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

**Nine Fall 2012 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](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 2012 awardees and faculty mentors (in parentheses) are:
- **Dylan Lewis**, Anthropology, ’13 (Laura Meeker, Anthropology) Identity and Community among Ham Operators
- **Jena Goldberg**, Theatre Arts Design and Technology, ’13 (Andrea Varga, Theatre Arts) Costume Design and Research for Beth Henley’s *Crimes of the Heart*
- **Nichole Amador**, Biology, ’14 (Spencer Mass, Biology) Isolation and characterization of estrogen LBD sequences in planaria
- **Lucia Milla**, Biology, ’13 (Spencer Mass, Biology) Bisphenol-S: What are the effects of BPS on regeneration in planaria?
- **Cody Saraceno**, Biology, ’13 (Jeff Reinking, Biology) Ligand binding in human Liver X Receptors
- **Joseph Kruk**, Biochemistry, ’13 (Jason Valens, Biology) Archaea in Coral Reef Biofilms
- **Maria Ortiz**, Biology, ’15 and **Francy Hernandez**, Biology, ’14 (Maureen Morrow, Biology) Analysis of Ru compounds for synergistic Cytotoxicity
- **Jessica Mason**, Biology / Chemistry, ’13 (Jason Valens, Biology) DNA Sequence Analysis of Cultured Marine Bacteria

**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 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](http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/travelfunds.html)

**Faculty Mentor Award**  
Andrea Varga (Theatre Arts) was selected for the 2012 RSCA Faculty Mentor Award. This award recognizes extraordinary efforts in mentoring undergraduate students in the production of new works or knowledge. Varga was chosen from an impressive pool of nominees for her extensive mentoring and her efforts to provide students with opportunities to work with off-campus mentors. She has provided students with one-on-one mentoring that has contributed to student success. Professor Varga has been a mentor for SURE and AYURE students as well as a students who have not participated in RSCA programs. These students have presented at the United States Institute of Theater Technology International Conference. Each has certainly gained from her ability provide positive, constructive criticism. Varga’s nomination letter noted that “she has gone out of her way to support me; giving me direction, making me think in new ways, and providing positive reinforcement for my hard work.”


Upcoming RSCA Deadlines
- Spring 2013 AYURE: Nov. 28, 2012
- SURE 2013: April 2, 2013
- Research Symposium: April 3, 2013
- Fall 2013 AYURE: April 24, 2013
- Faculty Mentor Award: April 10, 2013

The 2013 National Undergraduate Research Week is April 11-13

Summer Research Student Presentations
The 2012 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 13 students are majoring in Art, Biology, Chemistry, English, History, Mathematics, Philosophy and Psychology. The 2012 SURE Presentations Abstract Book is available at the SURE site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_sure.html.

Student Research Symposium
The 18th annual New Paltz Student Research Symposium was held on May 4, 2012. SRS featured the scholarly work of 96 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, Honors Thesis Presentation, and BFA Thesis Exhibit. The abstract book for the SRS presentations can be downloaded from the SRS website: www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/.

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

RSCA Office Opens
The RSCA program is now housed in Old Main. Stop by and meet RSCA Secretary Michelle Pielli in OMB116C, X3445. The office is open Wednesday 9a-4p, Thursday and Friday 9a-3p.

Research Presentation Opportunities
Posters on the Hill mid-March 2013 Students have the opportunity to meet with representatives on Capitol Hill. Deadline: November 1, 2012 National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 11-13, 2013 Student presentations - posters, oral, performance, and exhibition - in La Crosse, WI. Deadline: December 4, 2012 Student Research Symposium/ Minds at Work New Paltz May 3, 2013 (tentative) All students who have worked with a faculty mentor are invited to present. Deadline: April 3, 2013 Links for each of these events can be found at the RSCA webpage: www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_events.html. All instructions must be followed to be eligible for the RSCA travel awards. Updates will be posted on the RSCA website and distributed to faculty via email.

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. SUNY New Paltz’s CRRED program will be featured in the Winter 2012 issue of the CUR Quarterly.

The RSCA Advisory Board:
Kenneth Nystrom (Anthropology), Morgan Gwenwald (Library), Frantz Andersen (Chemistry), Thomas Albrecht (Art), Jed Mayer (English), Gregory Bynum (Educational Studies), Joel Neuman (Business), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology)
Newsletter editor: Michelle Pielli