



Spring 2014 UConn IDEA Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the twenty UConn undergraduates who have been awarded UConn IDEA Grants! Fourteen of the twenty award recipients will be completing individual projects, and the remaining six will be working on collaborative group projects.

Special thanks to the faculty and staff that supported student applications to the UConn IDEA Grant and to those who will be mentoring the award recipients as they complete their projects.

The UConn IDEA Grant program awards undergraduates funding to support self-designed projects including artistic endeavors, community service initiatives, traditional research projects, entrepreneurial ventures, and other innovative projects. Proposals for the UConn IDEA Grant represented a variety of disciplines, ranging from fine arts to marine sciences. The program is open to undergraduates in all majors at all campuses.

Award Recipients – Individual Projects

Kaitrin Acuna '15 (Art: Photography, SFA)

The Creation of a Series of Elaborate Synesthetic Images

- Kaitrin will be making a series of digital photo composites and writing a comprehensive book on the subjectivity of synesthesia, a rare perceptual and sensory condition where an individual's senses blend together in unique ways.

Rebecca Barton '15 (Sociology, CLAS; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, CLAS)

Mormon Feminists: Negotiating Conflicting Identities

- Rebecca will conduct a sociological research project examining Mormon feminist women and how they negotiate the seemingly conflicting identities of "Mormon" and "feminist."

Amanda Dostie '16 (Marine Sciences, CLAS)

Tracing the Nutrition Driving Cladophora sp. Dominance in Little Narragansett Bay

- Amanda is going to explore the nitrogen cycling that is driving the build-up of the Cladophora seaweed species in Little Narragansett Bay, which is causing health and recreational problems for locals and visitors.

Ashley Frato '15 (Art: Sculpture, SFA)

Su Voz: A New Voice for the Cuban Revolution

- Ashley will be creating a video installation inspired by the personal experiences of her family members during the Cuban Revolution to visually critique the depiction of these events commonly found in textbooks, lectures and through the media.

Vincent LaMonica '15 (Music Composition, SFA; Bassoon Performance, SFA)

Alban Berg's "Lyric Suite": Adoption and Adaptation of the Twelve-Tone System

- Vincent will analyze the entirety of Alban Berg's Lyric Suite, produce an annotated score and research paper on his findings, and will then apply what he's learned by writing an original composition in the style of Berg to be recorded by a professional string quartet.

Feifei Luo '15 (Art: Individualized Concentration, SFA)

Project 00000

- Feifei plans to create an art installation of large ink figure drawings on translucent materials, video projection and lighting to engage viewers as they walk around and through the piece.

Sarah Mosure '17 (Biological Sciences, CLAS)

The Effect of Adipose Secretions on Ovulation and Fertility

- Sarah will establish a *Drosophila* (fruit fly) model to investigate the relationship between adipose secretions and reproductive success as a way to gain a better understanding of the analogous interplay between adipose tissue and menstruation in women.

Julianne Norton '15 (Individualized: International Relations, CLAS)

The Shoemaker: A Graphic Novel

- Julianne will complete the first installment of a graphic novel entitled *The Shoemaker* that weaves together narratives of human rights, postmemory, and current international conflict.

Devin Samuels, Dec'14 (Sociology, CLAS)

Youth Slam Poetry: Coaches and Organizer's Guidebook

- Devin will compile a 3-part guide to coaching and organizing a youth poetry slam team that includes a reflection on his personal experiences with coaching slam poetry groups, a guide to best practices that includes interviews with experts, and an exploration of how to create a sustainable organization.

Annaliese Schulster '15 (Psychology, CLAS)

Alternative Learning in Special Education: Exploring the Effects of the Arts and Assistive Technologies on Math Learning

- Annaliese plans to collaborate with a local elementary school special education program to facilitate math learning through incorporating creative expression and assistive technology into existing physical education and arts programs.

Jennifer Selensky '15 (Psychology, CLAS; Spanish, CLAS)

Self-Esteem, Motivation, and Healthy Lifestyle Importance and Patterns in College Students

- Jennifer is going to investigate and measure self-esteem, motivation, and exercise and eating patterns of college students in order to determine what factors contribute to students choosing to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Brendan Smalec '16 (Molecular and Cell Biology, CLAS; Art History, SFA)

Characterizing the Epigenetic Landscape of the White-Footed Mouse

- Brendan will explore the epigenetic markers of a highly metastatic tumor found in the white-footed mouse to identify genes that contribute to the development of tumors.

Marissa Stanton '15 (Art: Individualized Concentration, SFA)

Firenze: Studying Color and Light in Tuscany

- Marissa will travel to Florence Italy to conduct research on color, light, and atmosphere that will be used to create a series of paintings that will be exhibited at galleries along with a limited edition book of poetry reflecting upon her work and how it developed in that environment.

Jesse Wang '15 (Physiology & Neurobiology, CLAS)

Curating Unified Publications (CUP)

- Jesse will develop a search engine aimed at helping the research community and healthcare industry gather useful biomedical publications. The search engine will utilize relationships between biological concepts to provide a graphical representation of the most relevant search results.

Award Recipients – Group Projects

RJ Anderson '15 (Individualized: International Development, CLAS; Human Rights, CLAS)

David Pereira '15 (Art: Communication Design, SFA)

Visualizing Distant Suffering: A Critical Examination of Modern Day Slavery

- RJ and David will develop a guidebook and graphic design campaign to accompany a documentary they have been making to raise awareness around the issue of human trafficking.

Kate Craddock '16 (Biomedical Engineering, ENGR)

Ryan Rood '15 (Biomedical Engineering, ENGR)

Technology Based Alternate Note-Taking Methods

- Kate and Ryan will work with the UConn Center for Students with Disabilities to engage in a study on various note-taking methods and study habits that have potential to improve students' organization, retention of the material, and their overall learning experience.

Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah '15 (English, CLAS; Urban and Community Studies, CLAS)

Joseph Rosen '17 (English, CLAS)

Exsistentia – “A literary journal run by genuine thought”

- Emmanuel and Joseph plan to create a literary journal that addresses existential questions through the art of curation. The journal will include poetry, prose, illustration, audio, film, and other mediums of expression.