

BULLETIN

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

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

New awards to MTSU demonstrate the diversity, depth, and impact of our faculty's scholarship. Several examples:



Racha El Kadiri



Henrique Momm

Racha El Kadiri and Henrique Momm, Geosciences, landed a \$169,000 grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for a research project, "Watershed

Modeling for Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Conservation Practices in Agricultural Watersheds in Tennessee: Pilot Study."

This new project is one of five active grants in Geosciences' geospatial lab, with a total value of \$640,000.



Cynthia Chafin, Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS), received a \$444,000 contract from the Tennessee Department of Health for a service project, "Project Diabetes: Blue Raiders Drink Up," to promote healthy choices

in beverages. This is one of seven active awards in CHHS, which have a total value of \$1,211,000.

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UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding opportunities can be challenging. To help faculty stay informed, MTSU's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) maintains a subscription to the comprehensive funding opportunity search engine, GrantForward. If you have not yet set up a researcher profile for opportunity notifications, please do so at grantforward.com.

Here are several future opportunities that we encourage faculty to consider.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

Deadline: Varies by program area
nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/20190507-fy2019-afri-foundational-and-applied-science-rfa.pdf

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is America's flagship competitive grants program that provides funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension projects in the food and agricultural sciences. In this request for funding, NIFA is inviting applications for six AFRI priority areas through the Foundational and Applied Science Program for FY 2019 and FY 2020. The goal is to invest in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. The global agricultural output needs to be expanded significantly to meet the food needs of the population expected in 2050 by developing innovative, safe, and sustainable management strategies for livestock, crops, and critical underlying resources. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, applications are sought in the following priority areas:

1. Plant health and production and plant products
2. Animal health and production and animal products
3. Food safety, nutrition, and health
4. Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
5. Agriculture systems and technology
6. Agriculture economics and rural communities

NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Deadline: Aug. 27
nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17541/nsf17541.pdf

The National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science (including engineering and computer science) teachers. The program invites creative and innovative proposals that address the critical need for recruiting and preparing highly effective elementary and secondary science and mathematics teachers in high-need local educational agencies.

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Deadline: Aug. 28
nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19582/nsf19582.pdf

The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation. REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program. This solicitation features two mechanisms for support of student research: (1) REU Sites are based on independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of students in research. REU Sites may be based in a single discipline or academic department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme. Proposals with an

international dimension are welcome. (2) REU Supplements may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

NEH: Dialogues on the Experience of War

Deadline: Oct. 15 (including an option for a program officer review of a draft submitted by Sept. 3)

neh.gov/grants/education/dialogues-the-experience-war

This National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) program supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service. "Dialogues" is primarily designed to reach military veterans; however, men and women in active service, military families, and interested members of the public may also participate. The program makes awards of up to \$100,000 to support:

- the convening of at least two sustained discussion programs for no fewer than 15 participants
- the creation of a preparatory program to recruit and train program discussion leaders (NEH Discussion Leaders)

Preparatory training and discussion programs may take place in veterans' centers, at public libraries or cultural centers, on college and university campuses, and at other community venues. The discussion programs should comprise multiple meetings that are long enough to allow participants to engage in deep and inclusive discussion.

NIH: R01 Research Project Grant

Deadline: Oct. 5
grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-056.html

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project Grant supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed project in scientific areas that represent the investigators' specific interests and competencies and that fall within the mission of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). The R01 is the original, and historically the oldest, grant mechanism used by the NIH to support health-related research and development. Research grant applications are assigned to participating ICs based on receipt and referral guidelines, and applications may be assigned to multiple participating ICs with related research interests. Applicants are encouraged to identify a participating IC that supports their area of research via the R01 IC-Specific Scientific Interests and Contact website and to contact scientific/research staff from relevant ICs to inquire about their interest in supporting the proposed research project.

NIH: R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

Deadline: Oct. 5
grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-18-714.html

The objectives of this opportunity are: (1) provide support for meritorious research at undergraduate-focused institutions or institutional components; (2) strengthen the research environment at these institutions/components; and (3) give undergraduate students an opportunity to gain significant biomedical research experience through active involvement in the research. The AREA program will enable qualified scientists to receive support for small-scale research projects. Investigators supported under the AREA program should benefit from the opportunity to conduct independent research; the grantee institution should benefit from a research environment strengthened through AREA grants; and students at recipient institutions should benefit from exposure to and participation in scientific research in the biomedical sciences so that they consider careers in biomedical research. This AREA funding opportunity emphasizes the engagement and inclusion of undergraduates in research.

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

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty Highlights *(Continued from page 1)*



Jenna Gray-Hildebrand, Philosophy and Religious Studies, garnered \$30,000 from the Wabash Center to support her project "Under Pressure: Teaching Critical Religious Studies (Learning Community and Summer Workshop 2019–2020)."

Greg Rushton, Tennessee STEM Education Center (TSEC), won a new grant of \$667,000 from the National Science Foundation for his project entitled "Collaborative Research: A Research Study of Teacher Retention and Network Formation in Noyce Communities of Practice." The TSEC now has five active awards with a total value of \$1,528,000.



Mary Farone, Biology, has two active awards for her continuing research into the intracellular transport of pathogens. The National Institutes of Health provided \$357,000 for her project titled "Trafficking of Two Novel Potential Pathogenic Intranuclear Bacteria in Eukaryotic Cells." A second award from the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture for \$200,000 is supporting a related project, "Role of Protozoan Cysts in Protecting Pathogens of the Fresh Produce Industry."

UPCOMING DEADLINE: Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee proposals are due Monday, Sept. 16. Please visit mtsu.edu/frcac for more information.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is developing our campus training schedule for the 2019–20 academic year. Our tentative schedule includes the following training topics:

September: Grant-writing basics

October: Working with federal sponsors—basic research

November: Building collaborations

January: Scholarship and cybersecurity

February: Working with Tennessee agencies

March: Working with federal sponsors—applied research

April: Intellectual property, technology transfer, and commercialization

Next summer: Working with foundations and entrepreneurship

If there is a specific training or workshop you would like for us to offer, please send your request to Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu.

GRANT WRITING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Succeed in the pursuit of external funds to support your scholarship
- Integrate sponsored programs in your career

To join the D2L class, email Jamie Burriss at Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu

FROM THE DESK OF ...



Jolene Gordon, Pre-Award Specialist

When looking for opportunities and planning a proposal, reviewing information for previous awards can be helpful to decide if it is a fit for your idea and typical award size. Designated program officers for federal programs will usually let you know if your idea fits their program and may provide helpful feedback to prepare a competitive proposal. For some opportunities, communication is more essential than others. For example, substantial communication with a program officer is critical prior to submission for many Department of Defense opportunities if you hope to receive an award.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

URECA SUMMER TEAMS SPOTLIGHT

Each summer, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs funds URECA Summer Teams, a program designed to involve three to six students in intensive, high-quality research or creative projects. Successful applicants describe a well-thought-out approach in which each team member has a defined role, yet benefits from teamwork. The project includes significant faculty participation with a strong mentoring component. This year, the URECA committee funded four Summer Teams.

For the past six weeks, one of our Summer Teams has been hard at work creating a virtual reality tour of the MTSU campus for prospective students, their parents, or other campus visitors. Often referred to as Team O'Neill, undergraduate students Sebastian Bishop, Katherine Carter, Alvin Evans, and Keneshia Smith have committed countless hours to the project under the leadership of faculty mentor Todd O'Neill, an associate professor of Interactive Media. This talented group of students worked together to create the project plan, develop content and programming, and execute a project known as "MTSU VR Campus Tour."



Todd O'Neill, faculty mentor

"MTSU VR Campus Tour" provides viewers with an opportunity to "travel" around campus and learn about the different majors and activities in virtual reality using text, graphics, and video of deans, instructors, and students from those areas. It allows students to take a self-guided tour and explore campus, especially on days or times when a guided tour is not available. Check out the tour at mtsu.vrtour.com.

Team O'Neill and their roles:

Todd O'Neill, faculty mentor

Sebastian Bishop, editor and cinematographer

Kate Carter, interviews, planning, and development

Alvin Evans, engineering and development

Keneshia Smith, editing and design

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (URECA) GRANTS

Do you have a student interested in undergraduate research? The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs administers University funds to directly support mentored undergraduate research through Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grants. Awards range from \$500 for beginners to \$3,500 for experienced researchers.

Please direct any interested students to check out our Prospective Applicants page for more information, or join us for our upcoming URECA Workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 3–4 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Room 220.

Fall URECA applications are due on Thursday, Sept. 5, by 3 p.m.

For more information, visit

mtsu.edu/urc/ureca/ureca_grant_overview.php

SUMMER RESEARCH CELEBRATION

The Summer Research Celebration, hosted by ORSP's Undergraduate Research Center, will take place on Friday, July 26th from 11–1 p.m. in the Science Building atrium, 1st floor. Undergraduate and graduate students from all colleges are invited to present their research to the MTSU community. If you are interested in applying, please visit mtsu.edu/urc/ureca/src.php for more information and to submit an application. The deadline for submission is July 19th by 4:30 p.m.

*Lunch will be provided for presenters.