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

Seven Fall 2013 AYURE Awards Funded
The Academic Year Undergraduate Research Experience program supports collaborative efforts on a great variety of projects (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 fall 2013 student awardees and faculty mentors are:

- **Kelly Gluchowski**, Environmental Geochemical Sciences, ’14 (Mentors: Megan Ferguson, Chemistry and Hon Ho, Biology) Uptake of Cd, Zn and Co by *Hypsizygus ulmarius*
- **Kathleen Betuel**, Cellular/Molecular Biology/Chemistry, ’14 (Mentors: Maureen Morrow, Biology and Hon Ho, Biology) Analysis of *Isaria fumosorosea* for Antifungal Activity
- **Morgan Campbell**, Biology, ’14 (Mentor: Jason Valens, Biology) Investigation of Biological Diversity across Domains in a Coral Reef Biofilm
- **Emily Rouse**, Biochemistry, ’14 (Mentor: Jennifer Waldo, Biology) Thermal Stability of the Dad2 Subunit of the Dam1 Complex

RSCA offers new travel award
In an effort to expand the dissemination of student research and creative activities, the RSCA program is offering a limited number of travel awards to students who have not been awarded SURE or AYURE funding. The Student Travel Award (STA) applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. To be eligible, the student must be presenting the results of faculty mentored work at a professional conference or similar venue. See the conference travel link at the RSCA web site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/travelfunds.html

Faculty Mentor Award
Michael Vargas (History) was selected for the 2013 RSCA Faculty Mentor Award. This award recognizes extraordinary efforts in mentoring undergraduate students in the production of new works or knowledge. Vargas was chosen from an impressive pool of nominees for his extensive mentoring. Under his guidance, students have prepared papers on a variety of medieval history topics. His undergraduate students have presented research and have won awards, even at graduate student conferences. Vargas’ nomination letter noted that “On a daily basis Professor Vargas challenges me to reach my best, inspires me and supports me in my studies.” – Miriam Ward (2015, History & Digital Media Production)

Upcoming RSCA Deadlines
- Posters on the Hill: November 4, 2013
- Spring 2014 AYURE: November 26, 2013
- NCUR: December 6, 2013
- SURE 2014: April 2, 2014
- Faculty Mentor Award: April 16, 2014
- Fall 2014 AYURE: April 23, 2014
**Summer Research Student Presentations**

The 2013 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 17 students are majoring in Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, Geology, History, Mathematics, Philosophy and Psychology. The 2013 SURE Presentations Abstract Book is available at the SURE site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_sure.html.

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**2013 SURE students**


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**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.

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**The RSCA Advisory Board:**

Kenneth Nystrom (Anthropology), Michael Chuang (Business), Frantz Andersen (Chemistry), Gregory Bynum (Educational Studies), Morgan Gwenwald (Library), Maria Montserrat Gimeno (Music), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology) Newsletter editor: Michelle Pielli

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**Alumni News**

**Kyle Dailey**, Mathematics, ’13 (SURE 2012), is working towards his PhD at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**Ross Dardani**, Political Science ’11, (AYURE spring 2011) working on his M.A at Johns Hopkins University.

**Sheena Henry**, Chemistry ’12 (SURE 2011) is employed as a QC Analyst at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Albany.

**Heather Slivko-Bathurst**, Anthropology ’11 (AYURE fall 2009) is working toward her Masters degree in Africana Studies at New York University.

**Rachael Townsend**, Theatre Arts/Film Studies, ’12 (AYURE spring 2012) is currently working Off-Broadway in New York City as a design assistant.

**Ryan Vinson**, Physics, ’09 (AYURE spring 2008) completed his Masters degree in Teaching at Bard college and now teaches physics at Kingston High School.

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**Student Research Symposium**

The 19th annual New Paltz Student Research Symposium was held on May 3, 2013. SRS featured the scholarly work of 102 students representing 15 departments. SRS is held each spring as part of Minds at Work, the student achievement celebration. M@W included the Foundations Art Exhibition, Celebration of Writing, Student Documentaries, Honors Thesis Presentation, and BFA Thesis Exhibit. The abstract book for the SRS presentations can be downloaded from the web site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/. The 2014 SRS is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd.

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**2013 SRS poster session**