



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

SPOTLIGHT

FROM THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS

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HAPPY OCTOBER!

Happy October students, faculty, and staff! This October, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) is working harder than ever to provide students with scholarly opportunities, novel tools, and helpful resources to ensure success. Through this publication, we will share news of accomplishments as well as the exciting new events and updates about opportunities to come! We'd love to connect with you through one of our media outlets.



Jake Drew is our September Research Rookie of the Month! Jake has been working hard to complete the Research Rookies curriculum and he's being recognized for his effort. Congratulations, Jake!

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[hpu.urcw](https://www.facebook.com/hpu.urcw)



[hpu_urcw](https://www.instagram.com/hpu_urcw)

Our Mission: To bring together undergraduate students and faculty members for the purpose of creating unique and collaborative projects. By fostering an imaginative research experience, we hope to promote the development of new competencies, encourage critical thinking skills, inspire students to add to the global sum of human knowledge, and help students develop the skills to be competitive in the marketplace.

RESEARCH ROOKIES PROGRAM EVENTS AND UPDATES

RESEARCH APPRENTICE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Research Rookies program helps students to learn and hone skills through a series of 15 tasks and they learn how to get connected with a faculty mentor. The program concludes at the end of 2 semesters. If the Rookies complete the program, they are elevated to the title of Research Apprentice and recognized at a ceremony where they receive a certificate and a medallion to wear at graduation, and have an opportunity to be introduced to faculty. They also receive a special badge to put on their Forager One profiles.



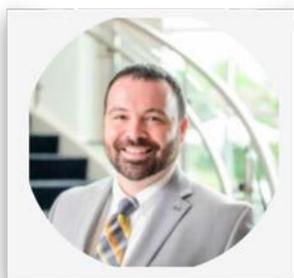
This past year's graduates of the Research Rookies program were honored at a Recognition Ceremony on October 21st.



RESEARCH ROOKIES PROGRAM EVENTS AND UPDATES

PHARMACY TALKS TO RESEARCH ROOKIES

Attending faculty talks is one of the ways that Research Rookies can earn points toward completing the program. This past month, seven Wilson School of Pharmacy faculty met with Research Rookies to introduce their research and recruit research assistants. This meeting helps underclassmen to meet graduate faculty and learn about undergraduate research opportunities. Here are some examples.



Dr. Coover studies neurofibromatosis, a disease that predisposes patients to nerve tumors and cognitive disorders. He uses methods found in drug synthesis and molecular biology to develop a way to use the dopamine model of neurotransmission to treat this incredibly harmful disease.



Dr. Boateng is developing a drug to treat substance abuse, specifically cocaine addiction. Using medicinal chemistry, she has combined her knowledge of the central nervous system and dopamine receptors to develop a drug that works to treat addiction in an *in vivo* study.



Dr. Sarkar studies antibiotics, specifically the fact that the medical field is running out of them. Using computational analysis as well as microbiology and drug discovery-based methods, Dr. Sarkar is trying to improve the efficacy of current antibiotics on the market using a new form of bacteria.

STUDENT PROFILE: SOPHIA CSULAK



Sophia Csulak
*Student Researcher and
Research Apprentice*

Sophia Csulak is a sophomore English and psychology student in the Honors Scholars Program here at High Point University. Since last year she has been doing research with fellow student, Avery Sistare, and Dr. Vescio, the chair of the English department, to study Zelda Fitzgerald's impact on *The Great Gatsby*. In her studies, she has found that, "*Zelda shows up in all of [F. Scott Fitzgerald's] books.*" In *The Great Gatsby*, elements of Zelda can be found in all of the female characters in the novel, especially Daisy Buchanan, Jordan Baker, and Myrtle. Despite their obvious differences in social status, Sophia and Dr. Vescio have found that Zelda shares character traits with all three of the female characters. There are also elements of the story that might be written by Zelda herself. In their pursuit, they uncovered that F. Scott Fitzgerald "*stole her diary and stole whole paragraphs,*" that were included in some of his novels.

The end goal of this project, according to Sophia, is to "re-publish a new version of *The Great Gatsby*," where one side of each page will feature annotations of the elements that are true from Zelda's life, that Zelda inspired, or that she wrote herself. While most students are familiar with the symbolism of the green lantern in *The Great Gatsby*, Sophia wants to offer students a new way to understand the novel - in the context of Zelda Fitzgerald.

Sophia is a Research Apprentice. In reflecting upon her time as a Research Rookie, she pointed to the ethics talk she attended as an example of where URCW's Research Rookies curriculum helped her research pursuits. The question of authorship easily ties into the topics that Sophia is researching. She was able to use her knowledge from the ethics talk to determine "*where the ethical boundary is,*" when discussing the idea of credit as it relates to *The Great Gatsby*. Through all of the tasks, though, she was able to develop critical thinking skills that helped her "*lay out all [her] ideas,*" to best move forward with such a broad area of inquiry.

GRANTS AWARDED BY URCW

BIOMECHANICS

Richard Blake Edwards, Jason Hinkle, and Isaac Shaw attended the 2022 American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA and presented their research in biomechanics. They were accompanied by their mentors, Dr. Ford, Dean of Congdon School of Health Sciences, Dr. Taylor, Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Associate Professor, and Dr. Johnston, Assistant Professor of Athletic Training.

PSYCHOLOGY

In February 2023, Alyssa Dowdy will present her research about the association between romantic rekindling and perceptions of relationship violence at the The Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Conference in Atlanta, GA. Alyssa will be accompanied by her mentor, Dr. Elder, Associate Professor of Psychology, who will also present research of her own at the conference.

BIOLOGY

Anna Ferraro presented her research about plant biomedical response at the Botany 2022 Research Conference in Anchorage, AK. Anna was accompanied by her mentor, Dr. Hughes, Associate Professor of Biology.

PHYSICS

Scott Colton, Jenna Mastropolo, and Thomas Lotito presented their research in physics at the Physics Congress 2022 in Washington, D.C.. They were joined by fellow physics students, Kennedy Anderson, Aidan Kelley, Gabriela Del Vecchio, Bennett Kirby, William Wadsworth, and Alexander Bobb. The students were accompanied to the Congress by Dr. Fiser, Chair and Associate Professor of Physics, and Mr. Regester, Instructor of Physics and Astronomy and Manager of Physics Shop. The students were mentored by Dr. Fiser and Dr. Barlow, Associate Director of Astrophysics; Director of Culp Planetarium; Co-Director of Natural Sciences Fellows.



Students at Physics Congress 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS THROUGH URCW

RESEARCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SNCURCS

December 3, 2022
University of North Carolina -
Wilmington
Register by 11/7

NCAS

March 2023
East Carolina University

NCUR

April 13-15, 2023
University of Wisconsin -
Eau Claire

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Abstracts are due by 11/30.

High-PURCS

April 19, 2023
High Point University

ARE YOU COUNTED IN THE REGISTRY OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

Are you counted in the graphic displayed here, which comes from the URCW Registry? It's important that we have records of students who are involved in projects to be able to share valuable information with you and to recognize you and your mentors. Visit highpoint.edu/urcw and click "Register URCW Activity". Congratulations to psychology for leading the pack.



Created by Taylor Galavotti '25