# What is URCA?

URCA is a program designed to get undergraduate students more involved in research and creative activities.



#### Associate

Year-long positions in which a student <u>designs his/her own research or</u> <u>creative activity project</u> and then works with a mentor to see it through.

Required to attend monthly meetings and to present their scholarly work at the Spring Symposium.

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.

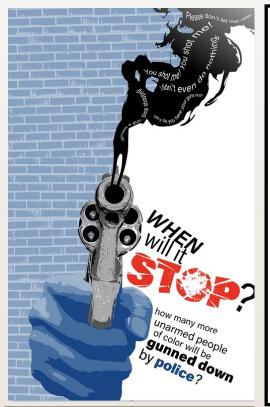
### Assistant

Semester-long positions in which students <u>assist faculty with their</u> research or creative activities.

Not required to attend monthly meetings or present their work.

Up to 90 students each semester may receive a stipend; however, each semester several students also participate as unpaid Assistants.

Possible to earn course credit for participation.



**Title: Dying Breaths** 

Mentor: Professor Rodrick Whetstone Department: Art and Design

Assistant Professor, Rodrick Whetstone, has been a part of the URCA program for many semesters now and states that the program has always kept him on his toes when it comes to research. He states he is "very fortunate to have Allison Schwartz and Alison McMahon as his URCA assistants. They are both doing great!" In fact, Allison Schwartz won the Spring 2024 URCA Creative Assistants of the Semester Award! Alison McMahon joined the team Spring of 2024 and "brings an organizational component to the group. This has been instrumental in the completion of parts of my research" states Professor Whetstone.

Throughout the newsletter are projects Professor Whetstone, Allison Schwartz, and Alison McMahon have been working on!

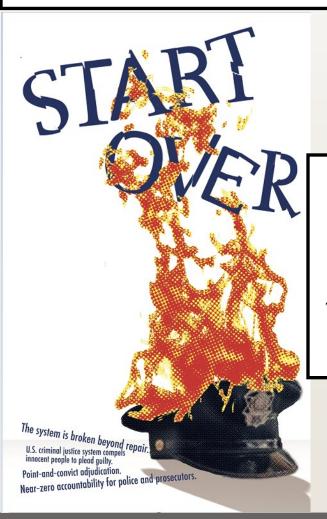
## URCA Assistant: Alison McMahon

For the Digital Art URCA project, Alison is a Project Manager who helps keep the projects on-track and communicates weekly objectives based on the gallery date and location Professor Whetstone establishes. She was interested in this URCA project to see how her skill set would transfer since she's had a 20-year military career in IT project management and is new to Art and Design. She is mostly interested in how artists manage their time and professional projects. Her favorite part of the project is "lightening the artist's mental workload associated with project planning and, in turn, enabling them to stay more focused on the creative processes throughout the project."

Outside of URCA, she collaborates with another student on campus to co-chair Sculptors At Wagner (SAW) which is an organization aimed to further the sculpture community in Edwardsville and surrounding areas this Fall. After graduation, she plans to build her own artistic practice!

## **URCA Assistant:** Allison Schwartz

Allison has helped Professor Whetstone for many semesters now and has played an active role in helping with ideas and research for their digital art. Due to her attention to detail and ability to generate ideas, Professor Whetstone has been able to build stronger research. In fact, a rough sketch Allison provided has now been chosen to be in an upcoming art show at Harris Stowe State University. Allision stays very busy as a full-time student, URCA Assistant, and also working 3 jobs! Please read more about Allison here.



Title: Start Over

(left)

Title: Thin Blue Line

(right)

