

Research@CMU

Promoting Scholarship and Creative Work Throughout the University

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News from the Hedge

As August draws to a close, I am rather surprised (and pleased) by a set of circumstances that has brought my wife and me back at CMU after five years at the University of Colorado Denver. I very much look forward to meeting and working with many new faculty and renewing friendships with many others. Frankly, I feel rather like Dorothy returning to Kansas following a bizarre visit to Oz.

After a number of discussions with the ORSP staff, we have decided to launch a brief electronic newsletter, of which this is a first edition. We plan to report on some timely happenings in scholarly and creative activities here (or briefly: "research") and to provide some tips and alerts that we hope will make doing research in all fields as bump-free as we can make it. We hope you will find editions of Research@CMU interesting and useful. As you know, Dr. Ian Davison has returned to his duties as Dean of CST after initiating a number of excellent new internal faculty programs in ORSP. In particular, the Early Career Grants, the New Research Initiative Grants and the Creative and Scholarly Support Grants are already bearing fruit and will be vigorously continued. The new "cohort" or "cluster" model of faculty hiring, which he conceived and launched, is proving exceptionally effective for the first cohort of faculty selected. The ORSP staff and I will do our best to keep all these efforts moving forward to promote the intellectual work of the faculty members at CMU. We are all here, of course, because of our students and next time I will comment on some of the support we offer them and the critical role of the faculty in increasing their engagement in scholarly and creative work. This and all further issues of Research@CMU will be posted on our website.

Jim Hageman

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 24

Faculty Research & Creative Endeavors Applications (FRCE)

Due for Sept. 7 Committee Meeting, Submit to ORSP, Foust 251 by 5:00 p.m.

ORSP Proposal Writer's Reception, by invitation only, in the Bovee University Center

ORSP Issues RFP for its Early Career (EC), New Research Initiative (NRI), and Creative and Scholarly Support (CSS) Awards

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Dr. Sivaram Narayan Shares His Passion for Mathematics Research with Students

Growing up in Madras (now Chennai), India, Dr. Sivaram Narayan always loved math – and he knew from the beginning that he wanted to teach the subject to others. As a professor in CMU's Department of Mathematics since 1988, his strong interest in helping students explore the world of mathematics led to his central role in two significant federally funded, student-centered research efforts at CMU: The LURE (Long-term Undergraduate Research Experience) and REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) projects.

The REU site program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), was established by Dr. Narayan in the summer of 2002. The goal of REU is to stimulate talented undergraduates (mostly from other colleges and universities) to come to CMU and work on challenging, unsolved research problems during the summer. Dr. Narayan is currently wrapping up the last year of a three-year, \$199,952 grant, the third cycle of this program directed by him. The program has openings for 10-12 students per year but annually receives 200-250 applications.

LURE is also an NSF-funded effort, a joint grant with the University of Richmond, and Dr. Narayan serves as co-PI for this effort. This five-year, \$315,854 grant continues through 2012. According to Narayan, LURE operates on an "apprentice model," where CMU students work closely with CMU faculty over the course of two years (both summer and academic year) in mathematics research. The students receive a stipend and other assistance and have the opportunity to interact with stu-

dents from partner universities, as well as attend several conferences during their time in the program.



Dr. Narayan (BS, Madras, MS University of Michigan, Ph.D. Purdue) specializes in operator theory and matrix analysis. He regularly supervises doctoral students as well as working with undergraduates. He publishes regularly in the standard journals in his field, and it is noteworthy that a recent paper "The minimum semi-definite rank of a simple graph" in Linear and Multilinear Algebra lists a number of undergraduate students as co-authors.

Post Award Tip #1

Time to start thinking about filling out your Personnel Transaction Forms for your reassigned time (aka course releases) and for your graduate assistants.

Fill out your forms for the entire year and be done with this important administrative paperwork so you are worry free (about your pay anyway).

Click here to pull up the forms:

http://www.fps.cmich.edu/forms/s_employment_personnel.asp

CMU's Facilities & Administrative Costs (F&A, "Overhead" or Indirect Cost) Policy

As of July 1, 2011, CMU has a new F&A (indirect cost) rate agreement negotiated with the Department of Health and Human Services. The new rate agreement increases our federally allowable indirect cost rate from 41.5% MTDC to 43% MTDC. This rate agreement is effective for the time period July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014. Please note for purposes of planning grant budgets and activities that Federal auditors will require us to use this rate on all sponsored projects unless the granting agency has a written policy capping its F&A rate at a number below 43%, in which case CMU will accept that lower rate.



CMU's distribution of F&A funds, which are INDEXED to the indirect F&A returns, remains the same: 55% to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to re-invest in research and creative activities, 45% to the respective college or equivalent administrative unit.

Bear in mind that no actual money remains in CMU's accounts after grant and contract work is done as even the maximum allowable F&A rate does not cover all the costs of carrying out research and programmatic activities.