

WISER NEWSLETTER

WOMEN IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND RESEARCH AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
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SEPTEMBER 2017

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	Helping Researchers: Research Development Officer	STEM Faculty Highlights

Highlighting OU's Engaged Researchers - The Soundings Series



Dr. Terri Orbuch, “The Love Doctor”

“Being a Public Scholar: What’s Love Got to Do with It?”

with Dr. Terri Orbuch, “The Love Doctor”

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

3–4:30 p.m.

Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Refreshments provided.

RSVP to Leanne DeVreugd at ldevreug@oakland.edu.

The Research Office invites all faculty members to attend the upcoming Soundings Series event featuring Dr. Terri Orbuch. As an expert on the science of relationships, Terri has successfully translated her valuable scientific research into practical tips and easy to understand approaches for real couples. She shares her work through many venues, including national publications (The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times), TV (The Today Show, CNN, PBS, Fox-TV Detroit), radio (Empower Radio), and online. Terri will describe approaches and strategies she used to connect her work to these various media outlets and to prepare her for these audiences.

Look for more! The Soundings Series events will continue on October 11, 2017 with Dr. Peter Trumbore and Dr. Terri Towner, who will focus on using social media to share your research.

Save the Date! Research, Innovation, and Engagement Town Hall

UPDATED DATE/TIME—**Wednesday November 8, 11:30–1 p.m.**, Banquet Room B, Oakland Center

This November, the Research Office will host the first Research, Innovation, and Engagement Town Hall. This exciting event will highlight the new research initiatives on campus and honor faculty for research accomplishments. With support from President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and Provost James Lentini, we are pleased to recognize and award faculty members for their innovative and engaging research projects and accomplishments. Lunch provided, seating is limited. Look for more info soon!

New Website - www.oakland.edu/research/wiser

Visit the new WISER website to find helpful resources and more information about our upcoming events! Our online resources are for all professors, focusing on faculty career development, tenure and promotion, leave options, work-life balance, and grant/award opportunities.

For those new to the science and engineering fields, see the newly updated [Guide for STEM Faculty](#).

CETL Workshop

Cross Borders: Education & Human Services and STEM Collaborations

WISER is pleased to team up with the School of Education and Human Services to present a **collaborative workshop on October 4, 2017**, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in 200A Elliott Hall. Led by SEHS Associate Dean Michael MacDonald and faculty members from the STEM and education fields, this workshop will help you incorporate service learning into your STEM research program, bring your Broader Impacts to the K-12 student population, and strengthen your grant proposal. We are excited to have this opportunity to create new connections between the disciplines of STEM and education. This workshop is hosted by CETL and lunch will be provided. **RSVP on the CETL website: www.oakland.edu/cetl.**

Introducing: Michael Spires, Research Development Officer



Michael Spires is the research development officer (RDO) for the science departments. He's been a successful research development/research administration professional for more than 10 years, first at Northern Illinois University (5 years), then at the Smithsonian Institution (2.5 years), and most recently at the University of Colorado Boulder (3.5 years). Michael holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and classics, and master's degrees in classics, library and information science, and modern European history. He is the current president of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) and received the designation of Certified Research Administrator (CRA) in 2015.

Michael's work with proposals dates back nearly twenty years: in that time, he's facilitated the submission of about 1,000 proposals, requesting more than \$100 million from federal, corporate, and private sponsors, and resulting in awards in excess of \$50 million.

Michael has presented extensively on topics relating to research administration, research and proposal development, and the Uniform Guidance. Some of his workshop topics include grantsmanship, finding funding, the fundamentals of NSF proposals, and the use of social media in research development. In addition to several scholarly works and a book on web design, Michael has published two articles on research administration in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and an article on the Uniform Guidance for the SRA Catalyst. See Michael's articles here: [What to Say—and Not to Say—to Program Officers; Rejection and Its Discontents](#).

How RDOs can help you!

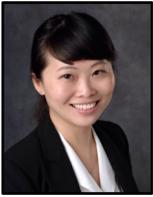
As RDO, Michael will work with faculty, departments, centers, and programs. Researchers and scholars should contact him as soon as they have an idea for which they plan to seek external funding, and frequently thereafter as that idea is transformed into a proposal ready for submission. (And don't be surprised if he contacts you first.) RDOs can help with the following aspects of proposal development and positioning:

- Identifying and prioritizing appropriate funding sources
- Understanding and responding to proposal guidelines and requirements
- Polishing proposal drafts
- Responding constructively to reviewer comments on declined proposals

Michael will help faculty further their competitive positioning and develop tools and strategies to improve their competitive capacity. To connect with Michael, email him at mspires@oakland.edu.

New Tenure-Track STEM Faculty

This year, we welcome three new members into our STEM junior faculty cohort!



Jingshu Chen (Computer Science & Engineering). Jingshu's research lies in the area of software systems, with a focus on building reliable software systems and exploiting formal methods to ensure the correctness of software systems. The ultimate goal of her research is to improve the reliability, availability and scalability of software defined systems. She received her PhD from Michigan State University. Before joining OU, she worked as an ORISE research staff at Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with a research focus on the functionality correctness of medical device software.



Nasim Nezamoddini (Industrial & Systems Engineering). Nasim's research focuses on complex network systems modeling and optimization, cyber-physical systems, and big-data analytics. She received her Ph.D. from State University of New York at Binghamton.



Geoffrey Louie (Electrical & Comp. Engineering). Geoff's research focuses on integration of multi-sensor systems on robotic platforms, development of perception algorithms, human-robot/human-machine interfaces, high and low-level robot controller design, general robot learning, artificial intelligence, and the study of human-robot interactions. The core theme of his research is on the development of robot technology that can be easily utilized by non-experts, and in the future he envisions robots being effortlessly taught new tasks as required by a human user. He received his PhD from the University of Toronto.

Recent Research Grant Awardees



Tom Raffel (Biological Sciences) received an NSF CAREER award ([#1651888](#)) to support research on the effects of temperature variation on chytridiomycosis, an infectious disease that has been linked to mass amphibian die-offs and extinctions throughout the world. To better predict what will happen with the disease, he will test assumptions and predictions of a new metabolic theory based approach to modeling parasite-host interactions. His Broader Impacts include a new thermal-physiology classroom lab activity and training workshops for teaching assistants. (See also [OU News](#)).

Randy Westrick (Biological Sciences) obtained a \$1.8 million grant from the NIH and a \$150,000 Innovative Research Grant from the American Heart Association for his research into life-threatening blood clots (see also [OU News](#)). He recently published in [PNAS](#) (title: A sensitized mutagenesis screen in Factor V Leiden mice identifies novel thrombosis suppressor loci). His grad student Amy Siebert-McKenzie presented at the ATVB meeting (part of the American Heart Association) in May 2017.

Fabia Battistuzzi (Biological Sciences) won a 2017 New Investigator Research Excellence Award from OU's University Research Committee (URC). She has raised over one million dollars from external grants to support her research, including two large awards from NASA and NIH. She is a member of the Center for Biomedical Research and has recently taken a leading role in interdisciplinary research as one of the founding faculty members of the Center for Data Science and Big Data Analytics at OU.

Peng Zhao (Mechanical Engineering) received \$150,000 from the Ford Motor Company University Research Program for his work on flame-surface interaction. He also has a sub-contract award of \$72,657 from Los Alamos National Lab (DOE grant). His proposed work is to develop and verify spray dynamics, vaporization and combustion sub-models as a novel engine combustion simulation platform (title: "KIVA-hpFE Spray Model Development and Verification").