Funding provides catalyst for energy research

Pavel Anzenbacher

Two BGSU scientists exploring alternative energy approaches have received University funding to help develop their research and its potential for commercialization.

Offered through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, $25,000 Commercialization Catalyst awards were given to Drs. Pavel Anzenbacher, chemistry, and Zhaohui Xu, biological sciences.

The award aims to give promising research a boost by providing the funding necessary to bring the results of faculty and student research and creative activity to the marketplace.

Anzenbacher works in the area of photochemical sciences, with a focus on the chemistry of materials useful for generating light. His Catalyst project involves organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs). Unlike traditional LEDs, the organic type uses only a fraction of the energy used by LEDs and contains no harmful heavy metals such as cadmium, making OLEDs safer both to use and to...

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Thanks to retirees

The University honored its recent retirees at a May 17 tea, where President Carol Cartwright presented them plaques of appreciation for their service. Receiving her recognition is Carol Sanner (right), who as a member of the University Advancement staff used to organize the annual retiree receptions.
dispose of.

"If we could convert the majority of our general lighting to organic light-emitting diodes, we would reduce our energy consumption to a third of what we now use," Anzenbacher said.

He is working with Angstrom Technologies Inc. of Cincinnati to develop stable organic dyes that can be used in OLEDs for general lighting applications. One current use is in security applications such as ID tags that emit light when placed under a black light. Anzenbacher and his group are exploring market applications for the dyes.

Xu's project involves using genetic tools to develop a biofuel from plant fibers. She is working to genetically modify a heat-loving bacterium to make it more efficient at breaking down cellulosic, or plant, materials. The bacterium releases biohydrogen as a byproduct.

"Biohydrogen can be used directly as a fuel source or as an intermediate to produce other materials. Producing hydrogen from cellulosic biomass carries additional societal and economic advantages compared to food-derived biofuels," Xu said. "We feel this has very high potential in industrial applications."

Rodney Rogers

Dr. Rodney Rogers, dean of the College of Business Administration, has been named interim senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, effective July 1. President Carol Cartwright announced the appointment yesterday (May 18).

Incoming president Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey expressed confidence in Rogers' ability to assist the University during the transitional period following Provost Kenneth Borland's decision to step down and join the faculty in the College of Education and Human Development.

Mazey has announced that she will launch a national search to permanently fill the position. Dr. Linda Petrosino, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, will head the search committee for the post.

Rogers was named dean of the College of Business Administration in 2006. He previously was associate dean and director of academic programs in the School of Business at Portland (Ore.) State University, and has held positions at Case Western Reserve University, Ohio Northern University and the Cranfield School of Management, in England.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio Northern, an M.B.A. from BGSU and a Ph.D. from Case Western.

Zoom to begin summer schedule

Beginning May 23, Zoom News will publish only on Mondays during the summer. Additional issues will be published when the need arises. Monitor will continue its once-monthly schedule, coming out the last Tuesday of the month.

Please send your story ideas and items of note to bblanki@bgsu.edu or jsobole@bgsu.edu.