



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Center for Undergraduate Research

Discover | Create | Inspire

Fall 2009

From the Director

Welcome back Students, Faculty, & Staff,

As we begin another fall semester, the Center for Undergraduate Research would like to provide you with updates and program highlights from this summer and for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Looking back this summer, The Center hosted a series of events at Texas Tech to promote undergraduate research and strengthen community partnerships with over 500 student visitors! Through these events students learned about the importance of undergraduate research from groups representing the National Hispanic Institute, the TTU Summer Institute, Shake Hands With Your Future, Run on the Wind, Plains Bridges Undergraduate Research Week, and the Welch Scholars Program, along with many ice cream socials hosted for IDEAL.

New this fall, we have designed an online registration system to allow students the opportunity to register with The Center. This system will allow The Center to track undergraduate research projects across campus and provide valuable updates to students. Faculty may also register any undergraduate research positions they would like to fill and stay in tuned to Center updates. Please encourage your students and faculty to register at undergraduateresearch.ttu.edu

The Center looks forward to hosting our semester "Meeting of the Minds" luncheons designed to create a dialogue among faculty and staff at TTU. Come join us September 21st for lunch. Beginning this fall we will host a Library Workshop series for students along with information sessions to encourage participation in undergraduate research. Please view our upcoming events section for details and visit our website throughout the semester.

In addition, we would like to welcome our 2009-2010 CUR Advisory Committee Members. They will assist The Center in growing undergraduate research initiatives across TTU this year. Welcome CUR Advisory Committee Members!

- Martha Hise, Director
IDEAL
- Laura Heinz, Associate Librarian
University Library
- Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky, Assistant Professor
Human Development & Family Studies
- Dr. Jaclyn Canas, Assistant Professor / Director
Institute of Environmental & Human Health / Plains Bridges
- Julie Isom, Associate Director
TTU/HHMI, CISER
- Dr. Richard Verrone, Unit Coordinator
Honors College URF
- Shannon Samson, Section Coordinator
Graduate School

Wishing you all the best this fall semester!

Jeannie Diaz
Director, Center for Undergraduate Research
jeannie.diaz@ttu.edu



Jeannie Diaz
Director

CUR Upcoming Events Fall 2009

undergraduateresearch.ttu.edu

Meeting of the Minds Luncheon

9/21/09 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Admin #341

Advisory Committee Meetings

September, October, November

Library Workshop Series

New this fall, the Center will host a workshop series for undergrads in coordination with the Library. Encourage your students to attend!

- 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28

SACNAS Conference

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans in Science

- 10/15-10/18/09
- Dallas, TX
- <http://www.sacnas.org>

Undergraduate Research Week

Students, prepare this fall to present your research next spring to the TTU community. Oral and poster presentations available

- March 29 – April 1, 2009
- Texas Tech University
Student Union Building

We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you are working on! Provide us with updates, news, or ideas for newsletter articles.



Email
cur@ttu.edu
with details.

The Center for Undergraduate Research

Council on Undergraduate Research
[http:// www.cur.org](http://www.cur.org)

National Conference on Undergraduate Research
<http:// www.ncur.org>

Become a fan on Facebook!
<http:// www.facebook.com>

(Texas Tech University Center for Undergraduate Research)

What is Undergraduate Research?

“An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.”

As defined by the Council for Undergraduate Research

How can the Center for Undergraduate Research assist students?

The Center:

- Provides direction, support, and funding for undergraduate students interested in conducting research with a faculty mentor.
- Hosts educational workshops for students targeted at organizing, conducting, and presenting research, as well as preparing for graduate school, and graduate admission testing.
- Prepares students to present at the TTU Undergraduate Research Conference on the TTU campus. The conference provides an opportunity for undergraduate researchers to present their research to the campus community.
- Recognizes outstanding undergraduate researchers & faculty mentors during an annual spring banquet.
- Creates collaborations and dialogues to support faculty, staff, and organizations engaged in undergraduate research initiatives.



Dezirae Hood conducting research at the TTU library



Allison Spencer working in a lab at the TTUHSC

How have students benefitted from being involved in the Center for Undergraduate Research?

“I have had the opportunity to undertake a research project as an undergraduate in preparation for graduate school. The opportunities and skills I have obtained while being involved in CUR have helped me pave the way for my future studies in social work.”

– Dustin Sides, CUR Scholar

“I have learned valuable information and knowledge, such as being better prepared to go to graduate school and being able to do research in a subject and topic of my choice.”

- Jennifer Tang, CUR Scholar

Summer Projects hosted by the Center

Scholar Column

Dear Students & Faculty,

The Center for Undergraduate Research assisted me in finding an amazing, supportive faculty mentor, and has truly enabled me to see my potential as not only an undergraduate researcher, but as a future successful graduate student. Through my participation in this program, my confidence in myself and my abilities have grown immensely, and I now find it possible to believe that a doctoral education is well within my reach.

Undergraduate research helps students to connect with faculty members on a deeper level as well as helping students to better understand the possibilities within their major. I recommend getting involved in undergraduate research through The Center, because the experience that can be gained from this opportunity is invaluable. Well wishes this fall!

Dezirae M. Hood,
CUR Ambassador
Geography & Women's Studies

Plains Bridges Undergraduate Research Week July 12-17, 2009
Students from South Plains College visited the Texas Tech campus for an Undergraduate Research Week.

Students participated in workshops, lab research, and other events designed to introduce the students to Texas Tech University and the benefits of conducting undergraduate research.



Plains Bridges participants

National Hispanic Institute Southwest Great Debate

July 9-12, 2009

The NHI Great Debate provided high school freshmen the opportunity to test and improve their written and verbal communication skills through organized discussions and debates about issues that impact today's Latino community. More than 100 high school freshmen attended the debate at TTU.



National Hispanic Institute Southwest Great Debate



Youth Corp Luncheon



Welch Scholar Ice Cream Social

Meet our staff!



Dr. Juan Muñoz
Vice President of Institutional
Diversity, Equity, and
Community Engagement and
Associate Vice Provost for
Faculty and Undergraduate
Academic Affairs



Jeannie Diaz
Director



Denise Hinojosa - Lopez
Unit Coordinator

*We look forward to
working with you during
the fall semester!*



Kaylyn Cummings
Website Coordinator



Dezirae Hood
Student Assistant

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