



Associate Johanna Guthrie displaying an artifact.

URCA

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2010

Program Assessment Data:

98% of student and faculty participants rated their URCA experience as Outstanding or Good.

98% of student participants said they would recommend URCA to another student.

For More Information:

<http://www.siu.edu/urca>
 Dr. Laura Pawlow
 lpawlow@siue.edu
 615-650-2608

What is URCA?

URCA is a program designed to get undergraduate students more involved in research and creative activities. There are two ways in which students can participate in URCA: as Associates and as Assistants.

Associates: These are year-long positions in which a student designs his or her own research or creative activity project and then works with a mentor to see it through. Associates are required to attend monthly meetings and to present their scholarly work at the Spring Symposium. Associates earn a stipend and can also receive money for project-related equipment and travel. Typically 20-30 students are accepted into this program each year.

Assistants: These are semester-long positions in which students assist faculty with their research or creative activities. Assistants are not required to attend monthly meetings or present their work. Up to 80 students each semester may receive a stipend for being Assistants; however, each semester several students also participate as unpaid Assistants. It is also possible for Assistants to earn course credit for their participation.

URCA Assistant Program: Inaugural Year Data

Participation: The URCA Assistant Program started in the Fall of 2009. This Fall marks our third semester, and participation levels suggest the program is popular with students and faculty alike.

Semester	Faculty*	Student Applications	Funded Students	Volunteer Students	Total Student Participation
Fall 2009	63 (23 disciplines)	327	80	50	130
Spring 2010	84 (27 disciplines)	294	84	75	159
Fall 2010	82 (26 disciplines)	338	82	52	134

* Currently, approximately 20% of eligible faculty are participating!

Benchmarks of Success:

- Since the Assistant program began 1 year ago, Assistants have been co-authors on **41** professional presentations!
- Last year's Associate class of 22 students had 20 presentations or exhibitions
 - 4 of these won awards at their various venues
 - 3 students have "in press" publications
- URCA work has been presented at the annual meetings of the:
 - National American Chemical Society
 - Society for Personality and Social Psychology
 - Society for American Archaeology
 - Midwest American Society of Plant Biologists
 - Midwest Political Science Association



URCA

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2010

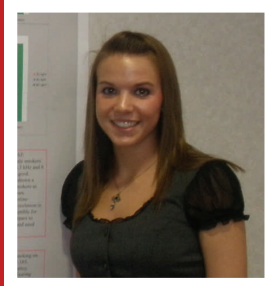


Featured Associate: Nathanial Dell (Philosophy)

Dr. Matthew Cashen, *Mentor*

Nathan was recently named the SIUE Lincoln Academy Student Laureate! Each year, The Lincoln Academy of Illinois honors outstanding seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities. According to their website, "The Lincoln Academy of Illinois is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, and self-perpetuating corporation established in 1964 to recognize the outstanding contributions made by living Illinois citizens, whether by birth or by residence, toward the social, cultural, and technological progress of mankind and thereby to encourage greater dedication to such progress by all citizens of Illinois." Nathan is also the Vice President of Phi Sigma Tau, and recently presented a paper titled, "The Dignity of Self and Others" at the SIUE Undergraduate Philosophy conference.

Congratulations, Nathan!



Featured Assistant: Rebecca Howard (Special Education & Communication Disorders)

Dr. T.K. Parthasarathy, *Mentor*

Congratulations to Rebecca, whose work has been accepted at the annual meeting of the American Speech Language Hearing Association this November in Philadelphia. Rebecca's poster is titled, "Effects of Cigarette Smoking on Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions in Male and Female Adult Subjects."



Featured Mentor: Dr. Kurt Schulz (Biological Sciences)

Dr. Schulz's Assistant, Sabrina Ashbaker, has this to say, "Dr. Schulz is an absolutely wonderful mentor who has supported me from the beginning; he is awesome and I'm learning so much! He's always checking in with me to see how I'm doing and keeps me from freaking out when deer eat sections of my project!" [Sabrina is working on a project examining pollination rate on fruit production; clearly the deer are enjoying the project as much as she is!]