



OFFICE OF GRANT RESOURCES

# All About Grants

*Together we can achieve the extraordinary*

Volume II, Issue I

August 2008

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## Fall Research Seminars October 13-17, 2008

Monday Oct. 13	One-on-One Meetings with Dr. Billiot	Wednesday Oct. 15	Thursday Oct. 16	Friday Oct. 17
<i>Tips on Successful Grant Writing—The Obvious and Not-So Obvious</i> <b>Dr. Eugene Billiot,</b> TAMU-CC 9-10:15 a.m. WHTC-103	2-3:15 p.m. WHTC-126  <b>SPIN</b> 2-3:15 p.m. PH-219	<b>Guest Speaker Dr. Juan F. Arratia*</b> <i>Model Institutions for Excellence (MIE) Best Practices, Proposal Writing &amp; Implementation</i> 10-11:15 a.m. WHTC-116	<b>NSF CAREER Proposal Writing Dr. Tongdan Jin</b> 9-10:15 a.m. Bullock Hall-113  <b>IRB Procedures Dr. David Beck</b> 10:30-11:45 a.m. Bullock Hall-113	<i>Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Committee (IACUC) Procedures</i> <b>Dr. Thomas C. Vaughan</b> 9-10:15 a.m. WHTC-125
<i>One-on-One Meetings with Dr. Billiot</i> 10:30-11:45 a.m. WHTC-126	<i>Pre-Award Process &amp; Proposal Development</i> 9-10:15 a.m. Bullock Hall-113	<i>One-on-One Meetings with Dr. Arratia</i> 1:30-3:30 p.m. WHTC-126	<i>Grant Writing for Success</i> <b>Dr. Harold I. Perl Dr. Michael A. Sesma,</b> <b>National Institutes of Health</b> 1:30-4:00 p.m. WHTC-104	<i>IRB Procedures</i> <b>Dr. David Beck</b> 10:30-11:45 a.m. WHTC-125
<b>SPIN</b> 10:30-11:45 p.m. PH-211	<b>SPIN</b> 1:30-2:45 p.m. PH-219			

\*See page 2 for more details about Dr. Arratia and Dr. Billiot, the guest speakers for the week.

## Budget, Payroll, Grants and Contracts Seminar Schedule

The seminars below are for all principal investigators, program directors and their staff who need to understand the TAMIU protocol for working with budgets.

**For more information call the office at 326-2323.**

Tuesday, Oct. 14	Wednesday, Oct. 15	Thursday, Oct. 16
<i>Grant Post-Award Seminar</i> 9-10:30 a.m. Student Center 230 & 2-3:30 p.m. Student Center 230	<i>Grant Post-Award Seminar</i> 10:30-noon Student Center 230	<i>Grant Post-Award Seminar</i> 10:30-noon Student Center 230

## Dr. Juan F. Arratia



Dr. Juan F. Arratia, international lecturer, will be on campus **Wednesday, October 15, 2008**, for our Fall Research Seminars to speak with all interested faculty and students about how to acquire funding for research. Dr. Arratia is the director and principal investigator of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Model Institutions for Excellence (MIE) at the Universidad Metropolitana in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in electrical engineering from the Universidad Técnica del Estado in 1973, his Master of Science Degree in engineering from Louisiana Tech University in 1979 and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Washington University in 1979. He is dedicated to helping all students pursue their educational and occupational dreams to the fullest.

Dr. Arratia's work toward that end was honored in 2007 when he received the distinguished Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. Arratia has established a worldwide network of research mentors for economically disadvantaged minority students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields that includes university students from the U.S., Mexico and 19 other countries.

Sign up for Dr. Arratia's seminar and/or a one-on-one meeting with him by using the online registration at: <http://www.tamtu.edu/gradschool/grant/seminarform.cfm>

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## Dr. Eugene Billiot



Dr. Eugene Billiot is an assistant professor of analytical and environmental chemistry at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Dr. Billiot will be our guest speaker on **Monday, October 13, 2008**, for our Fall Research Seminars to share

his experience and expertise with proposal writing successes and failures. Dr. Billiot inspires collaboration in others and will provide us with helpful tips from all that he has learned in his 10 years of proposal writing.

Dr. Billiot currently teaches general chemistry, qualitative and instrumental analysis and advanced environmental chemistry. One of his current research interests involves "examining the effect of environmental hormone mimics

(a.k.a. endocrine disruptors) on the marine ecosystem." In 2006, Dr. Billiot was one of 20 awardees for the very prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). Dr. Billiot earned his Bachelor of Science in chemistry at Nicholls State University and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Louisiana State University.

Through links on Dr. Billiot's Website, you can view his proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation. He has both awarded and denied proposals available along with the reviewer comments he received at:

<http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~fbilliot/>

Sign up for Dr. Billiot's seminar and/or a one-on-one meeting with him by using the online registration at: <http://www.tamtu.edu/gradschool/grant/seminarform.cfm> or call our office at 326-

## University Research Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the faculty members receiving University Research Grants for 2008-2009. A total of \$184,174.82 in course-releases, summer stipends, equipment, funding for travel and research assistant salaries was awarded to the following 24 faculty members. The OGR staff looks forward to assisting these faculty members and all others applying for external sponsored research grants in the coming year.

Dr. David Beck	Dr. Nereu F. Kock	Dr. Claudia San Miguel
Dr. Neela A. Emanuel	Dr. John Kilburn	Dr. Kyung-Shin Park
Dr. Christopher Ferguson	Dr. Tongdan Jin	Dr. Jerry Thompson
Dr. Cecilia Garza	Dr. Sukho Lee	Dr. Judith A. Warner
Dr. Robert W. Haynes	Dr. Runchang Lin	Dr. Haibo Wang
Dr. Roberto R. Heredia	Dr. Hari D. Mandal	Dr. Fuming Wu
Dr. Juan H. Hinojosa	Dr. Neal C. McReynolds	Dr. Marcus Ynalvez
Dr. Eugenio Jaramillo	Dr. Qingwen Ni	Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

### Dr. Richard D. Hartley



The first 2007-2008 University Research Grant (URG) awardee to receive an externally sponsored award was Dr. Richard D. Hartley who received a one-year award of \$33,499 from the American Statistical Association (ASA) in November of 2007. His research project was entitled "Inter-district Variation in Receipt of Substantial Assistance Departures: Reintroducing Unwarranted Disparity into the Federal Sentencing System." His study explored "federal sentencing data on offenders convicted of narcotics offenses" and examined "whether inter-district variation exists in the factors that influence a defendant receiving a substantial assistance departure, as well as the magnitude of sentence discount given by the judge as a result of the departure." The goal of this research was to "gauge whether unwarranted disparity (that due to extra-legal factors like race, ethnicity, gender and age) is still present under

the Federal guidelines sentencing system."

During his year of gathering data and utilizing logistic and OLS regression analysis, Dr. Hartley discovered that prosecutorial decisions regarding substantial assistance motions and judicial decisions regarding magnitude of sentence discounts are affected by both legally relevant and legally irrelevant factors. Further, these factors are of differing influence depending on the district in which the case was disposed. In a nutshell, the findings of the research reveal that "the unwarranted disparity the guidelines were designed to eliminate may be being reintroduced through departures decisions, and because of localized discretion at the district level." Dr. Hartley will present the findings of his research to the American Statistical Association and the Bureau of Justice Statistics in Washington, DC in October.

Dr. Hartley is currently a faculty member in the College of Public Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

## Office of Grant Resources Annual Report 2006-2007

The majority of the support received has been provided by the federal government, accounting for 92% of the total award dollars. Federal funding increased 12% over last fiscal year.

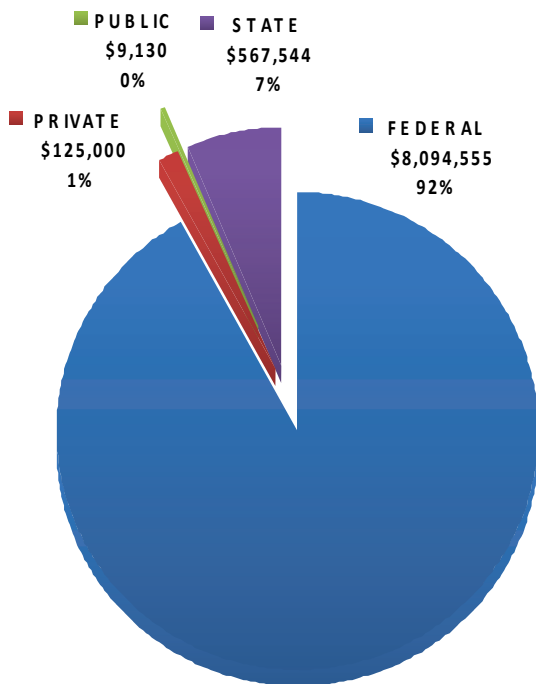
The major portion of FY 2006-2007 federal funding is divided among seven agencies: U.S. Department of Education, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The University's largest sponsor is the U. S. Department of Education, which provided over \$5 million in funding.

As in the past, the majority of this year's awards supported academic program activities, which represents 85% of the total funds received. For FY 2006-2007, there was a notable increase in funds for research and research-related activities representing 10% of the total funds received.

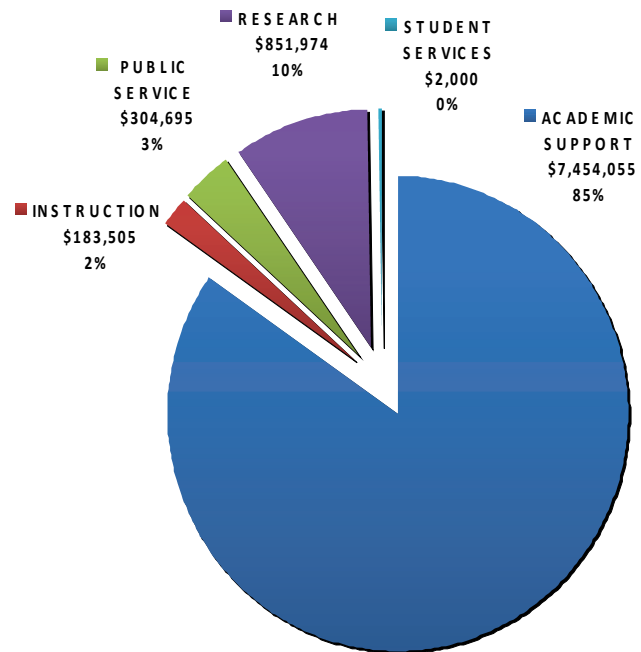
### SUMMARY DATA

Proposals Submitted.....	62
Funds Requested.....	\$27,014,687
New Awards.....	\$8,796,229
Continuation Awards.....	\$3,171,104
Faculty Submitting Proposals.....	43
Faculty Receiving Awards.....	18
Number of Applications Awarded.....	30
Number of Applications Pending.....	26

**Awards by Source**



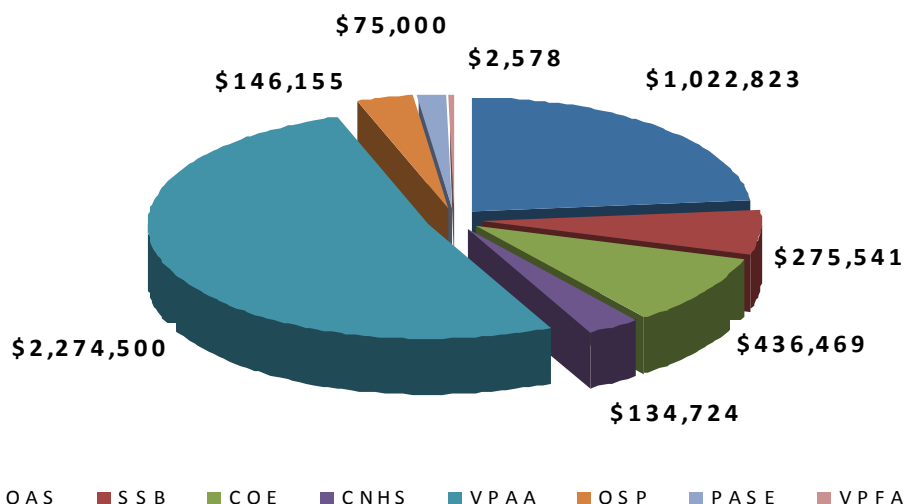
**Awards by Purpose**



## Grant Awards Received September 2007-July 2008

### NIH Research Proposal Hints

New Awards (Sept. 2007 - July 2008)



The OGR is proud to announce that as of July 2008, TAMIU has received 33 awards totaling \$4,377,790, which includes dollar amounts from both annual and multi-year awards. These awards promote research, education and service projects for the colleges and offices listed above.

- Prepare your proposal early.
- Convey your confidence and enthusiasm for the project.
- Know the literature and issues, questions, and controversies in your area.
- Place your work in perspective. Cite others.
- Make your priorities clear.
- Provide a timeline.
- Be focused.
- Discuss potential problems and pitfalls.
- Describe alternate strategies.
- Carefully consider your funding needs.
- Use a clear and concise writing style.
- Proofread!
- Critique your own proposal and have others read your final draft.

### Proposals Submitted September 2007-July 2008

As of July 2008, 75 grant applications have been submitted through the Office of Grant Resources this academic year. Below are departments and offices that have completed submissions for a total of \$25,923,521 in funds requested.

Unit	# of Submissions	Funds Requested
College of Arts & Sciences (COAS)	47	\$19,716,465
A. R. Sanchez Jr. School of Business (SSB)	6	\$1,177,439
College of Education (COE)	7	\$719,579
College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS)	4	\$2,663,331
Office of Special Programs (OSP)	5	\$547,158
Other	6	\$1,099,549
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>\$25,923,521</b>

## TAMIU Faculty Receive Research Funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)



**Dr. Qingwen Ni**

Dr. Qingwen Ni, associate professor in the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences has been awarded an NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant in the amount of \$99,210 over the next 3 years. The Co-PIs on this project, all from the same department, are Drs. Fuming

Wu, Rohitha Goonatilake, Runchang Lin and Tongdan Jin. They will be collaborating with Dr. Eugenio Jaramillo, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Daniel Nicolella of the Southwest Research Institute and other professors at various universities.

Dr. Ni describes one of his project objectives as developing “a non-destructive and non-invasive technique to assess bone quality by quantifying the distribution of water (bound and mobile water) within bone tissue, porosity, and pore size distribution in cortical bone *in vitro*” Another is to “establish a low-field NMR laboratory at TAMIU, located in the Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.” The instrument to be purchased with this funding is a proton 7.5 MHz low-field benchtop nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) system.



**Dr. Jaelyn Jeffrey**

**Dr. Jaelyn L. Jeffrey**, associate professor in the Department of Social Sciences, was selected as one of 19 participants in the NEH Summer Institute entitled Regional Study and the Liberal Arts: Appalachia Up-Close. This 4-week course had participants analyzing the Ap-

palachian culture and its influence on our national culture especially in the areas of liberal arts.

One of Dr. Jeffrey’s hopes was to “gain ideas for ways to help our students to bridge the cultural gap that exists between border culture and mainstream American culture.” During the Summer Institute, she developed a deeper understanding of her own students’ needs.

“One of the things I came to realize was that student confidence cannot be boosted merely by pointing out the virtues of their distinct culture. Students need to see their region and their own experience in it in real terms, politically and economically as well as culturally.

The best way to do that is by comparative study with others that have been at it longer—Appalachians, Basques, Piedmont Italians, etc. When students begin to see that their experiences are similar to those of other students around the world, they join a worldwide community that is much larger and stronger than just their own.”



**Ms. Lola Orellano Norris**

**Ms. Lola Orellano Norris**, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Language and Literature, was awarded \$4,365 from the University of Houston’s Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project directed by Dr. Nicolás Kanellos.

“This research project is part of my doctoral dissertation which will include the identification, location, transcription, English translation and linguistic analysis of (General Alonso) de León’s expedition diaries (1686-1690). The manuscripts are held in different archives in Spain, México and the United States and this grant will support my travel and research.” Norris is currently locating the documents at the respective archives and transcribing them paleographically as part of her research on this project. One of the sponsors for the Heritage project is the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Links to Funding Opportunities

### 2008 Research Funding Opportunities List from the Office of Proposal Development (OPD) Texas A&M University, Division of Research & Graduate Studies

Hotlink to SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE: [MikeCronan@tamu.edu](mailto:MikeCronan@tamu.edu).

New research funding opportunities are posted to the *OPD-Web* daily and clustered by week (<http://opd.tamu.edu/funding-opportunities/new-funding-opportunities.html>).

PowerPoint slides and related research development resource materials from all OPD grant writing seminars are posted for download at (<http://opd.tamu.edu/seminar-materials/seminar-materials-by-date>).

OPD's *Spring Semester 2008 Compilation of Research Grant Writing Resources* is posted at (<http://opd.tamu.edu/proposal-resources>).

The Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University hosts a site with updated information on funding opportunities in the humanities at (<http://glasscock.tamu.edu/index.html>). Also on the same site is a link to current events of the Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University (<http://glasscockcenter.blogspot.com/>).



### SPIN (Sponsored Program Information Network)

SPIN is a internet portal now available to all TAMIU faculty and staff. Within the portal/system, individual faculty members can create a profile of their various research interests. Once your profile is created, the system will cull through all of the various federal and private grant funding announcements, and send you only those that apply to the research interests from your profile. You can also let the system know how frequently you would like to receive said notifications (e.g., as they become active, daily or weekly).

Additionally, faculty members can search for other faculty members (who are also part of the SPIN network) with similar research interests. This is a wonderful way to identify potential collaborators! Please consider attending one of the SPIN sessions (see front page for details) where we will walk you through all of the steps involved in creating your individual profile. —Dr. Jeffrey Brown

### Finding Funding Opportunities with SPIN

1. Log on to [www.infoed.org](http://www.infoed.org).
2. Click on "SPIN" (Upper right corner)
3. Go to "Quick Search" and type a word or phrase into the textbox
4. Click on the "Search" button
5. Select the program(s) you are interested in
6. Click on "Build" (bottom of the page) to see program details
7. To begin a new search, click twice on your "back" arrow.

### Resources for Writing a Successful Research Grant Application

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/grantwriting.htm>

<http://www.theresearchassistant.com/tutorial/index.asp>

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04016/start.htm>

<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/extra/extdocs/apprep.htm>



**Office of Grant Resources**  
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From left to right: Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; Dr. Julio F. Madrigal holding the Largest Sponsored Program and Most Submissions Award; Dr. Christopher Ferguson holding the Most Sponsored Research Submissions Award for Junior Faculty; Ms. Cristina Hernandez, OGR director, holding the Most Persistent and Dedicated Grant Writer Award; Ms. Anne Frey, OGR Associate Director; Dr. Kenneth Tobin holding the Most Sponsored Research Submissions Award for Tenured Faculty; Ms. Linda Garay, OGR Support Assistant; not pictured are Dr. Daniel Mott who received the Largest Sponsored Research Award for Tenured Faculty and Dr. Joshua Stevenson who received the Largest Sponsored Research Award for Junior Faculty.

Right: faculty, staff and guests enjoy the beautiful evening together in the garden at Casa Ortiz.



Left: Dr. Dan Jones (on right) enjoys some relaxing conversation with Dr. Alberto Salinas (facing forward) and Dr. and Mrs. Julio F. Madrigal.

Right: Dr. Ray Keck greets the crowd.



Left: Drs. Haibo Wang and Fuming Wu enjoy the presentation.

