Digest of Items of Interest to the Caucus of Academic Reps – November 29, 2013

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Funding Opportunities

**DARPA Announces Young Faculty Funding Opportunity**

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – November 22, 2013*

On November 14, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) released its solicitation for the Young Faculty Award (YFA) program. The YFA program “aims to identify and engage rising stars in junior faculty positions in academia and equivalent positions at non-profit research institutions and expose them to Department of Defense (DOD) and National Security challenges and needs.” DARPA is interested in cultivating a pipeline of scientists cognizant of the mission requirements of the DOD warfighting community, thus ensuring uninterrupted innovation for defense technologies. To be successful, proposals to the YFA program must clearly describe the DOD problem addressed by the research and “the current state-of-the-art technology, new insights to address the problem, a credible research plan and schedule, and critical, quantitative milestones to be pursued.”

For the purposes of this solicitation, young faculty are characterized as “untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 5 years of appointment to a tenure-track position at a US institution of higher education or equivalent at a non-profit science and technology research institution.” Details of the funding opportunity follow.

**Due Dates:** Full proposals are due on or before January 7, 2014. Letters of intent and white papers are not required.

**Topics of Interest:** Proposers must specify one and only one of the following topic areas, and salient subtopic areas if applicable, for their proposal and identify the topic on the cover page of the proposal:

- Optimizing Supervision for Improved Autonomy
- Neurobiological Mechanisms of Social Media Processing
- Next Generation Neural Sensing for Brain-Machine Interfaces
- Mathematical and Computational Methods to Identify and Characterize Logical and Causal Relations in Information
- Time-Dependent Integrated Computational Materials Engineering
- Long-range Detection of Special Nuclear Materials
- Alternate Fusion Concepts
- New Materials and Devices for Monitoring and Modulating Local Physiology
- Methods and Theory for Fundamental Circuit-Level Understanding of the Human Brain
- Hierarchically Complex Materials that Respond and Adapt
- Disruptive Materials Processing
- Disruptive Computing Architectures
- Appliqué Antenna Elements for Platform Integration
- Modeling Phonon Generation and Transport in the Near Junction Region of Wide-Bandgap (WBG) Transistors
- Advanced Automation and Microfluidic Technologies for Engineering Biology
- Energy Recovery in Post-CMOS Technologies
- Thin Film Transistors for High Performance RF and Power Electronics
- Neural Inspired Computer Engineering

**Total Funding and Award Size:** DARPA anticipates making multiple awards with maximum funding of $500,000 ($250,000 maximum per year for a one year base period and a one year option period). However, the amount of resources made available will depend on the quality of the proposals received.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** Young faculty are characterized as “untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 5 years of appointment to a tenure-track position at a US institution of higher education or equivalent at a non-profit science and technology research institution.” Previous YFA recipients are not eligible to apply.

**Sources and Additional Resources:** The full solicitation, which contains additional information, can be found at [http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppid=247637](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppid=247637)

**Positions**

**Director of the Biostatistics Degree Program, Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

Southern Methodist University (SMU) and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) are pleased to announce a new Ph.D. program in Biostatistics offered in partnership between the Department of Statistical Science at SMU and the Department of Clinical Sciences at UTSW. The Ph.D. program in Biostatistics will be launched in the Fall 2014 semester.

The SMU Department of Statistical Science has a well-established Ph.D. program in Statistics, and has conferred over 170 Ph.D. degrees in Statistics since 1966. UT Southwestern houses one of the top medical schools in the USA and is located in close proximity to SMU. More than 20 Ph.D. faculty biostatisticians (tenured and non-tenured) are employed in the Clinical Sciences Department at UTSW, who publish extensively in statistical and medical journals, and there is abundant opportunity to engage in biomedical research in which innovative statistical approaches are used to solve challenging data analysis issues.

**Position:** (Position # 00053527) SMU and UTSW seek an experienced professional Biostatistician to serve as Director of the Biostatistics Degree Program. Rank will be commensurate with experience. The selected individual will have tenured faculty appointments at both institutions.

**Qualifications:** The candidate must hold a Ph.D. in Biostatistics or Statistics and have an exceptional record of research and grant funding in the area of Biostatistics. Excellent written and oral communication skills are essential. Primary responsibilities include directing the new Ph.D. program in Biostatistics, teaching, and research.
Salary: Salary will be competitive and commensurate with rank and experience.

To Apply: Applications may be submitted electronically (PDF format preferred) or by letter and should include a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vitae and contact information for three references. To insure full consideration, the application must be received by December 31, 2013, but the committee will continue to accept applications until the position is filled. Applications should be sent to Sheila Crain, Department of Statistical Science, Southern Methodist University, P.O. Box 750332, Dallas, Texas 75275 or to scrain@smu.edu.

Web Sites: http://www.smu.edu/statistics

Lecturer in Statistics, The Amherst College Department of Mathematics

The Amherst College Department of Mathematics invites applications for a position as a Lecturer in Statistics, with an appointment to begin in July 2014. This is a full-time three-year appointment, with multi-year renewal contingent on successful review. Renewal is based on teaching and the other responsibilities of the lecturer, as outlined below. Amherst College is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women, persons of color, and persons with disabilities to apply. The College is committed to enriching its educational experience and its culture through the diversity of its faculty, administration, and staff.

We seek candidates who are passionate about teaching statistics to undergraduates. Responsibilities include teaching five courses per year, coordinating introductory courses, and engagement with the growing statistics program at the College. The successful candidate will be expected to make significant and balanced contributions to undergraduate instruction in statistics, including curriculum enhancements. Applicants should hold a doctorate degree in statistics or biostatistics (or related field), and have broad intellectual interests in statistics education along with demonstrated excellence in teaching. Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching statement, and at least three letters of recommendation that specifically address teaching.

Completed applications should be submitted to http://www.mathjobs.org/jobs. Alternatively, materials may be mailed to Statistics Search Committee, Department of Mathematics, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002-5000. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but all applications received by January 15 will be guaranteed full consideration. For more information, visit https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/dean_faculty/faculty_hiring/employment.
Amherst College is a private undergraduate liberal arts college for men and women, with 1,800 students and more than 200 faculty members. Located in the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts, Amherst participates with Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts in the Five College Consortium. The Five College Statistics Program (established in 2011) actively fosters connections among the many statisticians in the area.

Webinar

The Role and Variety of Undergraduate Statistics Capstones: Fourth in the Guidelines for Undergraduate Statistics Programs Webinar Series

The American Statistical Association endorses the value of undergraduate programs in statistical science, both for statistical science majors and for students in other majors seeking a minor or concentration. Guidelines for such programs were promulgated in 2000, and a new workgroup is working to update them.

To help gather input and identify issues and areas for discussion, the workgroup has organized a series of webinars to focus on different issues.

The Role and Variety of Undergraduate Statistics Capstones
Wednesday, December 4th, 5:00-5:45pm Eastern Time

The undergraduate capstone experience brings reflection and focus as well as integration of material studied within a major. Capstones require the disciplined use of skills, methodology and knowledge taught throughout their courses, experiential and co-curricular activities. In this webinar, several models for undergraduate capstones will be discussed, as well as key themes which pervade them all.

Moderator: Chris Malone, Winona State University

The webinar is free to attend, and a recording will be made available after the event. To sign up, please email Rebecca Nichols (rebecca@amstat.org).

More information about the existing curriculum guidelines as well as a survey can be found at: http://www.amstat.org/education/curriculumguidelines.cfm