CUR Community,
What a gift to be sitting and writing to you again after a year that just seemed to blow by, and yet, to continue to be filled with the feeling of gratitude. This community continues to be dedicated to the success of CUR’s mission, the life changing work you all are doing with students and supporting each other. The CUR National Office staff took on new challenges and responsibilities with grace and enthusiasm this year. And, as I did my annual exercise of revisiting the prior year’s review, I was reminded that together, we were successful in holding to my pledge to “try new things, reevaluate how and why we do things, and be sure what we do aligns with the needs of the community...” The following pages will provide a glimpse into the engagement of this CUR community in 2022 and our efforts towards the Strategic Plan goals. We are forever grateful for all that our members and community do for undergraduate research, and wouldn’t be able to achieve our organization’s goals without you.

Yours in service,
Lindsay Currie, CAE

2022 initiatives
- Transforming into an annual conference called ConnectUR
- Reimagining advocacy into a 6-month event, STR: Students Transforming Through Research
- Launching Virtual Intensive Workshops
- Celebrating + Awarding the Silvia Ronco Award
- Collaboration on new programs and offerings from Divisions
- Achieving record high number of volunteers raising their hands to run for Councilor

“Try new things, reevaluate how and why we do things, and be sure what we do aligns with the needs of the community...”

Explore THE COMMUNITY

Executive BOARD MEMBERS

President
Ruth J. Palmer
The College of New Jersey-emanus
President-elect
Barbara Usher
George Mason University
Treasurer
Karen Hurshman
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Immediate Past President
Joanne Melnikovich
Radford University

National OFFICE STAFF

Executive Officer
Lindsay Currie
Director, Brand Engagement
Elizabeth Moris
Manager, Customer + Volunteer Experience
Natalie Jones
Manager, Communication + Content
Todd Waggoner
Sr. Director, Program Strategy, Development + Design
Heather Wakefield
Sr. Manager, Finance + Operations
Pam Dodge
Sr. Manager, Member + Community Experience
Austen Gage
Director, Brand Engagement

While out collaborating with colleagues, once they have realized I am a part of CUR, the amount of questions, compliments, and need for meetings with my team members to discuss our marketing strategies, culture, and overall work efforts is overwhelming. CUR has become a model for so many small to medium-sized associations, and it gives us more energy to keep pushing our creativity and knowledge.

combined professional development experiences attended outside of CUR exists
42
combined speaking engagements outside of CUR
8
combined positions held on other association committees or boards
6
combined authors or co-authors in 2022 print and online publications
3
Executive Committee Question Corner

How has CUR + the community impacted you?

"Our CUR colleagues have been vital to my professional success. CUR helped shape a wide and inclusive vision of undergraduate research that informed me and my teams as we established our undergraduate research program. CUR also has given me some of my best friends and supporters across the world in higher education."

Bethany Usher, PhD
George Mason University | President-Elect

"CUR has been a constant throughout my time working in higher education, providing different kinds of important support at different career stages. From my first early-career "how to mentor" workshop to my current position as Treasurer, CUR has provided the right array of opportunities for my continuing professional development."

Karen Havholm
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire | Treasurer

Combined number of volunteer group members: 137
CONVERSATIONS

explore

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE QUESTION CORNER

How has the impact of COVID’s aftermath (and the continued rebuilding phases) affected undergraduate research?

Executive Committee 

Jeanne Mekolichick
Radford University | Immediate Past-President

“Executive "It has created opportunities for innovation and creativity in helping us advance the process of conducting undergraduate research across mediums and supporting a broader array of student populations."

Ruth J. Palmar
The College of New Jersey, Emeritus | President

“COVID-19 has radically impacted every aspect of our lives, locally, nationally, and internationally. Higher education and undergraduate research have felt the range of its impact which are dismal, devastating in parts, and with some irreparable effects. However, within these periods of volatility and darkness, have come the capacities to recognize knowledge opportunity gaps, and opportunities to generate novel methodological approaches to address the complexities of the problems, issues, and challenges that raise new questions and require complex responses. It is important that we choose not to just return to business as usual but to develop those skills that will help us navigate the complexities for which research is the response…”

Nicola Foote
University of Pittsburgh | Member since 2006

Melodie Eichbauer
Florida Gulf Coast University | Member since 1999

Newsletter STATS

473
CONFRONTING
FAILURE DOWNLOADS

Social Media STATS

646
NEW FOLLOWERS

9417
VIDEO VIEWS

830
OVERALL POSTS

18.9K
IMPRESSIONS

JULY 2022
LAUNCHED NEW @CURPRESIDENT TWITTER HANDLE

646
FOLLOWERS

PRESIDENT’S QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- RECEIVED PPP LOANS + FORGIVEN IN 2022
- BOARD APPROVED A NEW INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING
- CREATED TASK FORCE TO WORK ON TWO-YEAR PROJECT UPDATING COEUR GUIDELINES

2
HOSTED OFFICE HOURS WITH EDITOR IN CHIEF

203
PUBLICATIONS PURCHASED

42
THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON ISSUES

42
FIRST TIME POSTERS

896
FIRST TIME LOGINS

Protocols for undergraduate research have felt the range of its impact which are dismal, devastating in parts, and with some irreparable effects. However, within these periods of volatility and darkness, have come the capacities to recognize knowledge opportunity gaps, and opportunities to generate novel methodological approaches to address the complexities of the problems, issues, and challenges that raise new questions and require complex responses. It is important that we choose not to just return to business as usual but to develop those skills that will help us navigate the complexities for which research is the response.”

Ruth J. Palmar
The College of New Jersey, Emeritus | President

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∙ BOARD APPROVED A NEW INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING
∙ CREATED TASK FORCE TO WORK ON TWO-YEAR PROJECT UPDATING COEUR GUIDELINES
New to the organizational awards in 2022, CUR and Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) announced an initiative to support research within the Chemical Sciences in honor of CUR’s past president and current RCSA Senior Program Director, Silvia Ronco. The Silvia Ronco Innovative Mentor Award, established by a gift from RCSA, will recognize tenure-track faculty members within ten years of their first faculty appointment who demonstrate success in the Chemical Sciences and whose mentoring practices have supported undergraduate research.

**Division AWARDS**

- **ARTS + HUMANITIES:**
  - 8 Student Scholarships
  - 3 Mentoring Awards
  - 6 Student Travel Grants
  - 4 Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA)
  - 4 Engineering Leadership + Mentoring

- **BIOLOGY:**
  - 19 Small Research Grants
  - 3 Faculty Mentoring
  - 1 Inclusivity
  - 3 Faculty Mentorships

- **CHEMISTRY:**
  - 12 Student Video
  - 4 Undergraduate Poster

- **ENGINEERING:**
  - 4 Undergraduate Student Video
  - 4 Undergraduate Conference

- **SOCIAL SCIENCES:**
  - 4 Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA)
  - 1 Undergraduate Conference

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**Dr. Sunghee LEE**
Iona College
CUR Fellows Award Recipient

**Dr. John BARTHELL**
University of Central Oklahoma
CUR Fellows Award Recipient

**Dr. George SHIELDS**
Furman University
CUR-Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Award Recipient

**Joe TRIMMER**
Ball State University, Emeritus
Arts + Humanities Faculty Mentor Endowment Award Recipient

**Ella MORTON**
City University of New York - Brooklyn College
Trimmer Travel Award Recipient

**Dr. Lou CHARKOUDIAN**
Haverford College
Silvia Ronco Innovative Mentor Award Recipient
Over the past years, Undergraduate research has taken root in the culture of undergraduate education, but its continued growth and success must rely on the work of CUR’s leaders in partnership with other organizations who advocate for common sustainable approaches and practices in the field.

- Build and nurture a dedicated cadre of faculty mentors who would assume intellectual leadership for the field of URSCA
- Build models of collaboration, cohesion, and community and impact that reach across CUR
- Support SPUR as the premiere journal for publishing scholarship on URSCA
- Empower and support divisions as the leading voice of UR scholarship and creative inquiry in their discipline

Note that these are the success statements and strategies of the CUR 2020-25 Strategic Plan. In the 5, 10, 15 years and forward, CUR will advance and change as it invests in the futures thinking that can help its members to capitalize on the opportunities that emerge over time.

Undergraduate research is a model high-impact practice, and it has become an expectation of the undergraduate experience in most institutions. Most faculty will have participated in undergraduate research themselves, and will get professional development around mentorship and incorporating authentic inquiry projects into their courses. I foresee a wider understanding of what “undergraduate scholarship” is across all disciplines and in all of higher education. I also expect that the lines of undergraduate research will become blurrier – as we bring the fundamentals of inquiry into community engagement, internships, capstones, first-year seminars, entrepreneurship, and other aspects of the student experience. Undergraduate research will be thriving in five years.