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INQUIRY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OVPR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER 2

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM OVPR 2

MHC GRANT AWARDED 3

INTERNAL FUNDING DEADLINES 3

GRANT.GOV – ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS 3

GRANT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE 4

EXTERNALLY FUNDED FACULTY AND EIR 4

OVPR MISSION

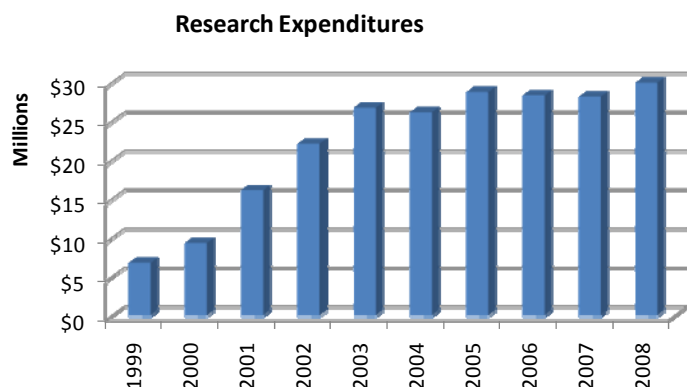
THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE EXTERNAL FUNDING INITIATIVES OF WMU FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF; TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS; AND TO ADVANCE THE OVERALL RESEARCH AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY.

WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH

Each Fall, the Office of the Vice President for Research uses the first issue of the Inquiry to provide an overview of some of the most asked questions about research and support for research and creative activities at WMU.

This year brings several items of importance that we the old PPPE support for publications and creative activities with a new Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA). OVPR offers a workshop September 12 to explain how to apply for these funds. It is expected that this new fund will be a significant benefit to university scholars. (See page 4 for workshop schedule.)

In addition, the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award, a new internal source of funding, supports undergraduate students who work under externally funded mentors. Information about the award and details to apply are available online and are highlighted on page three



It has been an active summer with many faculty submitting and receiving external awards. While new awards were down last year, the nationally recognized measure of external funding, research expenditures, reached its highest level at \$29 M, as illustrated above in the graph.

The University also published a new research magazine and is distributing a draft of a new Research Handbook.

OVPR wishes you a good fall semester and stands ready to assist you with various aspects of funding and research compliance.

- Dr. Leonard Ginsberg -

OVERVIEW OF OVPR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

OVPR provides faculty information and services in the following areas:

- Identifying funding sources;
- Grant proposal preparation;
- Grant and contract University approval and submission;
- Partnerships with industry, government and other institutions;
- Multidisciplinary collaborations within the University;
- Technology Transfer and intellectual property issues; and,

- Research compliance and regulation issues.

Dr. Michael Sharer, **Director of Intellectual Property and Commercialization**, assists faculty with intellectual property and commercialization issues.

Research officers in OVPR assist faculty with **Industrial Contracts** to negotiate contacts and with the paperwork needed to get university and industry sign-off. Grant administration (post-award) issues are handled by a fiscal analyst in **Grants and Contract**, located in the Administration Building, office of the Vice President for Business and Finance.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COMMERCIALIZATION AT WMU

A substantial amount of research conducted at WMU results in new findings and discoveries that can benefit society.

The transfer of these discoveries to the commercial sector is coordinated through the Intellectual Property (IP) Management & Commercialization Office ("technology transfer").

To better understand IP issues and the commercialization process at WMU, researchers need to contact Dr. Michael Sharer early in the process (michael.sharer@wmich.edu).

Last year OVPR and Intellectual Property and Commercialization

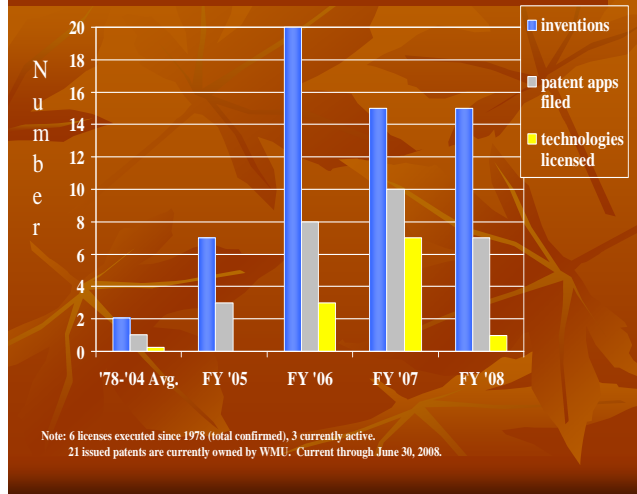
established a **\$45,000 Technology Development Fund (TDF)** to support the development/refinement of new technologies that have been disclosed to the TT office.

Four faculty were awarded funds for three separate projects. (See Spring 2008 issue of the *INQUIRY* online for the list of researchers who received the TDF award for 2007-2008.)

Available again this year, details on the application process for the TDF award are available online at the OVPR site.

Currently serving on Western Michigan University's **IP & Commercializa-**

Technology Commercialization Efforts at WMU – Results



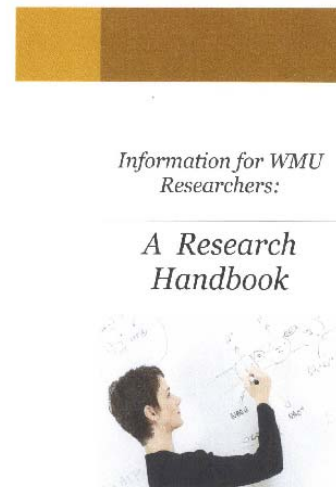
tion faculty advisory committee are the following: John Geiser (Biology), John Gesink (ECE), Dan Farrell (Mgmt.), Tom Joyce (PCI), Leszek Lillien (CS), John Miller (Chemistry), and Leonard Ginsberg (OVPR).

PUBLICATIONS FOCUS ON RESEARCH AT WMU

Available online through University Relations is the Spring 2008 Western Michigan University Magazine, *Focus on Research*. Highlights include faculty research on low vision and blindness, computer-aided vehicle design, green manufacturing, commercializing life sciences discoveries, Early Reading First program, and women in the sciences.

Also available from OVPR *Information for WMU Researchers: A Research Handbook*. This draft of the booklet details the mission of OVPR and assists faculty in understanding research protocol, policies, grant writing and development. Any suggestions for the booklet should be forwarded to Dr. Len Ginsberg or to Dr. Paula Kohler, chair of the Research Policy Council for the final draft.

To access these publication electronically: go to the OVPR website (www.wmich.edu/research), click on news and events for the Research Handbook; or, to access the research magazine, go to University Relations website (www.wmich.edu/ur/) and select WMU Magazine.



GRANT FROM MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL AWARDED FOR FORT ST. JOSEPH ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT

The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) awarded year-three of the 2008 Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project Open House, "Michigan People, Michigan Places . . . Our Stories, Our Lives." Held July 26-27, students from the Department of Anthropology volunteered to excavate the Fort on the bank of the Niles River. The location of the fort, now below the water table, presents some interesting challenges even as it has protected the 18th Century artifacts at the site. Each year, more pumps are utilized to lower the water table to allow for further discoveries.

Informational displays also served to enlighten the nearly 1,300 members of the public in attendance at the event. The

\$6,000 award from MHC was also supplemented by funds from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Led by Dr. Michael Nassaney (Anthropology) in collaboration with Dr. José Antônio Brandão (History) and Dr. Terry Martin (Illinois State Museum), the excavation project actually began in 1998 and is the oldest living archeological laboratory in the Midwest. In its tenth year, the collaboration between the city of Niles and WMU was extended for another ten years officially in a signed agreement to continue the project.

Gina Betcher, OVPR research officer, and graduate student LisaMarie Malischke, who assists Dr. Nassaney, were also integral players in securing the grant.



DEADLINES FOR INTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT

WMU through the OVPR provides internal funding for faculty scholarship. Application deadlines and details on submission of materials are available online at the OVPR homepage. Funding opportunities include:

- The Faculty Research Travel Fund provides monies for travel. Apply post travel.
- Faculty Research and Creative Activities (FRACAA) provides up to \$10,000 for research projects.

FRACAA 2008-2009 application forms and guidelines available online, starting October 10, 2008. *Deadline for submission is December 5, 2008.* (See workshop schedule, page 4, for FRACAA.)

- SFSA — Support for Faculty Scholars Award supports creative activities and

research up to \$2000. *Deadline for submission: September 30, 2008, and January 30, 2009.* (See workshop schedule, page 4.)

- Research Development Award Program (RDA) program is a year-long program to prepare junior faculty to achieve external funding. *Deadline, March 16, 2009.*
- Undergraduate Research Excellence Award— supports undergraduates working under externally funded faculty. *Deadline: September 22 and January 22.*
- Technology Development Fund Award helps researchers transition from invention to commercialization. *Deadline for IP disclosure is October 15, 2008. Proposal deadline is December 5, 2008.*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND INFORMATION ONLINE

Federal grants require University identification numbers. In particular the DUNS number is often required. To locate this and other required information go to the OVPR website and under Grant Writing select "Required Information" (www.wmich.edu/research/information.html).

For our latest projections on future fringe and graduate rates click on Budget Guidelines (www.wmich.edu/research/budget.html).

WMU's Misconduct Policy available in PDF format (www.wmich.edu/ethics/docs/ResearchMisconductPolicy2006.pdf).

GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov is an electronic submissions portal that manages interactions between grant applicants and the federal agencies that manage those funds. Fastlane through the National Science Foundation is another electronic submissions and tracking module.

With over 1000 grants offered by 26 federal agencies, OVPR recommends that electronic processes begin 5 days ahead of deadline; that faculty work closely with research staff to complete needed forms and attachments; conduct careful crosschecks of forms to instructions; and, complete budget negotiations by securing required signatures on the PAF "bucksheet", in advance of the deadline.

FALL SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS CONFIRMED

Each semester OVPR offers workshops on various topics that relate to funding searches, grant administration, proposal writing and development, and research compliance. Interested faculty and staff are encouraged to check the OVPR website calendar for details and last minute changes, but what follows is the schedule that has been confirmed at this printing.

September 12, 1:30-3 p.m.—Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA)
Presenters: Walter Worthy, OVPR and Dr. Paula Kohler, chair of the Research Policy Council.

September 26, 11:30-1 p.m.—Community of Science, Wil Emmert, senior research officer presents. Brown Bag Lunch. Meeting in Emeriti Lounge in Walwood. Bring laptop.

October 10, 11:30-1 p.m.—U.S. Dept. of Education. Gina Betcher, OVPR research officer presents in Sangren, Merze Tate Conference Room.

October 15, 2-3 p.m.—Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA), Walter Worthy presents at Parkview

Campus, Room C258.

October 22, 1:30-3 p.m.—FRACAA workshop. Walter Worthy presents in Bernhard Center, Brown and Gold Room (242).

October 23, 10-11:30 a.m.—FRACAA workshop. Walter Worthy presents in Bernhard Center, Brown and Gold Room (242).

November—Plans are underway for a campus round-table panel discussion on the process of being a federal grant reviewer on proposal submissions.

For information about the round-table discussion and additional presentations planned for November, check the OVPR calendar available on the website.

FACULTY ENGAGED IN EXTERNAL FUNDING AT WMU

OVPR assists faculty across the University in securing external sources of funding for their research programs. With the help of four full-time research officers, faculty receive information on grant seeking and grant development. You are encouraged to establish connections with your research officer for your college or program area.

Currently, over 21% of Western Michigan University faculty are involved in external funding. This number does not include the large number of research projects underway at the University that are not externally supported. However, it does show that a committed body of scholars are engaged in funded research programs.

WMU's goal as a research institution is to increase to 33% the number of faculty who receive support from external funding sources, which aligns with the national benchmark for research institutions.

Direct inquiries and questions to your research officers, or contact Dr. Len Ginsberg for help with external funding support.

OVPR workshops on external funding opportunities and special announcements are posted online, so visit the research homepage regularly.

CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPREURSHIP ESTABLISHED

OVPR and the Haworth College of Business won a grant that establishes a Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Along with the grant activities that will originate at the HCOB, OVPR was allocated funds from this grant to hire an Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR).

Dr. Jay Hoinville (EIR) will manage WMU's portfolio of software IP, with the goal to form a new company based on one of these software inventions.

Hoinville has a doctorate in electrical engineering and currently is the CEO of a small microelectronics company here in Kalamazoo.

He is also an expert in software programming and development, with the technical background to serve the Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization office.

Contact Information

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OVPR Research Officer Constituent Areas

Wil Emmert:: Evaluation Center, CAS (Dean's Office, Math, Statistics, Geosciences, Geography, Physics, Mallinson Institute for Science Education), Environmental Studies, Aviation.

Gina Betcher: CAS (Humanities), CFA, COE, TGC, International Studies, HIGE.

Mary Anne Sydlik: CAS (Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology), LHC, CHHS.

Barb Wygant: CAS (Political Science, Public Administration), CAES, HCOB, Nano Research

A complete list of constituency areas will be posted in September. Check our website: (www.wmich.edu/research).