

## October 2021

### *Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning*

Happy Homecoming week, UWF Researchers!

Many of you know the UWF Office of Research Administration and Engagement has hired **Natalie Mead** as UWF's first full-time research compliance officer (RCO).

One of the many areas in which Natalie has already proved her mettle is to lead the effort to select and deploy a new purpose-built system for receiving and reviewing applications to the UWF **Institutional Review Board** (IRB). Starting Nov. 1, UWF will use **IRBNet** to manage IRB applications supporting UWF research that involves human participants.

We have already posted some **training materials** to help you get ready for the new, improved system. To help RAE and IRBNet make the transition, we must close the current system to applications starting Oct. 21. You can find more details in the article below.

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It's still early in the academic (and fiscal) year, but UWF faculty are already well at work securing external funds to support the University's strategic goals. Since July 1, the following faculty and staff have combined to secure more than \$2 million in new external funding:

- **Jane Caffrey** with **Barbara Albrecht** and **Wade Jeffrey** (CEDB)
- **David Ramsey** (Reubin O'D. Askew Department of Government) with **Kelly Carr** (Communication)
- **Sikha Bagui** (Computer Science) with **Brian Eddy** (Computer Science) and **Giang-Nguyen Nguyen** (Teacher Education and Educational Leadership)
- **Guillermo Francia** and **Guy Garrett** (Center for Cybersecurity) with **Anthony Pinto** (Computer Science)
- **Karen Molek** (Chemistry) with **Alexis Janosik** (Biology) and **Kwame Owusu-Daaku** (Earth & Environmental Sciences)
- Sikha Bagui (again) with **Subash Bagui** (Mathematics and Statistics)
- **Eman El-Sheikh** (Center for Cybersecurity)



- **John Jensen** (History and Philosophy)
- **Keri Fogle** (Teacher Education and Educational Leadership)
- **Allysha Winburn** (Anthropology)
- Alexis Janosik (again)

Congratulations to all of these ambitious faculty (and best wishes to the 15+ proposals that are still out there under review for a grand total of \$11.58 million)!

Regards,

Matt Schwartz  
Associate VP of Research Administration

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## IRB to transition to new application system Nov. 1

*Special to Research Matters*

The Office of Research Administration and Engagement is pleased to announce the adoption of the industry-leading IRBNet suite of tools, accessible via the National Research Network, bringing electronic protocol management, online submissions, and many other important research oversight features to the University research community.

RAE and the University of West Florida research community have long recognized the need to reduce manual and paper-based procedures, streamline protocol submission and review processes and leverage today's best technologies throughout the research lifecycle. As an important step toward these objectives, RAE's adoption of IRBNet now brings the University a robust set of electronic tools supporting the management, submission, review, and oversight of our research protocols.

Some of IRBNet's many features include electronic document management, web-based protocol sharing and collaboration, automatic notifications, electronic submissions and reviews, integrated training and credential management, and important audit capabilities including electronic revision histories, electronic signatures, and event tracking. These features will enable researchers to track all of their IRB applications at a glance, in one place.

RAE has carefully chosen IRBNet not only for the important capabilities that it provides, but also because IRBNet is secure, web-based, and extremely intuitive and easy to use. You may access IRBNet from virtually any computer using a web browser by visiting [irbnet.org](http://irbnet.org). Your IRBNet account will be separate from your MyUWF account. You can register as part of the UWF community on the IRBNet website starting Nov. 1. Training videos and other useful information about IRBNet features are available in Confluence, and you can access them through the [UWF IRB website](#).

RAE will begin accepting electronic protocol submissions via IRBNet Nov. 1. The IRB will not accept applications Oct. 21-31 as the office transitions to the new system. Beginning Nov. 1, all protocols (including revisions and renewals) must be submitted electronically via IRBNet, and all review decision letters will be issued electronically via IRBNet.

Once again, RAE is pleased to bring these robust new tools to the UWF community. For additional information, please contact Natalie Mead at [nmead@uwf.edu](mailto:nmead@uwf.edu), who can assist you with any questions you may have as we move forward with this important initiative.

*RAE Staff Writer Jeffrey Cassady contributed to this article.*

## New publications

The Office of Research Administration and Engagement would like to congratulate the following researchers for their recent publications:

- **Dr. Amitabh Mishra** for his new article "**A Thermal and Energy Aware Framework with Physiological Safety Considerations for Internet of Things in Healthcare and Medical Applications**" in Ubiquitous Computing.
- **Dr. Frank Gilliam** for his new book "**Responses of Forest Ecosystems to Nitrogen Deposition.**"
- Dr. Guofang Wan, Dr. Francis Godwyll, **Dr. Rashmi Sharma**, **Dr. Wisdom Mensah**, **Dr. Patrick Yang**, **Dr. Mark Malisa**, and **Dr. William Crawley** for their article "**Mentoring Through the Structured-Seminars: Student Progression in the Online Ed.D. Program**" in Innovative Teaching and Learning.

If you or your students have a recently published article or book you'd like to see highlighted here, email Jeffrey Cassady at [jcassady@uwf.edu](mailto:jcassady@uwf.edu) and be sure to include the authors' names, the article's name, the publication in which the article appears, and a link to the article.

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