



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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Gilbert Receives Undergraduate Research Grant

Michael Chaise Gilbert of Ledbetter, KY was recently awarded a \$500 grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) for his proposal entitled "Niche Overlap Determination of *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* (Bighead Carp) with Native Larval Fishes in Kentucky Lake." Dr. Michael Flinn, assistant professor of biological sciences, will serve as the faculty mentor on the project.

Gilbert, a senior biological sciences major in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, will focus his research on determining whether Bighead Carp are eating from the same food sources as local fishes during their young stages. Bighead Carp eat plankton, as do young native fishes. If Bighead Carp are feeding on the same types of plankton that our young native fishes do, our native fishes may begin to suffer in numbers.

Gilbert plans to present his findings during MSU's *Scholars Week*, which will take place on Murray State's campus April 15-19, 2013. He will also submit his work to the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, which meets in Nashville, TN during February, 2013.

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