



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jody Cofer
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Roberts, Tinch, & Waniel Receive 2010-2011 Research Scholar Fellowships

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has selected the recipients of its 2010-2011 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 students."

"I am very pleased with the quality of the proposals we are receiving," said Dr. John Mateja, Director of the URSA office. "We are receiving very competitive proposals from all of our colleges and the Advisory Board is having a harder and harder time selecting the award recipients. Over the next year or two, it is our hope that the University will make endowing these Fellowships a top priority," Mateja went on to say.

The 2010-2011 Fellowship recipients are:

Caleb Roberts, senior biology and creative writing major in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology and College of Humanities and Fine Arts, for his proposal entitled "Effects of Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) Browse on Woody Plant Communities." Dr. Howard Whiteman, Professor of Biological Sciences and Directors of the Watershed Studies Institute, will serve as faculty mentor. "Caleb is very well prepared to conduct this research. He has a very strong academic record, and is one of the brightest biology students currently at MSU," Whiteman said of Roberts.

Kristen Tinch, junior secondary English education major in the College of Education and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, for her proposal entitled "Accessible Literacy: Graphic Novels for Remedial and Reluctant High

School Readers.” Dr. Meagan Musselman, Assistant Professor of Education, will serve as faculty mentor. “Kristen is an extremely organized and intelligent student. Kristen possesses the ability to carry out the proposed project and contribute authentic research to the field,” Musselman said of Tinch.

Vincent Waniel, senior telecommunications systems management major in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, for his proposal entitled “Online Privacy: Is Internet Usage on a Public Terminal Private, Safe, and Secure?” Dr. Michael Bowman, Associate Professor of Telecommunications Systems Management, will serve as faculty mentor. “Vincent’s intellect, work ethic, and curiosity will guarantee a successful completion of this project,” Bowman said of Waniel.

Research Scholar Fellowships are reviewed through a competitive proposal process and have, since the inception of the fellowships, funded projects in art, 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/>.