



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

SPOTLIGHT

FROM THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS

High-PURCS 2023 • Student Spotlight • URCW Updates

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IT'S BEEN A GREAT FEBRUARY...

This spring, 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 their success. Read on to learn more about URCW opportunities and the amazing work our students are doing!

RESEARCH ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



This month we could not choose just one Rookie of the Month. Abby Fort and Emma Spanvill are both awarded the distinction of February Research Rookie of the Month! They have completed the Research Rookies curriculum early! Congratulations, Abby and Emma!

CONTACT US



(336) 841 - 9613



urcw@highpoint.edu



[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.

ALUMNI RESEARCH APPRENTICES IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Office of Career & Professional Development presents

**SPRING 2023
PSYCHOLOGY
ALUMNI PANEL**

 February 24, 2023
12:00pm - Phillips Hall, Room 120

SPONSORED BY: PSI CHI, CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB AND NEUROSCIENCE CLUB

Join us to gain valuable insights into the many career possibilities available to graduates with a Psychology degree and learn strategies for maximizing your degree in the field.

THE SPEAKERS

Amber Belvin
Director
Quantitative Research at Accelerant Research
Class of 2019

Vivian McAllister
Researcher
Wake Forest's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
Class of 2022

Sara Seaford
Family Advocate
Family Services Children's Advocacy Center
Class of 2021 (BS), 2022 (CBL)


HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
The Premier Life Skills University

Recently, three distinguished psychology alumni returned to campus to share their experience with the next generation of psychology students. The panelists were Amber Belvin, Vivian McAllister, and Sara Seaford. Amber is the Director of Quantitative Research at Accelerant Research, Vivian is the Clinical Studies Coordinator for Wake Forest University's Alzheimer's Disease Center, and Sara Seaford is a Family Advocate for the Children's Advocacy Center in Winston-Salem. Two of the panelists were Research Apprentices, so they shared how the Research Rookies program helped them post-graduation. Vivian said that *"Research Rookies was an invaluable experience that helped her stay involved in undergraduate research for all four years at High Point University."*

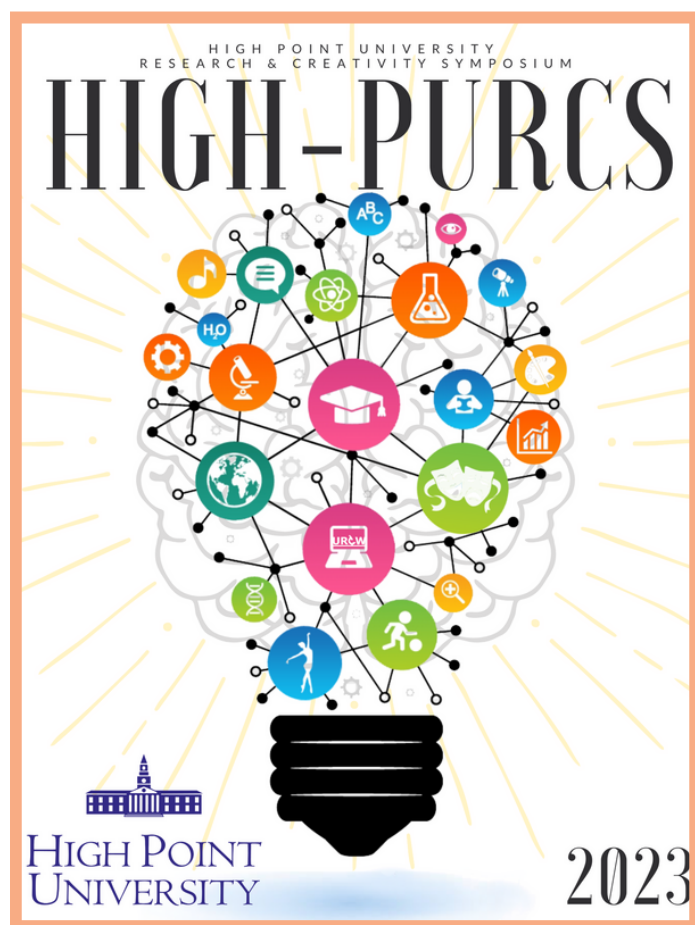
Vivian also stated *"because of Research Rookies, I was able to demonstrate an eagerness to learn and experience in research enough for my current employers to take a chance on me."* Sara works in a field that isn't centered around research but she said that she *"still uses the teachings from the Research Rookies curriculum in my work as a family advocate."*



Research Rookies is a program for students interested in undergraduate research to learn and hone their basic research skills through a curriculum of 15 required tasks. Upon completion of the program, students are elevated to the status of Research Apprentice. If you're interested in joining the Research Rookies program, please contact Dr. Joanne Altman, Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works, at jaltman0@highpoint.edu for more information.



ALL ABOUT HIGH-PURCS 2023



High-PURCS is a High Point University student-exclusive research and creativity symposium where students can present the projects they've been working on among a community of High Point faculty and peers. At last year's symposium, we had **276** students present **166** projects mentored by **73** faculty from **22** different fields across most of High Point University's schools. The projects ranged from the synthesis of unique cytosine-rich peptides to an analysis of *50 Days at Illiam* - an influential contemporary art series - through a psychological lens, to acapella performances by students who performed at Disney. Many different disciplines are showcased at High-PURCS each year! We encourage you to attend this year's symposium on April 19th from 12:30-5:30pm in the Qubein Center.

Classes are canceled that day!

Submissions are due March 17th, 2023

"I was proud of our work before presenting, but after hearing thoughtful questions from scientists that didn't know us, I knew we were doing something right."
-Abby Copeland

"High-PURCS helped me gain confidence in the presenting side of research and I'm so happy I went!"
-Raegan Koon

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JORDAN MORRISON



Jordan Morrison

Student Researcher and Research
Apprentice

Jordan Morrison is a senior here at High Point University, majoring in biology and education studies. Currently, she's doing research with Dr. Vaala in the Nido R. Qubein School of Communication studying *"how new digital media tools can be used for reaching big education audiences specifically in North Carolina where there are some gaps in science education."* This research project is funded by the Joan Ganz Cooney Center - the research team behind Sesame Street. According to Jordan, *'education used to be*

giving kids as much info as possible to give them the biggest opportunity to take something away, but my research found that kids are actually oversaturated with media and information." When the participants were given two different learning tools - a video and an app - in concurrent order, the research team discovered that the children only learned from the first resource they viewed.

Following graduation, Jordan plans to go into education policy. She explained that she is invested *"in analyzing how different systems around the world are being innovative in reaching their students."* Jordan is a semi-finalist for the Fulbright award, which is a distinguished accomplishment. If she is chosen as a finalist for this incredibly prestigious program, she will be traveling to Finland and studying education policy there for a year.

Jordan is a Research Apprentice; she has completed the Research Rookies curriculum and will be wearing the Research Apprentice Medallion at her upcoming graduation. When reflecting on the program, she credited the Research Rookies program with her first three lab experiences here on campus. She said that, *"because of the program, professors saw that I knew how to read literature and do basic research skills, like asking questions."*

STUDENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH GRANTS AWARDED BY URCW

ENGLISH

Maya Davis, McKinley Johnson, and Max Kresock are headed to the Sigma Tau Delta - an international English Honor Society - Convention in Denver, CO to present a collection of poems, as well as research on crime fiction and 19th century literature. These students are mentored by Dr. Matthew Carlson, associate professor of English.

CHEMISTRY

Rachel Watne received a support grant to further her study into the effects of insulin resistance on protein expression. She is mentored by Dr. Andrew Wommack, associate professor of chemistry.

COMMUNICATION

Bryan Sample received a support grant to help him create a documentary to examine how collegiate-level sports affected the integration of African-American students. He is conducting interviews with coaches and players from the 1950s-1960s and beyond in the local area to learn about their experiences. He is working in partnership with HPU's history department and he is mentored by Professor Joe Michaels, associate professor of media production.

PHARMACY

Priya Thornton received a support grant to further her study into the characterization of malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNSTs) and the optimization of a model to study these MPNSTs. She is mentored by Dr. Robert Coover, assistant professor of basic pharmaceutical sciences.

COMPUTER AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Matthew Constantino, Matthew Eaton, Morgan Abrams, Alan Gutschmitt, Jordan Destafino, Eric Brockmann, and Natalie Roberts received a support grant to continue working on a mining robot that can traverse rough terrain, collect samples, and deposit samples into a collection hopper. This robot will be submitted to the NASA Lunabotics competition. These students are mentored by Dr. Eve Klopff, Associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.



UPCOMING EVENTS THROUGH URCW

URCW SCHEDULE

NCUR

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

High-PURCS

April 19, 2023
High Point University

SuRPS, SuRF, and SuRI

June 5th - July 28th, 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 chemistry for leading the pack!

STUDENTS IN RESEARCH

26
ARTS & DESIGN

Art & Graphic Design - 1
Interior Design & Fashion
Merchandising
Music - 23
Theatre & Dance - 2

Marketing & Sales
Mgmt & Entrepreneurship - 1
Accounting & Finance
Economics

1
BUSINESS

29
COMMUNICATION

Event & Sport Mgmt - 2
Game Design - 20
Media Production - 1
Strategic Comm - 6

Dental Medicine

0
DENTAL MEDICINE

0
EDUCATION

Educator Preparation

Electrical & Computer
Engineering
Computer Science - 1
Mathematical Sciences

1
ENGINEERING

20
HEALTH SCIENCES

Athletic Training - 1
Exercise Science - 17
Physical Therapy - 2

Psychology - 13
Political Science - 1
Criminal Justice - 1
English - 3
Religion & Philosophy - 8

26
**HUMANITIES &
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

42
NATURAL SCIENCES

Biology - 11
Chemistry - 34 ★
Physics & Astron. - 6

Basic Pharmaceutical
Sciences - 11

11
PHARMACY