



RIT Kosovo

RITK Faculty Development Center

Conference abstracts

“Best practices in promoting research during undergraduate studies”

Project “Enhancing the role of FDC to support teaching and research excellence among RITK faculty and students” supported by US Embassy Prishtina through University Support Program.

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Ahmad Zargari, Ph.D., CSTM, Professor and Associate Dean, College of Business and Technology, School of Engineering and Information Systems, Morehead State University- “Inclusion of Research in Undergraduate Curriculum: Integrating Research into Undergraduate Courses: Faculty and Students Experiences from an Engineering Technology Program”- ahmad.zargari@moreheadstate.edu

Abstract:

Morehead State University’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program was established in the 2005-2006 academic year. The URF was designed to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to work as a colleague with a faculty mentor on a research project in their field of study. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage qualified full-time undergraduate students to engage in research under guidance and mentorship of faculty members who are actively involved in scholarly research and demonstrate evidence of an ongoing research agenda.

Since its inception, the URF program has continued to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to work with pay during the academic year on a research project. The fellowship is renewable for up to 4 years with satisfactory progress. Approximately 1600 students have participated in the program, supported primarily with institutional funds and some external grant funding. According to MSU’s Office of Associate Provost with research, preliminary data indicate that over 90% of the UG Fellows have presented their work at local, state, regional, or national professional meetings.

Our observations demonstrate that the undergraduate education is enhanced by attaining research experience early and often in variety of disciplines including engineering and engineering technologies. Undergraduate students who get involved in research, find the opportunity to publish and present at the regional and national conferences. They also learn how to collaborative with faculty and classmates to develop an area of interest, discover their passion for research, pursue graduate studies, and explore career fields.

Mohammad Behi, Ph.D., New Jersey Institute Technology (NJIT), Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering- “Process of Conducting a Scientific Research”- mohammad.behi@njit.edu

Abstract:

Scientific research plays an important role in improving our daily lives in many distinctive levels of our needs. We are continuously in demand for developing new medical procedure, medication, curing diseases, resolving environmental issues, transportation, agricultural, electronics, and economical issues. The field is very wide and it is prioritized based on the importance and immediate demands.

One of the recently noticeable technologies is 3D printing technology for printing plastic, ceramic and metal objects. The cost of the 3D printing machines varies from few hundreds to about a million dollars, depending on quality and the material being printed. One of my ongoing researches is to develop metal alloys and engineering ceramic materials to be printable with an inexpensive desktop 3D printer. This system will be able to print high quality metal objects. The quality of the printed object will be better than any presently available in the market.

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James Hall, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, United States, Dean of University Studies, Executive Director, School of Individualized Study-“Autonomy, Control and Risk Management in the Supervision of Undergraduate Research”- jhcms@rit.edu

Abstract:

I've held administrative and leadership positions in experimental higher education environments for close to 20 years -- and in each environment it has been a priority best practice to incentivize students to extend themselves and their academic plans by conducting independent research. In some cases, students frame an inquiry that socializes into academic tribes and territory, whereas, in others, students utilize grounded questioning practice to clarify key questions around professional identity and interest. The supervisory challenge in all cases is how to drive intrinsically motivated and high quality research practice that results in a transformed perspective on individual prospects. I will share some thoughts on supervisory strategy – especially in environments of modest faculty staffing where there can be little hope of complete and comprehensive disciplinary coverage. What should be non-negotiable in supervision? What is optimal independence?

**Natalija Popovska, Ph.D- Assistant professor,
University "St. Cyril and Methodius", Institute of National History, Skopje, North Macedonia
Research during Undergraduate Studies in RNM: Between Legal Framework and Praxis-
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Abstract:

This presentation discusses the possibilities for research experience during undergraduate studies. I refer to the legal framework of the Republic of North Macedonia, i.e. the existing strategic documents and laws dealing with scientific research in education, being: National Strategy on Education, Law on Education, Law on Scientific Research Work and their implementation. The discussion only conveys those parts and legal articles, which are related to the topic, and offers an insight in the degree of the regulation's adequacy to the needs enabling research work with students. In further detail, the discussion offers a brief commentary on the University as an institution that produces and transfers knowledge through lecturing and research, the degree of respect of the principles of indivisibility of tuition and research and the freedom of research and tuition in compliance with the guaranteed University autonomy contextualized in the existing societal reality, i.e. the Republic of North Macedonia positive regulation. The presentation is supported by examples that show the trend in preparing students for scientific research work and their engagement in research projects during the studies in order to better determine an area of their interest, and starting point for their careers as researchers.

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Lorraina Pinnell., Ph.D & Julie Kolgjini., Ph.D, RITK(A.U.K) – “Confusion, Concepts, Clarity: The Anatomy of Research for first-year Undergraduates- lpinnell@auk.org ; jkolgjini@auk.org,

Abstract:

Undergraduate first-year writing-intensive courses can present various challenges for both the learner and the course facilitator, including in L2 writing contexts. Careful consideration of the varied linguistic backgrounds, multilingual journeys, and literacy practices of the students are essential when devising effective best practices for a dynamic classroom environment where meaning is constantly being re- and deconstructed by the various stakeholders. Albeit various pedagogical methods need to be aligned with rigorous student learning objectives, flexibility is essential in order for meaningful learning to transpire. Such is also the case when research methods are woven into the writing assignments, where information literacy, academic integrity, digital tools, peer-to-peer tutoring, recursive writing, peer critiques, and other resources are added to the equation. During all phases of the writing process, from invention to polished final draft and public defense of central propositions, bumps in the road are to be expected and ethically approached. This presentation will deal with the multifaceted experiences of integrating ethical research practices into first-year writing courses.

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