SVPR’s Corner

As you will read, the Research Computing and Instrumentation Center opened the new data center doors. Patrick Messer and his team have been working tirelessly to create a state-of-the-art facility that serves the UNH research community. During the reception, I spoke to Jim Ryan, Professor of Physics, who told me that there was no interruption of service during this major renovation. We can all learn a good lesson in customer service and relations from the RCI team.

This year the SVPR Management Team has identified new goals and objectives targeted at improving services, efficiency, and customer relations. Each of us must see ourselves in these goals. We will be finalizing them at our next Management Team meeting. Then I expect that each of you will have the opportunity to review them and provide input on how to best reach the benchmarks and identified metrics. This may sound a bit bureaucratic, but it is the best way to make sure that we are supporting the UNH Strategic Plan: UNH 2020.

One last piece of news. Our NSF EPScO award was officially announced. We will be receiving $20M over the next five years to improve our research infrastructure in the area of ecosystem science. The award, titled “Interactions Among Climate, Land Use, Ecosystem Services and Society,” involves UNH faculty, students and partners from across the state. You will be hearing more about it in the next issue. Kevin Gardner and Michelle Gregoire will be leading the charge on this initiative. Thanks to everyone for your hard work.

Jan Nisbet

Research Computing and Instrumentation Center Shows Off Data Center Renovations to Campus Community

The Research Computing and Instrumentation Center (RCIC), which provides support to UNH’s sponsored research community, held an open house Sept. 28 to give the UNH community a glimpse of the data center that has undergone a near total renovation. Pictures of the renovation in process can be seen at: https://rcc.sr.unh.edu/renovations/pages/during.html

“The renovation of the data center demonstrates the institutional commitment to meeting the expanding needs of the research enterprise at UNH,” says Patrick Messer, director of Research Computing and Instrumentation (RCI). “These are exciting times for RCIC and we are looking forward to managing a secure, energy efficient, and state of the art facility.”

The new 2,000-square-foot data center supports existing high performance computing and attracts new funding initiatives. Swipe locks and video cameras provide enhanced security and enable audit capability.

Funding for the renovation was provided by the Space Allocation, Repairs and Renovation Committee (SARRC).

RCI, which operates the Morse Hall data center, was formed in the fall of 2010 by combining the Research Computing Center (RCC), the University Instrumentation Center (UIC) and Research Information Technology (RIT). In addition to providing support to the sponsored research community, RCI collaborates with higher education, industry, and government to create innovative technologies designed to address important social, environmental, and economic needs.

The recent work added energy efficient in-row cooling, which uses rows of computer racks formed in “pods” to create hot aisle and cold aisle zones to maximize the delta temperature for cooling efficiency.

Jan Nisbet
Office Profile: Research Development & Communications

The newest UNH Research Office unit, Research Development and Communications (RDC), was created by SVPR Kathy Nisbet in January, 2010 to position UNH to be more strategic in its proposal submissions and to gain greater national recognition for our faculty. RDC is directed by Lynnette Hentges, with the assistance of several graduate students from UNH’s English Department.

RDC’s primary responsibilities are to:
• Help faculty and research staff develop strategies and build skills for successful grant seeking;
• Facilitate development of multi-disciplinary and institution-wide proposals;
• Coordinate UNH responses to special funding and award programs; and
• Promote communication of UNH research and discovery activities to the UNH community, the general public, and the business community.

RDC staff work with researchers one-on-one, conduct and participate in workshops and seminars, and employ a variety of communication strategies to inform stakeholders about UNH research and research support activities.

Since its inception, RDC has launched and/or participated in numerous activities. Chief among these are:
• Support for the 21 faculty engaged in the inaugural UNH Research & Engagement Academy and another 45 faculty and staff in various “learning communities” for such programs as NSF Early Career;
• Development of processes for “limited submission programs”;
• Creation of a proposal strengthening/polishing/editing service;
• Presentation of an expanded series of workshops covering a variety of grant-seeking topics;
• Implementation of a Research Development Working Group, with representation from all UNH colleges, schools, and research institutes, to advise on and steer RDC’s activities;
• Campus visits and support from UNH’s federal relations firm, Van Scoyoc and Associates;
• Gaining UNH’s eligibility to apply to the Searle Scholars Program and the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences;
• Nominations of faculty for prestigious national-level awards; and
• Initiation of communications and public relations efforts, including a complete transformation of the Research Office website led by our webmaster, Lynnette.

RDC staff are members of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals, a group started three years ago to recognize the growing need for research institutions to invest resources to enable faculty to compete more effectively for federal and not-for-profit sponsorship.

Comings, Goings, & Goings-on

Gale Dean, has decided to move on to other opportunities. Gale was the Grant & Contract Administrator (GCA) for a set of research intensive departments and also served as the principal point of contact for the preparation and submission of reports required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Gale’s ARRA reporting responsibilities have been assumed by Karen Maria in the SPA Financial Management Group and her GCA responsibilities have been assumed by her GCA colleagues until a replacement can be found.

A Web-based oil spill response tool developed by the Research Computing & Instrumentation Center was one of four finalists for the prestigious Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for Homeland Security.

The tool – Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) – was developed in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the UNH/NOAA Coastal Response Research Center. It was essential in coordinating the response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

“Being a finalist is a huge success. I was very impressed by the caliber of the finalists,” said RCI director Patrick Messer, who attended the awards ceremony in Washington, DC on September 15th.

The Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, from the Partnership for Public Service, honors outstanding federal workers who are making high-impact contributions critical to the health, safety and well-being of Americans.

The medals are considered the most prestigious awards for American civil servants.

Read more at: http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM/


www.unh.edu/