



Undergraduate  
Research Center

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Special points of  
interest:

- Summer Internship Workshop, KOM 252  
Thurs, 1/22/09,  
4pm
- Step<sup>MT</sup> Proposal Deadline  
Wed, 2/25/09
- URSCA Proposal Deadline  
Tues, 3/17/09
- URC Website  
[www.mtsu.edu/urc](http://www.mtsu.edu/urc)

# U R S C A S C E N E



Vol. 3 No. 2

January, 2009

## Letter from the Editor



Just about three years ago I was given the opportunity to be involved with the new

Undergraduate Research Center that had just been established at MTSU. My main responsibility was to help coordinate URSCA (Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activity) proposals and awards, and also to

promote the research opportunities available. Since then, I have had the pleasure to listen to our dedicated URSCA committee deliberate, thoughtfully and carefully, about how to award worthy proposals and distribute the money fairly to over 225 proposed projects.

But my favorite part of the process has been meeting students from all disciplines who want to learn beyond the classroom and stretch themselves a little farther. I always look for-

ward to their excitement and anticipation surrounding the project they are about to begin, and never tire of hearing about how, usually, they have run into something unexpected. This semester's group of scholars and assistants include future scientists, photographers, mathematicians, musicians, politicians, actors, psychologists, and artists. I have been very proud to be part of a university that supports and invests in our undergraduates in this valuable, practical way.

- Peggy Duszynski, URC Coordinator



## On Their Way to the State Capitol

The annual **Posters at the Capitol Competition** gives undergraduates from all six TBR universities an opportunity to personally present their research to our state legislators. The next presentation is coming up Feb. 11th, 2009. The event brings together some of our best scholars and their representatives and senators

from their home towns. Congratulations to our six undergraduate students pictured here who have been selected to represent MTSU. For more information on how to enter and participate in the future, visit [http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/posters\\_urc.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/posters_urc.shtml).



Charysse Archer - Physics



Merranda Holmes - Biology



Alex Pegram - Physics



Joshua Parker - Physics



Ramy Sayed - Biology



Amy Petty - Psychology



# STEP<sup>MT</sup>

Stepping Up Undergraduate Research

“STEPping Up Undergraduate Research at MTSU” (STEP<sup>MT</sup>), funded by the National Science Foundation, is going strong with lots of upcoming opportunities for faculty and students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The last round of Academic Year Research Awards is on the horizon. Students can receive \$500 to \$1,000 for completing a research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor. The deadline is **February 25, 2009**, and this will be our last call for proposals before the grant expires.

“Summer is a great time for research ... and STEP<sup>MT</sup> is helping by providing three opportunities for undergraduates”.

Summer is a great time for research as well, and STEP<sup>MT</sup> is helping by providing three opportunities for undergraduates. First, Oak Ridge National Labs is accepting applications for summer internships; last year 13 MTSU students were chosen. STEP<sup>MT</sup> is holding an application session on **January 22, 2009 at 4pm in KOM 252** to help students find the right internship and submit the best application possible. Students who have previously participated will be there to offer advice, and free pizza will be provided. The deadline for these applications is **February 1, 2009**, and this session is a great way to become competitive.

STEP<sup>MT</sup> provides two opportunities for students looking to stay in the Murfreesboro area during the summer. Summer Research Teams employ two undergraduate students, a high school teacher, and a high school senior to tackle a research problem proposed by a faculty member. Undergraduates receive \$3,000 to \$4,000 for eight weeks of work. The STEP-IN: Research Experiences in Industry program provides internship experiences for students. Students receive \$4,000 for eight weeks of work at a local company, seeing how research is conducted in the private sector. Deadlines for these two programs are **mid-March**. Faculty can apply to be an internship mentor as well. Proposals for internship projects are now being accepted. For more information on any of these great opportunities, please visit [www.mtsu.edu/~stepmt](http://www.mtsu.edu/~stepmt).

“The committee received 42 proposals to review, with the majority, 19, coming from the College of Liberal Arts”

## URSCA Committee Awards over \$67,000 to Undergraduate Assistants and Scholars for Spring, 2009

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Committee (URSCA) awarded over \$67,000.00 last October to students who applied to pursue research or creative activity in their field of interest. This amount was awarded in stipends, supplies and travel to 35 students who applied to either be an assistant or a scholar. The 13 students funded at the assistant level will contribute to a faculty member’s project, and those 22 students funded at the scholar level will take more ownership of their project while collaborating with one or more faculty members. The committee received 42 proposals to review, with the majority, 19, coming from the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Mass Communication proposed 13; students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences submitted 6 proposals; and the students from the College of Education and Behavioral Science contributed 4.

### Assistants

Barker, Ben	English
Corbett, Gregory	RIM
Eberhard, Jason	Anthropology
Hayes, Jeremy	Psychology
Hildreth, Calvin	Art
Johnson, Cory Shea	RIM
LaLevee, Dana	RIM
Luffman, Tanya	Psychology
Maloney, Jessica	History
Parkerson, Matthew	Political Science
Privett, Veronica	EMC
Puckett, Daniel	RIM
Walker, Jeremy	Art

### Scholars

Anderson, Michael A	Biology
Archer, Charysse	Math
Barnes, Zachary	Psychology
Blackwelder, Alex	EMC
Brewer, Brittany	Anthropology
Buchanan, Michaela	Psychology
Caviovic, Nemanja	Anthropology
Crowe, Rickey Lee	RIM
Fincher, Leah	Theatre
Frazier-Smith	Theatre
Hareford, Charlie	RIM

Hunt, Elizabeth	Theatre
Johnson, Brendan	Theatre
Jones, Buddy Ray	Theatre
Lampley, Rachel	Biology
Melnikova, Yuliya	Math
Minton, Lucian K	Music
Ringgold, Chandlin	RIM
Scott, Allison N	Theatre
Shannon, Austin	RIM
Sheffield, Justin	AGAS
Westerman, Erin	Political Science



## 17th Annual Social Science Symposium

November 18 and 19, 2008

***Sick in America: Sociocultural Perspectives of Health and Well-Being*** was the theme for the 17th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium held on November 18th and 19th, 2008 in the James Union Building. The symposium seeks to encourage student interest in the scientific study of human interaction and to foster professional growth, while providing opportunities for the intellectual and social exchange of ideas. Given the important relevance of this year's theme, the event drew close to 1,000 students and educators from MTSU and across the state.

Organized and moderated by 12 MTSU faculty headed by Dr. Ida Fadzilla, 71 MTSU undergraduate students presented papers on the following topics:

- Issues in Medical Anthropology
- East Asian Cultures
- Sociological Theory and the Media
- Library Research Project I and 2
- Issues of Race
- Graduate Panel
- Cultures and Change
- The Disenchantment of Society
- Archaeology and Forensic Anthropology
- Classical Theories, Modern Day Inequalities
- Projects in Garbology
- Occupations and Work Choices
- Poster Session on Abortion Issues
- Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology
- Sociocultural Dimensions of the Physician-Patient Relationship
- The Sociology of Religion
- Race, Class and Gender I and II
- Social Images of Gender



This year's keynote speaker was Jason Adam Wasserman, an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University where he also serves as



Director of the Community and Urban Studies program. He spoke on "The Medicalization of Homelessness: How the Homeless are Made Sick and Why Social Science Keeps Them That Way".

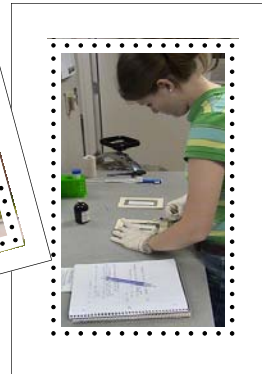
The Symposium ended with a showing of the Michael Moore film, "Sicko".



"The event drew close to 1,000 students and educators from MTSU and across the state"



# Undergraduate Research



Contact Information:

URC and URSCA: ING 123  
494-7666  
duszynsk@mtsu.edu

McNair: MGB 103  
904-8462  
chowell@mtsu.edu

StepMT: MGB 311  
494-8673  
mrhall@mtsu.edu

TLSAMP:  
898-5311  
mthomas@mtsu.edu

## Spring 2009

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
WK 1		Sun, 1st:  ORNL Internship Application Deadline	Fri, 6th:  URSCA paydate #1	Mon Mar 30th- Fri, 3rd:  <b>Scholar's Week</b>	Fri -Thur 1st- 7th  Final Exams
WK 2		Wed, 11th: Posters at the Capitol, Nashville, TN	Mon -Sat, 9th-14th:  <b>Spring Break</b>		
WK 3	Thurs 15th:  Classes Begin		Tues, 17th:  URSCA Proposal Deadline		
WK 4	Mon 19th: Martin Luther King Day University Closed Thurs, 22nd: Summer Internship Workshop, KOM 252, 4pm	Wed, 25th:  StepMT Proposal Deadline		Fri, 24th:  URSCA paydate #2	
WK 5			Mon 30th-Fri, Apr 3:  <b>Scholar's Week</b>	Wed, 29th -  Last Day of Classes	