MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH
AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

BULLETIN

CREATIVITY • INNOVATION • SERVICE

Hallmarks of excellence in higher education. Keys to success in life. Be a part of it. **Ask how**.

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

Grants Reflect the Diversity of Expertise Across MTSU's Faculty

Ben Stickle

Vickie Harden

Ben Stickle (Criminal Justice Administration) and **Vickie Harden (Social Work)** have received a $166,000 sub-award from Rutherford County for their role in a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice "Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children" program. Stickle and Harden will combine their interdisciplinary expertise to provide program evaluation and resource development for the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center. This grant-funded project is just the latest iteration of partnership and service by MTSU faculty to county and local government.

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Science Foundation: Discovery Research PreK–12 (DRK–12)

Deadline: Nov. 18

nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17584/nsf17584.pdf

The Discovery Research PreK–12 program (DRK–12) seeks to significantly enhance the learning and teaching of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science (STEM) by PreK–12 students and teachers, through research and development of STEM education innovations and approaches. Projects in the DRK–12 program build on fundamental research in STEM education and prior research and development efforts that provide theoretical and empirical justification for proposed projects. Projects should result in research-informed and field-tested outcomes and products that inform teaching and learning. Teachers and students who participate in DRK–12 studies are expected to enhance their understanding and use of STEM content, practices, and skills.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Collaborative Research

Deadline: Dec. 4

neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants

Collaborative Research grants support groups of two or more scholars engaging in significant and sustained research in the humanities. The program seeks to encourage projects in a single field of study, as well as interdisciplinary work, both within the humanities and beyond. Projects that include partnerships with researchers from the natural and social sciences are encouraged, but they must remain firmly rooted in the humanities and must employ humanistic methods. Collaborators may be drawn from a single institution or several institutions across the United States; up to half of the collaborators may be based outside of the U.S. Partnerships among different sorts of institutions are welcome: For example, research universities might partner with teaching colleges, libraries, museums, or independent research institutions.

Eligible projects must propose tangible and sustainable outcomes such as co-authored or multi-authored books; born-digital publications; themed issues of peer-reviewed journals; and open-access digital resources. All project outcomes must be based on and must convey interpretive humanities research. All award recipients are expected to disseminate the results of their work to scholarly audiences and/or general audiences.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Scholarly Editions and Scholarly Translations

Deadline: Dec. 4

neh.gov/grants/research/scholarly-editions-and-translations-grants

The Scholarly Editions and Scholarly Translations program makes awards to organizations to support the preparation of editions and translations of pre-existing texts of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available only in inadequate editions or translations. Textual editing and translation are vital endeavors for the humanities, providing the very foundations for research and teaching. Typically, the texts and documents are significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, but other types of work, such as musical notation, may also be the subject of an edition.

Projects must be undertaken by at least two scholars working collaboratively. These grants support sustained full-time or part-time activities during the periods of performance of one to three years.

National Science Foundation: Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources (IUSE: EHR)

Deadline: Varies depending on track
(December and February)

nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19601/nsf19601.htm

IUSE: EHR also seeks to support projects that have high potential for broader societal impacts, including improved diversity of students and instructors participating in STEM education, professional development for instructors to ensure adoption of new and effective pedagogical techniques that meet the changing needs of students, and projects that promote institutional partnerships for collaborative research and development. IUSE: EHR especially welcomes proposals that will pair well with the efforts of NSF INCLUDES (nsf.gov/news/special_reports/nsfincludes/index.jsp) to develop STEM talent from all sectors and groups in our society.

HERE TO HELP!

For assistance with finding and preparing for funding opportunities, please contact your ORSP pre-award specialist:

Samantha Cantrell
samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu
615-494-8751
Behavioral and Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Jones College of Business, Walker Library, University College, non-academic units

Jolene Gordon
jolene.gordon@mtsu.edu
615-898-5894
Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Education

Cyrille Magne (Psychology) recently landed a $394,000 award from the National Science Foundation to support his research project titled "Biology and Function in Prosody: Integrative Approach to Individual Differences." Magne summarizes the purpose of the research: "Prosody [is the] fluctuations in intonation, stress, and timing . . . an essential but aspect of language. Humans vary in their sensitivity to the prosodic structure of speech, and there appears to be a strong link to individual differences in reading skills. The underlying biology of prosody is poorly understood at the neural and genetic level, despite its important function in humans' communication skills. Innovative combinations of multi-disciplinary approaches for novel data collection in large samples and use of existing large-scale resources are needed to yield significant knowledge of the biology and function of prosody." His grant is part of a collaborative award to both MTSU and Vanderbilt University. The collaboration includes experts in cognitive neuroscience, psycholinguistics, communication disorders, and human genetics.

Greg Reish (Center for Popular Music) continues to successfully compete for external funding to support the center's mission. Reish most recently received $5,850 from the Tennessee Arts Commission to produce an album of old-time middle Tennessee and Cumberland fiddle music featuring artists from Bedford and Cumberland counties. The musicians represent the best of Tennessee's rich fiddling traditions taken up by the next generation who learned the music in their families and communities.

This fall the center also completed a facility upgrade that was funded in part by a $205,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The award allowed for installation of custom-sized compact shelving and new lighting in the archival storage facility. This improvement was essential to ensure continued access by thousands of archive users to the center's rare, unique, and globally important content.

Seockmo Ku *Tony Johnston* *Samuel Haruna* *Iris Gao*

Seockmo Ku, Tony Johnston, Samuel Haruna, and Iris Gao (School of Agriculture) were awarded a $36,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for their research project entitled "Early Detection of Foodborne Pathogens via Crossflow Nano/Microfiltration from Leafy Greens, Soil, and Irrigation Water." Ku is establishing himself as a national expert in methods for rapid detection of pathogens (e.g., salmonella, E. coli, and listeria) in the food streams of humans and livestock. This grant from a state agency is a good example of early funding to support the researcher's growing competitiveness for national-level funding.

Experience the Fall 2019 National Science Foundation Grants Conference online

The plenary sessions of the upcoming National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants Conference in Boston on Nov. 18–19 will be webcast live to the research community.

View the plenary sessions to gain key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF including the state of current funding, proposal preparation and merit review policies and procedures, and pertinent administrative issues.

Please click **here** for more information and to register.

Check out the webcast **agenda** for more information on the sessions that will be covered.

These sessions will be recorded for on-demand viewing once the conference has concluded. Presentations also will be available on the conference website.

If you have any questions about the conference, please send an email to **grants_conference@nsf.gov**.

FULBRIGHT UPDATES

Scholar Directories are now live!

Search **here** to find current Fulbright Visiting Scholars to host for short-term speaking engagements through the **Outreach Lecturing Fund (OLF)**. The OLF travel award is designed to enrich both institutions and Visiting Scholars through lectures that will promote academic disciplines and cultural understanding.

Click **here** to view the archived webinar on how your institution can participate in the OLF program. Don't delay—International Education Week is just around the corner.

View the **Webinar Archive** to learn more about these programs.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The ORSP is developing our campus training schedule for the 2019–20 academic year. Our tentative schedule includes these upcoming workshops:

November: Working with Federal Sponsors, Working with Federal Sponsors, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods Workshop by SAGE Publishing

January: Scholarship and Cybersecurity

February: Working with Tennessee Agencies

March: Entrepreneurship

April: Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization

Summer 2020: Working with Foundations

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Working with Federal Sponsors: Department of Education, National Science Foundation, Department of Agriculture)

Friday, Nov. 22, 1:00–2:00 p.m. | Wiser-Patten Science, Room 102

Expert Panel:
Song Cui, Agriculture

Greg Rushton, Director, Tennessee STEM Education Center

Register Here

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY SAGE PUBLISHING

Please join us Friday, Nov. 22, in Walker Library's Instruction Classroom 264a to learn more about SAGE Research Methods. Refreshments will be served.

10:00–11:30 a.m. Faculty and Librarian Session
Noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch

Registration required at **library.mtsu.edu/sage**

Heather Dray, associate director of library relations and faculty outreach with SAGE Publishing, offers custom training on SAGE Research Methods from a librarian's perspective. Formerly director of library and information resources at American InterContinental University in Atlanta, Dray will demonstrate how SAGE Research Methods supports students, faculty, and library staff in the application of research methods in the social and behavioral sciences.

Faculty and Librarian Session | Friday, Nov. 22, 10:00–11:30 a.m., LIB 264a

Do you work with students who need help designing a research project or understanding various research methods? Have you struggled helping researchers understand how to conduct a literature review? Whether overseeing a student research project, thesis, or dissertation, or preparing your own work for publication or dissemination, SAGE Research Methods (SRM) can help with every step of the research process. Learn more about this online collection of resources designed to support beginning and advanced researchers looking for the best methods to use in their research. In this session, find out more about SRM and its content, including dictionary and encyclopedia entries, book chapters, full books, journal articles, and the complete Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences (Little Green Books) and Qualitative Research Methods series (Little Blue Books)—and how these resources can help you in your teaching and with your research. We hope to see you there!

As a result of this session, you should be able to:
- Explain the purpose and scope of SRM and each of the resource's content types
- Instruct your students and colleagues on how SRM can enhance their research and teaching
- Effectively search across content types and disciplines
- Effectively incorporate content and tools into your classroom and library
- Create reading lists of curated content to share and/or embed in a CMS
- Create custom video clips and embed video in a CMS

Samantha Cantrell, Ph.D., Proposal Development Specialist

As you start drafting a budget for your grant application, keep in mind the following:

- The budget must tell the same story as the proposal narrative. Be sure that your costs mirror what you say will accomplish.

- The best budget is an accurate budget. Accurate means the best estimate necessary to get the job done well and completely. Neither "low-balling" a budget for a supposed competitive advantage nor inflating a budget for unspecified contingencies are winning strategies. Sponsors want to invest in success and are willing to pay the right price.

- Don't commit matching funds unless the sponsor requires them. Unnecessary match can be burdensome for the sponsor as well as MTSU, because those costs must be tracked (and possibly audited) by both parties.

- Most importantly, the pre-award staff is here to help at every step of the process of drafting a budget. Contact **Samantha Cantrell** or **Jolene Gordon** early in the proposal process, and we can do much of the heavy lifting for you!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

Student group holds inaugural Snacks and Abstracts on Nov. 22

The Undergraduate Research Center is pleased to announce the formation of a new student organization comprised of undergraduate researchers who are committed to developing and sustaining an active and successful undergraduate research environment at MTSU. The organization is focused on enhancing a student's research capacity through increased awareness, collaboration, and skill-building.

The group's first event, Snacks and Abstracts, is coming up on Friday, Nov. 22. SOAR students will be crafting their abstract submissions for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, which takes place in Bozeman,

Montana, this coming spring. Heather Dray with SAGE Publishing will be on hand for fine-tuning and feedback to ensure students' abstracts are competitive and ready for submission.

If you have a student interested in joining SOAR, please contact Jamie Burriss at **jamie.burriss@mtsu.edu**.

Fall Undergraduate Research Open House

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Undergraduate Research Center are hosting an open house for incoming freshmen and transfer students and would love for you to join us.

Friday, Nov. 15, 2019, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Science Building, 2nd-floor atrium

What's in it for students?

First of all, **free lunch!** But more importantly, attendees will have an opportunity to talk one-on-one with student researchers and learn about their experiences in mentored research. Students can check out research posters and ask student researchers questions about how they designed their research, selected a faculty mentor, and balanced coursework, extracurriculars, and research.

We hope to see you there!

Questions? Please contact Program Manager Jamie Burriss, **jamie.burriss@mtsu.edu**

STUDENT WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY SAGE PUBLISHING!

Do you have a good research topic, but need a bit of help refining your research question and process? Are you looking for guidance on your research project from beginning to end? If so, SAGE Research Methods (SRM) may be the tool for you.

Join us on **Friday, Nov. 22, at 1:30–3:00pm in LIB 264A** for a workshop focused on how SRM can help outline your research.

In this workshop, discover how to find resources to help you write a more effective research question, conduct a literature review, select your research method, gather, analyze, and write up your research findings, and more.

As a result of this session, you should be able to:

- Confidently navigate SRM and each of the resource's content types

- Find content relevant to your research topic, discipline, and course

- Recognize the value that platform tools such as Reading Lists, Which Stats Test, and Project Planner bring to your research

All students who attend the workshop will be entered into a drawing for a **$50 gift card!**
We hope to see you there!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY.

I AM *true* **BLUE**