



# NewsBriefs

Volume 7 • Issue 2 • June 2018

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## Upcoming Events

2018 CUR  
Annual Business Meeting  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
June 28-30, 2018  
Arlington, VA  
<https://www.cur.org/events>

2018 CUR Biennial Conference  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
July 1-3, 2018  
Arlington, VA  
<https://www.cur.org/events/>

2018 CUR  
Proposal Writing Institute  
July 12-16, 2018  
Georgia College, Milledgeville  
<https://www.cur.org/events/>

## Message from the Chair

**Bethany Usher, George Mason University**

Dear Fellow URPDer,

Happy summer! After finishing a busy year, we are looking forward to seeing many of you at the CUR Biennial Conference: Creating Collaborative Connections in & through Undergraduate Research in Arlington, VA (my backyard), at the end of June. I was going through the draft schedule, looking for presentations that would be interesting and useful to URPDers, and truthfully, I gave up. Almost every session will be helpful to people involved in managing undergraduate research programs: from nuts and bolts of running offices to assessing skills to creating course-based undergraduate research to running summer programs, etc.

URPD will be hosting a meet-and-greet on Saturday evening (June 30) for all URPD members and friends. Please join to say hi, meet new people, eat cake, and toast URPD member Sandy Gregerman's being named a 2018 CUR Fellow!

This issue of *URPD NewsBriefs* highlights the impact of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). At each NCUR, I see groups of students who come, highly supported, from colleges with substantial undergraduate research support. But there are also brave and enterprising students who come singly or in pairs from schools where they have little central support for research. In 2018, of the 480 institutions represented, 239 (just about half) had only one or two students presenting. The Student Programs Task Force recognized that these students need the support of CUR and URPD to have similar resources as the students who come from more supportive programs, and in collaboration with URPD, piloted a Student Resource Center at NCUR this year. The Student Programs Task Force has also been working on creating a virtual undergraduate research resource center on the CUR website. Kudos to chairs Vicki Martin (CUR Biology Division) and Linda Blockus (URPD), and task force members (including URPD's Billy Gunnels) on recognizing the need and helping our students!

We look forward to sharing ideas, and increasing the quality of undergraduate research, this summer!

Sincerely,  
Bethany





## SPOTLIGHT

### The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

Bessie Guerrant, University of Kentucky



In 1987, a board of 22 governors created and established the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) to promote undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference of professional quality where undergraduate students could present their work to others. NCUR's mission is to introduce students to the practices, conventions, and standards of high-quality professional presentation across the academic disciplines; to give students an entrance into and voice in national and international communities of ongoing research, scholarship, and creative activity; and to showcase and support the best practices of student-centered, inquiry-based learning throughout the curriculum of higher education.



NCUR has been a part of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) since 2011. The NCUR Oversight Committee (NOC) consists of representation from all CUR divisions. The NOC is charged with the responsibility of vetting potential host sites and making informed recommendations to the CUR Executive Board for final approval. The intent is to ensure that the NCUR host campus is able and has the required facilities to host 3,000 to 5,000 students and faculty over a 2.5- to 5-day period. The NOC is also tasked with addressing questions related to the long-term future and vitality of NCUR and with its further integration into the practices and activities of CUR. The objective of the NOC is to ensure an excellent student conference at a venue that celebrates the outstanding research, scholarly, and creative work of undergraduate students across the country and around the world.

The 32nd annual NCUR was held April 4–7, 2018, at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in Edmond. There was a total of 4,211 registrants representing 19 countries, including Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Guyana, India, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Vietnam. There were 4,000 abstract submissions (1,996 poster presentations, 1,639 oral presentations, and 36 performing arts and 33 visual arts exhibits). The abstract acceptance rate was 92 percent.

The top 10 institutions (based on student registrations) were the following:

- University of Central Oklahoma (468)
- Kennesaw State University (116)
- University of Kentucky (96)
- University of Oklahoma Norman Campus (67)
- University of Rochester (61)
- Eastern Washington University (60)
- University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire (59)
- Iowa State University (56)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham (55)
- Susquehanna University (53)

This year, the University of Central Oklahoma hosted an outstanding list of plenary speakers, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Ramu Damodaran, T. W. Shannon, and Claudia San Pedro. Other conference highlights included:

- 5 preconference workshops (new this year) all sold out (496 students signed up, and all slots were filled quickly)
- 17 special interest sessions for students
- 22 FAN (faculty administrative networking) sessions
- 5 excursions
- 94 graduate schools
- 8 information tents
- College open houses



## Upcoming Events

(cont'd)

CUR 2018 Creative Inquiry in the Arts and Humanities Institute  
Oct 5-7, 2018  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT

Application deadline:  
Aug 15, 2018

<https://www.cur.org/events/>

CUR 2018 Transforming Undergraduate Research Culture and Curricula Institute  
Oct 12-14, 2018  
Capital University  
Columbus, OH

Application deadline:  
Aug 17, 2018

<https://www.cur.org/events/>

CUR 2018 Research Experiences for Undergraduates Symposium  
Oct 28-29, 2018  
Alexandria, VA

Nominations open:  
July 9, 2018

Nominations close:  
Aug 15, 2018

<https://www.cur.org/events/>

AAC&U 2018 Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success  
June 19-22, 2018  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
<https://www.aacu.org/summerinstitutes/hips/2018>

AAC&U 2018 PKAL STEM Leadership Institute  
July 10-22, 2018  
Adamstown, MD

<https://www.aacu.org/summerinstitutes/hips/2018>

## Spotlight (cont'd)

One of the features of an outstanding conference is the strength of its outreach collaborations. UCO's efforts were simply stellar!

## Congratulations to the Newest URPD CUR Fellow!!!

Sandy Gregerman, director emeritus of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will receive the 2018 CUR Fellows Award. The award will be presented in early July at the 2018 CUR Biennial Conference.

<https://www.cur.org/2018CURFellowsAwardees/>



## Coming Up in *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research (SPUR)* ...

**Summer 2018:**  
“Leveraging Undergraduate Research to Foster Diversity and Achieve Equity”

**Fall 2018: “Mentoring Models”**

**Winter 2018: General Issue**

**Spring 2019 and Summer 2019:**  
“Big Data as a Tool to Promote Undergraduate Research”





## URPD Mixer at CUR Biennial Conference

Come to the Undergraduate Research Program Division Mixer at the CUR Biennial! After dinner on Saturday, June 30 (6:30 to 8:30 pm), in the Chesapeake View Room on the rooftop!

Activities and opportunities will include:

- A display of undergraduate research program promotional materials.  
*Bring yours along to post or set out to view so others can emulate them.*
- Meet and talk with other URP Division members to get fresh ideas for your program.
- Celebrate our very own Sandra Gregerman who is receiving the CUR Fellows Award this year.  
<https://www.cur.org/2018CURFellowsAwardees/>

Anyone interested in issues of building and running an undergraduate research program is welcome. Hope to see you there!

## URPD Updates and Accomplishments

**Ashley Hagler** of Gaston College recently received a \$4.5 million, collaborative NSF SSTEM grant in conjunction with Rowan Cabarrus Community College and UNC Charlotte. The initiative, called STEM Persistence and Retention via Curricula, Centralization, Cohorts and Collaboration Project (SPARC4), will provide 156 scholarships over 5 years for students to pursue life science at the community college and then transfer to the life science program at UNC Charlotte.

**Vanessa McRae** of Lincoln University recently coauthored the book chapter “Increasing Diversity in Honors through a Mentorship Partnership with Local Title I High Schools and Businesses” in the book *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Honors Education*. She also was one of nine people selected by the College Board to serve as an AP Research Standard Setter in Tampa, FL, on June 14–16.

**Donna Chamely-Wiik** of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) was awarded the President's Leadership Award at FAU in 2018. She is the only faculty member to receive this award twice under two presidents.

**Meredith Allison** of Elon University was promoted to full professor of psychology. She also recently published the following manuscript: Allison, M., & Miller, P. (2018). Resource Review: Insights for Academic Developers from Three International Undergraduate Research Program Resources. *International Journal for Academic Development*, 23, 65–68. doi: 10.1080/1360144X.2018.1415027