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

Nine Spring 2015 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 student spring 2015 awardees and faculty mentors (in parentheses) are:

- Joseph Dunstan, Chemistry, ’17 (Frantz Folmer-Anderson, Chemistry) Elaboration of BINOL by Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution
- Euin Cheong, Cell/Molecular Biology, ’16 (Hon Ho, Biology) The Effect of Fungicides on the Growth, Sporulation and Sexual Reproduction of Phytophthora capsici
- Ewa Danisewicz, Biology, ’15 and Zachary Thom, Biology/History, ’16 (Spencer Mass, Biology) Determination of LC50 in Planaria for BPA and BPS with and without Tamoxifen
- Valerie Stanson, Biology, ’15 and Bryan Krebs, Biology, ’15 (David Richardson, Biology) Linking Dynamics of Lake Minnewaska Across Seasons
- Sean Hill, Mathematics, ’15 (Ekaterina Shemyakova, Mathematics) Supersymmetric Extension of Laplace Transformations
- Shay O’Leary, Psychology/Psychobiology, ’15 (Sarah Shuwairi, Psychology) Young Children’s Conceptual Understanding of Objects (Assessment of Categorical Knowledge)
- Julie Planke, Psychology/Psychobiology, ’16 (Sarah Shuwairi, Psychology) Young Children’s Understanding of Real and Depicted Objects (Assessment of 2D-3D Perception)

SUNY Conference Opportunities
Eleven New Paltz students (pictured below) presented the results of their faculty mentored research projects at the first annual SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) at SUNY Brockport. The conference was held on April 10, 2015. http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/surc/

(from left to right) Laura Kopczynski ’15, Psychology, Emily Smith ’15, Psychology, Julie Planke ’16, Psychology, Velisha Guillaume ’15, Biology, Shay O’Leary ’15, Psychology, Jessica Gallagher ’15, Education, Anne E. O’Brien ’15, Physics, Gabrielle Bouteison ’15, Music Therapy, Julia Wintrob ’15, Sociology Ryan Kropas ’15, Physics and Emily Sobel ’15, Physics (not pictured)

Student Research Presentations
- Erich Stern, Biology, ’14, presented the results of his research at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Portland, OR.
- Blair Dawson, Psychology/Disaster Studies, ’14, traveled to the International Conference on Motivation in Helsinki, Finland, to present her research.
- Michael Carey, Biochemistry, ’14, presented the results of his research at the Frontiers in Metalllobiochemistry III in State College, PA.
- Ana Bennett, Psychology, ’15, traveled to Long Beach, CA to present her research for the Psychonomics Society 55th Annual Meeting.
- Izabela Mlynarska, Biology/ Evolutionary Studies, ’15, presented her research at The Society for Intergrative and Comparative Biology in West Palm Beach, FL.
- Ronald Aucapina, Psychology/Disaster Studies, ’16, traveled to the 59th Annual Biophysical Society Meeting in Baltimore, MD, to present his research.

Enhanced CUR membership
New Paltz is an enhanced institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). CUR supports and promotes undergraduate research and scholarships. 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.
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. See the conference travel link at the RSCA web site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/travelfunds.html.

Student Travel Award (STA) News

- Caitlyn Maceli, Environmental Geochemical Science, ’15 and Valerie Stanson, Biology/Black Studies, ’15, traveled to Portland, OR, to present their research at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting.
- Jeffery Babicz, Chemistry, ’14, presented his research at the Frontiers in Metallobiochemistry III in State College, PA.
- Ililana Heckler (pictured here), Chemistry, ’15, presented her research at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy in Oxford, PA.
- Catherine Attanasio, Psychology, ’15, traveled to Long Beach, CA to present her research for the Psychonomsociety 55th Annual Meeting.
- Ariel Pignatelli, Mechanical Engineering, ’17, traveled to Lincoln, NE, to present her research at the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics.
- Juliana Wintrop, Sociology/Asian Studies, ’15, presented her research at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference in NYC.

Six 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 Eastern Washington University. The New Paltz students selected for this competitive conference were: Ali Matthews (Education/Spanish) is participating in a Study Abroad and was not able to attend, Sophia Apekarian (Sociology), Julian Mostachetti (History/Political Science), Ari Pignatelli (Mechanical Engineering), Anna Lattanzio (Communication Disorders) and Christopher Hoffmann (Asian Studies).

Minds at Work event

This student achievement celebration will be held on Friday, May 1st (4p-6:30pm). Minds at Work includes the 21st annual Student Research Symposium (SRS), the Annual Spring Foundation Art Exhibition, Honors Thesis Presentations, the Writing Board’s Celebration of Writing (COW), Student Documentaries, and a Theatre Arts-Communication and Media collaborative student produced TV show. Last year, approximately 250 students participated.

web site: www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/

RSCA alumni news

- Hannah Powers (Chemistry, ’14, SURE 2013) is currently employed as an analytical chemist at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- David Charifson (Biology, ’13, SURE 2012) is working on his Phd in Ecology and Evolution at SUNY Stony Brook.
- Lucia Milla (Biology, ’13, AYURE fall 2012) has been accepted and will be attending SUNY Buffalo next year for her MD.
- Nichole Gaucher (Amador) (Biology, ’14, AYURE fall 2012) was just accepted to Columbia University graduate school for next year (Columbia Teacher’s College).

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

The RSCA Advisory Board:

Michael Chuang (Business), Gregory Bynum (Educational Studies), Vicki Trombanhauser (English), Jo McInnis (Library), Ekatarine Shemyakova (Math), Maria Montserrat Gimeno (Music), Roberto Velez-Velez (Sociology), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology) Izabela Mlynarska (student member)

Newsletter editor: Michelle Pielli