NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program announced

Applicant Deadlines

November 17, 2004 (Wednesday): Life Sciences

November 18, 2004 (Thursday): Chemistry

November 19, 2004 (Friday): Computer and Information Science and Engineering

November 29, 2004 (Monday): Social Sciences

November 30, 2004 (Tuesday): Physics and Astronomy

December 2, 2004 (Thursday): Mathematical Sciences

December 3, 2004 (Friday): Geosciences

December 9, 2004 (Thursday): Psychology

December 10, 2004 (Friday): Engineering
If you missed Valorie’s presentation on September 21, 2004, go to

- [http://www.sos.mtu.edu/gsc/funding.htm](http://www.sos.mtu.edu/gsc/funding.htm)
- Select the slide show by clicking on [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program](http://www.sos.mtu.edu/gsc/funding.htm)
  9/21/04 presentation
- We both are available for one-on-one advice in this NSF grant preparation
- At least Do it for money! 30K versus 15 K!
When you are signing today please indicate whether you emailed me the assignment (E), you think that what you already submitted last week as assignment 2 is actually assignment 3(A) or still plan to submit (S).

People in A and S category should email me that page today.
So you are ready with page 1

• Now, it is time to read GPG (it is at our class site http://forest.mtu.edu/faculty/joshi/web/indexfw5850.htm

• Success doesn't just "happen." It is organized, preempted, captured, by consecrated common sense.

- -- F.E. Willard
Lesson in communication!

• Speak the language of your stakeholders
• Is it not English? No!
• Grantlish: Bev Browning
• Grant lingo!
• GPG: overwhelmed by the 61 pages
• Skip first 5 pages, look at table of content
• Start from overview..
Type of program documents

• Dear Colleague letter: draw attention
• Program description-broad description
• Program announcement-open for business
• Program solicitations-
  – Deviations from GPG
  – Deviation from evaluation criteria
  – Deadlines
  – Letter intent?
  – Limits on award, cost share, applicants/institute
Prescreening: Not for all programs!

• Letter of intent
  – PI and institute
  – What area of research
  – Not peer reviewed
  – Just for information to decide upon panel

• Preliminary proposal
  – Short listing of good quality proposals
  – Invite/do not invite: Only for large centers
  – Encourage/discourage: advisory
Who may submit?

- US Universities/academic institutions
- Non-profit/non-academic: Museums etc
- For-profit: SBIR, academic/industry
- State and Local Govt.
- Unaffiliated individuals: US citizenship
- Foreign organizations
- Other federal agencies: limited & collaborative
How to submit?

• Electronic via FASTLANE
• Reach there by Deadline but don’t wait till last minute
• How it is processed at NSF
• Three major steps to successful proposal
  – Read the instructions
  – Read the instructions
  – Read the instructions
Proposal preparation

• Format
  – Pagination: You do it before submission
  – 15 page limit
  – Previous NSF grants (max 5 pages)
  – 10 points or larger
  – Density 15 characters per 2.5 cm
  – 6 lines per 2.5 cm vertical space
  – margins in all directions 2.5 cm
  – My suggested font will be Times New Roman 12 point
  – References not included in the 15 page limit
  – But figures and tables are..

What if I do not follow these guidelines?
How can I use all the space I got?

• Leave some blank space for aesthetic purpose. Solid page is hard to read!
• Use some figures and pictures to break the monotony. (Color better!)
• Show some diagram of interrelationship among the proposal components
• Explain what figures/tables you put there!
• Personalize proposal with your unique style!
Don’t forget the basics

• Grammar, spellings and style counts!
• Use Bold, underline, and bullets to draw attention
• Write each paragraph so that it builds on the preceding paragraph. Make your ideas connect and flow. Each new paragraph is a step toward the final paragraph to solve the problem. Each new paragraph adds excitement and urgency of doing proposed work (Bev Browning)
• You should answer every question that comes next to your mind when you read your own narrative
• Limit flowery words to three-four in the entire proposal
• This is not a novel although it should read like one.
• They should not stop reading and go back and forth
• Touch their heart, mind and intellect and wallet!
What is the goal? What are the objectives?

- **Goal**: one sentence statement about the END that one strives to attain
- **Objectives**: attainable milestones or checkpoints to be achieved to know how far are we from our goal?
- **A Timetable is must!**
- **Use active words**: will be established, proven, discovered..
Remember, they can not read your mind!

• Think like a scientist
  – Define a problem
  – Ask questions
  – Formulate hypotheses
  – Design experiment
  – Plan for evaluation
  – Get rich!
Assignment

• Start thinking about the background information
• Come up with one line title.
• Short & sweet but not too cute!
• Avoid acronyms
• Should attract reader to your proposal
• Use key words, don’t be too general
• Avoid using these words: understanding, developing, finding, proposing, for the first time
• Title should tell people what this proposal about