



Council on Undergraduate Research  
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## **Field Trips**

The CUR National Office has arranged for field trips within Washington DC for the afternoon of May 4, 2009 between 1pm and 5pm. All field trip participants must be at the hotel by 12:00 noon, and will travel directly to the opening session immediately following the field trip. Students will have priority in field trip choice over faculty and guests.

### ***Library of Congress***

The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collections.

When the Library of Congress building opened its doors to the public on Nov. 1, 1897, it was hailed as a glorious national monument and "the largest, the costliest, and the safest" library building in the world.

In 1984, Congress appropriated funds to restore the building, named the Thomas Jefferson Building in 1980, to its 19th century splendor while modernizing it for use in the 21st century. With the reopening of the building in 1997 on its 100th anniversary, the Library of Congress continues to share with the public its unparalleled research collections and the remarkable beauty of its art and architecture.

We have arranged a tour of the Jefferson Building. An additional exhibit on display will be the Lincoln Exhibit. Participants will need to be ready to depart the hotel as a group at 12:00pm on May 4, 2009.

### ***National Archives***

Participants will have a tour of the Rotunda and the Charters of Freedom (The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights). The tour will be given by the curator of the 14 document exhibit that accompanies the Charters.

In addition, the tour will include the permanent exhibit, The Public Vaults. It is described on their website at:

<http://archives.gov/nae/visit/vaults.html> .

Finally, participants will tour a new exhibit, called "BIG!" An excerpt from the promotions follows below:

Starting with the 13-foot scroll of the Articles of Confederation-the first constitution of the United States-the items here evoke the challenges, sacrifices, and even humor that are woven into the American tapestry. Among the items are a section of an enormous map of the Gettysburg battlefield; a design proposed for the Lincoln Memorial; and the 1941



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tally sheet of the votes in the House of Representatives (388 to 1) to declare war on Japan after the attack on Pearl Harbor. "BIG!" presents the order for the enormous bathtub custom-made for America's biggest President; and the gigantic shoe owned by a powerhouse of an American athlete.

Finally this exhibition pays tribute to an idea so big it engendered the birth of this nation. Produced during the night of July 4-5, 1776, the first printing of the Declaration of Independence, presented in this gallery, affirms an eternal truth about freedom in words that resound through the ages and throughout the world. It is one of the National Archives' greatest treasures."

This exhibit is described on their website at:  
<http://archives.gov/nae/visit/gallery.html>

### ***National Zoo***

Students will get a tour of the Genetics lab at the National Zoo's Center for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and while at the lab they will get to talk to several members of the lab which include research geneticist, post doctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduate interns and technicians.

Our group specializes in a diversity of areas including genetic management of wild and captive populations, non-invasive DNA, ancient DNA, systematics, disease diagnosis, and application of genetics to animal behavior and ecology.

We apply genetic theory and methods to gain knowledge about the evolutionary and life histories of animals, to understand the importance of genetic variation to their survival, and to identify the methods needed to sustain them in captivity and the wild.