

FEBRUARY 2008

**NEED RELEASE
TIME OR A LAPTOP
COMPUTER TO
DEVELOP YOUR
PROPOSAL?**

**CONTACT THE
GRANTS OFFICE
FOR DETAILS.**

**UPCOMING
DEADLINES:**

- Research Corporation: preliminary proposals due **March 17**
www.rescorp.org/grants.php
- CreateHere: **March 31**
<http://createhere.org/page/program-s-projects>
- State Justice Institute Programs: **May 1**
www.statejustice.org

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE 
CHATTANOOGA

Living/Learning Community Created for Engineering Students

Students who work while attending college typically take three times longer to graduate than non-working students. Most UTC engineering students work at least 20 hours a week while carrying 12+ hours of coursework – a demanding schedule that can impede academic success and leave students feeling isolated and overwhelmed.

Recognizing this difficulty, several engineering faculty members designed a program to support selected students with enough financial assistance to enroll full-time at UTC. Free from the need to work while attending classes, these students will be able to focus their efforts on academic achievement.

Dr. Cecelia Wigal, UC Foundation Associate Professor of Engineering, worked with colleagues Dr. Edward McMahon and Dr. Ignatius Fomunung to design the Opportunities for Highly Motivated Engineering Students (OHMES) program. Importantly, Dr. Wigal notes that financial support is only part of the equation:

“We can give scholarships, but money will go only so far...if we want to improve retention, our students need to feel as if they’re part of a community.”

The key strength of the program is the Living/Learning

Community, a residential and curricular cohort in which students will live together in a dorm while attending core engineering classes together. This Community, modeled on the residential housing and curriculum cohort features of UTC’s Honors Program, offers OHMES scholars a built-in support network. Dr. Wigal points with pride to this feature: “The Living/Learning Community offers support from a variety of sources – not just faculty and upperclassmen, but from their peers as well.”


Dr. Wigal and her colleagues secured \$531,257 from the National Science Foundation to support this initiative. Starting next fall, 35 academically talented engineering students will participate. Cohorts of

scholars will progress as a unit through the first two years of the engineering program, benefiting from the mentorship of upper-classmen.

Mentors will attend some engineering classes with the OHMES

scholars to familiarize themselves with the subject matter being presented and the instructor’s style. Forging these connections during freshman year – when many students feel isolated and overwhelmed – is a vital element in the complex equation leading to student success.

In the last two years of the program, selected OHMES scholars will serve as mentors to entering freshmen. These scholars will also visit local high schools to encourage students to consider careers in engineering.

UTC Engineering faculty – and indeed the entire campus – can take pride in this program’s combination of financial, academic, and social support for students. 

“We can give scholarships, but money will go only so far...if we want to improve retention, our students need to feel as if they’re part of a community.”

Social Work Department Head and Faculty Build Community Partnerships

Dr. Valerie Radu and the faculty in UTC's Social Work program are strengthening relationships with local communities in Tennessee. A recent workforce study projects a shortage of professional social workers who serve children and work in rural or low-income communities. To address this shortage, Dr. Radu has secured \$350,996 from the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare to provide tuition and stipends for five full-time students pursuing a Bachelors of Social Work degree. In exchange, these students will work for Tennessee's Department of Children's Services (DCS) at least two years upon graduation. Participating students will complete their senior-year field experience with DCS and will receive training to complete DCS certification requirements. Dr. Amy Doolittle will provide

leadership on this initiative as the Project Director.

Dr. Radu is excited about the stipend program for both UTC students and the surrounding community.


"Participation in this stipend program strengthens the relationship between the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and UTC, increases the number of certified social workers entering the DCS workforce, and increases the number of qualified professional social workers in the larger community."

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workforce, and increases the number of qualified professional social workers in the larger community," says Radu.

The Tennessee Center for Child Welfare award also funds training for foster parents, adoptive parents, and other caregivers for children in the DCS system. The Social Work faculty will deliver five core classes addressing topics such as working with birth parents, cultural awareness, parenting with positive

discipline, and dealing with delinquency and sexual abuse. These mandatory classes will train caregivers on how to provide safe and supportive homes in which children's physical, emotional, and social needs will be met.

In addition to working with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, Dr. Radu recently partnered with the Bradley County United Way. Last summer, Dr. Radu and Ms. Kathy Purnell, Lecturer and Field Coordinator for Social Work, conducted a community needs assessment for Bradley County. This assessment analyzed the current social service needs in the community and identified target areas of improvement. The Bradley County United Way will use these findings to ensure that they continue to meet the changing social service needs of the community in an efficient manner. 

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- NSF Course, Curriculum & Laboratory Improvement: **May 21**
www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741
- NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award: **June 25**
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>
- American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund: **August 1**
www.acs.org/prf
- NEA Access to Artistic Excellence: **August 11**
www.nea.gov/grants/apply/index.html

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

* Limited funding may be available for partial attendance support

- CUR Undergraduate Research Workshop: **June**
- CUR Proposal Writing Institute: **July**

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH

OCTOBER 1, 2007 – JANUARY 31, 2008

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Dr. David Aborn

Society for Conservation Biology	Support for 2008 Society for Conservation Biology Meeting	\$30,000
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Dr. Francesco Barioli & Dr. Ron Smith

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Applications of Algebra and Statistics, IV	\$74,993
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Dr. William Harman

American Academy of Religion	Suicide Bombers Become Goddesses: Women, Apotheosis, and Sacrificial Violence in South Asia	\$3,750
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Ms. Tracy Hughes

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	PLAN of ACTION for High School Mathematics Teachers	\$60,000
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Dr. Lauren Ingraham

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Reading Nonfiction, Reading the World: Preparing Middle and High School Students for Academic Success and Informed Citizenship	\$64,000
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Dr. Richard Jackson

Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga	Meacham Writers' Workshops 2007-08	\$1,000
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Ms. Meg Kiessling

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	EXPLORE-ing Middle School Mathematics	\$61,500
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Dr. Greg O'Dea

Rotary Club of Chattanooga	Rotary Club Undergraduate Scholarships	\$2,400
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Dr. Amye Warren

United Way of Greater Chattanooga	Continuation of Project Ready for School Family Child Care Improvement Project	\$4,000
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Nesli Alp

Associated General Contractors of East Tennessee	Construction Management Major	\$150,000
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Dr. Phil Kazemersky & Dr. Jim Cunningham

Tennessee Board of Architectural & Engineering Examiners	Grant to Establish a MiniSim Lab at UTC	\$18,475
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Dr. Kay Cowan

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Vocabulary Across the Content Areas	\$65,000
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Dr. Lucien Ellington

Association for Asian Studies	Education About Asia Journal 2008	\$65,149
Freeman Foundation	National Consortium for Teaching About Asia 2008	\$99,889

Ms. Anne Gamble

United Way of Greater Chattanooga	Services for Project Ready for School 2008	\$89,840
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Ms. Catherine Kendall

Tennessee Board of Architectural & Engineering Examiners	Technology Support	\$2,323
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Dr. Deborah McAllister

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Mathematics Navigations and Technology in Support of Algebra I and II	\$75,000
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Dr. Valerie Rutledge & Dr. Beth Dodd

Tennessee Department of Education	Governor's School 2008	\$81,380
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ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Dr. Deborah Arfken

Rotary Club of Chattanooga	Rotary Club Graduate Scholarships 2007-08	\$900
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Ms. Rexann Bumpus

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation	Peer Counselor Program 2008	\$27,900
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Dr. John McCormack

Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Radio Community Service Grant 2007-2009	\$121,826
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