

Northwestern Research Newsletter

Summer 2009

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Students 'Get Hands Dirty' at Summer Institute

When people picture volunteer activities, they probably seldom think about building sheds for growing mushrooms in Uganda or working with a women's sewing cooperative in Argentina. But these are just two of the various projects that students are completing at this summer's Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI).

Northwestern alumnus Nathaniel Whittemore founded the program, which was originally called "Engage Uganda," in 2007 as a more responsible approach to volunteering abroad. He wanted to create a model where students could move beyond merely "helping others" to understand the cultural, political, and historical context in which they would work.

"Our program is not about going abroad and enrolling in a local university," says Nicole Patel, program manager for the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies. "It's about getting your hands dirty and working directly on issues that affect the community every day."

As Engage Uganda, the program sent 15 Northwestern students to different sites in Uganda. But due to success and interest, GESI has grown quickly in the past three years. This year, it sent 44 undergraduates from Northwestern and other American universities, including Duke, Brown and the University of Southern California, to Uganda, Argentina and India.

All students spend seven weeks with a host family and check in with the University through weekly reports. The first part of their stay involves interacting with the community, brainstorming projects, and designing proposals. Once a proposal is chosen, the students work together to implement it with the help of community members and field managers from the Foundation for Sustainable Development, a non-government organization (NGO) based out of San Francisco.

"We tell students very little about what they're going to do with their NGO hosts before visiting the country," says Patel, who graduated from Northwestern in 2006. "It's important for them to consult with the local community before coming up with ideas."

This summer the students are visiting various sites in the three countries and are addressing issues as wide ranging as environmental sustainability, childhood education, and microfinance. A team in Uganda is currently working on a project to help the community construct sheds for growing mushrooms in order to fight malnutrition among HIV/AIDS affected populations.



Northwestern alumnus Nikolai Smith works at an internally displaced persons camp in the Gulu district of Northern Uganda in July 2007. Photograph used courtesy of GESI staff.

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"All of the groups strive to create projects that will have a lasting effect," Patel says. "We know that projects succeed when community members have ownership. We also want students to understand that development is not promoted when an outsider comes in with a quick fix. It's a long process with many stakeholders."

Of course, there can be struggles when living in a new country and trying to work with the local community. Senior in the School of Education and Social Policy and GESI intern Allison Bream took part in Engage Uganda and remembers the challenges of working with limited resources.

"We helped computer teachers learn how to conduct classes, which was tricky because there were very large classes and unreliable electricity," says Bream, who was stationed in the Northern Ugandan town of Gulu. "But because we did struggle, it enhanced our team dynamics."

Patel says that teamwork skills are one of the main goals she hopes that students take away from their experience. Another thing she likes to see are the relationships that develop between the students and the people they work with abroad. Bream agrees, adding that her host family was the best part of her experience.



July 2007: Emily Eisenhart (left) and Rachael Druzinsky watch a Ugandan worker make a bracelet for [Invisible Children](#), an international organization that seeks to raise awareness of child soldiers in Northern Uganda. The bracelets are then sold online to raise funds for the organization. *Photograph used courtesy of GESI staff.*

"I still talk to my home-stay family and want to go back to visit," she says. "I really feel like I've become a part of their family fabric."

For more information about GESI, please visit www.mycge.org.

Steven Rosen Celebrates Father's Day at the White House



Above: Steven Rosen and actor B.D. Wong pose with students from the Asian American LEAD. Both Rosen and Wong wear orange t-shirts featuring the group's logo. *Photograph by Kendra Lee, director of programs, Asian American LEAD.*

Dr. Steven Rosen, director of the [Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University](#), joined President Barack Obama for a special Father's Day event at the White House on June 21. The daylong event celebrated the importance of connecting male role models with young men to support ambitions as future leaders and fathers.

Rosen was part of a group of accomplished fathers from around the country who met with local Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland youth taking part in activities and discussions centered on the importance of fatherhood and strengthening the character of young men.

Rosen, along with actor B. D. Wong from the television series *Law & Order*, spoke to a group of 20-30 students at the [Asian American LEAD](#) (Leadership, Empowerment, and Development for Youth and Families), a local organization in D.C. that helps increase the opportunities and ability of low income Asian-American children to become successful adults.

Following a Town Hall meeting with the President, Rosen and his son Nicholas, 17, attended a barbeque at the White House headed by acclaimed chef Bobby Flay who demonstrated methods of grilling.

The Father's Day event kicked off the President's national fatherhood initiative to highlight and advocate for responsible fatherhood. Other accomplished fathers in attendance were Senator Evan Bayh, professional skateboarder Tony Hawk, Motorola CEO Greg Brown, and Miami Heat basketball player Dwayne Wade.

Summer Programs Broaden Horizons for Students and Teachers

One of the biggest decisions for students during their undergraduate careers is choosing what to study beyond graduation. This choice can be even more difficult for students at small, liberal arts colleges who are interested in research but have limited access to the various scientific subjects that are offered at larger institutions.

Each summer Northwestern offers hands-on research experiences for undergraduates across the nation through Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) programs. The Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center (NSEC) and the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) programs are funded by the National Science Foundation, and the Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (CCNE) program is funded by the National Cancer Institute of the NIH.

"We certainly feel that it's especially important for students from liberal arts colleges to come and experience a research institution," says Klara Mueggenburg, project coordinator for MRSEC. "By attending a program at another university, students are exposed to new research topics."



REU student Phoebe Harpainer checks the temperature on a fire behind Cook Hall. She is working with David Dunand, materials science and engineering, to recreate 15th-century metalworking. *Photograph by Klara Mueggenburg*

Even students coming from larger institutions, though, are still introduced to new topics that they might not have pursued otherwise. Each student — 20 between NSEC and CCNE and 15 in MRSEC — is paired with a different faculty member and has a post-doc or graduate student mentor. All of the research projects are interdisciplinary, so students may find themselves working on research that combines aspects from their major with other disciplines.

"Students may start their summer experiences outside of their comfort zones," say Denise Dooley, education outreach coordinator for the NSEC and CCNE. "But they leave with an understanding of the links between the various scientific and engineering disciplines and how interdisciplinary research is driving innovation."

In addition to their research, participants in the REU program have access to unique learning opportunities outside of work in the lab. NSEC and CCNE provide a series of technical writing workshops, an interactive seminar with a professional speech coach, and workshops on professional ethics. Students in all REU programs are required to write a technical paper on their research projects and give a presentation to their peers at a closing symposium.

"The paper is a big part of it because it's important to learn how to communicate science," Mueggenburg says. "So they learn skills beyond just research. They learn how to write, give presentations, and collaborate in meetings."

Many of the student papers then are published in professional journals or in *Nanoscape: The Undergraduate Journal for Nanoscience*. *Nanoscape* is the first journal of its kind in the country to be distributed to universities and libraries nationwide. Submissions are accepted from undergraduate researchers across the country and from any REU program.

"The journal expands the visibility of undergraduate research, provides a forum for scholarly work and is a culminating experience for student research," says Mark Hersam, materials science and engineering, director of the NSEC and CCNE REU programs, and editor-in-chief of *Nanoscape*.



High school teachers Hina Patel and Barbara Kanakaraj work on a nanotechnology project as a part of the RET program. *Photograph by Matthew Guilson*

Recognizing that ongoing professional development for high school teachers is an important step in the revitalization of science education, both the NSEC and the MRSEC provide Research Experience for Teachers (RET) programs. Modeled after the REU program, RET allows participating teachers to become part of a faculty research team and engage in active research for eight weeks. Participants also attend weekly group meetings, laboratory tours (including a tour of the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory), and seminars.

The first teachers program of this kind was launched in 1993 by Northwestern Professor Robert P. H. Chang, materials science and engineering. It was then called the Research Experience for Science Teachers (REST) and provided hands-on research opportunities.

"The original idea was that we should teach teachers what research is," says Mueggenburg. "Teachers come here and learn about cutting-edge topics and are able to use them as motivation in their classrooms."

For more information about these programs please click through the following links: [CCNE](#), [MRSEC](#), and [NSEC](#).

Two Faculty Honored with Presidential Early Career Awards

Steven D. Jacobsen and Melina Kibbe, M.D. received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

The award, established in 1996, is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are in the early stages of their independent research careers. Awardees are selected on the basis of two criteria: Pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and a commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education or community outreach.

Jacobsen, assistant professor of Earth and planetary sciences, and Kibbe, associate professor of surgery at Feinberg, vascular surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and co-chief of the vascular surgery service and director of the Vascular Laboratory at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, will be invited to the White House to meet President Obama and receive the PECASE award this fall.

Nine federal departments and agencies join together annually to nominate

young scientists and engineers whose work is of greatest benefit to the nominating agency's mission. Jacobsen was nominated by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his 2008 Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, which includes research support for five years. Kibbe, who was nominated for the award by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), will receive funding from the department for five years as part of this award.

Jacobsen is being recognized for his innovative research on the critical role of water on the physical properties of the Earth's deep interior and for prioritizing science education at all levels, especially through efforts to increase minority student representation in advanced science and mathematics courses in Evanston public schools.

Kibbe, a member of the Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine at the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, is being recognized for her innovative research in the field of nitric oxide vascular biology and the development of novel translational therapies for patients with vascular disease.



Steven D. Jacobsen (above) and Melina Kibbe. Photographs used courtesy of Jacobsen and Kibbe



Two Faculty Receive HHMI Early Career Awards



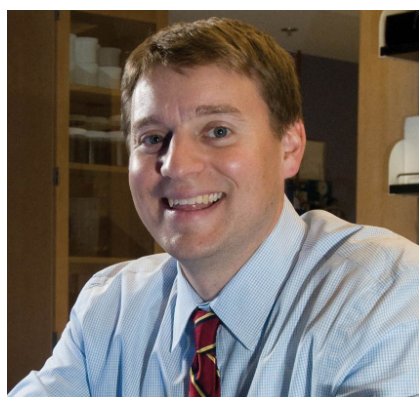
Northwestern's Sunjay Kaushal and C. Shad Thaxton are among 11 physician-scientists to receive the 2009 Early Career Award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). Each will receive \$375,000 over the next five years to help them launch and develop innovative research programs.

Kaushal (pictured top, left), surgery, is using tissue engineering to build new hearts and valves in his laboratory. His experience as a heart surgeon gives him a unique perspective on why valves fail and what can be done to improve them. He is planning to create a heart valve, starting with the cellular scaffolding of a pig heart. Kaushal will build the valve, testing different types of cells to find those that are strong enough to replicate the strength of the human heart muscle. His long-term goal is to use

tissue engineering to build an entire heart.

Thaxton (pictured bottom, left), urology, uses nanotechnology to evaluate the bio-barcode effectiveness in finding recurrent prostate cancer in clinical trials and plans to use nanotechnology in cardiovascular disease research. He created a nanoparticle that mimics high-density lipoprotein (HDL, or "good cholesterol") and hopes to develop new nano-sized drugs for preventing and treating damage to arteries caused by cholesterol buildup.

For more information about Kaushal, Thaxton or the other recipients, [click here](#).



Faculty Notes

Research led by **Vadim Backman**, biomedical engineering, found that cells located far from cancer cells give nanosignals of trouble. [Full Story](#)

A group led by **Markus Bredel**, neurological surgery, has identified a network of 31 mutated genes that stealthily work together to create the perfect molecular landscape to allow brain tumors to flourish. [Full Story](#)

Mercedes Carnethon, preventive medicine, led a study finding that young adults with low aerobic fitness levels are more likely to develop diabetes in 20 years compared to those who are fit. [Full Story](#)

David Cella, medical social sciences, is leading a new national project to establish a common scientific vocabulary. [Full Story](#)

John Csernansky, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, is using MRI maps of the brain to diagnose the beginning stages of mental disorders. [Full Story](#)

Bartosz Grzybowski, chemical and biological engineering and chemistry, led a study finding a novel and simple method that can direct and separate cancer cells from normal cells. [Full Story](#)

Dean Ho, biomedical engineering, and his research group found that insulin is an important new weapon for fighting infection and healing wounds. [Full Story](#)

Nina Kraus, communication sciences and disorders, conducted a study demonstrating an unambiguous relationship between reading ability and neural encoding of speech sounds. [Full Story](#)

A study led by **Douglas Medin**, psychology, found that people with ample moral self-worth in one aspect of their lives can slip into immorality in other areas. [Full Story](#)

Gregory Ryskin, chemical and biological engineering, conducted a study finding that the long-term changes in the Earth's main magnetic field are possibly induced by the oceans' circulation. [Full Story](#)

Teresa Woodruff, obstetrics and gynecology, and her research group completed the first critical step in the development of a new technique that may eventually preserve the fertility of female cancer patients. [Full Story](#)

Magazine Names Thaxton "Researcher of the Year"

C. Shad Thaxton, urology, has been named *Bioscience Technology's* 2009 Researcher of the Year.

The May issue of the publication contains the article "Researcher of the Year: Just Getting Started," which details Thaxton's journey from medical student to a fellow in Chad Mirkin's nanotechnology lab to becoming an assistant professor. It specifically notes his work on producing a DNA bio-barcode assay and creating synthetic HDL (high-density lipoproteins, also called "good cholesterol").

Bioscience Technology magazine covers new technologies and applications in life science research.

To access the full story about Shad Thaxton as "Researcher of the Year," [click here](#).

Honors

Jason Brickner, biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology, was selected as a Keck Distinguished Young Scholar in Medical Research.

Steven Calabresi, law, was awarded the Bradley Prize by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.

Alice Eagly, psychology, received the 2009 Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association.

Darren Gergle, communications studies, received the 2008/2009 Clarence Ver Steeg Faculty Award.

Paul Greenberger, medicine, is the new president of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

J. Larry Jameson, vice president for medical affairs and dean of Feinberg, received the Fred Conrad Koch Award from the Endocrine Society.

Tobin Marks, chemistry, received the 2010 William H. Nichols Medal from the American Chemical Society.

Chad Mirkin, chemistry, received the 2009 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize for his innovations in nanoscience.

Luciano Marraffini and **Erik Sontheimer**, both biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology, were awarded the Nestle Prize from the American Society of Microbiology, given annually for the best paper in the area of bacteriophage research for their publication.

Thomas A. Mustoe, surgery, was named the Orion H. and Lucille W. Stuteville Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Jennifer Richeson, psychology, received the 2009 Award for Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions to Psychology from the American Psychological Association.

Richard Silverman, chemistry, was elected into the Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame in the American Chemical Society.

Seth A. Stein, Earth and planetary sciences, received the 2009 George P. Woollard Award for the Geophysics Division of the Geological Society of America.

Sir Fraser Stoddart, chemistry, received an honorary doctorate from Trinity College, Dublin at the university's commencement ceremony.

Ellen Feldman Heads University Research Center Administration

Ellen Feldman (*pictured right*) has been named director of [University Research Center](#) Administration as of July 6. In this role, Ellen will work with Office for Research and center leaders to provide strategic support on centers' goals and objectives and review financial and administrative processes in order to increase collaboration between centers, departments and schools, and outside organizations.

She will provide guidance and expertise in regard to the entire life-cycle of pre- and post-award administrative processes to help ensure that projects meet the strategic goals of the center; that necessary resources are available; that risks are assessed and minimized; and that all requirements, compliance rules and regulations are fulfilled. Ellen will serve as a resource for the development and implementation of fiscal, administrative, and outreach/communication policies and in the development of required reports, analyses, financial statements and programmatic presentations.

Ellen has been at Northwestern since 2001, when she started as the business administrator at the [Institute for Policy Research](#) (IPR). While at IPR, she was responsible for all pre- and post-award functions, strategic planning, human resources and facilities. In 2005, Ellen joined the [Project Café](#) team as the senior functional specialist representing the research community. She was instrumental



in the planning and implementation of InfoEd Proposal Development and PeopleSoft Grants.

Ellen holds an MBA from Columbia University and a BA in mathematics and economics from Case Western Reserve. Prior to joining Northwestern, she worked in a variety of corporate settings, including marketing management at Quaker Oats.

McCormick Launches Centennial Web Site



In honor of its 100th anniversary this fall, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science will hold celebratory Centennial events around the country throughout the upcoming year. The celebration includes a new website, that features a timeline of McCormick history, a Centennial video, event information, archived photos, and narrated decade slide shows. New videos and events will be continually added.

To access the McCormick Centennial web site, [click here](#).

Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a longstanding interest in objectivity in research and financial conflicts of interest (FCOI). In March 2008, Northwestern and many other research-intensive universities responded to an NIH desk review of the FCOI policies. In the spring of this year, NIH completed its review of Northwestern's FCOI. The result was a revised policy, dated May 2009, which is posted on the website of the Office for Sponsored Research (OSR). The new policy can be found [here](#).

The OSR-100 FCOI disclosure forms have also been revised. Two areas that the NIH wishes to emphasize include the definition of "investigator" and the reporting of subsequently identified FCOIs. Northwestern has included within the policy FAQs guidance on who should be considered an investigator, e.g., postdocs, graduate students. It has also emphasized the need for investigators to disclose FCOIs that develop subsequent to the start of the project.

Questions about the revised policy can be directed to: Bruce Elliott, Director OSR-Chicago, at b-elliott@northwestern.edu, or Susan Ross, Director OSR-Evanston, at sross@northwestern.edu.

Human Subjects Recruitment Portal to be Launched

One of the major challenges to running a research experiment with human subjects is recruiting people who match the project's criteria.

"Normally people see flyers advertising experiments around campus, and they'll call the number and probably get voicemail. Then the research administrator will call them back later, and they'll probably play phone tag. It's not the most efficient system," says Chun-Liang Chan, technical support consultant in the department of linguistics.

With hopes of developing a more efficient process, Chan created an online system for possible subjects to enter their information and, through a series of questions, instantly learn if they qualify for a study. The automated system was implemented for the [Hearing Assessment Reformulation Project \(HARP\)](#) in the department of

audiology and was so successful that Chan submitted the idea to the University-wide [Best Practices E-Forum](#).

After gaining approval from a committee in the Office of the Provost, work began to create a one-stop portal for all campus-wide research experiments in need of human subjects. Chan says the portal will not only filter human subjects based on criteria, but also allow them to directly schedule a timeslot for the experiment through an online calendar. Moreover, they will be able to elect to receive email updates when new experiments are posted online that need people who match their description.

For more information or to submit an idea to the Best Practices E-Forum, [click here](#). According to Marianna Kepka, director of academic administration who oversees the forum, it "reflects the spirit of improvement and excellence" at the University.

ARRA: A New Era in Research Funding



The Office for Research has just launched a web site that features individual accounts of the research that has been funded under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. The web site highlights Northwestern's ARRA awards and the researchers who will conduct this transformative research.

Northwestern's ARRA research awards began to be announced in early summer. As of August 1, 80 ARRA awards have been funded for Northwestern researchers, totaling more than \$33.5 million. "Our ARRA web site will keep Northwestern as well as America's taxpayers informed about the potential return on their investment in a stronger future economy," says Jay Walsh, vice president for research. "We're proud of the work our researchers are doing and the benefits it will contribute to a better, healthier society."

The well organized ARRA Awards site provides individual articles on the researchers and the research that will be conducted with ARRA funding. The web page gives the basic information about each research project and how its results will benefit society. The information is linked to a full PDF article that describes the research in greater depth. The individual articles can be accessed by the name of the researchers, their schools and funding agencies.

In February, the Office for Research's Office of Research Development (ORD) inaugurated a web site that featured opportunities and information for researchers to find out

more about how and where the funding could be found. ORD also set up a listserv that kept researchers fully informed about funding opportunities.

"Many people from other institutions have told us they came to our web site because of how well we presented the opportunity information," says Holly Falk-Krzesinski, director of ORD. "And our analytics show that more than half of those who viewed the information came from outside the University."

The new web site builds on the success of the ARRA opportunities web site and is linked directly to it. Newly announced awards are being added as they become known. To visit the new site, [follow this link](#).

President Obama signed the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 in February to allocate funding meant to stimulate our economy and our future in a number of ways, not the least of which is to transform them using science and technology. Northwestern has supported this legislation since it was signed into law.

The taxpayers of America have a tremendous stake in University research funding. Through the federal funding agencies, in particular, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense, among others, billions of tax dollars are invested in America's future through university research. Nearly 75 percent of Northwestern's research funding in 2008 came through these federal funding agencies, just over \$328 million out of a total research award volume of \$438.8 million.

IRB to Offer 'Investigator 101'

Don Workman, associate vice president for research operations, will present "Investigator 101" training this month. The event, designed for Northwestern principal investigators and sponsored by the [Institutional Review Board](#), will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, August 28 in room 750 of the Rubloff Building on the Chicago campus. This session will address the protection of human research subjects, specifically covering:

- History and ethical principles, including the *Belmont Report*
- An overview of the federal regulations
- Roles and responsibilities of the principal investigator, IRB, and institution
- The informed consent process
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Research and vulnerable populations

In addition to the training, IRB is also offering a [Brown Bag seminar](#) about the eIRB conversion (paper to electronic) process. The seminar will take place at noon on Aug. 19 in room 750 of the Rubloff Building.

For more information or registration for either event, please contact Olga Kwiecien at (312) 503-6012 or o-kwiecien@northwestern.edu.

Northwestern Research In the News, Summer

Charles Bennett, medicine, commented on the slow process of FDA approval for cancer drugs in [USA Today](#).

Markus Bredel, neurological surgery, and his research into gene mutations and brain cancer was mentioned in the [Associated Press](#), [Health Day News](#), [ABC News](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), and [WebMD](#).

Mercedes Carnethon, preventive medicine, and her study about unfit young adults and diabetes were the subject of an article by the [United Press International](#) and [Los Angeles Times](#).

John Csernansky, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and his efforts to map the human brain in order to improve diagnoses of mental disorders were mentioned in [United Press International](#) and [Chicago Tribune](#).

Martha Daviglus, preventive medicine, commented on high-salt diets in [U.S. News and World Report](#).

Mehmet Dokucu, psychiatry, discussed electroconvulsive therapy in [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Alice Dreger, medical humanities and bioethics, commented on children and cosmetic surgery in [USA Today](#).

Daniel Dunham, medicine, talked about electronic medical records in the [Associated Press](#).

Alice Eagly, psychology, discussed networking and women in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Bartosz Grzybowski, chemical and biological engineering, and his research on programmable nanoparticles in [Popular Science](#) and [Chemistry World](#).

Jiaying Huang, materials science and engineering, was mentioned in [Chemical and Engineering News](#) along with his study about graphite oxide converted to graphene.

Joseph Hupp, chemistry, discussed carbon dioxide-capturing materials in [The New York Times](#).

An article about **Andrew Jacobson**, Earth and planetary science, and his permafrost research appears on [LiveScience](#).

Kris McGrath, medicine, and his study linking antiperspirants to breast cancer were mentioned on the [CBS News](#).

Phillip Messersmith, biomedical engineering, talked about hydrogels in [Chemical Biology](#).

[U.S. News and World Report](#) included a feature story about **Chad Mirkin**, chemistry.

Chad Mirkin, chemistry, receiving the Lemelson-MIT Prize was the subject of articles in [The Wall Street Journal](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [Chemical and Engineering News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Emile Okal, Earth and planetary science, and his study on detecting tsunamis by radar were mentioned in [Science](#).

A study by **Jonathan Parker** and **Annette Vissing-Jorgensen**, both finance, about income losses during recession was mentioned in [Newsweek](#).

Jennifer Richeson, psychology, was profiled in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Gregory Ryskin, chemical and biological engineering, and his paper about Earth's magnetic field were discussed in the [Guardian](#), [National Geographic](#) and [New Scientist](#).

Paola Sapienza, finance, and her study about people who walk away from mortgage payments were the subject of an article in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Richard Silverman, chemistry, receiving the Perkin Medal was mentioned in [Chemical & Engineering News](#).

Shad Thaxton, urology, and **Chad Mirkin**, chemistry, were mentioned in a feature story about nanotechnology in [Nature](#).

Teresa Woodruff, obstetrics and gynecology, and her study to preserve fertility in cancer patients were mentioned in [Wired Science](#).

Laurie Zoloth, bioethics, commented on paying women for their eggs in the [Washington Post](#).

A Northwestern study about a sense of moral inferiority leading to future moral behavior was mentioned in the [Washington Post](#).

Proposal and Award Reports for May 2009

The dollar volume of proposals submitted to sponsors this fiscal year through May 2009 is \$1.6 billion, an increase of 21 percent (\$273.3 million) over May 2008. The increase reflects Northwestern researchers' response to special funding opportunities made available as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Note the number of proposal submitted in the month of May 2009 is nearly double the number submitted in May 2008. This, coupled with the quadrupling of April 2009 proposals, continues to absorb nearly all Office for Sponsored Research resources, leaving a backlog in award processing that remains to be addressed in coming months.

Feinberg proposals increased by 16 percent (\$126.7 million), while those from McCormick rose by 62 percent (\$122.4 million). Submissions from Research Centers and Institutes and the School of Communication also increased by 46 percent (\$36.6 million) and 14 percent (\$4.0 million) respectively. Proposal activity in the School of Education and Social Policy decreased by 55 percent (\$14.8 million) while those from Weinberg declined by less than 1 percent (\$0.3 million).

In May 2009, the dollar volume of proposals submitted to Federal agencies increased by 27 percent (\$304.0 million),

while those to U.S. state and local government bodies grew by 495 percent (\$4.1 million). Proposals to voluntary health organizations reflected a decrease of 28 percent (\$18.0 million), while those to industry were down by 25 percent (\$10.2 million). State of Illinois agency proposals also decreased by 82 percent (\$5.4 million).

The total amount of award funding received this fiscal year through May 2009 is \$232.7 million, a decrease of 17 percent (\$48.2 million) over May 2008.

The dollar volume of awards to Research Centers and Institutes increased by 19 percent (\$2.6 million), while those to Feinberg decreased by 23 percent (\$42.5 million). McCormick and Weinberg awards were also down by 25 percent (\$8.9 million) and 5 percent (\$1.7 million) respectively.

In May 2009, awards from voluntary health organizations increased by 17 percent (\$1.8 million). Award activity from federal agencies decreased by 22 percent (\$45.8 million), while those from State of Illinois agencies also declined by 36 percent (\$2.6 million).

Solar Car Team Places Third



The Northwestern Solar Car Team took third place in the Formula Sun Grand Prix 2009, held June 1 through 5 at the Texas Motorsports Ranch in Cresson, Texas. Nine teams from across the country competed in the race, where teams attempted to drive as many laps as possible in the three-day time period. [Full Story](#)

Photograph by Mike Awadalla

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Office for Research
633 Clark Street
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Jay Walsh, Vice President for Research

Office for Research Planning, Finance, and
Communication

Meg A. McDonald, Executive Director
Joan T. Naper, Director of Research Communications
Kathleen P. Mandell, Senior Editor
Amanda B. Morris, Publications Editor

research@northwestern.edu
www.research.northwestern.edu

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Please send news tips, questions, and
comments to Amanda Morris:

E-mail: amandamo@northwestern.edu
Phone: (847) 791-7930
www.research.northwestern.edu/orpfc



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