



## Social Sciences Division Newsletter • Fall 2018

A Publication of a Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research

### Fall 2018: Welcome from the Chair



Carol Strong

I am delighted to share with you the fall 2018 *Social Sciences Division (SSD) Newsletter*. This is the mid-year point of my second year serving as chair of the division, and I am loving it!

For those new to the organization: I am an associate professor in political science at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, have been a Councilor for the SSD since 2012, and serve on the CUR Advocacy Committee. While in CUR, I have been involved in CUR Dialogues, met with congressional representatives from Arkansas, participated in various CUR-sponsored panels, and mentored students who presented at successive NCUR events and/or the 2016 World Congress in Doha, Qatar.

I am pleased to lead the SSD and hope to encourage all of you to take advantage of the many opportunities afforded you by CUR. In this issue, you will find profiles for all the new Councilors elected to the SSD this year. We have an impressive group of people representing you at the executive level this year, and I am proud to introduce them to you.

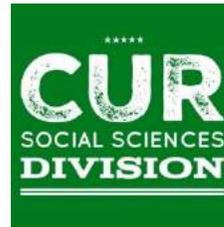
You'll also find valuable information on opportunities for students and faculty, including an announcement for SSD student travel grants and next year's CUR World Congress in Germany. I also encourage you to click [Log in to CUR Community](#) to see what's happening in CUR and how you can get the most out of your membership.

I am also introducing the **Undergraduate Research Minute!** At the last ABM, I closed our final session by asking SSD Councilors to share tactics related to successful strategies that they had each employed in class to foster undergraduate research. It was a very popular

session, and I was asked to make it a regular part of our SSD dialogue. So, I am pleased to offer the first installment!

I scaffold my undergraduate research assignments according to the level of class involved. I begin the research process at the first-year level, but I do more than just assign them an essay that the students may or may not know how to do. In class, I introduce them to a broad theme of social importance. For the last few years, the theme has been poverty in Arkansas.

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The Social Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist social sciences

administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

#### Division Chair

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## Welcome from the Chair

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The packet that they receive has an article that they have to use as one of their sources. This article was specifically chosen because it both tells stories of poverty and gives analysis in the paper. I then tell them that if this is their first essay, they should pick the story that speaks most to them and tell me why it is so compelling. I also say that the end goal is to give me analysis about why the writer told the stories, rather than just relating them, but that this is a skill that they can master with practice. Giving them an article that they have to use diminishes the chance that they will try and buy someone else's essay and pass it off as their own. It also helps you distinguish between those that are deliberately plagiarizing and those that use VERY BAD references. By seeing whether they reference the article you assigned or not (and how they do it), you can decide on ways to personalize your responses to students on how to write good essays.

They are further told to find a website dealing about poverty in Arkansas, as well as a third source of their choice. This is accompanied by a specific instruction sheet that tells them the dimensions of the final project (word/page length, font, spacing, etc.), which includes a section about how to reference sources and includes examples of what to do with their sources.

During the class after I hand out the instructions, I ask them to talk about the article they had been charged with reading. Most say that they were all really sad stories, which allows me to ask them why they feel this way. Then, after they provide a more specific answer, I ask them why/how they came to this answer. I conclude by reminding them that arguments are not only statements meant to make someone mad but also are the statement of their relevant opinions, as backed up by research found in their scholarly sources.

I hope this method sparks ideas for you and welcome others sharing their strategies with me, which I will share in future columns.

Please reach out, if there are initiatives or information you would like to have the division

consider! Also, if you have questions, please contact me at [strong@uamont.edu](mailto:strong@uamont.edu).•

## Opportunities for the Social Sciences Division

### *2019 SSD Student Travel Awards*

Every year, CUR's Social Sciences Division offers a limited number of student travel awards for undergraduate students to travel to and present at discipline-specific conferences. One award per institution is permitted, and applications are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit the [Social Sciences Division webpage](#) on the CUR website.

### *Nominations Open Soon*

#### **First Annual Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research Award**

The Social Sciences Division is pleased to announce its first annual Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research in the Social Sciences award in March 2019.

This award aims to recognize an outstanding mentor of undergraduate research in the social sciences for their role in supporting, encouraging, and promoting a positive and inclusive scholarly and teaching environment, and for contributing to professional and personal development of undergraduate students within or outside their research or degree programs.

Watch your email for more information about when the call for nominations will open, how you nominate someone, and what makes someone eligible for nomination. •

### **NEW from CUR!**



Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research



This cross-disciplinary volume incorporates diverse perspectives on mentoring undergraduate research, including work from scholars at many different types of academic institutions in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. To order, visit the [CUR Bookstore](#).

## Meet the New Councilors

Social Sciences Division Councilors are elected on a rotating schedule and serve three-year terms. There are no term limits for service, but each Councilor must be reelected to continue service. There are 23 Councilors that work in African American studies, anthropology, communications, criminal justice, economics, geography, history, marketing, political science, sociology, and/or psychology.

For 2018–2019, the following were each elected to a three-year term as Councilor for the SSD: *Jonathan Gayles, Sean Kelly, Shauna Reilly, Doreen Sams, and Sonja Trent-Brown.*



**Jonathan Gayles** is professor of African American studies at Georgia State University. He is a graduate of Morehouse College (BA, psychology), Winthrop University (MS, school psychology), and the University of South Florida (PhD, applied anthropology). His primary areas of interest include the anthropology of education, educational policy, black masculinity, and critical media studies. He is currently investigating the contested blackness of the “Black Christ” of Portobelo, Panama. In 2012, he produced the independent documentary on African American comic book superheroes *White Scripts and Black Supermen: Black Masculinities in Comic Books* (distrib. California Newsreel). The American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association awarded the documentary the 2013 Peter Rollins Best Documentary Film Award. He also produced *The E-Word: A Documentary on the Ebonics Debate*. The film examines the context of the national furor in response to the Oakland Unified School District’s Resolution on Ebonics. The film pursues a more informed understanding of “The E-Word” through the use of archival footage and interviews with former students, teachers, administrators, policymakers, and scholars who were directly involved with the resolution and the national debate that ensued.



**Sean Q. Kelly** is professor of political science at California State University Channel Islands. As an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow (1993-1994), he worked for the Senate Democratic Leadership in the Democratic Policy Committee—then cochaired by George Mitchell (D–ME) and Tom Daschle (D–SD)—as a health policy analyst. A graduate of Seattle University, he earned his PhD from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Before joining the faculty at CSU Channel Islands, he taught at East Carolina University and Niagara University. He is the author or coauthor of peer-reviewed articles and three books (coauthored with Scott Frisch): *Committee Assignment Politics in the U.S. House of Representatives* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2006), *Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars: Presidential Influence and the Politics of Pork* (Cambria Press, 2008), and *Cheese Factories on the Moon: Why Earmarks Are Good for American Democracy* (Paradigm, 2011). In addition, he is coeditor (with Wayne Steger and J. Mark Wrighton) of *Campaigns and Political Marketing* (Routledge, 2006), is coeditor (with Scott Frisch, Douglas Harris, and David Parker) of *Doing Archival Research in Political Science* (Cambria Press, 2012), and is coeditor (with Scott Frisch) of *Politics to the Extreme* (Palgrave, 2013). He is coeditor (with Frank H. Mackaman of the Dirksen Center) of *Robert H. Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority* (University Press of Kansas, forthcoming).

At CSU Channel Islands, Kelly is a champion of faculty-mentored undergraduate research. He is the faculty lead for interdisciplinary research under a Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) grant aimed at student success. He facilitates the first-year Student Research Undergraduate Fellowship (SURF), an interdisciplinary living-learning community focused on curiosity, inquiry, creativity, and

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## Meet the New Councilors

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discovery. He facilitates CI's Summer SURF program. Summer SURF allows faculty and students to spend 10 weeks conducting discipline-specific research. In weekly meetings of the Interdisciplinary Research Learning Community, students engage in cross-disciplinary dialogue and engage in professional development activities. As an HSI, CSU Channel Islands seeks to diversify the graduate school pipeline through undergraduate research.



**Shauna Reilly** is a professor of political science at Northern Kentucky University. She is also the founding director of NKU's Institute for Student Research and Creative Activity. Her research focuses on elections and voting

obstacles for voters, she has authored five books on the topic. She has worked with student research her entire career on individual projects, collaborate projects, honor's capstone projects and conference presentations. She currently works to build the new Institute and connect students across campus (and disciplines) in their research and creative activities.



**Doreen (Dee) Sams** is a professor of marketing in the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business at Georgia College & State University. In 2005, she earned her PhD from the University of South Florida and joined the faculty of Georgia Col-

lege & State University that year. She is a first-generation college student. She is the faculty coordinator for mentored undergraduate research and creative endeavors where she is responsible for implementation and oversight of a robust, university-wide, mentored undergraduate research program.

Sams has given 19 conference presentations on mentoring undergraduate research, published to articles with coauthors in *CUR Quarterly*, presented at 13 conferences with undergraduate research coauthors, and published one journal article with undergraduate research coauthors. She is a coauthor of the highly successful

*Handbook of Mentoring Undergraduate Research* (GC Knowledge Box, 2014; 2nd ed., 2017). She is a member of the editorial review board for the *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice* and on the editorial board for the *Journal of Transformative Learning*; she also conducts manuscript reviews for several other journals and conferences. She is one of two editors for the special edition of the *Journal of Transformative Learning* focusing on mentored undergraduate research.



**Sonja Trent-Brown** is an associate professor in psychology at Hope College, Holland (MI) with an expertise in sociolinguistics, neuro-linguistics and psycholinguistics. At Hope College, she serves as the special

assistant to the president for culture and inclusion. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Harvard/Radcliffe University and her master's and doctor of philosophy degrees in cognitive and neural sciences with an emphasis in psycholinguistics from the University of South Florida.

## Returning Social Sciences Councilors

Reelected were James LaPlant, Jeanne Mekolichick, Cynthia Merriwether-de Vries, and Carol Strong for three more years of service. To see their academic profiles, please visit the Social Sciences Division page on the CUR website. •

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## Resources for the Social Sciences Div



### *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research* – CUR's Journal

CUR's peer-reviewed journal publishes articles about best practices in undergraduate research. It's a wonderful resource for anyone interested in becoming a master teacher of undergraduate

research. Please consider writing an article to submit for publication in SPUR (consult the [author submission guidelines](#)). It's a great way to network with others in the field. For more information, visit the [SPUR webpage](#) on the CUR website. You also can keep up to date on SPUR content through subscribing to the [SPUR Tables of Contents RSS feed](#).



The spring and summer 2019 issues will focus on “Big Data and Undergraduate Research,” including some very interesting articles from the social sciences.

Other forthcoming issues will “Revisit the Classics,” looking at some of the seminal articles published in *CUR Quarterly* and describing the current status of the featured programs/initiatives. •



## Upcoming CUR Events

### [CUR Dialogues 2019](#)

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA  
February 14-17, 2019

### ***Advancing Future Research: Strategies for Long-Term Sustainability***

CUR Dialogues is an opportunity for CUR members to attend workshops and plenary sessions that provide participants with information about grant opportunities in research and education, both new and ongoing, as well as current trends in higher education relevant to undergraduate research. It further assists faculty with strategies on optimizing their grant-funding success and fosters faculty members' and administrators' grant preparation skills.

### [National Conference on Undergraduate Research](#)

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA  
April 10–13, 2019



CUR is strongly committed to the wide expression of all forms and topics of undergraduate research, by all members of the undergraduate research community, and views with great concern any actions or policies that affect that commitment to inclusivity. As Elizabeth Ambos, CUR's executive officer, notes: “CUR's programs, including its signature student research conference, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), serve as ‘home’ for all champions and practitioners of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.”

Kennesaw State University is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable learning community. We believe that all forms of social diversity—race/ethnicity, class, gender expression, sexual orientation, ableness, veterans' status, and religion—add to the campus community, enrich the student experience, and facilitate knowledge creation across forms of difference. To this end, we support critical thought and openness to new ideas. We encourage students to engage in dialogue, listen to differing points of view, and to exercise rigorous inquiry as the future leaders of society who will carve out new pathways toward a more fulfilling and beneficial social existence.

### [Undergraduate Research Programs Conference/CUR Annual Business Meeting](#)

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
June 25–29, 2019

[Abstract submissions](#) due February 19, 2019•