We would like to invite you to read our very first issue of URConnection, a way to stay connected with your undergraduate URC Peer Advisors and discover the latest news and events in research at UC Davis! We plan to bring you information about our upcoming events, highlights in research, information about research projects you can get involved with, and tips on how to find a research position. We hope our newsletters bring you easy, accessible information about what’s going on at the URC so you can get involved!

- Tran Phan and Isabelle Floyd (Your peer advisors)

## Upcoming Events

- **Registration/Abstract Deadline for the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference**
  Tuesday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.

- **Undergraduate Travel Award Deadline**
  Friday, February 14, 5:00 p.m.

- **How to Get Involved in Research Seminars**
  Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 4:10 – 5:00 p.m.
  Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:10 – 1:00 p.m.
  (Meeting Room D, Student Community Center)

- **Writing Fellowship Grants for Graduate School**
  Tuesday, May 6, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
  Multipurpose Room, Student Community Center

## Research Highlights

### UC Davis Plant Genetics Professor Receives Wolf Prize for Research on Wheat Genetics

Wheat geneticist Jorge Dubcovsky has been awarded the $100,000 Wolf Prize in agriculture. Dubcovsky is a leader in plant genomics and is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences. His current research interests are to identify an important wheat gene in hopes of finding a lead to more nutritious wheat varieties. To read more, [click here](#).

### UC Davis Has Been Recognized As a Leading Institution in Scientific Research

UC Davis has been recognized as one of the leading universities conducting research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research has ranked UC Davis’ School of Veterinary Medicine first out of the 28 veterinary schools in NIH-funded research and our School of Medicine 34th out of 139 medical schools nation-wide. To read more, [click here](#).

### UC Davis Undergraduate Helps Find Tools Used By Early Humans

Undergraduate student Naomi Martisius conducted undergraduate research in a paleoanthropology laboratory at UC Davis in 2011, presented in the 2011 Undergraduate Research Conference, and published in the 2011 edition of Explorations. She was able to help in discovering the first early specialized bone tools used by Neandertals in Europe. Her findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in August, 2013. To read more [click here](#).
A Closer Look at the One Minute Entomology Project

The URConnection turns the spotlight on the One Minute Entomology project led by Professors James Carey, Edwin Lewis and Lynn Kimsey of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology. The project was introduced for the first time in spring quarter of 2013.

Throughout the quarter, students learned how to put one minute video together of different common insects found in California with emphasis on insect identification and distribution.

What are the benefits of participating in this project?

Professors and students enjoy the small classroom setting. “Students get to know professors as well as allow us to get to know you,” said Professor Carey. “Students learn about entomology broadly, multiple insects in details, the practice of putting together a PowerPoint, narration and public speaking.” Both Professor Carey and Kimsey strongly stressed the importance of understanding “How to be concise in what students communicate.”

Danh Huynh, a 4th year NPB major student, said “I got a very rare opportunity to be working under the supervision of three wonderful professors. They were always so helpful with feedback regarding our presentations.”

Exploring New One Minute Video Ideas

This ongoing project is currently in its third quarter and over ninety videos have been created and uploaded on the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology website. Aside from continuing identification of more insects, professors and students experiment with new ideas that can be incorporated into one minute video. “We are now branching off to different topics such as spices, art, music, and health. We are now making one minute videos that cater to our interest or relate to our major,” Danh said.

Professor Kimsey added, “We want to bring in more audio: insect sounds and background noises to make it a more three-dimensional experience.”

Get Involved!

Professor Carey, Lewis and Kimsey welcome students from any major and class level to participate whether you have an interest in insects or would like to become a one minute expert in any area of interest and transferable across any department.

Link to One Minute Entomology Webpage: http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/Faculty/James_R_Carey/One_Minute_Entomology_Videos/

About Your Peer Advisors

Isabelle Floyd has been with the URC for two years. She is a fourth year pharmaceutical chemistry major and plans to attend graduate school to become a nurse practitioner. She has been involved with undergraduate research in the chemistry department in the past.

Tran Phan has been with the URC for three years. She is a fourth year, majoring in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior. She is currently conducting research in the Early Start lab and the One Minute Video project and she would love to share her experiences with students.

CONTACT

If you’re interested in scheduling a one-on-one appointment, or you have an interesting story or tip to share about undergraduate research that you would like posted in one of our issues, please contact us:

Phone: (530) 752-3390
Email: urc@ucdavis.edu
Location: 2300 Student Community Center, 2nd Floor
Hours: Monday-Friday; 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
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