

1-1-1989

Increases in Research Funding Move USF into the Future

George R. Newkome

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usf_mag_articles_usfsp

Recommended Citation

Newkome, George R., "Increases in Research Funding Move USF into the Future" (1989). *USF magazine Articles about USFSP*. 5.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usf_mag_articles_usfsp/5

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the University Advancement at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USF magazine Articles about USFSP by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.

Increases In Research Funding Move USF Into The Future

At USF, the term "research" has broadened in definition to reflect the diverse interests of our faculty and staff in pursuing scientific, technical and creative activities. There has been a new emphasis on multi-disciplinary projects to solve the complex problems facing society.

In his 1988 inaugural address, President Francis T. Borkowski challenged the faculty, staff and students at USF to determine solutions to societal needs of the 21st Century. The Office of Research is working diligently to provide funding opportunities that will enable USF to meet this challenge.

This past year, USF achieved new heights in research stature as indicated by the volume of external funding awarded to our faculty. During fiscal year 1988/89, USF received \$55.8 million in awards, representing a 49.5 percent increase from the previous year — a hallmark figure reached two years earlier than projected. To acquire and retain funding, faculty and staff must have the appropriate resources available to them to attract granting agencies. The Division of Sponsored Research (DSR) provides funding to investigators, departments and colleges to enable them to build these resources. In fiscal year 1989/90, DSR will return over \$2.7 million to colleges, departments and faculty, a net increase of 182 percent over FY 1986/87. DSR also provides matching funds on proposals, which allows granting agencies to recognize the University's commitment to research.

Communications through Sources (a monthly newsletter), faculty research, interest profiles, grantsmanship workshops, specialized funding searches and other services offered by DSR have brought about an increased awareness of opportunities and experiences for faculty, students and staff.

To provide additional in-house support of faculty research, DSR, through the USF Research Council, sponsors International Travel Grants and Research and Creative Scholarship Awards. Sixty of these competitive grants were awarded in 1988/89, totalling \$260,000. The allocation for these awards in 1989/90 will be increased to \$440,000: \$360,000 for Research and Creative Scholarship Awards; \$60,000 for International Travel Grants; and \$20,000 for a new conference support program. In addition, DSR administers competitive, in-house grants from funding provided each year by the USF President's Council.

Effective research at USF is also signified by the promotion of educational pursuits in support of outstanding future researchers. This year, the USF Research Council took a proactive role in furthering recruitment of minority doctoral students majoring in arts and sciences by allocating \$25,000 per year for a four-year

fellowship award in the name of Richard F. Pride. The USF Institute on Black Life will be administering this award.

The recently established Division of Technology Development and Transfer in the Office of Research oversees intellectual property rights of USF faculty, staff and students. A new inventions and works policy manual, an industry data base, and the USF Research Foundation, Inc., will soon be in place to facilitate the patent and copyright application and marketing process. The Office of Research has high expectations that these services will provide additional in-house funding for researchers at USF within the next few years. Via this mechanism, USF will contribute to the economic growth of the State of Florida and the nation by transferring to industry new technology developed by faculty, students and staff.

At USF, the term "research" has broadened in definition to reflect the diverse interests of our faculty and staff in pursuing scientific, technical and creative activities. There has been a new emphasis on multi-disciplinary projects to solve the complex problems facing society. As a result, exciting collaborative research efforts have developed between colleges.

Collaborative efforts have also transpired within the State University System. Our proximity to Cape Kennedy and the space industry presents us with the opportunity to be a leader in many phases of space-related research. USF is involved in several cooperative efforts with NASA, our sister universities and industry. The envisioned projects will involve a total University commitment to researchers in the Colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Medicine and in the arts and sciences.

USF is very excited about its participation in the Florida Initiative in Advances Microelectronics and Materials. This DARPA grant, the largest in the history of the State University System, comprises a coordinated research program involving seven state universities as well as several universities and research groups outside of Florida. The USF study focuses on computer aided design and microelectronic integrated circuit restructuring aimed at executing wafer scale integration. Projects are also being conducted in the areas of optoelectronics and superconductivity. These efforts will enhance U.S. technology by offering special processing services to other universities

and laboratories on a national scale.

Another exciting venture is the relocation of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) research team to the USF St. Petersburg Campus. The USGS brings to USF the acclaim of nationally recognized researchers as well as expertise and facilities that will benefit faculty, staff, and students associated with the Department of Marine Science.

At USF's Institute for Biomolecular Science, scientists are working in partnership with private enterprise and public sector agencies to perform basic and applied research in microbiology and immunology. These two fields have contributed significantly in recent years to advances in medicine, agriculture and the environment. USF researchers are using modern biotechnology to restore the earth's environment, to improve the quality of life for humans, and to provide commercially useful products for society.

USF is also distinguished as the site of the Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). In one year of operation, CUTR has built a research program centered on creative transportation financing, suburban mobility and growth management. CUTR is well positioned to be a leader in sound transportation research in response to the problems of Florida and the Tampa Bay area.

These are but a few of the most notable research efforts at USF — it would be impossible to mention here all of the projects in the planning or implementation stages. As we look to the future, it is anticipated that the numbers stated previously will continue to grow. Thus, the foundations for the future that are now being laid will enable USF to meet President Borkowski's challenge with creativity and resolve. The Office of Research and its affiliated divisions are committed to providing the services and direction that will enable USF to become one of the leading basic and applied research institutions in the United States.

George R. Newkome
Vice President For Research