

KU Center for Undergraduate Research
ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15



Mission

The Center for Undergraduate Research fosters research opportunities by working with faculty to develop curricula and models for mentoring, advising students in their development as researchers, and providing campuswide programs and events that support and celebrate undergraduate research at KU.

This annual report summarizes the Center's activities from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

CENTER STAFF



Director
John Augusto, Ph.D.



Assistant Director
Nicole Perry



Assistant Director
Dyan Morgan, Ph.D.

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS 2014-15

The Faculty Advisory Board meets four times a year to advise the Center on programs and initiatives offered through the office.

Ruth Ann Atchley, *Psychology*

Nancy Brady, *Speech-Language-Hearing*

Nathaniel Brunsell, *Geography*

Yvonne Chen, *Journalism*

Bryon Darby, *Design*

Stevin Gehrke, *Chemical & Petroleum Engineering*

Jennifer Gleason, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*

Jeffrey Hall, *Communication Studies, CUR Faculty Fellow*

P. Scott Hefty, *Molecular Biosciences*

Sheyda Jahanbani, *History*

Jason Matejkowski, *Social Welfare*

Joshua Rosenbloom, *Economics*

Catherine Schwoerer, *Business*

Cover: Senior Bailey Wilkerson, majoring in Microbiology, is an Undergraduate Research Award recipient working on breast cancer research.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Center's student programs are focused on three areas:

- ▲ **Exposure:** expose students to research
- ▲ **Experience:** create opportunities to experience a part of the research process
- ▲ **Expertise:** support students as they gain expertise in a particular area of research

The Center provides programs and events that allow students to gain exposure, experience, and expertise in undergraduate research. Here are some examples:



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ▲▲▲

KU's Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium provides students an opportunity to present their research and creative projects to a broad audience and exposes students interested in research to the work of their peers.

OFFICE HOURS ▲▲▲

All students can attend the Center's Friday office hours for one-on-one counseling on topics such as getting involved with research, gaining certification of their research experience, and writing successful Undergraduate Research Award applications.

STUDENT EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS ▲▲

Each semester, the Center hosts activities that introduce students to the idea of research. In addition, we host workshops that teach important research skills, such as proposal writing and presentation preparation.



Community health major Reuben Medina won an Undergraduate Research Award in Spring 2015 to study the effects of motivational climate on veterans' exercise habits.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM CERTIFICATION ▲▲

The Research Experience Program (REP) documents research activity on students' transcripts.

SUMMER RESEARCH ▲▲

The Center provides a social kickoff event, skill-building workshops, and an end-of-summer poster session for students taking part in summer research at KU.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (UGRAS) ▲

Undergraduate Research Awards (UGRAs) provide \$1,000 scholarships to students on the Lawrence campus for independent research and creative work under the guidance of a mentor.

TRAVEL AWARDS ▲

Travel awards provide \$500 for students presenting their research at academic conferences. This program is funded by the KU Student Senate Equal Opportunity Fund.

JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ▲

The Journal of Undergraduate Research, listed through KU ScholarWorks, is an annual publication that provides a venue for students in all disciplines to publish the results of their research and creative projects.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$15,000

Travel Awards dispersed

160+

Office visits

19,000+

Unique website visitors

349

Student REP certifications

167

Student presenters at Undergraduate Research Symposium

18TH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, APRIL 25, 2015

Participation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium rose dramatically in 2015, with 167 students presenting (compared to 108 in 2014) and over 600 students attending, nearly double what it was in 2014.



Katherine Gwynn asks a question during the opening session of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Gwynn won an Undergraduate Research Award in Spring 2015 for a creative writing project under Professor Darren Canady.

DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES

In the 2014-2015 academic year, the Center facilitated these faculty working groups to give us direction in key areas:

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS WORKING GROUP

This goal of this committee was to establish university-wide criteria for an undergraduate thesis in order to better recognize and support faculty and student work. Fourteen faculty members from across campus met over the year to establish a minimal set of criteria that departments must meet if they would like their students to qualify for a university-designated thesis. Their recommendations will be implemented over the 2015-2016 academic year.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES WORKING GROUPS

Two faculty working groups, one in the arts and one in the humanities, each met four times over the course of the year. The groups focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for mentors and students participating in undergraduate research and creative projects in these two areas of scholarship. The main recommendations of these working groups were presented at a lunch on March 27, 2015 at the Hall Center for the Humanities to a group of around 50 faculty and staff. The Center will implement recommendations from the working groups over the 2015-2016 academic year.



Around 50 faculty and staff gathered at the Hall Center for the Humanities for an April lunch to discuss ideas about encouraging participation in undergraduate research in the arts and humanities.

MENTOR & INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS

MENTOR AWARDS

The Center offers two mentor awards to recognize the contribution of outstanding undergraduate research mentors to their students' development and to their own discipline. Each award comes with a monetary prize and was presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

- Faculty Award: This year's winners of the K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award were Paula Fite, clinical child psychology, and Joy Ward, ecology & evolutionary biology. Honorable mentions went to Mikhail Barybin, chemistry, and Darren Canady, English.
- Graduate student/staff award: This year's winner of the Undergraduate Research Mentor Award was Carla Harper, doctoral student in ecology & evolutionary biology. Honorable mention went to Rachel Bowes, another doctoral student in ecology & evolutionary biology.

BY THE NUMBERS

30

Faculty working group participants

88

Mentors had students present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

7,210

Views of the Research Byte videos since 2013

24

Classes supported by GRCs

1,357

Students enrolled in GRC classes

RESEARCH BYTES

Research Bytes are short videos that teach specific skills (reading a journal article, presenting a poster, etc.) as well as general guidelines for getting involved with research (how to identify a mentor). Mentors and instructors can incorporate these resources into their work with students. Current videos can be viewed at:

ugresearch.ku.edu/researchbytes.



Susan Earle, assistant curator with the Spencer Museum of Art, and undergraduate student Julia Reynolds examine a sculpture from the museum's collections.

GRADUATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

The Graduate Research Consultant (GRC) program is designed to support instructors interested in incorporating larger research and creative projects into their undergraduate classes. The Center provides financial support (\$500) to a graduate student who works with a particular course to help design a project, mentor students, and evaluate student learning.



Top: Graduate Research Consultant Steven Sanders works with a student enrolled in Professor Paulyn Cartwright's Developmental Biology lab.



Left: Undergraduate students enrolled in Geology 121 present their final research projects during an event at The Commons. The class, taught by Professor Alison Olcott-Marshall, was supported by a Graduate Research Consultant.

KU

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RESEARCH

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