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e-Newsletter

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CUR 2023-2024 Nominations and Elections

Nominations for CUR elected positions open on October 16, 2023. Division Representatives link the organization to its members, by advancing undergraduate research through developing program resources, offering networking and mentor development opportunities, and advocating for CUR and undergraduate research at their home institutions.

Please encourage your qualified colleagues to apply to serve as Social Science Division Representatives! Individuals with undergraduate research experience, leaders in undergraduate research theory and pedagogy, and those who are passionate about undergraduate research are especially encouraged to consider applying. Nominations close on January 3, 2024. You can let your colleagues know that self-nominations are welcome. [Link](#)

Call for Reviewers for NCUR

CUR seeks abstract reviewers for NCUR. Please contact Dr. Doreen Sams if you are interested in serving as a reviewer.

Interview with Dr. Brian Lagotte, Social Science Division Representative

“CUR recognizes institutions that have exemplary programs providing high-quality research experiences to undergraduates, as well as faculty facilitating undergraduate research at their institutions through their mentorship and leadership, and undergraduate research students excelling in their disciplines.”



This month spotlights Brian Lagotte, CUR Social Sciences Division Representative. Brian is Director of Undergraduate Studies in Global and International Studies and Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of Kansas. Brian notes that the Global and International Studies program is a small, interdisciplinary program of primarily undergraduates that allows students to combine coursework from other area studies and social science departments around campus. Students also take a required introductory course and two senior capstone research courses, which Brian designed. He explains that “as KU is the ‘flagship’ R1 institution in the state, it is important to share those authentic research opportunities with the undergraduates.”

What CUR committees or task forces are you currently serving on?

As a fairly new representative, I am not currently sitting on any CUR committees, but I serve as the Social Science Division travel grant coordinator to get some administrative practice in for future committee assignments.

How long have you been mentoring undergraduate research?

I have been directly mentoring undergraduate research for roughly eight years now. Since our senior capstone year is an individual research project (conducted with significant peer support) that goes from scratch to article manuscript in two semesters, and since we have roughly 30-40 student matriculate each year, it is quite a bit of undergraduate research mentoring.

What influenced you to join CUR?

“For CUR, advocacy primarily means bringing the CUR message to legislators, staffers, and agency representatives in Washington, DC, or helping our members spread the message to their state levels. CUR engages in advocacy through many avenues.”

I joined CUR to help the Council as much as it was helping me, frankly. At the initial stages of redesigning the capstone as a CURE, I was looking for real-world outcomes to incorporate into the process for more student investment. The first thing I encountered was the NCUR, and after taking a few students for a couple years, their positive feedback has made it an annual part of the course. Then, I stumbled on the rather large database of undergraduate journals CUR has to create my own list for capstone students to publish their finished manuscript. Finally, seeing the divisions providing student travel funds was the point where I realized that the resources of the CUR was making my job so much more effective that I should try to pay it back a bit.

I am not sure if this will be news to any of the longstanding members, but I have been very impressed by the infrastructure CUR offers the undergraduate research world as a venue for professional activities. Of course, the CUR helps me as a faculty member become a strong mentor, but it also has been an invaluable tool to get my students involved in research and disseminating their research in impactful ways.

Upcoming Opportunities & Deadlines

Submission Window for NCUR is Open and the deadline is December 8, 2023. [Link](#)

The Social Sciences Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring of Undergraduate Research is open for nominations and the deadline is March 1, 2024. [Link](#)

Social Science Undergraduate Conference Awards: The Social Sciences Division of CUR is offering a limited number of grants, up to \$200 each, for undergraduate students presenting research at regional or national in-person meetings during the 2023-2024 year. For information or questions, [email Brian Lagotte](#). [Link](#)

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