If you would like information about an announcement, please contact Deborah Hamilton (8-2952).

Please visit our web site research.cba.ua.edu. This site has links to searchable databases such as SPIN and IRIS, the UA internal coordination sheet, and the C&BA supplemental compensation approval form.

Reminder

All proposals must be coordinated through the College before being submitted. Proposals submitted jointly with another UA college as the lead still require C&BA approval.

Proposals that call for supplemental compensation need to include an approved C&BA supplemental compensation form with the proposal submission.

New Year’s Resolutions for Proposal Writers and Researchers

1. I will contact the funding agency’s program officer for advice before writing and submitting a proposal. If I’m unsure about this, I will call Deborah Hamilton.

2. I will let Sponsored Programs know in advance that I plan to submit a proposal and I will follow the “three day rule” and give them my proposal three days before it’s due at the sponsor.

3. I will use a spell checker on my proposal; moreover, I will read it myself to see if there are any “woods” I didn’t mean to use that the spell checker didn’t catch.

4. I will have a second pair of eyes look at my proposal: perhaps a colleague, chair, or mentor.

5. I will attend a Proposal Development Workshop if I haven’t done so.

6. I will make use of our SPIN subscription to seek funding opportunities.

7. I will thoroughly read proposal guidelines and will familiarize myself with things such as page limits, fonts, margins, and all the other niceties that will help me get my proposal written well before deadline.

8. If my proposal is rejected, I will make sure to get copies of the proposal reviewers’ comments so I can learn from them for the next proposal.

9. I will submit agency reports on time for my funded grants, so that my program, my fellow researchers, and my institution are not jeopardized by my actions.

10. I will practice using NSF FastLane—prior to actually needing it for proposal submission—by using the demonstration site at http://www.fldemo.nsf.gov.
Retirement Research

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College seeks proposals for the Steven Sandell Grant Program for Junior Scholars in Retirement Research. The program supports research on retirement issues by junior scholars in a variety of disciplines, including actuarial science, demography, economics, finance, public policy, and statistics. The program is funded by the Social Security Administration. Grants are for up to $25,000. Deadline is March 14.

Operations Research

NSF’s Operations Research (OR) program is concerned with generic tools for modeling and optimization of manufacturing and service enterprise operations. Emphasis is on research improving basic analytical and computational techniques, but their potential for impact on relevant engineering and operations management problems should be apparent. Categories of research include:

1. Methods for optimizing mathematical programming and similar models requiring the minimum/ maximization of objective functions over decision choices, subject to explicit constraints on the feasible alternatives. Such methods range from procedures for computing provably optimal solutions, to heuristic/approximate methods offering only a strong expectation of better answers than could be obtained without the aid of formal algorithms;

2. Stochastic modeling and Monte Carlo simulation of operations involving significant uncertainty or randomness. Approaches may or may not explicitly involve optimization of such systems, but their relevance to decision-making should be evident. Stochastic optimization extensions of mathematical programming are also of interest; and

3. Contributions to the theory of modeling, optimization, and equilibria in classic focused problem environments such as scheduling, reliability, facilities location and design, and inventory management. Such research should provide generic tools and/or policy insights valid across a variety of specific application settings.

Deadline is February 1.

Service Enterprise Engineering

NSF’s Service Enterprise Engineering (SEE) program addresses focused research on design, planning, and control of operations and processes in commercial service enterprises. Contributions should extend the range of analytical and computational techniques addressed to these systems, and/or advance novel models offering policy insight or the prospect of implementable solutions.

Service enterprises dominate the U.S. economy and this program is intended to parallel more traditional activities in modeling and analysis of manufacturing enterprises with a new focus on service operations. Sectors represented initially include: commercial transportation, logistics and distribution, health care delivery, financial engineering, electronic markets and auctions, after-sale equipment monitoring, maintenance and repair, retailing, hospitality and entertainment, and customer call centers. Contributions may involve generic issues for these enterprises such as staff scheduling, dynamic pricing, facilities design, and quality assurance, or address more focused questions of interest mainly in particular sectors.

SEE research is typically performed with the guidance or collaboration of appropriate industrial partners to validate the impact of the results on the intended application. Successful proposals should involve novel adaptations of techniques and creative modeling to make real advances in the application setting.

Deadline is February 1.

Global Security and Sustainability

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is accepting applications for grants to support research and writing on global security and sustainability, with a focus on either migration and refugees or the relationship between technological change and public policy. Individual awards are for up to $75,000 and awards for two-person collaborations are for up to $100,000. Deadline is February 3.