

Supporting the growth of research and leading the way in research administration!

ORSP Newsletter



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 2007

News from the National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has implemented the National Science Board's motion to enhance support of transformative research at the NSF. Details are available on the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/in130/in130.jsp>. In addition, the notice highlights the change in the Intellectual Merit Review Criterion to specifically include review of the extent to which a proposal also suggests and explores potentially transformative concepts.

The NSF's Grant Proposal Guide and new funding opportunities will incorporate the change to the Intellectual Merit Criterion. Proposals received after January 5, 2008, will be subject to the revised merit review criterion.

In other news, "Title VII of the America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69) directs the National Science Foundation to require cost-sharing in the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program of at least 30%. The Act states that institutions of higher education that are not PhD granting institutions are exempt from the cost-sharing requirement.

Effective immediately the MRI Program will require 30% cost-sharing on all proposals submitted by PhD granting institutions and non degree-granting institutions. The latter category includes US independent research museums, US independent nonprofit research organizations and consortia whose members consist of US institutions of higher education and/or US independent research museums. Cost-sharing will not be required from non PhD-granting institutions. Contributions towards cost-sharing may be made from any non-Federal source, and may be cash or in-kind. No exceptions will be made for this cost-sharing requirement."

Detectives of the past to gather at UMass Boston

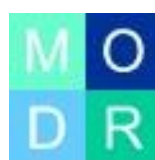
Boston area paleoethnobotanists will gather at UMass Boston in the next few weeks to tour the facilities and discuss the various research programs of the UMass Boston Fiske Center for Archaeological Research.

Paleoethnobotanists, or archaeobotanists, study the relationship between plants and people through the field of archaeology. In short, they learn how plants were utilized for food, medicine, clothing and houses.

Senior Research Scientist Heather Trigg is putting together the meeting, from which she hopes will evolve possible collaborations with area institutions as well as additional research opportunities for UMass Boston students. To learn more, contact Ms. Trigg at heather.trigg@umb.edu.



MODR to receive award



On October 18, 2007, the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution & Public Collaboration (MODR) will receive the "Community Peacemaker Award" from the Community Dispute Settlement Center, one of the longest-standing community mediation programs in Massachusetts.

The award is given annually to individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to peacemaking with the community through their dedication to constructive conflict management and innovative dispute resolution.

MODR began in 1985 as a pilot project with funding in part from the National Institute for Dispute Resolution and the Boston Foundation, and was one of the first five state offices of dispute resolution established in the country. After continued growth the office was established by state law to aid the three branches of government, municipalities and other public institutions in the resolution of disputes.

In July 2005, MODR transferred its functions and personnel from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to UMass Boston in order to operate as a university-based state dispute resolution program for the benefit of public agencies and citizens of the Commonwealth.

The award will be presented to all of MODR's executive directors, past and present. Executive Director Susan Jeghelian, will accept the award. Congratulations to Susan and her MODR colleagues!

Compliance Corner

CITI Training: All UMass Boston researchers who conduct research involving human subjects must, as required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), complete human subjects education training. PIs and their project staff must fulfill this requirement by completing the CITI program online at <http://www.citiprogram.com>.

Continuing Review: DHHS requires that once a study receives initial Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval that the IRB conduct a continuing review of the study, at intervals appropriate to the degree of risk, on or before the one year anniversary date of the previous IRB review.

Expired IRB Approval: If IRB approval on a study expires, all research must stop (e.g., subject recruitment, follow-up, data analysis). To re-start research PIs must re-apply to the IRB.

Study Completion: The principal investigator must complete and submit a Final Report Form to the IRB once a study has completed to officially close out the research project.

Forms: All IRB forms (e.g., New Submissions, Continuing Review, Amendments and Final Reports) are available on the ORSP website at <http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp/compliance/irbforms.html>

Questions: Contact Kristen Kenny at (617) 287-5374 or human.subjects@umb.edu.

Three-day grant writing workshop

This workshop will be held at
UMass Boston
January 7-9, 2008, 9:00 am to
4:00 pm

An intensive, three-day grant writing workshop designed to teach faculty, how to formulate a fundable concept, search for potential funding sources, transform a concept into a proposal, prepare a budget, and compile a competitive proposal tailored for a specific sponsor and grant competition. At the end of the workshop all participants will have prepared a finished grant proposal that can be submitted to an external sponsor for review and potential funding. Contact Jim Mortenson at (617) 287-5614 for additional information.



ORSP Business Managers Network

As a staff member do you provide grant administration support to faculty? If you do, then the Network is for you. Network meetings focus on grant administration policies, processes, and procedures, and serve as information sharing sessions with your colleagues with similar responsibilities in other colleges, departments, programs, institutes, and centers. Meetings are held monthly, last one hour, and include lunch. Contact Jim Mortenson at (617) 287-5614 for additional information.



Some recent new awards

Francoise Carre (Center for Social Policy), a \$208,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for "Review of temporary help and day labor services as a path to regular employment."

Stephen Crosby (McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies), a \$50,000 grant from MRAG Americas, Inc., for "Massachusetts Ocean Partnership Fund."

Arthur Eisenkraft (The Center of Mathematics and Science in Context), a \$1.6 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation for "Active Physics."

Ron Etter (Department of Biology), a \$592,000, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for "Evolution of Deep-Sea Molluscs."

Darren Kew (Dispute Resolution Programs), a \$250,000, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of State for "Building Citizen Engagement and Conflict Resolution Skills in Civil Society."

Patricia Monteith (WUMB Radio), a \$234,000, two-year grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "Station Renewal Project - Phase Two."

Marc Pomplun (Department of Computer Science), a \$209,000, two-year grant from NIH-National Eye Institute for "A General Model of Saccadic Selectivity in Visual Search."



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Do you have items you would like to submit for possible inclusion in a future newsletter? Please contact James Mortenson at james.mortenson@umb.edu.