

## December 2020

### *Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning*

Hello UWF colleagues and friends-

As we close out an unprecedented year (is anyone else ready for a year that is decidedly *precedented?!),* I share with you a list of research informational and to-do items:



- As mentioned **last month**, RAE has secured a contract with **Hanover Research Grant Solutions** to assist with proposal preparation. Engaging Hanover requires coordination and planning; our contract allows for limited proposal support in a single queue. If you plan to submit a proposal and want to request support from Hanover, please submit a **Proposal Request** ticket on the **RAE Service Desk**, along with a one-page concept paper, at least three months before the proposal deadline.
- If you are applying to, or have received funding from, a federal grant or contract from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, or Department of Defense, you must complete a **Financial Conflict of Interest form**. If you've not yet completed this form, now is a great time to do so via the **Disclosure of Significant Financial Conflict of Interest Form** available on the **RAE COI page**.
- On Oct. 5, 2020, the National Science Foundation updated its requirements for preparation of **Current and Pending** and **Biosketch** documents. You can get more information on how to proceed from this helpful **SciEnv FAQ** or by contacting a grant specialist at RAE. Please do NOT wait until your NSF proposal is due to start this process.
- If your **GrantForward** search is not performing the way it should be, please reach out and let us know via the **RAE General Service request**, so **RAE can work with you to improve that search** to improve the odds of finding a funding opportunity that meets your needs.
- Did you know that our own UWF Library maintains the Institutional Repository, a “digital repository for capturing, archiving, and disseminating the research, creative, and scholarly output of the University of West Florida community”? You can visit their informative **UWF IR libguide** to learn more, including how to upload your own manuscripts, technical reports, conference proceedings and presentations, video recordings, and more.

This has been a year and term like no other. I congratulate you all on your successes and accomplishments and join with the RAE staff to wish you all the best as you enter a **well-deserved** Winter Break.

Regards,

Matt Schwartz  
Professor and AVP of research administration

*Gingerbread photo courtesy of Getty Images.*

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## NSA partnership provides hands-on learning opportunities

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

*RAE Staff Writer*

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An education partnership agreement between the University of West Florida and the **National Security Agency** has given UWF students the chance to explore issues and challenges that face the defense and intelligence communities.

The partnership connects students in a collection of national security- and intelligence-related courses and directed study programs with members of the intelligence community who provide advice and feedback on projects, as well as insight into what it's like to work in national security.

"It's a good learning opportunity," said Dr. Donovan Chau, director of research engagement with the UWF Office of Research Administration and Engagement. Chau led multiple directed studies and a graduate seminar this year that were part of the partnership.

"The NSA is looking for talented students and talent in general," Chau said. "The students learn a lot, and the NSA sees a benefit. It's a win-win."

Twenty-seven students – undergraduate and graduate – have taken courses and participated in directed studies offered as part of the partnership, Chau said. Topics researched by participating students have included Russian influence in Africa and the use of technology, including drones, in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"Working with the NSA to perform applied research on the global technological response to COVID-19 was an amazing experience," said Kody Kimberl, a senior majoring in cybersecurity and software design and development. "Not only were we exposed to new methods of researching, presenting, and addressing problems, but we were given an opportunity to perform meaningful work that could be helpful to others in the future.

"This experience was incredibly formative and has inspired my partner and I to continue this research and potentially publish it," Kimberl said. "It has been an incredible opportunity, and I look forward to all of the lasting benefits of this experience."

The partnership provided students in existing University programs, such as the **Summer Undergraduate Research Program** and the **Kugelman Honors Program**,

new opportunities to engage in hands-on work, including open-source research.

“The Kugelman Honors Program at the University of West Florida provide a first-year experience course focused on applied research projects grounded in real-world problems to produce solutions that benefit the community,” said **Dr. Jocelyn Evans**, associate dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Evans oversaw students who participated in the NSA partnership through their enrollment in Honors Core 2.

“Several of the students in each freshman cohort are in STEM majors, focused on cybersecurity, computer science, and engineering,” Evans said. “For these students, the opportunity to do deep background research on the development and deployment of drones by state and nonstate actors offered a relevant project of increasingly significant importance to our national security.

“The students did a marvelous job meeting the needs of this community partner, delivering presentations that exhibited both strong organizational skills and thoughtful oral and written communication skills,” Evans said.

For more information about the partnership, contact Chau at [dchau@uwf.edu](mailto:dchau@uwf.edu).

## New publications

Congratulations to the following faculty members, staff, and students for their recent publications:

- **Dr. Crystal Bennett**, Hillary Fox, Maria McLain, and Camila Medina-Pacheco for their article, "**Impacts of dance on agitation and anxiety among persons living with dementia: An integrative review**," in the the journal Geriatric Nursing.
- **Dr. Raid Amin** and his co-authors for "**The Proximity of Spatial Clusters of Low Birth Weight and Risk Factors: Defining a Neighborhood for Focused Interventions**" in the Maternal and Child Health Journal.
- **Dr. Hakki Erhan Sevil**, Dr. Raid Amin, **Dr. Salih Kocak**, G. P. Peterson, J.T. Hamilton, B. Rivera, and Talia Barraco for "**A Spatio-Temporal Cluster Analysis of Structurally Deficient Bridges in the Contiguous USA**" in the journal Developments in the Built Environment.
- **Dr. Daniel Scott** for "**Regional differences in gang member identification methods among law enforcement jurisdictions in the United States**" in Policing: An International Journal.
- **Dr. Haris Alibasic** and **Dr. William Crawley** for "**Applying good governance through policy labs: Sustainable solutions for universities and local governments**" in the International Journal of Social Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context.
- Dr. Haris Alibasic for "**The administrative and ethical considerations of climate resilience: The politics and consequences of climate change**" in the journal Public Integrity.
- **Dr. Jennifer Brinkley** for "**A path forward: Florida's efforts to combat human trafficking**" in the South Carolina Law Review.
- **Dr. Chrystina Hoffman** for "**Event-specific and individual factors impacting**

college students' decisions to intervene in a potentially risky scenario" in the Journal of American College Health.

- **Dr. Stacie Whinnery, Dr. Keri Fogle**, Dr. Jennifer Stark, and Dr. Keith Whinnery for "**Building collaborative teacher education: Integrating UDL through a faculty learning community**" in the Journal of Practitioner Research.
- Dr. Chrystina Hoffman for "**Factors associated with #MeToo involvement among college students**" in the American Journal of Criminal Justice.

If you or your students have recently published a paper and would like to see it featured here, email [jcassady@uwf.edu](mailto:jcassady@uwf.edu) with the article's name and where it is published. Also, please include the names of the UWF faculty members and students who authored the paper and provide a link to the article or an abstract.

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