Welcome from the GeoCUR Chair – Laura Guertin (2008-2010)

These are exciting times for the Council on Undergraduate Research. More and more students, science and non-science majors alike, are engaging in undergraduate research. From classroom-based exercises to fully-developed independent study projects, student researchers are benefiting from expanding their content knowledge and skill sets. Many sources document the undergraduate research experience as a pedagogy of engagement. And nothing can compare to the excitement we see our students researchers demonstrate during their investigations and creative accomplishments! CUR is here to work with faculty to develop significant and meaningful research experience for our students.

CUR has played a significant role in my own journey to becoming a faculty mentor. I first learned about the Geoscience Division of CUR at a Geological Society of American annual conference. That year, CUR offered workshops on Developing and Directing Undergraduate Research Programs. Knowing that I wanted to apply for a faculty position in my future that would involve supervising undergraduate students, I signed up for the workshops. Not only did I learn a wealth of information on how to be best prepared before I started my faculty position, I was immediately recognized and welcomed by members of CUR into the CUR booth at the exhibit hall. I was convinced this was a community I wanted to be a part of, a group with such energy and experience that I could learn from. I became a CUR member, began reading the CUR Quarterly Journal, and began attending the CUR national conference. I never imagined that I would then begin serving as a councilor - and now, I am humbled and honored to serve as chair of the division.

I hope to continue to expand the energy and excitement the councilors and members bring to the CUR Geoscience Division (or what we call "GeoCUR"). This group proved so valuable in my career development, and I hope to expand that to a broader group of graduate students, new faculty, mid-career faculty and beyond.

I encourage and challenge everyone to explore this blog to see how you can be a part of our GSA sessions, the CUR national conference, or by engaging more with students and faculty in undergraduate research experiences. Contact myself or any of the councilors to become more involved in CUR. And please pass along the role and mission of CUR as the international voice of undergraduate research!

Rock On!

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