

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT AWARDS (URSA)

### SPRING 2012

**Ashley Burkhart** used her grant to travel to the Consilience Conference April 26-28, 2012 in St. Louis. Ashley was interested in exploring the connections between literary critics and cognitive scientists and what they can teach us about nature in memory in narrative fiction. The conference brought together top researchers in biology, the social sciences, and the humanities to discuss connections among these disciplines. Ashley was sponsored by Ellen McManus, English.

**Sandra Garcia**, a psychology major, was provided with the funds necessary to attend and participate in the 2012 APS (Association for Psychological Science) Annual Convention in Chicago. Sandra will be presenting an undergraduate research poster presentation on the work that she completed for her degree with distinction project. Her research investigated whether individuals primed with empathy would intervene more quickly in a staged, helping situation compared to those that were primed with apathy. The study also looked into whether women were helped more quickly than men in the simulations. Sandra showed that women were helped more quickly than men in a simulation when the participant was primed with apathy. Sandra will be presenting her poster at the conference on May 27, 2012. Sandra was sponsored by Professor Tracy Caldwell.

**Kelly Gavin**, a psychology major, was compensated for the cost of registering and participating in the 24th Annual APS (Association for Psychological Science) Convention, being held in Chicago on May 27, 2012. Kelly will have the chance to share the work that she completed with other students and professionals in the field of psychology. This will also give Kelly the opportunity to learn about other important research currently being conducted, and important topics of study in psychology. Kelly's research focused on participants' beliefs in whether or not their particular learning style was being accommodated for during a short video, and a subsequent questionnaire. Kelly found that her results supported her hypothesis, that if a person believed their learning style was being accommodated for, they would perform better on the multiple-choice questionnaire. Kelly was sponsored by Professor Tracy Caldwell.

**Monika Magierski** was awarded funds to attend the Mood Disorders Conference at Johns Hopkins University, being held on April 24, 2012. The Mood Disorders Conference covers research on the prevention and treatment of conditions such as depression, bi-polar disorder and suicidality. Along with research on these disorders, the conference will also be featuring suicide case studies, including analysis of the attempter and the family of the attempter. The case studies will have a special focus on suicidality and adolescents/young adults, particularly college students. Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, an expert on suicidality, will be speaking at the conference. Monika was sponsored by Professor Jacqueline Elder.

## SUMMER 2011

**Carly Connelly**, a sculpture major, was awarded an URSA to hone her talents in mold making. She hopes to use the funds to make a silicone mold of her piece Convoy that will be long lasting and durable so she can pour a variety of materials into it. She hopes to strengthen her knowledge of mold-making possibilities. Carly was sponsored by Professor Noelle Allen-Wright.

## SPRING 2011

**Bryan Deziel**, a current student of both history and computer science at Dominican, was awarded the costs of registration and travel to attend the 28 th Annual Conference of the Illinois Medieval Association at DePaul University, with the especial intent of attending the session, "Medieval Texts and Modern Technologies." Bryan is a prospective graduate student of library science, with a particular eye towards archiving, the importance of the digital humanities in the future of archiving and libraries. Bryan was sponsored by Dr. David Perry.

**Kaitlin Kimont, Kate Kulpa, Angela Romano and Mary Stroka**, journalism majors, were each awarded \$500 toward attendance and travel fees to attend the annual conference of the College Media Advisers, Inc. (CMA) in New York, March 13-15. The CMA is the primary national organization representing student media, their advisers and staff around the country. *The Dominican Star* is closely associated with the journalism discipline of the CAS Department and a vital learning tool for journalism students. Kaitlin, Kate, Angela and Mary were sponsored by Dr. John Jenks.

**David Kucher**, a chemistry major, was awarded \$500 toward the costs of materials to study the anti-depressive characteristics of St. John's Wort, a flowering plant that grows abundantly in many parts of the world. David is studying the active component, hyperforin, and hypericin and other minor constituents that may play a role in the plant's anti-depressive properties. Dr. J Brent Friesen sponsored David.

**Marissa Martin**, a corporate communications major, was awarded \$500 towards travel and registrations costs for the 2011 Central States Communication Association Undergraduate Research Honors Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Marissa will submit and present her academic paper, "Sister Wives: A Different View of Polygamy?" in addition to attending the conference, and will be able to share her work with other students and experts in the field. Marissa will gain valuable feedback on her work, and will have exposure to other research that can provide valuable insight into other topics in communications. Marissa was sponsored by Prof. Jennifer C. Dunn.

**Mari Pyle**, a clinical psychology major, was awarded \$500 to purchase gift cards which will be used as incentives in a study about seasonal depression and possible cognitive deficits. The incentives will be used to ensure the subjects' participation in the second part of her study, as a critical part of the study is to examine individual differences across two time points (January

and April). Mari was sponsored by Dr. Alisa Beyer.

**Samantha Sanchez**, a double major in photography and journalism, was awarded \$500 toward the costs for attending The Society of Photographic Education 2011 conference entitled "Science, Poetry and the Photographic image." Samantha plans on going into an MFA program following her graduation from Dominican this spring. Samantha was sponsored by Dr. Javier Carmona.

**Christopher Swasko**, a communications major, was awarded \$500 towards travel and registration costs for the 2011 Central States Communication Association Undergraduate Research Honors Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Christopher will submit and present his academic paper, "No Country for Heroes," at the conference, and will be able to gain valuable feedback on his paper from other undergraduate students and experts in the communications field. In addition, Christopher will be able to learn about other research in the field, and may gain insight as to where to apply for graduate school. Christopher was sponsored by Prof. Jennifer C. Dunn.

**Anna Walenski**, a theology major with communication arts and sciences and theater minors, was awarded \$500 towards travel and registration costs for the 2011 Central States Communication Association Undergraduate Research Honors Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Anna will submit and present her academic paper, "The Sons of Anarchy Narrative: Blazing through our Stereotypes of Outlaws," at the conference, and will be able to gain valuable feedback on her paper from other students and experts in the communications field. In addition, Anna will have the opportunity to learn about other research projects and initiatives in the field, and to investigate potential students for continuing her education at the graduate level. Anna was sponsored by Prof. Jennifer C. Dunn.

## SUMMER 2010

**Rose Beausoleil**, a psychology major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses in May, 2010. She was a co-presenter, along with her faculty sponsor Dr. Tracy Caldwell, of a poster entitled "An Examination of Sex Differences in Humor Preferences Among Match.ComUsers" at the annual conference of the Association for Psychological Science in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Angelina Meyer**, a senior math major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses to present her Honors Project at Math Fest 2010 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her sponsor was Marion Weedermann. Angelina will be presenting her project entitled "Exploring Fractal Dimension Through the Analysis of Common Fractals."

**Nancy Gullo**, a senior math major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses to present her Honors Project at Math Fest 2010 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her sponsors were Dr. Marion Weedermann and Dr. Aliza Steurer. Nancy presented her project entitled "Exploring Semigroups."

## **SPRING 2010**

**Kim Crawford**, an English writing major, was awarded \$500 for production costs related to her original play *Women of Rochester: A Readers Theatre* presented as the closing ceremony of the URSCI Expo. Kim's reader-mentors were Mary Scott Simpson and Germaine Goetz Sota. Kim staged and produced highlights from her play, incorporating lighting, sound, costumes and stage furnishings as part of her creative investigation, bringing the text to life.

**Ruxandra Rusz**, an art history major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses to attend the College Art Association 2010 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Chicago. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Kim Theriault.

**Brigitte Bell**, an English and art history major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses to attend the College Art Association 2010 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Chicago. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Kim Theriault.

**Whitney O'Laughlin**, an art history major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses to attend the College Art Association 2010 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Chicago. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Kim Theriault.

## **FALL 2009**

**Matt Earle**, a psychology major, was awarded \$500 toward his travel expenses. He co-authored a poster with his faculty mentor, Dr. Alisa Beyer, at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (ISSOTL) conference in Bloomington, Indiana in October, 2009. Their poster was entitled "Pecha Kucha (PK) as an Activity for Exam Preparation."

**Yoshio Piediscalzi**, a senior mathematics major, was awarded \$500 toward his travel expenses. His sponsor was Dr. Marion Weedermann. Yoshio presented a poster on his summer REU project completed at the University of Nebraska, entitled "A Direct Lyapunov Approach for Designing Stabilizing Control Laws" at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Francisco in January 2010

**Karl Rickert**, a senior in chemistry, was awarded \$500 towards his travel expenses to present a poster at the annual Meeting of the American Chemical Society in April, 2010. His faculty sponsor was Dr. Daniela Andrei.

**Robert Schretzman**, a senior in chemistry, was awarded \$500 towards his travel expenses to present a poster at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in April, 2010. His faculty sponsor was Dr. Daniela Andrei.

## SUMMER 2009

**Caitlyn Kamm**, a rising senior in apparel design, was awarded \$500 for supplies for her interdisciplinary research project on Integrated Textiles and Culture. Her faculty sponsor was Dr. Susan Strawn. Caitlyn summarized her research in her Honors Project.

**Drew Carson**, a rising senior in English, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses. She presented a paper “Good Girls, Bad Girls, and Independent Girls: How Jane Austen Uses Walks and Travels to Distinguish between Conventionality, Impropriety, and Independence” at the New Directions in Austen Studies conference, July 9–11, at the Chawton House Library, near Alton, Hampshire, UK. Drew’s faculty sponsor was Dr. Ellen McManus.

**Deidra Eberwein**, a senior psychology major, was awarded \$500 toward her travel expenses. She was a co-presenter, along with her faculty sponsor Dr. Tracy Caldwell, of a poster entitled “Toward an understanding of why men don't like funny women” at the annual conference of the Association for Psych.

## SPRING 2009

**Bobby Schretzman**, a senior in chemistry and biology, was awarded \$500 for materials for his research project entitled “The Dehydration of 2-Methylcyclohexanol Revisited: Using Alternate Protocols and Advanced Analytical Tools and Techniques on the Reactant Product Distributions.” Bobby’s faculty sponsor for this project was Dr. Brent Friesen. Bobby also wrote a paper based on the results of his experimental research.

**Caroline Borucki**, a senior in apparel design, was awarded \$500 for materials for her creative investigation of the question “Is Fashion Art?” Caroline’s faculty sponsor for this project was Dr. Tracy Jennings. Caroline also created two artistic garments, and wrote a paper that discussed how her research influenced her creative projects.

**Adelyn Curphey, Cecilia Tobias, Ashley Watkins, Samuel Perez Ferrero, and Ashley Martinez** were each awarded \$100 towards their travel expenses. This request was submitted by Dr. Christina Perez on behalf of her students who presented papers at a symposium she organized at the Midwestern Sociological Association Meetings in Des Moines, Iowa.