Saving the Spokane River: Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Research Challenge (UMRC)

Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassadors at Washington State University
Who We Are

The College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassador is a student organization that:

- Identifies and supports the needs of CAS students
- Plans programming to enhance:
  - academic enrichment
  - personal growth
  - professional development of students

The Ambassadors are connectors who partner with all student organizations to promote collaboration across the college.
What is the UMRC?

The UMRC is an interdisciplinary challenge that focuses on local and regional problems that have a global impact.

- Student teams create a proposal to solve a problem that is presented by the College of Arts and Sciences.
- This year’s proposal revolves around chemical waste and PCBs in the Spokane River.
How will UMRC be set up?

• Students can register under their major and department in CAS
• Each of the major departments can nominate two students
  o one 1\textsuperscript{st} / 2\textsuperscript{nd} year students (including uncertified students advised by a CAS department and working towards certification in the major);
  o one 3\textsuperscript{rd} or above (certified) student
• Multidisciplinary teams of 4+ are created, as follows:
  o At least one freshman and one upperclassman
    ▪ links older and younger student bodies
  o 2+ disciplines represented
    ▪ must sufficiently represent both the Arts and the Sciences
Rough timeline of the event

- **Fall 2013:**
  - Implement media campaign
  - Departmental nominations and student registration
  - Finalize funding, question and consultants

- **Friday November 15, 2013:**
  - Meet & Greet event; teams formed
  - Guidelines, info packets given
  - Question released
  - Student contracts signed

- **Monday February 3, 2014:**
  - Checkpoint: a list of sources and rough draft of proposal from each team to be turned into the CAS office. Challenge review team will provide feedback on draft proposals two weeks after submission

- **Saturday April 19, 2014:**
  - Competition takes place
  - Final presentations and banquet
Final Competition  Apr. 19 2014

Morning:
- Student groups will present to a panel of judges:
  - 20 minute presentation, with a 5-10 minute period of Q/A.
- Panel will determine the top two teams (1st and 2nd place) who will be invited to present at the banquet; 1st place winner will be announced during the evening banquet

Evening:
- Welcoming statements by Dr. Daryll Dewald, dean of CAS, and others
- Top two teams will present at banquet in the CUB junior ballroom with Q/A from the audience
- Winner will be announced by the panel at the end
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Timepoint needed</th>
<th>Additional info</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
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<td>Papers, folders incidentals</td>
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<td>Student commitment forms, Meet &amp; Greet packets,</td>
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<td>75-110 ppl 10-14 tables</td>
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Funding Strategy

• Internal: Washington State University related
  o ASWSU
  o WSU Alumni Association

• External:
  o Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories
  o Washington State Employees Credit Union
  o Pullman Chamber of Commerce
  o Preliminary donor request letters to these and other organizations and businesses have been prepared and will be sent by the end of September