



### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Fiscus Receives \$500 Undergraduate Research Grant and Presents at Ohio Valley History Conference**

Brittany Fiscus was recently awarded a \$500 grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) for her proposal entitled "Oda Nobunaga's Response to Militant Buddhism Turns Genocidal."

Fiscus, a senior history major from Jacksonville, Ark., is researching Oda Nobunaga, a historic figure in Japanese history, who was known for his military expertise and for being an influential member of the ruling elite during the Sengoku, or "Warring States" period. While a great deal is known of Nobunaga, little is known about his role in Japan's unification as it specifically relates to militant Buddhism that was present throughout the Sengoku period. Fiscus will study Nobunaga's threats for complete destruction of Buddhists and attempt to flesh out why he felt compelled to take such positions. This study will also look at the United Nations' definition of genocide and compare it to the acts committed under Nobunaga.

Dr. David Pizzo, Assistant Professor of History, will serve as Fiscus' faculty mentor on the project. "She demonstrates an impressive command of both European history and religious history. Her love of Asian history is also very clear," Pizzo said of Fiscus.

Fiscus conducted undergraduate research during the 2007-2008 academic year on a project entitled "Queen Marie Antoinette's Pre-Revolutionary Image: A Product of Media Fabrication or Personal Flaws." That project was presented at the 2008 *Posters-at-the-Capitol* and is being presented at the Ohio Valley History Conference in Clarksville, Tenn., on October 31, 2008.

Fiscus plans to present the findings of her current research at the 2009 *Posters-at-the-Capitol* in February and at MSU's *Scholars Week* that takes place April 20-24, 2009. She plans to submit her findings for publication consideration in *The Historian*.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> or by calling (270) 809-3192.