



Social Science Division Newsletter Spring 2016

Welcome to Spring!



I am delighted to share with you our Spring 2016 Division newsletter. In this edition you'll find valuable information on opportunities for students and faculty and the celebration of successes in

the Social Sciences Institute and representation of the Social Science Division at the 2016 Posters on the Hill and NCUR. I hope to you will join us at the Biennial Conference. As always, if there are initiatives or information you are interested in having the division consider, please send those to me at jmekolic@radford.edu.

Jeanne Mekolichick, Division Chair

News from the *CUR Quarterly*

Several exciting changes are underway at the *CUR Quarterly*. We have recently moved to a color cover and abstracts are now included for each article. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) are included for each content item published in the *Quarterly*, and DOIs appear in the references for each article in the journal. At the January 2016 Executive Board meeting, a new mission statement was approved for our journal:

The *Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly* publishes scholarly work that examines effective practices and novel approaches, explores pedagogical models, and highlights the results of assessment of

undergraduate research. As a peer-reviewed publication of the *Council on Undergraduate Research*, the purpose of the journal is to provide useful and inspiring information that increases our understanding of undergraduate student-faculty engagement in research, scholarship, and creative work in all disciplines and at all types of higher education institutions in the United States and abroad.

These initiatives have been undertaken with the goal of improving the scholarly appeal and reach of the *CUR Quarterly*. With the Editorial Board, we are continuing our conversations about a new name for the journal as well as further options for redesigning the journal.

This summer we will be sending out a Call for Proposals for the Summer 2017 *CUR Quarterly* which will focus upon "Undergraduate Research and Building the Academy of the Future." We will be inviting proposals which focus upon interdisciplinarity, innovation, and women in STEM. Please keep in mind that manuscripts can be submitted at any time to the *Quarterly* and do not need to address a given issue theme.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have about the *Quarterly* or the manuscript submission process (jlplant@valdosta.edu).

James LaPlant
Editor-in-Chief, *CUR Quarterly*

2016 Posters on the Hill

The Council on Undergraduate Research held its 20th annual Posters on the Hill from April 19th-20th in Washington, D.C. This year sixty top student research projects were selected out of hundreds of applications. Students also participated in Office of Science and Technology Policy Young professional Panel at The White House.

The Council on Undergraduate Research also awarded planetary scientist Lujendra Ojha, with the CUR Fellows award. Mr. Ojha was a 2011 Posters on the Hill awardee. It was as an undergraduate student that he helped make one of the biggest scientific discoveries of recent history, evidence of flowing water on mars. To view a complete list of this years selected student research please take a look at our site at CUR.org and peruse the 2016 full POH program.

New Councilor Welcome



Dr. Melinda Messineo received her PhD in Sociology at the University of California-Riverside in 2000 and joined the faculty of Ball State University in August of that year. Through her campus-wide efforts with

Immersive Learning, she has worked with faculty and students to conduct research for community partners in learner-centered interactive environments. Her scholarship interests are in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and representations of race, class and gender in media.

CUR Social Science Institute 2016

The Social Science Division held the tenth edition of the annual Social Science Institute on March 4th through 6th in sunny Mesa, Arizona. Our

hosts Niccole Cervený and Mesa Community College provided outstanding hospitality to facilitators and participants alike.

Seven schools sent participants this year, and those schools were perhaps the most diverse array of institutions we've had to date. There were three teams from community colleges: Anoka-Ramsey CC from Minnesota, Edmonds CC from Washington, and our hosts Mesa CC. There were two institutions from Canada: the University of Ottawa and Vancouver Island University. We had Trinity University, a primarily undergraduate institution in San Antonio, and the University of Texas at El Paso, a research-intensive school.

The seven institutions were guided by three facilitators; Herb Childress and Elizabeth Perry-Sizemore of the Social Sciences division, and Greg Young of Arts and Humanities, who had worked at last year's SSI with a different team of faculty from Trinity University. (When a school sends two groups in consecutive years, we must be doing something right!) The teams' work ranged from the design of individual courses to the design of faculty and student development through campus UR offices, and the responses we've received from participants indicated that they felt themselves to be productive and successful.

The Social Science Institute now has a more or less stable slot in the CUR annual calendar of events, the first or second week of March. No host has yet been selected for the 2017 SSI, but ten years of evidence suggests that it will again be an important tool for the broadening of undergraduate research and scholarship in our disciplines.

2016 NCUR a Success

The 30th annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research was held at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, April 7-9. The event was a great success with more than

4000 attendees at the conference. Search the abstracts:

https://www.cur.org/ncur_2016/account/?search=true

CUR BIENNIAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

CUR is hosting its 17th National Conference, "Advancing Undergraduate Research: Collaboration and Innovation in a Global Society", at the University of South Florida, Tampa, one of only four Florida public universities classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities. Serving some 48,000 students, the university offers a dynamic learning environment and a curriculum that inspires student success through innovation, creativity and collaboration.

In situating the conference on Florida's west coast, CUR will highlight the richness of its multicultural heritage, multi-linguistic diversity, and international connections, especially with its neighbors in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The 2016 CUR National Conference provides an opportunity for faculty, administrators, staff, academic and community partners, and policy-makers to share individual and collaborative investigations, either interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary, in local, national and international contexts, and to showcase models of undergraduate research activities at all types of higher education institutions. In addition, the conference features nationally-recognized keynote speakers who provide insight into current national/global trends and related fields of interest.

Visit the CUR website and register now at URL:
http://members.cur.org/members_online/registration/register.asp?mt=CC16&af=CUR

**PLEASE NOTE REGISTRATION CLOSES
MAY 25, 2016**

Annual Business Meeting 2016

Thursday, June 23 - Saturday,
June 25, 2016

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

For More Information Visit:

http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/annual_business_meeting/

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