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UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017

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*Welcome Back!*

## **The LSA Bicentennial Theme Semester Continues: Michigan Horizons/ The Future of U-M . . . and the World**

The Fall 2017 Theme Semester kicks off with the opening of the exhibit "Forever Unfinished: Making & Remaking a Public University" (Hatcher Gallery/Room 100) and the first symposium: Digital Futures. See the full schedule [here](#).

## **Transfer Students & Making LSA More Transfer Receptive**

The College has made the recruitment and enrollment of transfer students to LSA a priority. In our DEI plan, we commit to launching "College-wide, department-based discussions with the goal of creating departmental transfer friendly cultures...[and] making transfer students more visible in undergraduate populations." You can read more [here](#).

Ensuring that transfer students are well supported and successful is going to require us to become much more transfer friendly and receptive. To this end, the LSA Curriculum Subcommittee on Transfer Credit has been tasked with documenting and reviewing each department's procedures and practices this year to understand what is working well and what is not. The Subcommittee will also be interested in what challenges exist currently and what might be hindering our ability to overcome these challenges. The Subcommittee will collect and disseminate best practices and will present its findings to the Curriculum Committee in the winter of 2018. Assistant Dean Esrold Nurse, Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee on Transfer Credit will be reaching out to departments and units soon with a detailed set of questions.

## Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships

The Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships (ONSF) is a new U-M office created to centralize the recruitment and preparation of candidates for opportunities such as the Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, Truman, Goldwater Scholarships, and many more. ONSF is physically and administratively located within the LSA Honors Program, but is a service to students throughout the University. (Not just Honors and not just LSA.) A key part of its mission is to ensure that information about national scholarships and fellowships is distributed broadly to all eligible students in all the U-M schools and colleges. ONSF has established an email group: [onsf.announcements@umich.edu](mailto:onsf.announcements@umich.edu) as the primary mechanism for updating faculty/staff, advising units, and partner organizations. Please contact the ONSF Director, Henry Dyson, if you wish to be added. You can also follow their [Facebook page](#) for more frequent announcements, updates, and deadline reminders.

## Leadership Transition for UROP

On August 31, Sandra (Sandy) Gregerman will step down as the long-time director of the program, and on September 1, Catalina Ormsby will become UROP's interim director while the search for a permanent new director proceeds. Fortunately for us, while Sandy is stepping down as the Director of UROP, she will continue to lend her talents and creativity to the Michigan community. As she phases into retirement, she will take on a new position working with the Office of Enrollment Management, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Office of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in LSA. As a special counsel on undergraduate research and student access, Sandy will focus in part on student access – working with POSSE STEM, Wolverine Pathways, and the cross-campus "Growing STEM." She will continue to champion undergraduate research, working with UMOR (the U-M Office of Research, formerly OVPR) on a white paper proposal for a campus-wide Center for Undergraduate Research. We'll be sending information soon about the event we're organizing in Sandy's honor to mark her 25 years with UROP.

She is leaving UROP in good hands! Catalina has served as the associate director of UROP since 2013, and we are very appreciative of her willingness to take on this role. In addition to her core responsibilities as Associate Director, she has developed academic programming and strategies for engaging diverse students in research, including community college transfer student initiatives. As interim director, Catalina will continue to lead the UROP efforts to engage community college students.

## We're Launching a New UGED DEI Initiative: LSA Inclusive Campus Corps

The LSA Inclusive Campus Corps is a program for student employees in the Division of Undergraduate Education to further develop their skills in promoting inclusivity and equity in their interactions with students in our programs. We have over 1,000 student staff who work as peer mentors, tutors, front desk assistants, and in a wide variety of other student-facing roles. This initiative, led by recent LSA grad Shamaila Ashraf (PPE & Women's Studies, 2017), is a way of

building the capacity of student workers while helping to create a critical mass of student leaders with DEI training. Stay tuned for updates.

***In other DEI News . . .***

**Growing STEM: Pipelines, Collaborations and Pedagogies for Diversity and Inclusion**, a cross-campus collaboration of faculty and staff to create pipelines and address disparities at every level of STEM education, is becoming an official "Knowledge Community" sponsored by the **National Center for Institutional Diversity**. We're in the process of reorganizing the Steering Committee and will be announcing the Fall 2017 events soon. Want to be involved? Email: [growingstem@umich.edu](mailto:growingstem@umich.edu).