



## Welcome from the Chair



Amy M. Buddie

Welcome to the start of another fall semester. Hopefully by now you've settled in and are enjoying some (slightly) cooler weather.

As you think about the upcoming academic year, I hope you will consider running to become a CUR Councilor in the Psychology Division. We always need new

faculty members who are passionate about undergraduate research and who would like to contribute to the conversations at a national level. I personally have found being a CUR Councilor incredibly fulfilling. The Annual Business Meeting each year is a highlight; it's so rewarding to spend time with faculty members from around the country who are committed to advancing student research. I always get new ideas from my colleagues in the Psychology Division as well as Councilors across other divisions.

As a CUR Councilor, you can get involved in CUR activities such as [SPUR](#), [Posters on the Hill](#), [NCUR](#), [program review](#), and [task forces](#). In the Psychology Division, we are working on several exciting initiatives such as providing student travel awards, offering a Mid-Career Mentoring Award, providing online content related to undergraduate research in psychology, conducting studies on undergraduate research in psychology, and more. If you have ideas regarding how to advance undergraduate research in psychology, we want to hear from you! Consider joining CUR as a Councilor—you can find more information [here](#).

As always, we would love to hear from you. If you have ideas, suggestions, criticisms, or questions, let me know ([abuddie@kennesaw.edu](mailto:abuddie@kennesaw.edu)). Have a great semester, everyone!

## About CUR's Psychology Division

The Psychology Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist psychology administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

- **Newsletter team:** [Tsu-Ming Chiang](#), Georgia College & State University; [Sarah K. Johnson](#), Moravian College; [Elizabeth Nawrot](#), Minnesota State University;
- **Division chair:** [Amy M. Buddie](#), Kennesaw State University
- **Division secretary:** [Karen Gunther](#), Wabash College
- Division [Facebook page](#)
- Division on [Twitter](#)

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### *In This Issue ...*

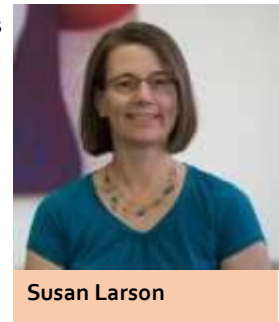
- **What's happening in the division**
- **An interview with CUR Past President Susan Larson**
- **Important dates to remember**
- **Mentoring tips**

## What's Happening in the Division

- **Looking for New Psychology Councilors:** The Psychology Division is looking for new Councilors to run for election; further details may be found [here](#). For more information about being a Councilor, please contact the division chair, Amy Buddie, at [abuddie@kennesaw.edu](mailto:abuddie@kennesaw.edu). The deadline for submissions is November 6, 2017.
- **Student Travel Awards:** The CUR Psychology Division is offering a limited number of travel awards (up to \$200 each) for undergraduate students presenting original psychological research results at a regional or national, discipline-specific meeting. More information, including the online application, can be found [here](#).
- **Webinar Interest Poll:** CUR's professional development webinars have been held for several years. The CUR Psychology Division Councilors have decided to host one for the division and other interested CUR members. Please provide your input on topics via a short survey [here](#).
- **NITOP Meet-Up:** The annual [National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology](#) will be held in St. Pete Beach, Florida, on January 3–6. If you will be attending NITOP this year, please join CUR Psychology Councilors Katherine Kipp and Nestor Matthews at the TradeWind Hotel's Lobby Bar between 8 and 10 pm on Thursday, January 4. The session will be an informal opportunity for CUR Psychology members and any anyone interested in learning more about CUR to connect socially and discuss teaching undergraduate psychology research. Follow us and/or ask questions via CUR Psychology Twitter @CUR\_Psychology.
- **Psychology Division Survey:** The Psychology Division is conducting a study on the benefits and barriers to faculty engagement in undergraduate research. To learn more and participate in the study, please click [here](#).

## An Interview with CUR Past President Susan Larson

The Psychology Division Councilors recently spoke with CUR immediate past president Susan Larson about her experiences. Susan has been a Councilor and Psychology Division chair as well as an Executive Board representative. She currently chairs the Division of Sciences and Mathematics, and is professor of psychology, at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.



**Q: What was your motivation for taking on the CUR presidency, and what was the most rewarding part about being CUR president?**

**SL:** CUR does important work by advocating for undergraduate research and by supporting students, faculty and institutions with its programming and publications. I have reaped many benefits by being involved with CUR over the years. My own research program and my students have benefited tremendously from CUR events, activities and publications, and I have developed wonderful friendships through my work with CUR. When given the opportunity to give back to this organization that has done so much for me, I felt called to do so.

Additionally, I have had a number of leadership roles in CUR since becoming a CUR Councilor, including previously serving on the CUR Board as division chair for psychology, and these were tremendously rewarding. When a CUR colleague encouraged me to think about running for the presidency, I realized that being able to serve on the board again and to be able to contribute to CUR's continued growth and success was a challenge CUR had prepared me for.

Hands down the most rewarding thing about serving as CUR president was the people I got to work with. Being able to work closely with many CUR councilors and board members, our Executive Officer, Beth Ambos, and the national office staff was the most rewarding part of the work.

**Q: Is there a person in CUR who has had a big impact on you as a leader? How did he/she impact you?**

**SL:** There are many, but I will mention one—Roger Rowlett (Chemistry Division, Colgate University) was my predecessor as CUR president, and throughout my years of CUR service I have been impacted by his vision and strategic

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## Important Dates to Remember

Event	Deadline
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , CUR Psychology Division Travel Awards	October 15, 2017 February 15, 2018
<a href="#">Submission deadline</a> , Southwestern Psychological Assn (SWPA) convention, Houston, TX April 13–15, 2018	October 31, 2017
<a href="#">Abstracts due</a> , 2018 Posters on the Hill	November 1, 2017
<a href="#">Nominations due</a> , CUR Councilors	November 6, 2017
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , Midwestern Psychological Assn (MPA) conference, Chicago, IL April 12–14, 2018	November 7, 2017
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , Eastern Psychological Assn (EPA) conference, Philadelphia, PA March 1–3, 2018 ( <i>students can submit posters until December 1, but space for these is limited; submissions by the November deadline are recommended</i> )	November 15, 2017
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , Western Psychological Assn (WPA) conference in Portland, OR April 26–29, 2018	November 15, 2017
Symposia <a href="#">submission deadline</a> , Assn for Psychological Science (APS) convention, San Francisco, CA May 24–27, 2018	November 15, 2017
Division program <a href="#">submissions due</a> , American Psychological Association (APA) convention, San Francisco, CA August 9–12, 2018	December 1, 2017
Student <a href="#">submissions due</a> , National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK April 4–7, 2018	December 5, 2017
FAN (Faculty and Administrator Network) <a href="#">submissions due</a> , NCUR, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK April 4–7, 2018	December 12, 2017
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , Rocky Mountain Psychological Assn (RMPA) conference, Denver, CO April 12–14, 2018	January 26, 2018
Poster <a href="#">submission deadline</a> , APS convention, San Francisco, CA May 24–27, 2018	January 31, 2018
<a href="#">Submissions due</a> , CUR Psychology Division Travel Awards	February 15, 2018

## Larson *continued from page 2*

thinking, his clarity of thought, and his ability to articulate clearly the values and benefits of undergraduate research. I had the great pleasure to work closely with him and Linda Blockus on *CUR's Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR)*, and I learned a great deal from them both. Roger provided exceptional leadership on the development of COEUR and I knew that following such a competent president would make my time go smoothly.

### **CUR: How did you balance being CUR president with your other obligations?**

**SL:** I was very fortunate to have received some support from my institution to assist me balancing my CUR work with other obligations. I am very appreciative that my home department could facilitate a course reduction for one semester, which was a tremendous help. It also helped that my work with CUR is closely aligned with my professional interests; for example, in recent years, I have supervised undergraduate research projects on the assessment of undergraduate research. Despite these alignments and institutional support, it certainly was busy—CUR was a pretty significant part of my year!

### **Q: How do you think CUR will look in five years? What changes do you see happening?**

**SL:** I am optimistic that CUR will continue to grow in its influence and contributions to undergraduate research, all the while retaining what I think makes it great. The culture of CUR is an organization where faculty and professionals who work in support of undergraduate research can come together from across disciplines, institution type, and professional responsibility to share their passion for supporting student research, to learn from one another, and to contribute to the enhancement of undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities.

As higher education continues to embrace undergraduate research, CUR will retain its commitment to faculty/professional development, ensuring that faculty and institutions are prepared to offer high-quality undergraduate research experiences. But, I also expect CUR will have continued growth in student programming. Our student programs—e.g., NCUR, Posters on the Hill, REU Symposium—are very popular and successful, and I anticipate the student program component of CUR's portfolio will continue to increase.

I also think CUR has great opportunities to contribute to the assessment of undergraduate research. While there is ample research supporting the value of undergraduate research to students, there is plenty more to study. Dr. Heather Haeger as CUR's assessment research coordinator will provide important leadership on this work for CUR. But the Psychology Division is poised to continue to make meaningful contribu-

tions to the assessment of UR. I was very excited to see the survey released by the division earlier this summer, and I hope it yields robust and useful data.

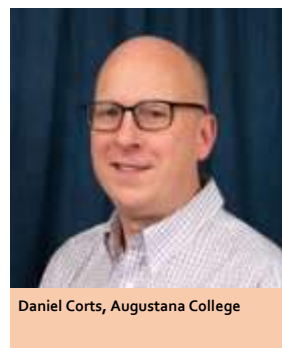
While remaining true to its mission, CUR will continue to evolve, as it always has, in response to changes in the undergraduate research landscape and to improve its reach as an organization. As a Canadian, I am especially excited about CUR's growing engagement with international partners and members. I look forward to seeing how internationalizing CUR will influence the organization and U.S. approaches to undergraduate research.

## Mentoring Tips

I supervise the Child Development Lab at MSUM. We have a handful of undergraduate research assistants every semester who conduct studies on visual perception. Like many others, this field is filled with scientific jargon and terminology (motion parallax, contrast sensitivity function, psychophysics, etc.). I find it helps to keep a lab glossary. Every time a student reads a research article and comes across a technical term, he or she must enter the definition in our online lab glossary. In addition to a definition, the student must also explain the term using nonscientific jargon, which helps demonstrate understanding. Now all of my RAs can benefit from using the glossary as we continue to come across those terms and ideas in our field of study.



Lisa Nawrot, Minnesota State University Moorhead



Daniel Corts, Augustana College

As the supervisor of a dozen or so senior projects every year, I get asked to write a lot of recommendations for graduate schools—I'm sure that's the case for a lot of CUR members. This mentoring role led me to think about how to help the whole student develop, not just the researcher. To this end, I created a mock-up recommendation form, drawing Likert items and open-ended questions that we often have to submit along with our letters. I had the students try completing the form for themselves but taking my perspective. Many of them had never stopped to think that grad schools might ask about emotional maturity, interpersonal style, and leadership skills, but it made perfect sense to them. I was pleased to find that they had insight into their own strengths and weaknesses, so this exercise helped us set some goals for strengths to work on alongside the research skills. We've been very happy with the results, and it's actually kind of fun.