



## Social Science Division Newsletter Fall 2014

### Greetings Social Science Division Members!



I am delighted to be writing to you as the new chair of the Social Science Division. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking our outgoing chair, James La

Plant, for his leadership these past years, most notably leading us to receiving the outstanding division award, and importantly, cake at the Annual Business meeting this summer!

This is our fourth year of distributing an electronic newsletter to our divisional members. I am very grateful for everyone who contributed pieces to this newsletter, and most especially Cynthia Merriwether – DeVries for taking on the role of organizing the newsletter. We continue this year our student travel awards and invite you to share this opportunity with your students and colleagues.

Our publications, resources, and outreach efforts are aimed at sharing models and strategies for establishing, growing, and institutionalizing undergraduate research programs. We are always seeking new ways to serve the membership and increase the value of the SSD; please share with me ideas to help accomplish this goal. Additionally, the national office will soon be conducting a member survey and I encourage you to complete that as well. I appreciate your membership in the SSD and welcome your participation, including possibly running for a councilor position.

If you have ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me at [jmekolic@radford.edu](mailto:jmekolic@radford.edu) . I look forward to hearing from you.

*Jeanne Mekolichick, Division Chair*

### Call for Submissions—Posters on the Hill

CUR has issued its annual call for student research submissions for possible inclusion in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Posters on the Hill event in Spring 2015 (specific date to be set once the Congressional calendar for 2015 is finalized: the past five years have all been mid-to-late April). Posters on the Hill is CUR's showcase student event, presenting important student research in all disciplines in the Offices of the House of Representatives to help build Federal support for undergraduate research. In recent years, acceptance has been highly competitive, with approximately 10-15% of all submittals accepted for presentation.

Proposals, including a letter of recommendation from the faculty mentor, must be received electronically no later than 11:59 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. The reviewers are asked to consider:

- the readability of the abstract to an educated audience outside of the discipline;
- the student's demonstrated ability to present to a non-technical audience;
- the technical merit or methodology of the project;
- the broader interest of the project; and

- the research must be complete, or it must be able to be completed by the beginning of April 2015.

Although individual reviewers judge individual submissions on their specific merits, the final Posters on the Hill selection committee weighs reviewers' technical scores against a desire for disciplinary and geographical distribution. The 2014 event featured sixty student presentations representing forty states; nine of those sixty were from the Social Sciences division!

For further information, visit the CUR website [http://www.cur.org/conferences\\_and\\_events/student\\_events/posters\\_on\\_the\\_hill/](http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/student_events/posters_on_the_hill/) or call Mary Pat Twomey, CUR's Manager of Student Programs.

### **CUR Fellows Awards Nominations**

The Council on Undergraduate Research requests nominations for the 2016 CUR Fellows awards. The CUR Fellows awards are presented at the biennial Conference to two CUR members who have influenced undergraduate research through their own research, through scholarly or creative projects with undergraduates, and through demonstrated leadership activities. Each CUR Fellow also receives a Brian Andreen-CUR Student Research Fellowship to be awarded to a deserving undergraduate at his/her respective institution. Awardees play a major role in advancing undergraduate research by promoting discipline specific activities that may include the following:

- demonstrating a strong track record of scholarly and/or creative projects involving undergraduates,
- providing mentorship to undergraduate researchers, scholars, or artists, who have produced significant work in their fields,
- securing support for their work and for their students,

- spear-heading efforts to institutionalize undergraduate research on their campuses and across the nation, particularly through their involvement in CUR

In sum, the CUR Fellows are leaders and role models for a broad range of faculty and students. Full details of the CUR Fellows criteria and biographies of past CUR Fellows can be found at [http://www.cur.org/projects\\_and\\_services/cur\\_fellows/](http://www.cur.org/projects_and_services/cur_fellows/)

While self-nominations are not accepted, any member of CUR may nominate another CUR member for the CUR Fellows awards. A nomination consists of a two-page letter highlighting the nominee's contributions to all areas of undergraduate research and creative activity. Additionally, a two-page CV of the nominee should be included. Although abbreviated, the CV should detail the nominee's contribution to undergraduate research/creative activity, ranging from mentoring undergraduate students with resulting publications and creative works to promoting undergraduate research beyond the local level. The letter and CV must be submitted to the CUR National Office as a single PDF document, uploaded via the following nomination website: [http://members.cur.org/members\\_online/submissions/substart.asp?action=welcome&cid=152](http://members.cur.org/members_online/submissions/substart.asp?action=welcome&cid=152)

The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2014. Questions may be addressed to [cur@cur.org](mailto:cur@cur.org)

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## 2013-2014 Report on Social Science Division Travel Funds

Last year we fully committed our student travel budget. We were able to fund 12 projects fully at the \$200 level, with 3 students sharing one \$200 award. We funded travel to 3 Psychology, 2 Anthropology, 1 Asian Studies, 1 Appalachian Studies, 1 Public Health, 1 Biomedical, 1 Communication, 1 African Studies, and 1 Political Science conferences. The participants were from University of San Diego, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Utah Valley University, Augsburg College, Jackson State University, Miami University, Milligan College, Baldwin Wallace University, Furman University, and Roanoke College. We again received notes of appreciation from participating students. We will once again be supporting student travel for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please contact Dr. Rebecca Hatch, [rhatch@mtsac.edu](mailto:rhatch@mtsac.edu) to apply for one of these awards. Application guidelines can be found at the end of this newsletter.

### New Councilor Profiles

**Dr. Paula E. Faulkner**, associate professor in the



Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education instructs undergraduate and graduate students. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural technology (animal husbandry) and agricultural education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a doctorate in Agricultural Education and Extension from The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests focus on teacher education, diversity/multicultural education, working with individuals with special needs and experiential learning. She has presented research in many settings and has

provided nearly twenty students with research experiences. She is an advisor for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and was instrumental in assisting the University's first Fulbright student recipient. She is a Fulbright scholar and serves as a board member for the North Carolina Fulbright Alumni Association.

For her research endeavors, she was named the University's Outstanding Young Investigator of the Year (2012-2013).

**Dr. Stella Hofrenning** is currently an associate professor of economics at Augsburg College, a



liberal arts school in Minneapolis, MN. She received her PhD in Economics at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Hofrenning is a member of the Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity

Committee at Augsburg College. This committee evaluates and provides research grants to students to work with faculty on their on-going research/creative line during the academic school year and summer. In addition, Dr. Hofrenning participates as a faculty advisor of the Mayo Innovations Scholar Program at Augsburg. This program provides an opportunity for undergraduate science and economics students to assist Mayo Clinic's Office of Intellectual Property in evaluating products by Mayo physician inventors. Her scholarship interests are in the economics of education and health care.

**Ihsuan Li** is Associate Professor of Economics at



Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has 11 years of experience teaching at university level and mentoring undergraduate

students. She has co-authored numerous research papers with undergraduate and graduate students on education economics and applied economics topics. She has won numerous awards for her advising and outstanding and innovative teaching of undergraduate students. Among the undergraduate research papers she supervised, many have won awards: at state level (Minnesota Economic Association), multi-regional level (Federal Reserve Banks), regional level (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), and international level (International Atlantic Economic Society). She is author of a course pack on undergraduate research in economics, and serves as Vice President in the Board of Directors of Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Honor Society in Economics), she is member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Academy of Science, member of Peer Corps of Reviewers for the Higher Learning Commission, and she is also eAIR Tech Tips Contributor and Peer Reviewer for the Association for Institutional Research.

### **Student Travel Awards Announcement 2014 - 2015**

The Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is offering a limited number of travel grants, up to \$200 each, for undergraduate students presenting the results of research that they have conducted at a regional or national, discipline-specific meeting during the academic year 2014 - 2015. Award recipients are required to acknowledge CUR for support of their travel in their talk or poster. After the meeting, a brief report about the experience is expected. Minority students are encouraged to apply.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Undergraduate students at any level can apply but preference will be given to

juniors and seniors or students attending 2 year community colleges.

- Student's mentor must be a CUR member or the student's home institution must be a CUR institutional member.
- Student's home institution must match the \$200 CUR travel grant.

#### Application materials:

- An electronic copy of the meeting abstract, including the title of the abstract, student author, faculty mentor, and institution. If the abstract is written in highly technical terms, the applicant may also submit a brief (maximum 500 words) summary of the work written for an audience consisting of social scientists from a wide range of disciplines. The abstract should note the study's objective, methods, results and importance.
- Proof of acceptance to the regional or national meeting.
- A list of itemized meeting expenses (travel, housing, and registration).
- An email from sponsoring faculty acknowledging (1) student's enrollment as an undergraduate, (2) confirmation of student's planned attendance at the meeting, (3) confirmation of institution's monetary match of \$200, and (4) confirmation of individual or institutional CUR membership.
- Reimbursement of travel expenses (up to \$200) will require copies of receipts and confirmation of student's attendance/presentation at the meeting.

**Selection Criteria:** Travel Award recipients will be selected on a first come, first serve basis provided that the above criteria are met. Only one travel award will be granted per institution.

**Deadline:** Applications for a travel grant to a fall 2014 or spring 2015 meeting are now being

accepted. Award decisions will be made on a first come, first served basis.

### **Submission of Application**

**Materials:** <http://tinyurl.com/ojp5p26>

### **Education Research and Teacher Preparation.**

In August 2014 CUR announced the formation of a new affinity group – Education Research and Teacher Preparation. An affinity group provides the structure within which its members can work together to establish pathways leading to the achievement of established goals.

This new group will facilitate communication and collaboration among CUR members from all divisions who are interested in promoting undergraduate research in teacher preparation programs and related disciplines. More specifically this affinity group will:

- Isolate, articulate and address the issues and challenges that facilitate and/or inhibit the adoption of Undergraduate Research into the complex activities of teaching and learning within Schools of Education;
- Document the successful practices and models of undergraduate research that are unique to Schools of Education and the Learning Sciences;
- Advocate and provide leadership for networks/communities of educators to support the full adoption of undergraduate research in Schools of Education.

The ultimate goal of the Education Research-Teacher Preparation Affinity Group is the establishment of a division within the CUR Governance structures.

Membership in this group is open to all who maintain individual membership, or are affiliated

with an institution with membership in CUR. Members from all divisions are welcomed. Dr. Ruth Palmer (Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, The College of New Jersey, & CUR Councilor in the At-Large Division) and Dr. Dennis Munk (Professor of Education, Carthage College & CUR Councilor in the Social Sciences Division) will serve as coordinators for the affinity group.

To join, please visit [https://members.cur.org/members\\_online/members/viewmember.asp](https://members.cur.org/members_online/members/viewmember.asp) and login with your CUR username and password. Please take this opportunity to review your contact information with CUR. You may also jump to step 3 by clicking the link for Additional Data at the top. Then, under “Affinity Groups” please check the box next to Education Research and Teacher Preparation.

Should you have any questions about the group, please contact Ruth Palmer and Dennis Munk at [PalmerMunk@tcnj.edu](mailto:PalmerMunk@tcnj.edu)

### **Announcements and Transitions**

Student Matthew Petersen (Economics and Finance major) of Minnesota State University, Mankato was the recipient of the Outstanding Student Leader Award 2013-14 by the Omicron Delta Epsilon, International Honor Society in Economics. Matthew was nominated by Dr. Ihsuan Li, advisor to the Kappa chapter of Minnesota and Councilor for the division of Social Sciences.

Ozlem Barin, Senior economics student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, won the Fourth prize in the annual Minnesota Economic Association undergraduate research (term) paper competition. Barin’s paper “The Impact of Information Delivery Improvement on Prescription Adherence among HIV Positive

Individuals” was supervised by Dr. Ihsuan Li. Link:  
[Http://www.minneapolisfed.org/mea/contest/2014.cfm](http://www.minneapolisfed.org/mea/contest/2014.cfm)

Former CUR Social Sciences Division Chair, Dr. James T. La Plant, has been named the Editor in Chief of the *CUR Quarterly*.

Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, the current CUR Social Sciences Division Chair, has been named the Radford University Interim Assistant Vice Provost for High Impact Practices.

Dr. Julio Rivera Immediate Past President of CUR (2013-2014) has been named at the chair of the CUR Nominations Vetting Committee.

## Upcoming Events

### **October 2014**

October 22, Université Laval,  
Québec-city, Canada  
**CUR-ISSOTL Pre-Conference Event**  
(note: main ISSOTL is October 23-25)

October 26-28, Hilton-Ballston,  
Arlington, VA  
**Research Experiences for Undergraduate Students Symposium (REUSS)**

### **November 2014**

November 5, Posters on the Hill  
Applications Deadline

November 7-9, Crowne Plaza-  
Milwaukee West, Wauwatosa, WI  
**Creative Inquiry in Arts and Humanities Institute**  
Deadline to Apply: September 19, 2014.

November 21-23, Embassy Suites -  
Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

### **Beginning a Research Program in the Natural Sciences**

Deadline to Apply: September 26, 2014

### **December 2014**

December 2, NCUR Abstract  
Submission Deadline

### **February 2015**

February 6-8, California State  
University- Dominguez Hills, Carson,  
CA

### **Broadening Participation Institute**

February 19-21, Renaissance Capital  
View Hotel Arlington, VA  
**CUR Dialogues**

### **March 2015**

March 13-15, Stetson University,  
Celebration, FL  
**Social Science Undergraduate  
Research Institute**

### **April 2015**

April 13-18, Undergraduate  
Research Week

April 16-18, Eastern Washington  
University  
**National Conference on  
Undergraduate Research**

Please see the CUR website at  
[http://www.cur.org/conferences and events/institutes/](http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/institutes/)  
for additional information and applications.