What’s news in undergraduate RSCA

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Thirteen Fall 2011 AYURE Awards Funded
The Academic Year Undergraduate Research Experience program supports collaborative efforts on a great variety of projects (http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_ayure.html). Faculty mentors direct and provide guidance to participating students as they work on a project. Funds are provided for supplies and other activities related to the project. The student fall 2011 awardees and faculty mentors (in parentheses) are:

- **Marissa Magerkurth**, Biology, ’12 (Jeff Reinking, Biology) Using differential scanning fluorimetry to identify nuclear receptor ligands
- **Anna S. Anandan**, Biology/Philosophy, ’12 (Spencer Mass, Biology) Effects of Vinclozolin on Planarian Regeneration
- **Thomas Donovan**, Physics/Mathematics, ’12 (Richard Halpern, Physics) Improving Signal to noise ratio while optimizing probe access in a Faraday cage
- **Alison Pletch**, Chemistry, ’11 (Preeti Dhar, Chemistry) **Laura Hollenbeck**, Biology, ’12 (Hon Ho, Biology) Fungicidal effects of *Terminalia arjuna* extracts on plant pathogenic fungi
- **Jessica Mason**, Biology, ’13 (Jason Valens, Biology) Microbial Ecology of Anoxic Zones in Coral Reef Live Rock
- **Hashim Al Mashat**, Chemistry, ’12 (Preeti Dhar, Chemistry and Aaron Haselton, Biology) Nicotine analogues: Phenyl azetidines and azetidinones as potential insecticidal agents
- **Jason Zanfordin**, Psychology, ’12 (Douglas Maynard, Psychology) A meta-analysis of underemployment-job outcome relationships
- **Carrie Sauer**, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, ’12 (Douglas Maynard, Psychology) Perceptions of and reactions to over qualification among high and low narcissism employees
- **Tanya Monique Crane**, BFA Metal, ’11 (Myra Milmitsch-Gray, Art) Exploring New Possibilities for Liquid Enamel on Welded Metal
- **Katherine Patterson**, Theatre Arts, ’12 (Andrea Varga, Theatre Arts) Puppet Development and Construction for Fat Ram
- **Kyle Fassett**, Technical Theatre, ’12 (Andrea Varga, Theatre Arts) Fierce to Farouche: Russian Garb through Chekhov’s Three Sisters
- **Meredith Henshaw**, Economics, ’12 (Sara Hsu, Economics) A Comparative Study of Sustainable Development in Taiwan and China

Faculty Mentor Award
Megan Ferguson (Chemistry) was selected for the 2011 RSCA Faculty Mentor Award. This award recognizes extraordinary efforts in mentoring undergraduate research students. Ferguson was chosen from an impressive pool of nominations for her extensive and varied work with students. This work has resulted in local and national conference presentations. Professor Ferguson generously shares her time and expertise mentoring the students working in her lab as well as students working with faculty in other departments. Her cheerful, patient, and professional, guidance enable students to become technically competent with complex laboratory equipment. Ferguson’s nomination letter notes that “she has taught us to use the equipment safely, to think about our research plans utilizing the scientific method, and always to be objective and accurate.”

Upcoming RSCA Deadlines
- SURE 2012: March 28, 2012
- Research Symposium: April 4, 2012
- Fall 2012 AYURE: April 18, 2012
- Faculty Mentor Award: April 12, 2012

The 2012 National Undergraduate Research Week is April 16-20
Students Present Research Results

The following students have presented research results at a professional conference during 2011.

- **Dennie Francese-Smith** (Elementary Ed., History, '12/ 2011 SURE) presented a paper: “History Without Truth: Encountering the Jamestown Colony” at the 32nd Annual Bergamo Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice in Dayton, OH.

- **Steven Di Falco** (Biology, '13/ 2010 SURE) presented “Spatial and Temporal Variability of Water Quality in an Anthropogenically Affected River” at the North American Benthological Society conference in Providence, RI.

- Three students presented at the New England Political Science Association conference in Hartford, CT. **Mia Costa** (Political Science, ’11 /spring ’11 AYURE) presented “Political Obligation, Horizontal Duty, and Disobedience”, **Haifa Mahabir** (Biology, Political Science, ’11) presented “Islamic Practice and Communitarian Political Theory” and **Ross Dardani** (Political Science, ’11) presented “A Justification for Positive Liberty” (all spring ’11 AYURE)

- **Michael Wengen** (Chemistry ’10 /2009 SURE) presented “Characterizing surface properties of *B. bacteriovorus* with functionalized AFM probes”241st American Chemical Society Meeting in Anaheim, CA.


- **Hikari Kawamura** (Linguistics ’11 /spring’11 AYURE) presented “Grammatical Restructuring in Intergenerational Language Shift: A Case of Heritage Japanese at the 56th Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association in New Brunswick, NJ.

Undergraduate Presentation Opportunities

Updates will be posted on the RSCA web site and distributed to faculty via email.

**February 29th**, Discovery: An Undergraduate Showcase, Albany

**March 15th**, SUNY New Paltz Foundation Board meeting, New Paltz

**April 12th**, Student Research and Creative Activity Showcase-Inaugural event, New Paltz

**May 6th**, Student Research Symposium/ Minds at Work, New Paltz

Summer Research Student Presentations

The 2011 SURE students presented the results of the summer projects this past September. During the 8-weeks of the SURE program, the students worked full-time on a project and also attended workshops. This group of 14 students are majoring in Anthropology, Art, Art History, Biology, Chemistry, Elementary Education, Geology, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, and, Theater Arts. The 2011 SURE Presentations Abstract Book is available at the SURE site: 

http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_sure.html

2011 SURE Students

Back row: Dennie Francese-Smith, Nicholas DiPaolo, Ryan Mitten, Thomas Donovan, Timothy LaSalle Middle row: Shaun Ben-Ari, Sheena Henry, Rebecca Shaw, Eli Mann Front row: Abigail Duckor, Kathleen Hanson, Laura Johnsen, Lauren Piven Not shown: Nathaniel Rigolino Photo credit: Morgan Gwenwald

Enhanced CUR membership

New Paltz is an enhanced institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). CUR supports and promotes undergraduate research and scholarship. This membership provides free individual membership for all students, faculty, and staff. Membership includes a subscription to the CUR Quarterly plus access to special information on funding to support undergraduate research.

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.

http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr.html

The RSCA Advisory Board:

Elizabeth Hester (Communication Disorders), Morgan Gwenwald (Library), Frantz Andersen (Chemistry), Thomas Albrecht (Art), Jed Mayer (English), Kate McCoy (Educational Studies), Joel Neuman (Business), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology) Newsletter editor: Laura M. Silvernail