



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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Crittendon, Hartman & Hamm 2014-2015 Research Scholar Fellowship Recipients

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has selected the recipients of its 2014-2015 Research Scholar Fellowships. Each fellowship will provide the student-faculty team with a \$1,000 student stipend and a \$500 supply budget.

"Undergraduate students, alongside their faculty mentors in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Hutson School of Agriculture, and the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, recently developed Research Scholar Fellowship proposals that were submitted to our Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity," said Dr. Jay Morgan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "These students and many more are participating in experiential learning where they are building skills and abilities such as responsibility, analysis and teamwork that will better prepare them for success in graduate study and competitive careers."

The 2014-2015 Fellowship recipients are:

David Crittendon, a senior Psychology major in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, was awarded for his proposal entitled, "The Effects of Priming on Patriotism and Nationalism." Dr. Jana Hackathorn, Assistant Professor of Psychology, will serve as the faculty mentor for this project. "David is very headstrong, I am excited for him to test his own theory and see those results. It is intellectually important to experience firsthand scientific outcomes, regardless of 'being right,'" expressed Hackathorn.

Crittendon's project focuses on the effects of priming on a person's level of patriotism and nationalism. In his study, participants will either be exposed to positive or negative political quotes toward the United States, which, depending upon which quotes the participant receives, are then intended to influence the participant's attitudes about patriotism and nationalism. Those who are exposed to positive political quotes toward America are expected to demonstrate higher levels of patriotism. It is also expected that scores consistent with right wing authoritarianism and core conservatism will predict the most change in patriotism and nationalism. Hackathorn adds, "[David] is incredibly responsible, dedicated, and intelligent. In my professional opinion, his theory (study hypotheses and method) should work, and his outcomes would be valuable to the psychological community." Crittendon is from Murray, KY.

Lauren Hamm, a senior Pre-Veterinary Medicine major in the Hutson School of Agriculture, was awarded for her proposal entitled, "Effects of Ivermectin and Moxidectin on Equine Parasites in Horses in Western KY." She will be assisted by co-investigator Morgan Ernst, a senior Animal/Equine Science major. Dr. Shea Porr, Assistant Professor in Animal/Equine Science, will serve as the faculty mentor for this project. "Lauren is a dedicated student, very detail-oriented and goal-driven. If she has a weakness, it is that she gets very enthusiastic about the project and tends to try to take on too much at one time," Porr commented about Hamm. Porr went on to comment on Ernst saying, "Morgan is an intelligent, capable young lady who is eager to learn."

Hamm's project focuses on the effectiveness of ivermectin and moxidectin on internal parasite resistance specifically for parasites found in horses owned by Murray State University in western Kentucky. The effectiveness of these drugs is important because horses owned by Murray State University are already given these drugs, and if these drugs do not produce the intended effect, then the University should not be paying for them. Additionally, if in their research they discover there is resistance present, they can alter the methods by which the products currently used are administered and have the best possible impact on parasite infestation in these horses. Porr adds, "Lauren and Morgan's involvement in this project will help them not only with their creative thinking and self-motivated learning skills, but also to be better educated and able to apply that education in their chosen careers." Hamm is from O'Fallon, IL. Ernst is from Harrodsburg, KY.

Bradley Hartman, a senior Aquatic/Fisheries Biology major in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, was awarded for his proposal entitled "Effects of Predator Size Variation on Future Generations of Predators." Dr. Howard Whiteman, professor of biological sciences, will serve as faculty mentor. "Brad has what it takes to complete this and other possible research projects, and has shown that he has the dedication and perseverance needed to be successful," remarked Whiteman.

Hartman's project concerns the paedomorphic Mole Salamander, *Ambystoma talpoideum*. He intends to use the photos of Mole Salamanders he collected locally over the summer to analyze how size-structure of predatory paedomorphic and larval predators affects future generations of salamanders. He also intends to look at the impact of paedomorphic and larval predators on new larval cohort survival. Whiteman adds, "[This project] is well positioned both theoretically and empirically, and will result not only in more presentation opportunities for Brad, but also authorship or co-authorship on peer reviewed publication." Hartman is from Murray, KY.

Research Scholar Fellowships are reviewed through a competitive proposal process and have, since the program's inception, funded projects in disciplines spanning across the academic spectrum.

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