



NewsBriefs

Upcoming Events

AAC&U 2017 Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success

Boston University

June 24-27, 2017

(Boston, MA)

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

Undergraduate Research Program Directors Conference 2017 Undergraduate Research Collaborations

Northern Arizona University

June 27-29, 2017

(Flagstaff, AZ)

www.cur.org

CUR Annual Business Meeting Northern Arizona University

June 29-July 01, 2017

(Flagstaff, AZ)

www.cur.org

AAC&U PKAL STEM Leadership Institute ; The Claggett Center

July 11-16; July 18-23; and

July 25-30, 2017

(Adamstown, MD)

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

Creative Inquiry in the Arts and Humanities Institute

Lincoln University

November 10-12, 2017

(Lincoln, PA)

Initiating and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Programs

University of Central Florida

January 19-21, 2018

(Orlando, FL)

www.cur.org

Message from Our Chair

By: Bethany Usher, George Mason University

Welcome to the June 2017 NewsBriefs! As I look at the diversity of the presentations and posters that we will be sharing at the URPD Undergraduate Research Collaborations Conference later this month in Flagstaff, and celebrating the election of new URPD Councilors who will join us at the Business Meeting, I've been reflecting on the value of membership in the URPD community.

Undergraduate research programs, as they were first developed and institutionalized, were run by individual faculty members (often only with partial release time) who grew these programs from their own experience in mentoring students. These programs and offices were serving whole undergraduate research programs in undergraduate-focused colleges (which is how I got my start) or in departments or schools in larger research universities. Some came out of honors programs or colleges. CUR and URPD's Initiating and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Programs Institutes served (and continue to serve) as a transformative experience for many of us. As the value of participation in undergraduate research has been recognized, there's been significant growth in the number and type of colleges supporting undergraduate research, from community colleges to Research I institutions, and in the Southeast, they have been the focus of many Quality Enhancement Plans. While individual faculty members still run many of these programs, some have grown to include additional administrators and staff for whom undergraduate research is their professional field. The growth of CUR membership, especially in institutional membership, and the professionalization of CUR Quarterly into SPUR: Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research demonstrate this maturity.

As undergraduate research has developed into a mature high-impact practice, with studies demonstrating its effectiveness for student learning both within and beyond the classroom, we are seeing the expansion of the scope of the scholarship and the connection to other experiential learning, including study abroad, internships, community engagement, and entrepreneurship. The experience we gain through CUR, URPD, and our academic communities leads many of us to be tapped to lead broader applied scholarship or experiential learning initiatives within our universities. URPD Councilors Joe O'Shea (Florida State University), Jenny Shanahan (Bridgewater State University) and I (George Mason University) have all recently been named to leadership roles to help extend what we learned in directing undergraduate research to enhancing the undergraduate experience, and many others are doing so within their own institutions. This short history is all to say that I am proud that the URPD division is open to everyone who supports undergraduate research and related programs, including staff and mentors who are interested in developing programs to staff who support programs, faculty and professionals who run them, and administrators who oversee undergraduate research as part of their portfolio of programs. We are here to help you learn, develop, and create communities. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Flagstaff!

P.S. We look forward to welcoming new URPD Councilors John Augusto (University of Kansas), Karla Lassonde (Minnesota State University Mankato), Michael Springer (University of Central Oklahoma), Rodrigo Carramiñana (South Illinois University), and Meredith Allison (Elon College).

Spotlight: URPD Conference

By Kimberly Reiter (Stetson University) and Vanessa McRae (University of Central Florida),
URPD Conference Program Planning Co-Chairs

Q&A

This edition's Q & A is culled from the new CUR Community Forum!

How does your campus recognize mentorship of undergraduate research in the faculty evaluation process?

Many departmental scholarship statements—which are important in the promotion and tenure process—emphasize the importance of mentoring undergraduate research students as part of faculty scholarship.

*Susan Larson
(Concordia College,
Moorhead, MN)*

Student mentorship certainly is something that we value and is taken into account in tenure/promotion, but it's more qualitative than quantitative at the moment.

*Christopher Jones
(Moravian College,
Bethlehem, PA)*

Continued on page 3.

The 2017 Undergraduate Research Program Directors conference “Making Connections, Reaching New Heights” will be held at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff June 27-29. This is a great opportunity to learn about innovative and successful programs, assessment initiatives, collaboration strategies, or new ways of tackling the infrastructure challenges of undergraduate research. There will be papers, posters, and interactive sessions to fit the needs of all stages of undergraduate research programs. This year, sessions have been grouped into distinctive themes. High Impact Learning Strategies will explore methods, approaches, courses, and practices that have proven effective in achieving learning outcomes that incorporate undergraduate research. The Nuts and Bolts of Undergraduate Research Administration and Budgeting will present approaches that have proven effective in managing and organizing undergraduate research and/or in funding the means by which the research can be undertaken. The sessions in Program Assessment will cover strategies for evaluating undergraduate research projects; Internationalization will offer successful ways to incorporate an international element into undergraduate research, including research-based travel, media-assisted collaboration, data exchange or the mechanics of organizing an international undergraduate research component. Diversity in Research offers examples of best practices and models aimed at increasing diversity and inclusivity among undergraduate researchers. Finally, Undergraduate Research Collaborations will showcase examples of effective partnerships with undergraduate researchers, pairing strategies, team projects, and the ethics of collaboration in undergraduate research. There will be 75-min interactive sessions, short papers, posters and networking roundtables, and a poster session. For information on housing and other details visit http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/ur_programsundergraduate_research_collaborations_2017/ or contact Dr. Vanessa McRae (vanessa.mcrae@ucf.edu) or Dr. Kimberly Reiter (kreiter@stetson.edu).

Lessons Learned: My URPD Conference: Volume I

By: Charles (Billy) Gunnels, Florida Gulf Coast University

In 2015, I attended my first Undergraduate Research Program Directors (URPD) conference at the University of Oklahoma with the confidence of a person who was creating unique and successful opportunities for students. Similar to what I would imagine was and is the reality for many of us, I felt like a biiiiiiiiig fish at my home institution. I was able to use my creativity, tenacity, and dedication to advance the paired goals of the school. In facilitating the scholarly opportunities of undergraduates, I helped educate the successive generations of students, and I accomplished this by engaging students in the research culture of the institution. My work ensured that students could learn by making original contributions to their disciplines.

At this first conference, I confronted an important reality. No matter how good I may be, I am infinitely more impactful when I can draw from the collective intelligence, experience, and, therefore, wisdom of a community. In Oklahoma, I discovered just such a community. There were wonderful best practices reported that I could then modify and implement. For example, my first interaction was with some faculty from Monterey State University who presented a poster describing a peer mentoring group that they formed to improve the writing of student scholars. The work was fantastic and the presented data suggested clear effects. Inspired by the success of the peer mentoring group, I formed an ambassador program composed of student leaders at my

Q&A (cont.)

How does your campus recognize mentorship of undergraduate research in the faculty evaluation process?

We recently got language approved by faculty senate to be included in the promotions and tenure portfolio. Integrating research in the curriculum was included in teaching, direct mentorship of students in research, and their products (publications, presentations, patents etc.) in research, and involvement on committees related to the UR program under service. Colleges are now working on implementing this. Some departments already have this in their faculty annual evaluations and others don't. But we are moving in the right direction of a true culture shift.
Donna Chamely-Wiik
(Florida Atlantic University,
Boca Raton, FL)

Lessons Learned, cont.

institution; these ambassadors now use research as a tool to help their peers improve their critical thinking, information literacy, and written communication skills. At URPD 2015, I also discovered tech/social media. Yeah – I am that age. I obviously use technology in all facets of my work, but this was clearly limited as illustrated by presenters from Florida State University. This single exposure to some web-based tools was an epiphany - bang. It was not so much that I memorized each system and read the “manuals.” Instead, I began to think about technology more creatively, integrating tools that encouraged increased ownership among my leadership team of faculty or fostered opportunities for students to disseminate results of their work.

Individually, we are a creative lot and we rightly take pride in that ingenuity. To a person, we have used this imagination, coupled with perseverance, to create opportunities – opportunities that advance the success of students as they both learn and make new discoveries. However, no matter how good we individually might be as a person, we are so much more when we can benefit from a collective expertise. I found such an experience at my first URPD conference. Needless to say, I am looking forward to Arizona.

URPD Updates & Accomplishments

Ashley Hagler from Gaston College recently received the Excellence in Teaching award for North Carolina for her work with undergraduate research. Gaston College also received the national Bellwether award for their undergraduate research work at the community college level last year. More information can be found through these links : <http://www.gaston.edu/news-room/ashley-hagler-receives-2017-ncccs-excellence-teaching-award/>; <http://www.gastongazette.com/news/20160207/gaston-college-takes-home-crystal-stemware>

Florida Atlantic University's undergraduate research program was highlighted in an op-ed piece in the Sun Sentinel, written by FAU's President, Dr. John Kelly. A link to the op-ed can be found here: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/commentary/fl-jkoped-fau-undergraduate-research-20170310-story.html>

Jenny Shanahan from Bridgewater State University will be the lead author on a publication in the Summer *CUR Quarterly*. Shanahan, J. O., Walkington, H., Ackley, E., Hall, E., & Stewart, K. (2017). Award-winning mentors see democratization as the future of undergraduate research. *CUR Quarterly*, 37(4). Additionally, the Education Trust named Bridgewater State in the top 10 institutions nationwide in 2016 that had closed the achievement gap between white students and students of color.

The University of Illinois Springfield recently received a 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund Award from the Coca Cola Foundation. The grant supports the establishment of new study abroad programs between the US and Latin America in the field of environmental science with an emphasis on water.

Anne H. Charity Hudley, Cheryl L. Dickter and Hannah A. Franz recently published a book entitled *The Indispensable Guide to Undergraduate Research: Success in and Beyond College*. The book can be viewed at the following website: <https://undergraduateresearchguide.com/>.

CUR Program Review Service

Need advice or assessment of your undergraduate research program or departmental units? CUR can help!

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Departmental and Program Review Committee offers review services to academic departments or specific administrative units, such as undergraduate research program offices. We provide these services by calling upon academic professionals who share our vision and goals, are experienced in departmental program reviews and/or disciplinary accreditation processes, and who have thought deeply about undergraduate education quality. Our faculty and administrative reviewers are experienced in visiting academic institutions where they listen to you and provide the help you need.

Our reviewers, with a wide range of expertise, can assist in the following:

- evaluating your curriculum, program, or department
- assessing or evaluating your undergraduate research program on various types of campuses
- preparing for a departmental accreditation visit, and transforming or rejuvenating a department

Benefits of external program reviews include the following:

- impartial third party credibility
- a review process that is cost effective
- sensitivity to issues relevant to undergraduate curricula and culture
- experienced reviewers whom you select to meet the needs of your specific departmental program

If you are interested in starting the program review process, we invite you to visit the program review webpage http://www.cur.org/projects_and_services/program_review_services/ to fill out get advice on the process or request a review.