

**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON**

**UNIFORM APPLICATION COVER PAGE FOR INTERNAL SUPPORT FROM URCA**

**(In addition to the electronic application, this printed and signed cover page must be submitted to the Program Director.)**

PROPOSAL TITLE: Age-related differences in the use of homophones to learn knew associations.

MENTOR APPLICANT(S): (Name, CofC ID number, CofC email address, and Department):

Katherine White, ID AND EMAIL HERE, Psychology

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANT(S): (Name, CofC ID number, CofC email address, and Primary Major):

Amy Byrd, ID AND EMAIL HERE, Psychology

REQUESTED DATES OF PROJECT SUPPORT: From April 20, 2006 to April 23, 2006

**Award Type Requested (Check one)**

RPG Travel     AYRA Project     MAYS Project     SURF Project

**Total Amount requested from URAC: \$385.49**

**Additional Information**

- |     |  |   |  |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 1.  | Does the proposal involve research on human subjects?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No                  |
| 2.  | If yes, status of the IRB request (no funds can be awarded until IRB is approved)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved |
| 3.  | Does the proposal involve research on vertebrate animal subjects?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
| 4.  | If yes, Status of the <b>IACUC</b> request (no funds can be awarded until <b>IACUC</b> is approved)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted      | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            |
| 5.  | Have student applicants received URCA support for this or any other project in the past year?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
|     | List the source, amounts and dates:  |   |  |
| 6.  | Will the faculty member be paid for other work during the project period?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
| 7.  | Is there another internal proposal pending for this research/creative work?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
|     | List the source(s):  | Amount:                                 |  |
| 8.  | Will each student applicant be enrolled at the College during or immediately after the period of URCA funding? ( <i>If no, it must be clearly stated why this as an undergraduate project in the proposal narrative.</i> ) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No                  |
| 9.  | Is there an external proposal pending for this research/creative work?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
|     | List the agency(s):  | Amount: \$                              |  |
| 10. | Does the project involve biohazards or other safety issues?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |
| 11. | Does this project have potential for copyright or invention?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No       |

**Signatures (Required for All participants):** Please read the Participants Responsibility Statement Page prior to signing this page. Signatures below indicate awareness of and intention to follow appropriate Program, Departmental, School, College and State rules and regulation for conducting projects, travel, and expenditure of funds.

SIGNATURE & DATE, Undergraduate Applicant(s):

SIGNATURE & DATE, Faculty/Mentor Applicant(s):

**Chair/Dean:** Funds for successful proposals will be transferred into the departmental R & D account.

SIGNATURE, Chair/Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Participants Responsibility Statements Page****Statement of Student Responsibility:**

If this request is funded, the student is expected to commit sufficient time to the project to make reasonable progress. The student is not expected (nor allowed) to let work on this project interfere with other course work. The student is expected to submit a brief formal report before the start of the examination period in the academic semester in which the project is performed that summarizes the results of the project to date. Failure to submit a report may jeopardize the ability of the faculty mentor listed on this request to serve as a mentor on any future requests and it will jeopardize the ability of the student to obtain future funding from the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Initiative Funds to support undergraduate research. If at all possible, the student is expected to communicate the results of the project at a college-wide, public event. The participants further promise to acknowledge the support of the Mini-grant program and the College of Charleston and the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Initiative in any presentations or communication of the results of the project.

**Statement of Faculty Responsibility:**

If this request is funded, the faculty mentor is expected to provide the encouragement, advice, support and time necessary to adequately mentor the student on this research or creative project. This promised commitment is not expected (nor allowed) to compromise the faculty member's ability to fulfill the other duties incumbent upon them.

**Statement of Chair Responsibility:**

If this request is funded, the sponsoring department chair is expected to oversee the proper expenditure of funds that are transferred from the College of Charleston Undergraduate Research Account to the sponsoring department's research account. In the event that the awarded funds are either not spent or are not accounted for within two weeks of the conclusion of the funded project period, the chair will return the unspent or unaccounted for funds to the College of Charleston Undergraduate Research Account to support other worthy student research efforts.

*Financial Procedures:*

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If this request is funded, the purchase of supplies and materials must proceed according to the guidelines established by the Procurement Office of the College of Charleston. For travel, participants must submit an approved College of Charleston Travel Authorization form to the Controller's Office not less than four days prior to the commencement of travel. To qualify for reimbursement, participants must then complete the necessary paperwork no more than 10 days after the travel.

Mini-grant funds will be transferred into the sponsoring department account for disposition. Within two weeks of completing the project, the signatures to this application promise to submit a Final Report to the Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, with an attached copy of the submitted expenditure authorization form. The sponsoring department is obligated to transfer any unused monies back into the College of Charleston Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities account within two weeks of the completion of the project.

Undergraduate Applicant(s): Amy Byrd

For Travel Requests Only

Name of Conference: The Cognitive Aging Conference

Dates of travel: April 20-23

Location: Atlanta, GA

Type:  International/ National     Regional     Statewide**Itemized Budget**

List budget requests in the table below. Items over \$50 must be listed separately. Items under \$50, such as photocopying, may be listed collectively. The relevance of each request to the project must be justified. The funding limit for projects not involving travel is \$300.

Travel requests should state the cost and mode of transportation. Note that the Mini-grant fund provides a maximum of \$400 for international or national conferences, \$200 for regional conferences, and \$50 for state conferences. Multiple applicants will be expected to carpool when possible

Durable items purchased with Mini-grant funds are considered to be the property of the College of Charleston, and must remain in the custody and possession of the College of Charleston at the conclusion of the project. Also describe any additional support for the project, being sure to specify items to be funded with the support of this grant.

Item and Justification	Amount
(1) <b>Travel to Atlanta</b> Student will carpool with other students and/or faculty; gas contribution for carpool is requested.	\$20
(2) <b>Hotel</b> The conference begins April 20 at 1:00 PM and runs through April 23 at 1:00 PM. Thus, three nights of hotel are requested. A double room costs \$135.66/night including taxes, but will be divided between two students who will share a room, resulting in a cost of \$67.83/night	\$203.49
(3) <b>Conference Registration Fee</b>	\$50
(4) <b>Food per diem</b> Food is being requested for 3.5 days, using the College per diem of \$32/day	\$112
Total	\$385.49
Mini-grant Request (see funding limits above)	<b>\$385.49</b>
Other Funding (describe source, amount, and whether pending or secured)	

**Project Description & Justification**

In the space provided below, the student applicant(s) must describe the nature of the research project or creative work. The description must be general enough that a faculty member from a discipline outside that of the project can appreciate the significance of the work. (A technical abstract will probably not fulfill this aspect of the application.) The quality of this statement will be a primary criterion in the evaluation of the application. Students are strongly advised to have this statement carefully reviewed by the faculty mentor. Maximum 250 words.

Research has shown that older adults have more difficulty than young adults when asked to remember newly-learned information, including new names, associations between previously unrelated words, and items on a grocery list (e.g., Howard, 1991; Kausler, 1994; MacKay & Burke, 1990). The primary aim of this project is to begin to identify specific conditions that facilitate older adults' learning and retrieval of information. First, we will attempt to isolate whether age-related deficits in memory for new information appear at *learning* (i.e., memory formation), at *memory retrieval*, or at both. Additionally, this project will determine whether older adults are at a disadvantage in learning and retrieving new information *only* when memory strategies are invoked, or whether older adults demonstrate impaired functioning even when they are unaware that they are using their memory. Recent research has shown that if memory strategies are removed from *both* the learning and retrieval phases of a memory task, older adults demonstrate memory for new information. We intend to extend this finding by investigating whether memory strategies must be removed from *both* learning and retrieval, or whether older adults can demonstrate memory for new information if strategies are removed from learning *or* retrieval only. Finally, this research will investigate whether specific types of cues can be used to facilitate memory for new information. Specifically, we will determine whether the identical cues must be present at both learning and retrieval, or whether memory can be facilitated by the use of cues that rely on phonology (sounds of a word) or semantics (word meanings).

**Roles Statement**

In the space provided below, the student applicant(s) and/or mentor(s) must clearly describe the roles of all participants. The Mini-grant program will fund proposals in which mentors offer very little input, provided that they do provide appropriate guidance and oversight. The program will also support projects in which mentors fully direct the project, as long as they seek to develop student research skills or creativity in demonstrable ways. In either case, the description must be general enough that any faculty member will be able to understand the role of the student(s), the role of the mentor(s), and the nature of the interaction between them. Maximum 250 words.

Over the past year, I have been developing my research skills under the direct supervision of Dr. White. Our collaboration began when we chose a topic for my research project and worked together to prepare a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) proposal, which we were subsequently rewarded for Summer 2005. This intense and comprehensive summer research experience (coupled with two additional semesters of continued research) allowed me to be solely responsible for the recruitment of older adult participants, the testing of 160 young and older adults, and the coding of their data. More importantly, however, I collaborated on more fundamental aspects of research including theoretical development, experimental design, and data analysis. I am also currently in the process of preparing a manuscript for publication in the College's undergraduate journal. In order to disseminate the information from this project in a timely manner, we will be presenting the data at the 11<sup>th</sup> biennial Cognitive Aging Conference in April. I will be preparing a PowerPoint presentation so that I can present this research in a poster session. During this presentation, I will be responsible for explaining all aspects of the project and answering any questions that interested researchers ask me. Dr. White will assist me with preparation of the poster, will give me guidance during practice presentations prior to the conference, and will supervise my presentation. While at the conference, I will also be interacting with other researchers in the field, and attending a variety of talks and presentations on many aspects of cognitive aging research.