

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
**10 DECEMBER 2009**  
**(THE LAST DAY OF THE FALL SEMESTER)**  
**AT**  
**THE MIDYEAR SYMPOSIUM**  
**OF**  
**FIRST & SECOND YEAR**  
**STUDENT WORK**

**THE EVENT WILL BE HELD IN THE LARGE CAMPUS BALLROOM AND OTHER SATELLITE CONFERENCE ROOMS IN THE RONDILEAU CAMPUS CENTER.**

The Office of Undergraduate Research sponsors the MYS with the support of coordinators of the first and second year seminars, the first year writing program in the English Department, and the Honors Program.

**WHY DO THIS?**

The Midyear Symposium expands the audience to whom a student is responsible as a scholar. As professional academics, speaking with and to our colleague is a vital part of what makes us do what we do. It is difficult to give our students, new and potential scholars and researchers, the same rich experience within the confines of our classrooms and grade-books. Speaking about work they care about to an interested and thoughtful audience will help students to better understand what is actually at stake when we take the time to make and defend a claim or creative vision.

The Adrian Tinsley Program has long supported research by advanced undergraduate students. The Undergraduate Research Symposium at the end of the academic year spotlights that research. The MYS gives beginning students a chance to present and be recognized for their work. Participation helps them to envision a full college career that includes creativity and thoughtfulness immediately and always—not just in the last few semesters they are at college.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PRESENT?

**ALL FIRST AND SECOND YEAR STUDENTS:** this means that any first year student can present in his or her first semester at college. Additionally, Students who were first year students last year can present using material from their first year at the college or material they are working on this Fall.

Additionally, if you worked with second year students in Spring 2008 those students are eligible to present even though they are not, presumably third year students.

## WHAT SORTS OF PRESENTATIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE?

The purpose of this symposium is to engage and encourage students in meaningful writing/reading/learning experiences at an early stage in their academic careers. This will prepare them to take advantage of the many opportunities to distinguish themselves academically in their later years at BSC. The content of student presentations will not look the same as those at professional conferences, or even at national and local undergraduate research venues.

### **WHILE THE PRESENTATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE IS CERTAINLY WELCOME, STUDENTS CAN ALSO PRESENT ON:**

- Effective and able analysis and/or synthesis—in other words, those introductory research and critical skills that precede more advanced research
- Creative work—visual and performing arts as well creative writing of all genres
- Presentations on service learning and/or civic engagement and community-based research projects
- Projects resulting from a speaking or writing intensive curriculum
- Group projects and presentations
- Presentations on projects that showed great promise, commitment, and effort, but were less than entirely successful
- Work completed in designated honors courses and honors colloquia

Space is available for **oral presentations, creative presentations and performance, as well as poster presentations.**

## HOW DO STUDENTS GET TO PRESENT AT THIS EVENT?

Students can choose to participate on their own or you can encourage individual students or groups of students to participate in the day. You can offer extra credit for presentation and/or attendance or simply build presentation/attendance into your syllabus.

Several faculty have organized whole-class participation in the MYS through a class assignment. Students presented orally or via poster, individually and in groups, but participation was required for successful completion of a particular assignment. These presentations were highly successful. Should you think this might be something you would like to do in your class, contact Lee Torda at [ltorda@bridgew.edu](mailto:ltorda@bridgew.edu). She can put you in touch with faculty from a wide variety of disciplines who have used the MYS effectively in their classes. Additionally, the OUR will work with you to make presenting work with your schedule and your students' schedules and needs.

In either case, students are required to fill out the MYS Application to Present available online at the Midyear Symposium link on the OUR website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/our>. **The deadline to submit an application this year is 20 November 2009.**