



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

# NewsBriefs

## Upcoming Events

CUR Dialogues  
February 23-25  
(Washington, DC)

AAC&U- Student Success:  
Pushing Boundaries,  
Raising Bars  
March 22-24  
(Seattle, WA)  
[www.aacu.org/meetings/studentssuccess12/index.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/meetings/studentssuccess12/index.cfm)

College Student Educators  
International (ACPA)  
March 24-28  
(Louisville, KY)  
[www.convention.myacpa.org](http://www.convention.myacpa.org)

National Conference on  
Undergraduate Research  
March 29-31  
(Ogden, UT)

CUR Conference  
June 23-26  
(Ewing, NJ)

18<sup>th</sup> International  
Interdisciplinary Conference  
on the Environment  
June 30-July 4  
(Portland, ME)  
[www.ieaonline.org](http://www.ieaonline.org)

**Remember:**  
Undergraduate  
Research Week is  
April 16-20, 2012.  
What is your campus  
doing to celebrate?

## Message from Our Chair

By: Janice DeCosmo

Welcome to the first edition of the URPD NewsBriefs! Many of you developed the idea for this division-wide newsletter at the CUR business meeting in St. Louis in order to increase communication among our division members. Thanks to a small group of dedicated councilors it is now a reality! Kudos to our editor Kimberly Schneider and committee members (Anne Boetcher, Kim Reiter, Carol Bender, and Korine Wawrzynski). We hope that you find the NewsBriefs an engaging and useful resource. Please send your comments and questions for the Q&A section for upcoming issues, as well as your updates and announcements so that we can make this a rich and timely publication. We plan to publish the NewsBriefs in January and July.

There is a lot happening at CUR this year. In addition to searching for a new Executive Officer and planning the CUR 2012 conference and other events, the CUR E-Board will be bringing in a consultant to our January meeting to help us think about governance of the organization, especially in light of the recent merger with NCUR (National Conferences on Undergraduate Research) and the creation of new divisions. CUR has been a major player in national discussions of undergraduate research – we hope to continue to grow CUR's reputation as the go-to organization on undergraduate research and to ensure that we have an organizational structure that effectively supports that work.

I hope to see many of you at the CUR conference at The College of New Jersey in June. URPD will be hosting a division open house on Sunday evening – please come by and meet your fellow members and share your expertise and experience with other URPDs. If you missed the deadline for session applications, you may still apply for a poster presentation (deadline Feb. 1, 2012). The national meeting will be another exciting one for URPD, as the book *Undergraduate Research Offices and Programs: Models and Practices*, edited by Joyce Kinkead and Linda Blockus and including sections written by URPD members is expected out just before the meeting.

Send your NewsBriefs suggestions, submissions, and questions for Q&A, and feedback to [KRS@ucf.edu](mailto:KRS@ucf.edu) or [jdecosmo@uw.edu](mailto:jdecosmo@uw.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

## Spotlight: Program Review

By: Janice DeCosmo, Said Shokair, and John Mateja

As champions of the undergraduate research enterprise on our campuses, directors of undergraduate research programs are faced with institutional and external pressures related to meeting programmatic objectives and impacting stakeholders efficiently and effectively. Inviting a review is the appropriate framework when the scope, coordination or consolidation of services or activities are being considered; justification for funding or leadership support are needed; innovative solutions are sought to address a programmatic or systemic challenges; or simply to measure the effectiveness of the enterprise on your campus as one develops a strategic plan for the next five to ten years.

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is pleased to facilitate such requests through the "Program Review Committee (PRC)." The PRC is comprised of liaisons from each of CUR's disciplinary, Undergraduate Research Program Directors and At-Large divisions. Upon submitting an online Review Request (<http://www.cur.org/Consulting/request.asp>), you will be contacted by the appropriate CUR PRC liaison who will work with you to evaluate your specific review needs and who will help you identify appropriate reviewers for your program. The process normally involves two external reviewers resulting in a written report summarizing



## Q&A

How does your institution incentivize faculty to provide undergraduate research (UR) activities? How does your institution recognize UR activities in the promotion and tenure process?

“Each college has its own criteria for recognition of UR, it is informally recognized under all three of our categories (teaching, research, service), but it is up to the individual faculty member to include UR. None of the colleges has formal statements regarding UR, but we are working towards a unified statement through out academic affairs and individual college deans.”

“We don’t offer incentives. It has become part of our culture and many are involved. If no UR mentoring is shown in a T&P folder, a committee might question this but it wouldn’t necessarily hurt their chances of getting tenure.”

“No formal credit assigned to UR supervision, but reporting of participation in UR is included in the end of the year faculty reports as well as aggregated into department and university-wide reports. An Undergraduate Research Mentor award is made annually to four faculty and one graduate student or post-doctoral associate. Nominations are included on a fairly regular basis in P&T paperwork.”

findings. The cost of reviewers' travel to host institution, honorarium and report writing fee is borne by the inviting institution. For universities and colleges that are institutional members of CUR, the CUR program review fee of \$500 is waived.

Prior to the review and following preliminary conversations with the CUR liaison, it is expected for the host to share programmatic and institutional information on undergraduate research activities, data on participants, key accomplishments, observed challenges, survey results, and other information helpful to the process.

Campuses that have received CUR's program review services have used the committee reports to make programmatic changes, to institutionalize undergraduate research activities, or to initiate a campus wide office of undergraduate research.

## Update: Gateways to Best Practices in Undergraduate Research

By: Korine Steinke Wawrzynski

The URPD division's first conference, Gateways to Best Practices in Undergraduate Research, was held in June 2011 at Washington University in St. Louis. The meeting was extremely successful with 150 people attending the event. The conference was an opportunity for faculty and academic professionals interested in undergraduate research issues to share ideas, strategies, and best practices about undergraduate research programs. Programs focused on student engagement, academic integrity, assessment, and public relations in undergraduate research.

The conference attracted broad participation: 73% of participants were CUR members, with 34% of participants being affiliated with URPD division and 31% from other CUR divisions. Approximately 99% of participants were either extremely satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the event with 95.6% of participants indicating that they would attend this conference again. Thank you to the URPD members who presented programs or helped to organize the event.

## URPD Updates & Accomplishments

**Kyla Moore**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, recently was married. Congratulations Kyla Esguerra!

**Said Shokair**, University of California- Irvine, was recently invited to consult with the University of Johannesburg in South Africa regarding undergraduate research. Sounds like an amazing trip!

The **Appalachian Colleges Association** and **UNC Asheville Partnership for Undergraduate Research**, received \$570,000.00 from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. The program focuses on undergraduate research in the arts, humanities, and humanistic social sciences. (PIs: Paul Chewing, Irene Burgess, Kim Gardners, Tom Rogers, Mark Harvey, Ed Katz, Holly Beveridge, Steven Birkhofer)

**Washington State University**, **University of Central Florida**, and **University of Alabama** received \$514,442 from the National Science Foundation TUES program. *EURO: Enhancing Undergraduate Research Opportunities* is focused on developing and strengthening Introduction to Research coursework. (PIs: Dave Bahr, Kimberly Schneider, Susan Burket).