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

Please visit our web site research.cba.ua.edu. This site has links to the new UA internal coordination sheet and to the updated benefit rate schedule.

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. Forms are available on the C&BA Handbook section of the College web site.

Lifelong Financial Security Issues

The TIAA-CREF Institute encourages applied and theoretical research related to issues dealing with lifelong financial security for individuals and their families. Fields of support include:

- pension and retirement issues
- health, life and long-term care insurance
- investment products and strategies
- endowments and planned giving
- higher education financing and trends
- corporate governance
- financial literacy

Priority is for proposals that request direct costs only, those in the $5,000 to $40,000 range, and for partial support. An initial letter of inquiry outlining the project is highly encouraged and may be submitted by email or regular post at any time.

Purchasing and Supply Chain Management

CAPS Research seeks leading-edge research to support the evolution of strategic purchasing and supply management. CAPS Research generally funds research that identifies: (1) the current state of the practice; (2) the leading edge of current practice and applications; or (3) concepts, ideas, practices, techniques, tools and technologies that are now in the early development stage.

CAPS Research encourages research on topics that have been given a high priority by purchasing/supply chain management executives. Proposals on other topics also may be submitted, but additional information must be provided to justify them.

CAPS Research’s 2001-2002 research priorities are: measuring purchasing/supply value; e-commerce/e-procurement general issues and value; education/training of professionals; buyer-supplier relationship management; e-exchanges and e-markets; organizational structure and supply chain design issues; global sourcing issues; buying services; consortiums; outsourcing; reverse auctions; software evaluation tools; supplier diversity; and supplier evaluation.

Awards typically range from $25,000 to $50,000. Proposals for more than $50,000 may be considered but will be subject to additional review. Generally it is the intent of CAPS Research to support researchers for one summer, for one-half time for one semester, or for one-quarter time for two semesters.

Research on Education

The Spencer Foundation supports high-quality research on education. Although many awards are to scholars in the field of education, support is
provided in a wide range of disciplinary fields, including business and economics. However, business and economic scholars must be able to show relevance of their research to the field of education. The Foundation is interested in projects that contribute to the educational research literature, namely studies on schooling from K-12 and in postsecondary institutions.

The **Major Research Grants Program** supports projects requiring more than $35,000. The Foundation does not establish funding priorities; projects originate from research ideas initiated in the field by scholars. The Foundation does not accept fully developed proposals unless it requests them. Applicants should submit brief preliminary proposals of no more than 1,500 words in length.

Previous **Major Research Grant** awards include: *An Evaluation of Florida’s Voucher Program*, Education Policy Center, The Urban Institute, $475,000; and *The American University in the Marketplace*, Center for the Study of Higher Education, Pennsylvania State University, $68,300.

The **Small Research Grants Program** supports short-term (one year or less) that require no more than $35,000 to complete. A preliminary proposal is not required. Proposals should be in the form of a statement, not exceeding 1,800 words, with attachments.

Previous **Small Research Grant** awards include: *Race and Ethnic Gaps in Educational Outcomes: The Experience of Children of the U.S. Armed Forces*, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, $34,700; *The Social Construction of Urban Education: New Jersey Whole School Reform and Teachers’ Understanding of Social Class and Race*, Lubin School of Business, Pace University, $35,000; and *College Transfer Decisions and Their Effects on Future Earnings*, Department of Economics, Ohio State University $33,500.

Proposals are accepted at any time.

**Manufacturing and Service Enterprise Operations**

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. Major categories of research include:

1. Methods for optimizing mathematical programming and similar models requiring the min/maximization of objective functions over decision choices, subject to explicit constraints on the feasible alternatives.

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.

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.

Previous awards include: *Stochastic Optimization for Revenue Management*, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, $341,706, focuses on methods to solve certain problems in the area of revenue management, centering on development of techniques to determine how to manage the availability of multiple types of products comprised from a common pool of resources for sale to multiple classes of customers;

*Scheduling of Large Scale Systems*, University of California at Berkeley, $295,305, involves scheduling and controlling production and distribution across a supply chain, to enable exploration of the tradeoff between the costs associated with holding semi-finished goods between production stages at different facilities, the efficient use of these facilities, and the minimization of transportation costs.

*Resource Allocation under Uncertainty*, University of Michigan, $200,000, this CAREER award aims to link two management science techniques in an attempt to provide a powerful optimization approach that allows great model complexity.

*Stochastic Optimization of System Reliability with Risk-Averse Decision-Makers*, Rutgers University, $260,000, this CAREER grant develops optimization algorithms with the goal of maximizing system reliability when critical components, which may be used in the design, have uncertain reliability.

Deadlines are October 1 and February 1 of each year.