

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to share with you some immediate information on the campus-wide undergraduate research programs [URCAD](#), [\(URA\)](#), [UMBC Review](#), and [summer research opportunities](#). I hope you will encourage students to participate in these programs.

1. Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in University Center and the Fine Arts Building. Typically at least a few students from our department present each year. Last year's student [project abstracts](#) can be found online. I hope we have undergraduates who are currently working on theses or other independent research that can be presented this year. Disseminating the results of completed research is a key professional-development experience for our students. [Online applications](#) are due from students by February 28. All students with mentor support for presenting their work can participate in URCAD.

2. The Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) program allows students to apply for up to \$1,500 in funding to support their independent research this summer and/or during the upcoming academic year. This would be ideal for a student pursuing a senior or honors thesis. Funding can be used for fees, supplies, travel, or other expenses, as well as to provide a stipend for the student researcher. Two page [applications](#) are due by March 3, 2011. Typically, successful student applicants have close support and advice from a faculty mentor when crafting their proposals. Participation in the URA proposal process gives students valuable experience and preparation for graduate school or work responsibilities in proposal writing.

3. The annual student research journal [UMBC Review](#) includes research or scholarship by students from all UMBC disciplines. Manuscripts are accepted year round. Any manuscripts submitted by September 14th will be considered for this year's edition. About 11 student articles appear in each edition of the *Review*.

4. Summer research opportunities (many paid) can be found [online](#). Applications are often due in February.

It is helpful to our students if all faculty can encourage them to consider these programs. For those faculty who use .ppt in their classes, [these four slides](#) may be appropriate to project for students. For those who use Blackboard, a [packet of information](#) on undergraduate research can be imported in a few clicks. If you would like a flier or other printed material, [Janet McGlynn](#) ([mcglynn@umbc.edu](mailto:mcglynn@umbc.edu), 5-5754) in the Office of Undergraduate Education can provide these.

I can be a resource for our department regarding these programs. You may also contact Janet McGlynn who manages many of the undergraduate research. I look forward to involving more of our students in these programs.