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What's News

Proposal Writing Workshop

The OVPR and OSP is hosting “*Breaking Through the Barriers to Writing Proposals*” Workshop. **Space Limited (first 25 participants- faculty and research staff only please!)** RSVP required. Send email to Gloria Greene at greeneg@uah.edu. Workshop is conducted by Dr. Robert A. Lucas, Director, Institute for Scholarly Productivity, San Luis Obispo, CA. Date: Friday, March 6, 2009 Time: 8:30AM—3:30PM Location: Bevill Center. **Lunch at the Bevill Center’s Gardenview (Buffett) will be provided. *Must be able to attend full day workshop!*

NSF Grant Proposal Changes

NSF has changed its academic year salary policy. **Chapter II – Section C.2g(i), Salaries and Wages**, has undergone a major revision of NSF’s salary reimbursement policy. In general, the Foundation will now limit salary compensation for senior project personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This limit includes salary compensation received **from all NSF-funded grants**. This change moves away from the concept of summer salary and allows for reimbursement of two months of salary per year whenever appropriate during the year. Please refer to NSF09-01 Grant Proposal Guide, January 2009. http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gc1/jan09.pdf?govDel=USNSF_80

UAHuntsville F&A Rates

UAHuntsville’s F&A rates were increased by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as follows:

The FY09 rate for On Campus Research will remain at **46.5%**, with an increase to 47.3% in FY10 and 11, and an increase to 48% in FY12.

Other rates:

Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) Rate: 9%

Off Campus or (vicinity) Rate: 27.5%

Instruction: 46%

Other Sponsored Activities: 41%

All other Off Campus Activities: 26%

For additional information about the new F&A Rates, please contact Robert Leonard, Interim Director, Contracts and Grants Accounting at Robert.Leonard@uah.edu

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Yale to pay \$7.6 million to settle grant investigation

Yale has agreed to pay \$7.6 million for allegedly making false claims on federal research grants, the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven said, concluding a two-year investigation of Yale's grant administration.

Prosecutors accused Yale of breaking the law by mischarging federal grants in two ways. First, some Yale researchers are said to have improperly transferred grant funds to accounts that were not specifically related to the purpose of the grant. Second, the government alleged some researchers paid themselves for all their summer work, even time and effort unrelated to the grant.

The \$7.6 million settlement is half actual damages and half penalties for the false claims, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. "This settlement sends a clear message that the regulations applicable to federally-funded research grants must be strictly adhered to," Acting U.S. Attorney Nora Dannehy said in a statement.

The University said in the statement that it cooperated fully with the investigation, producing over a million pages of documents. The Yale Corporation, the University's highest governing body, bolstered the Audit Committee and required regular reports on research compliance. The University established a committee to oversee audit, internal control and compliance issues.

Complete Article located at:
www.yaledailynews.com/articles/view/26951

*Isaac Arnsdorf,
Staff Reporter*



Spotlight on Center for Applied Optics (CAO)

UAHuntsville's Center for Applied Optics (CAO) advances optical science and engineering research and development in support of high technology educational, industrial and governmental interests and requirements. The center includes faculty and staff from UAHuntsville's academic departments. The center includes CAD and optomechanical design facilities, as well as diamond turning, optical fabrication, metrology, holography, testing and prototyping of state-of-the-art optical components and systems. Center re-

searchers are exploring unique applications of optics for numerous space, military and industrial users. The Nano and Devices Center (NMDC) is focused on the design, simulation and fabrication of micro and nano structures for a wide variety of applications. These include photonics, MEMS, sensors, liquid crystals and microfluidics. NMDC includes an 8,000 sq ft. nano/microfabrication facility, approximately half of which is clean room space. The laboratory's toolset includes capabilities for optical and electron beam li-

thography, thin film disposition, plasma etching, wet chemical processing, dicing, wire bonding, critical point drying and various metrology functions, such as field emission scanning electron microscopy.

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Robert Lindquist, Director

Phone: 824-2882

Email: lindquis@ece.uah.edu

Web:

CAO: <http://cao.uah.edu>

NMDC: <http://nmdec.uah.edu>

UAHuntsville Office of Research Security

Economic Espionage – The Enemy

Our Nation's secrets are in jeopardy. The Cold War is not over it has merely taken on a different form – Economic War. The FBI estimates that every year billions of US dollars are lost to foreign competitors who deliberately target economic intelligence in flourishing US industries and technologies, as well as shelved technologies by exploiting open source and classified information known as trade secrets. Foreign competitors operate under three categories to create an elaborate network of spies: 1) Aggressively target present and former foreign nationals working for US com-

panies and research institutions; 2) Recruit and perform technical operations to include bribery, discreet theft, dumpster diving (in search of discarded trade secrets) and wiretapping; and 3) Establish seemingly innocent business relationships between foreign companies and US industries to gather economic intelligence including classified information. In an effort to safeguard our nation's economic secrets the Economic Espionage Act (EEA) was signed into law on October 11, 1996.

Seven Methods for Economic Protection:

1. Recognize there is a real threat.

2. Identify and value trade secrets.
3. Implement a definable plan for safeguarding trade secrets.
4. Secure physical trade secrets.
5. Limit access to trade secrets.
6. Confine intellectual knowledge.
7. Provide ongoing security training to employees.

For additional information please contact:

Denise Spiller, Director

Phone: 824-6444



UAHuntsville 2009 Research Mini-Grant Recipients

- Nicholaos Jones, Philosophy: *Idealizations in Scientific Explanation*
- Sandra C. Mediola, History: *Mexico's Dirty War on Street Vendors, 1973-1986*
- Robert McFeeters, Chemistry: *Structural Engineering of Scytovirin for Improved Anti-HIV Activity*
- Angela Balla, English: *Religious Poetry and Toleration in Early Modern England*
- Luis R. Cruz-Vera, Biology: *Isolation and Functional Characterization of Enzymes Containing the Essential Peptidyl-tRNA Hydrolase Activity in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*
- Leslie M. Kauira, Foreign Language/Literature: *Research Trip to Madrid, Spain: Domestic Violence in Spanish Literature Written by Men between 1850 and 1925*
- Samuel S. Thomas, History: *Midwifery, Medicine and Society in Early Modern England*
- Dengpan Liu, Economics & Information Systems: *Strategic Interaction Between Security and IT Capacity Investments*
- Jeffery L. Evans, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering: *Early Stage Oxidation Behavior of Ni-base Alloys*
- Jose A. Betancourt, Art & Art History: *Cyanotype Collaboration with Susan Weil*
- Lingze Duan, Physics: *Feasibility Analysis of using Fiber Fabry-Perot Cavities for Ultrahigh Precision Laser Frequency Stabilization*
- Babak Shotorban, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering: *A Robust Two-Fluid Approach for Direct Simulation of Particle-laden Flows*
- Feng Zhu, Computer Science: *A Game Theoretical Approach to Optimize Identify Exposure in Pervasive Computing Environments*
- Wafa Hakim Orman, Economics & Information Systems: *Survival of the Strictest? An Experimental Examination of Club Goods*
- Chris Allport, Accounting/Finance: *Impact of Personality Goals and Incentives on Motivation*
- Junpeng Guo, Electrical & Computer Engineering: *Plasmonic Nanostructure Sensors for Enhanced Biochemical Detection*
- Seyed Sadeghi, Physics: *Plasmonic Quantum Templates for Generation of Energy Flow in Nanostructure Assemblies*

Funding Opportunities

Community of Science

Looking for potential funding opportunities? Have you tried Community of Science (COS)? COS is the leading global resources for hard-to-find information critical to scientific research and other projects across all disciplines.

You can access COS from the OSP website, under the PROPOSAL TAB "Funding Sources"
<http://www.uah.edu/research/resadmin/index.html>

To learn more about COS, please contact Steve Parker at 2654 or parkerjs@uah.edu.

Weekly Funding Bulletin

The OSP Weekly Funding Bulletin, is an abstract of funding opportunities from various agencies such as NASA, DOE, DOD, NIH, NSF, Private Foundations, and State Agencies. It includes special topic announcements from the agencies, as well as the dates and times of OSP selected solicitation reviews. The bulletin is sent via email each week.

If you would like to receive the Funding Bulletin, please send an email to: ospweeklyfundingbulletin@uah.edu

PROPOSALS/AWARDS PROCESSED TO-DATE (FY08)

QUARTER	PROPOSAL	VALUE	*AWARDS	VALUE
3RD QTR	151	\$32,651,515	324	\$17,361,439
4TH QTR	180	\$68,354,520	373	\$30,550,331

*Excluding Construction

HAPPY NEW YEAR

UAHUNTSVILLE





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The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) mission is to support three distinct groups: 1) UAHuntsville faculty and research staff; 2) UAHuntsville administration; and 3) our funding sponsors.

OSP strives to maintain balance among these groups by reviewing proposals to external funding agency, proper fiscal management of funds received, and oversight of compliance matters related to external agencies and the federal government.

OSP's role is to support the faculty, staff, and administration of UAHuntsville; in effectively seeking, obtaining, and managing their research and scholarly activities to enhance their educational role.

UAHUNTSVILLE OFFICE OF COUNSEL

By John Cates, Attorney

When a proposal is submitted, the sponsoring agency often allows proposers to submit a proposed budget that contains estimates of the costs of equipment to be purchased during the course of the project. Occasionally, this leads a Principal Investigator to erroneously conclude that it is acceptable, after award, to request the sponsoring agency to pay the full estimated equipment costs, even if it subsequently develops that the actual price of the equipment is less than the original estimated cost. This assumption is clearly not correct. Federal regulations require that requests for equipment cost reimbursement be accurate, and supported by appropriate documentation.

The general purposes and scope section of OMB Circular A-21 state the rule fairly clearly:

OMB Circular A-21(A)(2)(e). The application of these cost accounting principles should require no significant changes in the generally accepted accounting practices of colleges and universities. However, the accounting practices of individual colleges and universities must support the accumulation of costs as required by the principles, and must provide for adequate documentation to support costs charged to sponsored agreements.

Two cases can be mentioned to illustrate the point that the amount of equipment costs, and other direct costs, charged to federally supported research contracts must be adequate and properly documented. The first of these is the case of *United States v. Nye*. See http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/tnm/press_releases/2007/5_1_07.html. Dr. Barbara Nye a professor at Tennessee State University submitted several improper time and travel requests for reimbursements to her sponsoring federal agency, the National Science Foundation. Interestingly, several of these improper charges by Dr. Nye related to work performed by UAHuntsville pursuant to a subcontract. After an Inspector General and FBI investigation, Dr. Nye pled guilty to a felony violation of the Federal False Claims Act.

The second case is *United States v. Kelly*, 1992 U.S. App. LEXIS 14898 (4th Cir. App. (1992)). In this case, Kelly was an employee of a company that had a contract with the Agency for International Development to supply equipment to Pakistan. Kelly overstated the cost of the equipment. Kelly was convicted of violating the False Claims Act and sentence to 3½ years in federal prison and fined \$138,000.00.

So, the lesson is clear. Estimates of equipment costs are allowable at the proposal stage. However, when the actual request for equipment purchase costs are submitted to the sponsoring agency, the exact cost, properly documented, must be used.