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Social Science Division e-Newsletter

In this issue:

Introduction from Social
Science Division Secretary

CUR Alphabet Soup

Opportunities & Deadlines

Message from Anne Price, Social Science Division Secretary



I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the Social Science Division Secretary for CUR. Each month, I will be highlighting your news, successes, and opportunities, so please reach out to me and share your items for inclusion. I look forward to learning from you. We will also use this newsletter as a chance to spotlight our members. Our Chair, Dr. Doreen Sams, provided an overview of her academic trajectory and extensive leadership and innovation in undergraduate research in our first June newsletter, and this month I will share my own background and commitments.

“CUR members share a focus on providing high-quality and collaborative undergraduate research, scholarly, and creative activity opportunities for faculty and students. CUR believes that faculty members enhance their teaching and contribution to society by remaining active in research and by involving undergraduates in research and that students engaged in undergraduate research succeed in their studies and professional advancement.”

I received my BA in English and Sociology from Florida State University (2004) where I was supported by a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship as well as need-based aid. I was fortunate to have my own experience with undergraduate research while completing my Honors thesis. After graduation, I worked for a year at a juvenile detention center for the youngest offenders in Florida (boys ages ten to fourteen), before beginning my graduate program. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology from the Ohio State University (2011). I served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida for two years before joining Valdosta State University as Assistant Professor of Sociology in 2013. Currently I serve as the Interim Coordinator for our university Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focused on experiential learning, as well as Professor of Sociology.

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

I am currently serving as the Social Science Division Secretary, and I hope to find other opportunities to serve this Fall 2023.

How long have you been mentoring undergraduate research?

I have served on our university's undergraduate Research Council since 2015, first as the departmental representative for Women's and Gender Studies and currently as the representative for Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. I have sponsored student research from Sociology, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Criminal Justice at our university undergraduate research symposium, the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference, and state and regional Sociology & Anthropology conferences. Students in my research methods course have also completed experiential research for our regional planning commission, including examining trends in bicycle and pedestrian fatalities across our service region.

“Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.”

What influenced you to join CUR?

At Ohio State, we entered the classroom early—I was teaching two recitation sessions my first semester of graduate school and began as an independent instructor after receiving my MA degree. Because of this, my first identity has always been as a teacher and mentor. The data shows that undergraduate research increases retention and academic success, and I have experienced this firsthand with my own students. As the Coordinator for our experiential learning QEP at VSU, I seek to embed opportunities for students to engage in academic research and other types of applied and service learning in the institutional culture. I hope to take advantage of the resources CUR offers to increase ensuring these experiences are as successful as possible.

CUR Alphabet Soup

Unfamiliar with all the acronyms? Some common terms are defined & linked below:

[AURA](#)- Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments

[SPUR](#)- Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research, SOTL journal published by CUR

[NCUR](#)- National Conference on Undergraduate Research

[STR](#)- Scholars Transforming Through Research: CUR’s Research Advocacy Program

Upcoming Opportunities & Deadlines

NCUR 2024 Abstract Reviewers/Volunteer Portal Opens – August 8, 2023

STR Application Deadline- September 7, 2023

Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC) at Valdosta State University
November 10-11; Abstract submissions due by September 15th

First Social Science Division Meeting – October 2023

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