**1/25/17**

**Undergraduate Research Opportunities at UNL**

**UCARE, McNair, REU and Thesis**

Announcements:

* Grab a green flyer to see upcoming events of the semester.
* We are having a pizza night at Yia Yia’s if enough people would like to come! (Pizza was decided to be rescheduled to a later date)
* Please join UPO or Psi Chi if interested!

Speakers:

* REU- Monica Rosen
* McNair- Jess Tate
* UCARE-Sarah Moody
* Senior Thesis- Sarah Moody

REU- Monica Rosen

* REU= Research Experience for Undergraduates=A funded summer research program that you can do at another university across the country.
* Experiences are available specific to your field or cross disciplinary as well.
* Monica did a summer program in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin with research in 3D depth perception.
* REU is highly competitive
* Monica was 1/9 selected from 600 applicants; the application is similar to applying to grad school in that you will likely want to apply to more than one program so you are more likely to get accepted.
* You become a student at the university.
* You receive housing, travel, insurance, and food stipend around $3,000-$5,000
* Increases odds of getting into grad school; possibly will have seminars and professional sessions at the university
* Apply for free not only at UWM but all Big 10 schools.
* It is a good experience to see a new area and meet new people.
* Typically you will have a post-doc or advanced grad student that will mentor you.
* You will likely be able to publish your research, and that is pretty impressive as an undergrad.
* Application= two excellent recommendation letters, must be an undergrad, and junior year is likely the best year. Apply to more than one, as long as they are labs you relate to. Apply to the lab, not the school or program (like grad school). Be specific about your interests. Use your weakness as a strength. For example, if your school doesn’t have a lab that specializes in your interests, use that as a reason for applying to REU.
* How did this experience help Monica: presented a poster, received an excellent letter of recommendation, received a publication, made important connections, continues to work with people that were met during her REU experience.
* To learn more, visit NSF REU website to look through available REUs.
* Contact Monica: rosen.monica@huksers.unl.edu

McNair/ Summer research program/UCARE- Jess Tate

* Summer research program
	+ Minority health disparities is a new program that is where psychology students will fit in
	+ Great way to get prepared for grad school, and figure out where your research interests are
	+ Priority deadline is February 1st, application closes march 1st, similar to UCARE and McNair
	+ Benefits: $5,000 stipend, room and meal plan. professional seminars
* McNair
	+ Prepares people for a PhD
	+ Eligibility requirements: must have a plan to obtain a Ph.D., must be a US citizen or permanent resident, be full time at unl, have a GPA of 3.0 or above. Either first-generation w/ financial need or minority student
	+ Academic year- attend monthly seminars
	+ Conduct 9-weeks of research in summer
		- $2,800 stipend plus room and board
		- GRE prep
		- Application fee waiver for over 200 universities
		- Funding to visit campus
		- Present final research at California Berkely Symposium
	+ Application deadlines- eligible to apply during freshman, sophomore, or junior year if you still have 1.5 years left before graduation
	+ You must commit to the 9-weeks in the summer
	+ Application-statement of purpose, two faculty recommenders, official transcript, financial needs assessment form
	+ Interviews will be conducted for finalists
	+ Questions- Carol Boehler, Program Coordinator (402) 472-5062, cboehler@unl.com
	+ If interested, but don’t meet requirements, apply for UCARE!
* UCARE (Jess)
	+ UCARE website is very helpful in determining eligibility
	+ Unique to UNL because most undergraduates do not get paid to do research
	+ Can put it on CV
	+ Any major can apply, you just need to find a mentor
	+ Receive stipend
	+ Available research opportunities on website. Check to see if faculty is accepting help

UCARE/Thesis (Sarah Moody)

* UCARE
	+ Sarah was already working in a lab, and she later worked with her faculty member to develop a UCARE project.
	+ She applied knowledge from PSYC 350 and used it in her experience.
	+ With UCARE, you must attend one skill-building seminar a semester, which are really helpful. Red Talks are a new thing, which are similar to Ted Talks, which are about research. (The next one is Thursday, February 16th!- attend if you are or aren’t a UCARE student; snacks are also there!)
	+ Undergraduates present their research posters at a fair to share and learn about others experiences.
	+ Application- usually are workshops on how to apply. Work closely with your mentor in the research proposal. Sarah recommends looking to older UCARE-experienced students for help if possible. The application basically is looking for the skeleton for your research plan. 2 pages is a typical length.
	+ Eligibility- freshman, sophomore, junior full time student willing to devote 10 hours of research during the school year or 20 hours in the summer. Must have a 2.75 or higher GPA) Faculty can only sponser 2 projects, but team projects of up to 3 students are also available.
	+ Contact- Justina Clark. Make an appointment via MyPlan on BlackBoard
* Thesis
	+ Sarah used her UCARE project for her Honors thesis and for the CAS thesis for graduating with distinction
	+ Start earlier! The sooner you start, the easier it will be.
	+ Requirements for CAS distinction are on CAS website
		- Difference from Honors thesis is you must defend the thesis orally