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

**Eleven Fall 2014 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 fall 2014 student awardees and faculty mentors are:

- **Ronald Aucapina**, Biology, ’16 (Mentor: Megan Ferguson, Chemistry) Predicting Adhesion Between AFM Cantilevers and Bacterial Surfaces
- **Josh Johnikutty**, Biology/Chemistry, ’17 (Mentor: Spencer Mass, Biology) An Examination of the Actin Cytoskeleton in Planaria Exposed to BPA
- **Izabella Mlynarska**, Biology/Evolutionary Studies, ’15 (Mentor: Spencer Mass, Biology) Further Investigation of Microtubules in Planaria Exposed to BPA
- **Kimberly Lane**, Biology, ’15 (Mentor: Maureen Morrow, Biology) Caspase Activation by Ru Based Compounds
- **James Tompkins**, Physics, ’16 (Mentor: Pamela St. John, Chemistry) Force Microscopy of Mixed SAM Surfaces and DNA Aggregates
- **Nicholas Golom**, Biology, ’15 (Mentor: Jason Valens, Biology) Optimization of FISH for Visualization of Microbes within a Marine Biofilm

**Faculty Mentor Award**
Diego Dominici (Mathematics) was selected for the 2014 Faculty Mentor Award. This award recognizes extraordinary efforts mentoring undergraduates in the production of new works or knowledge. Dominici was selected from strong pool of nominees for his work mentoring students, as well as his work supporting other faculty mentors. Andre Candido (Electrical Engineering,’14) noted the significance of the “opportunity to learn from a scholar as hard working and brilliant as him.” Notable his students typically study a self-generated question instead of one chosen by Dominici. In addition to his success in preparing students for conference presentations, he has encouraged and supported other faculty mentors in the Mathematics department.

**Upcoming RSCA Deadlines**
- Fall 2014 AYURE: September 4, 2014
- Posters on the Hill: November 5, 2014
- NCUR: December 2, 2014
- Spring 2015 AYURE: December 4, 2014
- SURE 2015: April 2, 2015
- Faculty Mentor Award: April 16, 2015

**The 2015 National Undergraduate Research Week is April 16-18**

**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.
Summer Research Student Presentations
The 2014 SURE students presented the results of the summer projects in 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/Sculpture, Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Environmental Geochemical Science, Mathematics, Psychology and Sociology. The 2014 SURE Presentations Abstract Book is available at the SURE website: www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr_sure.html.

2014 SURE students

Alumni News
Carling Devin, Political Science, ’13 (AYURE spring 2012) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Theory at the New School for Social Research.

Molly Duguid, Marketing, ’11 (AYURE spring 2010) and mentor Professor Chih-Yang Tsai (Business) co-authored the article “Hospital Rounding – EHR’s Impact” featured in a recent issue of International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance.

Kyle Fasset, Theatre Arts, ’12 (AYURE fall 2011) has a current position as a residence hall coordinator at the University of Delaware after earning a degree in Master’s degree in College Student Personnel at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

Katie Betuel, Biology/Chemistry, ’14 (AYURE fall 2013) was accepted to the Clinical Laboratory Science graduate program at Long Island University.

The RSCA Advisory Board:
Michael Chuang (Business), Gregory Bynum (Educational Studies), Vicki Tromanhauser (English), Lauren Marcus (Library), Ekatarine Shemyakova (Math), Maria Montserrat Gimeno (Music), Roberto Velez-Velez (Sociology), Maureen Morrow (RSCA Director, Biology) Izabella Mlynarska (student member) Newsletter editor: Michelle Pielli

Lifetime Achievement Award
On the occasion of the 20th annual Student Research Symposium, the RSCA program chose to recognize Gerald Benjamin (CRREO) with a Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Undergraduate Award. Jerry has a long history of supporting students in research projects. As Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Jerry worked to increase the support and recognition of undergraduate research accomplishments. When he established the Center for Regional Research and Educational Outreach (CRREO) in 2007, he ensured that this center would focus on engaging students in public policy research. Students from a variety of majors participate in CRREO research, and Jerry continues to directly mentor research students, who have written articles and presented at conferences. CRREO was featured in the Winter 2012 Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly issue: Connecting Undergraduate Research to Federal and State Legislators.

Student Research Symposium
The 20th annual New Paltz Student Research Symposium was held on May 2, 2014. SRS featured the scholarly work of 120 students representing 17 departments. SRS is held each spring as part of Minds at Work, the student achievement celebration. M@W featured the work of about 400 students in events: Foundations Art Exhibition, Celebration of Writing, Student Documentaries, Honors Thesis Presentation, and BFA Thesis Exhibit. The abstract book for the SRS presentations can be found at: www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/. The 2015 SRS is tentatively scheduled for May 1st.

2014 SRS poster session