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

Nineteen Spring 2012 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 spring 2012 awardees and faculty mentors (in parentheses) are:

- **Laura Zaoutis**, Mathematics, ’13 (Natalie Cartwright, Mathematics) Mathematics and Rainbows: A Study of Special Functions
- **Corinna Ridgeway**, Biology,’12 and **Michael Minicozzi,**’12 (Spencer M. Mass, Biology) Tamoxifen rescues planarians from the toxic effects of 4---Octylphenol
- **Kathleen Westervelt**, pre-Chemistry,’15 and **Adam Rimawi**, pre-Biology,’15, (Pamela St. John, Chemistry) The denaturation of DNA in the presence of a surfactant
- **Samantha Carraror**, Psychology/ Studio Art, ’13(Corwin Senko, Psychology) How Abstract vs. Concrete Thinking Influence Student Achievement
- **Rachel Townsend**, Theatre Arts/ Film Studies,’12 (Andrea Varga, Theatre Arts) Costume Design and Illustrations for Eugenia: A production of the Theatre Arts Department
- **Kristen Gray**, Communication Studies,’12 (Elizabeth Munz, Communication and Media) The Transition to Grandparenthood
- **Carling Moore**, Political Science,’12 (Jeff Miller, Political Science and International Relations) New Anarchism
- **Tsering Dolma**, Biology,’12(Jennifer Waldo, Biology) Divalent cation stabilization of the Dad2 subunit of the Dam1 complex
- **Katherine Patterson**, Theatre Arts and BFA Printmaking,’12 and **Keri Sheheen**, BFA Printmaking/Film and Video Studies’13 (Aleánn Luethi-Garrecht, Art / Graphic Design) Pop-up! An Exploration from Narrative to Construction
- **Mary Schappert**, Biology/Chemistry,’12 (Spencer M. Mass, Biology) Isolation and characterization of an estrogen receptor gene in Dugesia tigrina
- **Molly Purcell**, Printmaking,’12(Jill Parisi-Phillips, Printmaking/ Art Studio) Sculptural Papermaking with Asian, Western, and Local Fibers

Seven Students Accepted to NCUR
The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (http://www.ncur.org), which annually hosts ~2,000 students to present their research through posters, oral presentations, visual arts and performances, was held at Weber College, UT. The New Paltz students selected for this competitive conference were: Juan Canales, Melissa Douville, and Deborah Schram (Linguistics & World Languages); Maxwell Kenney (History); Raneen Rahhal (Biology); and Carrie Sauer and Elena Brondolo (Psychology).

Students Participate in Inauguration Celebrations
In celebration of President Christian’s inauguration, nineteen students presented research posters at the Student Showcase. This event highlighted the research and creative activity of New Paltz students and their faculty mentors. The showcase preceded the Distinguished Speaker Event. Faculty mentored research is considered a high-impact educational experience.(www.newpaltz.edu/inauguration/student_showcase.pdf)
**Students Present Research Results**
The following students have presented research results at a professional conference.

- **Meredith Henshaw** (Economics, ’12) presented at the Eastern Economic Assoc. Conference in Boston, MA.
- **Colin R. Morrell** (Physics, ’12) and **Luke Stover**-(Secondary Education: Physics, ’13) presenters at the Hudson River Undergraduate Math Conference in Springfield, MA.
- **Shaun Ben-Ari** (Chemistry, ’12) presenter at the ACS National Meeting Poster Presentation in San Diego, CA.
- **Katherine Patterson** (Theatre Arts, ’12) presenter at the US Institute for Theatre Technology Conference in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Helen Gutfreund** (Visual Arts Education, ’12) presenter at the NAEA National Convention in New York, NY.
- **Carling Devin Moore** (Political Science, ’12) presenter at the New England Political Science Association Conference in Portsmouth, NH.
- **Anna Anandan** (Biology, ’12) presenter at the Northeast Regional Meeting of the Society of Developmental Biology in Falmouth, MA.
- **Corinna Ridgeway** (Biology, ’12), **Michael Minicozzi** (Biology, ’13) presenters at the Northeast Regional Meeting of the Society of Developmental Biology in Falmouth, MA.
- **Kyle Fassett** (Theatre Arts, ’12) presenter at the US Institute for Theatre Technology Conference in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Rachel Townsend** (Theatre Arts/ Film Studies, ’12) presenter at US Institute for Theatre Technology Conference in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Nicholas DiPaola** (Biochemistry, ’12) presenter at the Biophysical Society Conference in San Diego, CA.
- **Denée Francese-Smith** (Elementary Education, ’12) presenter at the 32nd Annual Bergamo Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice.

**Minds at Work event**
This student achievement celebration will be held on May 4th (4p-6:30p). Minds at Work includes the 18th annual Student Research Symposium (SRS), the Annual Spring Foundation Art Exhibition, Honors Thesis Presentations, and the Writing Board’s Celebration of Writing (COW). Last year, approximately 200 students participated in Minds at Work.

**Students Selected to Represent New Paltz at the Posters at the Capitol Event**
The Undergraduate Committee of the SUNY Faculty Senate has organized and event titled "SUNY Undergraduates Shaping New York's Future: A Showcase of Scholarly Posters at the Capitol". This event, held at the Legislative Office Building at the State Capitol, showcased the work of outstanding student researchers. The students presented posters depicting research findings to SUNY officials and State Legislators. SUNY New Paltz was represented with three posters.

![Cecilia Stein, Lindsay Jankovitz, and Andrea Mazzioti](image)

**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 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](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)

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