SPRING & SUMMER KEY DATES

Writing Abstracts
February 17, 5:00-6:00 PM Bessey Hall, Room 312

UURAF Registration Deadline
February 22, 11:59 PM uuraf.msu.edu/registration

Preparing Poster Presentations
April 1, 5:00-6:00 PM Bessey Hall, Room 106

Preparing Oral Presentations
April 2, 5:00-6:00 PM Bessey Hall, Room 105

Preparing for Success at UURAF
April 8, 5:00-6:00 PM Bessey Hall, Room 106

UURAF 2015 will occur on April 10 at the MSU Union.

UURAF CHANGES
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 660 students presented at the forum.

NEW CATEGORIES
- Anthropology
- Epidemiology & Public Health
- Food Science & Human Nutrition
- Global & Area Studies
- Integrative & Organismal Biology
- Kinesiology
- Neuroscience
- Plant Sciences
- Sociology

Additionally, we eliminated the Health, Food, & Wellness category. Most presentations that fit in this former category could be placed in either Food Science & Human Nutrition and Kinesiology.

REGISTRATION & ABSTRACTS
Student registration opens on January 20 and closes on February 22 at 11:59 PM. Please advise your students on their abstract requirements.

UURAF 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 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.

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.

STUDENT CONFERENCE SUPPORT
The Undergraduate Research Office has limited funding available to support undergraduate students presenting their research at professional conferences or meetings. Criteria include:
- Applicants must be currently enrolled undergraduate students at MSU, who are working towards their undergraduate degree at the time of the conference.
- Undergraduate students must be presenting their research.
- The college or academic department is responsible for completing the necessary travel authorization forms for each student.
- A financial contribution is required from the academic department and/or college. For example, if a student’s cost for a conference is estimated to be $1,000, and if the academic department can contribute $200 and the college can contribute $300, the Undergraduate Research Office will try to provide $500 to match. However, a match is not guaranteed.
- Include a budget of estimated total expenses with each request.

Requests will be considered individually; the funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Students should work with their research advisors to facilitate the process. Send requests to Dr. Korine Wawrzynski at steinke7@msu.edu.

NEWSLETTER FOR MSU FACULTY ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
UR@MSU
Arts and Letters.

DEMOGRAPHICS

More men than women mentor undergraduate researchers. The UR faculty mentor breakdown by gender is 37.5% female and 62.5% male, which is similar to the university’s breakdown by gender of 39% female and 61% male.

FELT COMFORTABLE ASKING THEIR MENTOR

Approximately 64.2% of MSU faculty are part of the tenure system, yet we found that 78% of UR faculty mentors were in the tenure system. 62% (678) of UR faculty mentors were tenured, while 16% (171) were tenure-probation. Only 22% (251) of the UR faculty mentors were continuing status or fixed term faculty.

KEY UURAF DATES

February 22, 11:59 PM Registration closes
April 10, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM UURAF, MSU Union

FACULTY MENTOR RESEARCH

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MENTORING GROUPS VS. INDIVIDUALS

A team has been examining multiple years of survey response data from undergraduate researchers at MSU. As part of their analysis, the team became interested in the nature of faculty-student interactions (a key benefit of undergraduate research experiences to undergraduate participants) and how they might differ based on the structure of the research experience. They sought to answer: can group research experiences provide similarly meaningful faculty-student interactions as conventional, individual research placements?

In fact, when comparing the two experiences, group participants more often reported feeling encouraged to offer their own ideas, and received encouragement to offer their own ideas.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Undergraduate Research Office is working with the Honors College to continue research on faculty mentoring undergraduate researchers. These results are the precursor to a future research study exploring the experiences, challenges, and motivations of faculty mentoring undergraduate researchers.

SUMMER RESEARCH FORUM

Visiting and MSU undergraduate students conducting 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 22, 2015 in the Breslin Center Concourse.

VETRENCE TRAFFIC

1,277

Number of unique visitors to the site from February to December

6.22

Average number of pages a user viewed per visit

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 or through government agencies, such as:

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

Visit venture.msu.edu for more information and to post a UR opportunity today.