

Office of Research News Briefs

Kennesaw State University



Got STEM?

The Summer of Camps at Kennesaw State University

By Alexandria Rich

While most students were on summer vacation, KSU offered the opportunity for some students to continue their education just a little bit longer. Dr. Charlease Kelly-Jackson, Instructor Susan Collins and Dr. Humayun Zafar each led a summer camp focused in the STEM fields.

Dr. Kelly-Jackson's GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science) program, funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research, focused on increasing 5th grade girls' aware-

ness of STEM related careers and nurturing a lifelong interest in STEM subjects. This program was held at Russell Elementary School in Smyrna.

Instructor Susan Collins from KSU's Paulding campus led the STEM Day Camp at Hiram Elementary School, funded by a grant from the Georgia Power Foundation, awarded to Dr. Anita VanBrackle. The camp ran for two weeks, broken down into one session each week for older and younger elementary school children, grades K-5. While this camp offered

the opportunity for children to engage in STEM related activities, it also offered continued professional development for Paulding County teachers to create a sustainable STEM program in their classrooms.

Dr. Zafar's MAD (Mobile Application Development) Junior program, funded by a Google Tides grant, focused on rising 6th-9th grade students. On the final day of camp, I was able to witness the exciting activities related to Robotics. Students were en-

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Meet *Natasha*

The long search for the Office of Research's new Assistant Director of Preaward Services has finally ended. And it's a happy ending at that.

Natasha Stark is a certified research administrator on the frontlines of research. She began her career in research administration in 1993 with the Ronald E. McNair program at Morehouse College. In 1996 Natasha transitioned to Georgia State University where she served in a variety of administrative roles of increasing responsibility from 1996-2000. In 2000 Natasha took a 2 year hiatus from higher education administration during which she worked for then Governor Roy Barnes as part of the education policy team charged with implementation of HB 1187 – the Governor's signature A+ Education Reform initiative. Following the gubernatorial election of 2002, Natasha returned to Georgia State University as a grants manager in the Department of Criminal Justice. In 2008 Natasha transitioned to Emory University and worked for both the Winship Cancer Institute and the Rollins School of Public Health as a financial and research administrator before being tapped to return to state government as the grants manager for the Georgia Department of Public Health, as well as the program manager for the State of Georgia Preventive Health & Health Services block grant. During Natasha's tenure at DPH she would go on to serve as interim director of the grants office. In 2012 Natasha returned to Georgia State University joining the central OSPA office as

a senior sponsored programs officer.

Now we heartily welcome her to KSU. Natasha will assist Faculty and Staff with proposal and budget development, searching for funding opportunities, developing strategies for getting funded, and will generally promote the growth of the research community at Kennesaw State University. Look for her this Fall!

Need help writing that proposal? Have no idea how to create a budget? Don't know what "Preaward" actually refers to? Natasha is here to help. She can be contacted at nstark3@kennesaw.edu or ext 3365.



Change is Coming to NIH

Big changes are coming to NIH and eRA Commons. In an effort to make PIs' lives easier (take what you can get!), updates are rolling out to change how you put your best foot forward.

The Biosketch.

Soon, you'll be allowed 5 pages to showcase your talent. And instead of just listing your publications, you'll be able to "describe up to five of [your] most significant contributions to science along with the historical background that framed [your] research." Not only will you get to show how your science matters, but how your role came into play. These descriptions can be accompanied by up to four relevant publications. In addition, you can include a link to a full list of your publications - no more picking and choosing. Pilot testing is still in progress and the Office of Research will be sure to send out the word when it's time to update your bio. NIH will also provide resources to assist in your revisions. (NOT-OD-14-091)

The Unicode.

The Commons now supports unicode! This means you can include Greek letters in your reports and attachments. However, your project title will still need to be in English on the applica-

tion forms, as grants.gov is slow to get with the times. (NOT-OD-14-071)

The Title.

The proposal title character limit has been extended from 81 to 200. No more truncation nightmares.

The Resubmission.

With new investigators in mind, NIH changed their resubmission policy as of April 16, 2014. NIH and AHRQ will now accept a proposal as new after an unsuccessful submission and resubmission. Previously, only one resubmission was allowed before PIs had to hit the books and totally revamp an idea. Now, your meritorious research has more than two chances (plus, you won't have to include an introduction and formally address reviewers' comments after the first resubmission). NIH warns that though you can resubmit the same idea several times, PIs should heed the advice of reviewers to strengthen an application. (NOT-OD-14-074)

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gaged and eager to show parents and other guests what they had learned from the skills being taught at camp.

While each camp focused on a different population of students, all were equally engaged and excited to showcase and discuss the skills and/or topics they had learned during the week.

Rules of the Grant Game

By Carolyn Elliott-Farino

Why can't I pay my grant assistant what I budgeted for her?

PIs often ask us this question:

"I included \$xx in my budget to hire someone to work on my grant but HR won't let me pay the new hire that much. Why?" The short answer is that KSU is consistent in its treatment of grant funded and state funded employees. Federal regulations require that "total compensation to individual employees conforms to the established policies of the institution, consistently applied." Some of you may recall the furloughs from a few years ago when we all had to take six unpaid days (it could have been worse – I was at a conference and spoke with a colleague from the Cal system where he had to take 20 furlough days and upper admin had to take up to 28 furlough days!). At that time, grant funded employees also had to take the six unpaid days.

KSU has established job positions with corresponding salary ranges. When a person is hired, the salary is determined by the pay scale for the position, not the source of funds. We advise PIs to work with our office on budgeting grant funded positions to ensure that PI expectations are aligned with University requirements. The Office of Research works closely with HR in processing grant funded positions to make sure that job descriptions accurately reflect the work to be conducted

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and that salaries are commensurate with the job (and the KSU pay scale).

We'd all like to see KSU pay higher salaries, but we can't pay people different amounts for equivalent work just because the funding sources differ.

Carolyn's Corner

By Carolyn Elliott-Farino

Happy New Year!

No, not January 1 – the academic new year, August 18! Our new Assistant Director for Preaward Services (let's call her the Preaward AD for short), Natasha Stark, started in July and has been a tremendous help already. We were shorthanded last year and were not as visible on campus as I would have liked, and we hope to reach out to many more faculty and staff in the coming year and promote grants/contracts/externally funded projects (AKA "grants").

NIH eRA Commons Training Videos

Were you aware that NIH has an eRA training videos page? This is it: http://era.nih.gov/era_training/era_videos.cfm. I know there are lots of great videos on the web (cats, babies, silly things people do, etc.), but watching one of these might be helpful as you navigate NIH's electronic research administration landscape. Topics range from a tutorial to help PI's understand how to access important correspondence related to the receipt and referral of their grant application in eRA Commons to a series that covers the Status module, including how to access the Summary statement and a summary of the review process.

Tell Us Your Story

We would love to showcase your project in the newsletter and on our website. Alexandria Rich, one of OR's Grants Managers, has written a narrative about three of the projects that she manages; it's on the front page. Please let us know if you would like to include an article about your work (yes, you write it). Also, I am on the KSU Magazine Advisory Board and provide input on stories about what our faculty and staff are doing and would love to hear from you for the Magazine, as well.

Finding Funding

Before Research and Service, there was Money

You're not alone in the neverending search for external funding for your project. The best way to get back to your project is to utilize the tools available to you and find what you need faster. The Office of Research has subscriptions to the following websites so you can find the money you need.

Staff Directory

Charles Amlaner
VP for Research
camlaner@kennesaw.edu

Ann Vancza
Executive Assistant for VP for Research
avancza@kennesaw.edu

Jennifer Harb
Administrative Associate
jharb@kennesaw.edu

Carolyn Elliott-Farino
Executive Director, Office of Research
cellio12@kennesaw.edu

Natasha Stark
Assistant Director, Preaward Services
nstar3@kennesaw.edu

Kelly Millsaps
Proposal Submission Coordinator &
SmartGrant POC
kmillsa3@kennesaw.edu

Reynolds Brown
Grants Manager
fbrown19@kennesaw.edu

Dria Rich
Grants Manager
arich20@kennesaw.edu

Shannon West
Director,
KSU Grants & Contracts Accounting
swest34@kennesaw.edu

Candis Lobik Dickson
KSU Project Accounting
clobik@kennesaw.edu

Jane Madani
KSU Project Accounting
jmadani@kennesaw.edu

Anna McCoy
Senior KSURSF Accountant,
Reporting & Compliance
amccoy6@kennesaw.edu

Nikki Roux
KSURSF Accounting, Client Services
nroux@kennesaw.edu

Allyson Hogan
KSURSF Accounting, Accounts Payable
ahall8@kennesaw.edu

Grants Resource Center

GRC has a wealth of resources from monthly emails to proposal development how-to. Just contact Kelly in the Office of Research for the username and password.

- Faculty Alert System – Identify what subjects and activities you're interested in and a bonafide human being will search for the best possible grants and email them to you monthly.
- GrantSearch – Search by Category, Academic Subjects, Activity, Sponsor, Deadline Month, and Text
- Publications
 - Bulletin – Bi-weekly listing of announcements from Grants.gov, the Federal Register, and FedBizOpps.gov
 - Deadlines – Notices of application deadlines 3 months in the future
 - GrantWeek – in-depth articles on everything you need to know about applying for grants
- Resources – Includes Agency Fact Sheets, Funded Proposals, Limited Submissions, and Annual Deadlines

Pivot (Community of Science)

- Search by keyword, location, deadlines, amounts, and much more
- Claim your profile in Pivot to tailor your search and find collaborators. Pivot will automatically find opportunities based on your information.
- Save searches and track specific opportunities - Pivot will email you updates automatically.
- You can contact Cheryl Stiles in the Library for training or ask the Office of Research for help.

Foundation Center

Specializing in Private Foundations, Foundation Directory has the scoop on grant makers that tend to be elusive. While we can't give out the login credentials, the Office of Research is happy to look up information on Foundations for you including:

- Past grants funded
- Types of grants funded
- Board Members
- Tax Filings
- Fields of Interest
- Eligibility Information
- Geographic focus
- Purpose and Activities

Upcoming Deadlines (click on programs to view websites for more info)

NSF ADVANCE (Women in Science and Engineering).....August 11 & 20 (LOI)
U.S. DoEd NIDRR Field-Initiated Projects.....September 2
American Educational Research Association Grants.....September 4
NSF Chemistry Division.....depending on program, Sept 1 - Oct 31
ADA Research, Development & Training Awards.....October 1
U.S. EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Research.....October 7
NSF Mathematical Sciences Division.....October 7-15
NSF Smart and Connected Health.....October 10
NEA Foundation Grants.....October 15
U.S. DoD Mathematical Sciences Program.....October 15
NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE).....October 22 & 24
NIH AREA (R15).....October 25
NSF Physics Division.....depending on program, Oct 22 - Dec 4
NSF Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB).....November 15