



Social Science Division Newsletter Spring 2017

Spring 2017: A time of change



I am delighted to share with you our Spring 2017 Social Science Division eNewsletter—and my last communication as Chair of the Social Science Division as my term will end in this summer. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve you and our students over the past three years in this role and look forward to the election of a new chair in June. In this edition you'll find valuable information on opportunities for students and faculty along with new ways to connect and advocate within and beyond CUR. Indeed, with the election of President Trump, we are seeing many changes and proposals that affect our work in higher education and impact undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities (URSCA). As an organization, CUR is advocating on behalf of URSCA and you can help. In collaboration with Washington Partners, our advocacy consultants, the *CUR Advocacy ToolKit 2017* was developed to help faculty and administrators advance their advocacy efforts. Please reach out to me if you are interested in obtaining the tool kit to help you advocate locally and nationally. In addition, Executive Officer Beth Ambos is working with allies to strengthen bipartisan support for opposition to the President's proposed budget cuts in areas that would affect URSCA. To help make the case, the National Office is collecting stories from members like yourself to learn how

the proposed budget cuts would impact your work. *Please share your thoughts at cur@cur.org with the subject line "2018 Federal Budget Impacts" within the next few weeks to be included in our efforts.* Finally, joining in conversation with CUR colleagues nationally, we can enhance our understanding of allied concerns and speak with a stronger voice. [Log in to CUR Community](#) to join the conversation on advocacy as well as other topics related to URSCA including assessment, faculty workload, and more. Now more than ever, I hope to hear from you and encourage your connection with other CUR members. I hope to you will join us at the URPD Conference in Flagstaff in June. As always, if there are initiatives or information you are interested in having the division consider, or would like additional information on CUR advocacy, please reach out to me at jmekolic@radford.edu .

Jeanne Mekolichick, Division Chair

CUR Lauds March for Science's Championing of Public Support for Science

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) officially endorsed the mission of the [March for Science](#), a celebration of science that will take place on April 22, 2017 (Earth Day), at 10 am on the National Mall, with satellite marches across the United States and other nations. The March's mission, championing "robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of

human freedom and prosperity,” strongly aligns with CUR’s mission.

Call for Undergraduate Research Highlights, Fall 2017 *SPUR*

We are looking for Undergraduate Research Highlights submissions **by May 17, 2017**, for the Fall 2017 *SPUR: Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*. Undergraduate Research Highlights briefly describe peer-reviewed research or scholarly work that has appeared in academic journals, book and book chapters, Web-based publications, and juried performances that have occurred within the past six months. These publications must be in print and must include one or more undergraduate coauthors. Undergraduate research journal contributions or conference abstracts are generally not accepted. Learn more here: <http://www.cur.org/CFP-UGResearchHighlights-Fall17SPUR/>

Registration is now open for UR Programs: Undergraduate Research Collaborations 2017

Come to Flagstaff, AZ June 27-29 for the UR Programs: Undergraduate Research Collaborations Conference. This 1.5-day conference is aimed at faculty and academic professionals interested in the improvement, management, and promotion of undergraduate research and creative activities. Faculty members, undergraduate research program directors, and administrators will share ideas, strategies, and best practices around six themes: Assessment, Diversity in Research, High-Impact learning Strategies, Internationalization, Undergraduate Research Administration and Budgeting, and Undergraduate Research

Collaborations. Learn more and register for this event here:

http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/ur_programsundergraduate_research_collaborations_2017/

New UR journal for social science research at Two-Year Institutions

Anoka-Ramsey Community College has established an online journal to highlight the scholarship and publish the findings of undergraduate research in the social sciences at two-year institutions. The Social Sciences Texts and Academic Research (STAR) Journal is an online, faculty and peer (student) reviewed scholarly publication where research from a variety of disciplines (e.g., economics, political science, geography, sociology, psychology, history) can be disseminated. The mission of the STAR Journal is to engage students in the entire process of scholarly research and publication. Submissions are encouraged from undergraduate students and their mentors on a rolling basis; instructions for authors and submission guidelines can be found at www.star-journal.org.

Join the conversation at *CUR Community*

The CUR Community is an online platform that allows you to share questions and ideas, network, identify needed resources, and much more. This is a valuable resource for all those involved in undergraduate research. . [Log in to CUR Community](#) to join the conversation on advocacy, assessment, faculty workload and more.

