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MONDAY MEMO

From the Office of the Vice President for Research

MONDAY MEMO

From the Office of the Vice President for Research

August 27, 2001

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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good morning! This is the inaugural issue of a new, periodic bulletin intended to alert campus researchers to key developments on- and off-campus that may have a significant effect on the research enterprise. We will be brief and cogent, pointing to sources of more detailed information as much as possible. Our goal is to improve the flow of research-related information. If there is a question or topic that you feel has general interest, please email mdempsey@notes.cc.sunysb.edu and we will endeavor to publish the response -- from a campus expert on the subject -- in this forum as appropriate to disseminate important information widely. We acknowledge the excellent model offered by a similar communication that circulates at Brookhaven Lab.

As I am sure you are well aware, our biggest administrative challenge this year (although not the only one) has been the implementation of an online Oracle business system in place of the RF mainframe system statewide, known as Project OASIS. University-based research is unique -- it is really thousands of small enterprises, each of which must have books that balance perfectly. Transferring all of the financial information on this multiplicity of enterprises over to the new system, which ultimately promises greater flexibility and accessibility, has been a challenge to Oracle, to the central office and to us. While reports to PIs are not yet what we are used to, they have developed to the point where they can be made accessible to investigators (see below for information on Oracle training). As bugs continue to be worked out -- they now affect primarily the accuracy of account balances -- we are working closely with individual PIs who may need additional information, for example, as their grants approach the termination date.

APPOINTMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

In case you have been away from campus, you should be aware that Stony Brook is sending two of its own to join the Federal policy establishment

in Washington.

On June 25 President Bush announced his intention to nominate Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering and Brookhaven National Laboratory Director John H. Marburger, who served the University for 14 years as President, to the position of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. In that position, he would serve as the President's science adviser and would direct the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. A lengthy clearance process applies to candidacy for membership in the executive branch and a position requiring Senate confirmation. Formal action on the prospective nomination is expected in the early fall. The Board of Directors of Brookhaven Science Associates announced on June 29 that two of its members, Provost Robert McGrath and William Madia of Battelle Memorial Institute, together with Dr. Marburger, would begin to plan for the foreseeable transition and formulate a search process for a new Director. Professor of Physics Peter Paul has agreed to postpone his return to the campus and remain as Deputy Director of the Laboratory as long as necessary during the transition.

On July 23, Professor Grover J. Whitehurst, Chair of the Department of Psychology was sworn in by U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige as Assistant Secretary of Education for Educational Research and Improvement. Secretary Paige commented, "Russ Whitehurst brings a wealth of experience to our research and improvement office, a part of our department that President Bush has singled out as being essential to our goal of creating a system of schools that leaves no child behind," Paige said. "His leadership will be invaluable as we seek to produce quality research on teaching and learning and share it with educators and the public." In his new position, Dr. Whitehurst will serve as Director of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, which provides essential support for the improvement of American education by building knowledge about teaching and learning, including the programs of the National Center for Educational Statistics, and by helping to stimulate improvements in education policy and practice. Professor Whitehurst is a nationally-recognized authority on early childhood education, particularly language acquisition and language disorders, emergent literacy and prevention of reading difficulties.

We wish both Drs. Whitehurst and Marburger happy and productive tours of duty in the Bush administration!

#### EVENTS AND AWARDS

New Faculty Reception. If you are a faculty member new to Stony Brook, please join us on Wednesday, October 24, from 12 to 2p.m., to meet the Vice President of Research, the Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Stony Brook Foundation, and the directors of the offices reporting to the Vice President for Research. These offices manage key functions of sponsored research support, from the initiation of the proposal through to the final expenditure on the award, as well as the disclosure or licensing of inventions and fostering of industry collaboration and new enterprise development. If you plan to pursue sponsored research activity, particularly if it may involve human or animal subjects, we especially urge you to attend and meet the folks who will be facilitating your endeavors. A light lunch will be served. For more information please call Kris Duryea at 2-9347 or email [kduryea@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:kduryea@notes.cc.sunysb.edu). A flyer with more complete information will be distributed shortly.

Thermal Spray. On August 8 and 9, the Center for Thermal Spray Research

brought 130 materials researchers [from around the country] to the campus for a symposium on innovative uses and applications of Thermal Spray processing, 'Linking Research to Practice.' The event also provided an opportunity for further communication among industrial users, suppliers and the research community.

The Center for Thermal Spray Research is a National Science Foundation Materials Research Science and Engineering Center. Stony Brook is the only university in the nation with two MRSECs.

Mathematics. On June 14-21, the Department of Mathematics and the Institute for Mathematical Sciences held a major international conference on 'Graphs and Patterns in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics' in celebration of the 60th birthday of Distinguished Professor Dennis Sullivan, a member of the National Academy and recipient of the King Faisal Prize. Former department chair James Simons contributed his home for one of the conference's festive events.

Brookhaven. Many friends from Stony Brook joined with Brookhaven Laboratory colleagues on July 26 to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Lab director Maurice Goldhaber, who held a faculty appointment in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

FY 2001 Research Foundation Expenditures. The changeover to the Research Foundation's new OASIS management information system has complicated the effort to determine the volume of sponsored project expenditures by the campus during the Fiscal Year which ended on June 30, 2001. Preliminary data indicate that the campus' expenditures during FY 2001 were: Direct \$92.16 Million, Indirect \$26.39 Million for a total of \$118.56 Million. We are continuing to obtain new information and hope to have definitive figures early in the fall.

#### RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

CORIHS Cleaves As of September, 2001, in order to better accommodate the needs of clinical investigators and others performing research involving human subjects, CORIHS, the campus' Institutional Review Board (IRB), will divide into two distinct committees, CORIHS A and CORIHS B, each with its own deadline and meeting schedule. This will make it possible to hold IRB meetings on a twice-monthly cycle.

For further information, please consult  
<http://www.research.sunysb.edu/humans/corihs2001.pdf>

Web-based Training in Human Subject Protections As of September 3, SBU faculty, staff, and students who conduct research involving human subjects, either directly or via use of human tissues or data, will be able to satisfy SBU's requirement for training in human subjects protections by completing the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Program, administered through the University of Miami.

The adoption of this Training Program and its adaptation to the SUNY campuses was overseen by a group of SUNY Compliance Officers -- the Campus/Central Human Subjects Forum -- convened by Carol Berdar, the Research Foundation's Compliance Manager. Stony Brook's Judy Matuk, Associate Director for Research Compliance, is the campus designee for the University on the Forum and represented the Forum at a national meeting of the CITI Developers in Chicago. Judy also adapted the training program to the broad needs of the Stony Brook campus.

The Office of the Vice President for Research will continue to offer its popular lecture series that has been in place since September 2000 as an alternative means to satisfy SBU's human subjects protection training requirement. (Please note that the limited Web curriculum on this subject that was put in place by the National Institutes of Health last year does not fulfill this requirement.)

For further information, please consult the Web page of the Office of Research Compliance at:  
<http://www.research.sunysb.edu/rescomp/>

#### HOW TO -- ORACLE TRAINING

The Office of the Vice President for Research has developed a two-part training program for Principal Investigators and their Staffs. Part 1 deals with: PTAOE - features and potential benefits , getting HELP with OASIS, SECURITY in OASIS and Monthly Accounting Summaries (MAS's) - Distribution - present and future. Part 2 is a hands-on session dealing with OASIS Navigation.

For further information, please consult  
<http://www.research.sunysb.edu/oasis/access.html>

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

An abundance of specific information for the research community is available on our Website, where past issues of this bulletin can also be found.

Office of the Vice President for Research:  
<http://www.research.sunysb.edu/ovpr.html>

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