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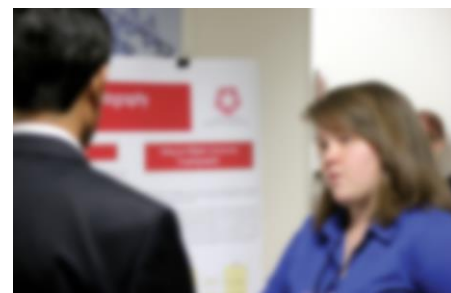
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ORSPA Office  
IRB  
IPC  
Research Council

## National Science Foundation awards REU Site at Lamar University

Dr. Kumer Das and Dr. Jennifer Daniel receive NSF grant to further Research Experience Undergraduate



The National Science Foundation awarded a grant to Dr. Kumer Das, Interim Associate Provost for Research and Dr. Jennifer Daniel, Mathematics, in support of the Research Experience Undergraduate (REU). REU is a 10-week research and academic experience hosted by Lamar University. This REU site offers sophomores, juniors, and seniors from accredited U.S. colleges or universities the opportunity to perform summer research in the fields of big data

analytics, data dimension reduction, matrix factorization and graph theory. Four Mathematics faculty, Drs. Das, Daniel, Jasdeep Pannu, and Jose Vega-Guzman will mentor students during the summers of 2018-2020. Students at this site will be engaged in all stages of the big data analysis cycle.

REU at Lamar University is designed to spark and sustain a new excitement about undergraduate research through mathematics and statistics disciplines.

Lamar University REU is designed to prepare motivated college students for graduate studies within the mathematics and statistics discipline.

Undergraduate students must adhere to program guidelines regarding GPA, attendance, and expectations. Lamar University will award 8 undergraduate students with the amazing opportunity to participate in the REU.



Left - Dr. Jeffrey P Forret 2016 University Scholar Winner.

Right - Dr. Xuejun Fan 2017 University Scholar Winner.

Bottom - 2016 University Scholar Winner, Jeffrey Forret, Department Chair, Monica Harn, and Deans: William Harn, Srinivas Palanki, and Derina Holtzhausen, and Acting Associate Provost and VP Academic Affairs, Joe Nordgren.

# Office of Research and Sponsored Programs holds Spring Reception

The Office Research and Sponsored Programs holds Spring Reception to honor the University Scholar winners from 2016, 2017, and 2018 and the 2018 Research Enhancement Grant winners.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 1, 2018 the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs held their Spring Reception. The Reception honored the University Scholar winners for the past three years and the 2018 Research Enhancement Grant winners.

The 2016 University Scholar winner, Dr. Jeffrey P. Forret from History, and 2017 University Scholar winner, Dr. Xuejun Fan from Mechanical Engineering, were in attendance to accept their esteemed award and spoke briefly about their research. 2018 University Scholar winner, Dr. WeiHang Zhu from Industrial Engineering, was unable to attend the event and Dean of Engineering, Dr. Srinivas Palanki accepted the award on his behalf.

The University Scholar award is a prestigious research honor bestowed upon a faculty member who is recognized for individual outstanding contribution to scholarship, research, grant writing and/or creative activity.

The University Scholar Award is a lifetime achievement, recognizing the recipient's body of work. The winners of the University Scholar Award received \$5,000.

There were over 49 applications submitted for the Research Enhancement Grant awards. Awards are broken down into two categories: Proposal Writing and Research and Creative Activity.


The winners in the Proposal Writing category were: Hassan Zargarzadeh, Electrical Engineering, Maryam Vasefi, Biology, Sujing Wang, Computer Science, and Ping He, Mechanical Engineering. The winners in the Research and Creative Activity category were: Berna Tokgoz, Industrial Engineering, Mahmoud Salimi, Communications, Xiaofan He, Electrical Engineering, Chun-Wei Yao, Mechanical Engineering, Xingya Liu, Computer Science, Qin Qian, Civil and Environmental Engineering,

Stacey Knight, Nursing, Kendrick Aung, Mechanical Engineering, Jose Vega-Guzman, Mathematics, and Jessica Martin, Counseling.

Research Enhancement Grants (REGs) promote faculty research across a vast array of academic areas and the grants support their research endeavors. Winners for Proposal Writing receive up to \$15,000 and winners for the Research and Creative Activity receive up to \$5,000.



Dr. Kumer Das, Interim Associate Provost for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs welcomes those in attendance.



## Congratulations to our recent external research grant winners!

### Faculty external research grants awarded from Spring 2018.

Drs. Stefan Andrei and Sujing Wang, Computer Science, received a grant in the amount of \$89,753 from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Dr. Dorothy Sisk, Professional Pedagogy, received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Dr. Brenda Nichols, Vice Provost for Digital Learning, received a grant in the amount of \$29,383 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Otilia Urbina, Professional Pedagogy, received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from Exxon Mobil.

Dr. Jerry Lin, Director, Center for Advances in Water and Air Quality, received two grants, the first grant in the amount of \$4,997 from Plaquemines Processing and Recovery and the second grant in the amount of \$15,000 from Light Environmental.

Dr. Renzun Zhao, Civil Engineering, received two grants from Waste Management, one for \$12,113 and a second for \$40,918.

Mr. Byron Balentine, KVLU Station Manager, received a grant in the amount of \$83,840 from The Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Drs. Victor Zaloom, Industrial Engineering, Qin Qian, Jao Mein and Xing Wu, Civil Engineering, received a grant in the amount of \$99,453 from the Sabine Neches Navigation District.

Mr. Norman Bellard, Community Relations, received a grant in the amount of \$16,250 from Entergy.

Dr. Jacqueline Jensen-Vallin, Mathematics, received two grants, the first grant in the amount of \$2,000 from Mathematics Learning by Inquiry and a second grant in the amount of \$4,312 from Mathematical Association of America.

Dr. Bryan Proksch, Music, received a grant in the amount of \$35,000 from Edaren Foundation.

Drs. Xing Wu, Civil Engineering, and colleague Hao Yang received a grant in the amount of \$125,969 from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Dr. Tracy Benson, Chemical Engineering, received a grant in the amount of \$11,727 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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