

August 2008

Dear Faculty and Staff –

Greetings from the Office of Research and Economic Development! This past month, I had the opportunity to participate in the Opening Ceremony (along with several other folks at MSU) for the 3rd Annual Bulldawg Championship Trophy Cricket Tournament. It turns out we have one of the really dominating Cricket programs in the Southeast, and the MSU Cricket Club successfully defended their first place trophy from last year. Now, if we can just get Cricket made into an official SEC sport ...

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Gary Butler is now the Assistant Vice President for Research and Technology Development. Gary's title was previously Director of Technology, and his title was changed to reflect his broader role within the university. If you see Gary, please congratulate him on his new title!

Let me pass on some faculty and staff kudos for this month –

\* Dr. Ashli Brown, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has received the 2008 AGRO Early Investigator Award from the AGRO Division of the American Chemical Society.

\* Drs. Jim Chrisman and Franz Kellermanns, Department of Management and Information Systems, along with colleagues Dr. Jess Chua (University of Alberta) and Thomas Zellweger (University of St. Gallen) won the 2008 Best Unpublished Research paper award from the Family Firm Institute.

\* The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) has selected Dr. Roger L. King, Interim Director of CAVS, as a Fulbright Specialists candidate for a 5-year period. As such, Roger can serve for between two and six weeks abroad at an academic institution seeking international specialists with his background and expertise.

\* Dr. Lakiesha Williams, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, has been named a "Rising Star" by Women of Color Magazine. This award recognizes young minority women who have excelled in their technology field.

In keeping with the Olympic spirit, the MSU research community earned a Bronze medal for our new grants and contracts this past year. We finished the fiscal year with just over \$151.4M in new grants and contracts, which is the third highest year on record. This is an outstanding achievement considering that Congress had a continuing resolution and some one-time Katrina grant opportunities have finished. Over the past 4 fiscal years –

\$127.9M – 2004 – 2005 FY

\$154.7M – 2005 – 2006 FY (Silver Medal Year - Second highest total)

\$186.5M – 2006 – 2007 FY (Gold Medal Year - Current record year)

\$151.4M – 2007 – 2008 FY. (Bronze Medal Year - Third highest total).

I will provide more details next month on the breakdown of just where our new grants and contracts were awarded by college, but I did want to thank our research community for another outstanding year.

In the June Dear Colleague Letter, I discussed some of the numerical results from our May ORED campus wide survey. We have taken the time to look more carefully at the results, and have come up with some action items for our research service units to continue to improve. The Office of Technology Commercialization, the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, and the Office of Regulatory Compliance all have developed summaries of the survey data along with specific action plans. These are located on our website (<http://www.research.msstate.edu/personals/schulz.php>) at the bottom of the page under the heading “Results from ORED Campus Wide Survey”. Some of the action items are:

#### Office of Regulatory Compliance (ORC) -

\* In an effort to make the protocol submission process as easy as possible for our research community, an electronic submission process for IACUC protocols is being developed. Researchers will be able to electronically route the protocol for pre-review and there will no longer be a need to get signatures or send hard copies. If the IACUC protocol is successful, the electronic submission will be expanded to IBC and IRB in the future.

\* In an effort to respond to comments regarding an improved safety program, a new initiative is underway that provides training and support to implement a departmental safety program with elements or components tailored to the department’s needs. To participate, departments must be willing to establish a safety committee and conduct at least one departmental safety inspection per year.

\* To increase opportunities for communication between ORC and the research community, Regulatory Compliance hosted the first combined PI Luncheon on July 31st in the Union. This event was open to all researchers with active IACUC, IBC or IRB protocols, Hazardous Waste generators and approved Radiological Materials Users. In addition to the luncheon, breakout sessions took place before and after lunch.

#### Office of Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) -

\* In an effort to improve services to the research community, SPA will create a campus advisory committee to provide advice to SPA and the Office of the Vice President on ways to implement best practices in grant and contract submission and administration to help the university research community. This advisory committee will be comprised of faculty, administration and outside university representation.

#### Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) -

\* Since a relatively large number of faculty members were not aware of the services offered by the Office of Technology Commercialization, we will work to increase awareness of our programs through a newsletter, department level meetings and additional follow-up to research proposals marked “IP.”

\* OTC will increase efforts to identify researchers with intellectual property (IP) by working directly with department heads to identify inventors, follow-up on research proposals that are marked as having “potential IP”, and use our recently initiated newsletter to raise awareness of the value of IP to the inventor as well as the University.

\* OTC will need to more fully engage university inventors in the licensing process as the majority of licenses are based on contacts known to the faculty or staff inventor. Also, we need to put more attention into marketing and licensing efforts with existing technologies. In some cases, there is a significant need to provide additional funds to help move the technology toward a licensable product.

Good luck as you start Fall Semester classes. I can tell by the traffic around town that the students are back – which means that the first home football game is just around the corner. Be sure to dust off the cowbells and get ready to ring them loudly as we open up our home football season on September 6 against the Southeastern Louisiana Lions.

Go Dawgs!

Kirk.