

The Challenger

Volume 10, Issue 1

Bridgewater State College

Fall 2008

What is ATP ?

Dr. Lee Torda, Director of Undergraduate Research

I'm willing to guess that a great many of you have never even seen the words "undergraduate" and "research" in the same sentence. I want to take this opportunity to put them together in the most meaningful way I can: free money, a great opportunity to build a resume, and the chance to develop a life-long and life-changing relationship with a BSC faculty member. How is all of this possible? Through participation in the **Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research (ATP)**.

What is undergraduate research (UR)? Basically, you would study a topic of interest to you, probably in your major. This work could include the natural sciences like Chemistry or Biology (lab research) or the social sciences

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SAAC News

Students Accepting A Challenge (SAAC), is a student run group for those interested in issues related to disabilities. The group has elected officers for the 08-09 academic year. The officers are:

Megan McLaughlin, President
Gary Lowell, Vice-President
Jessica Carroll, Treasurer
Katie Rouse, Secretary

Group members have been meeting this semester on Tuesdays to develop programming plans for 08-09 year. On November 4th, SAAC sponsored an information table in the RCC to raise awareness of disability issues on campus and for recruitment of new members. For the coming semester, plans are underway to sponsor a movie night and discussion about Autism in April for Autism Awareness month. Also, SAAC will be sponsoring a team for Bridgewater State College's Relay for Life cancer walk in March. In addition, SAAC will participate in the college's Springfest in March. Our group received the Creativity Award from OSIL during last year's Springfest.

SAAC welcomes new members at any time. Members only need to have an interest in disability issues and are not required to identify as having a disability. For contact information, please email Megan McLaughlin at m4mclaughlin@bridgew.edu or stop by the Disability Resources Office in the Academic Achievement Center.

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The Challenger is published twice a year through the Disability Resources Office (DRO).

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like psychology or anthropology (field research). It could also include study in the humanities (like English, Philosophy, History) or creative work (performance, fine art, creative writing) in Business or in Education. You would work with a faculty member as a guide and expert as you did your own work. You can participate in UR regardless of major, GPA, or whether or not you are in the Honors Program.

Determining an area of study and research leads to applying for ATP grant money from the small **\$250 semester grant** up to the **\$4200 summer research grant**. You can also apply for money to attend conferences. Each year the college pays for a large number of students to attend the **National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR)**. Finally, there are opportunities to publish and present your work on campus including publication in *The Undergraduate Review* and presentation at the **BSC Symposium for Undergraduate Research** and the **Midyear Symposium for 1st and 2nd Year Students**.

There is so much more I can and want to tell you about UR and ATP. I hope you'll give me the chance by coming to the office at **200 Maxwell Library**, checking out our website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/our> or emailing me at ltorda@bridgew.edu.

One final word: You may be reading this thinking, *"This isn't for me; This isn't the student I am or want to be; It's not the sort of thing I do."* What I'm telling you is that you are *exactly* the student who should be doing this work; you should *want* to be the kind of student who does this work. It might not seem so important right now, but in four years, when you are graduating, you will regret not taking advantage of this remarkable opportunity to engage meaningfully in your own education and to shine and shine and shine.

Introducing DRO's Graduate Students



Joseph Faria graduated from UMASS, Lowell in 2001 with a BA in Music. After graduation, Joe worked in Boston as a job coach for people with developmental disabilities. Joe is now in the Masters of Social Work program. His career goal is to work with people with developmental disabilities as a clinical practitioner/therapist. In DRO, Joe provides student mentoring and office support.



Brandon Drake was a member of BSC's class of 2008. He graduated with a BS in Operations Management. His professional interests is to work for a company managing their production systems. Brandon is in the Masters of Management with Technology Concentration. Brandon assists the DRO office with adaptive technology needs.

My Experience in ATP

Teresa Hunter. Class of 2006

I graduated from Bridgewater State College in May of 2006, with my Bachelor's Degree in English. I am a complete and utter nerd: I devour information. When I find something that interests or confounds me I cannot rest until I've read 3 books and eight articles on the subject. I'm a woman with strong opinions and driving ambition who relishes a good argument which has not always been the case, and for better or worse, I believe that undergraduate research has shaped me into who I am.

The Adrian Tinsley Program for Undergraduate Research was very good to me; I was awarded the summer research grant 2004. ATP also funded my travel to four separate national conferences on undergraduate research. Through the undergraduate symposium ATP also made a forum available to me so that I could publicly discuss and defend my research.

The summer grant was a revelation for me. First, what a community! Between my amazing faculty director and the other administrators, there were so many people that wanted to see me do well. Second, what students! They were smart, kind, and in love with their research subjects. When we were together, the excitement was palpable; I treasure having been apart of that. To top it off, a whole summer where the expectation of me was to read poetry and think of intelligent arguments was daunting, terrifying and exhilarating. It was a lot of work, and a major commitment, but when I think about that summer, I think about how it was so much fun. The summer grant taught me self-motivation because ultimately the outcome was directly related to my dedication. It was an opportunity for me as

an undergraduate to explore the sustained research that would be required if I decided to pursue graduate school.

Furthermore, ATP funded trips felt like a reward; ATP sent me to Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina and Louisiana. More states than I had visited before or have been to since college. The trips were the culmination of months of work revising and researching a paper, and it was the chance to defend that research in front of my peers, and my peers from all over the country. It was empowering and exciting. It was also a chance to connect and form strong, lasting bonds with those amazing smart students I mentioned above.

It was these remarkable communities of thoughtful people that helped me develop into who I am. They encouraged me to question, to read, and to dare to be wrong. Undergraduate research forced me into a role I hadn't known, and at times I was the person in the room that knew the most about what I was talking. It taught me how to argue, gave me the confidence to believe in my opinions and ultimately the courage to defend them. In short, all the things I like about me.

LEADERSHIP AND PEER EDUCATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Disability Resources Office at Bridgewater State College will be sponsoring another Leadership and Peer Educator Training this spring. Ten to fifteen students will be participating in the training which focuses on topics including disabilities and accommodation, laws, self-advocacy skills, and peer mentoring. Participants must attend all sessions. Food will be provided. *Watch the Bulletin Board in the DRO office for Dates.*

Highlights from DRO

The staff of DRO held a Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, October 29th. The discussion was on “Disability Resources at BSC: Accessibility, Accommodation and the ADA.”

DRO staff member met with prospective students and families at “Saturdays at Bridgewater” this fall to discuss programs and services.

Peer Mentor Training Program began this semester with ten mentors who participated in a four-part training program. These training sessions were led by Patricia Connolly and Pam Spillane

Patricia Connolly, Coordinator of Disability Resources, represented Bridgewater State College at the “Transitioning from the Cancer Experience to the College Campus” at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute on October 22, 2008. Bridgewater student, Meghan McLaughlin, also attended and met with cancer survivors and families.

Pam Spillane has been invited to participate in the MTEL Content Advisory Committee which will convene to review test items for several Massachusetts Teacher licensing exams. The meetings will be held February 2-4, 2009.

Erika Pinault Memorial Scholarship

This Scholarship is awarded by Handi-Kids Chapter II of Bridgewater. The criteria for this award include evidence of scholarship, good citizenship and success in managing an individual disability. <http://www.bridgew.edu/studentaffairs/scholarships/scholdetail.cfm?>



Expect More. Achieve More.

Learning Assistance Hours

Adaptive Lab, AAC

Mon, Thurs, Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tues, Wed 8:00am - 8:00pm

Adaptive Lab, Moakley

Mon - Thurs 8:00am - 11:00pm

Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

Sat 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sun Noon - 9:00pm

Communication Lab

Mon 8:00am - 3:15pm

Tues 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Wed 8:00am - 3:00pm
5:15pm - 7:30pm

The Writing Studio

Mon 9:00am - 3:00pm
4:00pm - 5:00pm

Tues 9:00am - 8:00pm

Wed 9:00am - 8:00pm

Thurs 9:00am - 5:00pm

Fri 9:00am - 3:00pm

Math Services

Mon 8:00am - 5:00pm

Tues 8:00am - 8:00pm

Wed 8:00am - 8:00pm

Thurs 8:00am - 5:00pm

Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm

Study and Research

Mon-Thurs 8:00am - 6:00pm

Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

Second Language

Mon 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Wed 4:30am - 6:00pm

Thurs 1:30am - 2:30pm