I am hopeful that CUR will adapt the content/emphasis of programs/initiatives to support elements of undergraduate research closely related with the ever-changing needs of the future workforce, and that by anticipating these needs, CUR will serve as a resource for faculty and institutions while working on educational priorities emphasizing evidence-based, high-impact practices.

Let’s shine a light on those bright days. CUR hosted its largest community educational event ever this year. Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, serving as our conference guide, led nearly 700 attendees through a three-day Centering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Conference. It was a moving, emotional, and enlightening event. We look forward to extending the conversation in 2022 at the ConnectUR Conference. In fact, many of CUR’s programs and events held record attendance. The access of virtual offerings allowed us to reach parts of the community who had never engaged so deeply before. We look forward to seeing many of you again in-person, but the team is working diligently to make our programs flexible and multi modal in an effort to meet the community where it is.

At CUR, we know the power undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry has to enrich undergraduate education and help all students achieve their academic and career goals while gaining and expanding critical skills. In an effort to align our organizational goals and mission, a process began in August 2020, when 2020-2021 CUR President, Silvia Ronco, charged a task force to revise the CUR definition of undergraduate research. The purpose was to reflect the current spectrum of undergraduate research activities while making it more inclusive of a wider representation of student and mentor demographics, types of institutions, and disciplinary fields. After several months of surveying, interviewing, validating, and refining, the following framing language and revised definition of undergraduate research was adopted by the CUR Executive Board:

Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.

This work reflects CUR’s strategic goals, and we hope that the broadened definition may assist individuals and institutions as they establish new undergraduate research programs, contemplate enhancements to their existing programs, and support our community as they do outreach to partners and collaborators. This was but a small highlight of all CUR accomplished this year, the following pages will shine the light on other amazing undertakings from the community. The energy, dedication, and enthusiasm of our community, members, volunteers, and National Office staff is a light too powerful to be dimmed. I look forward to all that we can accomplish together in 2022.

President

QUESTION CORNER

WHAT ARE YOU MOST HOPEFUL FOR IN THE FUTURE OF CUR?

SILVIA RONCO
Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA)

I am hopeful that CUR will adapt the content/emphasis of programs/initiatives to support elements of undergraduate research closely related with the ever-changing needs of the future workforce, and that by anticipating these needs, CUR will serve as a resource for faculty and institutions while working on educational priorities emphasizing evidence-based, high-impact practices.

RUTH PALMER
The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) - Emeritus

I am excited about continuing to collaborate with this community to advance its mission and vision in our changing and challenging environment and to find our own resilience.

JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University

I am very proud of the work the executive board is accomplishing this year as we aim to create a diverse and robust leadership stream, strengthen our organization’s future planning so we are nimble and more proactive as we engage with the changing landscape of higher education, and lead the conversation on nexus of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry, career readiness, and early talent acquisition. With this direction and planning, I am excited about how CUR will continue to support our faculty, students, institutions, and our communities in deeper and more impactful ways.
Living through the pandemic has been challenging for us all. While the specifics of those challenges vary across individuals, pandemic layers have weighed on our daily experiences playing out in a multitude of ways. Sharing resources, trouble-shooting challenges, and offering navigational advice have long been strengths of our community that were forefront in this time of COVID. And, so importantly, at least for me, CUR has continued to be a place where I can laugh, find support and care.
## DIVISIONS + COUNCILORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS + HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Alexa Sand, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT-LARGE</td>
<td>Graeme Harper, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY</td>
<td>Lance Barton, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEMISTRY</td>
<td>Amy Deveau, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Kymberly Harris, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING</td>
<td>Heather Dillon, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOSCIENCES</td>
<td>Mark Lord, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTH SCIENCES</td>
<td>Leanne Laubach, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH + COMPUTER SCIENCES</td>
<td>Andrea Tartaro, Bruce Blaine, co-chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICS + ASTRONOMY</td>
<td>Joa Sauny, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>Karen Gunther, chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>Leslie Cecil, chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS</td>
<td>Timothy Raines, chair</td>
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<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS</td>
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### DIVISION MEMBERS
- **Total Division Members:** 10400+

### COUNCILORS
- **Total Councilors:** 271

### COMMITTEES + VOLUNTEERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL CONFERENCE KNOWLEDGE + COMMUNITY BUILDING ADVISORY</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVOCACY + STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTS + HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT MENTOR AWARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMPUS-WIDE AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AURA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTITUTION + BYLAWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUR FELLOWS</td>
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<td>CUR-GOLDWATER FACULTY MENTOR AWARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVERSITY EQUITY + INCLUSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OVERSIGHT (NOC)</td>
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<td>NOMINATIONS</td>
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<td>NOMINATIONS VETTING</td>
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<td>POSTERS ON THE HILL (POH) REVIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRAM REVIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOLARSHIP + PRACTICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR) EDITORIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, + INCLUSION IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH + CREATIVE ACTIVITY (CENTERING DEI)</td>
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</table>

### ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER WORK
- NCUR REVIEWERS, PRESENTERS + FACULTY FACILITATORS
- POH REVIEWERS
- CENTERING DE+I REVIEWERS + PRESENTERS
- SPUR AUTHORS, EDITORS, + REVIEWERS
- CUR CONVERSATION FACILITATORS

### TOTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- **Total Committee Members:** 286

### TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
- **Total Volunteers:** 1100+
I was pretty naive when I first joined CUR. Back then my main focus was to share my faculty experience with other members, especially with those who were just starting to build their programs. But being exposed to so many levels of interactions (faculty from all different disciplines, higher ed administrators and students) taught me how well positioned we are to help shape educational priorities in colleges and universities across the country.

Partnering with the right organizations and not reinventing the wheel are critical for broader reach, visibility, and impact. Lastly, the impact of UR in the lives of students of all backgrounds and disciplines is phenomenal, and that impact is even higher in students from underrepresented groups who often struggle to find a sense of belonging and supportive communities.
CUR worked together with the CUR Advocacy committee and Bose Washington Partners to provide CUR members with important information to encourage advocating for undergraduate research. There are elected lawmakers in US congress, the White House, state capitols, and city halls that are making decisions that affect undergraduate research. In 2021, CUR released the updated CUR 2021 Advocacy Toolkit. It is a collection of materials, resources, and advice that will guide you through telling the story of your undergraduate research to leaders and stakeholders in your community, to make a difference.

SILVIA RONCO
RCSA

CUR has been pivotal in my development, both as a faculty member and an administrator, who values and seeks to advance and institutionalize undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry. It is a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.

JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University

CUR was truly transformational and came at the right time in my faculty career when I was an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of South Dakota. While I had been prepared and well-mentored by Royce Engstrom, I was not aware of how beneficial my interactions with other CUR members would be, and not only in my discipline (Chemistry) but across the organization. The opportunity to meet your peers from all over the country is invaluable, as it is the opportunity to be mentored by more experienced members and to serve as a mentor yourself.
**SHINE A LIGHT ON... UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

**EVENT TIMELINE**

- **CUR Dialogues** | February 8-19, 2021 | virtual
- **NCUR** | April 12-14, 2021 | virtual
- **SPRING GRAD FAIR** | April 26, 2021
- **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK** | April 19-23, 2021 | virtual
- **POSTERS ON THE HILL** | April 27-28, 2021 | virtual
- **CUR CONVO: VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM** | March 7, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: DE+I** | March 8, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: STUDENT RESEARCH** | April 8, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: STUDENT MARKETING** | April 19, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: ADVOCACY** | February 24, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: VIRTUAL MENTORING** | February 26, 2021
- **ABM** | June 17-18, 2021 | virtual
- **CUR CONVO: PREP FOR GRAD SCHOOL** | July 21, 2021
- **POH** | July, 2021 | Custom
- **PROPOSAL WRITING INSTITUTE** | July, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: STUDENT MARKETING** | April 19, 2021
- **POH 2021** | July, 2021 | Custom
- **CUR CONVO: CUREs** | September 22, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: GOLDWATER SCHOLARS** | September 14, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: REU's** | October 5, 2021
- **CUR CONVO: REU's** | October 25, 2021 | virtual
- **REU** | October 25, 2021 | virtual
- **NCUR** | April 12-14, 2021 | virtual
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**DIALOGUES**

CUR Dialogues is designed to provide the undergraduate research community an opportunity to discuss the many available possibilities of funding and grants with federal agency program officers and other grant funders. Being able to learn how to successfully write a grant proposal and speak to funders is invaluable.

**NCUR**

NCUR is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students. 2021 was the first ever virtual iteration of this event and it spanned over 3 full days of oral, poster, gallery art, and fine art presentations. This conference continues to welcome student scholars from all institutions and disciplines. NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and helps to improve the state of undergraduate education.

**URW**

Undergraduate Research Week is nationally celebrated at higher education institutions. In 2021, multiple recognition posts, newsletters, and a large, virtual celebration of award recipients took place. CUR encouraged all institutions to recognize what was happening on their campuses and to connect to the community through different avenues.

**POH**

POH 2021 was a fun drop-in style virtual poster showcase hosted on Zoom. Participants enjoyed a welcome reception, the opportunity to connect virtually with their members of Congress, as well as the opportunity to present their research to other students, faculty, staff, administrators, federal legislators and their staff, key federal program officers, and more.

**ABM**

In 2021, CUR’s governance meeting was more compressed to make it more accessible for all elected councilors. The meeting consisted of a report to council, DEI training, session on collaboration on action plans, committee and division meetings, and a celebration of the membership year.

**CENTERING DEI REU**

Orchestrated by the URP Division and the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, this conference was a step in response to the national call for awareness and action on diversity, equity, and inclusion. It served as a platform for professionals to share, learn, listen, and grow in areas of this integrated focus, in order to adequately contribute to the ongoing transformation of the undergraduate research environment on campuses.

**REU**

This symposium acts as a practical skills session for student researchers who participated in an REU funded by the National Science Foundation. Each student is given the opportunity to present their research and network amongst program officers, faculty members, and other students.

**MEANING BEHIND**

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Update on GRANT NSF-DUE IUSE 16-25354

The CUR Transformations (CURTP) project is now in its sixth year and the PI’s continued to engage with the 24 departments that are involved in the project. Despite the challenges of COVID that moved the work online, enormous impacts on curriculum, departmental culture, and the research questions that drive the project occurred in the biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology departments represented. Many of the departments reported moving their efforts forward towards creating a fully scaffolded, research rich curriculum.

The project involved a number of activities to assist teams from the campuses in advancing their transformational changes. Although we had to cancel our yearly in-person meeting, teams were able to participate in a series of web-based meetings in November 2020, as well as January and March 2021. The site visits done by the consultants who assist the campus teams moved their visits to online versions. Newsletters detailing concepts that drive the project goals were shared along with a series of webinars on topics that touch on this research project.

Many of the participating departments are now sharing their outcomes by giving presentations to other departments on their campus and at national meetings along with publications detailing their work. The PIs on the project are working on developing a Theory of Change Model that outlines the factors that seem to be in place for real change to take hold. Their initial thoughts, “Scaffolding Research into Undergraduate STEM Curricula and Cultures: An Emerging Model for Systemic Change,” were published in a monograph last year and this serves as their framework for a Theory of Change model.

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CUR Transformations Principal Investigators
Mitch Malachowski, University of San Diego
Elizabeth Ambos, Independent Consultant
Lindsay Currie, Executive Officer of CUR
Kerry Karakostis, Harvey Mudd College
Jillian Kinzie, Indiana University
Jeffrey Osborn, The College of New Jersey

CUR-GOLDWATER SCHOLARS FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
DOMINICK J. CASADONTE, JR.
This Minnie Stevens Piper Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, has been selected as the 2021 Council on Undergraduate Research-Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Awardee. The award consists of a plaque and $5,000 for the awardee’s research program and for undergraduate researchers. Casadonte was honored for his achievements in mentoring nearly 90 undergraduates and 16 high school students in summer research programs. Casadonte, who specializes in inorganic and materials chemistry, earned his BS in chemistry with honors at Case Western Reserve University, and his MS in physical chemistry and PhD in inorganic chemistry at Purdue University. He completed his postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois.

CUR-GOLDWATER SCHOLARS FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
GREGORY YOUNG
Gregory Young, professor in the School of Music and founding director of the Undergraduate Scholars Program at Montana State University in Bozeman, has been selected as the 2021 CUR-Arts and Humanities Faculty Mentor Awardee. The award consists of a plaque and $1,000 for the recipient’s work with undergraduate researchers. In addition to working with undergraduates on collaborative projects, he played a crucial part as vice provost for undergraduate education in requiring research of all undergraduates—the first public university to do so—and established Montana State’s McNair Scholars Program to encourage underrepresented students to engage in research. Young has lectured or performed on five continents and is a clarinetist with the Intermountain Opera and Bozeman Symphony Orchestras.

Social Media Engagement
- New Followers: 523
- Total Engagement Views: 75,000+
- YouTube Videos: 130+

Cur Community
- First Time Logins: 1600+
- Library Views: 11600+
- Discussion Posts: 1700+

Spur Journal
- 2021 Released Issues: 4
- Spur Reviewers: 65+
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What definitely surprised me was CUR’s ability to continue delivering high-quality programming and supporting the needs of our members, even when facing the myriad of challenges brought in by the pandemic. Nobody was prepared for being sent home for such a long period of time! We are a small organization, and the fact that CUR remained optimistic, courageous, nimble, and adaptable is an indication of the immense power of collaborative efforts and teamwork. It also showed the organization’s resilience and the importance of “being there” given the circumstances over perfection. Pandemic disruptions changed us, but never stopped us.

President

QUESTION CORNER

HOW HAS CUR SURPRISED YOU THIS PAST YEAR?

JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University

This is a hard one. I’m not sure I’ve been particularly surprised by CUR. The talents and expertise of the National Office was highlighted and the depth of commitment of our volunteers were revealed in ways I expected. For me, what has been instructive and encouraging is the reach of CUR during the pandemic. As CUR and many other organizations opened access to resources during the pandemic, the number of folks utilizing the resources of our community calls us to consider this data as we think about the future.

SILVIA RONCO
RCSA

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RUTH PALMER
TCNJ - Emeritus

It is significant that amid the challenges of the past year, that the National Office under the leadership of the CEO, has been able to maintain such flexible functionality.