

Undergraduate Academic Events

2012 - 2013



**American University
Washington, DC**

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Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Research Workshop (October 2012 and March 2013)

Winners of the AU Summer Scholars and Artists Fellowship Award showcase their summer research to other undergraduate students. Faculty network with the students and give workshops on effective presentation of research. *Student Attendance: Approximately 200. This event is not juried.*

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) (April 11-13, 2013)

NCUR is the premiere venue for the presentation of undergraduate research. The conference is open to all disciplines and fields, and is hosted by a different institution each year. About 3000 undergraduate researchers from across the country are accepted to NCUR each year. Students in the SIS delegation complete a conference preparation process (a series of workshops on revising and finalizing a research project, preparing for a conference, presenting at a conference, etc.) in advance of NCUR attendance. *Participants: Varies by department. SIS sends a delegation of 5-10 students to NCUR each year. There is no prize/competition dimension to this conference.*

Honors Capstone Research Conference (April, 2013)

The University Honors Program holds its Capstone Research Conference each spring to celebrate the outstanding research, creative work, and other work of its graduating seniors--and its most recent August and December graduates--by showcasing the capstone projects of a select group of these students. *A group of 20 students are selected from the various schools and departments to give a 10-minute oral presentation of the essence of their capstone work. Another 20 students are selected to present their capstone work during the poster presentation period. A panel of judges selects the students who will receive an Honors Capstone Research Conference Award.*

Academic Quiz Bowl

American University Quiz Bowl (<http://www.facebook.com/AUtrivia>) will introduce academic competition in a question format, based on broad knowledge of facts in categories including but not limited to history, art, math, science, language, and pop culture. The group aims to divide its time between events that enrich American University campus life (such as an open-to-all American University Jeopardy Tournament) to competitions with other officially recognized college quiz bowl teams across the country.

College of Arts and Sciences

13th Annual New Millennium Conference (April 26, 2013)

The annual New Millennium Conference is a showcase event in which students in the Physics for a New Millennium class give formal presentations on their research projects. Modeled after an actual STEM conference, students have an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of physics through this unique and practical venue.

Issues in Political Economy - Annual Undergraduate Research Conference

Undergraduate economics students from around the country present their research at this spring semester conference. Students also serve as session chairs and discussants. Typically, the conference is held as part of the Eastern Economic Association's Annual Meetings. Because the Eastern Economics conference is being held in May 2013, the IPE will hold its 20th annual conference March 1-2, 2013 at the [Park Plaza Hotel](#) in Boston.

Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference (March 2013)

The annual College of Arts and Sciences student research conference, now in its twenty-first year and funded in part by a generous grant from Robyn Rafferty Mathias, an AU trustee and alumna, provides a competitive forum for CAS undergraduate and graduate students to present their original creative works before colleagues, friends and faculty. *Cash prizes are awarded for outstanding presentations, in addition to a conference travel award for graduate students.* <http://www.american.edu/cas/src/index.cfm>

Contact: Mimi Fittig, casmathiasconference@american.edu

Writer as Witness Student Essay Competitions (September)

The College Writing Program and the Campus Store sponsor an essay contest to honor the best writing inspired by an annually selected community text. Top Prize: \$200. Runners-Up Prizes: Gift cards from AU Campus Store.

Contact: Mary Switalski: meswitalski@gmail.com

International Collegiate Programming Contest (June – July 2013)

<http://icpc.baylor.edu/welcome.icpc>

Computer Science Project Fair (Spring)

Students show off their Computer Science projects in the Computer Science Project Held in the Spring. *Outstanding entries are awarded See <http://www.american.edu/cas/cs/news.cfm>*

Association for Computing Machinery - American University Student Chapter

Sponsored by Microsoft Research, the Association for Computing Machinery Student Research Competition enables undergraduate and graduate students to share their research results and exchange ideas with others. <http://src.acm.org/>

The Concerto and Aria Competition

This is an annual event where American University students compete for a chance to perform with the American University Symphony Orchestra. The Competition's semi-final and final rounds are open to the public. This competition highlights what is most positive in our program and does much to reinforce our goals for excellence and achievement while also focusing on what it means to be a supportive fellow musician. *Contestants are screened via the application process and consist of both vocal and instrumental undergraduate student musicians. Judges are members of the AU music faculty.*

Feminist Art History Conference (November)

This conference builds on the legacy of feminist art-historical scholarship and pedagogy initiated by Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard at American University. We invite papers on subjects spanning the chronological and geographic spectrum to foster a broad dialogue on feminist art-historical practice. *Juried by AU faculty organizing committee. 50 - 60 speakers from the US and international. Participation open to AU students and the public.* <http://www.american.edu/cas/art-history/femconf/>

Distinguished Scholars in Art History lecture (April)

Invited regional (East Coast) speaker for honorarium. Open to the public.

History Day. (April 24 2013)

All graduating seniors present the results of their senior theses. The program is organized like an academic conference. The day includes a lunch on campus and then evening reception/celebration, funded by the Valerie French Fund, off campus. *Faculty and graduate students moderate and comment. Typically 50-60 students presenting.*

Math Colloquium

Most semesters, at least one colloquium slot s reserved for students to talk about their internships or research projects. *Approximately 3 presenting and 20 observing.*

Competitive Mathematics

AU offers a one-credit "Competitive Mathematics" course to prepare students for regional and national competitions such as the two listed below. The competitions are first administered to the participating students at AU, and then sent elsewhere. In each case, around 12 students participate.

The Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest (October)

The Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest is sponsored each fall by the Mathematics Department at Virginia Tech. More than 130 colleges and universities participate each year. Contestants at each participating school take the two and one-half hour exam on their own campus under the supervision of one of their own faculty members. Individuals compete for \$750 in regional prizes for which any contestant is eligible, and \$250 in local prizes for which only Virginia Tech students are eligible. At AU, this contest is considered to be warm-up for the Putnam Competition. <http://www.math.vt.edu/people/plinnell/Vtregional/>

The Putnam Mathematics Competition (December)

The William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition is an annual contest for college students established in 1938 in memory of its namesake. Each year on the first Saturday in December, over 2000 students spend 6 hours (in two sittings) trying to solve 12 problems. Individual and team winners (and their schools, in the latter case) get some money and a few minutes of fame. Cash prizes for the top five teams in recent years ranged from \$25,000 to \$5,000. Recent cash prizes for the top five individuals have been \$2,500 each. <http://www.maa.org/awards/putnam.html>

Literature Department Awards

Three undergraduate awards are given every year: one for the best paper, one for the best thesis and the Louise Young award (named for the first female full professor of Literature at AU) for the best essay written by an undergraduate woman.

Literature Colloquium (October)

Undergraduate, graduate and faculty presentations on a different literary work each year.

Literature Day (April)

All students present their theses as conference talks. Awards are given out at the Literature party the night before Commencement.

PreHealth Awards and Recognition Banquet (April 3, 2013)

Usually 40 - 70 students in attendance.

National Public Health Week (April 1 – 7, 2013)

Various activities for AU students, staff and faculty.

Mathematics and Statistics Department Events

Two big public events are held every year – one in October/November (near Halloween) and one near the beginning of April. Each involves a public talk, and then a dessert reception. This year's Halloween talk is on October 26, and the speaker is Rebecca Goldin from GMU. The topic will involve statistics and politics.

Center for Teaching, Research and Learning

CTRL School of Education, Teaching and Health Colloquia

Each semester, SETH hosts monthly colloquia during which scholars from around the University share their health and education related research. *Open to the public.*

Larissa Gertzel Critical Literacy Symposium

This event is held each fall during All-American Weekend. Students and alumni are invited to attend the lecture and panel discussion.

Omicron Delta Epsilon-American University Chapter

[Omicron Delta Epsilon](#) is the International Honors Society in Economics. It was created in 1963 with the merger of two honor societies, Omicron Delta Gamma and Omicron Chi Epsilon; today it is one of the world's largest academic honor societies. Eligible undergraduates and graduate students have 12 or more credits in economics courses with grades of B or better. Invitations to eligible students are issued each semester.

College Fed Challenge (October/November)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond sponsors the annual College Fed Challenge, an academic competition designed to expand college students' understanding of the Fed's unique role in the economy and the importance of Federal Open Market Committee decisions. *Participating teams must also be prepared to answer a variety of questions from the judges. Local office winners will move on to compete at the district for a chance to represent the Fifth Federal Reserve District in the national competition at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. on November 27.*

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Feminist Research Award Competition (Fall)

This award is given annually to WGSS students who show rigorous and engaged intellectual inquiry in topics pertaining to women's, gender, or sexuality studies. Selection for this award is also based on the effectiveness of students' research to incite social and political action on women's, gender, or sexuality issues. *An award of up to \$500 will be made to an undergraduate researcher whose research proposal is judged to be significant, grounded in the field, and feasible. The awardee is required to present their research at the spring Robyn Rafferty Mathias CAS Student Research Conference.*

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Feminist Scholar Activist Award (Spring)

This award of up to \$500 highlights student achievement in integrating academic studies with social activist work. The cash prize is given annually to WGSS students who engage in meaningful and committed activist work in topics pertaining to women's, gender, or sexuality studies.

World Languages & Cultures 2012-2013 Events:

1. French: 8th Annual French Colloquium, "French and German Romanticism" – *March 22, 2013*
2. Arabic: "3 lectures about Syria and the Arab World by Dr. Faress" – *Spring 2013*
3. Chinese: "Chinese New Year celebration" - *February 2013*
4. "Jack Child Distinguished Memorial Lecture Series" - *Spring 2013*

Arabic Lecture Series

Lecture #2: Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00pm in Ward 02. Professor Shaghaf Hazimeh will lecture about the cuisine of the Levant. The title of the lecture will be The Cuisine of the Levant and we plan to have food from the Levant for students to sample.

Lecture #3: Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00pm, location TBD. Professor Jacques Nalabandian will lecture about Pioneers of the 19th Century Arab Revivalism.

Arabian Nights Event

The Arabian Nights event will take place in CLEAR in Asbury Hall on Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00pm. This event is being held concurrently with Professor Erez Naaman's Arabic 426: Arabian Nights course and all students and faculty in all levels of Arabic are invited and encouraged to attend.

Kogod School of Business

Annual Kogod Case Competition (February 9, 2013)

The Competition is one of the premier annual events hosted by the Kogod School of Business. It is an excellent opportunity for students to sharpen their communication skills, presentation style, and problem-solving techniques. Students have the opportunity to network with over 60 business leaders who judge the competition. *The event is open to all graduate and undergraduate students at AU and invited Kogod-partner schools. The events are juried.* <http://www.american.edu/cas/src/index.cfm>

Case Competition

1 day-long event each academic year; this is a juried event

Student Attendance: 225 students

The Case Competition is an opportunity for students to sharpen their communication skills, presentation style, and problem-solving techniques. They are presented with a case which they will analyze in teams of 4 or 5 and then present before a panel of judges. Students have the opportunity to network with over 60 business leaders who judge the competition.

Case Competition: Meet the Judges

1 hour-long session each academic year

Student Attendance: 30-35 students

A panel of judges explains to Case Competition participants what they look for in presentations; what makes a good or bad presentation and solution; and the type of questions they might ask.

Case Competition: Breakin' it Down: Crash Course on Case Analysis

1 hour-long session each academic year

Student Attendance: 70-75 students

Lead by a faculty member, student participants in the Case Competition are taught the basics of how to effectively analyze a case study.

Case Competition: Working Through a Short Case

1 hour-long session each academic year

Student Attendance: 20-25 students

Lead by a faculty member, student participants in the Case Competition are able to use the skills learned in case analysis by working through a short case and developing recommendations with their peers and workshop facilitator.

Case Competition: Creating, Organization and Persuasively Presenting Your Case Competition Slides

1 hour-long session each academic year

Student Attendance: 20-25 students

The Kogod Center for Business Communication builds on the same short sample case introduced in the Working Through a Short Case session to guide Case Competition participants through best practices in persuasive presentation and organization.

Case Competition: Panel of Experts

1 hour-long session each academic year

Student Attendance: 70-75 students

A Panel of Experts, executives with expertise in the case topic of the Case Competition, will answer participants' questions and give insights into the case.

CUIBE Case Competition (in Boston, MA)

1 3-day event each academic year; this is a juried event

Student Attendance: 1 team of 5 students

The Consortium of Undergraduate International Business Education (CUIBE) is a consortium of schools and universities that have undergraduate International Business programs with an objective of facilitating sharing of best practices in International Business education. Each year, Kogod sends one team of students to participate in the competition.

BYU Language Case Competition

1 program each academic year

Student Attendance: 4

Each fall, Kogod sponsors a team of 4 students that travel to Utah to compete in a business case competition. The whole event is done entirely in Spanish.

<http://marriottschool.byu.edu/gmc/blc/overview>

Road Scholars

The Road Scholars program is an alternative spring break study tour that provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to experience business in the real world while earning optional academic credit. The program visits a different city each year. Past destinations have included San Francisco, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, London, and most recently, Los Angeles. *1 week-long program each academic year. Student Attendance: 20*

Contact the K-LAB at (202) 885-1982 or kogodcasecomp@american.edu with any questions

School of Communication

SOC Visions Festival (December 2012)

The VISIONS festival attracts respected media industry professionals and students from all disciplines, culminates with The VISIONS Festival Award Ceremony. *Outstanding undergraduate and outstanding graduate work is eligible for many awards.* <http://www.american.edu/soc/visions/visions-awards-page.cfm>

School of International Service

SIS Undergraduate Research Symposium (Wednesday, April 17, 2013, exact time TBD)

Student-organized research symposium for students of all levels to present their research in panel format (approximately 3-4 students per panel, together with a faculty or graduate student moderator and a faculty or graduate student discussant). A poster presentation option is also offered. *Participants: typically about 25 presenters across a number of presentation panels; about 10-15 poster presentations. This event has been run both with and without prizes in various years, depending upon the decision of the student organizers. It has not yet been decided whether or not there will be a competition/prize element to the 2013 Symposium.*

DC Area APSIA Undergraduate International Affairs Conference (hosted by SIS) (Friday, April 26 - Saturday, April 27, 2013, exact times TBD)

This is a new event/initiative for AY 2012-2013, so details are still taking shape. We will be soliciting applications from the three DC Area APSIA schools that have undergraduate international affairs programs (AU, GW, and GU). We envision a competitive application process such that the conference will highlight the highest quality undergraduate research on international affairs that these schools have to offer. The conference will feature a number of panel presentations as well as a high-profile keynote speaker. *Participants: TBD. At present there is no plan on having a competition/prize dimension to this conference, though the exact details have not yet been determined.*

Fall SIS 206 Poster Session (December 2012)

Selected students from each section of SIS-206 (Introduction to International Relations Research) present their research projects in a poster session held in the SIS Atrium. *Participants: approximately 30-35. This event is not juried / no prizes are awarded*

Spring SIS 206 Poster Session (Wednesday, April 24, 2013; 2:45-5:00 p.m.)

Selected students from each section of SIS-206 (Introduction to International Relations Research) present their research projects in a poster session held in the SIS Atrium. *Participants: approximately 30-35. This event is not juried / no prizes are awarded.*

American University Model United Nations Conference (March)

A student simulation of the United Nations Conference. Participants take on the roles of delegates and diplomats from all over the world to debate and discuss solutions to global current events. *An executive panel determines and gives awards to the participants with the most significant contributions. 101-500 participants.* <http://www.aumunc.com/index.html>

Debate Society

The American University Debate Society (AUDS) actively encourages all American University (AU) students to participate in debate. The AUDS seeks to better the logical argumentation and public speaking abilities of the AU community through parliamentary debate, both on campus and off, and to promote interest in debate competition. The AUDS thrives on competition, and to this end its members compete regularly throughout the academic year on the circuit of the American Parliamentary Debate Association (APDA).

School of Public Affairs**SPA Undergraduate Research Symposium** (April)

This is an annual forum for undergraduate students to present their original scholarly and creative work before colleagues, friends, and faculty. *Cash awards will be given for the best presentations, and top students will be recognized at the SPA Awards Ceremony. The symposium is open to all levels of undergraduate students. Presentations and Posters judged by faculty. 40 students.*

GOVT 310 Intro to Political Research Spring Poster Session

Informal judging by SPA faculty. *50 students.*

Janus Forum Student Debate (Political Theory Institute)

The Political Theory Institute at AU sponsors a series of student-run debates through its Janus Forum Student Society. Janus, the god who looked two ways, is the symbol for this debate society. The Janus Forum invites to campus prominent intellectuals with distinctly different points of view to debate a topic. Other debates will be led by AU faculty or AU students. Every student club on campus that deals with moral and political questions may have a member on the Janus Forum Student Society Board. *(20 students)*

Political Theory Institute Annual Essay Contest (April)

The contest is open to all AU undergraduates and is intended to foster critical reflection on the key authors, concepts, and arguments of classical liberalism, including but not limited to individual liberty, equality, democracy, constitutionalism, and commerce. Judged for best student essay on classical liberalism. The winner of the contest will be awarded a prize of \$500 at the annual SPA Awards Ceremony. *(15 student submissions)*

Mock Trial Team Competitions (October/November)

AU hosts and participates in regional competition of trial advocacy and practice. The mock trial is an opportunity for students to hone skills in presentation, critical thinking and collaboration through a simulated courtroom experience. American University Mock Trial competes against other college teams within the [American Mock Trial Association \(AMTA\)](http://www.american.edu/spa/jls/About-Mock-Trial.cfm). *This is a competitive event. There is a national competitive tournament held in Spring.* <http://www.american.edu/spa/jls/About-Mock-Trial.cfm>

Research Seminars and Lecture Series

DPAP Research Seminar (10-15 sessions per year)

PhD students, faculty, and invited scholars present their research with feedback/discussion following. *10 PhD students*

JLS Research Seminar (10-15 sessions per year)

PhD students, faculty, and invited scholars present their research with feedback/discussion following. *10 PhD students*

GOVT Research Seminar (10-15 sessions per year)

PhD students, faculty, and invited scholars present their research with feedback/discussion following. *10 PhD students*

Political Theory Lecture Series and Student lunches with speakers

55 students

Key Executive Leadership Fora (2)

85 students

Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies Lectures and Lunchtime Series

35 students

First Annual Justice for Youth Summit (October)

Organized by the Campaign for Youth Justice, in partnership with the Justice Programs Office of the School of Public Affairs' Department of Justice, Law, and Society.

Annual Research Conference of the Environmental Evaluators Network (July)

This event provides participants with the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences about the use and significance of evaluation in their respective organizations and disciplines. The EEN will distribute outputs of the Forum to diverse audiences (e.g., government agencies, foundations, non-profits, and academic institutions) in an effort to advance the practice, theory and policy of environmental evaluation.

Clocks and Clouds

Clocks and Clouds, the AU Undergraduate Research Journal, is jointly managed by SIS and SPA, with students from both units on the editorial and review boards (working with a faculty advisor from SIS and one from SPA). *Participation: varies by edition. The Spring 2012 edition of the journal had 6 articles, 2 of which were from SIS students. There is no prize/competition dimension to this journal.*