



Social Science Division Newsletter Spring 2012

Greetings from the Division Chair!

This newsletter will be the last during my term as CUR Social Science Division Chair. It has been a highly engaging and rewarding experience, thanks to the social science councilors and other members of CUR. Their dedication to undergraduate research and CUR has been the catalyst for all of the division activities. I am proud of our accomplishments, especially the significant growth in our division membership; from 80 in 2009 to a current 482! Also, we reached the maximum number of councilors allowed this past year. We have increased our outreach efforts, including this newsletter, a recent membership survey and a welcome letter to all new members. We established a highly successful student travel award program and increased our contributions to the national conferences. Several more projects, many of which are described in this newsletter, are underway; I encourage your involvement. In closing, let me say it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your chair.



sessions on mentoring undergraduates, community based research, and building undergraduate research programs. The teams of faculty prepared action plans to bring back to their campuses to expand the scope of undergraduate research scholarship on their campuses. Attending schools include Azusa Pacific University, Ferris State University, Berry



College, University of San Diego, Norwich University, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Morehead State University, and College of Charleston, Lewis University, Emporia State University, Concordia College-Moorhead, Sewanee University of the South, Calvin College, Armstrong Atlantic University, University of South Florida, and California State University-Sacramento.

Social Science and Humanities Institute held in Michigan

The CUR Social Science and Humanities Institute was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids,

This conference marked the end of the SSHI institute. Next year, we will offer the first Social Science *only* institute, since the demand for this institute has grown significantly beyond its capacity. Ideas for topics are welcome!

Julio Rivera

National Conference in June



The CUR 2012 National Conference is coming together to be a particularly strong event! This year's conference, held at The College of New Jersey June 23rd through 26th, will feature four excellent plenary sessions.

* United States Representative Rush Holt, of New Jersey's 12th District, will open the conference on Saturday evening. Representative Holt is a long-time advocate of higher education and an advocate for research and development as a core element of America's economic competitiveness.

* On Sunday morning, Ed Ayers will join us to discuss the possible futures of higher education. Professor Ayers is the current President of the University of Richmond, and founder and former director of the Virginia Center for Digital History.

* On Monday, we'll be joined by Candace Thille, the Director of the Open Learning Initiative at Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Thille and the OLI are using sophisticated technology to challenge our ideas of teaching and learning, and will bring us dispatches from the leading edges of tech-mediated instruction.

* On Tuesday, Dennis Smith & Amy Oaks, professors in Government at William and Mary University, will discuss their Program on International Peace and Security, a research and teaching center that leads undergraduates through sophisticated crisis simulations to help them understand the motives and options that leaders use to resolve--or complicate--political conflict.

In addition to these plenaries, the Conference features nearly one hundred Interactive Sessions, and more than 120 research posters from all disciplines. And this year, for the first time, we have the Catalyst Talks, in which four speakers will offer ten-minute provocations to the assembled participants, followed by twenty facilitated breakout sessions in which small groups can deliberate the intersections and synergies between all four sets of ideas.

The 2012 CUR National Conference will be a powerful learning and networking experience. We hope you'll join 600 or so of your colleagues at The College of New Jersey this June.

Herb Childress, CUR 2012 Conference Co-Chair

While you are at the conference, be sure to attend Julio Rivera's session:

Interdisciplinary Student Research in Data Mapping and Statistics--Tom Groleau, Julio Rivera, Carthage College.

We describe our experience offering Introduction to GIS and Applied Business Statistics as a "clustered pair" to fulfill Carthage College's interdisciplinary general education requirement. This course structure requires both courses to have matching student rosters and both instructors at all class meetings while allowing each instructor to teach their own course. By coordinating our individual course goals and schedules, we were able to take students from data analysis novices to independent researchers completing a single semester project that met requirements in both

courses. In some cases, these projects became the foundation for Senior Thesis research. In our session we want to elicit outside feedback on the pros and cons of this model, generate ideas for similar models in different subject and skill areas, and share strategies to identify appropriate target student populations for this type of experience.

Herb Childress

Travel Awards Support Ten Students

The Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research has awarded travel grants ranging from \$150-\$200 to ten students for the 2011-2012 academic year. A total of \$1900 was awarded to ten undergraduate students representing the disciplines of psychology, sociology, economics, and social work. The students have delivered poster or paper presentations at a variety of regional conferences such as the Eastern Economics Association, the Eastern Sociological Society, the Midwest Economics Association, the Southeastern Psychological Association, and the Southwestern Psychological Association. Student award recipients also presented at the conferences of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and the Society for Judgment and Decision Making. Students presented at the International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability in Vancouver, Canada as well as the American Psychology-Law Conference in Puerto Rico.

James LaPlant

Request for Information

The Social Science Division is putting together a PowerPoint presentation for use as a promotional and educational tool for our division. We are looking to include cover slides from research our students have presented. If you have some that you are willing to share, please send them to our division chair, Andrea Chapdelaine at achapdelaine@alb.edu.

Councilor Spotlight: Duane Dukes

On the faculty in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at John Carroll University for the past 35 years, I have taught courses in quantitative research



methodology, crime, violence, family violence, and deviance. The career here has been busy and rewarding during this time. I have served as chair of the Department of Sociology and was instrumental in developing the track in Criminology that recently led to renaming the department.

Most recently I led the team that created a new undergraduate minor in Forensic Behavioral Science, here. As the Director of the Minor in Forensic Behavioral Science I advise approximately two dozen students primarily from chemistry, biology, psychology, and sociology/criminology. I teach the capstone courses in Forensic Criminal Justice and supervise the Internship in Forensic Science.

Of the interns that I supervised this spring two deserve special mention: Indra McBratney, Psychology (The Cleveland Clinic SANE Program) and Alyssa Perrin, Biology (Original Research in Forensic Protocols). Alyssa's research was presented in the Celebration of Scholarship poster session held on campus this spring.

Over the past 25 years I have worked with police chiefs, commanders and officers in the Cleveland Police Department conducting research and developing programs in community policing, Crime Watch, and crime prevention. On the Cleveland Task Force on Violent Crime I have worked with judges,

lawyers, and probation/parole staff to conduct original research on violent crime and its resolution. A few years ago I also worked with the American Bar Association to conduct research that led to the creation of a drug court for Common Pleas Court here in Cuyahoga County. In these efforts I involved undergraduate students in the collection, coding and analyses of data that were necessary for the feasibility studies to create programs and the evaluation research needed to assess program effectiveness.

Today, I am involving students in two large research projects. The first is a philosophy-of-science approach to deviance. Begun 18 months ago, it traces the development of three paradigms in the 19th and 20th centuries from their origins in the ages of enlightenment and reason to the 21st century. The second is in the area of forensic protocols. The aforementioned research by Alyssa Perrin has had a real impact on the direction we are taking in the project. We are identifying diverse research practices within the fields of forensics to address “best practices” for legal applications in forensic sciences.

Duane Dukes

UR Journals in the Social Sciences

Councilor Steve DeLoach has assembled a list of undergraduate research journals in the social sciences. If you know of additional publication outlets for our students, please send your additions to deloach@elon.edu

Anthropology

[Imponderabilia](#)

Business

[Michigan Journal of Business](#)
[Journal for](#)
[Global Business](#)
[and Community](#)

[Undergraduate Business and Economics Research Journal](#)

Economics

[Illinois Wesleyan University Undergraduate Economic Review](#)
[Issues in Political Economy](#)
[UCLA Undergraduate Journal of Economics](#)

Political Science

[Michigan Journal of Political Science](#)
[Journal of Politics and Society - Columbia University](#)
[Critique](#)

Multi-disciplinary

[Dialectics Undergraduate Journal of Leadership, Politics, and Society](#)
[International Social Science Review](#)
[Intersections](#)
[Journal of Integrated Social Sciences](#)
[Journal for Undergraduate Research Opportunities](#)
[New Views on Gender](#)
[Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences](#)

