

## URCA Student Leads International Film Effort

URCA Assistant James Moss has received some well-deserved praise for the work he is completing with his URCA Mentor, Dr. Mark Poepsel, an Assistant Professor of Mass Communications.

James has been using globally available resources to produce a Nigerian screenwriter's short-film entitled, "Get Up, Get Out." The local media outlet Riverbender sung the praises of James and Dr. Poepsel, describing the film as a "public service announcement of sorts, denouncing armchair activism and raising awareness of the devastating effects of pollution."

Dr. Poepsel spoke about the significance of URCA Assistantships and the opportunities they present to students: "We are excited about this project, and it wouldn't be possible without URCA. Through his URCA Assistantship, James' academic career has been accelerated. He's being exposed to research as a sophomore and is much farther in his learning."

James is a sophomore at SIUE pursuing degrees in Mass Communications and Applied Communication Studies. He had this to say about his experience as an URCA Assistant: "This project is broadening my perspective and opening my eyes to the many ways my professional career can go after graduation."



*Photo Credit: RiverBender.com*

### 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. Only a maximum of 10 students are accepted into this program each year.

### Assistants:

These are semester-long positions in which students assist with faculty led research or creative activities. Up to 80 students each semester 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.

### Featured Associate:

Jacquelin Smith Koehne  
*Mentor: Dr. Bryan Smith,*



For her URCA project entitled “Compensatory Mechanisms to Exercise Induced Energy Deficit,” Jacquelin is investigating two current theories about why people don’t lose weight when they begin an exercise program. According to Jacquelin, “We believe that people are either too sedentary after exercise or that they overcompensate by eating too much.” In an effort to test her hypotheses, Jacquelin has developed a 4-week program for participants to complete. “It’s very easy, they just get to walk on a treadmill for either 200 or 400 kcals. Once that’s over they are given an ActiPal, a very advanced fitness tracker, to wear for the next 24 hours. Hopefully once everything is done, we will be able to identify which of the two theories seems to be the most accurate.”

Upon graduation Jacquelin will be attending the Master’s of Exercise Physiology program here at SIUE. Jacquelin says that by “being an URCA Associate I have had the greatest opportunity to interact with professors and staff within my department.

They have taught me so much when it comes to working in the lab and how everything works. This project has been a great opportunity to introduce myself to the field of research.”

### Publications &

### Presentations

Congratulations to Dr. Justin Sutters and his former URCA Assistant **Keirsten Savering** on their recent publication: “Differing Realities: The Contemporary Graphic Art of Daniel Guzman” in *Arts and Activities* magazine.

Dr. Sutters is an Assistant Professor of Art Education in the Art and Design Department. Keirsten Savering, who is listed as the second author of the publication, served as Dr. Sutter’s URCA Assistant in the spring of 2014.

A digital copy of the manuscript can be found at [artsandactivities.com](http://artsandactivities.com)

### Featured Assistant: **Luke Revelt**

*Mentor: Dr. Darron Luesse, Biological Sciences*

For the past three semesters Luke has been working as an URCA Assistant with Dr. Darron Luesse, analyzing individual plant gene mutations. Upon graduation Luke will attend the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. Luke had this to say about his experience of being an URCA Assistant: “Being an URCA Assistant has allowed me the chance to experience research early on in my academic career to help me confirm my interests. The past year and a half has been a lot of fun and I plan to pursue research while in dental school. Being an URCA Assistant has also allowed me to understand the steps involved in conducting research and how to design projects to go about achieving research goals.”

### Outcomes from Previous URCA Work

Congratulations to Dr. Min Liu and her former URCA Assistant, Laurel Servies, on being published in the *Atlantic Journal of Communications*. The manuscript entitled “From Virginia Tech to Seattle Pacific U: An Exploratory Study of Perceptions Regarding Risk and Crisis Preparedness Among University Employees” takes into account tragic incidents like the 2007 Virginia Tech campus shooting and the 2014 Seattle Pacific University shooting while examining the perceptions of university employees regarding risk and crisis preparedness.