



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jody Cofer
October 12, 2009

Benningfield, Hargis, Reason Receive 2009-2010 Research Scholar Fellowships

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has selected the recipients of its 2009-2010 Research Scholar Fellowships. Each fellowship will provide the student-faculty team with a \$2000 student stipend, a \$500 supply budget, and a \$500 faculty stipend.

"The Research Scholar Fellowships at Murray State University provide an excellent opportunity for our undergraduates to develop the high-level thinking and analytical skills they will need throughout their careers. These faculty-mentored, research-based learning opportunities, organized by our Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity, enhance the excellence of undergraduate education at Murray State University," said Dr. Randy J. Dunn, Murray State University President. "Our fellowship program is one of the many ways Murray State continues to provide a unique learning experience for our undergraduate students."

The 2009-2010 Fellowship recipients are:

Dylan Benningfield, sophomore Chemistry major in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology from Murray, Ky., for his proposal entitled "Trace Level Analysis and Contamination Profiles of Triclosan in Western Kentucky Waters." Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Watershed Studies Institute, will serve as faculty mentor. "Based on Dylan's accomplishments and his enthusiastic drive to perform research, I strongly believe that he has the ability to conduct the proposed research and bring it to a successful completion," Loganathan said of Benningfield.



Sarah Hargis, senior Biomedical Science/Pre-med major in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology from Saint Charles, MO., for her proposal entitled "Cell Adhesion Mechanisms of Neural Stem Cells." Dr. David Canning, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, will serve as faculty mentor. "Sarah is an excellent student. She is a reliable worker, and demonstrates a good insight into the scientific method and significance of precise protocols in biological experimentation," Canning said of Hargis.



Stacey Reason, senior Art, Photography, and Drawing major in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts from Gilbertsville, Ky., for her proposal entitled "Process Impact: An Exhibition of Activist Art." Ms. Becky Alley, Director of University Galleries, will serve as project mentor. "In my experience working with Stacey, she has been a very self-motivated, reliable, and hardworking student. She is smart, energetic, ambitious, and passionate about art," Alley said of Reason.



Research Scholar Fellowships are reviewed through a competitive proposal process and have, since the inception of the fellowships, funded projects in biology, chemistry, economics, education, English, history, mathematics, music, and psychology.

More information about URSA can be found online at
<http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/>.