

# **Undergraduate Academic Events, 2014**



**American University  
Washington, DC**

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## Undergraduate Studies

### **Undergraduate Research Workshop (Canceled for this semester)**

*Student Attendance: Approximately 200.*

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. *This event is not juried.*

### **National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) (Thursday through Saturday, April 3 through April 5 will be held on the University of Kentucky campus)**

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. Open to NCUR student scholars.*

### **Honors Capstone Research Conference (Wednesday, April 9 in MGC 4 and 5)**

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. Open to research honors students.*

### **Academic Quiz Bowl (No longer an active program)**

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## College of Arts and Sciences

### **Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference (Saturday, March 29 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Katzen Arts Center's Abramson Family Recital Hall)**

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](mailto:casmathiasconference@american.edu)

### **Writer as Witness Student Essay Competitions (TBA)**

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. Competition open to all students.

Contact: Mary Switalski: [meswitalski@gmail.com](mailto:meswitalski@gmail.com)

**International Collegiate Programming Contest (TBA)**

Open to computer science students. scu<http://icpc.baylor.edu/welcome.icpc>

**Computer Science Project Fair (No longer an active program)**

**Association for Computing Machinery - American University Student Chapter (Meets every Wednesday from 8 to 9pm in the Sports Annex, room 57)**

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. *Open to student members of the association.* <http://src.acm.org/>

**The Concerto and Aria Competition (Saturday and Sunday, February 15 & 16 in the Katzen Arts Center's Abramson Family Recital Hall)**

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 typically members of the AU music faculty though the hope is to bring in guest judges for the final round.*

**Distinguished Scholars in Art History lecture (Thursday April 3, from 7 to 9 pm in the Katzen Arts Center's Abramson Family Recital Hall)**

Invited regional (East Coast) speaker for honorarium. Attendances open to all students.

**History Day. (Thursday, April 24, location to be announced)**

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 present their theses. Open to the public.*

**Math Colloquium (Most Tuesdays during the academic year, either 2:50 or 3:05 pm, meeting location varies)**

Most semesters, at least one colloquium slot s reserved for students to talk about their internships or research projects. *Approximately three presenters, with 20 observers.*

**Competitive Mathematics (Wednesdays from 11:45 am to 2:50 pm during the academic year, meeting location varies)**

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. Open to competing students.

### **The Putnam Mathematics Competition (Not open to undergraduate students)**

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. *Open to the competing students.*  
<http://www.maa.org/awards/putnam.html>

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## **Kogod School of Business**

### **Annual Kogod Case Competition (Saturday, February 8)**

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 (Saturday, February 8, to register visit <http://kogod.american.edu/case>)**

*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 (Tuesday, January 21 from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Kogod Student Lounge)**

*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 (Monday, January 27 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in MGC 200)**

*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 (Tuesday, January 28 from 6 to 7pm in MGC 200)**

*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 (Thursday, January 30 from 4:30 to 6 pm in Bender Library, room 115)**

*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 (Wednesday, February 5 in MGC 3-5)**

*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.

**Road Scholars (Canceled this semester)**

*Student Attendance: 20*

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.* Kogod students are given priority to apply for the program. Non-Kogod students will be allowed to apply if slots become available.

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

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## School of Communication

**SOC Visions Festival (Saturday, May 7 from 8 to 10 pm in the Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater in the McKinley Building)**

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. The festival is open to the public.*

<http://www.american.edu/soc/visions/visions-awards-page.cfm>

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## School of International Studies

**SIS Undergraduate Research Symposium (Wednesday, April 9 from 12 to 6 pm, tentative)**

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. Only students from fall 2013 sections of SISU-206 are eligible to be presenters. The conference presentations are open to the public.*

### **DC Area APSIA Undergraduate International Affairs Conference (hosted by SIS) (TBA)**

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.*

### **Spring SIS 206 Poster Session (Friday, April 23 from 2:45 to 5 pm)**

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. Open to the public.*

### **American University Model United Nations Conference (Sometime in March, TBA)**

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 students participant. Open the public. <http://www.aumunc.com/index.html>*

### **Debate Society (TBA)**

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).

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## **School of Public Affairs**

### **SPA Undergraduate Research Symposium (April 25 from 4 to 8pm on Ward Terrace Level )**

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. Presentations and Posters judged by faculty. Open only for undergrad students in SPA and for those undergrad students who have had a class in GOVT, JLS do the fact that they need to have a SPA faculty as mentor (40 student submissions)*

### **GOVT 310 Intro to Political Research Spring Poster Session (TBA)**

Informal judging by SPA faculty. *Open to students enrolled in GOVT-310. (50 student submissions)*

### **Janus Forum Student Debate (Political Theory Institute) (TBA)**



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) *The forum and lectures are open to the public.*

### **Political Theory Institute Annual Essay Contest (TBA)**

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 (TBA)**

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.americanmocktrial.org). *This is a competitive event. There is a national competitive tournament held in Spring.* <http://www.american.edu/spa/jls/About-Mock-Trial.cfm>

### **Spring 2014 Research Seminar Series**

**(All seminars convene on Thursdays from 12 to 1:00 pm in Ward 301)**

Medical Adaptation to Academic Pressure: Schooling, Stimulant Use, and Socioeconomic Status **(January 16)**

Jennifer Jennings, Assistant Professor of Sociology, New York University

Is the U.S. Federal Government a “Model Employer” of LGBTs? Comparing LGBT and Non-LGBT Employee Attitudes toward Work **(January 30)**

David Pitts, Associate Professor, DPAP

**(February 13)**

David Lewis, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University

Examining the Impact of State Parental Work Policies on Parental Involvement in Children's Education

**(February 27, 90 minute seminar from 12 to 1:30 pm)**

Katie Vinopal, Ph.D. Student, DPAP

Forecasting Elections: Voter Intentions versus Expectations **(March 6)**

Justin Wolfers, Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Michigan; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution

Student Based Budgeting: Evidence from Texas **(March 20)**

Christopher Birdsall, Ph.D. Student, DPAP



Intergovernmental (Dis)incentives, Free-Riding, Teacher Salaries and Teacher Pensions

**(March 27)**

Maria Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Analysis and Management,  
Cornell University

Telework and the Federal Government: Performance Expectations and Considerations **(April 10)**

Sarah Towne, Ph.D. Student, DPAP

**April 17th**

Is kindergarten the new first grade? The changing nature of kindergarten in the age of accountability

**(April 17)**

Daphna Bassok, Assistant Professor of Education Policy, University of Virginia

Please feel free to bring a bag lunch. Contact Seth Gershenson at gershens@american.edu with any questions.

**Justice for Youth Forum (TBA)**

The forum is 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 (TBA)**

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. **Not an undergraduate event, but rather one coordinated through the Center for Environmental Policy, an off-campus group under the direction of Professor Dan Fi.**

**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.*