

# UWMRF fellowships support growth in key research areas

By Laura L. Hunt

## SUMMER WRITING INSTITUTE SEEKS LOCAL TEACHERS



Teachers at last summer's institute work with Karen Kelley (right).

UWM's Writing Project is now taking applications for its five-week summer invitational institute for teachers June 21-July 22.

The project and institute, housed in the School of Education, are dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of writing in classrooms throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. This is the third year the summer invitational institute will be held at UWM.

"The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Writing Project is a site of the National Writing Project, which is an organization designed for teachers teaching teachers," says Donna Pasternak, associate professor and program director of English Education. She and Karen Kelley, associate professor of education, are co-university site directors of the UWM site.

The summer institute follows the basic assumptions of the National Writing Project, Pasternak explains, and attracts many teachers who focus on writing across all subjects, including science, mathematics and history, as well as English and language arts.

Participants can earn six graduate credits in Curriculum and Instruction. Full or partial scholarships are available for all selected participants.

Deadline for submitting applications is Friday, Feb. 12. A form and additional information are available at [writingproject.uwm.edu](http://writingproject.uwm.edu), or e-mail [uwmwp@uwm.edu](mailto:uwmwp@uwm.edu).

After receiving a research fellowship last year from the UWM Research Foundation (UWMRF), doctoral student Vishwakanth Potharla is now preparing a manuscript on the work for journal submission this spring.

His project was anything but ordinary: It involved genetic dissection of a complex bacterial gene cluster that is responsible for the production of a newly approved anticancer drug.

Potharla was one of the first seven to be chosen for the UWMRF Research Fellows program, designed to help UWM faculty attract the best talent to their laboratories, improving research productivity in the sciences, engineering and business.

Eight new graduate students and postdoctoral researchers have been named in this, the program's second year. They represent a range of disciplines, recognize both junior and senior faculty, and help foster the growth of important research clusters at UWM.

Awards of \$7,500 to \$10,000 are allocated directly to research assistants and postdoctoral researchers, and are in addition to base support.

The program has \$160,000 in committed support, including \$80,000 committed by UWM Foundation and UWMRF board members.

A committee of the UWMRF, including members of the board and an outside industry representative, determine the awards based on the following criteria:

- Base funding is available to the Research Fellow, and the sponsoring faculty member's research is in the field of science, engineering or business.
- The research is judged as high quality, and the Research Fellow demonstrates the ability to impact outcomes and leverage other sources of funding.
- The research program is aligned with the UWMRF's mission.

Potharla had already been working on the project before being chosen for the fellowship, says Principal Investigator Eric Cheng, assistant professor of biological sciences.

"He made a pretty strong contribution to this work," Cheng says of Potharla. "I wanted to inspire and motivate him."

## UWMRF RESEARCH FELLOWS 2010

**Vincent Larson**, Mathematical Sciences

**Brian Griffin**, Ph.D. student  
"Numerical Modeling of Clouds and Turbulence"

**Sandra McLellan**, Great Lakes WATER Institute, School of Freshwater Sciences

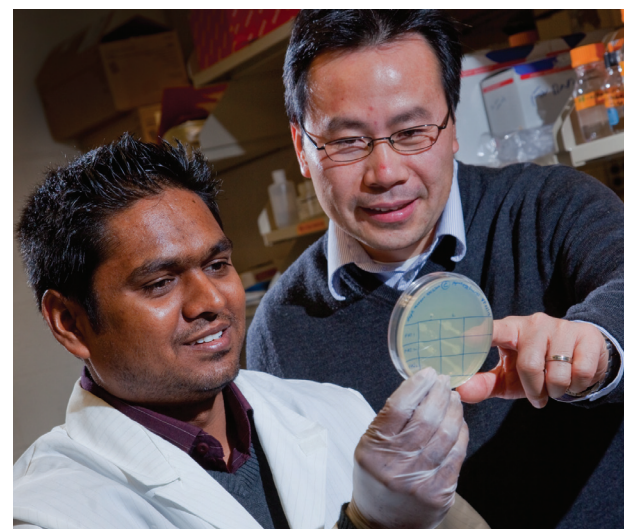
**Ryan Newton**, Postdoctoral Research Associate  
"Genetics Signatures to Pinpoint Pollution Sources"

**Christopher Quinn**, Biological Sciences

**Yan Xu**, postdoctoral research associate  
"Axon Guidance – Neural Circuit Formation Processes That May Underlie Autism and Down Syndrome"

**Stefan Schnitzer**, Biological Sciences

**Scott Mangan**, postdoctoral research associate  
"Species Diversity – a Driver for Carbon Budgets and Climate Change"



Vishwakanth Potharla (left) works with Assistant Professor Eric Cheng on a research project that aims to find new anticancer compounds from bacteria.

**Lei (Leslie) Ying**, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

**Dong Liang**, postdoctoral research assistant  
"Improving the Speed of MRI"

**Masha Ranji**, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Ph.D. student to be recruited  
"Noninvasive Optical Tissue Diagnostics Tools"

**Vladislav Yakovlev**, Physics

Ph.D. student to be recruited  
"Spectroscopic Tools for Biology and Medicine"

**Zhen (Jason) He**, Civil Engineering and Mechanics

Ph.D. student to be recruited  
"Microbial Fuel Cells"

## 2009

**Luis Anchordoqui**, Physics

**Lisa Goggin**, postdoctoral research assistant  
"Search for Gravity Wave Signatures"

**Jian Chen**, Chemistry

**Ryan Kohlmeyer**, Ph.D. student, research assistant  
"Organic Nanomaterials"

**Junhong Chen**, Mechanical Engineering

**Bo Zhang**, postdoctoral research assistant  
"Nanotechnology Applied to Environmental Protection"

**Yi-Qiang (Eric) Cheng**, Biological Sciences

**Vishwakanth Potharla**, Ph.D. student, research assistant  
"Novel Compounds for Treatment of Cancer"

**Adel Nasiri**, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

**Goran Mandic**, Ph.D. student, research assistant  
"Innovative Control Techniques for Wind Turbines"

**Abbas Ourmazd**, Physics

Graduate research assistant to be recruited; award will be used in the second round.

"Determining Molecular Structures from the Diffraction Patterns of Single Molecules"

**Wilfred Tysoe**, Chemistry

**Zhenjun Li**, Ph.D. student (awarded summer 2009)  
"Surface Chemistry for Palladium-Based Catalysts"