From the Dean

According to a recent study, the number of master’s degrees awarded in the United States has increased by 43% over the past decade. Most of the growth has been in professional master’s degree programs that “combine advanced discipline-specific course work with work-place skills such as communications, critical thinking, time management, and analytical ability that are highly valued by employers in business, government, and non-profit organizations.”

Based on these findings, we might want to explore redesigning some of our graduate programs in order to meet the needs of prospective graduate students. I will be discussing the possibility of developing new or revamping current graduate programs with the academic deans in the next few months.

Meanwhile, as a way of supporting and encouraging marketing and recruiting efforts within departments, the Graduate Office is offering to pay for designing and printing graduate program marketing/recruiting materials (brochures, fliers, fact cards, etc.). Several departments have already worked with me and Printing Services to design new promotional materials. If you need new promotional materials, please contact me at gbleeker@emporia.edu or call me at extension 5403; I will be happy to help facilitate the process. We all need to work together to recruit more high quality students into our graduate programs.

Thanks
Gary Bleeker

Proposals due for Faculty Research & Creativity Committee

Grant proposals for the ESU Faculty Research and Creativity Committee must be submitted to the Research and Grants Center by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 3. This grant program is intended to facilitate research, scholarly and artistic productivity by faculty, and provides seed money for projects that have potential for external funding.

Proposals must be signed by the department chair and school/college dean to be considered. Late proposals will not be accepted. The original and 11 copies should be hand delivered to Plumb Hall 313F.

The 2009-10 program guidelines are available at www.emporia.edu/research/creativity.htm. The following links are intended to serve as resource tools for those who may be considering submitting a proposal.

http://www.emporia.edu/research/FRCCgrantawards.htm contains a list of grants previously awarded by the committee.

www.emporia.edu/research/documents/FAQs.pdf - contains a list of frequently asked questions about the grant program.

You are encouraged to contact a member of the Faculty Research and Creativity Committee if you have questions. A list of members appears below.

In This Issue

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- Proposals Due for Faculty Research & Creativity Committee grant program
- Proposal and Grant Activity
- Financial Assistance Programs
- Faculty Receive Proposal Incentive Awards
- Utilizing Human Subjects in Research
- Harold Durst Graduate Research Award
- Important Dates and Deadlines

2009-2010 Faculty Research & Creativity Committee

John Barnett – Social Sciences
Gary Bleeker, Dean, Graduate Studies
Michael Dennis – Communication and Theatre
Mirah Dow - SLIM
Dipak Ghosh – Accounting and Information Systems
*Emily Graves – EC/ETE
Monica Kjellman-Chapin – Art
Pam MacDonald - PARM
Joella Mehrhof – HPER
Qiang Shi – Math/Computer Science/Economics
Tanja Steigner – Business Administration and Education

* FRCC Chair

Financial Assistance Programs

The Research and Grants Center and the office of Graduate Studies offer the following financial assistance programs for faculty and students pursuing research or other scholarly activity. Additional information on these programs is available at [http://www.emporia.edu/research/facstusupport.htm](http://www.emporia.edu/research/facstusupport.htm).

**Faculty travel assistance program** – for faculty presenting papers at out-of-state professional meetings or for other eligible activities. A maximum of $300 for domestic travel or $600 for international travel will be funded. The complete guidelines and application form are available at [www.emporia.edu/research/travel.htm](http://www.emporia.edu/research/travel.htm).

**Financial assistance for scholarly exhibition and page charges** - Partial support is provided for ESU faculty for purposes of exhibiting creative works, performances, and for publication of scholarly work requiring page charges. The complete guidelines and application form are available at [www.emporia.edu/research/pagecharges.htm](http://www.emporia.edu/research/pagecharges.htm).

**Student research grants** - support individual or collaborative research. Grants will only pay for operating expenses. Grants will not pay for thesis binding or salary stipends. To be eligible, the research must be submitted for publication in a state or national journal, or submitted for presentation at a state, regional or national conference. Undergraduate students may include conference travel in this application. The guidelines and application form are available at [www.emporia.edu/research/documents/studentresearchgrants.doc](http://www.emporia.edu/research/documents/studentresearchgrants.doc).

**Graduate student travel assistance** – support is provided for graduate degree-seeking students presenting/participating at professional meetings or conferences. Maximum funding for in-state travel is $150, $300 for out-of-state travel, and $500 for international travel. Complete guidelines and application form are available at [www.emporia.edu/grad/docs/travapp2.pdf](http://www.emporia.edu/grad/docs/travapp2.pdf).

Faculty receive proposal incentive awards

Beginning in July 2009, faculty who submit external competitive grant proposals are eligible to receive a financial incentive award for their efforts. Eligibility guidelines and information on stipend amounts are available at [http://www.emporia.edu/research/Incentiveprogram.htm](http://www.emporia.edu/research/Incentiveprogram.htm). The following faculty members are eligible to receive an incentive stipend for the period July – October.

$1,250 to Alexis Downs and Peggy Lane, Accounting and Information Systems, “Community VITA Grant,” Internal Revenue Service.
$500 to David Edds, Biological Sciences, “Impacts of Land Conversion on Fish Communities in Paraguay’s Interior Atlantic Forest,” National Geographic Society.

Please join us in congratulating the above faculty members.
**Utilizing Human Subjects in Research**

Emporia State University’s Institutional Review Board for Treatment of Human Subjects, more commonly known as IRB, is responsible for assuring that university policies relative to human subject research are followed. This includes research conducted by students, faculty, or staff. The IRB is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all experimentation involving humans as subjects to insure that the rights and welfare of the subjects are protected, as well as to safeguard the interests of the investigators or individuals conducting the research. The jurisdiction of the IRB includes all experimental activities involving the rights and welfare of human subjects at the university and elsewhere, when carried out by faculty, staff, or students of the university. Faculty and staff under whose direction students may conduct human subject research are responsible for insuring that students are in compliance with the university’s policies and procedures for such research.

The investigator must determine if the human subjects used in the research project or related activity (or research or related activity being conducted under their supervision) will be placed at risk. If so, then even if the risks are minimal, the researcher must demonstrate that the potential benefits of the research will outweigh any risks involved. When such can be shown and is approved by the Institutional Review Board, the principal investigator can conduct the research activity so long as appropriate consideration is given to the following three items:

- subjects must be adequately informed concerning the nature of their participation and must freely give their consent;
- appropriate procedures must be developed to care for possible emergencies that might arise; and,
- provisions must be made for assuring the participants' rights to privacy.

The guidelines for research and related activities involving human subjects are available at [www.emporia.edu/research/irb.htm](http://www.emporia.edu/research/irb.htm). If in doubt as to whether your research requires IRB approval, the guidelines may provide sufficient information. Please refer to the sections entitled Determination of the Need for Review and Determination of “Subject at Risk”. If you have questions, you may contact the Research and Grants Center or a member of the IRB. The members of the Institutional Review Board are:

- Pam Abel, Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative, USD #253, Emporia
- Gary Bleeker, Dean, Graduate Studies
- Mike Butler, Health, Physical Education and Recreation
- Scott Crupper, Biological Sciences
- Robyn Long, IRB Chair, Department of Psychology, Art Therapy, Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
- Gary Wyatt, Sociology, Anthropology, and Crime & Delinquency Studies

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**Graduate student receives Durst Graduate Research Award**

Alan Butler, graduate student from Dubuque, Iowa, was recently awarded the Harold Durst Graduate Research Award for 2009-2010. Mr. Butler is currently working on his master’s degree in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Biology through ESU’s Department of Biological Sciences. Mr. Butler will be honored at ESU’s 2010 Research and Creativity Forum on April 7.

This award was created by Dr. Harold Durst to provide financial support for creative activities and research by graduate students. Dr. Durst was Dean of Graduate Studies and Research from 1974 to 1985. He passed away August 26, 1986.

Mr. Miller will receive a cash stipend of $1,200.

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**Important Dates and Deadlines**

- **November 23** – First thesis copy with departmental signatures due in Graduate office for students graduating in Dec. 2009
- **December 3** – Proposals due for Faculty Research and Creativity grant program (see page 1)

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**GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH STAFF**

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