

# Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

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**Our mission: to engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual, unique, scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competencies, foster critical thinking, and provide students with opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.**

## Sigma Tau Delta Scholarly Paper Award Winner

Junior English Major Devan Plyler has been named the recipient of this year's Sigma Tau Delta Scholarly Paper Award in the Undergraduate category for the best student paper presented at a non-Sigma Tau Delta academic conference.

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honor Society, dedicated to literacy in all disciplines of English. High Point University's English Department inducts students into its Alpha Xi Xi Chapter based on academic excellence. This award competition was

open to all members nationwide, so Plyler's work is recognized across the country.



Plyler's paper *Sam Spade as an Anarchist: Revelations of the Wrench, the Beam, and the Man* was originally written for an Art of Detection course. Her

paper focuses on Dashiell Hammett's novel *The Maltese Falcon*, who is included in the canon of major detective fiction authors.

Plyler revised this paper during Spring 2013 for the purpose of presenting it at the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS) that occurred here at High Point University and later published it in the BigSURS Conference Proceedings for her exemplary work. She owes much of the paper's success to her advisor, Dr. Carlson, who pushed her to work on it beyond the classroom.

## Mathematics Students Return from Conference

Three Mathematics students, accompanied by Dr. Graham-Squire and Dr. Zuhr, travelled to the Summary of Mathematics Association of America Southeastern Section Conference in Cookeville, Tennessee, March 14-15.

Nick Zayatz and David Naylor presented their work on an investigation into the prevalence of anomalies in real-world

instant runoff elections. These two students created a program to analyze ranked choice-election data, report any monotonicity anomalies, and to compare results employing different voting methods.

The third student, Christian Weigandt, presented his research on creating software that tracks a soccer ball through the video of a

soccer game. For the second year in a row, his presentation won an award for one of the top undergraduate oral presentations at the conference.

Their travel to this conference in Cookeville, Tennessee was supported by a grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.

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## High-PURCS

### High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS) 2014

Last year, at the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS), which incorporated High-PURCS, HPU students participated in fields including Anthropology, Art History, Chemistry, Communications, Economics, Education, English, Health Sciences, History, Mathematics, Modern Language, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, and Theatre.

This year's High-PURCS symposium will take place on April 24, 2014 (Reading Day). The High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS) showcases student scholarship in a supportive environment that models a professional venue. Students choose to present their works orally, as a poster presentation, as a brief performance, or as an exhibit. These works

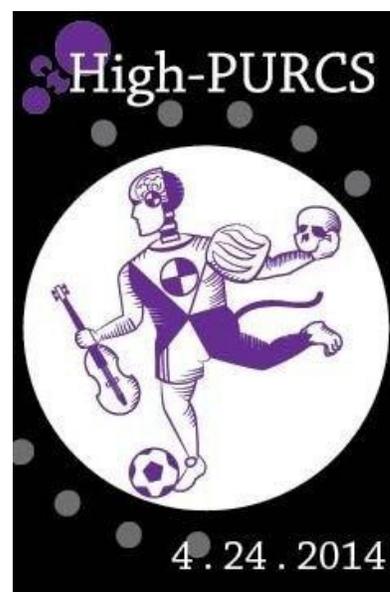
exemplify originality and creativity and reflect high quality work.

The High-PURCS event continues to grow from its inception (with nearly 50 Students in 2012), to this year's event which will include Nearly one-hundred students from High Point University, from sixteen different departments around campus! At this event, 97 students will present 82 different projects. There will be 43 posters, 34 oral presentations, and 4 live performances. Two of these papers will be presented in Spanish.

This is an opportunity to see what research and creative projects your peers are engaging in and to learn more about the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.

Events will begin with the welcoming announcements at 1:45 in Phillips 120.

**See you on April 24!**



## Biology Students to Travel to Spartanburg

On April 2nd, a group of 13 Biology students accompanied by 4 faculty members will travel to Spartanburg, South Carolina for the 75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists.

This association strives to promote an environment that encourages collaboration and participation of every discipline and application of biology.

The students participating include Olivia Fletcher, Ashley Bondurant, Alec Perry, Chase Manuel, Jessy Nicole Brooks, Haley Hegedus, Taylor Patzwahl, Amanda Girreson,

Alexander Hart, Kelsey Ortiz, William Fravel, Alyssa Heisler, and Jasmine Jordan. They will be accompanied by Dr. Campbell, Dr. Hughes, Dr. Crater, and Dr. G. Smith.

The theme of several students' research includes ways to prevent the growth of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), which is a natural element of the human body but can cause problems if it goes untreated and grows resistant to antibiotics.

Other student topics include the process of pollination, in regards to improving the

growth of crops through this process and the bioaccumulation of mercury in the Wilson bird species in order to protect life.

This group of Biology students' travel is also supported by grants from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works. High Point University students and faculty will be able to see some of the biology students' work next month at High-PURCS.

## Psychology Students Travel to Texas

March 27-29, Psychology students Jacklyn Tonkovich and Kaila Tuccio traveled to Austin, Texas with Dr. Li-Barber to present their research at the Society for Research in Human Development (SRHD). SRHD's mission is to stimulate and support research in human development and to encourage the application of these findings.

The Society also encourages the collaboration of research in order to better all of humanity. Other students involved in the research but did not attend the conference were Lindsay Anuzis and Christine Perry.

The research focuses on the role of parental involvement in college students. Specifically, they address the consequences of over-

protection and the idea of academic entitlement in college students as a study in gender difference.

This presentation was funded by a grant through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works. You can view their poster presentation at High-PURCS in April.

Society for Research in Human Development  
SRHD 2014 Austin, Texas March 27 - 29, 2014



## Junior Stage Managers Recognized for Their Work

Junior Theatre majors Rachel Garrett and Sarah Thompson participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Roanoke, Virginia with a group of other theatre students from High Point University.

This competition involves 18,000 students nationwide from 600 different institutions in an attempt to improve the quality of theatre across the country. Garrett has been named the winner of the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Stage Management Fellowship.

Another Junior Theatre major, Sarah Thompson, was



named first runner-up for the same award and received an Honorable Mention in the Stage Management Competition.

With this award, Garrett receives an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC in April for the National Division Kennedy Center American College Theatre

Festival in order to work with major professional stage managers in the Kennedy Center.

The travels of these ladies and the group of theatre students was supported by a grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works. Additionally, Garrett and Thompson will give presentations at the upcoming High-PURCS event.

## Senior Theatre Major Excels in Conference



COURTNEY FEIMAN

Senior Theatre Major Courtney Feiman participated in the South Eastern Theatre Conference, whose purpose is to bridge the separation between

student and professional performers and allows the theatre student to gain experience outside of the university setting in order to obtain jobs and careers right out of college.

After a first round of auditions, theatre companies submit lists that include which performers gained their interest. The students on these lists are called back for interview purposes.

For the first round of auditions, Feiman had to prepare a ninety-second audition package, which includes a song and a monologue.

Feiman received six callbacks for theatre companies in Florida, Montana, and Michigan. Her travels have been supported by a grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.

Courtney Feiman will also be presenting at the High-PURCS event on April 24.

## Criminal Justice Major Presents at Meeting

Criminal Justice major Kathleen Kelley, accompanied by Dr. Ahn-Redding, attended the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in Philadelphia February 20-22. She presented her research as a poster titled *Operationalizing Attempted Mass Murder*, which granted her the opportunity to speak in depth to

parties interested in the results of the research. Such detailed conversations are easier in a poster session than in an oral presentation. Kelley also attended American University's Justice, Law, and Society reception, allowing her a great opportunity to network and meet others whose work is relevant to hers. She

attended several panels focusing on school delinquency, school shootings, and capital punishment, which helped her learn what kind of research is being conducted at other universities.



Ms. Kelley's trip was supported by a URCW research grant and she will be presenting her research at High-PURCS next month.

## Health and Physical Education Students Return from Conference

Research students Haley Ruehle, Rob Rivera, and Perry Morris, accompanied by Dr. Bell traveled to Lexington, Kentucky for the Southern District American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Conference to present research and to learn more regarding the profession of health and physical education.

Ruehle and Rivera presented their bowling study research with Dr. Bell and gained much from the questions asked in response to their work.

With a full schedule, these students attended more than five presentations a day and attended other activities as part of the conference.

The group benefitted from networking with distinguished academics in their field of health and physical education. These individuals authored respected theories and books in this field. The students also gained insight into the work of fellow students from other universities and would like to thank the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative

Works for the grant that made their trip possible.

Haley Ruehle and Rob Rivera will also be presenting their work at The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in St. Louis on April 2, as well as at High-PURCS.



*American Alliance  
for Health, Physical  
Education, Recreation  
and Dance*

## Experienced Student Shares Her Story

Shannon Curley, a senior English major, has been accepted to seven different conferences in her time working with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.

She credits her advisor, Dr. Laura Linker, with helping her get involved with the office. Without her, Shannon would not have applied, been accepted, or attended the Marco Undergraduate Conference at the University of Tennessee, Spring 2013, that began her interest in participating in other conferences. Shannon also thanks this office for support through the past few years.

Before the end of her undergraduate years, Shannon will attend two

more conferences. At the end of March, she plans to travel to the University of North Carolina in Wilmington for the Southeast Women's Studies Association Conference, and to Washington DC for the American Literature Association's African American Literature and Culture Society Conference. These two conferences signify the climax of Shannon's research experience at High Point University, for this time, she will attend as a professional instead of an undergraduate student.

Shannon advises younger students wanting to get involved with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative

Works to not fear rejection. The worst thing that anyone could say is "no."

She says, "I'm a big sports fan and I believe in the old adage, 'You miss every shot you don't take.' It's the same thing with this—if you don't try, then you'll never get in. If you do, you might surprise yourself."



## Register URCW Activity

The **Presentation** category is for works from class that have been refined for public presentation, performance, or exhibit. Currently, there are **165 students** giving presentation!

The **Publication** category is for works that have been published. We are proud of the **4 students** registered for publication!

The **Competition** category includes any works in a discipline that leads to a competition. There are **17 students** registered for competition!

The **Research Rookies** program is specifically designed to aid lower classmen to get involved in research. There are now **51 research rookies**!

**Total**, there are **94 students** working in mentored relationships with faculty. Make sure you complete the mentee registration if you are doing research, so you can be counted!

### Contact Us!

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