

2014-2015 SRAP Proposals

Project #	Project Supervisor	Department	email	Project Title	Project Description
1	Andrew Edelman	Biology	aedelman@westga.edu	Response of mammals to fire-based restoration of montane longleaf pine	This project will provide opportunities for students to participate in scientific research which will improve UWG's ability to attract, retain, and graduate undergraduate students. These students will gain valuable professional experience in the field of ecology that is necessary to pursue graduate school and related careers.
2	Ann Gaquere	Chemistry	agaquere@westga.edu	Effects of Ultrasounds on alpha-Amylase	The students will gain experience in working in a chemistry research laboratory in the same way they would in industry or graduate school. The Skills they obtain through this research project, as well as during the presentations at regional meetings they do are a very valuable asset for their resume. Also with these funds, the students are paid to do a job that is directly connected to their field of study and that can enhance their scientific learning.
3	Ashley Smallwood	Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeological Laboratory	ashleys@westga.edu	Waring Archaeology Education and Public Outreach Program	Through presentation at Big Night, the Multi-cultural Festival, and Waring's Annual Open House, the student research assistant will promote university awareness and appreciation of Georgia's rich cultural heritage . The Traveling Teaching Trunks will be available to all UWG students, faculty, and staff. These educational trunks will promote a deeper understanding of prehistory and history
4	Ben Steere	Anthropology	bsteere@westga.edu	The Archaeology of the Hickory Level Pond Site, Carroll County, Georgia	The final products generated by this project, particularly the student presentation at Big Night, will encourage the appreciation and understanding of prehistoric Native American culture on campus, and provide the campus community with a compelling and accurate narrative about the lives of the indigenous people who once lived in Carroll County.
5	Brad Darvas	Theatre	bdarvas@westga.edu	Scene Shop Foreperson	This position will enhance the production values of the Theatre Department in many aspects. A shop Foreman will serve in a leadership role and provide their peers with guidance where needed, and the support where required.

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6	Chris Berg	Geosciences	cberg@westga.edu	Student Assistants in the West Georgia Microscopy Center: Development, Application, Teaching, and Training Opportunities for STEM Majors	Student assistants funded by this program will assist in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the SEM-EDS instrument and other research equipment housed within the West Georgia Microscopy Center. This facility supports multiple ongoing research projects involving undergraduate students, faculty, and external users. The support of dedicated student assistants is vital to maximizing the productivity of the WGMC.
7	Danilo Baylen	Education Technology and Foundations	dbaylen@westga.edu	Analyzing Archived Digital Texts from Online Discussions: A Follow-Up Study	The project focuses on understanding graduate student behaviors in online learning communities that has implications to designing and developing interactive and collaborative educational experiences. To this end, the project contributes significantly to the quality of life on campus specifically to those teaching and learning at a distance.
8	Elizabeth Stone	University Communication s and Marketing	estone@westga.edu	University Communications and Marketing Student Assistantship	The publicity garnered through feature stories, press releases and more created by UCM Student Assistants, serves to increase notoriety and awareness of the university. This will in turn catch the attention of potential donors, students, faculty and staff, and can even encourage support through grant funding. Most importantly, the writing skills acquired in this position will align and support the UWG's Quality Enhancement Plan.
9	Farroq Khan	Chemistry	fkhan@westga.edu	Binding of metal ions and anions to the antibiotic beauvericin: A mass spectrometric study	I request funds from the SRAP committee to support two students to conduct research on the interaction of the antibiotic beauvericin with metal ions and anions, as described below.
10	Janet Genz	Biology	jgenz@westga.edu	Sources and absorption mechanisms of functional chloroplasts in the kleptoplastic sea slug <i>Elysia crispata</i>	Student research assistants will contribute to the primary research objective of an active research lab in the Biology Department.

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11	John Hansen	Chemistry	jhansen@westga.edu	Solvent Reorganization in Supercooled Aqueous Solutions Initiated by Excited State Proton Transfer	This study will investigate the role that solvent reorganization has on the progression of a chemical reaction.
12	Jung Eun (Jessie) Hong	Geosciences	jhong@westga.edu	Enhancing STEM Learning using GIS Technologies	Students will be able to advance knowledge of GIS technologies and improve their GIS skills of collecting, managing, and manipulating geospatial data.
13	Karen Tefend	Geosciences	ktefend@westga.edu	Geochemical Investigation of the Athens Shale, Valley and Ridge Province of Eastern Alabama and Western Georgia	The proposed research is a geochemical investigation of the Middle Ordovician Athens Shale, in continuation of an on-going research project that began as a way of solving a problem with the identification of visibly similar rock types in the field, as well as providing an interpretation as to the origin of the Blue Ridge phyllites. Based on the geochemical data, any relationship between Rockmart Slate and phyllites of the Blue Ridge was ruled out; however, the Chilhowee shale did have a geochemistry consistent with a rock composition that could be a protolith for the Blue Ridge phyllites (Lunsford, et al., 2012). The next step in this investigation would be to obtain samples of the Athens Shale and determine if this unit may also be ruled out as a possible starting material for the Blue Ridge phyllites, and to compare the Athens Shale with similar-aged Rockmart Slate. This investigation of the geochemistry of the Athens Shale is an ideal study for student research as the student will gain experience in field mapping, field sampling, sample preparation for analytical procedures, and laboratory experience involving the use of the ICP-OES for whole rock geochemistry.
14	Landewatte DeSilva	Physics	ldesilva@westga.edu	Low Cost Inorganic/Organic Devices	Students involved in the project engage in research and related scholarly activities. They are also eligible to receive some financial support. They have a chance to attend national, regional and local conferences.
15	Mark Schoon	Art	mschoon@westga.edu	Photographic Processes Research Technician	This position will provide the student with the opportunity to produce a unique portfolio of images that can be exhibited and submitted for publication to magazines and journals.

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16	Mautusi Mitra	Biology	mmitra@westga.edu	Molecular characterization of two <i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i> (a model green micro-alga) mutants defective in photosynthesis.	The overall goal of this project is to employ functional genomics to characterize some of the isolated photosynthetic mutants to identify molecular components that play a role in all aspects of photo-autotrophic growth under different light irradiances in <i>Chlamydomonas</i> .
17	Megumi Fujita	Chemistry	mfujita@westga.edu	Development of new indole-based cation sensors	Research students will receive high quality research training and personalized mentorship. Students will use their time on campus between classes meaningfully to advance their skills and knowledge. The students will receive the faculty mentor's personalized attention in building their careers through and beyond the research mentorship.
18	Michael Hester	Computer Science	mhester@westga.edu	Mining Twitter Data to Gauge Public Opinion and Analyze Group Rhetoric	With UWG embarking on 'evidence based leadership' exemplified in the recent Engage West survey, there is a need for efficient and effective data mining techniques. The goal of this research project to develop techniques for automatically analyzing social media communication could benefit the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in its task of data analysis. This in turn could improve UWG's efforts to collect and use campus public opinion data for assessment purposes.

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19	Michael Sinkey	Economics	msinkey@westga.edu	Labor Market Signaling and Schooling Choice	<p>This project will advance the skills of the SRAP student in four significant ways. First (and foremost), the student will learn how to read academic papers in economics from the top journals in the profession in a wide variety of different subfields. These readings are designed to expose the student to different fields and to help spur a student's creativity in pursuing his/her own research project. Next, the student will assist in gathering data in order to examine how individuals make schooling decisions when they possess external signals of quality. Third, the student will learn how to formulate testable hypotheses by creating his/her own individual research paper as an offshoot of the project. Finally, the student will showcase the work at three research environments—two internal and one external—by presenting the findings of his/her project at the RCOB Big Night, SAS Day, and the 2015 Academy of Economics and Finance conference, a nationally-recognized conference with attendance varying from 150-300 academic and professional economists. The accumulation of the skills from this project will enrich the student's academic experience at UWG and will make the student competitive for both graduate study, be it in economics or another statistical field, or economics-related jobs outside of graduation that require data analysis, presentations to a varied audience, and superior written communication.</p>
20	Nick Sterling	Physics	msterlin@westga.edu	Spectroscopic Analysis of Astrophysical Nebulae at Optical and Infrared Wavelengths	<p>The project director is leading a multi-institutional research program to study the chemical compositions of astrophysical nebulae, using optical and infrared spectroscopic observations conducted with world-class research telescopes. Active student participation is viewed as a key component of this research, and will greatly aid in expediting the completion of the program and disseminating its key findings.</p>
21	Partha Ray	Chemistry	psray@westga.edu	Studies Towards the Synthesis of a Potential Anti-tumor Agent	<p>The project involves development of synthetic methodology to a folic acid-based molecule, which we have designed to act as an inhibitor of an enzyme critical for the biosynthesis of DNA. It is expected that this molecule will be an effective anti-tumor agent.</p>

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22	Randy Kath	Geosciences	rkath@westga.edu	Sweetwater Creek Mapping	Geologic mapping will be conducted using digital data collection techniques developed by Dr. Kath and Dr. Yoder at the University of West Georgia. Lithologic, structural and positional data will be collected using an Android-based smartphone and/or tablet using the Geodroid Mapper application (Farrell and others, 2012). This application was developed as a joint project between the Geosciences and Computer Science departments as part of a senior research project. Data collected in the field is stored in a MySQL database and can be directly linked to geographic information systems (GIS) software (i.e., ESRI ArcGIS or AutoCAD Map 3-D).
23	Sandra Hess Robbins	Learning and Teaching	srobbins@westga.edu	Early Childhood Special Education Research	The quality of life on campus is attributed to the opportunities and experiences afforded to our students. The student assistants working on the early childhood special education research would have multiple opportunities to learn and grow into confident and competent individuals. The professional knowledge and skills gained through this assistantship will benefit them as future educators and the mentoring relationships they will develop with faculty will support them for the remainder of their academic career at West Georgia.
24	Sharmistha Basu-Dutt	Chemistry	sbdutt@westga.edu	Dye Removal from Wastewater using Carbon Nanotubes	The SRAP student will review background information about carbon nanotubes and azo dyes in the <u>first three weeks in the Fall semester</u> . The purpose of this introduction is to understand the structure of azo dyes and carbon nanotubes (CNT) and their related properties. The introduction of technical reading and writing at an early stage of one's education and career will impact their performance in <u>all their courses (freshmen, sophomore, junior level courses) and their capstone research project (senior level course)</u> .

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25	Shawn Issacs	Mass Communications	sissacs@westga.edu	Radio Lab Supervisor	The radio production classes that utilize the lab will supplement The WOLF Internet Radio. The WOLF Internet Radio is an experiential learning lab of the Department of Mass Communication. The WOLF, which operates as a fully functional professional radio station, primarily provides students majoring and minoring in Mass Communications practical training in radio programming, production management, and promotions. The Station's motto is "For Students, By Students." Students from all majors have the opportunity to participate and be a part of The WOLF as volunteers, members of the WIT program (WOLF-in-Training), paid staff members, and/or listeners. As UWG's on-campus radio station, The WOLF is committed to quality radio programming that includes music especially by local artists, news and sports coverage, and student-produced shows. The WOLF seeks to be the connection between student, faculty, staff administration, alumni, and the surrounding and global communities through an entertaining and interactive multimedia experience.
26	Shea Rose	Geosciences	srose@westga.edu	Community Level Action for Sustainability (CLAS)	This project contributes to improving sustainability on at the local scale. Conducting analysis of vegetation, it's role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and the impact of man-made features can lead to a healthier environment for UWG and the surrounding community.
27	Sonya Barnes	Mass Communications	sbarnes@westga.edu	Special Programs Research Editor	The special programs research editor will research, shoot and edit special programs to air on UTV13 for the University of West Georgia campus community. These programs will showcase the many services that UWG provides to all students.
28	Spencer Slattery	Chemistry	sslatt@westga.edu	Design & Synthesis of a Novel Organic Molecule for the Development of a Molecular Switch	SRAP supports the student to accomplish extended research time resulting with considerable data necessary for publishing in reputable journals and acquiring external funding
29	Stephanie Smith	Art	slsmith@westga.edu	Gallery Assistant	The University art galleries provide intellectual stimulation, appreciation, cultural enlightenment, and reflection for the students, faculty, staff, and community. The galleries also provide opportunities for students, faculty, and local artists to exhibit their work to a large audience (in addition to our shows featuring regional, national and international artists). The Gallery Assistant will help in all aspects of running the gallery.

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30	Tugce Kurtis	Psychology	tkurtis@westga.edu	Social and Cultural Psychology Research Group	I request a total of \$2500 to fund 2 undergraduate research assistants from the Department of Psychology who will participate in the design, execution, analysis and dissemination of research under the supervision of a faculty mentor and a graduate research student. As the faculty mentor, I am committed to providing student employees with educational and professional experience, significant responsibility and guidance, and a collaborative learning atmosphere. The undergraduate research assistants will work on two ongoing research projects throughout the academic year. In Spring 2015, both undergraduate research assistants will present their work at various campus events. They will also submit their work to regional and national undergraduate research conferences.
31	Vickie Geisler	Chemistry	vgeisler@westga.edu	Research Assistant to Study the Antioxidant Capacity of Phenols	Scientific research transforms how students think, so that they can understand and use science like scientists do. Engaging students in a research project allows them think deeply about the subject and draw conclusions based on objective data. Active involvement in this project will provide the students experiential learning and will increase their professional competencies by developing laboratory skills that are essential for any professional chemist. Taking part in this project will give the student an opportunity to explore chemistry more deeply and develop an understanding of the concepts that were not elaborated on in the classroom. Analytical skills will be developed during the gathering and interpretation of the experimental data. Overall, this project will greatly enhance the students learning experience at UWG.
32	Wei Jin	Computer Science	wjin@westga.edu	Creating a Flexible Data Store for an Automated Programming Tutor	Our approach is to use computer tutors that help students develop problem solving and program writing skills. It has long been known that one-on-one in-person tutoring with an area expert is most effective. A later study shows that an intelligent tutoring system designed with proper granularity can be just as effective as human tutor.
33	Winston Tripp	Sociology	wtripp@westga.edu	Improving Quantitative Literacy in the Social Sciences/COSS Data Analysis Lab	This project involves working with local organizations, including those within the UWG community, on data analysis projects to benefit the students and the organization.

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34	Yan Yang	Educational Technology and Foundations	yyang@westga.edu	What Achievement Goals Motivate Students' Help-Seeking in Learning?	The study results will help instructors understand the types of achievement goals students endorse and motivate students to seek adaptive help in the learning process.
35	Bradley Deline	Geosciences	bdeline@westga.edu	Exploring the Echinoderm Paleontology of Sardinia, Italy.	This project will represent a capstone experience for a student and images taken in the field will be publicized on the departmental website to illustrate the opportunities within geosciences at UWG.
36	David Collins	Art	dcollins@westga.edu	Glaze Lab	The intended project promotes a cross disciplinary / "cross college" opportunity for the University to advance the profiles of the both the 'Arts and Sciences' in one consolidated project.
37	Frances Chumney	Educational Technology & Foundations	fchumney@westga.edu	Survey and Methodological Research: Best Practices for Electronic Data Collection	This project will contribute to the <i>advancement of a recognized research project</i> . If funded, this proposal will lead to a moderate- to large-scale research study which constitutes a next logical step in the continuing development of the supervising faculty's line of research.
38	Li Yang	Educational Leadership and Instruction	lyang@westga.edu	Development of the ULead 360° Online Administration Reporting System	This proposal describes an extension to an ongoing project in the development of an online assessment administration web application for ULead West Georgia, a research and development initiative in the College of Education. This project is a joint effort between professors in the Department of Computer Science and Department of Leadership and Instruction.
39	Maritza Pitelli	Accessibility Services; Counseling Center, SAEM	mpitelli@westga.edu	Student Anchors	Funding to support two student Anchors who will be employed to assist students with disabilities. The objectives of this program include increasing the academic and extra-curricular success of students with disabilities as they navigate barriers to access, while simultaneously providing the SRAP students with an opportunity to engage in a cognitive apprenticeship focusing on problem solving, advocacy, human service work and the development of technological skills in applying assistive technology for students with disabilities at the University of West Georgia. The work is targeted towards enriching the educational experience for students through field based learning in specific pre-professional training, while providing support to other peers as they navigate real world barriers and situations.

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40	Rosalind Duplechain	LAT and ETF	rduplech@westga.edu	Serving the Underserved: Building a Foundation for Alternative School Research	The project focuses on mentoring undergraduate student towards becoming a researcher. To this end, the project contributes significantly to the quality of academic life on campus specifically for those students who are interested in scholarly pursuits.
41	Stanley Caress	Political Science & Planning	scaress@westga.edu	Environmental Exposures to Toxic Substances and Resulting Illnesses: Impact on Governmental Policy	It will produce important published research that has societal value.
42	Ann McCleary	History/Center for Public History	amcclear@westga.edu	West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Catalogue Book	Assist with researching and writing a catalog book for the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail, to be published by Arcadia Press.
43	Cindy Smith	Learning and Teaching	cindys@westga.edu	Girl POWER! Mentoring program to build leadership skills for girls at risk	The student who is involved would be helpful to advance a research project focused on mentoring as an intervention for girls at risk of academic or social failure due to environmental issues such as poverty, single parent household or other environmental risk factors.
44	Erin Johnson	Art	ejohnson@westga.edu	Documentary Research Project and Video Support	By providing much needed support to a burgeoning emphasis within the Art Department through the addition of a Student Video and Software Technician, students will be able to plan their outside-of-class work in the facilities with the benefit of knowledgeable assistance. This not only increases the efficiency of student's work and knowledge of the equipment, it also protects the equipment from misuse and insures its ongoing availability. Their presence will help increase the turning in of more on-time and accurate assignment submissions and the presence of a technician in using the computer facilities would help facilitate the effective incorporation of the equipment into the curriculum. All of this contributes to the quality of life of students on campus.
45	Hannes Gerhardt	Geosciences	hgerhardt@westga.edu	Analyzing University of West Georgia's Carbon Footprint	The project will provide insights for implementing green initiatives on campus that will enhance the sense of being part of an innovative and caring university.
46	J. Salvador Peralta	Political Science and Planning	jperalta@westga.edu	Latinos and Obama ¿Sí Se Puede!	The ultimate goal of this project is to collect, organize, and analyze data to explore the relationship between Barack Obama and the Latino community since 1996.

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47	Shelly Elman	Theatre	relman@westga.edu	UWG Theatre Marketing and Recruitment Assistant	The Arts contribute significantly to the culture of any society and the UWG campus is no different. Campus culture is vital to a thriving campus of higher education. Theatre especially contributes to culture on this campus whether it is as a mirror to society and thereby challenges the community to take action, or it creates an escape by bringing laughter and entertainment to the community. The Marketing and Recruitment position, therefore, will not only be charged with getting the word about our events to the campus public, but also making sure the greater Carroll County community is aware of what we do and when we do it. By creating posters, press releases, podcasts and social networking pages, the student Marketing and Recruitment worker will be making great contributions to the culture of the campus by bringing community members and new students to the campus.
48	Stephanie Smith	Art	slsmith@westga.edu	Gallery Education Outreach Project	The Art Galleries and Sculpture on Campus program serve as a tremendous benefit for students, faculty, staff, and anyone who steps foot on the University of West Georgia campus. The program features a year round art exhibitions and exhibition of outdoor contemporary sculpture across the campus. The Sculpture on Campus program enhances the UWG landscape and contributes to our status as a destination university by creating a campus with an identity as a unique place for students to live and study. Advance a recognized academic or research project. The galleries provide opportunities for students to exhibit art created in their academic art classes and provide experience for gallery management, marketing, graphic design.
49	Tom Peterson	ETF	tpeters@westga.edu	SPARK	The SPARK intervention program is designed to create a spark in both the at-risk youth and also in our university students. Participants will see a purpose for their life emerge as they get to know themselves and form meaningful relationships with at-risk youth.
50	Chad Davidson	School of the Arts	davidson@westga.edu	Student Design Assistant	Help to brand the School as a unified entity through synthesized, cross-School promotional materials.