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Psychology Division Newsletter
A Publication of a Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research
Fall 2022

The Psychology Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist psychology administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

Chair: Karen L. Gunther (Wabash College)
Newsletter Team: Amy M. Buddie (Kennesaw State University);
Tsu-Ming Chiang (Georgia College & State University)

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Welcome from the Chair

Greetings from the CUR Psychology Division Chair! Things are returning more to normal, hopefully to stay: in-person conferences are back, and summer internships can be done in person. Yet through the pandemic, we've also learned new tricks for remote meetings and teaching/research.

We are once again opening our call for applications for student research or travel to conferences to present research. See below for more information on this year's program. And look back at past spring division newsletters for the wonderful work that previous awardees have done:
https://www.cur.org/who/governance/divisions/psychology/news/

We have again included some teaching tips from CUR councilors and input from a student perspective. Do you have tips that you would like to share with the division, on teaching, mentoring students in research, how to accomplish your own research with a heavy teaching load, or something else? We'd love to hear from our members!

Is there a topic that you'd like to see addressed in a CUR Virtual Conversation? Or a book relevant to undergraduate research that you wish you could discuss with others? Let us know how you would like to engage with other CUR Psych members.

Nominations are open for councilor slots in our division:
https://www.cur.org/who/governance/elections/ We'd love to have more of you join us as leaders in undergraduate research.

Stay well, and I wish you happy and productive mentoring of undergraduate researchers!

Karen L. Gunther
CUR Psychology Division Chair
Professor of Psychology
Wabash College

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2022-2023 Psychology Undergraduate Student Research or Presentation Awards

The CUR Psychology Division will again be offering a few awards for student research, or for travel to conferences for students to present their research. Each award will be limited to not more than $400. See the CUR website for more details on how to apply:
https://www.cur.org/who/governance/divisions/psychology/studentawards/
The application deadline this year is November 1, 2022. We will let you know by December 1, 2022 if you are one of the award recipients. We look forward to learning about your research!

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FREE CUR Books

Is your institution trying to start or build undergraduate research programs?
The CUR Psychology Division has some undergraduate research-focused books to give away to help you develop your goals, consider new perspectives, or start an Office/Center for Undergraduate Research library. We are eager to share these ideas/books with institutions that are working to enhance or expand their undergraduate research opportunities.

These books include:

- General Domains - Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research: Fostering Excellence and Enhancing the Impact
- Discipline-Specific Areas - How to Get Started in Arts & Humanities Research with Undergraduates

Please reach out to Psychology Division Councilor and CUR Executive Board member, Sarah Johnson at **johnsons@moravian.edu** if you are interested in getting some free materials.

Note: *Minority-serving and/or underserved institutions have higher priority to receive these books.*

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Teaching Tip #1: Research Poster Presentations by Students - Practice Early, Practice Often

Nestor Matthews, Denison University
Students often have anxiety about their research poster presentations. How can we mentor our research students on this challenge? I've found it helpful to create early and frequent practice opportunities. Three weeks before the student's poster-presentation date, I ask students to orally summarize their research using no notes and no visual aids. During the same practice session, I have students attempt three versions of their presentation at different durations: 30 seconds, two minutes, and five minutes. We use a

timer. This fine-tunes students' sense of just how brief those intervals are. The three different durations also help students prioritize ideas within their presentation: "If I had only another X seconds, what information would the listener need most?" Following this up with practice sessions one and two weeks before the poster presentation has several benefits. It distributes the students' retrieval practice (which promotes long-term retention), fosters students' confidence, and smooths the poster presentations.

Teaching Tip #2: 7 tips for connecting with students at a distance
Kathleen Quinn & Katherine Guarino Henderson, in collaboration with Dr. Jenny Coleman, Western New Mexico University

Understanding student experiences is arguably the most valuable way to assess our teaching and mentoring. For this teaching tip, two fully online students who have been engaged in student research at a distance tell us what matters most to them. Spoiler alert… being asked to write something for our newsletter contributed to their feelings of connection.

1. **Show your humanity** - a mystery instructor behind a computer can be intimidating for distance students. Remove the intimidation factor by showing students who you are and what matters to you.
2. **Tailor your syllabus and assignments** - students can tell if the only update made was the year. Updating the syllabus and assignments each semester shows you are invested and motivates students to be invested as well.
3. **Communicate individually** - group emails have a time and purpose but should not be the only form of communication with students (or research assistants). Reach out to each student individually at least once.
4. **Online classes are not "set it and forget it" classes** - participate in discussion boards, provide timely feedback on assignments, and input grades in a timely manner.
5. **Provide opportunities for student connection** - include an introductory discussion board and encourage students to share information about interests beyond the classroom. Provide a student Q&A board and a chit-chat board if possible.
6. **Continue to teach with compassion** - don't let go of your pandemic-inspired flexibility and understanding. For some learners, like adult students, just a little bit of flexibility is a big act of inclusion! A few days here and there can be the difference we need to stay the course toward finishing a project and degree completion.
7. **Make learning relevant** - find a way to connect the material to current events or operational uses to increase student motivation. Bringing in current events is a way to show that you are thinking about the class (and therefore students) as you move through your week.

Students at a distance need not feel disconnected. Using individual communication (item 3), Kathleen and Katherine were told that they were noticed for their strong work and knack for inquiry. Those "I see you" messages helped create a qualitatively different experience for them as students. Their experiences grew to include summer research, two upcoming conference presentations, and the opportunity to write this piece for the newsletter. Remember that your efforts, no matter how small, can likely make a big impact on students.

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Important Deadlines!
Deadline | Event/Conference Submission Deadlines
October 18, 2022 | Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA)
November 1, 2022 | CUR Psychology Division Student Research and Travel Awards
November 9, 2022 | Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA)
November 15, 2022 | CUR Councilor Nominations due
November 30, 2022 | National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
December 1, 2022 | Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) undergraduate poster session

December 2, 2022 | Western Psychological Association (WPA)
December 12, 2022 | Rocky Mountain Psychological Association
December 15, 2022 | Association for Psychological Science (APS)
January 2023 | ConnectUR Annual Conference Abstract Submissions

Check Out the Psychology Division Page

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