



Psychology News

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Welcome



Amy Buddie, Chair, CUR Psychology Division
Kennesaw State

Welcome to the Fall 2016 CUR Psychology Division Newsletter! I write this on my 6th anniversary of joining CUR, which has prompted me to reflect on all that CUR in general, and the psychology division in particular, has to offer.

- If your institution will support it, I cannot recommend enough participating in a [CUR Institute](#), which provides an opportunity for teams of individuals from one institution to learn from leaders in undergraduate research and to have structured time to develop a plan for improvement to bring back to their campuses.
- CUR publications have been enormously helpful to me, and most are either free to members or really inexpensive. For example, my institution is using Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR) to create a strategic plan for undergraduate research, available for [free](#). *CUR Quarterly* remains my go-to publication for up-to-date information on undergraduate research, and members can download full issues for [free](#).
- Have your students ever presented at the [National Conference on Undergraduate Research](#) (NCUR)? Students at my institution rave about the experience. Maybe I'll see some of you in Memphis next April.

The psychology division is working on several exciting initiatives – you can read more about them on the next page. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas (abuddie@kennesaw.edu). Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), and I look forward to hearing from you!

About CUR's Psychology Division

The Psychology Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist psychology administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

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What's happening in the Division



Sarah K. Johnson, Moravian

Here are some initiatives that the CUR Psychology division councilors developed at our meetings during the CUR Annual Business Meeting in June 2016. These initiatives are all in active states of progress, and our division developed some additional ideas that we will look into moving forward with over the year.

- **Mid-Career Mentoring Award:** We have offered this biennial award twice. Previous winners were Brian Detweiler-Bedell (Lewis & Clark) and Teresa Dzieweczynski (U of New England). During our meeting, we voted to continue funding this initiative. Councilors are working to finalize the deadlines for the upcoming cycle. We expect to solicit nominations this fall for an award to be presented at the CUR Biennial Conference in June, 2018.
- **Student Travel Awards:** We have offered these awards of \$250 for students to travel to present their research at a regional or national conference. During our meeting, we voted to continue funding this initiative. Deadlines are in September and February. See more information and application at: http://www.cur.org/governance/divisions/psychology_student_travel_awards/ We are hoping to expand our efforts to specifically fund a student from an underrepresented group to attend the national Council on Undergraduate research (NCUR).
- **Enhancing Diversity in CUR:** Our councilors have completed two initiatives in the area of diversity outreach. Key CUR publications were sent to community college Psi Beta and APA listservs, and also to Psychology departments at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and tribal colleges.
- **Survey on Undergraduate Research (UR) in Psychology:** Councilors are developing a psychology-focused survey of undergraduate research (successes, obstacles, etc.) based on existing discipline-general assessment tools. IRB approval will be sought for multi-institution distribution of this survey—Look for upcoming emails this fall asking you to participate and help us

generate information on what undergraduate research looks like in Psychology. In the spring, the data will be analyzed and made available via open source. We hope these data may prove a useful tool for you to figure out what your department's undergraduate research efforts look like in comparison to other institutions.

- **Free Open Science Framework Webinar:** A councilor has met with a COS Education Specialist and has created a general introduction video for the Open Science framework. Through the fall and winter, a teaching-focused introduction video will be created. This spring, links to the finished videos will be mailed to all CUR members and linked to the CUR webpage.

Reflections from the 2016 CUR Biennial Conference



Amy Buddie, Chair, CUR Psychology Division
Kennesaw State

I come away from every CUR Biennial Conference inspired to try new ideas and improve upon what we already do on my campus. The only problem I have is that there are too many sessions I want to attend at the same time. What did I learn this year? Here are my top three new ideas:

- Lizzy King (Michigan State) and Mike Cohen (U of Missouri-Columbia) inspired me to investigate implementing a research ambassadors program at my institution. As is true of probably most of us, there is so much we want to do and so little time. Why not enlist the help of some talented student ambassadors? They can facilitate workshops for students on how to get started in undergraduate research, they can help out at the undergraduate research symposium, and they can probably inspire the next generation of researchers better than a stodgy old faculty member (that's me).
- An attendee at my own presentation mentioned that on her campus, they facilitate a "shark tank" style symposium where undergraduates pitch their research ideas and get feedback from the audience on their methodology, research design, etc. I love it! What a great way to harness a popular television show for academic purposes.
- Tenure and promotion guidelines at my institution vary considerably across academic departments and

colleges. Aimee Knupsky, Ian Binnington, and Brad Hersh (Allegheny) did a great job explaining their process of integrating undergraduate research (and other high-impact practices) into their tenure and promotion guidelines, including the steps they took, the exact language that was eventually agreed upon, and most interestingly, the initial objections of some faculty.

If you have never attended the biennial conference, I strongly urge you to consider coming in 2018. You will come away with a renewed appreciation for undergraduate research as well as concrete ideas you can start implementing the day you get back to your campus.



Laurie Couch, Morehead State

The conference is an opportunity to spend time with people who are all passionate about undergraduate research, and they all have great ideas to share. The sessions were inspiring, and I am leaving with some concrete suggestions for my department and university about things we can do to enhance our UR program. I love that the presenters are willing to share what has worked for them, and how they convinced their administration to try new initiatives, especially when they may come with a price tag.



Sarah K. Johnson, Moravian

I had a wonderful experience at a talk by Anastasia Lin (U of North Georgia) that I attended purely because it was the end of the conference, I was already in the room, and there were so few attendees (last slot on Sunday--always a rough one for presenters) that I felt compelled to stay. The talk was about geographic information system (GIS) mapping of literature, or what is called literary cartography. It was fascinating to hear how Dr. Lin has her class map the movement of characters from literature they are reading onto layers of GIS factors like cultural migration patterns.

Not clear how this relates to Psychology? Well stay with me. When I get home from CUR, I jump back into my role directing the summer research student presentations, when lo and behold a Psychology student studying friendships and bullying throws out an odd reference to GIS in her

presentation. It happens to be a Psychology/Environmental Studies dual major, so she's been introduced to GIS mapping. Next thing I know, I'm talking to her and her advisor/my Psychology colleague about literary cartography and listening to the student develop ideas about what factors she could study in this way. Now, several weeks later, she has already begun working with the GIS software to create a plot of the participants' homes with overlaid layers of factors like socio-economic status and crime rate in order to explore how they relate to overt and relational bullying.

The CUR Biennial Conference is a fantastic place to get ideas via cross-pollination from other disciplines as well as administrative perspectives on UR. It is always an energizing experience!



Sandra Webster, Westminster

CUR Psychology Division Counselors Sandra Webster, Amy Buddie, and Tsu-Ming Chiang led an interactive panel session entitled *Ramping Up: How to Advance Undergraduate Research within the Institution*. We engaged the standing room only audience in discussion of eight questions on how to ramp up:

1. How can undergraduate research get a bigger profile at the institution?
2. How can we secure more funding for undergraduate research?
3. How can we increase the number of students engaged in research (e.g., increase number sent to NCUR)?
4. How do we start and sustain a faculty council for undergraduate research?
5. How do we get buy-in from administrators, faculty, and students?
6. How do we develop a culture of research on our campuses?
7. How do we get undergraduate research included in the curriculum?
8. How do we get IRB procedures that foster undergraduate research?

Contact Sandra Webster at websters@westminster.edu if you'd like a summary of the answers to the questions.



From left: Amy Buddie, Tsu-Ming Chiang, Sandra Webster

From the Annual CUR Business Meeting

Sandra Webster - Almost two dozen inCURrigible and intrepid elected Psychology division CUR counselors met to carry out the business of the organization during the days preceding the biennial conference. On Friday night, they took a break to enjoy dinner at various locations in Tampa. One group explored YBOR City after a hearty meal at the Tampa Bay Brewery. Here they are with one of the founders of YBOR.



Mentoring Tips

To contribute a Tip contact Laurie Couch at l.couch@moreheadstate.edu



Matthew Schmolesky (Georgia Gwinnett), new Psychology Division Councilor, suggests that one of the

best tips he can offer to make mentoring go more smoothly is to start by recruiting mentees through a formal and judicious process so that the most serious and well-prepared students are chosen to work in the lab. He suggests making the application process for mentees formal by either developing a website for the lab with application instructions and/or materials, or by distributing a formal “Request for Applications” through classes or student clubs like Psi Chi. He uses both a written application and oral interview when students seek to work in the lab, and asks students to create a time budget sheet (which includes time commitments like lab, classes, work, social time, etc.) during the process to demonstrate that they really have time to commit to the endeavor. Matthew also considers students’ grades in certain classes related to his research focus to be sure the student has a history of success related to the topic and skill set needed for his lab.



Judy Grisel (Bucknell), new Psychology Division Councilor, says that a tip which makes mentoring go more smoothly in her lab is to pair new students, who are working on smaller tasks, with senior students who can show them the ropes. Although she does engage in quality control with the newer students, by structuring the team so that the senior students act as mentors in the research process she is able to more fully focus her time and attention to the work of the senior students. This allows her efforts to be directed in such a way that those who are getting the most attention are more at the level of a collaborator on their projects. It also keeps her from investing large amounts of her mentoring energy into students who are not likely to stay involved over the long term.



Councilors at the Annual Business Meeting