Spring 2013 UConn IDEA Grant Recipients

The Office of Undergraduate Research announces the recipients of the Spring 2013 UConn IDEA Grants. This is the inaugural round of the new award program, which provides funding of up to $4,000 for entrepreneurial ventures, community service, traditional research, or other creative endeavors. Proposals for the UConn IDEA Grants represented a variety of disciplines, ranging from fine arts to physics. Congratulations to the eleven undergraduates who have been offered UConn IDEA Grants!

Virtual Hartford
- Ryan Allen ’14 (CLAS) will research and analyze the historical and lasting effects of the Civil Rights Movement on the city of Hartford, CT. His work will be documented on a new website, as part of a larger project about the history of Hartford.

Past Perfect Interference
- Antonio Campelli ’15 (SFA) plans to use a variety of artistic modes to design a series of art books to use as the basis of exploration of the page as a method of relaying information, at a time when digitization is transforming how information is communicated in our society.

The Effects of Visitors on the Behavior of River Otters and Snow Leopards in Zoos
- Christine Conte ’14 (CLAS) will research how visitors impact the behavior of different animals living in zoos, in an effort to promote the welfare of these species and other animals in captivity.

Yoga as an Innovative Stress Reduction Intervention
- Makayla Davis ’14 (CLAS) will collect and analyze data which compares the effectiveness of taking yoga classes to participation in a standard stress management course in reducing anxiety in college students.

Investigation of the Fuel Potential of Bioliquid Derived through Pyrolysis of Recycled Coffee Grinds
- Ari Fischer ’15 (ENGR) is going to investigate how recycled coffee grounds may be converted to fuel.

Navigating the Educational Upgrade: Establishing Effective Online Writing Center Strategies through Cybernetic Analysis of Tutoring Practices at American Universities
- Erik Holtz ’14 (CLAS) will study innovative tutoring techniques in order to develop effective online writing center strategies.

Searching for the White Rose
- Peter Logue ’14 (CLAS) is planning to travel to Germany to investigate a Holocaust resistance movement known as “The White Rose,” and produce a short documentary and narrative upon his return.

Project Notice
- David Pereira ’15 (SFA) plans to direct a documentary which contrasts the tragic lives of victims of human trafficking with the lives of college students.

Systemic Inquiry into the Potential of iPad for Teaching and Learning
- Jake Sippel ’14 (CLAS) will conduct workshops for teachers at K-12 school districts on the creative use of iPads in the classroom. In collaboration with these schools, his plans also include designing a set of iBook Manuals, and the creation of a set of iMovies which record the process and share results of the project.

Evaluation of Micro-lending Programs in the Entrepreneurial Empowerment of African Women
- Natalia Svirshchevsky ’14 (BUSN) will travel to Ghana to learn first-hand how micro-lending programs influence the entrepreneurial empowerment of African Women.

Babelation Dramaturgy
- Anna Woodruff ’14 (SFA) will use the grant for research and dramaturgy for the play, “Babelation.” As part of the production team, she will share her findings with producers, actors, and directors.