



## Social Science Division Newsletter Fall 2016

### Autumn Greetings!



I am delighted to share with you our Fall 2016 newsletter. Many thanks to the hard work of a number of folks, most especially our editor, Cy Merriwether-deVries. In this edition we share opportunities for both faculty and students. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities and share them widely with your colleagues and students. Also in this edition we welcome new Councilors and appreciate the continued service in the re-election of others. We are always looking for opportunities to increase the value of your membership in the social science division, so please share your ideas with me. I also welcome active participation in the division. Feel free to contact me at [jmekolic@radford.edu](mailto:jmekolic@radford.edu) I look forward to hearing from you!

Jeanne Mekolichick, Division Chair

### **Social and Behavioral Sciences for National Security Summit October 4-5, 2016**

The National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education will host a two-day National Security Summit October 4-5 2016. The two-day summit will kick off a new study at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that will identify potential contributions of the social and behavioral

sciences (SBS) in areas relevant to national security.

Invited presentations from a range of SBS disciplines will identify emerging and cutting-edge research that may have implications for the intelligence community. Speakers will include Marcia McNutt, National Academy of Sciences, and David Honey, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The summit will be a widely attended event and open to the public. Note that this project is unclassified. The summit will be held at the National Academy of Sciences Auditorium located at 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC. Participation by webcast is also available.

If you have questions about the event or would like to register by email, please contact [SBSDecadalSurvey@nas.edu](mailto:SBSDecadalSurvey@nas.edu)

### **Council on Undergraduate Research Social Science Division Student Travel Awards Announcement 2016 - 2017**

The Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is offering a limited number of travel grants, up to \$200 each, for undergraduate students presenting the results of research that they have conducted at a regional or national, discipline-specific meeting during the academic year 2015 - 2016. Award recipients are required to acknowledge CUR for support of their travel in their talk or poster. After the meeting, a brief report about the experience is expected. Minority students are encouraged to apply.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Undergraduate students at any level can apply but preference will be given to juniors and seniors or students attending 2 year community colleges.
- Student's mentor must be a CUR member or the student's home institution must be a CUR institutional member.
- Student's home institution must match the \$200 CUR travel grant.
- Psychology majors will be considered if their research is in the area of social psychology. Otherwise they are encouraged to apply for Psychology Division travel awards.

**Application materials:**

- An electronic copy of the meeting abstract, including the title of the abstract, student author, faculty mentor, and institution. If the abstract is written in highly technical terms, the applicant may also submit a brief (maximum 500 words) summary of the work written for an audience consisting of social scientists from a wide range of disciplines. The abstract should note the study's objective, methods, results and importance.
- Proof of acceptance to the regional or national meeting.
- A list of itemized meeting expenses (travel, housing, and registration).
- An email from sponsoring faculty acknowledging (1) student's enrollment as an undergraduate, (2) confirmation of student's planned attendance at the meeting, (3) confirmation of institution's monetary match of \$200,

and (4) confirmation of individual or institutional CUR membership.

- Reimbursement of travel expenses (up to \$200) will require copies of receipts and confirmation of student's attendance/presentation at the meeting.

**Selection Criteria:** Travel Award recipients will be selected on a first come, first serve basis provided that the above criteria are met. Only one travel award will be granted per institution. Every effort will be made to spread the travel awards over both the Fall and Spring semesters.

**Deadline:** Applications for a travel grant to a fall 2016 or spring 2017 meeting are now being accepted. Award decisions will be made on a first come, first served basis.

**Apply Here:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfplePQDoJE9VEP-u5D2pDnjMzglA\\_tuRMA3dmUTczk0BF9MQ/viwwform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfplePQDoJE9VEP-u5D2pDnjMzglA_tuRMA3dmUTczk0BF9MQ/viwwform?c=0&w=1)

**NCUR 2017  
31st Annual National Conference on  
Undergraduate Research  
"Driven by Doing"  
University of Memphis  
April 6-8, 2017**

The University of Memphis is proud to welcome the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) to its campus on April 6-8, 2017. During the past 30 years the annual NCUR student conference has showcased the best examples of undergraduate research and the creative and performing arts. Please encourage your students to consider participating in NCUR 2017. The student online abstract submission website will open on October 3, 2016. The final day for abstract submission is December 2, 2016. Review of the submitted abstracts will be conducted between December 2, 2016 and

January 13, 2016. Accepted students will be notified by January 23rd 2017.



### Welcome New and Returning SSD Councilors

The faculty profiled below are the newest members of the CUR Social Science Division. CUR Councilors are elected to 3-year terms and contribute to the governance of CUR and represent the interests of our interdisciplinary division.



**Natalie Delia Deckard, PhD** is an Assistant Professor at Davidson College, where she teaches courses in political sociology, globalization, migration, critical criminology, and quantitative methods. In her classes, Dr. Deckard focuses on supporting students' development as sociologists by grounding coursework in individual research interests. She has advised students in conference presentations, and co-authored peer-reviewed manuscripts with undergraduate student authors. Her scholarship investigates the ramifications of welfare retrenchment for marginalized populations. By looking at phenomena as diverse as separatist movements, human trafficking, and incarceration, her work investigates the changing character of the state and the citizen. Dr. Deckard's peer-reviewed research has been published in *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Sociology Compass*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, and other academic journals. It has been featured in *The Nation* and

online. She has given research talks at the University of Warwick and the University of Puerto Rico, where she was a visiting research fellow. An active member of the Council on Undergraduate Research's Social Science Division, she is interested in the development of best practices for integrating social science research in the sociology major. She has also contributed to *Teaching Sociology*, the academic journal of pedagogy for our discipline.



**Dr. Jeanetta D. Sims** earned a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Oklahoma and is accredited in public relations (APR). Currently, she is a tenured associate professor and transformative learning scholar in the Marketing Department of the College of Business at the University of Central Oklahoma, where she teaches classes in communication and marketing. Her program of research includes strategic communication, workforce diversity, and persuasion and social influence. Since joining UCO in 2007, Dr. Sims has founded and cultivated a robust primarily undergraduate research program called Diverse Student Scholars, where she has mentored more than 25 funded student grants, supervised more than 55 student research experiences, presented nearly 80 conference presentations with students, and published nearly 20 proceedings and journal publications with student co-authors. She has served as the Business Section Editor for the *Oklahoma Journal of Undergraduate Research*, the co-editor for the 2016 Transformative Learning Conference Proceedings, and recently accepted the role as co-editor of the *Journal of Transformative Learning*. She has received university and national awards for her teaching (in 2014, 2012, and 2009) and for her scholarship through winning top paper or merit awards from the university or at national and international conferences in 2016, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2006. Her co-authored research appears in multiple book chapters along with the *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *Communication*

Monographs, Communication Research, Human Communication Research, Corporate Reputation Review, Western Journal of Communication, Atlantic Marketing Journal, Florida Communication Journal, and Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly. She is the co-editor of Developing Workforce Diversity Programs, Curriculum, and Degrees in Higher Education.



**Dr. Leslie G. Cecil** is currently an associate professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology at Stephen F. Austin State University. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale and researches ancient Maya and how the pottery that they made reflects their socio-political identity. She has mentored a number of students in artifact analysis as well as best practices in curating archaeological materials. Currently she is working with undergraduate students in Chemistry to analyze pottery to determine what kinds of foods were processed in different kinds of vessels. In addition to her research, she is a member of the executive board of her university's Undergraduate Research Conference for the past six years. Over the past six years, she has helped to make the conference a university-wide initiative as well as expanding it to include regional colleges and universities. Participation in the event has increased 300 percent demonstrating her (and the university's) growing commitment to undergraduate research at a regional university. She also is a member of the university's strategic plan committee that is developing a Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts.



**J. J. Arias PhD.** is a professor of economics at Georgia College & State University. His research interests are applied game theory, monetary economics and the teaching of economics. He has published in the Journal of Macroeconomics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, and The American Economist, among others. He regularly teaches principles of macroeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics and senior seminar. He received his B.S. degree in Economics from Penn State University and his Ph.D. in Economics from Texas A&M University. He has participated in faculty development and study abroad programs in Hungary, the Czech Republic and Germany. He is the advisor for the Georgia College chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society for economics, and served as president of the local chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. As the instructor for senior seminar, he directs the senior research papers for all graduating economics majors. He has co-authored a peer-reviewed publication with a former undergraduate who is now a Ph.C. candidate.



We are also excited to congratulate **Dr. Liz Perry-Sizemore**, Associate Professor and Chair of Economics and Assistant Dean at Randolph College in Virginia and **Dr. Geoff**

**Peterson**, Professor and Chair of Political Science at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on their successful re-elections as Councilors in the Social Science Division.

