What’s news in undergraduate RSCA
Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Eight fall 2009 AYURE awards funded

The Academic Year Undergraduate Research Experience program supports collaborative efforts on a great variety of projects. Faculty mentors direct and provide guidance to participating students as they work on a project. Funds are provided for purchasing supplies, traveling to research sites, and other associated activities. The fall 2009 student awardees and faculty mentors (in parentheses):

Sarah Ruth Lindner, Women’s Studies, ’10
(Karl Bryant, Sociology and Women’s Studies)
Lauren Goldblum, Graphic Design, ’09
(Anne Galperin, Art)
Dana Glover, Visual Arts /Art History, ’10
(Brian Wallace, Dorsky Museum)
Lauren Levine, Art History, ’10
(Reva Wolf, Art History)
Rebecca Longley, Art Education, ’10
(Margaret Johnson, Art Department)
Xia Weng, Chemistry, ’11
(Pamela St. John, Chemistry)
Rachael Brandt, Theatre Arts, ’12
(Andrea Varga, Theatre Arts)
Kathleen Fox, Anthropology/Black Studies, Sociology, ’11 and Heather Slivko-Bathurst, Anthropology/Black Studies, ’10
(Benjamin Junge, Anthropology)

Project titles are provided at:
http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_ayure.html

Upcoming RSCA Deadlines

Spring 2010 AYURE: Dec 3rd, 2009
2010 SURE: March 24th, 2010
Fall 2010 AYURE: April 28th, 2010
Student Research Symposium: Early April

Poster Preparation Workshop

Posters are a common format for presenting research results at conferences, particularly for undergraduates. The process of preparing a poster can be intimidating for students who have no previous experience with this mode of communication. Ken Nystrom (Anthropology) ran a workshop in which he provided general information about poster design and specific answers to questions about the PowerPoint program. Participating students prepared drafts of research posters.

Professor Nystrom advised students to know their audience when choosing which information to include on the posters. He also provided examples of good and bad posters. “Keep text to a minimum”, Nystrom advised. Students can find information about poster presentation at the Student Research Symposium web site:
http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/poster_instructions.html.
Students Present Research Results

This past August, Jordan Sumliner (Chemistry, ’10) presented the results of his 2008 SURE research project at the 238th American Chemical Society National Meeting. Jordan traveled to Washington, DC with his research mentor, Dan Freedman (Chemistry) to present his project: Ruthenium β-ketoiminate complexes: Bifunctional catalysts for transfer hydrogenation?

Geography majors Kenneth Deegan (’10) and Michael Pianka (’09) will each present their 2009 SURE project results at the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers annual meeting to be held on Nov 6th and 7th at SUNY New Paltz. The titles of their talks are “Urban Economic Discourse: Professional Sports Subsidies” (mentor: John Sharp) and “Mapping with GIS at the Micro-scale: Historic Huguenot Street” (mentor: Jo Margaret Mano), respectively.

Off Campus Opportunities

On April 13, 2010 the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) will host its 14th annual undergraduate poster session on Capitol Hill. This event will help members of Congress understand the importance of undergraduate research by talking directly with the students whom these programs impact. The RSCA program will cover the costs of a student and mentor to travel to this event. For information on the guidelines and application process please visit: http://www.cur.org/pohcall.html. To be eligible for travel support from RSCA, the mentor must contact the RSCA director: Maureen Morrow, morrowm@newpaltz.edu, X3776,

The online undergraduate journal in the humanities: Valley Humanities Review is currently seeking essays in the humanities for publication in its Spring 2010 Issue. Please visit http://www.lvc.edu/vhr for more information.

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research is offering two research paper competitions for undergraduates. Papers that analyze data from the Research Center for Minority Data or any dataset(s) in the ICPSR archive or its Thematic Collections are eligible. For details, please visit: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/prize/index.jsp

Do you know about the Undergraduate Researcher's Graduate School Registry? The purpose of this registry is to facilitate connections between undergraduates and graduate schools seeking high quality students who are well prepared for research. More information and the submission form are available at: http://www.eur.org/ugreg/. Graduate schools pay a fee to have access to this information.

Minds at Work

The student achievement celebration was held on May 8, 2009. Minds at Work included the 15th annual Student Research Symposium, the annual spring Foundation Art Exhibition and the Writing Board’s Celebration of Writing. Approximately 300 students participated in Minds at Work.

The mission of the RSCA program is to encourage and support student-faculty collaboration on scholarly and artistic activities that generate new knowledge or works. The RSCA program is supported by the Office of Academic Affairs. Additional funds are supplied through College Auxiliary Services.

The RSCA Advisory Board:
Giordana Grossi (Psychology), Megan Coder (Library), Preeti Dhar (Chemistry), Robin Arnold (Art), Jed Mayer (English), Kate McCoy (Educational Studies), Joel Neuman (Business), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology)