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***Undergraduate Research Leadership Conference***

**April 15, 2011**

**Sponsored by the**

**California State University  
Office of the Chancellor**



**Hosted by the**

**California State University Channel Islands**



**California State University – Undergraduate Research Leadership Conference**  
**California State University, Channel Islands**  
April 15, 2011  
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

10:00 -10:30 a.m.: Registration – CSU Channel Islands – **Malibu Hall**

10:30 -10:45 a.m.: Welcome – President Richard Rush - **Malibu Hall**

10:45 -10:50 a.m.: Introduction of plenary speakers

10:50 a.m. -11:45 a.m.: Plenary Session speakers

- Jill Singer, Buffalo State College – “Undergraduate Research: From Vision to Practice”
- John Swift, Occidental College – “Undergraduate Research in Letters, Arts, and Humanities”

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Open Forum Discussion

12:00 -1:00 p.m.: Lunch and informal networking session - **Malibu Hall**

1:00 -2:30 p.m.: Undergraduate Research in the CSU: Individual Campus Presentations (each campus will have five minutes to present highlights of what they are doing to promote undergraduate research) - **Malibu Hall**

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.: Breakout discussion sessions

1. **Room 1 - Broome Library 1756**

**Why undergraduate research?** Why do we do undergraduate research? What are the benefits and outcomes? How do we best build the pipeline: continuing undergraduate research from two-year to four-year to graduate school?

2. **Room 2 – Broome Library 1750**

**What’s working (and how do we know)?** How do we measure the impact of undergraduate research? In particular, what is some of the evidence demonstrating impact to achievement of underrepresented groups? What are some strategies that work particularly well?

3. **Room 3 – Broome Library 2330**

**Scaling-up – How do we do this?** How do we foster and incentivize faculty to engage in undergraduate research? What are some funding programs available to support undergraduate research?

4. **Room 4 – Broome Library 2480**

**How do we expand “beyond the lab”?** How can undergraduate research be embedded into the curriculum, and be linked with campus activities such as Service Learning and Internships? How do we foster undergraduate research in the arts and humanities?

5. **Room 5 - Broome Library 2490**

**Should campuses consider a centralized undergraduate research office?** What are the Pros and Cons of a Centralized Undergraduate Research Office? How much investment does this take, and how is it sustainable?

4:30-5:00: Summary of Breakout Discussion Sections

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Formal program concludes – Transition to reception and additional informal networking – **Malibu Hall**

## *Plenary Speakers*

### **Professor Jill Singer, Buffalo State College**

Jill Singer, Professor of Earth Sciences at SUNY-Buffalo State College (Buffalo State), received her B.A. in geology from Buffalo State in 1979 and her M.A. (1982) and Ph.D. (1987) degrees in geology from Rice University. She joined the faculty at Buffalo State in 1986. In 2003, she was appointed Director of the college's Office of Undergraduate Research and now splits her time between her faculty position and leading campus-wide undergraduate research activities. She is the recipient of Buffalo State's President's Award for Excellence as an Undergraduate Research Mentor (2007) and SUNY Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities (2008). From 2001 to 2003 and 2007 to 2009, she served as a program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) at the National Science Foundation. During that time, she was involved in a number of DUE programs including: Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI, now known as TUES); Advanced Technological Education (ATE), STEM Talent Expansion (STEP); National STEM Digital Library (NSDL); and Climate Change Education (CCE).

Jill teaches courses in oceanography, environmental geology, and sedimentology, and she maintains an active research program in applied sedimentology. Her research focuses on sediment dynamics and much of her work has been related to environmental remediation efforts of the Buffalo River, a river that flows into the eastern end of Lake Erie near the Niagara River. She mentors undergraduates in class, laboratory, and field research projects and has mentored/co-mentored over 50 students in the past fifteen years. She has received funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation. In 2000 and 2001 Jill directed Buffalo State's NCUR/Lancy-supported interdisciplinary summer undergraduate research program. Over the two years of the program, undergraduates conducted research projects related to the unifying theme of environmental and social change in Buffalo in the period since the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Jill is an active member of the Council on Undergraduate Research, and she has been involved in CUR activities for twenty years, including serving as Chair of the Geosciences Division (1998-2002) and CUR President (2003-2004). She has helped organize and lead "Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research" workshops for the past ten years.

### **Professor John Swift, Occidental College**

John N. Swift (Ph. D. University of Virginia) is Professor and Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at Occidental College. His main field of teaching and research is late 19th and early 20th century British and American literature. He has written about authors ranging from John Milton to D. H. Lawrence to Jack London, but his major research projects have involved the American novelist Willa Cather and her cultural/historical context. His most recent publications include "Cather, Freudianism, and Freud" (2007), "'Kind Things': Recessional Objects and Cather's Materialism" (2007), "Charles Chesnut's 'Dave's Neckliss' and the Curse of Ham" (2009, co-authored with Occidental undergraduate Gigen Mammoser), and "Willa Cather in Space: Exile, Vagrancy, and Knowing" (2010).

John Swift teaches courses in modern British and American fiction and poetry and in general American literary history; he also taught for many years an interdisciplinary course on Los Angeles in Occidental's Cultural Studies Program. He has a longstanding interest in undergraduate research in the humanities. He was the founding President of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research, and he has been a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research; he currently is an elected Councilor in the humanities for the national Council on Undergraduate Research. He has also served as Occidental's Associate Dean of the Faculty and Faculty President.

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