Dear Colleagues,

We at the CURCE are pleased to share with you our first newsletter for faculty. In this issue, we provide the highlights of recent current programs of the center that focus on supporting and showcasing the research and creative scholarship of our undergraduates here at the University at Albany. The successes of CURCE’s programs and the accomplishments of these students trace their origins to the commitment of individual faculty members who incorporate research training, opportunities, and mentorship of undergraduates into their professional contributions. Thanks to all of you who make time for this important activity.

Faculty members have long recognized the positive outcomes of mentoring undergraduate researchers as a practice that engages students (like no other), builds cohorts of peers in the major, contributes to accelerated student professional maturity, and is linked to retention, graduation, academic excellence, and prospects for graduate school.

In this newsletter, we inform you of funding opportunities and award deadlines for your undergraduate students, and provide the registration details for our Spring UAlbany Conference on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. This year, our conference coincides with a campus wide UAlbany Showcase Day organized through the Provost’s office. In 2020, for the first time, graduate students are also invited to present at the conference.

The newsletter also provides a recap on CURCE’s two main events of the Fall 2019 semester, the Fall Fair and a “Conversations in the Disciplines” faculty conference on undergraduate research held on campus in November.

Best
Wishes and Happy New Year,

Marilyn Masson
Professor, Anthropology
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research, Office of Undergraduate Education
600+ students attended a CURCE Event or class presentation

62 Individualized Information Requests completed to connect students with research in their desired areas

57 Undergraduate Students funded

FALL FAIR 2019
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Lecture Center Concourse

Thank you to the 43 different academic departments, centers, institutes, labs, and offices who participated in the Fall Fair!

Over 330 students attended and learned about opportunities to engage in research, scholarship and creative activities at UAlbany!
**CURCE FUNDING**

Accelerator Grants support direct costs for undergraduate student research or conference attendance (including poster printing, organization membership, and travel), up to $500. Applications accepted bi-weekly throughout Spring 2020. For more information, click here.

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**SITUATION PRIZE FOR RESEARCH**

Donated by Damian Bazadona '98, President and Founder of Situation, a digital agency that helps brands build passionate communities through digital-first marketing strategies. This award was the FIRST available to UAlbany undergraduates that recognizes student excellence and engagement in research, scholarship, and creative activities. Applications accepted 1/17-2/28. NINE awards of $500 each are available. For more information, click here.

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**PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

This award was established to encourage undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative achievement and to recognize the high quality work conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of a UAlbany faculty member. Faculty nominations accepted through 2/7/2020. For more information, click here.

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**SORRELL CHESIN RESEARCH AWARD**

Established by Sorrell Chesin to support undergraduates engaged in research in the Life Sciences under the direction of a UAlbany faculty member. This award is open to Juniors and Seniors only. Applications accepted 1/17-2/28. FOUR awards of $500 each are available. For more information, click here.
Spring 2020:

17th Annual Student Conference

WHERE: Lecture Center Concourse & Classrooms

WHEN: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

WHAT: Posters, Oral Presentations, Multimedia Presentations, Art, and Performances

NEW: Graduate Students Welcome & new extended conference to accommodate more presenters

REGISTRATION: 1/24/2020-3/6/2020 Click here for more information

As part of the UAlbany Showcase, CURCE is expanding the Annual Undergraduate Conference! We are collaborating with the Graduate School and UAlbany Showcase Committee to expand and diversify the conference.

We invite and encourage faculty to utilize the conference as an educational opportunity for your classes. This can be done in many creative and unique ways that fit the needs of your course and students.

Some options include:
- If you have an end of semester presentation, have your class present at the conference to fill this requirement
- Offer extra credit for students who present a class assignment at the conference
- Provide an active learner assignment to your students who attend the conference.

Contact the CURCE team to learn more about the above options or discuss something specific for your course! Email UGR@albany.edu
Faculty Feature: Dr. Lauren Clemens, Assistant Professor, Antropology

Dr. Clemens oversaw the Undergraduate Field Methods Course where students worked directly with Copala Trique speakers, and endangered indigenous (Mexico) language with diaspora community living in the Capital Region. In December 2019, the students shared the original research project with the Trique community. Look for an upcoming photo series and story on Today at UAlbany.

"Methods and Models for Undergraduate Research across the Disciplines" Conference

Hosted by CURCE in November 2019

Faculty, staff, area researchers and graduate students attended this conference on Nov. 22, 2019, which was funded by the SUNY Central Provost’s annual “Conversations in the Disciplines” conference grant program. Invited speakers from eight universities across the state, representing 11 different disciplines shared their approaches to the many paths to mentorship, in the classroom, lab, field, and abroad, via course-based, internship, or federally funded grant programs. The conference provided a unique opportunity to peer over the fences of disciplinary silos and to witness the successes of some of New York’s most acclimated academic mentors.

Representing the University at Albany, Cara Pager (Biology), Ewan McNay (Neuroscience/Psychology), and Victor Asal (Political Science) presented interesting and contrasting approaches, ranging from the intensive, longer term lab team environments of Drs. Pager and McNay to Dr. Asal’s approach that supports original research projects for all of his students in large lecture hall courses. Eric Keenaghan and Laura Wilder (English) also represented UAlbany, and offered a deeply analytical consideration of the importance of ethics, philosophy, and relevance in undergraduate mentorship, particularly concerning student writers who present annually at the English departmental student conference.

Ibrahim Yucel (Information, Design, and Technology, SUNY Polytechnic, Utica) also discussed more philosophical and thought-provoking issues concerning “gamification” and the role that lively engagement with technology has with undergraduate education and mentorship.

Other highlights included Dr. Daniel Artistico’s (Psychology, Baruch College) long term, year-round NSF REU research program in gerontology. Dr. Thomas Powell’s (Biology, Binghamton) discussed students’ roles in his 365 day a year field and lab program tracking New York insect life cycles as they adapt to climate change.

Dr. Joe Diamond’s (Anthropology, SUNY New Paltz) shared collaborative student-faculty research findings from his long-term summer archaeological field school and public outreach program at historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz.

Dr. Walter Hakala (English and Asian Studies, Buffalo) provides students with immersive research experiences on campus and abroad with translation, analysis, and study of multiple Asian languages and culture.

Dr. John Paneporto (Microbiology and Immunology, and the Jacobs School of Medicine, Buffalo) outlined a suite of longstanding, successful summer research programs (CLIMB UP/ISEED, Roswell Park, BIO-XFEL, SURE) that prepare undergraduates for the STEM workforce on the Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus. Student participation is funded for these programs by one of nine organizations at UBuffalo or nationwide; up to 55 students are funded per year.

More adventurous study abroad programs included Dr. Tom Brutsaert’s (Exercise Science, Syracuse) three week excursion to the Mt. Everest base camp during which students measure their physical adaptations to progressively higher altitudes.

Dr. Jessica Rothman (Anthropology, Hunter College) takes a team of undergraduates annually to Uganda to study African primates in their natural habitat and gives them important opportunities to work with Ugandan wildlife managers and conservationists.

Casey Kohler (of CURCE) and Tim Tryjankowski (Honors College, Buffalo) offered an inspirational overview of how they have built infrastructure at two institutions to support and expand undergraduate research and their mentors.

CURCE Faculty Supports

In addition to offering funding and award competitions, hosting our annual conference, and helping refer students to mentorship opportunities on or off campus, CURCE also provides training workshops for students to assist them in writing abstracts, creating their first academic poster, fine-tuning an oral presentation, and other pointers for representing themselves professionally.

Our website strives to centralize information regarding opportunities for undergraduate researchers. We assist students by posting notices of summer research programs via social media. Part of our webpage is dedicated to faculty and we are willing to assist faculty with finding interns, research assistants, or mentees. If desired, we can post such opportunities publicly, or spread the word to students with whom we have met each year who are hoping for placement.

CURCE is available to meet with faculty individually to share information about methods and models of student research mentorship (on or off campus or abroad), or how to fund such mentorship through NSF REU grant programs.

Visit our For Faculty Page! Click Here
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SERIES
for more information about these events & more!

ABSTRACT WRITING
2/5/2020
5:00-6:30 PM SS 255
Writing a clear abstract is important for conference & funding applications! Get help from the Writing Center to craft your abstract!

HOW TO CREATE A RESEARCH POSTER
4/2/2020
5:00-6:30 PM LC 3B
You've been accepted to present a poster at a conference...now what? Join the CURCE Ambassadors to learn how to create an effective poster!

EFFECTIVE ORAL PRESENTATION SKILLS
4/9/2020
5:00-6:30 PM LC 3B
Let us help you prepare to present at a conference or in class! We'll give you tips on how to effectively communicate your project!

CURCE FUNDING & AWARDS
For more information on all funding opportunities!

ACCELERATOR GRANTS
NEW bi-weekly deadlines!
Apply to receive funding for research materials and expenses, or travel support to present at a conference! Grants are for up to $500!

SITUATION PRIZE FOR RESEARCH APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
1/17-2/28
NINE awards of $500 each to recognize & support students actively engaged in research in Spring 2020!

SORRELL CHESIN RESEARCH AWARD APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
1/17-2/28
FOUR awards of $500 for Juniors & Seniors researching in Life Sciences!

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR UGR FACULTY NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL 2/7

17th ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE
WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
WHERE: LECTURE CENTER CONCOURSE & CLASSROOMS
WHAT: POSTERS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS, ART & PERFORMANCES
NEW: GRADUATE STUDENTS WELCOME & EXTENDED CONFERENCE TO ACCOMMODATE MORE PRESENTERS
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: HTTP://BIT.LY/CONFERENCECURCE

SUNY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (SURC)
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020
WHERE: SUNY ESF
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: HTTP://BIT.LY/SURC2020
CURCE will provide registration fee & travel reimbursement to students accepted to present on April 4!