

Call for Participants:

**Seventh Annual Undergraduate Research Workshop**

Sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Application Deadline: Friday, February 5, 2016

Program Dates: February 19 and April 15-16, 2016

Overview:

Each Spring semester, a select group of undergraduates are invited to become a part of the McNeil Center's intellectual community and participate in the leading forum for undergraduate research on Early American and Atlantic topics. Participants receive a unique opportunity to experience the pleasures of the scholarly life: they tour archives, attend the McNeil Center's prestigious Friday Seminars, present their work at a conference at the University of Pennsylvania, and are supported along the way by their peers, graduate student mentors, and faculty from the participants' colleges. The experiences of traveling to Philadelphia, meeting like-minded young scholars, working with their graduate mentors, attending real scholarly seminars, and giving a presentation at an Ivy League university often combine to make participation in the Workshop a highlight of their college careers.

While admission to the Workshop may be competitive, the atmosphere of the Workshop is one of mutual support, collaboration, and celebration.

Eligibility:

The Workshop is open only to undergraduates attending McNeil Center Consortium institutions. (If your institution is not yet a Consortium member, please contact the MCEAS director, Professor Daniel K. Richter, to find out how to join.) Applicants should be pursuing independent research that includes the use of primary sources. Applicants must be available on all of the program dates, and their faculty sponsors must be available to attend the Seminar and Conference on April 15-16, 2016. A maximum of two students will be accepted from any one institution per year, and preference will be given to applicants from Consortium institutions who have not recently participated.

Application Procedure:

Applicants must submit the following to their faculty advisor: 1) a cover sheet with applicant's name, advisor's name, and project title, 2) a brief description of the proposed research project (500 words maximum), and 3) a one-page resume highlighting academic experiences. The project description must include: a title, the name(s) of sponsoring faculty (probably but not necessarily including the student's advisor), the type of project (thesis, capstone, research seminar paper, etc.), research question, significance of project, approach and/or method, and key primary sources to be used. Applicants must also request that their faculty advisor write a one page (max) letter of recommendation addressing the faculty member's knowledge of the student's qualifications, stage of the project, the faculty member's relationship to the student, and impact of participation to the student's learning. Application materials should be submitted by the faculty advisor as a single PDF or Word document electronically through e-mail addressed to: Professor Jessica Roney, MCEAS/URW Coordinator at [jessica.roney@temple.edu](mailto:jessica.roney@temple.edu).  
Workshop Events. Attendance at Workshop events is mandatory for all participants including undergrads, grad mentors and faculty sponsors.

Works-in-Progress, February 19, 2016:

This meeting takes place on Friday, February 19 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. It focuses on research and gives undergraduates the chance to meet one another and with their graduate student mentors. Student project abstracts will be circulated in advance. In the morning, students will deliver five-minute presentations on their research. Lunch will give undergrad mentees and grad mentors one-on-one time. In the afternoon students will have the opportunity to tour archives and gain hands-on experience with primary sources.

Conference, April 15-16, 2016:

The second event is a 1 ½ day meeting culminating in a professional-style conference with 10-minute formal paper presentations by undergraduates and comments by graduate student mentors. Past undergraduate participants have used a 10-page section or chapter of their project that works well as a discrete topic for the conference paper. Students meet informally with the MCEAS Friday Seminar speaker and then attend the seminar, followed by dinner. Participants then spend the night in Philadelphia. The conference takes place on the following Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday.

Accommodations & Travel:

The McNeil Center will provide participants (faculty and undergrads) one night's lodging at a hotel for the April Conference. Participants will also be reimbursed for travel expenses up to \$100 (e.g., airfare, train fare, parking). Original receipts and a W-9 form are required for reimbursement. The Center will not pay for food, additional nights or fees incurred at the hotel.

About:

The MCEAS Undergraduate Research Workshop was established in 2008 to extend the benefits of the Center to undergraduate students enrolled at member institutions, by holding a workshop for advanced undergraduates writing an honors thesis or research paper in early American studies. The Workshop provides a structured environment in which students can come together with undergraduates from other institutions, as well as graduate students and faculty, to discuss the ideas, source materials, and methods of their own research. A highlight of the program is the mentoring given each undergraduate by a MCEAS graduate or postdoctoral fellow. The Workshop meetings are held in conjunction with the Center's regular Friday Seminar so that undergraduates can experience the process of scholarly seminars first hand. The Workshop has exceeded our expectations, allowing undergraduates to join the exceptionally supportive and successful community of scholars at the McNeil Center. Undergraduate Research Workshop participants are now enrolled in PhD programs in History, attending law school, and working in public history. Undergraduates from the following institutions have thus far participated in the workshop: Temple University, Stockton College, the University of Maryland at College Park, Lehigh University, Millersville University, Brigham Young University, Rider University, Gettysburg College, The College of New Jersey, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Ursinus College, Fordham University, and SUNY Stony Brook.