

STUDENT UR POSTER DISPLAY

Each year, thousands of MSU undergraduates participate in research or other creative activities. We spotlight some of their experiences on our website and display their posters in rotating displays in the Brody and East Neighborhood Engagement Centers

If you'd like to nominate a student for a spotlight, please send their name and contact information to ugrsrch@msu.edu.

VENTURE UPDATES

Have you been to Venture lately? The site has an updated look and new features that improve functionality and usability.

NEW FEATURES

Graduate students and other research mentors, who do not have faculty status, can post projects, and multiple people can now monitor postings. Project coordinators now have more control over their postings—they can edit or delete posts in their own accounts, rather than having to contact us to do so. We have also reformatted the search function with tags and categories, so it's easier for students to find your posts

WHAT IS VENTURE?

Venture is a database of undergraduate research opportunities and creative activities designed to connect research mentors and aspiring undergraduate scholars. The online database provides an easily navigable platform for research mentors to recruit outstanding undergraduate researchers. With Venture, research mentors can post projects, recruit qualified and interested undergraduate students quickly, and manage applications online.

In addition to posting on-campus opportunities, Venture can be used to promote summer undergraduate research opportunities at other campuses. Visit venture.msu.edu for more information and to post a UR opportunity today.



WELCOME

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

Very active and robust undergraduate research communities exist across the university. Academic year and summer research, scholarship, and creative activity opportunities are available for undergraduates in all 14 colleges that offer undergraduate degrees. Learn more about our summer networking dinners and summer research forum, Mid-SURE in this issue.

Across the disciplines, quality mentoring is a critical component to having a positive research experience. The time spent with your student researchers—providing feedback on their work, discussing current research in your field, and advising on career choices and graduate school—has a tremendous impact on our students. Thank you for supporting our undergraduate students.

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UR OFFICE RESOURCE GUIDE

New to MSU, or is the Undergraduate Research (UR) Office new to you? The UR Office strives to support the work of faculty and students by collaborating to develop, promote, enhance, and assess UR at MSU. We offer many different types of support and services to both students and research mentors.

COLLEGE UR FUNDING

The Provost's Office has provided funding to support university-wide UR initiatives, which is then dispersed among the 14 colleges that offer undergraduate degree programs. Each college has a different method of distribution, that is usually managed by a specific person. To see the contact person in your college, visit urca.msu.edu/faculty/funding.

STUDENT CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Funding is available to support undergraduate students presenting at professional conferences. The UR Office will usually match the amount(s) contributed by the mentor, unit, or college. Last year, 30 students received conference support. Representing a variety of disciplines, these students presented around the country. This fiscal year, we have sponsored 11 students and anticipate supporting more.

UR WORKSHOPS

The UR Office sponsors several research-related workshops targeted to new and experienced undergraduate researchers. Fall semester topics include learning about UR opportunities, research integrity, and troubleshooting a UR experience. The spring semester workshops focus on helping students prepare to present their work and find-

ing summer research opportunities.

VENTURE

MSU's on-line undergraduate research database was created to help connect students to the research and scholarship of faculty members. The database provides a convenient way for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students to post their research openings, while students search for projects by keyword, faculty member, or college and then apply on-line. See the last page of this newsletter for more details.

UURAF

The University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), provides MSU undergraduates the opportunity to showcase their scholarship. The event brings together an intellectual community of highly motivated students to share their work with faculty, peers, and external audiences. More than 560 students presented last year. UURAF 2014 will be held on Friday, April 4.

SUMMER EVENTS

MSU's UR community is very active during the summer. We offer networking events where undergraduate researchers can meet with faculty and graduate students. Several summer programs collaborate to offer the Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE), a summer UR forum. Mid-SURE 2014 will be tentatively held on Wednesday, July 23 at the Breslin Center.

Visit our website (urca.msu.edu) or call 517-884-1559 for more information about these and other UR-related initiatives.

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 experience is concluded 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.

Applications for the 2014 cycle will be available in November 2013. For more information, visit www.amgenscholars.com.

UR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

 twitter.com/ur_at_msu

 urmsu.wordpress.com



SUMMER RECAP

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 several professional development opportunities that complemented their research experiences.

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, held in June, 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 dinner, held in July, brought together undergraduate and graduate students to discuss different aspects of graduate school – from choosing a program to major projects and research foci. Undergraduates learned more about life as a graduate student.

SUMMER RESEARCH FORUM

Most of the summer programs concluded with students presenting at MSU's summer under-

graduate research forum. The forum underwent several changes this year in name, location, and event offerings.

Now called the **Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE)**, the research forum is open to all students (including visiting students) participating in summer research at MSU, as well as students participating in select summer research programs at institutions in the Mid-Michigan region. 263 students presented at the event; these students represented 75 different institutions.



This year, the event moved to the Breslin Center, which provided more space to display the 248 posters. We also incorporated a graduate school fair into the forum, that included 19 representatives from 14 different institutions, such as Purdue, Notre Dame, and Northwestern University.

"Presenting at Mid-SURE really boosted the students' confidence," noted Lindsay Gluf, REPID Program Coordinator. "This presentation opportunity made them feel more secure in describing their work and helped prepare them to present at national conferences."

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).

For more information about summer activities, contact Megan Shannahan, Assistant Director for Undergraduate Research, at shannah2@msu.edu, or visit the Mid-SURE website at urca.msu.edu/midsure.

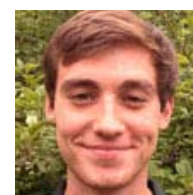


UR AMBASSADORS

MSU's **UR Ambassadors Program** trains undergraduate researchers to facilitate workshops for their peers. These interactive workshops introduce students to the benefits of participation in research, provide a step-by-step guide to finding research opportunities on campus, and reference campus resources.

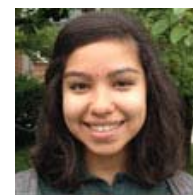
While the UR Office sponsors Ambassador-led workshops each semester, the Ambassadors are also frequently invited to present during class periods and at student organization meetings. If you are interested in inviting a pair of Ambassadors to your class or meeting, contact the UR Office by email ugrsrch@msu.edu.

MEET A FEW OF OUR AMBASSADORS



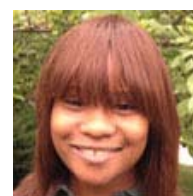
Cooper Franks '15

Cooper's current research with Dr. Austin Jackson involves studies of both South Africa and Detroit. "We're currently working on an analysis of the post-apartheid South African educational atmosphere and the current educational conditions in Detroit from the historical lens of Neville Alexander, a South African educator, activist, and advocate of democratic education and linguistic diversity."



Marisa Kelly '14

Marisa's research projects have been done through Dr. Judith Danovitch's Knowledge in Development (KID) Lab. "I have been assigned to work on various projects, some of which I was able to help design and create stimuli for. I just recently finished working on a project called Generosity. We were interested in how generous four-, five-, and six-year-olds are after hearing one of three short stories."



Kelly Montgomery '15

Kelly's current project with Dr. David Arnosti is part of the MSU BMB IDEAS program. "I am currently seeking to understand the role of Retinoblastoma (RB) proteins as a tumor suppressor in the Hippo signaling pathway of fruit flies. Research conducted in this context could allow for great advancements in future treatments for patients with transcription level abnormalities on a gene associated with the Hippo pathway."

FALL 2013 UR WORKSHOP SERIES

LEARNING ABOUT UR

September 10, 7:30-8:30 PM
Bessey Hall 316

LEARNING ABOUT UR

September 18, 6:00-7:00 PM
Bessey Hall 316

INTEGRITY IN RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

September 22, 2:00-3:00 PM
Bessey Hall 108

TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR UR EXPERIENCE

October 9, 7:30-8:30 PM
Bessey Hall 108

FINDING A SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

November 5, 7:30-8:30 PM
Bessey Hall 316

Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Office and the Honors College.

POSTERS ON THE HILL

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) will host its annual undergraduate poster session on Capitol Hill on April 23-24, 2014 in Washington, DC. This event will help members of Congress understand the importance of undergraduate research by talking directly with the students whom these programs impact.

CUR is calling for students to submit an abstract of their research that represents any of CUR's disciplinary divisions. Each abstract should explain the work that was performed and discuss the importance of the work to society (i.e., what larger problem were you trying to solve or understand?). Submissions are due November 4, 2013.

The UR Office has funding to support the full cost of travel for a student chosen to participate in Posters on the Hill.

For more information about this program, visit <http://www.cur.org/>.

FACULTY LUNCH ROUNDTABLE

Join us for a roundtable discussion that will cover how to work more effectively with undergraduate researchers. This lunch will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, in the Abbott Room in Snyder-Phillips. Register at <http://bit.ly/17h3LF3>. Lunch will be provided.

UURAF

The University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum will be held on April 4, 2014, in the MSU Union. Visit urca.msu.edu/uuraf for more information.