

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS

APRIL

2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works at High Point University is to engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual and unique scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competencies and foster critical thinking, and provide students with privileged opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Congratulations on completing the spring semester! As you prepare for the summer and upcoming Fall semester, we are here to share the recent news as well as the plans of students and faculty to engage in summer research. Thank you for a great year - have a wonderful and safe summer!

As a department, our goal is to inform you of students' past accomplishments and future opportunities available within the realms of collaborative research and creative works. We hope to share the success stories of students who have completed scholarly and creative work and to inspire students to enrich their own undergraduate experience.



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A WORD FROM SUMMER RESEARCHERS

CONNOR WHICKER SURF JUNIOR

What are your plans for your summer research project?

I will be working on the NIH Grant: Real-time Optimized Biofeedback Utilizing Sport Techniques which is an intervention based program. The subjects are adolescent female soccer players who complete pre-testing in hip strength, agility, and biomechanical motion screening. Each subject then completes an intervention focused on strength, plyometrics, core strengthening as well as biofeedback. The study is hoping to examine whether biofeedback in addition to intervention techniques can help train proper landing mechanics allowing athletes to land in less at risk positions that lead to ACL tears.

What are you most excited about regarding your upcoming summer research experience?

I am excited to grow as a researcher and hopefully develop knowledge that can translate into my clinical practice as an athletic training student.



SARAH FORGET SURPS JUNIOR

What are your plans for your summer research project?

I will be continuing the research I have been doing for the past year with Dr. Hughes. We are researching an ever-green fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*. This fern stands tall in summer and falls flat in winter. We have already done experiments to see if changing the position of fronds stresses the plants. We have measured photosynthesis, fluorescence, temperature, and more to assess plant stress. This summer we plan to do a few more tests, but the main focus will be to write up a paper and try to get it published.

What are you most excited about regarding your upcoming summer research experience?

I am most excited to work on a paper, and the possibility of it getting published. I enjoy the field and want to go to graduate school for something similar. Getting all of this research experience will give me skills to be more competitive and competent for the career I would like to pursue.

KATIE JAMES SURI JUNIOR

What are your plans for your summer research project?

The title of the project is "The impact of feedback on college students' academic motivation and self-esteem." We collected data in Spring 2017 using the following method: Participants first answered several questions concerning demographics, Holland Codes Assessment, PISQ-5D, and the Utrecht-Management of Identity Commitments Scale. They then waited 2-7 days before completing session two which involved receiving feedback, answering open-ended questions, taking the Situational Motivation Scale and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. After completing these forms, they were completely debriefed as to the true nature of the study. I intend to collect more data in this method as well as work on developing a content analysis coding scheme to assess the existing open-ended responses in hopes of qualitatively identifying spillover effects from the negative feedback (essentially attempting to answer, "why doesn't negative feedback impact self-esteem across commitment groups?"). After completing these processes and analyzing the data, I intend to prepare abstracts for submission to both regional and national conferences.

What are you most excited about regarding your upcoming summer research experience?

I am excited to begin the writing process for this project. I have invested so much time and energy into the project for the past year so I am looking forward to running more analyses and writing a paper for submission so that others can learn about my study and its results!

In the immediate future, I plan to submit finished abstracts to conferences and manuscripts to *Innovation* and other journals. Beyond that, I hope to further develop my skills in research by qualitatively analyzing the open-ended questions. This research experience will not only give me an advantage when applying to graduate school, but give me the skills I need to successfully complete a Master's thesis or doctoral program dissertation. I am incredibly interested in career counseling and intend to pursue industrial organizational psychology and/or career counseling. By researching the impact negative feedback has on a student's motivation and self-esteem, I will better understand students' emotional responses to negative feedback like receiving a failing grade on an important test or aversive feedback from a professional. Knowing whether students are more or less likely to change their major due to these negative stimuli would aid in my ability to assist students in selecting and pursuing a career field as well as better my understanding of undergraduate students' motivations.

SENIOR HIGHLIGHT → MELANIE SAVAGE

Graduating Senior, Melanie Savage, a Criminal Justice major with Spanish and Psychology minors, had a moment to chat with us about her successful involvement in undergraduate research and the impact it has had on her college experience as well as her future plans.

How would you describe your experience through the Undergraduate Programs at HPU?

MS: My experience throughout the undergraduate programs has been amazing and unforgettable. I have built impactful relationships with professors and students that will last for the rest of my life. The programs are challenging, yet academically stimulating.

How would you say your undergraduate research experience has affected your future?

MS: My undergraduate research has opened many more doors and opportunities for me. With my successes in research and class work I have been able to apply to job positions not otherwise available to college graduates.

What experience within HPU undergraduate research are you most thankful for? Is there an experience that stood out to you?

MS: I am most grateful for the strong ties and relationships that I formed with faculty members and the research community. My attendance of the National Criminal Justice Conference stood out to me the most as it was an amazing opportunity and experience in which I was able to share my findings with the academic community.

Do you have any advice to students considering involvement in URCW? Why would you recommend the URCW experience?

MS: My advice to future students would be that if they have this amazing opportunity they should absolutely take part in it. It broadens your academic knowledge and understanding outside of the classroom. This experience also demonstrates your drive to work above and beyond the typical undergraduate requirements.

What are your plans after graduation? What are you most excited about?

MS: I am immensely excited about my application with the secret service. Although I am not fully through their application process, I am on the road to its completion and I don't think that this would be possible without my participation in this program.

Anything else you'd like to add?

MS: Although shortly I will be graduating, High Point University will always be my home and a place that I know I can return to with open arms. I am so grateful that I attended this university and would choose it over again.

Congrats, Melanie, on all of your successes! We wish you the best and know you will do extraordinary things!



SIRG AWARD WINNER SCHOLARLY INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANT BEN ROLISON

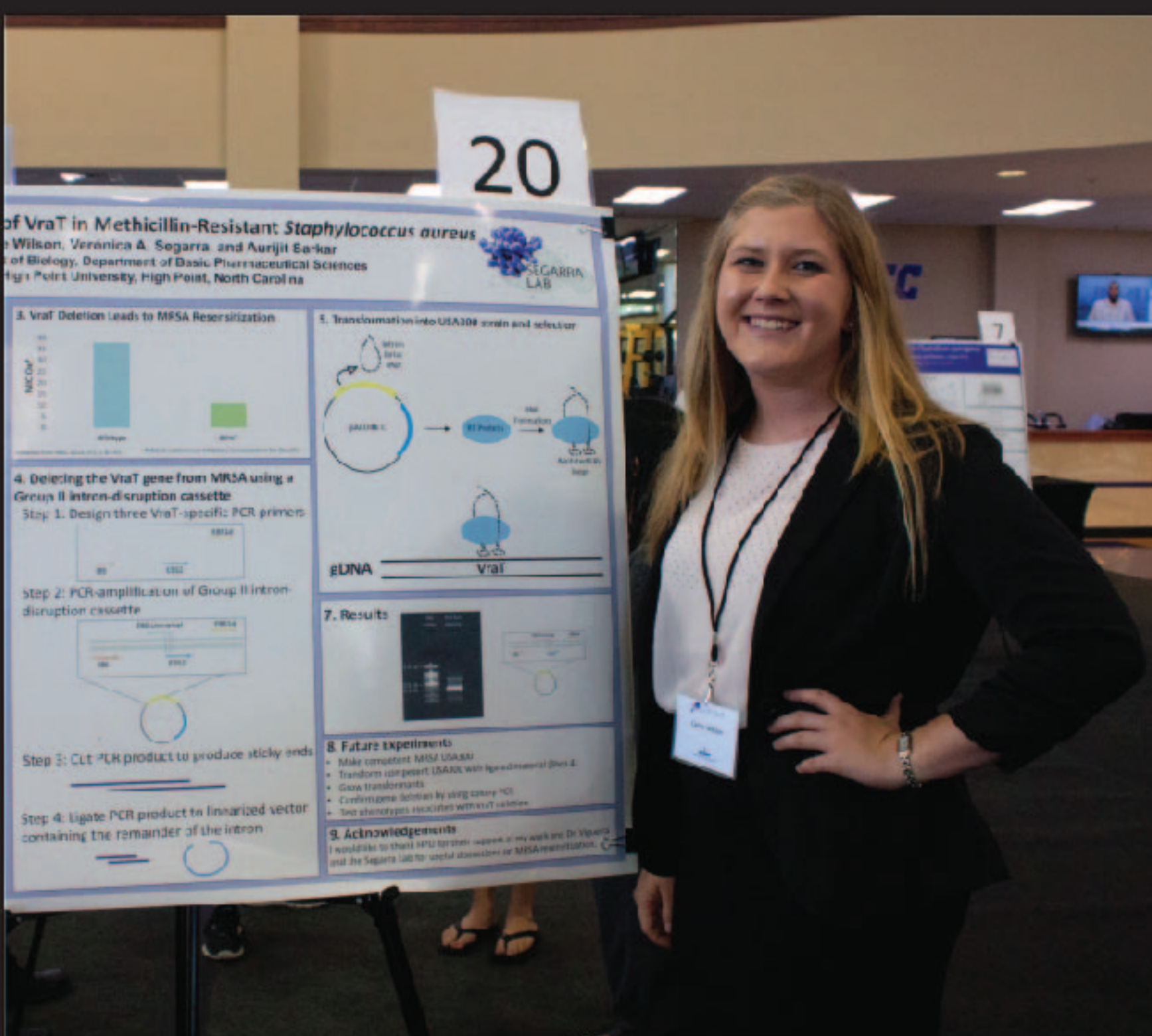
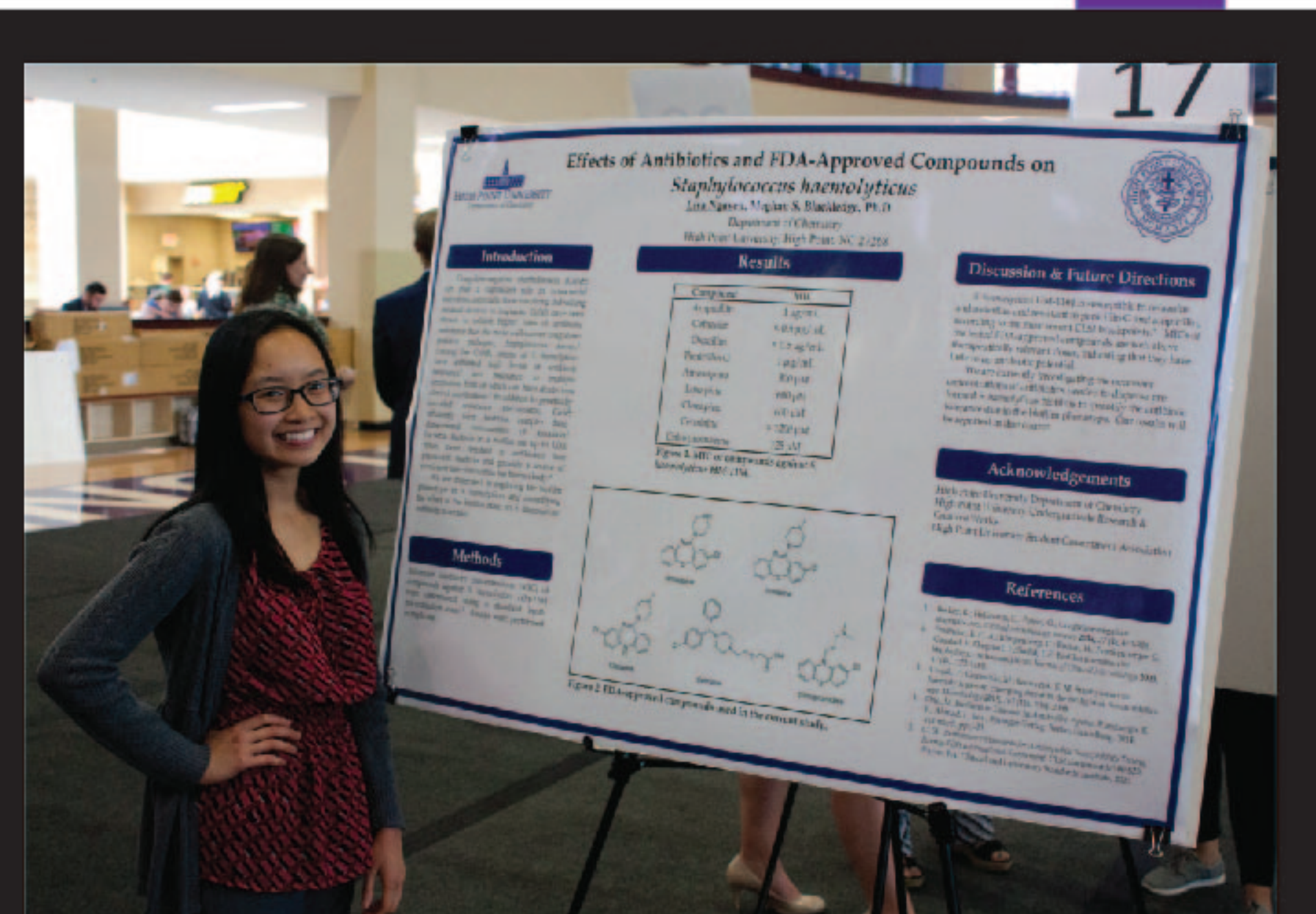
Congrats to Ben, the first recipient of the new SIRG award, for his project "AINA: An app for testing cognitive functions of non-human animals". Ben's faculty mentors included Brian Heagney, Roger Shore, and Joanne Altman. The annual URCW grant awards students up to \$1000 and can be used for research or creative works supplies and/or travel for fieldwork. The awarded projects are those that best articulate interdisciplinary studies, defined as "a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

HIGH-PURCS High-PURCS

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & CREATIVITY SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 20, 2017 **REVIEW**



High-PURCS showcased student scholarship from all schools, majors, and minors within High Point University. 142 students presented their work as a poster, oral presentation, brief performance, or exhibit which reflected originality, creativity, and quality products that went beyond a course assignment. Congratulations to all of the student presenters on a job well done!



HIGH-PURCS AWARD WINNERS

Congrats to Riccardo and Sarah on receiving awards for their High-PURCS presentations!

BEST DIGITAL POSTER PRESENTATION

➔ **RICCARDO DE CATALDO**

BEST DIGITAL ORAL PRESENTATION

➔ **SARAH EDMARK**

CONFERENCE REPORTS: HOW DID THEY GO?

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

GREENVILLE, SC. APRIL 5-9, 2017

Alexandra Balcom and mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Jeter, were allocated a URCW grant to recently attend the Southern States Communication Association Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference in Greenville, SC.

"The event started with a breakfast where I received a certificate of merit from the President of the Southern States Communications Association. It was at this breakfast that I had the opportunity to network with students from other states. I was able to interact with faculty and graduate students from graduate schools from all over the south and south east. Dr. Jeter and I attended panels to experience the scholarship of other participants. There was some fascinating work done by other students and professors. My panel was well attended - there were about 50 people in the audience. There were 5 others on the panel with myself. All of the presentations were very different but all spoke to intercultural communication in organizations. My presentation was successful and drew the interest of many questions from the audience. The moderator provided insightful feedback and encouraging comments. It was a great experience and I'm grateful for the support of my professor for encouraging me to submit my work to begin with."

- Balcom

EASTERN COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

BOSTON, MA. MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2017



Tori Cotnoir and mentor Dr. Virginia McDermott were awarded a URCW grant to attend the Eastern States Communication Association in Boston, Massachusetts on March 31, 2017.

ACADEMY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

KANSAS CITY, MO. MARCH 21-25, 2017

Melanie Savage, a Criminal Justice major mentored by Dr. Thomas Dearden, was able to attend and present at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science's annual meeting in Kansas City, MO. Her research addressed how the cost of the death penalty influenced viewpoints. Melanie says, *"Attending the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) conference was an invaluable experience. It was interesting to see other research presentations. I feel like I learned a lot in a short time. Being able to present my research in a poster presentation allowed me to share my findings and knowledge on the death penalty with other members of the criminal justice field. Presenting at this conference allowed me to gain experience and confidence in my ability to share information with a large and informed audience."* - Savage



READY TO GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH?

THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD...

An estimated 1.9+ million students are anticipated to graduate in the US in May 2020 (US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics). This means that 1.9+ million students will be competing for jobs and acceptance into graduate school in 2020 alone. Getting involved in the undergraduate research and creative works experience gives you the ability to stand out among that 1.9+ million students! According to Hart Research Associates, the most successful employees have the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems. HPU's research programs are a perfect way to gain and practice these skills that will be so crucial for life after college. Take advantage of the opportunity to stand out among the crowd!

GET STARTED HERE ↓

IT'S TIME TO REACH OUT TO FACULTY MENTORS FOR FALL 2017! CHECK OUT SCHOLAR BRIDGE



Want to search for participating faculty members and research opportunities?

ScholarBridge helps connect students and faculty who share research interests.

At www.scholarbridge.com professors and students create profiles, and students can search for research opportunities. From lemurs to NASA, find out what research and creative works flourish at High Point University.

Final Farewell

As a Graphic Design major with an English Literature minor, I could not have asked for a more fitting opportunity to combine these two passions of mine. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience URCW has provided me with this year to design and write these monthly newsletters. Through each newsletter, I've had the opportunity to grow as a designer, writer, and communicator, and have greatly appreciated getting to know student researchers here at HPU who are so committed to scholarly research, learning, and sharing their work with others.

A huge thank you to Dr. Altman, who has enlightened me about the realm of possibilities and resources available to students at HPU! Inspired, I've become involved with research myself this year, having had a manuscript published in *Innovation*, High Point University's Scholarly Journal, as well as presenting my work in an oral presentation at High-PURCS.

As a student who has never before considered research opportunities, I highly encourage all students from all disciplines to get involved with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works. A unique and rewarding experience is guaranteed! I will always be thankful to Dr. Altman, URCW, and High Point University for always encouraging me to be my best and to reach beyond the average college experience.

Thank you! - *Mara Wedekind*



CONTACT & FOLLOW US!

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NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY MARA WEDEKIND