



PROFILE

JANUARY TO MARCH 2009

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS—PART 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS—PART 3	1
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2009-10	1
UNDER ARRA, UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES COME WITH BURDENS	2
STUDENT RESEARCH DAY—MARCH 31, 2009	3
BEST POSTER AWARDS—RESEARCH DAY	3
IMPORTANT DATES	4

Dr. Holly Anthony (Curriculum and Instruction) received funding (\$566,802) from the Tennessee Department of Education for her project entitled “Developing K-5 Teachers’ Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching.” This project will assist teachers in expanding their knowledge of mathematics and its applications to improve student learning.

Dr. Curtis Armstrong (Decision Sciences and Management) is the recipient of funding (\$121,000) from the Tennessee Department of Education for his “Governor’s School for Information Technology Leadership.” The Governor’s School gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of information technology and business leadership by developing a business plan for an information technology based business.

Drs. Michael Best, Kim Stearman,

and Ben Byler (Agriculture) are the recipients of funding (\$100,000) from the U. S. Department of Agriculture for their project which involves an economic analysis and educational program to identify market potential for sustainable high tunnel vegetable production.

Drs. Barry Stein (Counseling and Psychology) received supplemental funding (\$100,000) from the National Science Foundation for his “CAT: Assessment and Improvement of Learning” project. Funding will provide a scoring service to other NSF researchers and furthering the institutional use of the CAT instrument.

Research Funding by University Unit-January 1 to March 31, 2009

Agriculture—\$100,000*
 Biology—\$181,533*
 Business Media Center—\$76,000

Chemical Engineering—\$80,000*
 Chemistry—\$25,000*
 Civil and Environmental Engineering—\$105,161*
 Counseling Center—\$2,822
 Counseling and Psychology—\$100,000
 Curriculum and Instruction—\$640,174*
 Decision Sciences and Management—\$121,000
 Electrical and Computer Engineering—\$15,000*
 Engineering Administration—\$33,505
 Human Ecology—\$43,310*
 Manufacturing Center—\$51,601
 Mechanical Engineering—\$111,236*
 Physics—\$60,811*
 Water Center—\$79,480

*Includes proposals funded through the Centers of Excellence or STEM Center.

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2009-10

“I do not like it, and I am sorry I ever had anything to do with it.”
Erwin Schrödinger
 (1887-1961)
 Austrian physicist speaking of quantum mechanics

The Faculty Research Committee was established to: 1) stimulate interest in research on the part of the faculty, 2) provide financial assistance to faculty members wishing to undertake research projects, and 3) assist in the dissemination of information developed in faculty research projects. The Faculty Research Committee fund is supported

by an allocation from the University’s general fund. The amount available for 2009-10 awards was set at approximately \$120,000. The Committee met on January 29, 2009, to review 24 proposals in the 2009-10 funding cycle. Based on available funding, the Committee awarded 17

projects involving 20 faculty members. Of the funded proposals, four were Research Initiation and 13 were Research Development. For a listing of the Faculty Research Grant awards, visit the Office of Research website at <http://www.tntech.edu/research/frawards>

UNDER ARRA, UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES COME WITH BURDENS¹

Some of the excitement over the billions for research included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is giving way to a bit of panic from the realization that with the money comes unprecedented oversight, including a quarterly reporting requirement.

In fact, one organization representing research universities is so concerned about the cost of compliance that it has asked the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to permit universities to exceed the administrative caps on their grants.

President Obama on February 17 signed the \$787 billion law, which includes \$20 billion for various agencies that have the potential to fund research projects at universities, including \$10 billion alone at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“The thing that everyone is going to struggle with is taking all the provisions and applying them to individual grant programs,” Edward Waters, managing partner of the law firm Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP, told the *Report on Research Compliance (RRC)*. “There are something like 1,700 federal grant programs, and each is a little different. We have this very broad bill and broad mandate, and these are not easy issues.”

Complying with ARRA requirements will require the tracking of information that institutions have never tracked before, such as the number of jobs created, Waters said, and with greater frequency. Systems will have to be “re-configured” to capture new data, he said.

The section in the law describing the reporting requirements even has its own name—the Jobs Accountability Act. The provisions apply to “any entity that receives recovery funds directly from the federal government (including recovery funds received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual” and includes states that receive recovery funds.

Detailed quarterly reports are due to the funding agency within 10 days of the end of the quarter, beginning July 10, according to the guidance. The information reported to the agencies by recipients will be posted on a public website within 30 days of the end of each quarter. This fast turnaround is likely to create strains on both universities and agencies.

Accordance to the guidance, ARRA requires that, “no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each recipient that received funds from a federal agency shall submit a report to that

agency that contains the following “data elements”:

1. The total amount of recovery funds received from that agency.
2. The amount of recovery funds received that were expended or obligated to projects or activities.
3. A detailed list of all projects or activities for which recovery funds were expended or obligated, including:
 - a) the name of the project or activity;
 - b) a description of the project or activity;
 - c) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;
 - d) an estimate of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained by the project or activity; and
 - e) infrastructure investments made by state and local governments, the purpose, total cost, and rationale of the agency for funding the infrastructure investment with funds made available under this act, and name of the person to contact at the agency if there are concerns with the infrastructure investment.
4. Detailed information on any subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the recipient to include the data elements required to

comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (PL 109-282), allowing aggregate reporting on awards below \$25,000 or to individuals, as prescribed by the director of OMB.

The OMB guidance states that agencies will “provide for user-friendly means for recipients of covered funds to meet the requirement” and stresses that grants will have to be tracked separately, which may prove difficult for recipients.

Links: www.recovery.gov/files/initial%20recovery%20act%20implementing%20guidance.pdf;
<http://206.151.87.67/docs/orszagletter.doc>

¹Reproduced from **Report on Research Compliance**, Vol. 6, No. 3, March 2009.

**There was a young lady named Bright,
 Whose speed was far faster than light.
 She left one day
 In a relative way,
 And returned home
 The previous night!
 Anon**

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY—MARCH 31, 2009

The 4th Annual Student Research Day was held on Tuesday, March 31. The event, which is designed to showcase student research and other scholarly activities in a poster format, has been met with excitement and enthusiasm generated by the high quality of work done by the students under direction of their faculty research advisors. A total of 116 posters were displayed by undergraduate and graduate students from across campus representing an approximate 16% increase over last year's numbers. The posters were judged by faculty, community members, and others; and the best posters from each represented department and student classification were selected as Research Day awardees. Dr. Allen Atkins, alumnus and one of two Ph.D. graduates from the first TTU Ph.D. class, handed out the awards and certifications of participation.

Student Research Day is sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and supported through an endowment from David and Sherri Nichols, funds from the Research Office, Dr. Atkins, and Boeing Corporation which provided a \$500 match. Detailed information about the day's event is posted at <http://www.tntech.edu/research/researchday/2009/index.html>



These are just a few of the many photos from Research Day. To view all the photos, visit the Office of Research website at <http://www.tntech.edu/research/researchday/2009/index.html>

BEST POSTER AWARDS—RESEARCH DAY

- Aurora Scott (Undergraduate, Agriculture)
- Mary Walker Watson (Undergraduate, Human Ecology)
- David Knieling (Undergraduate, Human Ecology)
- Amanda Crook (Graduate, Chemistry)
- Archana Tirmula (Graduate, Chemistry)
- Keyuri Patel (Graduate, Chemistry)
- Frank Couch (Undergraduate, Chemistry)
- Megan Monteen (Undergraduate, Chemistry)
- Kelly Monteen (Undergraduate, Chemistry)
- Dan Roubik (Undergraduate, Chemistry)
- Marbin Pazos-Revilla (Graduate, Computer Science)
- Matt Gibbs (Undergraduate, Computer Science)
- Douglas Oyston (Undergraduate, Earth Sciences/Geology)
- Alisha Pendergrass (Graduate, Environmental Sciences-Chemistry)
- Johnathan Davis (Graduate, Environmental Sciences-Biology)
- James Philip Rogers (Undergraduate, Physics)
- Martha Howard (Graduate, Curriculum and Instruction)
- Julie Baker (Graduate, Exceptional Learning)
- Zach Ludwig (Undergraduate, Counseling and Psychology)
- Mounika Arabandi (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Deepika Rao Gollamandala (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Vasanta Pallem (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Jyothirmai Simhadri (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Derick Weis (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Drew Blumberg (Undergraduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Seth Wynne (Undergraduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Azurae Johnson (Undergraduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Jeff Thompson (Graduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Melissa Taylor (Undergraduate, Chemical Engineering)
- Chris Berry (Graduate, Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- Ling Tang (Graduate, Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- Caitlin Balthrop (Undergraduate, Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- Mohammed Abdallah (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Yogesh Barve (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Anish Joshi (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Aboli Kulkarni (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Agustin Melero Perez (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Diego Robalino Vanegas (Graduate, Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Neeharika Anantharaju (Graduate, Mechanical Engineering)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The mission of the Graduate School is to promote, coordinate, enhance the quality of, and serve as an advocate for graduate education programs at Tennessee Technological University.

Core Value: Academic excellence through critical thinking skills, life-long learning, and promotion of diversity.

- Enhance the intellectual community of scholars among graduate students and faculty
- Provide quality control for all graduate education programs
- Promote the academic excellence of all graduate programs
- Support and facilitate research, including scholarly and creative activities

[www.tntech.edu/
graduatestudies](http://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies)

IMPORTANT DATES—GRADUATE SCHOOL

April 17, 2009

*Comprehensive exam/thesis defense deadline

*Last day to submit preliminary copy of

Thesis/dissertation

May 1, 2009

*Last day of classes

*Last day to submit final copies of thesis/dissertation

*Last day to remove Incomplete if graduating in May

*Last day to apply for Summer graduate school admission

May 9, 2009

*Commencement

May 27, 2009

*Summer classes begin for full term

June 5, 2009

*Last day for graduate students to apply for

August 2009 graduation



Please contact Denise Anderson in the Graduate School

at ext. 3809 for more information.

RESEARCH OFFICE

The mission of the Office of Research is to promote, support, and facilitate research, scholarly, and creative activities of faculty and graduate students. The Office of Research is a focal point for matters relating to research, sponsored programs, and similar scholarly activities.

Services to the faculty include:

- Disseminating information on sources of support
- Providing background information for use in proposals
- Assisting faculty in the development of proposals
- Reviewing and approving proposals for submission to funding agencies
- Preparing and negotiating grants/contracts
- Administering Tennessee's Public Records Act (T.C.A. 49-7-120) relative to sponsored research and services
- Executing awarded contracts and processing activation forms to establish accounts
- Assisting in administration grants/contracts in such areas as budget revisions and contract closures
- Conducting seminars and workshops on proposal writing and funding sources
- Providing assistance to faculty members in carrying out non-sponsored research projects

[www.tntech.edu/
research](http://www.tntech.edu/research)

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Tennessee Technological University
Box 5036

Cookeville, TN 38505

Phone: 931-372-3374 (Research)

931-372-3233 (Graduate Studies)

Fax: 931-372-6374 (Research)

931-372-3497 (Graduate Studies)