

FACULTY GUIDE: *STUDENTS AS SCHOLARS*

2011 Updates



STUDENTS AS SCHOLARS

As we have met with Mason faculty, staff, students, and talked with colleagues at other institutions, we have refined and further developed the features of the *Students as Scholars* initiative. We've designed this update to the Faculty Guide as an outline of new and expanded opportunities available to the Mason community during the first year of the *Students as Scholars* initiative. The details will be available through our website (oscar.gmu.edu).

Please join with us this year as we build the *Students as Scholars* initiative. We are designing a space for the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR) in the Johnson Center, which will hopefully be open by the end of the fall semester (look for an open house invitation!). The Scholarship Development Grants, Research and Scholarship Intensive courses, Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, OSCAR Fellows, Celebration of Student Scholarship, and other programs will be piloted this year.

We look forward to working with you, and appreciate your support of student scholarship!

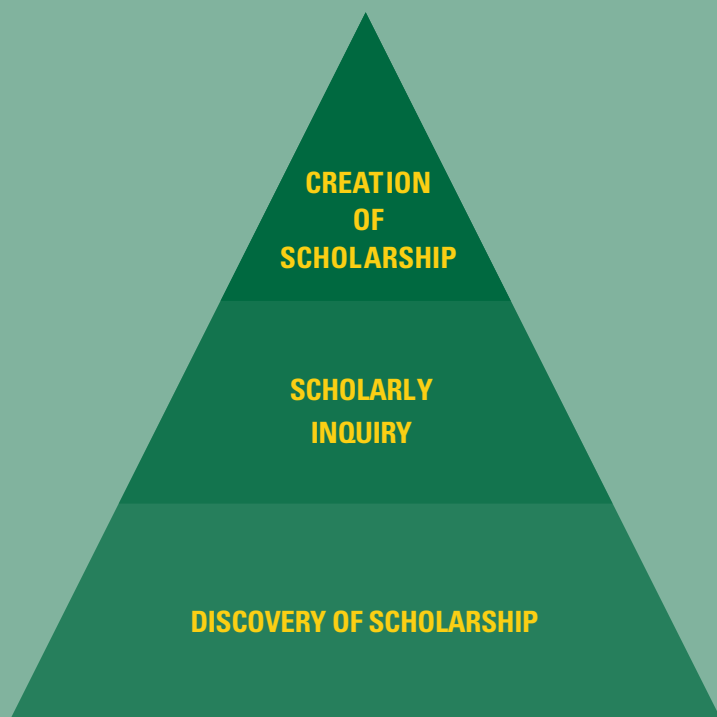
On behalf of the QEP Leadership Council,

Dr. Bethany M. Usher (co-chair)
Director, *Students as Scholars*
Associate Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Kimberly K. Eby (co-chair)
Associate Provost for Faculty Development
Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

The mission of the *Students as Scholars* initiative is to foster a culture of student scholarship through increased participation in and celebration of scholarly activities. Student learning will be enhanced through a process of scholarly inquiry, where scholarship is valued as a core practice of the Mason student experience.

REVISED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES



CREATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

At the pinnacle of the pyramid, students will:

- Create an original scholarly or creative project.
- Communicate knowledge from an original scholarly or creative project.

SCHOLARLY INQUIRY

At the middle level of the pyramid, students will:

- Articulate a scholarly question, engage in key elements of the scholarly process, and situate the concepts, practices, or results of scholarship within a broader context.

DISCOVERY OF SCHOLARSHIP

At the foundational level of the pyramid, students will:

- Understand how knowledge is generated and disseminated through scholarship.
- Discover how they can engage in the practice of scholarship.

BECOME A MEMBER OF CUR!



As part of the *Students as Scholars* initiative, Mason is now an Enhanced Institutional Member of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), which includes unlimited free memberships for faculty, staff, and students. As a member, you can access CUR's online resources, receive email delivery of news and the *CUR Quarterly* journal, and register for CUR events at discounted rates! Please visit oscar.gmu.edu for more information on becoming a member.

SCHOLARSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The goal of curriculum revision supported by the *Students as Scholars* initiative is for programs to create courses and other experiences for undergraduate students to learn about scholarship and its role at Mason, actively engage in scholarship, and participate in the generation of knowledge. Scholarship Development Grants (SDG) will be awarded in four tracks. OSCAR will hold informational meetings about the SDGs starting in early fall.

Track A: Research and Scholarship Intensive Course SDGs support the redesign of courses in which students participate in the creation of original scholarly or creative projects. These courses will address the Creation of Scholarship student learning outcomes and, as such, are eligible to be designated Research and Scholarship intensive (RS). The deadline for the first Track A proposals will be in October 2011.

Track B: Curriculum Development SDGs support the creation of a scaffolded learning experience for students as they progress through an academic program and develop an understanding of the scholarly work in the discipline or field. This curriculum development and revision will engage students in at least two of the three curriculum levels: Discovery of Scholarship, Scholarly Inquiry, and Creation of Scholarship. The deadline for the first Track B proposals will be in spring 2012.

Track C: Collaborative Project SDGs will support interdisciplinary and co-curricular projects that have a substantial undergraduate student scholarship component. The deadline for the first Track C proposals will be in spring 2012.

Track D: Pedagogical Research SDGs will support faculty and programs who want to further investigate the impact of their curricular changes on student learning, to enhance and expand these programs based on evidence of student learning, and to share the results of their innovative methods with other faculty. Track D proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning spring 2012.

COURSE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

In *Creation of Scholarship* courses, students actively participate in the process of scholarship and make a significant contribution to the creation of a disciplinary-appropriate product for evaluation. Approved courses will be awarded an RS designation that will appear on the student's transcript. RS courses will be upper-division.

In *Scholarly Inquiry* courses, students learn about the recursive process of scholarly inquiry either through studying previous scholarship or as preparation for participating in an original project. A scholarly inquiry class may be a research methods course in a discipline or a course that uses inquiry-guided learning to explore a topic.

Discovery of Scholarship courses introduce students to scholarship. The Discovery-level material will be covered in introductory courses in a major, general education courses, basic Introductory Composition (ENGL100/101), and First-Year Seminar (UNIV100/300) courses. These courses should include some active or inquiry-based learning techniques.

INDIVIDUALIZED SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCES

The *Undergraduate Research Scholars Program* (URSP) is the opportunity for students to participate in individualized scholarship experiences. Students will be eligible to receive \$1,000 to support their scholarly and creative projects, while faculty mentors will be eligible to request an additional \$500. Students will be able to renew their URSP project for multiple semesters and receive preference for grants in the expanded Undergraduate Student Travel Fund.

Undergraduate students will be able to connect with faculty offering research and creative projects using the *Students as Scholars* project database. HireMason (careers.gmu.edu), operated by University Career Services, has been modified to encourage faculty and staff to post credit-bearing and paid opportunities for undergraduates to participate in scholarly projects.

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