

## April 2020

### *Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning*

#### **Hello UWF Faculty and Staff-**

First off, I must start with the obligatory (but sincerely expressed) wishes that you and yours are healthy and holding up well during these trying times. None of us could have imagined such a massive change to our work life, and I'm continually amazed by the resilience and creativity shown by UWF faculty and staff adjusting to this new (and, hopefully, temporary) normal. Those of you who are teaching faculty are now old pros at changing on the fly. I commend you all for the work you've put into moving your spring and summer courses online (thanks, too, to the great staff from Global Online for their help).



With the ongoing uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 spread and the safer-at-home executive order from the governor, on-campus UWF research activities are being limited to only essential activities, including those that use live animals or live culture lines or are directly related to COVID-19 research.

All on-campus research staff have been asked to move to remote duties that are project-related, including data analysis, literature research, or writing in support of research goals. Those of us who are employing research students have been tasked with finding work that these student employees can complete remotely, so that they don't need to come to campus and enter the labs.\*\*

Deans are also evaluating requests to continue on-campus research for non-essential research that can be conducted while maintaining social distancing

guidelines, particularly maintaining a separation of six feet between researchers and using appropriate personal protective equipment. If you have not yet done so, please complete the **UWF Research Activity Survey**.

**If you need to request access to on-campus lab research facilities** during the governor's safer-than-home order (currently through April 30, but subject to extension), please complete the aforementioned survey, contact your dean, and prepare a risk-mitigation plan that documents your ability to follow the social distancing guidelines.

Many of our faculty have refocused their research efforts to support increased knowledge about COVID-19. I have seen Dr. Raid Amin's (Math & Statistics) disease cluster maps on my Twitter feed and in LinkedIn and know that Dr. Ashok Srinivasan (Computer Science) recently submitted an NSF RAPID proposal building off his disease outbreaks research. If your research is changing to address our new reality, please let me know so we can better share the news.

These are trying times, but we will continue to work together to get through them and find our way to a post-pandemic environment. We are already starting to see calls for funding and proposals related to COVID-19 research. RAE will soon post a collection of these opportunities on its website.

Regards and best wishes,

Matthew Schwartz

**Professor and AVP of Research Administration**

***\*\*Looking for a good way to advance your research agenda while out of the lab? RAE will host a 1 1/2 day working session on grant writing on May 7 and 8. If you have an RFP for which you want to prepare a proposal, want to work on a resubmission, or have a draft to finish up, please be on the lookout for an upcoming invitation.***

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## **Innovative Solutions for Industry connects UWF students with partners in defense, intelligence communities**

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

*RAE Staff Writer*

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University of West Florida students are gearing up to spend the summer tackling challenges that face the defense and intelligence

communities.

Starting in May, two teams of UWF students from a variety of degree programs will participate in Innovative Solutions for Industry, a hands-on, for-credit program that pairs students and faculty advisors with companies and other agencies in the defense and intelligence communities.



The teams' goal is to develop products and services that will help meet specific needs of their assigned industry partners.

Innovative Solutions for Industry is part of **Hacking for Defense**, a national network of similar programs designed to deliver hands-on research and product-development experience to students.

“Among H4D universities, UWF is truly unique because we identify (or source) problems ourselves from military organizations in the local area, thus interweaving UWF into the defense innovation fabric of Northwest Florida,” said Dr. Donovan Chau, founder of H4D at UWF and a member of the program's core teaching team.

H4D began at Stanford University. UWF was the first Florida school to participate in the program when it launched its first H4D course in 2018. Seventeen students working across five teams have completed the program, which the University offers each summer, since it launched at UWF, Chau said.

“UWF's H4D program elevates the institution to the national level,” Chau said. “Being a member of the Department of Defense's National Security Innovation Network, UWF is part of a select group of universities around the country that solve real-world defense and intelligence problems.”

This summer, the student teams will work on two projects. One team will work on developing an app to improve the situational awareness of warfighters. The second will develop databases of past and future conflicts.

Students in any major are encouraged to apply for the program. Applications must be in by May 1.

For more information about the program, visit the UWF Innovative Solutions for Industry **webpage**.

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**Received a Grant or Have Some  
Good News About a Research**



## Project?

We'd love to share your accomplishments!  
Please feel free to [contact us](#).

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### *In the NEWS!*

## UWF Joins Fight Against COVID-19



As health care workers nationwide scramble to find protective gear to treat COVID-19 patients, a program at the University of West Florida is pitching in. UWF's Sea3D Lab in downtown Pensacola is using its 3D printers to produce face gear.

**Read more**  
[www.uwf.org](http://www.uwf.org)

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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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Subscribe to the [CASSH](#) and [CEPS](#) newsletters.



[GrantForward](#): Sign up with your UWF account to search funding opportunities and receive personalized recommendations.



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