For Immediate Release  
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Ferguson Receives URSA Travel Support Grant

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has awarded a Travel Support Grant in the amount of $200 to Dustin Ferguson. Travel Support Grants are intended to support undergraduate students accepted to present research at a professional conference or gathering. A portion of this grant is intended to fund their poster expenses.

Ferguson is a senior history major in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. His presentation is entitled, “Auxiliaries or Frilly, Flouncy Extras: Military Women and Their Perception in World War II.” The project analyzes the experience of women during World War II. Ferguson explores the new roles filled by women at home in the workforce and their participation in newly established organizations. According to this study, women faced condemnation towards their femininity and sexuality based on their gender which subsequently resulted in a questioning of their capability in doing their jobs. Despite all of these issues, these women “broke new ground,” Ferguson argues, and proved they were capable of performing outside of the traditionally accepted domestic sphere. Ferguson is from Mayfield, Kentucky.

Ferguson will present his research in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Phi Alpha Theta 2014 Biennial Convention held from January 2-5, 2014. Phi Alpha Theta is the history honor society and has chapters nationwide.

Dr. Stephanie Carpenter, Associate Professor of History, will serve as Ferguson’s faculty mentor.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/ or by calling (270) 809-3192.