to zoology. The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs pays for this fee based service, which is available to internet users on campus. Check it out at: http://www.library.illinois.edu/iris/
Want to win a $100 gift certificate for the UNO Bookstore?!?!?! This is your chance! The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is looking for someone to demonstrate their artistic talent and create a logo for our office. The logo will be placed on our website, office announcements, pens, etc.

Please send the logo to Nadia Zambrano at nzambran@uno.edu before September 1, 2009. Our judges will decide on the winning entry and announce it in the fall semester newsletter.

Show us your talent!

Faculty Focus

Pingsha Dong, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Advanced Marine Structures and Fabrication (CAMSF)

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs welcomes Dr. Pingsha Dong as the Head of the School of Naval Architecture, occupying the Northrop Grumman Endowed Chair in Shipbuilding and Engineering. He traveled a long road before arriving at UNO in August of 2008. Born in Dalian, China, his early education was interrupted by China’s Cultural Revolution when he was relocated into the countryside for re-education. Young Dong circumvented the restrictions of censorship by disguising two texts, which his father had scavenged for him, as Mao’s Little Red Book, and read the physics and math books into the night. His feigned devotion to the party earned him the rare opportunity to attend college, the Harbin Institute of Technology in China, to learn the art and science of welding. Dong went on to earn his MS in Welding Engineering there. He then attended the University of Michigan where he was awarded a Masters degree and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering.

Teaching
Before coming to New Orleans from Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Dong taught at the Edison Welding Institute and Ohio State University, supervising graduate students and developing courses based on his work. In 1997, he joined the prestigious Battelle Memorial Institute as the Technical Director for the Center for Welded Structures, attaining its highest technical position as one of only eight Senior Research Leaders (from over 25,000 employees worldwide).

When he joined the faculty of UNO, Dr. Dong brought with him a strong desire to introduce new generations of naval architects and engineers to the exploration of the best design and construction. “These future engineers will be facing the same issues,” said Dr. Dong. He describes New Orleans as having one of the two best environments for naval engineering in the country.

Research
Dr. Dong has been a pioneer in the prediction of fatigue life of welded joints; until he and his team at Battelle introduced the computational model, Verity, the projection of the life span of a weld was guess-work at best. Engineers had to rely on empirical methods based on past experience. Industries such as Caterpillar, ChevronTexaco and Ford Motor Company have embraced this method, saving millions of dollars that had previously been used for repetitive, and inaccurate, stress testing. In 2003, the Society of Automotive Engineers declared this model the most important engineering advance of that year, awarding him the Henry Ford II Distinguished Award for Excellence in Automotive Engineering.

Pingsha Dong has received numerous other awards, and has authored over 150 scholarly articles in peer-reviewed archive journals. In addition, he contributes to this field as an editor or reviewer for a number of international journals.

His research interests continue to include techniques for the mitigation of residual stress and distortion and methods in the fatigue and fracture of welded structures. Dr. Dong’s leadership in the School of Naval Architecture is a wonderful addition to the College of Engineering and will serve UNO well in continuing its tradition of excellence.