

March 2020

Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning

Hello UWF Faculty and Staff-

Happy Spring Break! Congratulations on reaching this important hiatus in the academic year, and best wishes as we all gear up for the end-of-academic year rush of finals, term reports, Student Scholar Symposium, and commencement (Whew)!

I wanted to take advantage of this interruption in our schedule to share with you some thoughts on a different flavor of research engagement: university-industry partnerships (UIPs). UIPs (also known as UICs for “university-industry collaborations”) can take many forms, from the classical industry internships through faculty research contracts with private or public partners. The industry partners may be private sector companies, municipal partners, or military agencies.

All these engagements share a common theme in that the research productivity is grounded in a real-world question, often initiated outside of the university. These projects yield important outcomes for both faculty and students in that they afford the university researchers to demonstrate that our academic knowledge and technical skills are transferrable to the community outside the campus walls.

Importantly, external partners have the ability to fund these UIPs if the university researchers can contribute to the industrial needs. Often, these municipal, private, or military partners are more than willing to pay for the access to the world-class expertise that exists on our campus. RAE and other UWF offices are frequently approached by industrial partners seeking access to faculty expertise and a talented student workforce to produce a deliverable needed by that client. Typically, our main challenge is accommodating the short turnaround time demanded by these industrial partners who don’t operate on an academic calendar. To accommodate that, RAE wants to identify UIP-interested (or merely UIP-curious) faculty before the industry partner comes to us with the ask.

If you are interested in learning more about how to leverage your research knowledge and skills into possible UIP engagement (including the possibility of finding funding to support research activities for your students), please contact me to schedule a consultation. In the meantime, make sure that your entry in the Researcher Interests and Skills (RIS) database (accessible via the **RAE Service Desk** or directly in **Tableau**) is up to date and considers both academic and non-academic applications of your research.

Again, best wishes for a rejuvenative Spring Break and a productive end to the Spring term.

Regards,

Matthew Schwartz
Assistant VP of Research Administration

Conference to highlight Asian studies research

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

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Faculty members and students will present research papers and other projects March 21 at the inaugural **Asian Studies Conference** presented by the **Center for Asian Studies at the University of West Florida**.



Organizers expect the event, which will be held in Building 71, to feature 15-20 research projects on topics, such as politics, security and culture, said Dr. Douglas Trelfa, the center's director.

"We want to provide an opportunity for students and faculty who are interested in Asian studies to talk about their research," Trelfa said. "We're focusing on issues of importance in Asia and the world, and we're providing an opportunity for UWF to hear about them."

Trelfa added that papers submitted so far cover issues related to China, Japan, India, Vietnam and the Koreas.

The conference will also feature a keynote speaker. Ikoon "James" Chang, executive director of the **Center for Korean Unification Strategy** and president of the **National Unification Advisory Council to the President of South Korea Miami Chapter**, will speak at **10 a.m. March 20** in the **University Commons Conference Center**.

The keynote address is **free** and open to the public. The conference requires a registration.

If you would like to submit a paper for consideration or if you know a student who might be interested in participating in the conference, contact Trelfa at dtrelfa@uwf.edu.

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In the NEWS!

UWF assistant professor earns prestigious Fulbright Specialist designation



The University of West Florida announces that Dr. Robert Perkins has been selected as a Fulbright Specialist by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Perkins is an assistant professor of management in the UWF...

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Funding Opportunities

Watch this space! RAE is currently re-working how we share funding opportunities to

our faculty and staff.

In the meantime, feel free to access **GrantForward**—UWF faculty and staff can sign up with their UWF account to create a free profile with this funding search tool! For a step-by-step guide, please refer to our **GrantForward Handout**.

Grant Forward *Quick Tip*



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