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# So NOTED



Issue 134, November 2009

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## Grant Highlight

### ***MRI: Acquisition of XRF and Hg analysis instrumentation for collaborative faculty and student environmental research at USM***

**USM Applicant:** Luci Benedict, College of Arts & Sciences & Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh, School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**Project Period:** October 2009 - August 2012

The enhancement of faculty and undergraduate research at the University of Southern Maine through the acquisition of modern instrumentation for the analysis of environmental samples is the central priority of this grant. Towards this end, funds will be used to purchase a benchtop x-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF), a field XRF, and a direct mercury analyzer (C-GA-AAS). This instrumentation will accommodate the diverse research needs of scientists, principally in the Chemistry and Environmental Science disciplines. Furthermore, USM faculty have a longstanding history of involving undergraduate students in substantive research projects, both through independent research and research based curriculum. Acquisition of these instruments will allow students to be trained and exposed to a suite of modern instrumentation, fostering increased retention and recruitment in the sciences, as well as increased awareness and science literacy for scientific and environmental issues. Thus, through the use in undergraduate research and integration into course curricula, the instrumentation will become powerful pedagogical tools for helping students learn and perform science.

Modern instrumentation is needed at USM in order for faculty to be able to perform cutting-edge research that will benefit the scientific community of Maine and beyond. The XRF units and C-GA-AAS will increase the range and quality of analyses needed for ongoing and planned research projects, primarily focused on trace metal analyses of environmental samples. The data produced as a result of the acquisition of this instrumentation will be used to:

- 1) develop spatial distribution maps of environmental contamination in southern and coastal Maine;
- 2) inform residents of health risks from their urban environment;
- 3) assess the potential for common garden plants to act as phytoremediators of trace elements; and
- 4) assess environmental contaminant bioaccumulation potential in plants and invertebrates.

# University of Southern Maine

## Extramural Awards

The Office of Sponsored Programs reports the following extramural awards to the University of Southern Maine totalling more than \$2M in sponsor funding.

The NEW AWARDS are as Follows (Listed by Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), School or College, Title, Funder):

**Atkins, J. & Ward, H.,** Muskie School of Public Service, *New Americans: Opportunities and Challenges in Early Care and Education for English Language Learners*, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**Benedict, L.,** College of Arts & Sciences & **Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh,** School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology, *MRI: Acquisition of XRF and Hg analysis instrumentation for collaborative faculty and student environmental research at USM*, National Science Foundation (R&D)

**Bohlen, C.,** Muskie School of Public Service, *Presumpscot Conservation Planning: Vision, Values & Priorities*, Maine Community Foundation

**Bove, G.,** Research Administration, *Pain and Endometriosis: Effects on Ectopic Cyst Innervation and Axons*, National Institutes of Health (R&D)

**McCall, A.,** Student Life, *Martin Luther King Day of Service*, North Carolina Campus Compact

**Novak, I.,** College of Arts & Sciences, *MSGC/NASA Student Fellowships*, Maine Space Grant Consortium (R&D)

**Samia, L.,** College of Nursing & Health Professions, *Alzheimer Disease Demonstration - ADDGS: Savvy Caregiver Program*, Maine Department of Health & Human Services

**Zanghi, M.,** Muskie School of Public Service, *Ash Institute Maine Youth Advisory Team*, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School

**CONTINUATION or SUPPLEMENTAL AWARDS Include:**

**Barringer, R. & Merrill, S.,** Muskie School of Public Service, *New England Environmental Finance Center Continuation*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Davis, L.,** College of Education & Human Development, *Upward Bound - Sanford/Biddeford*, U.S. Department of Education

**Davis, L.,** College of Education & Human Development, *Upward Bound - Summer*, U.S. Maine Department of Education

**Davis, L.,** College of Education & Human Development, *Upward Bound - Classic*, U.S. Department of Education

**Higgins, E.,** Advising & **Campbell, S.,** Academic Affairs, *Partnership between the University of Southern Maine and STRIVE U Post-Secondary Transition to Lifelong Learning*, Peregrine Corporation

**Kegl, J.,** College of Arts & Sciences, *Educational Interpreter Distance Training*, Maine Department of Education

*(R&D) denotes part of R&D Initiative*

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The Proposal Submission Process

### **1. At least two weeks in advance of the submission deadline – Notify Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) of your intent to submit a proposal via the online portal.**

Notice to OSP and your Dean/Director/Equivalent Executive Officer must be via an Intent-to-Propose (ITP) Form which can be obtained at the OSP Home page by selecting the Forms link on the or by going to <http://www.usm.maine.edu/osp/forms.html>. The ITP Form must be completed by the Project Director/Principal Investigator (PI/PD) as soon as possible, but no fewer than two weeks prior to the submission deadline. OSP will confirm deadline dates as outlined below, back to the PI/PD, the Dean/Director/ Equivalent Executive Officer, and the Provost via e-mail. Considerations such as actual work days, submission method, and OSP workload may require some adjustment to the timeline.

### **2. At least five working days in advance of the submission deadline – Provide OSP with a version of the narrative and budget suitable for administrative review.**

A version of the narrative and budget suitable for administrative review must be forwarded to Lynn Rollins [lrollins@usm.maine.edu](mailto:lrollins@usm.maine.edu) as well as your OSP Financial Liaison, and your Dean/ Director/ Equivalent Executive Officer as soon as possible but no fewer than 5 working days prior to the submission deadline. The OSP will forward a copy to the President and Provost for their review and approval if it meets any of the following criteria:

- competitive proposals with a dollar amount of \$1.0M or more for total project period;
- significant university commitment in cost-share for the term of the project (50% or more of total project costs);
- University commitment to project sustainability or ‘institutionalization’ beyond the term of the grant award (curriculum or instruction, direct cost commitments, faculty/staff lines, operating and maintenance, etc.)
- voluntary waiver of sponsor-eligible F&A recovery;
- major equipment or construction/renovation at or exceeding \$50k;
- earmarks and other institutional awards (one per institution and often requiring a top university administrator as PI).

### **3. At least two working days in advance of the submission deadline – Submit the final version of the proposal to OSP, accompanied by a Proposal Planning and Submission (Blue) Sheet signed by the Dean, Director or Equivalent Executive Officer.**

A final proposal package should be forwarded to [lrollins@usm.maine.edu](mailto:lrollins@usm.maine.edu) for review and submission as soon as possible but no fewer than 2 working days prior to the deadline. The package must be complete, ready for submission, and accompanied by a fully completed and authorized Proposal Approval and Submission (Blue) Sheet, which is available on the OSP’s website at: (<http://usm.maine.edu/osp/bluesheet.htm>). In cases where approval for submission is required from the Provost and President, OSP will obtain those for the PI/PD. Please allow enough time to obtain all approvals, as no proposal will be submitted without such approvals.

By adopting this policy, we hope to improve your chances for a successful outcome by allowing enough time for adequate internal review and comment and improving the overall quality of USM submissions.

**Department of Defense Multi-Disciplinary  
Research Program of the University  
Research Initiative**

**AGENCY:**

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD); Office of  
Naval Research (ONR)

Notice seeking proposals that intersect more  
than one traditional science and engineering  
discipline to address issues of critical concern  
to the DoD.

**ACTION:**

White papers are due by December 11, 2009.  
Proposals are due by March 2, 2010.  
Approximately \$1.5 million is available.  
Colleges and universities are eligible to apply.

**LINK:**

<http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/>

**CONTACT:**

Bill Lukens, e-mail: [william.lukens1@navy.mil](mailto:william.lukens1@navy.mil)

**Program: American and French University  
Partnerships**

**AGENCY:**

Partner University Fund (PUF)

Next Deadline: Dec 15, 2009

Promotes innovative partnerships in research  
and higher education between American and  
French institutions of higher learning and  
research. PUF supports emerging transatlantic  
partnerships with a potential to be sustained  
after the phasing out of the grant. Projects  
need to be jointly submitted by at least one  
American and one French university.

See <http://www.facecouncil.org/puf/index.html>

E-mail: [puf@ambafrance-us.org](mailto:puf@ambafrance-us.org)

Contact: Pascal Delisle, Executive Director  
French Embassy  
4101 Reservoir Road  
Washington, DC 20007  
Phone: 202/944-6580



UNIVERSITY OF  
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In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of pluralism, the University of Southern Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status and gender expression, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the executive director, Office of Campus Diversity and Equity, 207:780-5094/TTY 207: 780-5646.