UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

NewsBriefs

Message from Our Chair   By: Janice DeCosmo

Welcome to the second edition of the URPD NewsBriefs! Congratulations to all of you who have produced research symposia, showcases, poster sessions, etc.! I look forward to hearing more about your programs at the CUR 2012 conference at The College of New Jersey. This conference is a notable one for the URPD: one of our members, Mary Crowe, will assume the CUR president position. In addition, Joyce Kinkead will receive recognition as a CUR Fellow, and the new book, *Undergraduate Research Offices and Programs: Models and Practices*, edited by Joyce Kinkead and Linda Blockus and including sections written by URPD members, will be out in print just before the meeting.

The URPD welcomes 81 new members who have joined since September 2011, and 6 newly elected councilors: Rebecca Dillard, Julie Lyon, Julie Morris, Jenny Olin Shanahan, Bethany Usher, and Amanda Evert, as well as 3 returning re-elected councilors: Michael Bergren, Janice DeCosmo, and Janet Stocks. The division thanks departing councilors: Laura Damuth, Kathryn Wilson, Mary Crowe, Janet Morrison, and Said Shokair for their service.

I invite all URPD members to get involved in our division. The URPD division serves the professional needs of members who have responsibilities for developing and organizing UR activities on campuses of all sizes and types by cultivating ways for us to learn from and support each other's work. There are several ways you can get involved in URPD: run and serve as a division councilor; review articles relevant to URPD for the CUR Quarterly; submit spotlights, questions, or updates for the URPD NewsBriefs; volunteer to help organize the URPD's second mini-conference, scheduled for June, 2013. To participate in organizing the URPD conference or to give feedback on the URPD NewsBriefs, send me an email and I'll make sure it gets to the right person (jdecosmo@uw.edu). Happy Summer!

Spotlight: Undergraduate Research Regional Conferences   By: Kimberly Schneider

This summer issue of the CUR Quarterly focuses on Regional Undergraduate Research Conferences. Many of these events were developed and/or are currently organized by URPD members. These opportunities provide students with valuable presentation and networking experience without the high cost of national and international discipline-specific meetings. The models vary from region to region. However, if you are looking to start a similar initiative, there are several types of conferences to consider and many contacts within URPD can be valuable resources. State 'Posters on the Hill' give select students an opportunity to showcase their work to state legislators. Pennsylvania and Michigan, for example, currently run these events each year. University systems also run their own events. For example, the State University of New York (SUNY) recently implemented the SUNY Research Day for their 64 campuses. The Meeting of the Minds conference is similar, but is for all universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Other states run discipline specific conferences such as the Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology meeting.

Many states also host meetings open to all students in the state. The region of southern California has been running a conference for 20 years! The state of North Carolina has been running a program since 2005 and they have a statewide journal, as well. Utah has been running a similar event since 2007 and the state of Florida began their first annual event in 2011. We highly recommend you review the CUR Quarterly for more information about these exciting events. If you are not already involved this is a great way to promote undergraduate research in your region!

Upcoming Events

Research Experiences for Undergraduates Student Conference
Submission Deadline:
August 28
Washington, DC

SACNAS – Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference
October 11-14
Seattle, Washington
www.sacnas.org

ISSOTL12- International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
Annual Conference
October 24-27
Hamilton, Canada
www.issotl.org

CUR Creative Inquiry and Undergraduate Research in the Arts and Humanities Institute University of Delaware
November 2-4

AAC&U – Associations of American Colleges and Universities
Annual Meeting
January 23-26
Atlanta, Georgia
www.AACU.org

Save the Date

JUNE 2013
URPD will be organizing its second conference, to be held just before the CUR business meeting at Chapman University in Southern California. Come to share your experience as a URPD and learn from your colleagues!

Lessons Learned: Running Summer Research Programs

By: Jennifer Harris, Anne Boettcher, Janice DeCosmo

Several of our members run intensive summer research programs that serve students both from and outside of their home institutions. These programs immerse students in the research experience, are often externally funded, and may include a research course, stipend, housing, and other activities. Below are some tips from seasoned summer research program directors.

Start Strong – Just 9-12 weeks max, summer programs go by quickly. To get your program off to a strong start: hold an orientation for participants; meet individually with participants during the first week of the program; resolve any problems quickly by working with students and mentors.

Foster Community – To help students develop community: emphasize the importance of cohort engagement in program materials and orientation; establish regular (at least 3 times) informal discussion groups to give students a forum to understand that "everyone faces challenges."

Clear, Consistent Communication (CCC) – To help foster CCC among your summer programs students, mentors, and staff: meet weekly with student groups and check-in informally with them on their progress; check in with mentors mid-term (brief email questionnaire works well).

Life Happens – In a short summer program emergencies and challenges happen so be prepared to deal with them: be available to students as soon as a concern comes up; distribute emergency phone numbers and other campus resources to students; and make sure students have health coverage and that program staff have their emergency contact information.

Provide a Research Forum – Poster sessions for students and mentors, and/or oral presentation sessions provide a focal point for "finishing" a summer program, give the students presentation experience, and help them to summarize what they did and learned throughout the program.

Carefully Select Mentor and Student Participants – Ensuring that mentors have time to provide guidance to students, and that students are ready to make the most of this opportunity e.g., maturity and long term goals are as important as academics in selecting students.

Use Existing Campus Resources – Career planning, libraries, writing centers, research compliance offices, etc. often have training sessions in place that you can use.

Start Small and Build – Remember, you do not have to do everything the first year. Build your program as you grow financial and other resources; solicit feedback on what worked and areas for improvement; and remember that no program is perfect - effective program planning means striving for continuous learning and hopefully, having some fun too.

URPD Updates & Accomplishments

A new website, http://curm.byo.edu is a great resource for Math UR Students

Mary Crowe will be starting a new position as Associate Provost for Experiential Education at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL this summer. Best of luck, Mary!

Laura Damuth is now serving as the Director of National and International Fellowships and Associate Director, University Honors Program, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We will miss you!

North Georgia College and State University Launched the first issue of a new UR journal: http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/papersandpubs/

In January, George Mason University founded a new office, OSCAR (Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research), led by **Bethany Usher** and **Rebecca Jones**.

Bethany Usher is organizing a network for Virginia Undergraduate Research to share information and to work together. Contact her at oscar@gmu.edu to join the list.

New Publications:
Joyce Kinkead and **Linda Blockus**. 2012. *Undergraduate Research Offices and Programs: Models and Practices.* Washington, DC: CUR.

Joyce Kinkead. 2011. "Undergraduate Researchers as Makers of Knowledge in Composition in the Writing Studies Major," a chapter in *The Changing of Knowledge in Composition: Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by Lance Massey and Richard C. Gebhardt, USU Press, 2011.

Q&A

How do you publicize undergraduate research events?

"'Smartie Pants Baskets': We attached informational tags to Smarties candies (because, of course, undergraduate researchers are smart!), and put them in an inexpensive basket decorated with a paper cut-out of pants, and a sign that read 'Are you a smartie pants?!' The Smartie Pants Baskets were delivered to our key department contacts to pass out the candies/tags to their students."

"We promote our annual undergraduate research conference by having a competition for the conference poster image. Candidate images are solicited from students, mentors, alumni, and even students' parents. The selected image is used on the poster, on the e-vite, and on the cover for the booklet of abstracts. Posters from past conferences decorate campus labs and offices and serve as a recruitment tool for our program."

"We publicize through our university calendar. Also, we have a listserv and send the students and faculty a monthly newsletter that lists all of the undergraduate research events and opportunities. Students and faculty report that they like to see everything in a once-a-month format."

URPD NewsBriefs Committee:
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