

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduate research is not limited to the academic year. Many students participate in undergraduate research during the summer at MSU and across the United States.

OFF-CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES

Students seeking research opportunities at other institutions during the summer may want to consider one of the many formal programs offered through government agencies, such as the:

- National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program
- Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI) Program
- Department of Energy Scholars Program

Information about these and other summer programs are available on Venture (venture.msu.edu).

SUMMER RESEARCH FORUM

Students who do research on campus have the opportunity to present their work at the **Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE)** which will be held on **July 23, 2014** in the Breslin Center Concourse. For those undergraduates interested in attending graduate school, Mid-SURE includes a graduate school fair with more than 20 representatives from various graduate school programs.

Questions can be directed to Megan Shannahan at shannah2@msu.edu or 517-884-1559.

SPRING & SUMMER KEY DATES

Writing Abstracts

February 12, 5:00-6:00 PM
Wells Hall 2nd Floor Atrium

UURAF Registration Deadline

February 16, 11:59 PM
uuraf.msu.edu/registration

Preparing Poster Presentations

March 26, 5:00-6:00 PM
Bessey Hall, Room 316

Preparing Oral Presentations

March 31, 5:00-6:00 PM
Wells Hall 2nd Floor Atrium

Preparing for Success at UURAF

April 2, 5:00-6:00 PM
Bessey Hall, Room 316

University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF)

April 4, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
MSU Union

Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences (Mid-SURE)

July 23, 2014
MSU Breslin Center

Full workshop descriptions
are available at
urca.msu.edu/event.

For more information,
contact Megan Shannahan
at 517-884-1559 or
shannah2@msu.edu.



UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND ARTS FORUM (UURAF)

Michigan State University hosts the annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) each spring that provides students with the opportunity to showcase their research, scholarship and creative activity in an academic setting. Last year nearly 550 students presented at the forum. **UURAF 2014 will take place on April 4 at the MSU Union.**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Student registration opens on January 13 and closes on February 16 at 11:59 PM. On the registration form, students must provide their contact information and include the names of any additional group members and their research mentor. Students will also be required to submit the title of their program, the type of presentation they would like to give (oral, poster, or performance), category of their research, and a presentation abstract.



ABSTRACTS

We encourage all students to work with their research mentor when writing an abstract for UURAF. Since the abstracts are published in the program book and on the UURAF website, it is important that students understand what information is acceptable to share publicly. We

THIS ISSUE

UURAF

FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

urge mentors to discuss information sharing, copyright laws, and intellectual property with their students in order to protect the rights of individuals performing research and publishing data.



JUDGING & AWARDS

Each presentation category is assigned a faculty judge who is familiar with the respective field. Judges are recruited by the associate deans of individual colleges. Faculty can also volunteer to be moderators. The most important way faculty can get involved is by attending the event and supporting their undergraduate researchers. Additionally, we are seeking graduate students to provide further constructive feedback on student presentations. This is a great professional development opportunity for graduate students. Contact ugrsrch@msu.edu for more information.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to students with outstanding presentations. One first-place award (\$100) will be given in each poster and oral presentation category. First-place award recipients are eligible to submit their work for consideration for the UURAF Grand Prize, a \$500 award. All winners will receive an award certificate at the UURAF Awards Ceremony at 4:00 PM on April 4.

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

UR at MSU is represented on various social media sites and we want to connect with you and your students. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, WordPress, and Instagram. We share information through these sites, including new opportunities in Venture, workshop reminders, and student spotlights. Be sure to connect with us to stay up to date on all the latest MSU UR news.

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

 twitter.com/UR_at_MSU

 urmsu.wordpress.com

 [@UR_at_MSU](https://www.instagram.com/UR_at_MSU)



UR FACULTY MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, students participating in undergraduate research have the opportunity to nominate their research mentor for the Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award. These mentors have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to mentoring undergraduate researchers and promoting research on campus. Only currently enrolled undergraduate researchers may submit nominations, which are reviewed by MSU's Undergraduate Research Ambassadors.

Two awards are given each year—one to a faculty member representing science and engineering and one to a faculty member representing the social sciences and humanities. Finalists will receive a \$1000 honorarium that will be awarded at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The two Faculty Mentor of the Year recipients for the 2012-2013 academic year were Dr. Melissa Baumann and Dr. Cristina Schmitt.



Dr. Melissa Baumann - Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science

Melissa Baumann served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Material Sciences

and as the Associate Dean of the Honors College. Undergraduate researchers praised Baumann for her ability to help students expand their world view, push them to perform independent research, and always keeping the student's best interests in mind. Baumann's research with undergraduates focused on bioactive ceramics, new methods of treating mitral valve degeneration in dogs, and developing a retinal

drug delivery device to treat a genetic blindness disorder. She was nominated for this award by undergraduate researchers Bradley Disbrow, Kevin Jock, and Craig Pearson. Dr. Baumann is now the Director of the Honors College and Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies at Auburn University.



Dr. Cristina Schmitt - Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics & Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages

Cristina Schmitt currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of

Linguistics, Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages. She is dedicated to incorporating undergraduates into her research and has had over 30 undergraduate research assistants in the past four years. Her current research with undergraduates focuses on language acquisition using an artificial language paradigm. This research impacts language learning models and second language learning studies. Schmitt's students describe her as candid, approachable, friendly, and encouraging. Her nominator wrote that "no matter what she has going on, she is always willing to meet with her undergraduate researchers" and that her "willingness to involve herself significantly increases the value of her mentorship." She was nominated for this award by undergraduate researcher Adam Liter.

NOMINATION PROCESS

In order to nominate a faculty mentor, the student nominator must:

- Complete the nomination form found on our website (<http://bit.ly/1fhvBXA>)
- Submit a nomination letter that addresses the selection criteria listed above (maximum 1000 words) AND a copy of the professor's CV (usually found on their website) to ugrsrch@msu.edu

Nominations will not be considered complete until we have received a nomination form, nomination letter, and CV. All pieces must be submitted by the deadline.

AWARD TIMELINE

Nominations Due: February 9, 2014
Mentor Notification: March 14, 2014
Grand Prizes Presentation: April 4, 2014 during the UURAF Awards Ceremony



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The National and International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) Office at MSU helps interested students, both undergraduate and graduate, pursue national and international competitive awards by providing direct support and guidance throughout the application process.

We spoke with Ashley Green, Director and Coordinator of Scholarships at the MSU NIFS office, to learn more about NIFS at MSU.

WHAT ARE NIFS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

NIFS are prestigious awards offered by international organizations and governmental entities to be used for advancing a student's studies - either for research or graduate education. They are among the most well-known and most lucrative awards available to students. Awards provide funds for research or graduate education in the United States or abroad. Faculty members should encourage students to apply for these awards through the NIFS office.

WHAT KINDS OF AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES?

Awards are offered for both STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and non-STEM students. Awards that are STEM-based are the Goldwater Scholarship, Churchill Scholarship, and the National Science Foundation Fellowship. Those that are non-STEM based are the Rhodes Scholarship, Marshall Scholarship, Mitchell Scholarship, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, Carnegie Jr. Fellows, Beinecke Scholarship, Boren Scholarship, Udall Scholarship, Presidential Fellows, and the Pickering Fellowship.

WHAT ROLE DO FACULTY PLAY?

Faculty play an important role in the NIFS

process. They are encouraged to identify, recruit, and mentor students for these awards. "Faculty can also serve on MSU interview selection committees, or be a part of a NIFS faculty advisory committee," Green said. "Once candidates have been endorsed, faculty can work with nominated students to finalize their materials for national competitions."

WHY SHOULD FACULTY MEMBERS NOMINATE STUDENTS?

Many students may not be aware of NIFS or their own potential in competing for these prestigious awards. Faculty should encourage qualified students whom they have worked with to explore this opportunity to further advance their education.

DOES PARTICIPATION IN UR MAKE STUDENTS MORE COMPETITIVE FOR THESE AWARDS?

Many students engaged in undergraduate research and creative activity are well qualified to compete for NIFS. "Undergraduate research can certainly strengthen an application to make the student more competitive," Green explained. "Learning should extend beyond the classroom and undergraduate research can have an immense impact on a student's understanding of the field, their practical experience, and their future career."

Students should start preparing for these awards well in advance of the deadline. Many awards have deadlines in August, but it isn't too early to think about pulling application materials together this spring.

Faculty and students interested in more information regarding NIFS should contact the MSU NIFS office at nifs@msu.edu or 517-884-7650.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

THE PROVOST'S OFFICE

The Provost's Office has provided a half million dollars to support university-wide undergraduate research initiatives. Every college with undergraduate degree programs receive this funding to support undergraduate research and creative activity opportunities. Visit <http://urca.msu.edu/faculty/> funding to find the contact for your college.

ASMSU

The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU), MSU's student government, has recently created a research travel grant. This grant supports a student's travel or attendance to a conference or professional development opportunity. The maximum amount awarded will be \$250. More information will be available on ASMSU's website: asmsu.msu.edu.

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.