

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**FACULTY PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:  
"IOWA CENTER FOR RESEARCH BY UNDERGRADUATES"**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** Ms. Lauren Mills and her mentor Dr. Stephen Berry together with Ms. Emily Richards and her mentor Dr. Cornelia Lang will discuss their projects in the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU). The ICRU promotes undergraduate involvement in research and creative projects by creating opportunities, providing support, and sharing the knowledge that comes from the collaborative efforts. Participation in research and scholarly activities represents an opportunity, uniquely available at research universities, to enhance the overall undergraduate experience. The research support programs available through ICRU encourage the direct involvement of undergraduate students in the scholarly efforts of faculty by providing financial support for a student involved in research. Students who are active in research as undergraduates are more likely to be admitted to a graduate or professional program and they are more successful during the program.

Ms. Mills is a junior Presidential Scholar from Overland Park, Kansas with a double major in Journalism and English. Since the Spring 2010 semester she spent studying abroad in Chile, she has been serving as an ICRU Editing Fellow for Professor Berry with IowaWatch.org, The Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism. Professor Berry is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and the Executive Director and Editor of IowaWatch. The Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism is an independent nonprofit and nonpartisan news service founded by Associate Professor Berry and Robert Gutsche Jr., a University of Iowa Ph.D. student and journalist who helped launch the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009.

Ms. Richards was an Old Gold Scholar from Dubuque, Iowa who graduated with Honors in May 2011 with majors in Physics and Astronomy. She will be attending graduate school in the fall to pursue a Ph.D. in physics. Ms. Richards pursued research under the mentorship of Professor Lang to use X-ray and radio observations to understand the nuclear regions of galaxies, such as the Milky Way. Dr. Lang is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; she is working to understand the energetic processes occurring in galactic nuclear regions, which include star formation and magnetic phenomena.

Dr. Robert Kirby, director of the ICRU, will provide a brief description of the Center.