Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and the Sciences is a project of the National Science Foundation Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. The participating institutions are Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Emory University. Our mission is to increase the number of science professors from underrepresented ethnic groups.

24 FACES Scholars appointed for 2007-08

FACES recognizes that early research experiences are a key to later success in academic science and engineering. The FACES Scholar program gives undergraduate students at FACES institutions the opportunity to do paid research during the academic school year.

The year, the Scholars program received the most applications ever. From this group, 24 Scholars were selected. Eight of the students are from Spelman, two from Morehouse, six at Georgia Tech and seven at Morehouse. These students will conduct research in biology, psychology, neuroscience, chemistry and engineering, and in the spring, the students will present their research at the annual Scholars Symposium. Congratulations to these Scholars.

For more information on the FACES Scholars program, please visit http://www.faces.gatech.edu/ or http://www.biomed.emory.edu/PROGRAM_SITES/FACES for more information or contact Reginald DesRoches, PhD at reginald.desroches@ce.gatech.edu.

RFA: CIG and Postdoc awards

Recent PhD alumni and postdocs of FACES institutions are encouraged to apply for the FACES Career Initiation Grant or the FACES Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Career Initiation Grant awardee will receive $30,000 to use toward lab equipment, travel, personnel, and the like. The Postdoctoral Fellowship awardee will receive $35,000 to use toward similar expenses.

Application information and forms for both opportunities will be posted at http://www.biomed.emory.edu/PROGRAM_SITES/FACES/ and http://faces.gatech.edu by December 15, 2007. Applications will be due in March 2008.

For additional information on the Career Initiation Grant, please contact Reginald DesRoches, PhD at reginald.desroches@ce.gatech.edu. To learn more about the FACES Postdoctoral Fellowship, write Karama Neal, PhD at kneal@emory.edu.
Be Politically Astute, But Don't Play Politics

An excerpt from Dave Jensen’s Tooling Up Column

In this month’s "Tooling Up" column, I'd like to debunk the myth that some employment locations are free of political maneuvering. Some scientists mistakenly believe that start-up biotechnology employers have fewer political players than academic labs or larger corporations; I can tell you this isn't true. Every company--every industry--is staffed by a mixture of people who abhor politics and others for whom it's a modus operandi. It's always a mix of both.

The success of a business is often determined by whether upper management rewards the practice. Yes, many well-known employers are rife with politics. But, if you take a look at the most-loved employers--highly successful firms--they do not foster an atmosphere of corporate political intrigue. Nevertheless, every company has political players, so your individual success is going to depend in part on whether you are politically astute. You may not want to play the games--you shouldn't--but you do need to be able to hold your own.

For the rest of the article, see http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2006_12_15/tooling_up_be_politically_astute_but_don_t_play_politics/(parent)/13199

Recognizing a Politically Charged Environment

- Communication is indirect, unclear, controlled, and often manipulated.
- Conflicts occur behind the scenes and are unacknowledged.
- Decisions are made by small, powerful cliques.
- People, actions, and decisions are judged as either good or bad.
- Employees lack direction on what is expected of them and how to behave.
- Information is disseminated by gossip.
- Management is isolated, keeping employees in the dark about what is going on.
- Promises and rosy pictures of the future distract people from an unhappy present.
- Rather than seeking the causes of problems, management seeks scapegoats.
- Relationships and alliances are built upon secrecy.
- Resistance to policies ranges from passive to overtly destructive.
- The mundane is overblown; significant issues are often minimized.
- When things go wrong, people blame each other.
FACES Papers, presentations and more

* Byron Johns, Georgia Tech FACES Fellow recently defended his MS thesis entitled "Design and Control of a New Reconfigurable Robotic Mobility Platform" and in August, attended NASA's 19th Annual Planetary Science Summer School Program. He also traveled to Singapore to present his work at the 10th International Conference on Climbing and Walking Robots. Conference proceedings will be published.

* John V. K. Pulliam defended his dissertation entitled “A Role of Cocaine and Amphetamine Regulated Transcript Peptide (CARTp) in Social Stress Induced Anxiety-like Behavior” on August 9, 2007. He received his PhD in Neuroscience and became the first Emory FACES Fellow to receive his doctorate.

* Sam Graham, PhD, Georgia Tech Faculty and FACES Steering Committee member was appointed Anderer Faculty Fellow of the Woodruff School.

* Reginald DesRoches, PhD, Georgia Tech Faculty and FACES Steering Committee member was awarded the 2007 Walter J. Huber Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Congratulations all!

Grant Applications Deadlines

There’s nothing like having your own money to facilitate career advancements. Consider these opportunities for external funding, but hurry, applications are due very soon.


* November 15 - Ford Foundation Diversity Predoctoral Fellowships http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fordfellowships/
* November 29- Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowships http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fordfellowships/
* November 29- Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowships http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fordfellowships/

For more opportunities, please see Page 4.
New AGEP websites from AAAS and NSF

Do you know how many AGEPs there are in the US? The National Science Foundation recently redesigned the official website for Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. Check it out at http://www.agep.us for postdoctoral opportunities, summer undergraduate research programs, student profiles, leadership profiles, message boards, and, of course, the number and names of all the AGEPs. Take some time to browse and find the information that will be useful for you.

You may also want to peruse the AGEP website from the American Association for the Advancement of Science at http://nsfagep.org. This site lists meetings and events, evaluation resources, and AGEP related reports and publications.

Both sites contain information and resources for those interested in recruitment, retention, and advancement of people from ethnic groups that are historically underrepresented in the STEM disciplines. And just so you know, there are 28 AGEPs in operations. Happy surfing!

Grant Applications Deadlines (continued)


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