

The Connection

Your link to undergraduate researchers at Mizzou

The Official Newsletter of the University of Missouri Office of Undergraduate Research

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Preaching the Hotness of Research

This past October marked Undergraduate Research Month, which featured a series of events to highlight how undergraduates can engage in research, fellowships, and learn professional style.

October marks many occasions—the new freeze of fall, Halloween, the last few weeks of election frenzy, for starters—but this year it also marks Undergraduate Research Month. The Office of Undergraduate Research designed the program to help students get involved in research so they could boost their education and careers, with a focus on undergraduate majors of all different school years.

The 14 Undergraduate Research Ambassadors helped lead about two events every week for the month of October, which concluded with a pizza party called “The Hotness,” a reference to the many promotional buttons the Office of Undergraduate Research acquired this year that proclaim



“Research is Hot.” Events featured topics such as how to build a winning resume and how to find a faculty mentor.

“The ambassadors have been a great help with everything,” says office graduate assistant Sarah Beyers. “They have taken a lot of initiative to attend events and get the word out about undergraduate research. Their excitement about our new slogan ‘Research is Hot’ is very inspiring to faculty and students alike.”

Sarah Beyers was the point person for Undergraduate Research Month this year, arranging speakers and helping direct the research ambassadors. Together she and the ambassadors discussed their vision for the month back in September during the first formal meeting of the ambassadors. The year’s schedule moved faster than last year’s, which featured

Undergraduate Research Month in November rather than October.

“A second meeting was held to go over all the events of UGR month and talk about logistics,” says 21-year-old ambassador John Gardner, a junior geography major.

Gardner first became involved with research during the second semester of his freshman year in a biochemistry lab and began work in a soil microbiology this past year. He became attracted to his position as an undergraduate research ambassador because of the different perspective on research it would offer, involving research advocacy rather than the lab work he was used to. Gardner also loves getting the chance to say research is hot and handing out “our awesome pins.”

The event that he assisted

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Meet Tina Roberts

In last month's newsletter, Dr. Blockus, our office's director, announced she would be spending the year in Washington D.C. to work at the Center for Advancing Science and Engineering Capacity at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Tina Roberts has worked at our office since October 1st, helping with LS UROP and summer science program activities in Dr. Blockus's absence.



“ I am the new Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (LS UROP) Coordinator in the UGR office.

I come to this position after fifteen years as a Senior Research Specialist in Chris Hardin's lab where I have been working with undergraduate researchers a significant amount of the time.

I have a BSAg in Biochemistry, a MS in Physiology, and I am currently pursuing a Ph.D in Science Education.

I am interested in student retention in the sciences and hope to be able to make a difference while in this position.

I am an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy and travel to the World Science Convention annually.

I am around the office most days and would love for people to stop by and introduce themselves!”

Practical Pages

Your guide to resources on the Web

<http://www.ipl.org>

Internet Public Library contains links to over 2300 serials available online, links to over 1600 critical and biographical sites about literary authors, searchable list of over 1100 associations on the web, over 7700 books available on the web, and much more.

Featured Fellowships

The Frank Huntington Beebe Fund for Musicians

Description: The purpose of the Fund is to provide fellowships for gifted young musicians, generally performers and composers in classical disciplines, who wish to pursue advanced music study and performance abroad, usually in Europe.

Eligibility: Fellowships are awarded to musicians at the outset of their professional lives, for whom this would be the first extended period of study abroad. Applicants must demonstrate

a solid base of accomplishment in order to be considered and are generally not older than their mid-20s. A strong, well-planned project of study that will enhance the applicant's life in music must be proposed. Enrollment in a school or university is not required unless such study is an essential part of the project.

Award: The Fund provides financial support for round trip transportation, living and other expenses - approximately \$15,000. Fellowships are for one year and are generally not renewable.

Deadline: December

Churchill Scholarship

Eligibility: Applicants for a Churchill Schol-

arship must be citizens of the United States and must be enrolled in one of the institutions participating in the scholarship competition. Upon taking a Churchill Scholarship, one must be between the ages of 19 and 26, hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a United States college or university, and may not have attained a doctorate.

Amount: The total award is therefore \$48,000-\$53,000.

Deadline: The next deadline for applying for a Churchill Scholarship is November 12, 2008.

Go to fellowships.missouri.edu to find out more about scholarships and fellowships.



AWARDS

Satchel Gaddie (Branson, MO), an undergraduate student in SEAS, received a third place finish in the Students for Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES) National Student Research Symposium Poster Contest at the 2008 American Society of Agronomy National Meetings held in Houston from Oct. 5-9. His

poster was entitled "Impact of Nitrogen Fertilizer Source and Drainage on Spatial Variation in Nitrous Oxide Flux". His third place finish entitled him to a cash award from the American Society of Agronomy in honor of his excellence in undergraduate research.

~ Peter Motavalli,
Associate Professor, Soil Nutrient Management

Satchel Gaddie's trip was sponsored in part by a travel grant awarded by the MU Office of Undergraduate Research.

Did You Know...

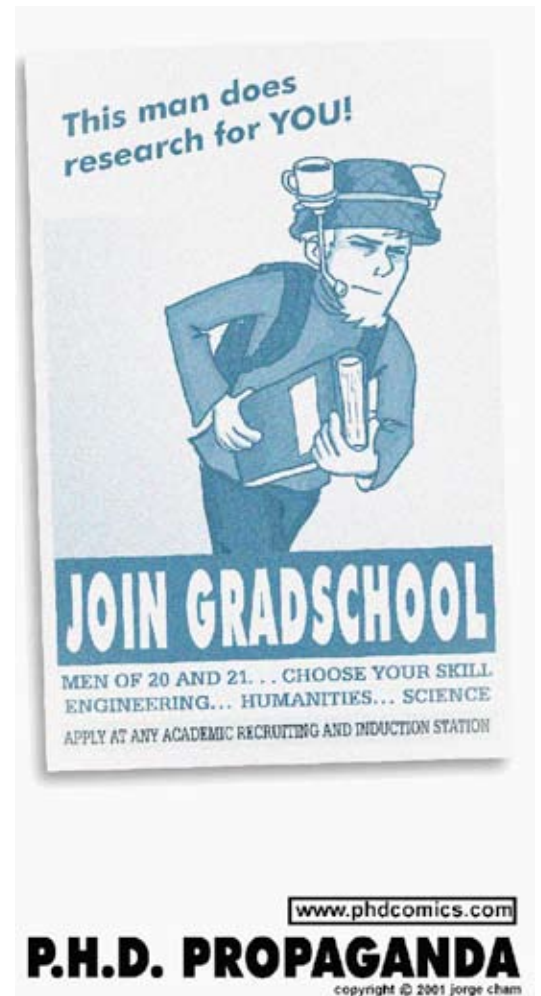
- Last year, MU filed 110 patent applications for new inventions; 10 new start-up companies are being developed based on MU technology.
- More than 1,000 faculty life scientists at MU are working to improve human and animal health, food and the environment.
- With more than 3 million volumes, almost 7 million microforms, 1.6 million government documents and more than 33,000 journal subscriptions, MU Libraries has the state's largest collection.

Source: The Mizzou Impact

Glance Over Past Newsletters (as well as the *Nexus* Newsletter) Online

<http://undergradresearch.missouri.edu/news/monthly%20newsletter>

Visit our website at undergradresearch.missouri.edu to find our newsletter page. It features older issues of *The Connection* as well as issues of *Nexus*, the minority science network's newsletter also produced by the Office of Undergraduate Research. Check out October's issue of *Nexus* to learn about MU alum Brandon Blakey's work in the biotech industry and see pictures of the UMEB class's recent projects!



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with was called “Off-Campus Summer Research Programs for Science Majors: Oh, the Places You Could Go...” on October 16th. Dr. Linda Blockus spoke at the meeting and Gardner’s duties mainly involved introducing the topic and Dr. Blockus, as well as helping Sarah Beyers transport the required material to the presentation room and fielding questions from the few students who stayed after the presentation. Gardner calls the session informative.

With these events, the Office of Undergraduate Research hoped to reach out to students of all disciplines and break any notions that research means something for *only* those engaged in the lab sciences.

“We want to break the stereotype that research is all test tubes and laboratories,” Beyers remarks. “Research is everywhere, and we can all benefit from talking about the different projects people are working on over pizza and hot cocoa!”

Gardner agrees and already has ideas about additional programming for next year. He talks about assessing attendance at different events to prioritize and figure out what should be added and what means the most to undergraduates.

“The undergraduate researchers today are the future biologists, doctors, psychologists, et cetera,” Gardner says. “Research occurs in basically all disciplines and is the key to enhancing our understanding of how something functions, whether it be how elementary kids learn math best or the biochemical pathways of a plant’s immune system.”

Health Sciences Research Day

This year Health Science Research Day is happening on Thursday, November 6th, 2008. All events will be held in the J. Otto Lottes Library Gallery, the adjoining Acuff Auditorium, and the School of Nursing.

* 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Poster Session - Category I – HS Library Gallery (Health Professions Students, Medical Students, Nursing Students and undergraduates)

* 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Poster Session Category II - School of Nursing Atrium (Graduate Students, Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, Medical Fellows, and Residents)

* 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Spurgeon Award Keynote Address - Acuff Auditorium

* 1:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony – Acuff Auditorium

Aldo Leopold,
writer and ecologist,
says...



“Recreational development is a job not of building roads into the lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.”

VOTE!

It's November, which means Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day and all that, but also your civic duty to hit the polls!