To engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual and unique scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competences, foster critical and creative thinking, and provide students with privileged opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.

SURE: Students for Undergraduate Research Experiences

The High Point University department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) would like to showcase its very own student led group on campus, Students for Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE). SURE began last Spring, when then sophomores Lindsay Sugarman and Laura May met with URCW director Joanne Altman about starting a group catered to HPU students and their scholarly endeavors. “The purpose of SURE is to bring students of different ages, different majors and different interests together to collaborate about the process of researching, analyzing and presenting,” says Vice-president Laura May.

Faculty adviser Dr. Joanne Altman has been working with SURE to promote undergraduate research and target underclassmen, who tend to be uninformed of research opportunities on campus. “I hope the organization draws in freshmen and sophomores and helps them get involved in undergraduate research,” says Dr. Altman.

SURE’s first meeting introduced members to the many possibilities for research, and how to get involved on campus. SURE looks forward to bringing a few of its members to the SNCURCS conference this November in order for students to observe their peers in a professional research environment.

SURE plans on coordinating academic events such as research workshops, presentation seminars, and other events that promote research and scholarly works.

Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate research is a student-faculty collaboration to examine, create, and share new knowledge or work commensurate with practices in the discipline.
Pre-Veterinary Student Begins Research on Animal Disposition and Temperament

Haley Hegedus, a sophomore at High Point University, is excited to begin her undergraduate research this semester. Hegedus has been working with her mentor, Dr. Joanne Altman, Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works and an animal psychologist and behaviorist. Last summer, Hegedus was involved in a herpetology research experience through UNCG, which fueled her interest in conducting undergraduate research at High Point University. Hegedus’ research, which will determine if an animal’s personality has an effect on its recovery from surgery, is in the early stages.

“Right now, we are still reviewing the existing research on animal personality and welfare,” Hegedus says. “We are looking to move forward into data collection this winter.” Hegedus and Dr. Altman plan to get in contact with local veterinarians and animal hospitals within the Triad and distribute canine personality questionnaires. Veterinary clients will then complete these questionnaires about their dogs that have undergone recent surgery. Eventually, Hegedus would like to present her findings at a conference in the future. Hegedus will be attending the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Symposium (SNCURCS) with SURE on November 17th, to observe and gain insight on presenting undergraduate research.

HPU’s Research Minded Senior

John Purcell, a High Point University senior, is heavily involved in undergraduate research on campus…and off campus for that matter! Purcell has not only presented research conducted at HPU his junior year, but this past summer he participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at Yale University. Purcell worked as a research assistant and conducted an fMRI study to evaluate social and monetary reward processing in individuals with bipolar disorder, as well as an eye-tracking study that evaluated the difference in stimuli attention in participants. Purcell sought out this summer program with the support of his mentors Dr. Lootens and Dr. Spain. Unrelated to his work this summer at Yale, Purcell also presented his research, titled “What Makes a Siren Sultry: Investigating the Attractiveness Stereotype in Vocal Performance” at the International Association of Relationship Research conference in Chicago, Illinois. Purcell, a double major in psychology and music, worked with mentor Dr. Sadie Leder, who collaborated with Purcell on the project. Purcell is currently finishing up his degree while studying abroad at Oxford Brookes University in England, and is not only in the midst of conducting new research, but has plans on presenting an original poster on schizophrenia de-stigmatization at a conference in New Orleans in January. “I just really love research!” says Purcell, who plans to graduate this May and pursue a PhD in clinical psychology.

HPU Alumna’s Research to be Published

High Point University alumna Kaylyn Carpenter and her mentor Dr. Nicole Hughes of the biology department have recently had their research manuscript accepted for publication. Carpenter, who graduated in 2012 with a degree in biochemistry, is to have her research, titled “Estimating contribution of anthocyanin pigments to osmotic adjustment during winter leaf reddening” publishing in the upcoming issues of Journal of Plant Physiology. Carpenter, whose research focused on plant water stress and the synthesis of red pigments in leaves, presented her findings at the Ecological Society of America meeting in August 2012.

Mason Frank, an athletic training student at High Point University, spent the Spring 2012 semester researching and studying the accuracy of scapular physical examination tests. His comprehensive research titled, “Diagnostic Accuracy of Scapular Physical Examination Tests For Shoulder Disorders”, was recently accepted for publication in The British Journal of Sports Medicine. Frank, whose professors Dr. Alexis A. Wright, Dr. Craig Wassinger, Dr. Lori A. Michener, and Dr. Eric J. Hegedus mentored and collectively aided him in his research, will also be presenting his research at the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association (NCPTA) conference on October 13, 2012.
Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Student Support and Travel Grants: Summer and Early Fall,

Kaylyn Carpenter
- Title of research: “Estimating contribution of anthocyanin pigments to osmotic adjustment during winter leaf reddening”
- Mentor: Dr. Sadie Leder
- Presented at: International Association of Relationship Research conference

John Purcell
- Title of research: “What Makes a Siren Sultry: Investigating the Attractiveness Stereotype in Vocal Performance”
- Mentor: Dr. Sadie Leder
- Presented at: International Association of Relationship Research conference

Bradley Taylor
- Title of research: “Capillary Electrophoretic Studies of a Squarylium-Based Dye (SQ-BA) with Sugars”
- Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth McCorquodale
- Presented at: Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS)

Mary Funke
- Title of research: “Reporting of Airway and Anesthetic Mishaps in the Non-Medical Literature: Perhaps a Lapse in Describing Litigation.”
- Mentor: Dr. Chris Fowler
- Presented at: American Society of Anesthesiologist Annual National Conference

Nicole Chrysson
- Title of research: “Impact of Parental Control on Risk-taking and Perceived Autonomy”
- Mentor: Dr. Kirsten Li-Barber
- Presented at: American Psychological Association

Charlene Miller
- Title of research: “Photosynthetic Costs and Benefits of Adaxial/Abaxial Anthocyanin in Understory Plants”
- Mentor: Dr. Nicole M. Hughes
- Presented at: Ecological Society of America meeting

Cora Glass
- Title of research: “An Emerging Description of Donors to Mental Health Organizations”
- Mentor: Dr. Christine Cugliari.
- Presented at: Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

Amanda Starring
- Received grant to conduct field data collection in South Carolina to research the Rocky Shoals spider lily.

Megan May
- Mentor: Dr. Nicole M. Hughes
- Received a grant to attend the Medicines of the Earth Symposium this past June to observe and learn from the symposium’s professional lectures on medicinal plants and herbs.
Upcoming Conferences for 2012-13

State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Symposium (SNCURCS)
- November 17th, 2012
- Hosted by Duke University in Durham, NC

Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS)
- April 5th-6th, 2013
- Hosted by High Point University in High Point, NC

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
- April 11th-13th, 2013
- Hosted by the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse in La Crosse, Wisconsin

NCUR Posters on the Hill
- April 2013, TBA
- Washington, D.C.

Eligibility:
- High Point University undergraduate student or recent graduate (within 12 months)
- Recent graduates may only submit works completed while an undergraduate at HPU.
- Must have conducted scholarly works under the mentorship of an HPU faculty member.

For guidelines and submission requirements, check out the Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works website, urcw.highpoint.edu or contact Dr. Joanne D. Altman at jaltman0@highpoint.edu

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Newsletter brought to you by Lindsay Sugarman