

**Study Abroad  
Scholarship for  
Undergraduate  
Research**

We encourage students participating in study abroad programs with an undergraduate research component to apply for a \$500 scholarship. Applicants must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. A list of pre-approved programs and application information can be found online at:

[urca.msu.edu/funding](http://urca.msu.edu/funding)

**FEATURE YOUR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER**



Each poster includes a picture and brief profile that highlight how the student became involved in research, the significance of their work, and advice for students interested in pursuing research.

**Please consider nominating your undergraduate researcher for the spotlight series by sending their name and contact information to [ugrsrch@msu.edu](mailto:ugrsrch@msu.edu).**

Each year, thousands of MSU undergraduates participate in research or creative activities. We spotlight some of their experiences on our website and showcase their work in rotating displays in each of the five Neighborhood Engagement Centers across campus.

The poster displays help to increase current and prospective students' awareness of undergraduate research and the benefits of engaging in a research experience.

**WELCOME**

UR@MSU is a newsletter created for the research mentors of undergraduate students. Its goal is to make faculty, post-docs, graduate students, and staff aware of the many university resources and professional development opportunities available for undergraduate researchers and their mentors. The newsletter is distributed once each semester.

Summer 2015 was a busy time for undergraduate researchers, with over 300 students working with MSU faculty and graduate students. Learn about our annual summer research forum, Mid-SURE, and other related professional events that are offered every summer.

Finally, encourage your current undergraduates to apply for summer undergraduate research programs at other institutions. Learn more about the Amgen Scholars Program and the CIC Summer Research program inside. Additional off-campus program information is posted on Venture.

Thank you for supporting undergraduate research at MSU.



**UR SUMMER EVENTS**

This year hundreds of MSU students, as well as visiting students, engaged in mentored research projects throughout the summer. Students had the opportunity to participate in professional development opportunities that complemented their research experiences, including the summer research forum at the end of July, Mid-SURE.



**NETWORKING EVENTS**

Each summer, two networking events are offered to engage students in the broader University community and provide an opportunity to interact with students, faculty, and researchers in a less formal setting.

The faculty networking lunch gave students the chance to speak with faculty from a variety of disciplinary areas about career paths, choosing a disciplinary focus, and the challenges and benefits of being a faculty member. The graduate student lunch brought together undergraduate and graduate students to discuss different aspects of graduate school—from choosing a program to major projects and research foci.

**THIS ISSUE**

**SUMMER RECAP**

**CIC SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**UR IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

**SUMMER RESEARCH FORUM**

The summer concluded with students presenting at MSU's summer undergraduate research forum, the Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE). Mid-SURE is open to all students participating in summer research at MSU. Mentored by approximately 354 faculty members, 331 students presented at the event; these students represented 118 different institutions.

Additionally, students were able to attend a graduate school fair. The fair included 16 graduate programs from 11 different institutions.



**COLLABORATION**

Mid-SURE and the networking events represent a collaborative effort between the Undergraduate Research Office, the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, the Graduate School's Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP), the College of Engineering's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (EnSURE), and the Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health Researchers (REPID).



## AMGEN SCHOLARS

Do you know an outstanding undergraduate doing research in a STEM field? Let them know about the Amgen Scholars Program, which provides undergraduates with the opportunity to engage in a summer research experience at one of 13 different universities.

As an Amgen Scholar, students are able to gain hands-on research experience in one of more than 20 research areas, receive guidance and mentoring from faculty, and have the opportunity to participate in professional development events.

The summer concludes with the Amgen Scholars US Symposium, which is held in California. The Symposium gives students the chance to interact with other Amgen Scholars from across the country.

The program is open to US citizens or permanent residents. Students must be enrolled in an accredited four-year institution, have a 3.2 or higher GPA, and must have at least three semesters of college experience.

For more information, visit:

[www.amgenscholars.com](http://www.amgenscholars.com)

## UR SOCIAL MEDIA

 [facebook.com/urmsu](https://facebook.com/urmsu)

 [@ur\\_at\\_msu](https://twitter.com/ur_at_msu)

 [@ur\\_at\\_msu](https://www.instagram.com/ur_at_msu)

 [urmsu.wordpress.com](http://urmsu.wordpress.com)

## CIC SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) is a gateway to graduate education at CIC universities, which is a consortium of colleges and universities that includes MSU. The goal of the program is to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue graduate study and research careers. SROP helps prepare undergraduates for graduate study through intensive research experiences with faculty mentors and enrichment activities.

Now in its 30th year, 610 program alumni have earned Ph.D. degrees and are preparing the next generation of SROP scholars as mentors and teachers. Thousands of others have completed graduate training and are pursuing successful careers in government, business, and non-profit agencies.



Pictured Above: Summer 2014 SROP Cohort

In addition to having all travel, housing and the majority of meal expenses covered by the program, participants are paid a stipend for their research experience and depending on the institution, may earn course credit.

Students wishing to participate in SROP must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting program at a college or university
- Have completed at least two semesters of undergraduate education by the time the summer experiences takes place
- Have at least one semester of undergraduate education remaining after completing the summer research experience
- Have a strong interest in pursuing a Ph.D.

**The CIC SROP application is accepted November 1, 2015 until February 10, 2016.**

The application allows students to apply to a variety of recognized summer research programs at participating institutions using a single application. Please encourage your undergraduate researchers to submit an application for this opportunity.

For more information, visit: <https://www.cic.net/students/srop/introduction>



## UR AMBASSADORS

The UR Ambassador Program trains undergraduate student researchers to facilitate workshops for their peers. These interactive programs introduce students to the benefits of participating in research and provide a step-by-step guide to finding research opportunities on campus.

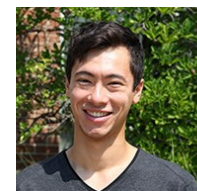
While the UR Office sponsors workshops each semester, the Ambassadors are also frequently invited to present during class periods and at student organization meetings. If you would like to invite Ambassadors to your class or meeting, please email: [ugrsrch@msu.edu](mailto:ugrsrch@msu.edu).

### MEET A FEW OF OUR AMBASSADORS



#### Emily Davidson '16

Davidson's research in Dr. Jenifer Fenton's laboratory is focused on the response of the B-cell to diets high in specific fatty acids. She has been working to build upon previous research that demonstrates an increase in IgA production in mice fed diets rich in DHA, (i.e. fish, eggs and meat), which indicates an increase in B-cell function.



#### Keenan Noyes '16

Through his work on Dr. Melanie Cooper's team, Noyes is researching ways to improve chemistry education for undergraduate students. Specifically, he studies how students learn the concept of Intermolecular Forces, such as the London Dispersion Force, a core concept in chemistry that explains how and why molecules interact.



#### Sean Roberts '16

Under the direction of Dr. Jason Moser, the research Roberts engages in looks to show how mindfulness meditation might be used as an inexpensive and easily available method to reduce negative emotions. Specifically, he used questionnaire data to explore the relationship between mindfulness, mindset, and anxiety.

## LOOKING FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS?

**Venture** is an online database of undergraduate research opportunities and creative activities designed to connect research mentors and aspiring undergraduate scholars.

With Venture, faculty and staff can:

- Post research projects and creative activities for fall, spring, and summer
- Recruit interested undergraduate students quickly and efficiently
- Edit projects at any time
- Streamline the recruitment, application, and hiring of undergraduate students
- Designate another person to monitor and process applications

For more details about Venture or to post your opportunity visit: [venture.msu.edu](http://venture.msu.edu)

## Undergraduate Student Travel Support

The UR office has funding available to support student travel to professional conferences.

Applicants must be currently enrolled and in good standing at the university. Funding is contingent upon financial support from another unit, such as the student or research mentor's academic department or college.

The UR office provides matching funds up to \$500 to defray the cost of travel for the student. Requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. The application form can be found online at:

[urca.msu.edu/funding](http://urca.msu.edu/funding)

**APRIL 8**  
**Save the Date**  
**UURAF 2016**

[uuraf.msu.edu](http://uuraf.msu.edu)