

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [PSI Awardees Conduct Inventories of University Activities](#)
- [University of West Florida Launches Affiliate Program](#)
- [OSTP Gives Priority to Ethical and Scientific Integrity](#)
- [Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Annual Meeting](#)

Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

PSI AWARDEES CONDUCT INVENTORIES OF UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

During the first phase of the Project for Scholarly Integrity (PSI), the planning committee developed a framework for guiding institution-wide efforts to promote scholarly integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). A key component of this document was a multi-dimensional approach to assessing the needs of graduate institutions. Three areas of assessment were outlined: the institutional “climate” or culture of research, university activities and resources supporting RCR and scholarly integrity, and student learning. In the Winter of 2008 and Spring of 2009, the Council of Graduate Schools and the PSI Awardees met to discuss research tools in all three areas and approved common tools for assessing climates and activities. Updates on the common climate assessment instrument were provided in the [April 2009 PSI Newsletter](#).

The assessment of university activities and resources will enable Awardees to meet their project goals in a variety of ways. Used internally, the survey will allow universities to inventory current and planned activities, as well as material resources related to RCR and research ethics, and identify areas of vulnerability or need. Within the PSI project as a whole, the survey will provide one measure of the impacts of individual projects at each university since institutions will administer the survey at both the beginning and the end of the implementation phase.

PSI Awardees participated in the creation of the final survey by providing revisions to a template developed by CGS. The inventory survey comes in two parts, one directed at the graduate school or other central unit serving students and/or faculty from multiple disciplines, and the other directed at specific departments and programs. Both [revised surveys](#) were made available to Project Affiliates in July 2009 and are now publicly available on the PSI website. Any institution is free to use or adapt the survey templates, which take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete. CGS is currently exploring the option to make the activities inventory survey available to any institution on SurveyMonkey.com.

PSI Awardees and Affiliates will present on their activities, including their experiences using the climate surveys and the activities inventory, at a special session devoted to the PSI

project at the [CGS Annual Meeting](#) in December 2009. Please stay tuned for more information about this event.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA LAUNCHES AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

As an Affiliate of the Project for Scholarly Integrity, the [University of West Florida \(UWF\)](#) has demonstrated a strong commitment to making issues of scholarly integrity a priority for all members of their university community. CGS is happy to support the efforts of UWF and other [Affiliate universities](#) by featuring their projects in PSI newsletters and on the PSI web. UWF and a number of other PSI Affiliates will soon become more deeply involved in the project by using common assessment tools and by sharing their experiences and project outcomes at the CGS Annual Meeting. We are delighted to publish the following update on UWF's project, which has been provided by Dr. Richard Podemski, Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice President for Research and Dr. Carla Thompson, Director of the Community Outreach Research and Learning (CORAL) Center at UWF.

"The University of West Florida (UWF) is excited to be an Affiliate of the CGS Project for Scholarly Inquiry (PSI). As a regional comprehensive university with a large segment of part-time graduate students and a focus on applied research, we believe that we have unique challenges relative to research integrity and, thus, need to develop unique solutions. It is our hope that our activities will help inform solutions at other regional institutions. Currently UWF is undertaking a variety of activities for faculty, staff, students, and the professional education community to promote the responsible conduct of research (RCR). These activities are coordinated by a university-wide steering committee that has representatives from each graduate department and is chaired by Dr. Carla Thompson, Director of the Community Outreach Research and Learning (CORAL) Center. This year the entire university is focusing on academic integrity in its many aspects. The opening faculty assembly dealt with strategies to promote academic integrity in undergraduate instruction, online learning, and graduate instruction and research. The assembly presented UWF's affiliation with the PSI and highlighted activities that will be completed throughout the project.

In spring 2009, the UWF steering committee developed and pilot-tested a Needs Assessment instrument, which assesses faculty and graduate student perceptions of the current research climate and related issues associated with RCR in UWF graduate programs. This instrument will be administered broadly across campus in September 2009 with the results serving to guide next steps. The second key activity will be an analysis by the department steering committee representatives of the syllabi for all graduate research courses to determine the extent to which they address the various elements of RCR. To support revision of course curricula, the Research Integrity Officer in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has developed a [website](#) listing appropriate RCR tutorials, tests, policy guidelines, print resources, and other materials found at government and university sites. We believe that this course review and revision will have a significant long-term impact. Finally, UWF is hosting the Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association (RMERA) Annual Meeting. Dr. Daniel Denecke of CGS will discuss national issues related to RCR in the keynote speech and the conference will feature a RCR program strand. For information concerning upcoming events at the University of West Florida, contact Dr. Richard Podemski (rpodemski@uwf.edu) or Dr. Carla Thompson (cthompson@uwf.edu)."

OSTP GIVES PRIORITY TO ETHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

On August 4, 2009, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a memorandum on budget priorities for federal science and research agencies and guidance for planning Fiscal Year 2011 budget submissions. The memo identifies four "practical challenges": economic recovery, the promotion of innovative energy technology, support for affordable health care, and national security. In its general guidelines to agencies, the memo also affirms the importance of ethics to the conduct of science, stating that "[...] agencies are expected to conduct programs in accordance with the highest standards of ethical and scientific integrity and to have clear principles, guidelines, and policies on issues such as scientific openness, scientific misconduct, conflicts of interest, protection of privacy, and the appropriate treatment of human subjects."

While OSTP has issued statements on scientific integrity in previous memos, this year the office has taken the additional step of facilitating a forum on scientific integrity, "the [Science Integrity blog](#)." As part of the Obama Administration's "Open Government Initiative," a website designed to promote transparency, participation, and collaboration in government, the blog "solicit[s] public input on how best to identify and incorporate scientific evidence and information on critical issues facing the Nation." Recent blog postings include an update on the activities of the [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#), an advisory group of scientists and engineers appointed by President Obama.

Upcoming Events

ASSOCIATION FOR PRACTICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS ANNUAL MEETING

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE), an organization that encourages interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching in practical and professional ethics, will host its Annual Conference in Cincinnati, OH, from March 4-7, 2010. Both members and nonmembers of the association are encouraged to submit papers, panel topics, case study presentations, pedagogical demonstrations, and topics for "Lunch with an Author" and "Author Meets the Critic" sessions in all areas of practical and professional ethics. Submissions are welcomed from a wide variety of fields, and special consideration is given to issues in ethics that transect two or more disciplines.

A number of special events will run in conjunction with the conference, including:

- A Pre-Conference Workshop, "**Ethical Guidance for Research and Application of Pervasive and Autonomous Information Technology (PAIT)**"
This event (March 3-4, 2010) is sponsored by Indiana University's Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions and the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics with a grant from the National Science Foundation. The meeting will include "experts in PAIT, ethicists well versed in practical ethics, and other stakeholders."
- A Mini-Conference, "**Engineering towards a More Just and Sustainable World**" (March 6-7, 2010)
- **Graduate Seminar on Teaching Practical and Professional Ethics**

Richard Momeyer of Miami University of Ohio will teach this seminar exclusively for graduate students (March 4, 2010).

- **Ethics Center Colloquium**

The Ethics Center Colloquium is “designed to appeal to ethics center directors or their representatives, those considering establishing an ethics center, and other interested persons.”

- **Media Ethics Division Meeting**

The Media Ethics Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication “invites papers and panel proposals on all topics related to ethics in the media (journalism, public relations, advertising, entertainment media and the Internet). Interdisciplinary submissions are encouraged.”

Postmark deadlines for submissions to the APPE Annual Meeting:

October 16, 2009: submission deadline for Formal Paper, Panel, Pedagogical Demonstration, Case Study Presentation and Discussion, and “Author Meets the Critic”

October 9, 2009: submission deadline for “Lunch with an Author” discussions

October 30, 2009: submission deadline for undergraduates

For additional information about registration and submission guidelines, please see the [Registration and Submission Form](#) or visit the [conference website](#). Early-Bird Registration ends November 27, 2009.

For more information about the Project for Scholarly Integrity, please contact:

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