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*Office of Graduate Studies & Research*

# Newsletter

*Fall 2017*

# Albaugh Lands NSF Grant as First-Time PI



Dr. Brittany Albaugh, assistant professor of chemistry in Eastern Michigan University's (EMU) College of Arts and Sciences, is pioneering innovative research in epigenetics, the study of the different factors that regulate genes. Developing an initial interest in epigenetics and cancer research from working on her PhD at University of Wisconsin Madison, Albaugh has brought her research interests and talents to EMU and is improving instruction and research for undergraduates with support from the National Science Foundation.

Albaugh studies epigenetics with her students at a "biochemical" level in the research lab. She works with students to complete experiments with epigenetic proteins that interact with genetic material. These same proteins can be implicated in cancer development, when in abundance the proteins can prevent genetic function that helps to prevent cancer. Albaugh and her students are currently analyzing the relationships between these proteins and other epigenetic

proteins. By performing analysis of protein function and structure, she hopes to gain more knowledge and ultimately determine cancer treatment that can target these proteins.

Albaugh explained, "The research being carried out has an important impact on my discipline. Epigenetics is an exciting science frontier and there is so much that we do not understand. The more knowledge that we can attain, the greater potential we can use the knowledge to improve human health and disease."

Instrumental in Albaugh's research were the opportunities to pursue her scholarship and the resources to support her grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. Graduate Studies and Research and the EMU Chemistry Department have provided Albaugh with opportunities to pursue research within her lab. Albaugh explained that the offices were instrumental in the success of her project, from providing internal grants and funds for lab research with students, to travel money for students to present their work at conferences, and to instructional release time so she could dedicate more of her time to experiments and training students in the lab.

When it came time for Albaugh to apply for a federal grant, she relied heavily on the guidance of the Office of Research Development and Administration. She was able to attend grant writing workshops and received support to help apply for

her first grant as a lead PI. With the support of her various EMU resources, Albaugh was able to generate preliminary data from her research and to prepare a strong grant proposal for securing funding from the National Science Foundation. Albaugh's project, *Collaborative Research: Molecular and Structural Mechanism of Histone Binding by the Epigenetic Regulator UHRF2*, was awarded in the amount of \$359,776. Albaugh's award was made under the NSF Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and provides significant support for the participation of undergraduate students in her research.

Albaugh reflected on her decision to come to EMU, explaining that the university's mission perfectly balances its value for research with its value for teaching. She has had the opportunity to work with students in both the classroom and one-on-one in the biochemistry lab, an opportunity Albaugh understands is extremely important to students. Because of Albaugh's ongoing research in epigenetics, she has been able to provide real, meaningful experiments in the lab with her classes, an experience that she believes can allow students to apply their book knowledge in a hands-on wet-lab. This hands-on experience Albaugh recommends to any student as they become interested in science and continue to investigate the different research opportunities available to them at EMU.

# New Grant-Writers Drive Increased Activity

As the push to increase support for research and grant writing continues, Eastern Michigan University (EMU) faculty have responded in a big way. The Office of Research Development and Administration (ORDA) recorded a 17 percent increase in proposal submissions in FY2017. In addition, FY2017 saw almost a million dollars in growth for awards, climbing from \$9.4 million in 2016 to \$10.2 million. First-time proposal writers and new faculty are a driving force in EMU's surge in proposals. In 2017, 13 faculty received their first grant award and 34 were first-time proposal writers.

Part of this success can be attributed to EMU's goal to increase research and attract external funding to improve student education, specifically in the graduate programs. As part of the strategic initiative, in FY2014 the university directed funding to ORDA for establishing wraparound support for faculty. Research compliance and technology transfer were added as well. "This support helps engage faculty and increase the grant-writing pipeline, which is a critical component to increasing grant activity," says ORDA director, Caryn Charter. This one-stop shop for faculty-focused service delivers research development opportunities, pre-award proposal support, and post-award financial management services.

ORDA's Culture of Research Excellence (CoRE) Fellowship program provides faculty with the necessary time and access to expertise and knowledge helpful to preparing competitive proposals. This program is co-sponsored by the college Deans' offices and partially responsible for increased activity. CoRE Cohort I submitted 16 proposals alone in FY2017.

Moving ahead to FY2018, EMU is on its way to significantly increasing sponsored research activity. With continued support for faculty researchers, EMU's vision of achieving sustainable growth in external research funding will be a hallmark of the university.

## Office of Research Compliance launches new submission system for IRB review

On August 21, the EMU Human Subjects Review Committee (UHSRC) rolled out Cayuse IRB, a new online submission and document management system. Cayuse IRB allows for smart applications, making the application process more straightforward. The Office of Research Compliance is hosting in-person training sessions for Cayuse IRB. The training schedule and additional user information for Cayuse IRB can be found on the UHSRC website: <http://www.emich.edu/research/compliance/human-subjects>. Contact Sonia Chawla at [schawlaw@emich.edu](mailto:schawlaw@emich.edu) or 734-487-3090 for more information.

# Graduate School Produces Award-Winning Programs

Eastern Michigan University's (EMU) graduate programs have been no stranger to success amongst highly-rated yearly rankings from educational review organizations. In the first half of 2017, EMU's Occupational Therapy, Clinical Research Administration and Taxation master's programs were ranked as some of the best in the country. In addition, the university's online business and education programs both made large jumps in the U.S. News and World Report ranking of the nation's best graduate programs. With continued support by dedicated faculty, staff, and administration, EMU continues to pave the way for innovative and renowned graduate study programs in the U.S.

U.S. News and World Report, the gold standard of academic rankings in the U.S., awarded EMU a top ranking to the Occupational Therapy master's program. The Occupational Therapy program tied for 52nd in the rankings, and only one other Michigan program ranked as highly. EMU's Occupational Therapy master's program focuses on education practitioners through occupation-based and education-based practice. The program aims to not only meet the needs of individuals, organizations, and society through occupational therapy, but also advance the profession and the industry of practice.

"Our ability to maintain this emphasis and be successful is due to our dedicated and talented faculty, our hard-working students and a supportive academic environment, plus engaged alumni and the many supporters of the program," said Professor Jayne Yaczak, program director.

U.S. News and World Report also took notice to the great gains the College of Business and College of Education have made in their online graduate degree programs. The programs were ranked on a variety of factors, including student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation and faculty credentials and training. The online Integrated Marketing Communications master's programs was ranked 66th in the nation, a 100-spot gain from its last ranking in 2014. In addition, the College of Education's online master's programs climbed 48 spots since 2015, for a ranking of 113.

Dean of the College of Education, Micheal Saylor, noted, "high-quality, engaging online master's programs offer working teachers and administrators a cost- and time-efficient opportunity to further advance their careers and professionalize their skills without the need to travel to campus."

The College of Business also took home a first-place ranking according to the Value Colleges guide for the master's in Taxation degree. The ranking was based on proof of success in placing

graduates in careers and offering a meaningful return on investment for traditional and nontraditional students. Value Colleges explained that the master's in Taxation is exceptionally important today as challenges with tax codes brought on by changes in the global marketplace require tax accountants to have a more comprehensive and specialized knowledge in economics.

In addition, the Clinical Research Administration master's program also pulled in a number one spot when ranked by the prominent website, Healthcare Management Degree Guide. EMU ranked among the best of 25 universities in the nation, and was the only one awarded from the state of Michigan. The ranking was derived from expertise and involvement in the field, career training and curricular relevance, accessibility to students, and application of knowledge.

Dean Murali Nair, College of Health and Human Services, said, "I would like to thank the Clinical Research Administration faculty for their unwavering commitment to the program's success."

EMU's graduate programs continue to prove themselves as some of the best in the country thanks to the commitment of the university's talented and hard-working constituents. Congratulations to those programs that were awarded!

# If at First You Don't Succeed...

Securing funding for research is a very competitive enterprise and persistence is required to be successful. For example, in 2016, only 17.5% of research projects submitted to the National Institutes of Health (averaged over all institutes) were funded. Among first submissions, only 12% were funded, but among second (i.e., revised) submissions the success rate was 31%. The take-home message is that if you want to get funded, you will probably have to “try again”.

Reading the reviews of your unfunded proposal can be very unpleasant. It is normal to feel annoyed, angry, and fed up. Go ahead and let those emotions run their course, remember that you are not alone (88% of people who submitted a new grant are in the same boat), and then read the reviews again in a more objective light. Then, come visit ORDA to get advice on what is needed to successfully revise your proposal. We can help you decide whether or not to revise and resubmit, or if a new approach (and new application) are called for. We can also help arrange mock reviews, quality circles, or third-party expert review.

## Quantitative Research - Growing Support at EMU

EMU has included support for high quality research as a theme in its current strategic plan with an objective to increase research to attract external funding and improve student education. With that said, the university recognizes the need to systematically address staffing and infrastructure costs of scholarship. This, of course, will entail making investments and prioritizing resources.

We have heard from a number of faculty members that additional support is needed for quantitative research design and analysis, as well as data storage needs. The Office of Research Development and Administration is supporting the following activities in an effort to identify, support, and advocate for the needs of faculty researchers:

1. Establishing the Research Design and Analysis Support Committee (RDASC)
2. Establishing a Quantitative Researchers Networking Group
3. Supporting Faculty Associates who are available to consult with faculty, and provide workshops on research design, analysis, and presentation of results
4. Supporting the development and presentation of quantitative research-related workshops

### ORDA Faculty Associates - Research Methods

**Kathy Chu, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Mathematics  
487-1661  
orda\_stats@emich.edu

**Grigoris Argeros, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Sociology  
487-0012  
orda\_stats@emich.edu

# Tomas Impacts Lives at EMU Through Classroom Pedagogy Research

Dr. Zuzana Tomas, Associate Professor in English as a Second Language (ESL)/ Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in the College of Arts and Sciences' department of World Languages, is dedicated to improving education for English language learners (ELL) through her research, instruction, and service. Tomas teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in ESL and TESOL. In areas of TESOL and ESL, her research and scholarly activities include curriculum and pedagogy, the teaching of writing, and academic service-learning that supports community-based ESL.

With a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. Tomas, along with Co-Investigators Professors Shawn Quilter (College of Education), and William Tucker (English Language & Literature), and project manager, Sarah Lorenz (EMU Writing Project) are implementing Writing Research Intervention in Teaching English Language Learners (WRITELL): Using Teacher Inquiry Communities to Support ELL's Opinion Writing Through the Use of Writing Strategies and Scaffolding. This project will provide professional development that supports the teaching of argumentative writing with English language learners and increase the number of certified TESOL teachers in the state of Michigan. The research component will analyze the impact of professional development on

improving the writing outcomes of English Language Learners. Tomas noted that writing has been significantly less researched than reading for English learners' and looks forward to uncovering new information through quantitative analysis, led by Co-Investigator Quilter, within the research collaboration.

Outside of her dedication to teaching, Tomas's research interests focus on two main topics: the teaching of research referencing to second language writers and the impact of professional development on K-12 teachers and their English learners' writing outcomes. Tomas notes that she is proud of the research she is able to work on because of its positive correlation to combating stereotypes surrounding immigrants.

In addition, Tomas explains that her research surrounding research referencing for second language writers would not be possible without internal support from EMU through a Faculty Research Fellowship (FRF). The FRF allowed her to devote more time to scholarship by decreasing her academic teaching. Tomas aims to improve writing instructors' understand of the complexities that surround academic source use and pedagogical ways to address these issues for individuals whose native language is not English, particularly many of EMU's own international students.



Tomas is excited about professional development opportunities through the EMU Writing Center and International Student Resource Center for tutors and ESL instructors. She will examine the instructor and tutor use of the developed materials and understand their method of implementation and rate of success or failure when working to improve student writing.

It is clear that the team's passion and perseverance, combined with expertise and scholarly activity, will affect students' lives through improved teaching, pedagogy, and curriculum.

# Internal Research Awards for Faculty

## **James H. Brickley Endowment for Professional Development and Innovation**

*Submission of proposal July 1, 2017 - October 2, 2017 by 5p.m. EST*

Tony and Lois Evans have recently graciously donated an additional \$20,000 of funding for the James H. Brickley Awards Program. We anticipate making 15-20 awards at approximately \$1000/award.

## **Provost's Research Support Award**

*Deadline for submission: 20th of each month, July 2017 to March 2018.*

The Provost's Research Support Award supports up to \$4,000 in SS&M needs and is intended to encourage and support the research, creative, artistic, and scholarly endeavors of EMU faculty. This award requires a match from the applicant's department/school. This year we are supporting two types of Awards.

**Standard Award:** This award requires a one-to-one match.

**Grant Proposal Writer's Award:** For applicants who have submitted at least one proposal for externally sponsored scholarly/creative activity within the past three years, this award requires a one-fourth match from the applicant's department/school.

## **Summer Research/ Creative Activity Award**

*Submission of proposal: October 31, 2017*

The Summer Research/Creative Activity Award (SRA) is intended to encourage and support the research, creative, artistic, and scholarly endeavors of full-time tenured or tenure-track EMU faculty during the summer months (May-August) by providing stipends of \$12,000 for outstanding proposals in lieu of summer teaching assignments.

## **Faculty Research Fellowship**

*Submission of proposal: January 31, 2018*

The Faculty Research Fellowship is intended to encourage and support the research, creative, artistic, and scholarly endeavors of full-time tenured or tenure-track EMU faculty by providing released-time awards (fall and winter semesters) for outstanding proposals. Cash of up to \$3,000 can be requested as part of an award to cover supplies, services and materials (SS&M) and travel expenses related to the release.

## **Sabbatical Leaves**

*Submission of proposal: January 31, 2018*

Sabbatical leaves are granted for special study, research, and/or other projects that will enhance the usefulness of the person to the institution, perform service on the local, state, national, or international level, and/or bring prestige to the University.

## **CoRE**

*Submission of proposal: October 9, 2017*

The CORE program assists faculty in the development of high-quality proposals by providing protected time and access to expertise. Your research project should have a clear research idea with relevance for a program within a specific directorate (NSF) or institute (NIH) or other funding source.

# Graduate Student Support

Graduate students are encouraged to seek support for both writing and research statistics.

For writing support, students can contact the **University Writing Center**. The center has designated staff to support graduate students in any facet of the graduate program.

*Find them online at: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc/>*

For **research statistics support**, **Matthew Dick** provides graduate students with research and instrument design, instrument validation, sample selection and sampling methods, data collection, data analysis, results interpretation and display.

*Contact him at: 200 Boone, 734-487-0042.*

## Student Research Support Funds

### GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND

*Deadline for submission by 20th of each month, July 2017 to June 2018.*

The Graduate Student Research Support Fund provides small grants of up to \$750 to graduate students to support dissertation or thesis research.

### Graduate Student Travel Assistance Awards

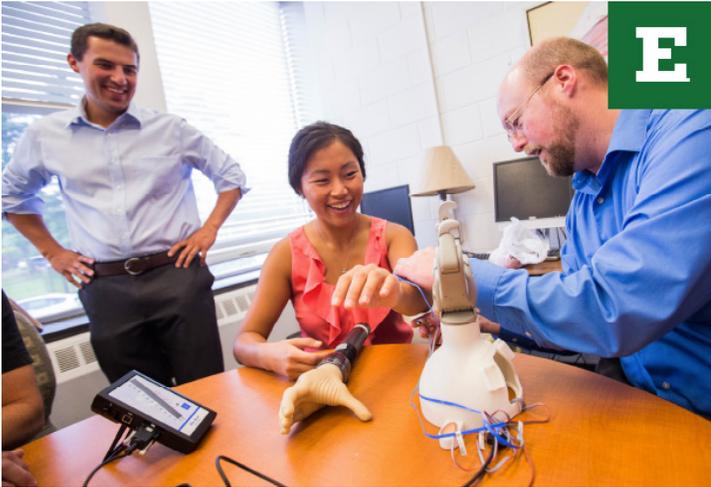
*One award only will be made during each fiscal year (July 1-June 30) to any graduate student.*

Graduate Student Travel Assistance is available for graduate students in good standing whose research or creative project has been accepted for presentation at a professional meeting. Requests are considered up to a maximum of \$400 and must be supported with a dollar-for-dollar match from department and/or college funds.

### Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program

*Deadline for submission is November 2, 2017 for winter semester and February 15, 2018 for summer semester.*

The Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program (URSP) is intended to facilitate research partnerships between undergraduate students and Eastern Michigan University faculty. Successful student applicants will receive a \$2,000 fellowship in support of their research efforts. The collaborating faculty member may receive \$500, which can be used for lab/studio supplies or equipment, professional travel, or other professional expenses.



## NEED FUNDING FOR YOUR GOOD IDEA?

Apply for a 2017  
Women in Philanthropy  
at EMU Grant by October 9!

EMU faculty, students, staff and alumni are eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 for research or project support.

[emioh.edu/wip-emu](http://emioh.edu/wip-emu)



That's true

Congratulations to 53 EMU graduate students who were awarded \$234,085 in scholarship funding for the 2017-2018 academic year!

The next deadline, for 2018-2019 scholarships, is June 15, 2018!

Visit [http://www.emich.edu/graduate/financial\\_assistance/scholarships/graduate\\_scholarships.php](http://www.emich.edu/graduate/financial_assistance/scholarships/graduate_scholarships.php) for more information!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

### Graduate School

Facebook: AEMUGradSchool

Twitter: @EMUGradSchool

### Research & Development

Facebook: @emuord

Twitter: @EMUORD

### Technology Transfer

Facebook: @EMUTechnology-Transfer

## Michigan Drone Conference

October 24, 2017

8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.

EMU Student Center Ballroom

[www.facebook.com/DroneMI/](http://www.facebook.com/DroneMI/)



Eastern Michigan University Office of Technology Transfer is inviting businesses, organizations, academia, and individuals to participate in the Michigan drone event on October 24, 2017. Connect with your next partner and showcase or exhibit your research or innovative contribution to the UAV/UAS drone community!

# Upcoming Events Fall 2017

Please check our website or the ORDA Weekly update during the semester for up-to-date times and locations for the following events:

## **Grants Resource Center Webinar: National Institutes of Health, Finding Success with NIH AREA (R15) Grants**

*Thursday, August 24 (2:00-3:30pm); Faculty Development Collaboratory, Halle Library, 109B*

Please join us to watch an informative webinar hosted by the Grants Resource Center and presented by NIH program officers.

## **Grants Resource Center Webinar: National Institutes of Health, Finding Success with an NIH R01**

*Thursday, September 21. (2:00-3:30pm); Faculty Development Collaboratory, Halle Library, 109B*

Please join us to watch an informative webinar hosted by the Grants Resource Center and presented by NIH program officers.

## **Science of Motivation Applied to Writing**

*Tuesday, September 26 OR Wednesday, September 27 (12:30-1:30pm); 200 Boone*

Writing is an integral part of academic life, but it is common to procrastinate, resulting in looming deadlines and guilt over incomplete projects. Learn how to apply the science of motivation to your writing, increase productivity and reduce stress!

## **Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program**

*Dates and Locations TBD*

Proposal writing workshops for faculty or faculty-student teams will be held across campus

## **Finding Funding Workshop**

*Tuesday, October 10 OR Wednesday October 11 (12:30-1:30pm); 202 Halle Library*

This workshop provides a brief overview of the “whys” and “how-tos” of identifying appropriate funding sources for research. We will also present information regarding some of the services provided by ORDA. A demonstration of a variety of resources, including the various search engines that ORDA subscribes to, will be performed.

## **New Faculty Research Orientation and Luncheon**

*Friday, October 13 (11:30am-2:00pm); Lake House*

ORDA welcomes new faculty to the EMU campus with information on services we provide for research and creative activity, panel discussions on starting your scholarly activity program and lunch. RSVP to Jennifer Glass, [jglass5@emich.edu](mailto:jglass5@emich.edu)

## **Applying to the National Endowment for the Humanities Brownbag**

*Tuesday, October 24 OR Wednesday, October 25 (12:30-1:30pm); Location TBD*

Join ORDA Pre-Award Officer Christine Kropelnycky and recent NEH awardees for an informal and informative session targeted to faculty who are thinking of applying to NEH. Bring your lunch and your questions!

## **Spin/Smarts/Foundation Directory Workshop**

*Tuesday, October 31 OR Wednesday, November 1 (12:30-1:30pm); G07C Halle Library*

This workshop is held in a computer lab so you can get hands on experience searching several helpful directories of funding sources. Learn how to sign up for alerts so you never miss a good funding opportunity! This is a great follow-up to the Finding Funding Workshop held in October.

## **Applying to the Health Resources and Services Administration Brownbag**

*Tuesday, November 14 (12:30-1:30pm); Location TBD*

Targeted to faculty interested in applying for HRSA funding, join ORDA Pre-Award Officer Donelle Goerlitz and HRSA awardees for an informal and informative discussion. Bring your lunch and your questions!

## **How to Build a Budget Brownbag**

*Tuesday, December 5 OR Wednesday, December 6 (12:30-1:30pm); Location TBD*

This brownbag is for faculty who are considering a funding opportunity and are not sure what can be done with the budget allowed by that opportunity. Join ORDA Pre-Award Officers Christine Kropelnycky and Susan Campbell for an informal and informative session where basic budget items and considerations will be discussed. Bring your lunch and your questions!