News & Updates

Redesign of External Funding Opportunities Webpage

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has significantly updated the “External Funding Opportunities” webpage on the OSP website to assist faculty and staff to search and review external funding opportunities and programs in real-time. In addition to distributing specific funding opportunities on a monthly basis, OSP will maintain a list of federal and non-federal/private funding opportunities and programs via the OSP website. The list contains direct links to specific federal and non-federal funding opportunities and programs, as well as other helpful information such as application basics, contact directories, and guidelines.

Accessing funding opportunities and programs via the list will ensure updates or changes to specific funding opportunities and programs are available.

Click here to access the redesigned external funding opportunities webpage.

Export Control Webinar

The Office of Sponsored Programs would like to extend an invitation to faculty and staff to attend a webinar presented by the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) entitled, “Export Reform and Higher Education: What Your Institution Needs to Know Today!”

The webinar will address the state of export control reform and will provide University researchers and research administrators with background and guidance impacting University research, as well as explain new concepts and revised definitions essential to complying with the new rules associated with export control. The webinar will also recommend strategies for ensuring that institutions remain in compliance with the new rules. University faculty and staff who currently conduct or plan to conduct federally funded research involving international collaborators and foreign individuals are encouraged to attend the webinar.

Export Reform & Higher Education: What Your Institution Needs to Know Today!
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Time/Location: 12:30pm—2:00pm EST/McDowell Formal Lounge

This event is a brown bag lunch and we welcome participants to bring their own lunch while viewing the webinar. Light refreshments and desserts will be served. To RSVP, please send an email to OSPEvents@american.edu with your name, title and academic/business unit by December 5, 2013.
**Grant Administration Roundtable (GAR) Sessions**
OSP and Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA) would like to invite you to the next GAR session where they will be discussing the following topic:

- Revisions to the Principal Investigator’s (PI) Handbook

⇒ *Next Session: December 3, 2013, 10:00-11:30am, Butler Board Room*

[View more information about GAR and how to register here >>](#)

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**Research Administration Certification (RAC) Program**
RAC is a comprehensive training and certification program designed to assist AU departmental and school/college level staff with research administration and management responsibilities. This 8-session program provides pertinent information to enable participants to effectively manage sponsored awards.

**Next Sessions:**
- **Session 4: Grants Management II (Pre-Award)**
  - December 12, 2013, 10:00-12:00 PM, Abramson Founders Room, SIS—*Instructor Led*
- **Session 5: Financial Management I (Post-Award Policies)**
  - February 13, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Instructor Led*
- **Session 6: Financial Management II (Post-Award Procedures)**
  - February 27, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Instructor Led*
- **Session 7: Systems Overview**
  - March 20, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Instructor Led*
- **Session 8: Research Compliance Overview**
  - TBD

[View more information about RAC and how to register for the instructor-led and online courses here >>](#)

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**Funding Search Information Sessions**
OSP has created a series of informational sessions for those interested in independently searching for funding opportunities. The sessions will provide training on how to use our current funding search databases, and will assist faculty and staff in developing user profiles to receive direct announcements of funding opportunities related to their research/program interests.

⇒ *Next Sessions:*
  - General Overview: December 5, 2013, 10:30-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Open to all AU faculty and staff*
  - Unit/School Oriented (WAMU/Library/Kogod): December 19, 2013, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Board Room—*Open to all WAMU, Library and Kogod School of Business staff* 

[To view more information about the Funding Search Information sessions and how to register here >>](#)
Each month, OSP Monthly highlights a specific American University faculty/staff member for their contributions in providing cutting-edge research or a research related program that serves to create and advance knowledge, and enrich the resources of our educational community while answering and accelerating challenging issues we face today. This month, we are featuring Victoria Connaughton, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology.

Q&A with Victoria Connaughton

Q: Please tell us about what your research interests are:

Victoria: My primary research interest is in the field of Visual Neuroscience. Within that discipline, we focus on how the eye works by examining the physiology and anatomy of the retina. The retina is a thin piece of nerve tissue (an extension of the brain) located in the back of the eye. My research focuses on how signals are processed in the retina and how retinal function may be altered in response to disease, mutations, or exposure to environmental contaminants. Our experiments include physiological – recording responses of nerve cells within the retina – and anatomical – examination of what cell types are present, what neurotransmitters are present, and how the different cell types may be connected - techniques. We are also interested in development/larval ecology. In these experiments, we aim to determine factors (chemicals) that may alter development of larval fish. Often these compounds/chemicals are present in the external aquatic environment where the fish are developing. We are interested in identifying factors that may alter overall growth, eye development, and behavioral responses. Though these two sets of experiments seem very different, they actually go together quite nicely. For example, we may observe that exposure to a specific compound changes growth and/or behavior which leads us to examine the retina to see if there are any underlying physiological and/or anatomical changes. Our experiments are performed using zebra fish, which is a tropical freshwater fish.

Q: In your own words, what is the main purpose/importance of your research?

Victoria: We perform our experiments in zebra fish, which is a current vertebrate model in developmental and genetic studies as well as in vision research. Thus, one important aspect of our research is that we are able to provide data to further support the use of this model system. A more important purpose though, is the applicability of our data to studies using higher vertebrates, including humans. Zebra fish are a model organism precisely because they have many characteristics similar to higher vertebrates. For example, there are zebra fish mutants with visual system defects similar to those observed in humans (such as night blindness). One of our current sets of experiments examines changes in retina as a result of prolonged hyperglycemia, which is a characteristic of individuals with diabetes, and we do have results in zebra fish that are similar to those reported in humans.

Q: Currently, what type of research are you primarily focused on?

Victoria: Current research in the lab is examining the effect of prolonged hyperglycemia on retinal anatomy and function. Hyperglycemia-induced changes in retina are a characteristic of individuals with diabetes and we are working to establish zebra fish as a model organism in which to study these visual complications. This summer, we are also performing a study examining conditioned place preference and the effect of adolescent exposure on adult responses. Conditioned place preference is a behavioral assay in which an animal is induced to change preference (for a specific side of the tank) by a rewarding stimulus (alcohol). As part of this study, we are tracking the behavior of the fish using EthoVision, a motion tracking software. This study was funded by a Faculty Research Grant. We are also running experiments looking at the effect of hormone disruption on growth.

Q: What are some of the ways to learn and find out about your research?

Victoria: Primary literature articles, conference proceedings, and the departmental website are some of the ways to find out about our research.

Q: What inspired you to enter your field of research initially?

Victoria: I have always been interested in science. My father was in the Navy, so I grew up around oceans and wanted to be a marine biologist, which lead me to pursue a Ph.D. in marine biology at the University of Delaware. For my dissertation, I examined factors that can influence growth and survival in larval fish, focusing specifically on food availability. My research showed that fish larvae have excellent vision and, as a result, are able to select between two different food items based on visual cues. This got me interested in vision and I was able to pursue that interest as a postdoc at UT Houston and NIH. I continue to be fascinated by the neurobiology of the retina. Since coming to AU, I have been able to combine the areas of visual neuroscience and larval ecology, which has really been great.
Peter R. D’Agostino Research Travel Grant—Grant
In conjunction with Italian Studies at Notre Dame, the center offers an annual funding opportunity, the Peter R. D’Agostino Research Travel Grant. Designed to facilitate the study of the American past from an international perspective, this competitive award of $5,000 supports research in Roman archives for a significant publication project on U.S. Catholic history. The 2014 D’Agostino Research Travel Grant will be awarded exclusively to support participation in the 2014 Rome Seminar, June 6-20, 2014.
Deadline: December 31, 2013

Harvard University—An Wang Postdoctoral Fellowship
The Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies is pleased to offer the An Wang Postdoctoral Fellowship to support research in Chinese Studies. Well-designed projects at any stage, from initial research to revision for publication, are welcome. Research topics can cover any period of Chinese history or contemporary China and involve any academic discipline. Applicants in pre-modern humanities are encouraged to apply, as are applicants in contemporary social sciences. Priority will be given to those candidates who have had no previous postdoctoral fellowships.
Deadline: January 10, 2014

United States Institute for Theater Technology—Grants
The United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. (USITT) grants are intended to support specific projects in design or technology. USITT funds projects that: (1) seek new knowledge through experimentation, research, or the collection of resources that will promote research study; (2) demonstrate originality, creativity, and innovation; (3) improve or enhance contemporary approaches to design and technology; and (4) result in direct presentation, demonstration, or publication to its members. These projects can be in areas including architecture, costume design and technology, engineering, lighting; management, scene design, sound/acoustics, special effects, technical production.
Deadline: January 10, 2014

McCormick Foundation—New Media Women Entrepreneurs
The McCormick Foundation New Media Women Entrepreneurs project seeks to spotlight the creative assets of women and help address issues of opportunity and innovation, recruitment and retention for women in journalism. The fund supports individuals who have original ideas to create new Web sites, mobile news services or other entrepreneurial initiatives that offer interactive opportunities to engage, inspire and improve news and information in a geographic community or a community of interest.
Deadline: January 23, 2014

National Endowment for the Humanities—Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants
Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support the preparation of editions and translations of pre-existing texts and documents of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available in inadequate editions. These grants support full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years. Projects must be undertaken by a team of at least one editor or translator and one other staff member. Grants typically support editions and translations of significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, but other types of work, such as musical notation, are also eligible.
Deadline: January 7, 2014

National Endowment for the Arts—Our Town
Through Our Town, subject to the availability of funding, the National Endowment for the Arts will provide a limited number of grants, ranging from $25,000 to $200,000, for creative place making projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Our Town will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to: (1) Improve their quality of life; (2) Encourage creative activity; (3) Create community identity and a sense of place; (4) Revitalize local economies.
Deadline: January 13, 2014

University of Louisville—Grawemeyer Award for Music
The University of Louisville School of Music is pleased to announce the University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition 2014. The University will offer an international prize in recognition of outstanding achievement by a living composer in a large musical genre: choral, orchestral, chamber, electronic, song-cycle, dance, opera, musical theater, extended solo work, etc.
Deadline: January 13, 2014
Office of Naval Research, Department of Defense—Young Investigator Program
The Office of Naval Research announces its Young Investigator Program to identify and support academic scientists and engineers who have recently received Ph.D. or equivalent degrees and who show exceptional promise for doing creative research. The objectives of this program are to attract outstanding faculty members of institutions of higher education to the Navy's research program, to support their research, and to encourage their teaching and research careers.
**Deadline: January 3, 2014**

Smithsonian Institution—A. Verville Fellowship
The Verville Fellowship is a competitive nine- to twelve-month in-residence fellowship intended for the analysis of major trends, developments, and accomplishments in the history of aviation or space studies. The fellowship is open to interested candidates with demonstrated skills in research and writing. Publishing experience should demonstrate either a mid-level academic record of accomplishment or proven ability to reliably engage broader audiences. An advanced degree in history or a related field is preferred but not a requirement. An annual stipend of $55,000 will be awarded for a 12-month fellowship, with limited additional funds for travel and miscellaneous expenses. Candidates are encouraged to pursue programs of research and writing professional in tone and substance, but addressed to an audience with broad interests.
**Deadline: January 15, 2014**

Smithsonian Institution—Fellowships
Smithsonian Institution Fellows are key to the Smithsonian's aspiration to discover, create, innovate and diversify. The Smithsonian's vast collections, numerous facilities, and staff expertise provide an range of opportunities for independent research. Smithsonian Institution Fellows receive stipends from the central fund and can be found in all areas of the Smithsonian exploring, probing and charting new directions. All fellows at the Smithsonian work with a Smithsonian advisor to conduct independent study or research relating to Smithsonian collections, facilities, or staff expertise. The Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program is administered through the Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships and Internships.
**Deadline: January 15, 2014**

United Nations—Fund for Gender Equality
The Fund for Gender Equality is the only global fund that is exclusively dedicated to women’s economic and political empowerment. This partnership between UN Women, and regional, national and local women's organizations and governments is an innovative approach to advancing women's empowerment as an essential part of realizing rights, accelerating poverty alleviation and advancing sustainable development. The Fund is based on a model in which women implement their own programmes in their own countries based on their priorities with direct multi-year grants of up to USD 1 million and technical support.
**Deadline: January 21, 2014**

Conservation, Food and Health Foundation—Support for Programs in Developing World
Incorporated in 1985, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation seeks to promote the conservation of natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and improve health in the developing world. The foundation helps build capacity within developing countries in its three areas of interest with grants that support research or projects that solve specific problems. The foundation supports projects that demonstrate strong local leadership, promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organizations; and address a particular problem in the field. It prefers to support projects addressing under-funded issues and geographic areas.
**Deadline: January 1, 2014**

Research to Prevent Blindness—Grants Program
RPB's mission is to preserve and restore vision by supporting research to develop treatments, preventives and cures for all conditions that damage and destroy sight. RPB's emphasis is on high-potential investigators. There is an RPB grant category available to a scientist at any stage in his or her career—from a medical student considering academic eye research to a seasoned investigator extending the frontiers of vision science. Grants are awarded not only on the merits of the proposed project, but on the demonstrated independence of a researcher and the vibrancy of the environment within which the proposed work will be conducted.
**Deadline: January 1, 2014**
Samuel Rubin Foundation—Grants
The Foundation’s general purpose is to carry on the vision of its founder, Samuel Rubin, whose life was dedicated to the pursuit of peace and justice and the search for an equitable reallocation of the world’s resources. The Foundation believes that these objectives can be achieved only through the fullest implementation of social, economic, political, civil and cultural rights for all the world’s people.
**Deadline: January 3, 2014**

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention—Strengthening the Evidence Base & Capacity For Implementing HIV Prevention
The overarching purpose of this FOA is to fund activities to prevent or control disease or injury and improve health, or to improve a public health program or service. Recipients may not use funds for research. Certain activities that may require human subjects review due to institutional requirements but that are generally considered not to constitute research (e.g., formative assessments, surveys, disease surveillance, program monitoring and evaluation, field evaluation of diagnostic tests, etc.) may be funded through this mechanism.
**Deadline: January 3, 2014**

American Psychological Association—Catherine Acuff Congressional Fellowship
This fellowship was established by APA in 2000 to honor the memory of Catherine Acuff, PhD, and her many valued contributions to the field of psychology and to those it serves. Applicants for this fellowship must have five or more years of professional experience post-doctorate. The mid-career/senior focus of this program reflects Dr. Acuff’s transition to the public policy arena after many successful years in private practice and academia. Fellows spend one year working on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve drafting legislation, conducting oversight work, assisting with congressional hearings and events, and preparing briefs and speeches. Fellows also attend a two-week orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations, which provides guidance for the congressional placement process, and participate in a yearlong seminar series on science and public policy issues.
**Deadline: January 3, 2014**

Environmental Research and Education Foundation—Requests for Proposals
The Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) is the only private, grant making institution with a national and international scope whose sole mission is to support solid waste research and education initiatives. Our research grants program is led by our Research Council (Council), a body of volunteers consisting of technical experts in industry, academia and consulting. The work of the Council is guided by a long range strategic plan with the goal to achieve greater sustainability, good environmental stewardship, higher process efficiency and increased knowledge.
**Deadline: January 5, 2014**

National Science Foundation—Law and Social Science
The Law & Social Sciences Program considers proposals that address social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules. The program is inherently interdisciplinary and multi-methodological. Successful proposals describe research that advances scientific theory and understanding of the connections between law or legal processes and human behavior. Social scientific studies of law often approach law as dynamic, made in multiple arenas, with the participation of multiple actors.
**Deadline: January 15, 2014**

National Science Foundation—Linguistics
The Linguistics Program supports basic science in the domain of human language, encompassing investigations of the grammatical properties of individual human languages, and of natural language in general. Research areas include syntax, semantics, morphology, phonetics, and phonology. The program encourages projects that are interdisciplinary in methodological or theoretical perspective, and that address questions that cross disciplinary boundaries.
**Deadline: January 15, 2014**

National Science Foundation—Sociology
The Sociology Program supports basic research on all forms of human social organization -- societies, institutions, groups and demography -- and processes of individual and institutional change. The Program encourages theoretically focused empirical investigations aimed at improving the explanation of fundamental social processes. Included is research on organizations and organizational behavior, population dynamics, social movements, social groups, labor force participation, stratification and mobility, family, social networks, socialization, gender roles, and the sociology of science and technology. The Program supports both original data collections and secondary data analysis that use the full range of quantitative and qualitative methodological tools. Theoretically grounded projects that offer methodological innovations and improvements for data collection and analysis are also welcomed.
**Deadline: January 15, 2014**
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Institutes of Health
NIH Funding Opportunities—Grants & Funding Page
(Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)

Education

LEGO Children’s Fund—General Grants for Early Childhood Education
The LEGO Children’s Fund will provide quarterly grants for programs, either in part or in total, with a special interest paid to collaborative efforts and in providing matching funds to leverage new dollars into the receiving organization. We will give priority consideration to programs that both meet our goals and are supported in volunteer time and effort by our employees. The Foundation awards grants to qualified tax-exempt organizations (as determined under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code) including educational organizations as defined in USC 26 § 170 (C) with specific, identifiable needs primarily in these areas of support: (1) Early childhood education and development; and (2) Technology and communication projects that advance learning opportunities.
Deadline: January 15, 2013

General

Federal Contracts
Federal Business Funding Opportunities
(Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities)
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Here is some of what to expect in next month's OSP Monthly:
- OSP Spotlight with Cristel Russell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Marketing
- Hot Topics in Research Administration
- Subrecipient Policy

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