



## Social Science Division Newsletter Spring 2015

### Greetings Social Science Division Members!



Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of the Social Science Division Newsletter! In this edition we celebrate many successes including hosting the ninth Social Sciences Institute in March, a strong representation of the Social Science Division at the 2015 Posters on the Hill event, distribution of all of our student travel support funding, and a significant transition of a long-time Councilor and former SSD Chair. 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](mailto:jmekolic@radford.edu).

Jeanne Mekolichick, Division Chair

### Social Sciences Institute, Stetson University

CUR held the ninth iteration of its Social Sciences Institute at the Stetson Center at Celebration, Florida in mid-March. The facilitation team of Dennis Munk, Liz Perry-Sizemore, Geoff Peterson, Julio Rivera and Greg Young served roughly 40 participants from ten institutions:

- Georgia College & State University
- Jamestown Community College
- Nazareth College
- Stetson University
- Trinity University
- University of Alaska Southeast

- University of Central Florida
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Ursinus College
- Utah Valley University

One change that we made this year from prior iterations of the Institute was to increase the amount of time that facilitators worked directly with their campus teams; nearly 60% of the working time in this year's Institute was focused directly on teams and their emerging workplans, and those workplans were terrifically detailed and locally relevant.

The evaluations that we received subsequent to the event were strongly positive with regards to all aspects of the Institute, from planning and preparation to the plenaries and workshops, from the quality of breakfasts to the quality of the Stetson venue. Our Stetson hosts Toni Castillo (Director of the Center), Kathy Whitmire (Event Coordinator), and Rob Mundell (Information Technology Coordinator) went out of their way to make the weekend terrific. The 2013 Institute was also hosted by Stetson University, at their main campus in DeLand, Florida; we now have two wonderful mid-winter host locations to choose from.

### Call for Submissions for the Summer 2015 issue of the *CUR Quarterly*: "Undergraduate Research and the Professional Schools"

The Summer 2015 CUR Quarterly will feature articles related to undergraduate research in the professional disciplines.

We seek 4 to 5 pieces that describe how students in professionally accredited degree programs – business, education, engineering, health fields, social work, architecture, etc. – include and support undergraduate participation in research. Ideally, authors will be able to share evidence on student learning and/or outcomes as well as “lessons learned” about engaging in research with students in professional disciplines. In addition, we invite shorter vignettes (300 words) that offer concrete, creative suggestions with regard to any aspect of undergraduate research undertaken in conjunction with professional degree programs.

### **2015 Posters on the Hill**

The nineteenth annual Posters on the Hill was held on April 22 and 23 at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington DC, with 79 students from 46 states presenting their research to members of Congress and Congressional staff. Posters on the Hill has become a core of CUR’s annual program, enabling advocacy of Federal recognition and funding of undergraduate research programs, showing members of Congress the strength of research that undergrads can do and the importance of continued support.

A dozen reviewers from the Social Science Division read roughly 80 abstracts submitted by undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors; in the end, nine posters from the social sciences were chosen, a disproportionately strong showing by our disciplines once again. The Social Science Division were represented by the following students:

Michelle Shevin-Coetzee, George Washington University: *Learning to Share the Pie: Civil-Military Negotiation Over the Defense Budget*

Josephine A. Suchomel & Casey J. Krull, Wartburg College: *Effects of Animals in Post-Secondary Science Classrooms on Academic Achievement, Academic Retention, and Intrinsic Motivation*

Stefani Perez-Zamarripa, University of Nebraska at Kearney: *Home Is Where the Social Capital Is: An Analysis of Post Emigration Social Capital and Community Ties*

Rebecca Flores, The College of New Jersey: *Divided Federalism and Gubernatorial Elections*

Brandon Jon Harmer, Fordham University: *The Likelihood of Greater Economic Integration*

Tiffany Merritt, University of North Carolina at Greensboro: *Addressing the Aftermath of a Wrongful Conviction in North Carolina: Policy vs. Practice*

Grant Alan Holyoak, Utah State University: *Utah Resident Climate Change Beliefs as Predictors of Residential Water Use and Local Water Conservation Policies*

Shelby Knudson, Saint Michael’s College: *Narrowing the Literacy Achievement Gap: Increasing Fourth and Fifth Grade Boys’ Motivation to Read*

Elena Galindo, George Mason University: *Attributes of Successful Mentored High School Research Experiences in Virginia Governor’s Schools*

Congratulations to these students and their faculty mentors for their selection to the 2015 Posters on the Hill.

## **Councilor Andrea Chapdelaine Named President of Hood College**



Most of us know Andrea Chapdelaine as a Social Science Councilor (since 2003) and past Divisional Chair. Her work on the Executive Board and as current Chair of the

Assessment Task Force have brought her into partnership with numerous CUR members. As Provost of Albright College, she has been a steady advocate for UR on her own campus, increasing professional development opportunities for faculty and travel and summer research opportunities for students.

All of these successes are leading her now to an even larger stage. This summer, Andrea will become the eleventh president of Hood College, a liberal arts college of roughly 1,400 undergraduates and another thousand in master's and professional programs. The presidential search was remarkably broad, with over 90 candidates reviewed by the Hood Board of Trustees, and Andrea attributes at least some of her success to her experiences in undergraduate research. "During the interview," she said, "I talked about my work with CUR and the leadership opportunities I've had there, as well as my broader history in experiential learning. The chance for students to work closely with a faculty member is what a place like Hood is all about, and the student learning outcomes of undergraduate research are widely known. Undergraduate research just resonated with Hood's values."

As president of Hood, Andrea will draw upon her extensive experience institutionalizing UR while dean of undergraduate studies and then provost at Albright. In those roles, she built an administrative structure to support the individual faculty involved in UR; raised internal

and external research funding; developed summer opportunities and travel funds for student researchers; strengthened her faculty's professional development through CUR's institutes and workshops; and built mentorship of undergraduate researchers into Albright's promotion and tenure guidelines so that faculty would be professionally rewarded for their work with student researchers. All of those experiences will carry forward directly into Andrea's new position. "Hood has a tradition of undergraduate research, with a summer program and a number of partnerships that enable community-based research," she said. "I look forward to working with the faculty to bring those capabilities deeper into the curriculum."

Andrea says that her experiences within CUR have offered invaluable insight for her larger career path. "The networking and mentorship have been so important—people from a lot of areas and roles who took an interest in me and in my career, who I could talk with about possibilities" she said. "Plus I got to test my leadership skills; running projects, managing teams, and moving initiatives forward." Those of us who've had the chance to work with Andrea in CUR know how successful she's been in all of her endeavors, and we're proud to see her go on to the Hood presidency. Congratulations from your colleagues in the Division, and our best wishes as you take on this new role.

### **COUNCILORS SAVE THE DATE!**

**CUR 2015 Annual Business Meeting**

**Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27, 2015**

**Begins at 4pm on June 25th,**

**Ends at 12 noon on June 27th.**

**University of Oklahoma- Norman**

**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW AT [CUR.ORG](http://CUR.ORG)**