

UAA Research News

From the Office of Sponsored Programs

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Office of Sponsored Programs *New to Academic Affairs*

Welcome to the Office of Sponsored Programs, a new unit of Academic Affairs within the office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies. The Office of Grants and Contracts will continue to provide post-award administration, but the new Office of Sponsored Programs has taken on, and is greatly expanding, pre-award activities previously in Grants and Contracts. The Office of Sponsored Programs is here to provide assistance to academic research and sponsored activities by:

- Providing pre-award service to faculty and research staff seeking sponsored activities,
- Coordinating institutional training and assistance to departmental research administrators, and
- Maintaining research statistics and reporting to audiences both internal and external to UAA.

Our goal is to enhance both the focus and quality of sponsored activities at UAA. We will work to streamline and coordinate the processes and activities of searching for funding, of producing applications for awards, of obtaining appropriate institutional reviews and assurances, and of tracing the status of proposals and awards. It is not the role of the Office of Sponsored Programs to replace existing activities within departments or centers and institutes; rather, it will actively support and encourage departmental research administration through augmentation, training programs, and liaison and coordination with central administration. Our office will collect and maintain information on our sponsored activities for the purposes of institutional planning, federal and state reporting, and to inform the institution and our stakeholders of the interesting and important sponsored research, service and training activities being conducted at UAA.

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Dr. Kim Peterson

Vice Provost for
Research and Graduate Studies

Featured Researchers

Dr. Dan Kline

English Department

Dr. Jocelyn Krebs

Biological Sciences Department

OSP Open House

November 19th

Visit OSP's Research Website

New to Academic Affairs

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We recognize the importance of extramurally funded research, training, and service activities to the effective and efficient realization of UAA's mission. We value highly those individuals who provide the necessary ideas and work as well as those who provide technical and administrative support to our institution's sponsored activities. Our objective is to serve those individuals, to respond to their needs, to enhance their capabilities and to promote their success as integral partners within the UAA community.



The Office of Sponsored Programs is located on campus in the Admin Building, Suite 227.



Clockwise from upper left:

Susan Browne,

Proposal Development Specialist

*Kala Hansen, student assistant,
newsletter editor*

*Susan Harper, Manager
of Office of Sponsored Programs*

*Dr. Kim M. Peterson, Vice Provost
for Research and Graduate Studies*

*Joanne Thordarson, Assistant to the Vice
Provost for Research and Graduate Studies*

The People of the Office of Sponsored Programs

Susan Harper is the Manager of the Office of Sponsored Programs and worked previously as the Manager of the UAA Grants and Contracts Office. She oversees the grant pre-award process and is responsible for ensuring proposals are in compliance with internal and external regulations and requirements. Her goals for OSP are to enhance grant development, provide training for the support staff and establish university policy for successful grantseeking.

She will serve as OSP's liaison with faculty and staff in their pre-award efforts for external funding. Contact Susan Harper at 786-1196 or you can email to her at sharper@uaa.alaska.edu.



Susan Browne (right) is the OSP Proposal Development Specialist. She is a new UAA employee and brings a diverse background in proposal preparation, technical writing, project management, teaching and management information systems.

Susan is responsible for assisting faculty in assessing funding opportunities and preparing grant applications.

Her services include grant application review, technical writing and editing for compliance. She will maintain the database information systems relating to research endeavors for faculty and staff, and will manage the proposal modules in our Banner database system.

Contact Susan Browne at 786-1065 or email to susanbrowne@uaa.alaska.edu.



Kala Hansen, our student assistant, (left) is responsible for putting together our newsletter.

If you have any research and grant/contract award news, call Kala at 786-1096 or email to asksh5@uaa.alaska.edu.

Joanne Thordarson (left, below) is Assistant to the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies. Joanne is experienced in proposal submissions and research reporting. She provides research administration and coordination for research and compliance committees and the OSP office. She is the Coordinator for the Institutional Review Board.

Contact Joanne at 786-1099 or email to anjkt@uaa.alaska.edu.



Dr. Kim M. Peterson is the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies. Dr. Peterson, in collaboration with the Council on Scientific Research and Provost James Chapman, provided the vision to establish the Office of Sponsored Programs within the Office of Academic Affairs. For questions or issues pertaining to institutional commitment to sponsored activities, please contact Dr. Peterson at 786-4833 or email to peterston@uaa.alaska.edu.

Office of Sponsored Programs • Phone 907.786-1065 Fax 907.786-1426
website <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/oa/research> or <http://www.uaaresearch.org>

Dr. Dan Kline, Children's Literature in Medieval Studies

Did you ever wonder about what children learn from literature? Dr. Dan Kline, Associate Professor of English, asked that question and recently edited a collection of 16 essays and primary texts, *Medieval Literature for Children*, which assesses the texts that children utilized during the medieval period.

On a sociological level, the importance of looking at previous cultures' views of its children says a lot about that culture's values, hopes and fears. "The process of looking at the development of childhood in other cultures helps us look at our own conceptions of children and childhood with a critical eye," stated Kline. Medieval children's literature and today's children's literature provide clearly similar messages.



"What is school about for a kindergartner today? It is not always about education, it is often about learning how to stand in line or sitting in circle time," Kline said. Medieval children's literature accomplishes the same thing by teaching children how to behave within specific medieval cultures.

The book was five years in the making for Kline. He hopes that the book will help put to rest some common misconceptions about the medieval period. For the most part, contemporary people believe that medieval culture did not have a clear sense of childhood as a distinct phase in life and children were seen only as little adults. Historians have been aware that this is not true but only now is it beginning to be recognized by other disciplines.

Dr. Kline focuses on these preconceptions about the medieval period as well as some disciplinary distinctions about children's literature. Texts that are used for teaching are often categorized differently because literature and high-art provide enjoyment rather than for education. The problem arises because medieval literature is high-art while also having moral and social implications that extend to all persons who would have had access to the literature. "If you eliminated didactic [teaching] literature from medieval literature then you have eliminated most medieval texts," said Kline.

Most of the texts Kline addresses in his book are from England and include a schoolchild's text, advice for brides to be, a text that teaches monks how to speak Latin, a treatise for young Anglo-Saxon women on how to run a household, a morality play, a romance, and an ABC poem, among others.

Dan Kline joined the faculty in 1997 and has published widely in his field. He teaches Medieval Literature, Masterpieces of World Literature I, and topics in literary theory.

Featured Researcher

Dr. Jocelyn Krebs, Histone Modification in Double Strand Break Repair

Dr. Jocelyn Krebs of the Biological Sciences Department received a three-year \$330,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue her work in DNA break repair and histone modifiers.

Two areas of study, which Dr. Krebs and her student assistants are working on, are how cells repair chromosomal damage and how the alterations in chromosomal material effect embryonic development.

If you stretch it out, the average human cell contains about two meters of DNA. Histone proteins are enveloped by DNA constructing “chromatin”. This compaction is necessary for the DNA to fit into the nucleus of the cell, but leaves the DNA inaccessible for necessary cell operations. Histone modifiers are the proteins responsible for the decompression of chromatin when a section of DNA needs repair and compresses it again after the work has been completed. Currently Dr. Krebs and her M.S. student, John Moore, are studying histone modifiers in *Saccharomyes cerevisiae* (yeast). “We are



interested in studying what those modifications are, how they respond to damage, how the cell knows that there is damage to deal with, and how they actually bring in repair protein to [fix] the damage that has been done,” Krebs said.

Histone modifiers play a role in many diseases in humans. Many human cancers involve genes that are involved with DNA repair.

Dr. Krebs’ lab is also looking at the embryonic development that occurs with these changes in chromosomal material particularly in the absence of these enzymes in frog and tadpoles with Ph.D. student Sara Dircherl. Although they are working on frogs, Krebs mentioned that “a lot of chromatin remodeling enzymes when mutated in humans, lead to many kinds of developmental problems such as mental retardation.”

Dr. Krebs has published in *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, *Cell*, and *Genes and Development* and this semester is teaching graduate courses in the Molecular Biology of Cancer and a course in Biochemistry. She joined the UAA Faculty in 2000.



Graduate students John Moore and Sara Dircherl

OSP Open House on November 19th

Come on over to our Office of Sponsored Programs Open House! Meet us and get acquainted with how we assist PIs and research administrators. We want to get to know your project or program aspirations as well as learn about any pre-award needs you have. The Open House will be in our office in the Administration Building, Suite 227 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19th. We all hope you will join us for conversation and refreshments.

Check Us Out On The Web

The OSP website is a great resource for researchers. The website includes the Office of Sponsored Programs, Graduate Education, Organized Research, Resources for Researchers, Statistics and UAA Discoveries Magazine. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) site includes Introduction, Submitting Proposals, IRB Training Course, Meetings/Membership, Documents, Resources, HIPAA (incomplete) and FAQs. The Magazine section will expand featuring UAA researchers and events involving research faculty and staff. Lots to check out!

website <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/oaa/research>
or <http://www.uaaresearch.org>



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