



Social Sciences Division Newsletter • Student Edition • Fall 2019

A Publication of a Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research

Fall 2019: Welcome from the Chair



I am delighted to share with you the fall 2019 Social Sciences Division (SSD) Newsletter. This is my third and final year serving as chair of the division, and I am loving it!

There are so many opportunities for undergraduate students! Are you taking advantage of all that you can? If not, read on!

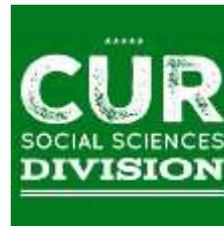
For those new to the organization: I am an associate professor in political science at the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM). I have been a CUR Councilor for the division since 2012 and serve on the CUR Advocacy Committee. While in CUR, I have taken students to meet members of Congress from Arkansas, have participated in various CUR-sponsored panels, and mentored students who presented at successive NCUR events and/or the First World Congress in Doha, Qatar. Most recently, I had the pleasure of mentoring three students that presented their work at the Second World Congress (WorldCUR) in Oldenburg, Germany on May 23–25, 2019.

I am particularly excited to share the accomplishments of undergraduate researchers in the social sciences, each of whom have taken advantage of what CUR has to offer. This edition showcases such endeavors. Read on to see a listing of the under-graduate recipients of a 2018–2019 SSD student travel grant and details about the participation of SSD undergraduate researchers at the Second World Congress. Also included: Calls for abstract submissions for NCUR 2020, Posters on the Hill (replete with tips for writing your abstract/ application), as well as the announcement for the 2019–2020 SSD student travel grants.

If you are an undergraduate student in the social sciences and plan to present at a conference during the 2019–2020 academic year, be sure to look up these grants and conference calls for submissions! Don't miss out! Make sure to take advantage of every opportunity given you!

Please reach out, if you have news of your own undergraduate research experiences. I'll share them with the division! Or if you have questions, please contact me at strong@uamont.edu.

Carol Strong, Division Chair



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.

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Council on Undergraduate Research

Call for Applications, 2019-2020 SSD Student Travel Awards



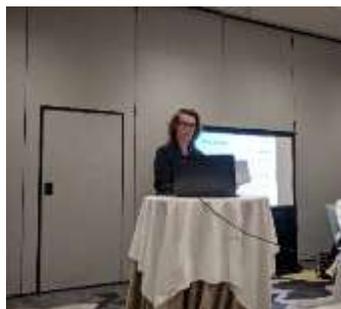
Every year, the CUR Social Sciences Division offers a limited number of student travel awards for undergraduate students who will be presenting at discipline-specific conferences. One award per institution is permitted, and applications are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. For further details, visit the [webpage](#) on the student travel awards.

Why apply?

In the words of previous recipients:

Sara Czoka: “Having the opportunity to present my own research again in this setting was extraordinary. I was able to network with fellow anthropologists and I took advantage of the onsite career fair and graduate school fair to receive career counseling and exposure to possible graduate programs and options.”

Lara Andres: “Attending this conference reaffirmed my passion for the field of developmental psychology and solidified my desire to further my education as a developmental researcher.”



Undergraduate Researcher in Action!

Levi Mitzen presents his research at the Southern Sociological Society’s annual conference on April 9–13, 2019.

Recipients of the 2018–2019 SSD Student Travel Awards

During 2018-2019, the following students were awarded a 2018–2019 SSD Student Travel Award to present original research at a conference:

- **Lara Andres**, a fourth-year student at Texas A&M University, presented a poster of her research project (“Ambulatory Assessment of Infant Negative Affectivity: Comparison to Gold-Standard Temperament”) at the Society for Research in Child Development conference on March 21–24, 2019. Faculty mentor: Kaya de Barbaro.
- **Sara Czoka**, a fourth-year student from Florida Atlantic University, presented a poster of her project (“Virtually a Criminal: A Visual Ethnography of the Urban Criminal Underground in Grand Theft Auto Five”) at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting on November 15-18, 2018. Faculty mentor: Jacqueline Fewkes.
- **Courtney Field**, a fourth-year student at Luther College, presented a poster of her research project (“Governing Sex Work. Comparative Study of Risk and Vulnerability among People Who Exchange Sex for Money in the US and Netherlands”) at the Society for the Applied Anthropology’s conference on March 21-24, 2019. Faculty mentor: Maryna Bazylevych.
- **Harrison Hoffman**, a fourth-year student at Luther College, presented a poster of his research project (“Understanding Cigarette Smoking among Undergraduate Students in the Context of Lower than National Average Smoking Rates”) at the Society for the Applied Anthropology’s conference on March 21-24, 2019. Faculty mentor: Maryna Bazylevych.
- **Emily Linder**, a fourth-year student at Luther College, presented a poster of her research project (“The Tipping Point; Perceptions of Stress in Undergraduate Students”) at the Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting on March 21–24, 2019. Faculty mentor: Maryna Bazylevych.

- **Faith Marcelo**, a third-year student from the University of Portland, gave an oral presentation of her research project (“Poetry Power: An Innovative Brief Therapeutic Poetry Writing Intervention for Older Adult Survivors of Abuse”) at the 2019 National Association for Poetry Therapy Conference on April 10–14, 2019. Faculty mentor: Kevin Jones.
- **Dylan McClain**, a fourth-year student at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, gave an oral presentation of his research project (“A Plan to Develop Sustainable Political, Economic, and Social Institutions within the Middle Eastern North African Region”) at the 2019 Southern Political Science Association conference on January 17–19, 2019. Faculty mentor: Carol Strong.
- **Levi Mitzen**, a fourth-year student at George Mason University, gave an oral presentation of his research project (“Art in Action: An Analysis of Political Graffiti”) at the Southern Sociological Society’s annual conference on April 9-13, 2019. Faculty mentor: John Dale.
- **Jayna Ortiz**, a fourth-year student at Loyola Marymount University, presented a poster of her research project (“Red in a Sea of Blue: An Analysis of Conservative Thinkers in Los Angeles”) at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research on April 11–13, 2019. Faculty mentor: Brianne Gilbert.
- **Emma Rumpf-Snavely**, a fourth-year student at California Lutheran University, presented a poster of her research project (“Gendered Perception of Numbers”) at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention on February 7–9, 2019. Faculty mentor: Andrea Sell.
- **Landon Walters**, a fourth-year student from Vancouver Island University, presented a poster of his project (“Fighting in Ice Hockey: A Perspective from Inside the Locker Room”) at the 46th Annual Conference of the Western

Society of Criminology on February 7–9, 2019. Faculty mentor: Lauren Mayes.

- **Alexander Xie**, a fourth-year student at Gettysburg College, gave an oral presentation of his research project (“The ASEAN Free Trade Area Effect: A Structural Gravity Re-Assessment Using Disaggregated Industrial Bilateral Trade Data”) at the Eastern Economic Association Conference on February 28–March 3, 2019. Faculty mentor: Ivanova Reyes.

SSD Researchers Present in Germany at the Second WorldCUR



The second CUR World Congress was held at the University of Oldenburg in Oldenburg, Germany on May 23-25, 2019. It brought together 244 student researchers from around the world, 39 percent of which were from the United States. Of these 244 researchers, 23 percent were presenting work in the social sciences (12 percent political science, 9 percent economics).

WCUR was designed to foster interdisciplinary debates grounded in the project development of undergraduate students from around the world in the areas of environment, health, economy, communication, and politics, thereby building cultural bridges to overcome stereotypes and increase intercontinental dialogue among these future leaders.

All SSD students in attendance are to be commended! Please share your stories of WCUR at strong@uamont.edu.



Dylan McClain, Leah Sparkman, Daniela Delgado, and Johnmark Perry from the University of Arkansas–Monticello at WCUR.

Upcoming Opportunities for Undergraduate Researchers

National Conference on Undergraduate Research



NCUR 2020 will be held on March 26-28, 2020, at Montana State University Bozeman. This event will bring together more than 4,000 students and their faculty mentors for a three-day conference. In addition to providing students with an opportunity to present their scholarly research, NCUR also enables students to network with their peers and faculty mentors, and meet with graduate school and corporate recruiters.

Abstract Submission Deadline:

December 6, 2019

For further details or to submit an abstract, visit the [NCUR 2020 webpage](#).

Posters on the Hill

Capitol Hill • Washington, DC • Spring 2020

Application Submission Deadline:

November 5, 2019



Each spring, the Council on Undergraduate Research hosts an annual undergraduate poster session on Capitol Hill. At this event and its related activities, members of Congress and their staff members learn about the importance of undergraduate research through talking directly with student researchers about their projects.

Tips for Preparing an Application to Posters on the Hill

While preparing applications for Posters on the Hill, consider the following questions:

- Is it clear your project is of high quality and represents a significant/meaningful contribution to the discipline?
- Does your project have wide general interest (i.e., interest to a general audience and scholarly community)?
- Is your abstract written so that it is accessible to a well-educated general audience? (The abstract should use a minimum amount of terminology/jargon that would only be familiar to experts in the specific discipline unless it is necessary and explained appropriately.)
- Is your project's objective clear from your proposed title/abstract?
- Has the project been completed or will it be completed by the time of the event?
- Is it clear to reviewers that the methodology/approach used in conducting the research was valid?
- What experience do you have in presenting this project to a general audience?
- Does the letter of support from the faculty mentor clearly outline your role and the significance of your contribution to this project?

For further details on the event or application submission, visit the [Posters on the Hill webpage](#).