
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

@JOHN JAY

Fall 2012

The 2012 O.U.R. Summer Research Scholars

This summer marks the second year that the Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R.) has awarded research internships to allow a few select students to spend their summer doing scholarly research mentored by a faculty mentor. These interns gain invaluable, hands-on experience and present their research to the other summer undergraduate scholars. 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. Below is a summary of this year's students and their fascinating summer research projects.

Kelley Burke (left), a Political Science major, spent the summer working with **Professor Samantha Majic** (Political Science). These two scholars examined programs designed to educate solicitors of prostitution, alerting men of the consequences of their actions in lieu of criminal prosecution.



John Cusick (right) is a Humanities and Justice major. Along with **Professor Dara Byrne** (Communication and Theatre Arts), he explores the potential legal and ethical implications of bullying in social media through an examination of the current and still-developing case law.

Majoring in Forensic Psychology, **Ronald Curtis** (right) worked with **Professor Daryl Wout** (Psychology). The project focuses on the role of social identity threat in the interactions between heterosexual and homosexual individuals.

An English major as well as a McNair scholar, **Kamar Jay Foster** (right), worked with **Professors Isaac Malki** (Africana Studies) and **Toy-Fung Tung** (English). Through a study of Francophone Caribbean poets and Anglophone African writers, they focused on the historical contexts that led to successful appropriations of the colonizers' languages.



Abby Lynn Mulay (left), another Forensic Psychology major, spent this summer working on two projects with **Professor Phillip Yanos**. The first examines the role of peer-run services on mental health recovery and the second focuses on the multiple

stigmas associated with individuals with recent histories in New York's Mental Health Courts.

We are excited to announce that the O.U.R. will be sponsoring the summer research internship again in 2013, with an application deadline in mid-March and winners announced in early April. Each year, O.U.R. has not only seen an increase in applications, but also an increase in the diversity of disciplines, departments and programs working with John Jay undergraduates. 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. (information below) to get information about the application and selection process.

The Office of Undergraduate Research
08.66 — New Building
646-557-4625

www.jjay.cuny.edu/undergraduateresearch
www.facebook.com/JJCOUR

O.U.R. New Home: Check out our new digs!

After sharing with the PRISM program for our first three semesters, the O.U.R. has now moved into its own space in the new building. Our new office is in room **08.66** in the new building and greatly expands our ability to provide resources for undergraduate research. As we begin to stretch out our legs in the New Building, we thought we would take a minute to remind you of the services that O.U.R. can provide to undergraduates and their faculty mentors.

The new O.U.R. facility has a nice meeting space that can be used for any faculty-student research need. The space can accommodate 10-12 people comfortably, has a computer workstation and wall projector, a white board, and is available to faculty and students in need of a comfortable space to hold meetings. The O.U.R. meeting space can be reserved by contacting us at OUR@jjay.cuny.edu.

In addition, the O.U.R. poster printer is also housed in this space and is always available to undergraduate students working with a faculty member. Printing research posters can often be expensive; so, why not print it at

O.U.R.? This is especially important for undergraduates participating in Student Research Week or at an academic conference. Please visit the O.U.R. website for specific instructions and helpful tips on how to get posters printed at the O.U.R. office.

For those students that assist in fieldwork or have additional work outside of the lab, classroom or office, the O.U.R. also houses student 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. If students are interested in using one of these laptops over the course of a semester, 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 and ask O.U.R. We also have some additional information posted on the O.U.R. website.

Some Important Dates/Events

November 26

Undergraduate Research and Travel Scholarship Applications Due

Early-Spring 2013

Faculty Development Workshop for Undergraduate Research and Mentoring, sponsored by O.U.R.

Mid-Spring 2013

Student Research Week Proposals Due

We encourage professors to start the process of identifying students that may be potential participants at Student Research Week now. Work with them to improve and advance their research projects over the spring semester via independent study or as a research assistant on a related project. We believe the process of preparing for presenting at Research Week can be a rewarding and enriching experience for both the instructor and the student! If you need tips or information, please feel free to contact O.U.R. or visit the O.U.R. website under the Faculty tab. The application process for student presentations will begin mid-Spring.

Undergraduate Research and Travel Scholarship Applications Due

Late-Spring 2013

Summer Research Internship Applications Due

Student Research Week *The O.U.R. proposes a new model*

The Celebrating Student Research and Creativity Symposium is one of the biggest events of the year and involves hundreds of students presenting their work. The college has mounted this week-long event three years in a row and it has succeeded in setting the campus abuzz with the energy and enthusiasm of our young scholars. Each year, CUNY administrators have visited the campus during this event and John Jay is routinely held up as a model to the other senior colleges for engaging the entire campus in the celebration of student scholarly work.

This year, the O.U.R., led by Nathan Lents (Sciences), Maxwell Mak (Political Science), and Deryn Strange (Psychology) are reorganizing this symposium with a new organizational structure. "Why fix what isn't broken?" you might ask. The vision for the new organizational structure for research week is to get faculty more involved in the planning, structure, and content of the events.

Instead of central planning and organization, the O.U.R. will tap faculty members to serve as "panel chairs" for each session of the symposium. Each panel chair will then recruit faculty to help organize the session and its structure, recruit faculty and student participation, and decide which student presentations will be selected for an oral presentation, which for posters, and so forth. The idea is to organize the symposium like an academic conference, mixing a few large plenary sessions with more specific panel sessions.

If you would like to serve as a panel chair or on the committee assisting a panel chair, please write to OUR@jjay.cuny.edu. We also welcome any suggestions, comments, or questions regarding the new format.

Congratulations to *OUR* Outstanding Mentors

The O.U.R. is very pleased to congratulate Professors **Richard Perez** (English) and **Jill Grose-Fifer** (Psychology) as the winners of this year's Outstanding Scholarly Mentoring Awards. The 2012 competition was intensely competitive. The selection committee took two rounds of voting just to narrow the field down to nine very deserving finalists from the many applications, and three rounds of discussion and two more rounds of voting to decide on the winners. Congratulations to Professors Perez and Grose-Fifer!

Professor Perez, who is in his fifth year here at John Jay College, has already earned a reputation for being a challenging and demanding educator, a strong supporter and a nurturing mentor to his students. Offering his students ample opportunities to grow and develop, Professor Perez has spent countless hours working with students individually, helping



them strive for and attain success beyond the walls of John Jay. For example, his colleagues in the English Department attribute the success (admitted to multiple doctoral programs with full scholarships) of one of the English major's first graduates this year to the wonderful, direct mentorship of Professor Perez!

Since establishing her cognitive neuroscience lab in the Fall of 2009, Professor Grose-Fifer, formally combined her two passions—teaching and research, providing John Jay undergraduates with the opportunity to engage in research and gain invaluable first-hand experience. She has not only exposed these students to the work of academics, but also given each of them a plethora of professional opportunities, including conference papers and publications. Also, many of her students have also continued their success as students in various masters and doctoral programs.



Eye-Witnessing Student Success in Research *The Laboratory of Professor Margaret Bull-Kovera*

Now more than ever, research skills and opportunities are key contributors to student success and retention. And, research experience has become critical in making applicants competitive in the graduate admissions process for many disciplines. Since 2004, **Professor Margaret Bull-Kovera**, a winner of the Distinguished Teaching Prize in 2010, has provided John Jay College undergraduates with incredible opportunities to gain first-hand experience and has proven that our students are more than capable of cutting-edge academic research.

Professor Bull-Kovera's undergraduates work as research assistants on various projects including the biases in jury selection and decision-making, evaluations of scientific evidence and testimony, as well as the impact of blind line-up administration in eye-witness identification. Almost all of the projects in the lab have been funded by the National Science Foundation and have produced many publications.

Navila Abbas, Ricardo Almonte, Joseph DeLuca, Nikoleta Despondova, Megan Maries Gilmartin, Tricia Rakowski, Lina Maria Toro, and Omonike Williams are the current undergraduates in the lab, gaining knowledge and skills of experimental methodology, design and execution, content

analysis and coding, and research presentation and documentation. **Krystal Almeida** and **Vladimir Korobeynikov**, who were former John Jay undergraduates and research assistants, are currently enrolled in the M.A. program and continue working in the Bull-Kovera lab. These students are following a long line of previous research assistants that have continued their success, pursuing higher degrees at graduate programs across the country.

While the first-hand experience and the skills gained are tangible benefits of undergraduate research, the intangibles

are also important, according to many of the undergraduates in the lab. Students expressed their appreciation of having doctoral students as their direct



supervisors in the lab, exposing these students to the tasks, work and expectations that will come in graduate school.

Along with Professor Bull-Kovera, these Ph.D. candidates provide individual mentorship and guidance so that these students are well-informed and well-prepared for life, work, and school beyond the walls of John Jay College. Offering advice to those just beginning their research assistantships, **Jara Rodriguez**, a recent John Jay graduate working in the lab, said, "Be yourself. It's [research experience] what you make of it." Under the guidance of Professor Bull-Kovera, all of her students are making the best of the opportunities her lab provides!

OUR Students Presenting, Publishing, etc.

Publications:

Janine Corbin, Jessica Armstrong, and Sean Prober (all John Jay College graduates who majored in Psychology) coauthored an article with Professor William Gottdiener (Psychology), entitled *"Prevalence of substance abuse treatment education in American Psychological Association accredited clinical and counseling psychology doctoral programs"* in [Addiction Research and Theory](#).

Joseph DeLuca (Forensic Psychology), who was mentored by Professor Richard Ocejó (Sociology), authored a publication entitled *"Street Vendors in the Global City: Exploring Genoa's Informal Economy"* in [The Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography](#) in 2012.

Elaan Lukaszewicz, Wan Kong, and Stephanie Watson (all Forensic Science) coauthored a paper with Professor Elise Champell (Sciences) entitled "Synthesis of a major mitomycin C DNA adduct via a triaminomitosene" in [Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters](#) in 2012.

Nazia Mahmood (Forensic Science) coauthored an article with Professors Nicolas Petracó and Yi He (both Sciences) entitled *"Elemental fingerprints profile of beer samples constructed using fourteen elements determined by inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (ICP-MS): Multivariation analysis and potential application to forensic sample comparison"* in [Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry](#) in 2012.

John Nemeth and Mohanram Bassit (both Forensic Science) coauthored an article with Professor Ekaterina Korobkova (Sciences) entitled *"Reactive metabolites of desipramine and clomipramine: The kinetics of formation and reactivity with DNA,"* which was published in [Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry](#) in 2012.

William Ng and Alicia Williams (both Forensic Science) coauthored an article with Professor Ekaterina Korobkova (Sciences) entitled *"In-vitro studies of DNA damage caused by tricyclic antidepressants: a role of peroxidase in side effects of the drugs"* in [Chemistry Research in Toxicology](#) in 2012.

Christopher Pedigo (Forensic Science) coauthored an article with Professor Yi He (Sciences) entitled *"Bioaccessibility of arsenic in various types of rice in an in vitro gastrointestinal fluid system"* in the [Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part B](#) in 2012.

Leonid Sukala (Forensic Science) coauthored a publication with Professor Ekaterina Korobkova (Sciences) entitled *"Small molecules targeting mitochondria: applications for cancer and neurodegenerative disease therapeutics"* in [Chemistry and Biology Interface](#) in 2012.

Alicia Williams, Baibhav Rawal, and Ankit Bhatta (all Forensic Science) coauthored a paper with Professor Ekaterina Korobkova (Sciences) entitled *"Determination of the drug-DNA binding modes using fluorescence-based assays"* in [Analytical Biochemistry](#) in 2012.

Presentations:

Riswan Ali Raja (Political Science) gave an oral presentation coauthored by Professor Susan Kang (Political Science) entitled *Governing Corporate Responsibility: Assessing MNC Voluntary Obligations Under the Global Compact* at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. Conference participation was partially sponsored by the **Young Scholar Award**.

Tamykah Anthony (Forensic Science), mentored by Nathan Lents (Sciences), won a presentation award in the category of Physiology for her poster entitled, "Exploring the Mechanism of How Zinc Supplements Reduce the Detection of THC in Urine" at the 2012 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in San Jose, CA.

Marco Carvajal (Political Science) gave an oral presentation coauthored by Professors Maxwell Mak and Jennifer Rutledge (both Political Science) entitled *The Diffusion of Therapeutic Jurisprudence* at the 2012 Biennial John Jay International Conference, New York, NY.

Emily Diaz and Sheneeka Saul (both Forensic Psychology) gave a presentation coauthored by Professor Sung-suk Violet Yu (Criminal Justice) entitled *Challenges to successful*

reentry: In their own words at the 2012 Biennial John Jay International Conference, New York, NY.

Daniel Golebiewski (Political Science), who was mentored by Professor Michael Pfeifer (History), gave an oral presentation entitled *Rioting and Social Media in the Comparative Cultural Contexts: Philadelphia and London* at the 2012 Biennial John Jay International Conference, New York, NY.

Eugene Gonzalez-Lopez (Forensic Science) gave a poster presentation coauthored by Professor Shu-Yuan Cheng (Sciences) entitled *The role of microtubule on dithiocarbamate cytotoxicity* at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology, San Francisco, CA.

Antoine Jones (Political Science), mentored by Professor Kwando Kinshasa (African Studies), gave an oral presentation entitled *The Digital Zeitgeist: Online Social Networks and the Exigencies of Telematic Activism* at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. Conference participation was partially sponsored by the **Young Scholar Award**.

Richard Piszczatowski (Forensic Science) gave an oral presentation coauthored by Professor Nathan Lents entitled *MZF-1 Regulates the CTGF Gene in the Hematopoietic Compartment* at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, San Diego, CA.

Anna Stoll (Forensic Science) gave a poster presentation coauthored by Professor Shu-Yuan Cheng (Sciences) entitled *Role of alpha-synuclein and its mutants on dithiocarbamates cytotoxicity* at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, San Diego, CA.

Cindi-Ann Williams (Forensic Science) gave a poster presentation entitled *Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy: An Investigation of IL-12p70 Production and Maturation in Dendritic Cells* at the American Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, St. Louis, MO.

Cindi-Ann Williams (Forensic Science) gave a poster presentation coauthored by Professor Shu-Yuan Cheng (Sciences) entitled *Maneb and mancozeb activate NF kappa B signaling pathway* at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology, San Francisco, CA.

Undergraduate Research Scholarships:

Nicholas Bonomo (Forensic Psychology), *Fluency and Juror Decision-making*

Cassandra Bragg (Forensic Psychology), *College Student's Perceptions of Risky Driving Behaviors and Current Alcohol Use History*

Marco Carvajal (Political Science), *Emergence of Problem Solving Courts*

Nikoleta Despodova (Forensic Psychology), *Homosexuality is Not on Trial: Factors Affecting Jury Decision Making in Same-Sex Intimate Partner Sexual Violence*

Paulina Dziurski (Legal Studies), *Correctional Incident Database of Collective Violence, Homicides, Hate Crimes, and Escapes Project*

Caroline Frumkin (Forensic Psychology), *The Role of Social Influence in Memory for Trauma*

Daniel Golebiewski (Political Science), *Rioting and Social Media in the Comparative Cultural Contexts*

Antoine Jones (Political Science), *The Digital Zeitgeist*

Jamila Khan (Criminology), *Program Evaluation and Fit of Services Provided to Victims of Sexual Trafficking of Asian Women in New York City*

Christine Leu (Humanities and Justice), *Minority Communities and Access to the Legal Profession*

Lillian Pena (Forensic Psychology), *Relationship between Neural Correlates of Feedback Processing and Risk Taking in Adolescents*

Jennifer Raj (Forensic Psychology), *The Role of Social Influence in Memory for Trauma*

Stephanie Rojas (English), *Mommie Dearest: the Impact of Mother-Daughter Relationships on Latina Women's Intimacy, Resiliency, and Achievement*

Sean Whetstone (English), *Cultural Historiography in the Museum: Subject(ive) Positions on African American History and Culture*

Chassitty Whitman (Forensic Psychology), *Personality and Facebook Use*

