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INQUIRY

Investigating Research, Outreach, and Education Activities at Western Michigan University

INQUIRY

is published monthly by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Graduate College, for faculty and student researchers and graduate advisers.

OUR MISSION

- promote the alliance of research and education throughout the University
- nurture the development of research skills throughout the University
- encourage students, staff, and faculty to conduct research that will advance knowledge, learning, and discovery at Western Michigan University
- support outreach programs that use research to solve real-life problems throughout the world – in our community, the region, the state, the nation, and beyond

OUR WEBSITES

www.wmich.edu/research/
www.wmich.edu/grad/

THE ART OF GETTING FUNDED How the OVPR Can Work for You

No matter what their level of experience in grantseeking, WMU faculty researchers can count on the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) to offer assistance in all aspects of seeking, applying for, and administering research dollars.

The OVPR consists of three divisions: Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP), Grants and Contracts, and Research Compliance. From their offices in Sangren, Friedmann, and Walwood Halls, research officers and other RSP staff handle all “pre-award” issues, from helping faculty locate funding sources to assisting them in actually applying for the grants. Once a grant has been secured, fiscal analysts in the division of grants and contracts assist researchers with the financial administration and tracking of their grants. Research compliance staff work with faculty during both the “pre-” and “post-award” stages of research administration to ensure adherence to program and government regulations.

Paula Johnson Roberts, WMU’s director of research administration, works to ensure that all three divisions of the OVPR provide faculty researchers the most effective service possible. “My role is to pull together the pre- and post-award sides of research administration to see that they work hand-in-hand to both secure and track grant money for faculty researchers,” she explains. Teamwork among the divisions is vital to this process, stresses Roberts. This is why her vision for research administration at WMU includes cross-training workshops between research officers who help faculty secure grant money and fiscal analysts who assist in the financial administration of the grants. “The grants and contracts side should be able to intelligently answer questions about the research side, and vice-versa,” she explains.

How, specifically, can each division help you? They offer assistance with: 1) locating funding opportunities; 2) applying for the money; 3) ensuring fiscal responsibility once a grant has been awarded; and 4) complying with government regulations throughout the research process.

Each of these steps will be described in subsequent issues of *Inquiry*, starting this month with how to locate funding (please see page 3).



“The OVPR’s three divisions work hand-in-hand to secure and track grant money for faculty researchers.”

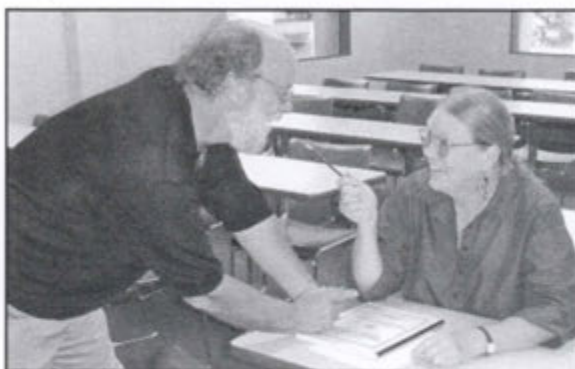
*– Paula Johnson Roberts,
director, research
administration*

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LEARNING THE TRADE

University-wide GA Training Promotes Teaching and Research Excellence



Dr. George Haus, a workshop leader, and Kim Walton, a master's student in geography, discuss what makes a good teacher.

More than 200 of Western's newest graduate assistants gathered at Schneider Hall for three days in late August to participate in The Graduate College's University-wide GA Training Workshops. The workshops oriented the graduate assistants to their new teaching and research responsibilities and offered practical advice on classroom strategies.

Large-group sessions addressed such topics as Research Ethics, Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant Roles and Responsibilities, Qualities of an Effective Teacher, and Academic Honesty.

Teaching assistants broke into small groups, led by professors and veteran graduate assistants, to discuss practical issues such as what to do on the first day of class, how to maintain authority in the classroom, and how to make effective classroom presentations. The small-group sessions also addressed such topics as developing a syllabus, evaluating and grading student work, using WMU's on-line catalog, and fostering undergraduate students' critical awareness in their use of the Internet for research.

Research assistants attended small-group sessions covering research safety, guidelines for human subject research, how to handle and organize research data, how to locate funding, and how to propose grants.

Many participants found the intimacy of the small-group sessions particularly helpful.

"The small-group sessions addressed more specific concerns," says Azita Forouzesh, a Ph.D. student in chemistry. Forouzesh, originally from the Soviet Union, has lived in Kalamazoo for nine months. "We discussed things like what to do on the first day, how the students will behave, how to make presentations. These were all really useful."

"The workshops have helped me get to know all the American students," says Jenny Keller, a first-year Ph.D. student in counselor education. Keller, originally from South Africa, has come to WMU on a Fulbright Scholarship.

"It was very useful to see my peers give mini-presentations [in small-group workshops] and then to hear the suggestions and advice of the other group members," says Anna Liedberg Miron, a master's student in occupational therapy.

For Horace "Gordon" Gurley, a first-year Ph.D. student in biological sciences and a teaching assistant in physiology, "Dr. [Peter] Saunders' talk on paradigm shifts in higher education was particularly interesting. A lot of times, there's too much emphasis on grades. I want a [classroom] situation that's always hands-on, where students can really master what they're doing."



Biljana Bujanovic (left), a Ph.D. student in paper and printing science and engineering, and Anna Liedberg Miron, a master's student in occupational therapy, discuss the benefits of the micro-presentation exercise.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Locating Funding Dollars

Whether you are embarking on a research project or organizing a public service program, a call to your research and program officer is a good first step. Your officer can help you look for funding opportunities and provide a host of other services. A variety of agencies are interested in funding research and programs: the federal, state, and local government; local and national foundations; and corporations.

Your Research Officer

This person often has a very good idea of what types of funding have been announced in the past (and which recur annually) and is on several funding alert lists. If you advise this person of your interests, he or she can monitor and forward alerts to you. A graduate student is often available to undertake Web searches as well; ask your research and program officer.

Online Databases

These subscription databases can be accessed from Internet connections in the wmic.edu domain by starting at the WMU home page and navigating to the "For Research and Scholars" page. Under the "Research Development" heading, you will find "Funding Opportunities," where you can search various databases and peruse well-known internal and external funding possibilities.

Several databases are available to WMU principal investigators, including Illinois Researcher Information Services (IRIS), Community of Science, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, Federal Register, The Foundation Center, and many others. Generally, once inside their Web sites, you can search—sometimes quite precisely—for keywords related to your interests. Most federal agencies have their own Web pages. Often, you can sign up for funding alerts from these systems, which will send you email notices when a Request for Proposals (RFP) is announced.

Your Research and Sponsored Program (RSP) Officers

Dr. Rebecca Josvai, RSP director
2310 Friedmann Hall, 387-2056

Wil Emmert, RSP officer
3210 Sangren Hall, 387-6183

Walter Worthy, RSP officer
300E-H Walwood Hall, 387-8282

Rudy Ziehl, RSP officer
2310 Friedmann Hall, 387-1576

Online Newsletters

Funding newsletters are a good source of timely information about upcoming deadlines and newly announced funds. The OVPR subscribes to several online newsletters, which can also be found on the WMU "Funding Opportunities" page listed above. These include the *Grants Resource Center*, *The Grant Advisor*, and *GrantsNet*.

Reference Books and Journals

Many companies compile data on various foundations, corporations, and government sources of funding in the form of books and periodicals. Reference books, including the *Directory of Grants in the Humanities*, *The Foundation Directory*, and *Foundation Funding Sources* are held in our Friedmann, Sangren, and Walwood offices. Recent grants are often cited in professional and research journals and in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Consider approaching the funding sources you see listed for research similar to yours. **I**

Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Thursday, September 14	"Gifts, Grants or Whatever? Determining How Contributions Should Really Be Counted," Live satellite broadcast, noon–3:30 P.M., Fetzer Center, Room 1010 (Call Jennifer Wendling at 387-8271 to register)
Friday, September 15	Applications due in The Graduate College for Graduate Student Research and Travel Fund awards
Friday, September 15	Doctoral student workshop: "Practical Strategies for Writing a Dissertation," by Dorothy Duff Brown, 10 A.M.–3 P.M., Western Michigan University in Lansing, Room 202H, 6105 West Saint Joseph Highway, Lansing, Michigan (RSVP The Graduate College at 387-3570)
Tuesday, September 19	Thesis and Dissertation Formatting Workshop, 10–11:30 A.M., Bernhard Center (Call 387-3569 to register)
Saturday, September 23	"Effective Grant Seeking: Practical Tips for Graduate Students," workshop by David Bauer, grant seeking consultant, 8:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M., Bernhard Center, Room 242 (RSVP to Pamela Mottley at 387-8298 by September 18)
Wednesday, September 27	Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund informational workshop, 1:30–3 P.M., Bernhard Center Room 242 (Call Walt Worthy, Fund Coordinator, at 387-8272 for more information)
Wednesday–Thursday, September 27–28	Human subjects protection training sessions, 204 Bernhard Center Select one: September 27, 9 A.M.–noon September 28, 9 A.M.–noon September 27, 1–4 P.M. September 28, 1–4 P.M. (Call 387-8293 to reserve a seat)

Office of the Vice President for Research The Graduate College

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