

## Research Succeeds at All Levels

*By Dorota Huizinga*

Having just read a commentary about the state's April tax revenue being three billion dollars below the original estimate, I needed some uplifting news. To paraphrase an old adage: no news may be good news, but good news is better! Despite a challenging climate of budget cuts and furloughs, our faculty and student accomplishments have resulted in a substantial boost to our research efforts.

From FY 2007-08 to FY 2008-09, our overall external grants and contract funding grew from \$17.1M to \$21.6M, and by year end, the University is expected to reach nearly \$25M. This means that in the last two years the University has experienced a 45% increase in external grants and contract funding.

Also, our grant proposal submissions increased by 18% from FY09 to FY10 --129 to 158 applications; a sixty-seven percent (67%) increase occurred in *new* funding requests during the same period. Cal State Fullerton demonstrated its competitiveness in seeking American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, ranking third amongst our sister campuses by receiving \$3.7M in federal grant awards.

In addition to continuing to pursue and implement grants for a number of successful ongoing programs, we have identified new sources of funding and partnerships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Defense, among others.

These activities are being promoted in part, by internal support from the University through the infusion of new monies, such as a \$600,000 Mission and Goals initiative to stimulate research, plus \$200,000 in intramural grant support from President Gordon to supplement funding to faculty in their efforts to conduct pilot projects to better position themselves to successfully generate increased external funding.

Other efforts to assist faculty members successfully pursue grants have included a workshop on developing winning grant proposals and future workshops addressing the gamut of grant and contract procurement activities from idea inception through award closeout.

Our students, too, are winning accolades for their research activities. Most recently, graduate student (public health) Lianne Nacpil and civil engineering major Beena Ajmera won top honors for their presentations at the CSU Student Research Competition. Second place awards were won by graduate student (biology) Richa Aggarwal and the electrical engineering undergraduate team of Dan Fallah and Kara Mayol.

Ajmera also captured first place in the poster competition during GeoFlorida 2010, the annual geocongress of the Geo-Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers, where she competed against entries from PhD and master's candidates from 14 universities.

In short, our research successes of the past two years are significant and ... uplifting.

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