Welcome from the GeoCUR Chair – Patricia Manley (2012-2014)

As more and more faculty at institutions of all sizes engage in undergraduate research, the Council on Undergraduate Research stands ready to assist. Our Geoscience division is extremely active, and we hope to reach out to our membership even more to help all researchers ramp up their own work. My own involvement in CUR began before I became a member and councilor, with a series of CUR-sponsored workshops at the Geological Society of America. The content of these workshops varied, but they had a common central focus: helping faculty to integrate undergraduate research into their own research and the classroom, to ensure that students are doing meaningful independent scholarly work. Since joining CUR in 2004, I have seen our division grow and, increasingly, promote undergraduate research. I am greatly honored to serve as the Geoscience division chair for the next few years.

At our most recent meeting, the CUR Geoscience Division (GeoCUR) came up with key goals for the upcoming year. The first is to be more connected to our divisional membership, continue our workshops, promote GeoCUR’s mentoring award, and connect more with the geoscience community.

GeoCUR’s most recent effort created a module for the SERC website, titled “Undergraduate Research as Teaching Practice” [http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/undergraduate_research/index.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/undergraduate_research/index.html). This site offers many topics, including Preparing for research in the Geosciences, Undergraduate research across the Geoscience curriculum; Recruiting and mentoring undergraduate research students, Management and sustainability of research programs, Optimizing instrumentation in support of research, Role of technology in undergraduate research, and Assessment and dissemination. Many of these topics include case studies from which you can draw on to implement undergraduate research as a teaching pedagogy.

For the more tech-savvy, we also maintain this GeoCUR blog and Twitter account (@CURgeoscience). Be part of the discussion! Send us your ideas and follow our GSA sessions – both regional and national, at the CUR national conference and the American Geophysical Union. Watching GeoCUR grow and engage more students and faculty in undergraduate research is thrilling, and we are here to help. Please contact me or any of the GeoCUR councilors to become part of this exciting process. Spread the word about CUR’s mission and amplify the voice of undergraduate research!

Enjoy the ride,

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