

Report to WKU Faculty Senate - Student Research Council

Submitted by Tamera Race, December 11, 2012

The Student Research Council has met throughout the fall term in preparation for this year's REACH (Research Experiences and Creative Heights) Week. REACH Week 2013 is scheduled for **March 18-23**, and includes invited speakers as well as opportunities for students to present their research and creative works. Dr. Paul Simmons, University of Louisville, has accepted an invitation to speak at the research conference on Saturday afternoon, **March 23**. He also will meet informally with all interested students to discuss his work on biomedical ethics, stem cell research, neuroscience and the existence of God, and teaching religion in the public schools on Friday, **March 22** from 11:30-12:30 in the Kentucky Room of the Kentucky Building. Dr. Simmons is sponsored by the WKU Chapter of Sigma Xi. Author and journalist Sarah Vowell has accepted an invitation to give the keynote public presentation (date and venue to be determined).

The 43rd Annual Student Research Conference will take place on **March 23** in Gary Ransdell Hall on the main campus. Students are invited to apply to participate by submitting an abstract for their papers, posters, performances, videos, and exhibits. This year's conference will feature a remote conference session for off-campus students. For more information and to submit an abstract, interested students should visit <http://www.wku.edu/studentresearch/abstract.php>. Students should work with their faculty mentors to draft their abstracts. Abstracts will be accepted between **December 15, 2012 and February 15, 2013**. We will need about 100 faculty-staff judges for the conference; the call for judges will come via e-mail in the coming weeks.

The "Be an Academic Rock Star" series is a new workshop series for undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines. This workshop series is intended to help students develop professional skills and to help them prepare for the annual WKU Student Research Conference. The first workshop, "How to Write an Abstract," was presented on November 14 by Dr. Rodney King. Students can access the video and Powerpoint presentation at <http://www.wku.edu/studentresearch/workshops.php>. The next workshop, "How to Prepare a Conference Presentation," will be presented by Dr. Lance Hahn on **March 6 at 10:20-11:15 am in AC 409**. Dr. Gordon Baylis will present the third workshop, "How to Make a Conference Poster," in late February/early March. These workshops are open to all WKU students.

The Student Research Council is comprised of the following members: Darlene Applegate (chair), Rodney King, Farley Norman, Ajay Srivastava, Leslie Baylis, Scott Lyons, Merrill Price, Derick Strode, Lance Hahn, Ashlee Manley, Tamera Race, Andy Mienaltowski, Bob Hatfield, Lynn Minton, Afzal Rahim, and Larry Snyder (ex-officio). For more information about the 2013 REACH Week and the Student Research Conference, contact a council member or visit the web site at http://www.wku.edu/studentresearch/reach_week.php.

