

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

@JOHN JAY

Fall 2014

O.U.R. Summer Research Interns 2014

This summer marked the fourth year that the Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R.) has awarded research internships to allow select students to spend their summer doing scholarly research mentored by a faculty member. These interns gain invaluable, hands-on, research experience. Selected by the O.U.R. advisory board through an extremely competitive application process, these students are paid a \$3,000 stipend. As an additional bonus for all their hard work, the interns even enjoyed a private lunch with Provost Bowers and President Travis (pictured right).

This year, we received the highest number of applications. The advisory board was faced with the difficult



choice of only selecting five students given the quality of the applications. Below is an overview of this year's students and mentors as well as their fascinating summer research projects. We are excited about their progress and we know that we will see more great things from these burgeoning scholars.

Hina Altaf, a Political Science major, spent the summer working with **Professor Susan Kang** (Political Science). Their project examines how ideas regarding international human rights influence corporate social responsibility reporting.

Noticing a significant and growing penal reform movement, **Kerry Bialo**, who is a Criminology major along with **Professor David Green** (both pictured above) of the Sociology Department, researched the influence of the Second Chance Act.

Yajaira Cabrera, majoring in Forensic Psychology, was mentored by **Professor Isabel Martinez** (Latin American and Latina/o Studies). Together, they focused their research on how Dominican mothers and daughters utilize various technologies; specifically, they look at how technology may influence gender socialization during times of separation.

A Criminal Justice major, **Steven Ficurilli**, teamed up with **Professor Joshua Freilich** (Criminal Justice)



to examine the potentially dynamic perceptions of state police agencies regarding terrorism, homeland security and domestic extremism.

Elvira Kirilko, a Forensic Psychology major, spent this summer working with **Professor Jill Grose-Fifer** (Psychology). Together (pictured below), they examined how psychopathic traits affect brain waves, when people are presented with emotional information or stimuli.

We congratulate the summer interns on their research progress. There will be changes to the summer research internships for 2015, but we are excited to announce that the O.U.R. will be sponsoring the program again in 2015. The application deadline will be in mid-March and winners will be announced in mid-April. Professors, if you are interested in working with a student over the summer through the summer research internship, please feel free to contact O.U.R. (see below) to get information about the application and selection process.



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O.U.R. Year in Review, Announces RI Courses

Last year, the Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R.) moved forward with its mission to promote, support, and facilitate undergraduate research at John Jay College. We have worked diligently to continue meeting our program goals, focusing on increasing the number of participants—both faculty and students—accessing O.U.R. services and funds. Our efforts were focused in several areas: (1) Research Week; (2) the O.U.R. Summer Research Internships; and (3) expansion of O.U.R. services to reach a broader range of majors and areas within the College.

Compared to last year, we observed a 75 percent increase in the number of faculty mentoring students who presented their research and creative projects during the 2014 Celebrating Student Research and Creativity Symposium. Also, we were able to expand the poster sessions from just one day to three days this year!

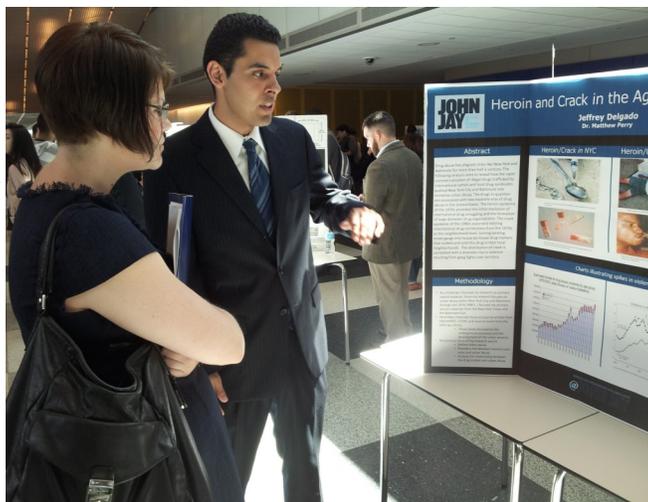
Moreover, the O.U.R. summer research internship continues to be a vibrant area of support for John Jay's developing young scholars; this year, we had an all-time

high number of applicants. Indeed, we saw a 63 percent increase from last year's pool.

O.U.R. also introduced a new competition last year. To generate more research experiences throughout the College, we hosted a competition for faculty to develop and teach a research-intensive version of an existing course. In exchange for one course of reassigned time, winning faculty members are to prepare the course in the spring semester and teach the course in the following fall semester. Last year's winners were **Professor Olivera Jokic** (English) for Literature 347—Women and Revolution as well as **Professor Rebecca Weiss** (Psychology) for Psychology 327—Learning and Memory.

The competition was so successful that CUNY adopted a similar program to inspire and generate even more research experiences throughout the University system.

We look forward to continuing our efforts this year. As always, please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions on ways we can better serve the College.



Some Important Dates/Events

October 15, 2014

Graduate & Professional School Admissions Fair (held in the Gymnasium)

November 5, 2014

Prestigious Fellowship Information Session (See Office of Fellowships and Special Opportunities for more information)

November 6, 2014

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Applications Due

March 11, 2015

Student Research Week Proposals Due

Include title, the abstract, and—if your student wants to be considered for one of the Research Awards—an 800 word description of the project and findings. Details of how to submit will be posted on the O.U.R. homepage in early spring.

March 12, 2015

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Applications Due

April 9, 2015

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Applications Due

April 27 to May 1, 2015

Celebrating Student Research & Creativity Symposium

Common O.U.R. Resources

Poster Printing. We provide free poster printing to students presenting at academic conferences and small supply and equipment grants to students working with full-time faculty on academic-level research projects.

We can now also print posters for students presenting their research during in-class poster sessions. Please see the OUR website for instructions on how to take advantage of the expanded services.

Laptop Loan Program. For those students that assist in fieldwork or have additional work outside of the lab, classroom or office, the O.U.R. has laptops that can be loaned out to any student doing research with a faculty member.

These laptops are already equipped with many of the standard programs used in academic research, including the Microsoft Office package and SPSS. Please visit the website for application materials and instructions.

If you have any additional needs for undergraduate research (e.g., where to find funding sources, links to additional scholarship and grant opportunities), please do not hesitate to contact O.U.R.

We recently updated our website and have posted some additional information.

Research Week 2014

The Celebrating Student Research and Creativity Week, or Research Week, has been and continues to be O.U.R.'s favorite time of year. It is when many of John Jay's young scholars share with all of us their wonderful research projects. Like every year, their research efforts paid off! These students wowed us with entertaining and insightful presentations at poster and panel sessions held throughout the entire week. Their energy and enthusiasm for research was wonderful to witness.

This year, more than 175 students presented their work during Research Week. They were mentored by over 60 faculty members from 16 different departments throughout the College. The variety of disciplines, approaches, and innovative topics created a buzz at the poster sessions. We had so many wonderful students that we had to expand the poster sessions from one to three crazy and intellectually engaging days. We, at



O.U.R., find ourselves amazed once again by the great work by faculty mentors and their students.

To top it all off, we held a competition for the best presentations. The winner for "Best Talk" was **Leah Kaylor**, who was mentored by **Professor Elizabeth Jeglic** (Psychology); the winner for "Best Poster" was **Jakub Gaweda**, mentored by **Professor Matthew Perry** (History). Kudos to these spectacular students and mentors!

O.U.R. is already working on the plans for Research and Creativity Week 2015. Submissions will be due in March. So, get started on your projects now. We look forward to having you participate!

Celebrating Student Research & Creativity Week 2015

April 27 to May 1

Submissions Due March 11, 2015

Include title, the abstract, and—if your student wants to be considered for one of the Research Awards—an 800 word description of the project and findings.

Announcing: Research Intensive Courses

From our conversations with faculty, students and staff, the Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R.) felt the need to further promote research experiences in the classroom. While there are programs and majors that offer or have integrated undergraduate research experiences throughout their curriculums, there can always be more classes that work to teach, develop, and refine research skills. As a result, O.U.R. recently introduced the new Research Intensive designations for sections of preexisting courses.

Specifically, Research Intensive (RI) sections are courses where over half of the required assignments are devoted to students developing research skills and/or conducting, as well as presenting, research and findings in a manner appropriate to the discipline. These courses will generally be upper-level and aim for students to create a scholarly or creative project and communicate knowledge from that project. In addition students must:

- articulate and refine a scholarly question
- gather evidence appropriate to the question
- apply scholarly conventions during scholarly inquiry and in reporting research
- assess the validity of key assumptions and evidence

- situate the scholarly inquiry within a broader context

We are excited that RI courses can now offer our students additional training in research skills and development, helping to make them more competitive in a global economy. Moreover, we feel that RI courses will serve an important pedagogical goal. With more research courses especially at the 300-level, programs and departments can now reinforce research skills learned in earlier courses and prepare students for subsequent courses, particularly the capstone experiences.

For faculty, the incentives/benefits of offering RI courses include: (1) sections are capped at 25 students; and (2) sections will be labeled "Research Intensive," which may draw students interested in different learning approaches and classroom experiences.

Also to help generate more RI sections, O.U.R. sponsors an annual competition for RI course proposals. Last year, we rolled out this new incentive, where instructors for the winning proposals received a course release to prepare and plan their RI section. This year, applications are due to O.U.R. by November 21. Details regarding this competition as well as general information on how you can teach an RI section can be found on the O.U.R. website or by contacting us at O.U.R.

Outstanding Scholar and Mentor Spotlight

At John Jay College, we continue to recognize the value of undergraduate mentoring through research and scholarly productivity. Last year's winner of the Outstanding Scholarly Mentoring Award, **Professor Jason Rauceo** (Sciences), serves as a shining example of how successful faculty can be at providing learning experiences that combine mentoring, teaching and academic research.

For the last four years, Professor Rauceo (right) has worked individually with 9 undergraduates here at John Jay. Professor Rauceo states, "My primary reasons to mentor undergraduates are to: (1) prepare students to be successful in graduate or professional programs in the STEM fields; (2) promote diversity in biomedical research; and (3) hopefully, be a role model for underrepresented minorities that want to pursue a career in science."

He has provided his students the opportunity to work on highly successful scholarly research projects that have led to publications, conference papers, and presentations. When asked what is the most rewarding part of mentoring students in research, Professor Rauceo states, "The most rewarding part is knowing that

they are continuing on to the next step in their scientific journey, and the foundation built during their tenure in the lab had a positive impact."

We hope many more professors will follow Professor



Rauceo's lead, providing research opportunities to our undergraduates. Investing in the next generation of young scholars can seem daunting at first. "I think a major misconception is that undergraduates are not focused and lack the discipline to make a meaningful contribution on a project," Professor Rauceo says. "I think that by investing time with the students at the bench or in the office (especially during the summer and winter breaks) and setting achievable goals such as presenting their research findings at conferences or attending summer research internships at major research institutions shows that I am committed to their success. Also, I provide free lunch on many occasions which never hurts."

The time, effort, and of course free lunch has worked. For example, two of Professor Rauceo's students have gone on to earn prestigious fellowships at the Scripps Institute at the University of California, San Diego and University of St. Louis. We salute you, Professor Rauceo.

Since 2007, the Program for Research Initiatives for Science and Math (PRISM) has provided opportunities for undergraduate researchers in the Forensic Science and Computer Information Systems ma-

jors. Last year, over 40 students participated in research experiences with faculty members. Of 22 PRISM students that graduated last May, 10 were accepted to graduate programs

(six belong to minority groups underrepresented in STEM, and seven are female). Of these, five went on to Ph.D. programs in STEM, while the rest went on to masters programs ranging from Chemistry to Criminalistics and Nursing. Further, last year five PRISM alumni were accepted to



PRISM

at John Jay

CUNY Justice Academy (CJA) who are majoring in Forensic Science. We meet CJA students at all stages of their study by engaging them in lectures, field trips, workshops,

and lab tours, as early on as their first semesters of study at their community colleges. Last year, the program supported the research of CJA students enrolled at three of the partner community colleges. Additionally, our

PRISM cohort at John Jay included seven students who transitioned to John Jay through the CJA. It was a milestone year as PRISM's first two CJA recruits graduated, with one moving on to pursue her Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Last spring, Dr. Edgardo Sanabria-Valentín joined PRISM as Program Coordinator and Pre-Professional Advisor for the John Jay PRISM Students. He also serves as Pre-Health Careers Advisor to the whole John Jay Community. In this role he will be advising all students throughout John Jay interested in pursuing post-graduate degrees in medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, dentistry, etc.

