undergraduate research & creative works

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) is pleased to welcome students, faculty, and staff to another academic year at High Point University! Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with student accomplishments and opportunities within the realm of collaborative, creative and scholarly works. By sharing our students' many achievements, we hope to encourage your participation in URCW this year!

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Our Mission

Our mission is to engage undergraduate students in collaborative projects with faculty members. The unique projects created, both scholarly and imaginative, aim to promote the development of new competencies and foster critical thinking skills. We aspire to provide students the special opportunity to add to the global sum of human knowledge and experience through research.
Student Achievement Profile:

Bella Grafisi

In looking for a new student to highlight in the November newsletter, Bella Grifasi was an obvious choice. While her academic achievements speak for themselves, URCW was lucky to sit down with Bella to discuss her personal experience and dive into the research she has conducted in the past three years at High Point University.

During her freshman year, Bella began the process of becoming an active researcher at HPU by joining URCW’s Research Rookies program. After completing the necessary requirements, she earned the title of “Research Apprentice” in the spring, applied for a position as an undergraduate lab assistant to Dr. Marshall, former professor of pharmacy, and got the job! Over the next two years, Bella worked in Dr. Marshall’s lab for 10 hours a week, gaining first hand experience in the field and learning many new skills to supplement her biology major.

Bella’s main focus of research centered around the effects of ethanol on the neuro-immune system, or the relationship between alcohol and aging. In the lab, she worked with mice, performing euthanizations, intraperitoneal injections, and dissections, searching for abnormalities that indicated brain damage caused by alcohol. The skills she gained in Dr. Marshall’s lab will easily be translated into future clinical work.

Throughout her undergraduate career, Bella has had many opportunities to present her research through URCW including conferences like High-PURCS, NCUR, RSA, SYNAPSE, and SNCURCS, networking with industry professionals along the way. In the fall of her sophomore year, Bella was awarded the Barthalmus Undergraduate Research Grant to support her research. Through these incredible experiences, two of Bella’s papers have been published and a third is in the works.

As a current senior, Bella plans to graduate a semester early, applying for numerous Physician Assistant graduate programs. In the future, she’d love to live on the east coast—a proud Maryland native—working clinically, as well as actively conducting research. URCW wishes Bella the best of luck in her future endeavors and thanks her for her contribution to the research community at HPU.
Grant Recipients

URCW has the pleasure of awarding grants to students and faculty mentors to present their work at disciplinary conferences. Congratulations to the following URCW grant recipients:

1. **Morgan Carafa** will travel to Baltimore, MD to film a documentary as a part of her senior capstone project within the School of Communication.

2. **Patricia Sullivan** will receive science equipment to aid in the production of her senior capstone project; a science mini-series called "Kids Kreate."

3. **Samantha Bridge, Reagan Doucette, Emily Durant, Alex Griswold, Liv Huang, Lauren Johnson, Katie Keever, Cheyse Lattie, Grace Ann Letzinger, Madison Mendik, Gabriela Merlos, Elizabeth Schroeder,** and **Wesley Wilson** will attend the American College Dance Association Conference at West Virginia University, under the mentorship of **Lindsey Howie.**

4. **Grace Cush, Amy Foss, Gabrielle Schmale, Bryn Hawbaker,** and **Ryan Mijumni** presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference in New Orleans, LA, under the support of **Dr. Stacy Lipowski.**

5. **Kyle Hoffpaurir, Nathan Markle, Cameron Meadows,** and **Timothy Diaz** presented their research in computer science at the ACM Mid-Southeast conference in Gatlinburg, TN, under the mentorship of **Dr. Jason Pittman** and **Roger Shore.** **Anthony Demattos** was also in attendance.

6. **Paul Klippel, Sarah Nowell,** and **Megan Mouton** will present their research at the 2020 Winter Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Orlando, FL, under the mentorship of **Dr. Aaron Titus.**
Notable Events

SNCURCS

On Friday November 23rd, 50 students, 6 faculty, and 20 presenters attended the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium at Duke University. Of the students attending, 30 are registered Research Rookies!

Student Presenters:

Christina Carilli - Psychology
Morgan Dunham - History
Jake Dunn - Neuroscience
Shirley Garrett - Political Science
Gina Giorgio - Psychology
Nathan Grinalds - Chemistry
Aleah Hayes - Psychology
Kyle Hoffpauir - Computer Science
Chasen Jeffries - History
Corinne King - Political Science
Jacob Lancaster - Religion
Dalton Lucas - Political Science
Sawyer Lyons - Biology
Nathan Markle - Computer Science
Cameron Meadows - Computer Science
Raegan Thomas - English Literature
Stephen Walser - Physics
Laylah Welch - Biology
Emily Yacuzzo - History

Emily Yacuzzo, Dalton Lucas, and Corrine King with faculty mentor, Dr. Paul Ringel, in front of their research project displays.

Dr. Jackie Arthur-Montagne with student presenters Morgan Dunn and Chasen Jeffries.
Students gather to listen to a presentation.

Aleah Hayes presenting her poster titled “Female Politician’s Social Media Influence.”

Shirley Garrett presenting her research titled “How Do African-American Millennials View Race-Based Affirmative Action in Higher Education?”

Sawyer Lyons presenting his poster “The Neuroprotective Potential of Cannabidiol...” with Dr. Grider at the symposium.

Christina Carilli presenting her research poster on the impact of drug overdose training on college campuses.

Dr. Jackie Arthur-Montagne with Chasen Jeffries.
Register your Research

URCW tracks student's independent scholarly and creative works to share with the campus. If you are currently conducting research, developing a creative work, or continuing an existing project, please register on our website by clicking the “Register URCW Activity” link on the left-hand side of the page. Students should provide yearly updates of their activity. In just a few minutes, you and your faculty mentor can be recognized for your incredible work and join the URCW family at HPU!

Students by Department

Listed below are the percentage of students, by department, who have officially registered their research. If your area of expertise is not represented, make sure to register online now!
Summer Research Programs

*applications open spring 2020, free on-campus housing provided for student participants

THE CONGDON SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES - SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (CSHS-SuRF):
CSHS-SuRF is a competitive program for research assistant positions with faculty in the Health Sciences. Free campus housing is provided during the program, along with a summer stipend. Students who attend SuRF will work on projects in various fields including physical therapy, exercise science, and athletic training. Application deadline is March 1st.

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SCIENCES (SuRPS):
SuRPS is a competitive program for 26 research assistant positions with faculty in biology, chemistry, and physics. Free campus housing, meals, and a summer stipend are provided for students accepted into the program. Application deadline is February 21st.

SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SURI):
SURI is open to undergraduate students in all disciplines. Students collaborate on a research project with faculty mentors to develop a project goal, method, and timeline. Free campus housing is provided and students will be able to present their work during the Family Weekend poster session at the beginning of the 2021 semester. Application deadline is March 1st.

Journal Submissions

The mission of the HPU’s Innovation: Journal of Creative and Scholarly Works, is to publish scholarly and creative works from undergraduate students. The journal editors solicit and select papers that represent a range of disciplines. Submit your completed work before January 30th at www.highpoint.edu/urcw/hpu-journal for a chance to be published in the next edition.

"I’m so grateful for my work to have been published during my freshman year of college. I learned so much while working with the journal editors and improving my writing. I can’t wait to build upon this academic experience in my next three years at HPU."

RISE

When updating your resume, it can be difficult to remember all of the extracurricular activities and accomplishments you’ve achieved during your college experience. The Rise app is here to help! With Rise, simply record all of your accomplishments by earning specialized URCW badges through the completion of interactive and engaging tasks. Search "Rise by fundFive" in the App Store or on Google Play to get started!

Earn URCW badges in the Rise app including:
- Discovering URCW
- Engage in URCW
- Link up and connect in URCW
- Partner and succeed in URCW

Challenge yourself to earn these optional badges:
- Become a mentee
- Explore the process of academic discovery
- Showcase your creative or scholarly work
- URCW professional development

ForagerOne

ForagerOne is an online platform for students to connect with faculty for collaborative research. Simply visit www.foragerone.com to create an account with your HPU email and start exploring:

- Find faculty using the search engine database
- Bookmark faculty of interest
- Submit applications to work with faculty
- Communicate with faculty through messaging