Greetings All:

At last, break time will soon be here. I hope that you all get some much deserved rest.

The next newsletter will be some time in February. In this letter, I repeat some old items of interest and add a few new ones, and I wanted to draw your attention to a couple of things:

One, is the item dealing with expertise databases. As these grow more and more popular they are also getting more critical towards career advancement and making connections. So I encourage you to sign-up if you have not done so already.

Next, I will soon be announcing two “workshops” dealing with funding. One will be by Perry King some time in the Spring and dealing with NIH opportunities. The other will also be in the Spring in the area of development and fund acquisition from nonfederal sources.

Finally, the Dean’s office has had some staff changes. Amanda Leader is no longer with us, and Sherry Hight will be leaving after 12/19. We have a temporary replacement receptionist/secretary and her name is Heather Steele at hrsteele@purdue.edu, 494-6542. Please contact her if you are looking for me, Sidney Moon or others on the 6th floor. Also be sure to let me know if your inquiries to my office have gone unanswered as some may have gotten a little lost with all the changes.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gilger, PhD

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

ENHANCED UNDERGRADUATE NANOTECHNOLOGY EDUCATION WITH HAPTIC AND VISUALIZATION TOOLS

This is a two year project with Gary Bertoline (PI), Deborah Bennett (EDST), Ronald Reifenberger (PHYS), and Hong Tan (ECE).

This study is uses a technology called haptics, where students can actually know how it “feels” when atoms bump into one another. Haptics uses a device like joysticks to feel forces that move over them. The device then feeds the information into a computer program and the computer feeds the sensation back to the user—thus, the person feels as if he or she has actually touched the object. This device can be used in a variety of classroom settings.

In fact, some prior studies have shown that using haptic technology in the classroom increases learning retention. Many people appear to learn better when they can touch and feel what they are learning, and not just read about it.

This project is funded through the National Science Foundation. For more information, please contact Gary Bertoline at bertoline@purdue.edu.

Questions, comments or items for this newsletter? Please contact Sherry Hight at shight@purdue.edu
ASSOCIATE DEAN'S OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

For a complete listing of faculty support initiatives through my office see the August-September issue of this newsletter on my web site or contact me at jgilger@purdue.edu

Some Reminders of Past Items That Are Still Relevant...

Outstanding Service Awards
To recognize faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College of Education for outstanding service during the past year. Nominations are due to the Associate Dean’s Office by February 13, 2009

Dean’s Award for Outstanding Scholarship
To recognize a College of Education faculty member for his/her exceptional scholarly contributions. Nominations are due Associate Dean’s Office by February 13, 2009

Dean’s Doctoral Scholarship
For an outstanding doctoral student in the College of Education who is currently involved in completing dissertation research. Nominations are due to the Associate Dean’s Office by February 13, 2009

Earl B. Notestine Award for Excellence in Academic Services
For administrative/professional staff in Academic Services who have provided outstanding contributions to student services. Nominations are due to the Associate Dean’s Office by February 13, 2009

Communications
I encourage you to see the C&I Monday Memos at this archive here, the ITaP Faculty Focus electronic newsletter here and its IDC Tips and Techniques newsletter available here. These documents are a good way to see what others are doing and keep you up-to-date with COE and tech developments.

Midwest ATE Spring 2009 Conference
April 3, 2009 at the Best Western in Lafayette. For more information, email Sherry Hight (shight@purdue.edu). She can forward the information to you.

2009 AERA April 13-17, 2009 San Diego
We are starting to compile a list of faculty and students who will be attending this meeting. If you will attend, please let my office know by simply sending an email to Sherry Hight at shight@purdue.edu and tell her your plans. This will also help us plan for our COE reception at the conference.

2009 AERA Division C Graduate Student Seminar
This seminar will be held on April 12, 2009 from 2:30-10 p.m., and April 13 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. just prior to the AERA Annual Meeting in San Diego. Students interested in participating should submit the following as email attachments to Bob Hoffuman (bhoffman@mail.ucf.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, 2008: (1) cover letter explaining why you are interested in the seminar and naming you top three preferences for mentors, (2) a vita, (3) 500 word statement describing prospective dissertation work, and (4) letter of recommendation from your advisor, major professor or dissertation chair sent directly to the Seminar chair.

Science Foundation has recently announced changes to their Grants Proposal Guide (GPG) effective January 5, 2009. Please see the memo here.

Please take note of the journals now edited by COE faculty! Go the links below for more information. Thanks to the editors for their good (and hard) work and helping to advance scholarship in the COE and its colleagues across campus. See http://www.education.purdue.edu/news/journals.html

Or, the specific journals of: Career and Technical Education Research; Education and Culture; The Journal of the John Dewey Society; First Opinions, Second Reactions; Interdisciplinary Journal of Problem-based Learning; Journal of Science Teacher Education
Some New Items...

Faculty/Personnel Data Bases.
There are several databases you might want to be in. If you are not part of these databases but wish to be, or if your information needs updating, please contact Sherry Hight (shight@purdue.edu). These dbs can be very helpful for you to get updates, grant info, make collegial connections and get called upon by people that need your expertise. Three databases that you should definitely be part of are: the PU Expertise Database, the Community of Science (COS) Expertise Database, and the Indiana University Database of Research Expertise.

COE Strategic Plan.
Tiger Teams have been meeting to develop white papers. When completed, the white papers will be posted on the strategic planning web site for public comment. Please see this web site for more information.

The COE International Committee.
Is exploring international involvement among faculty and staff in the College. Please see the Faculty International Activities Survey at the URL below. It probably will take you only 1-2 minutes to fill it out. http://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8H3ZFFQTWNAMYVS&SVID


PRF Grant Awards. We have had some questions regarding the call for proposals. At this time there has not been a PRF RFA. But keep your eyes open. The application process will be simpler this year, and we are hopeful to have our PRF allotment clarified soon.

CONGRATULATIONS...
To all of you that have recently received research awards. There will be no listing of awards this month. But please look for updates after the holiday break.

Rural Issues
Thanks to all of you that attended or otherwise supported the call-out for Research, Education and Engagement as Applied to Rural Communities.

Thanks also to Perry Kirkham, Project Coordinator, Research Development Services, OVPR, who helped organize this meeting.

It was a great turnout and stay tuned for more information. Please let others know who you feel may be interested in this topic.

If you need further information, please contact Perry directly at the address or phone number below.

Perry M. Kirkham, PhD.
Phone: 765-496-3645
E-mail: pkirkham@purdue.edu

Also see Marilyn Hirth (EDST) at mahirth@purdue.edu

And the STEM Goes Rural web site: www.purdue.edu/stemgoesrural
From an Earlier Email:

Dear Faculty: If you have an interest in this RFA, please let me know so we can coordinate work in our college as only a limited of proposals can go forward. I will be speaking with some people about what teams are already active.

Best,

Jeff

The National Science Foundation has released this year’s solicitation for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT), which “has been developed to meet the challenges of educating U.S. Ph.D. scientists and engineers who will pursue careers in research and education, with the interdisciplinary backgrounds, deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, and technical, professional, and personal skills to become, in their own careers, leaders and creative agents for change. The program is intended to catalyze a cultural change in graduate education, for students, faculty, and institutions, by establishing innovative new models for graduate education and training in a fertile environment for collaborative research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. It is also intended to facilitate diversity in student participation and preparation, and to contribute to a world-class, broadly inclusive, and globally engaged science and engineering workforce.”


For this competition, Purdue may submit four preliminary proposals, either as a single institution or lead institution in a multi-institutional proposal.

Internal deadlines are as follows:
Monday, January 5: Letters of Intent due to the OVPR.
Monday, January 26: Preproposals due to the OVPR.
Thursday, January 29: Preproposal rankings due to the OVPR.

Please note: Letters of intent, preproposals, and rankings to the OVPR should be e-mailed to OVPRlimited@purdue.edu. Purdue’s limited submission policy and template for letters of intent may be found at http://dagon.admin.purdue.edu/cgi-bin/lssid.cgi. For any case in which the number of internal letters of intent received is no more than the number of proposals allowed by the sponsor, the OVPR will notify the PI that an internal preproposal will be unnecessary.

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**Data Update on Same-Sex Classes**

According to a new study, preschool boys perform better on tests that measure learning and other important skills when they are in classes that have more girls than boys. The pattern doesn’t seem to hold for girls, though. For preschool girls, the presence or absence of boys did not affect learning.

The study raises questions about having all-boy or all-girl classes for preschool, says psychologist Arlen Moller, of Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, who led the study. Other studies have shown that high-school girls may perform better in all-girl schools. In middle school, however, the effects of same-sex schooling are unclear, and even less is known for very young kids.

To find out, researchers studied 70 preschool classes including a total of 806 children who were between 3 1/2 and 6 years old. For each class, teachers recorded student progress over a 6.5-month school year.

Their data included teacher scores of motor skills, social skills and thinking skills. The researchers found that boys developed each of these skills more quickly when there were more girls in the class than boys.

In majority-girl classrooms, boys developed at the same rate as girls. But in classes where boys were the majority, boys developed more slowly than girls. Girls tended to advance in classrooms with any combination of boys and girls.

The study is one of the first to look at how the proportion of boys and girls in a class affects learning. Because it’s a new finding, though, researchers can’t say why this difference exists.

"This is an exciting topic, but it is too early to draw any conclusions because this area is so underexplored," says psychologist Lena Malofeeva of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, Mich.

From Science News By Jennifer Cutraro;
My Daughter Wants a Pony Too!

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, on the twins' birthday their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

"Why are you crying?" the father asked.

"Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken." answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked.

To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

Have a Good Holiday Break!!