

April 2024



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

From the Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Works

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Our Final Issue!

As we look back on the 2023-2024 academic year, The Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Works (URCW) would like to thank all of our faculty and students for making this year so special! We have worked all year to provide students with extraordinary opportunities to build upon their skills and gain real research experience. URCW hopes you have a restful summer and we will see you in the Fall!

OUR MISSION is 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.

Connect With Us



(336) 841 - 9613



urcw@highpoint.edu



hpu.urcw



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

Created by Emma Gilchrist '26

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HIGH-PURCS 2024



High-PURCS was held on April 16, 2024 at the Nido & Mariana Qubein Conference Center. This year's conference featured 196 projects, 56 oral presentations, 125 posters, 4 gaming exhibits, 10 theater/music/dance performances, all from 28 different departments, involving 300 students. We were thrilled to showcase so many amazing projects that our students have been working on all year long, and hope all those in attendance had a wonderful time engaging with research!

During High-PURCS, we recognized the newest research apprentices! This achievement honors those that have completed the entire research rookies curriculum and are ready to level up in their research journey. These individuals have worked hard to complete their tasks and cultivate the necessary research skills, and have certainly earned the title of Research Apprentice. Listed below are our Spring 2024 Apprentices!

Research Apprentices: Spring 2024



Hailee Gosart



Patrick Hynds



Jenny Ngo



Jordan Thompson



Hudson Wesel



Muneeba Zaman

Brayden Mckibben (not shown) also completed the Research Rookies Program

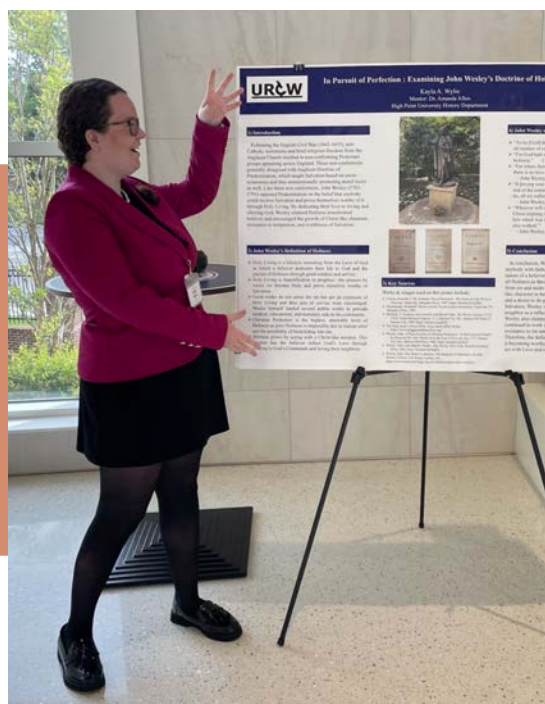
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HIGH-PURCS 2024



This team presented their work, “Beauty Beyond Boundaries: Where Beauty Meets Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence”

Our students were so excited to finally present their work to peers and faculty. We love the enthusiasm!



With a wide variety of topics, there was something new for everyone to learn!

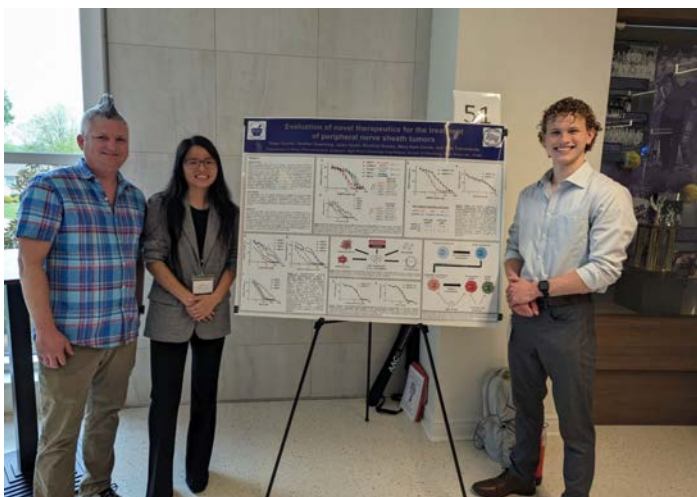
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HIGH-PURCS 2024



Several projects showcased at the conference were a part of summer research programs like SURI, SURPs, and SURF.

This patriotic project highlights the stories of Vietnam War Veterans and how they cope with their lived experiences.



Proud mentor, Dr. Fahrenholtz, poses for a picture with his mentees Heather Duensing and Owen Hunter.

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SIRG Award Recipients

The Scholarly Interdisciplinary Research Grant (SIRG) Award is a competitive grant awarded to one student each year for work that crosses disciplines and involves mentorship from two mentors in different fields. This year there were two awards!



Catherine Gallagher
“Storytelling through Dance: Exploring the Impact of Learning Strategies and Cognitive Styles on Movement” (Left)



Jordan Destafino
“Exploring Neural Responses to Varied Physical Activities using fNIRS” (Right)

High-PURCS Presentation Awards

Best Oral Presentation: Hannah Tameling



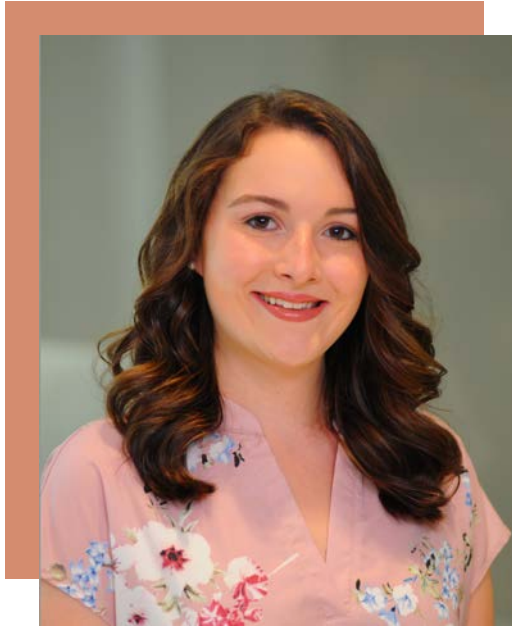
Hannah Tameling is a psychology and Spanish double major, who won Best Oral Presentation for research she conducted alongside faculty member, Dr. Nagy. Her research, as Hannah describes, “investigates the relationship between childhood maltreatment and how that might influence engagement in nonsuicidal self-injury, and we are especially interested in how self-criticism might explain this relationship.” She is grateful for opportunities like High-PURCS to practice conference etiquette and share her work.

Best Poster Presentation: Abigail Hyatt

Abigail Hyatt is a mathematics major with a minor in education studies who won Best Poster Presentation at this year’s High-PURCS. She has been mentored by Dr. Sharpe as she completed her project titled, “Peer Review Process: AI Generated vs. Student Generated Proofs.” Abigail reflects on her first High-PURCS experience, “I was exposed to all different types of student projects across disciplines. I enjoyed the opportunity not only to present my research to a broader audience, but also to support my fellow classmates in their research endeavors.”

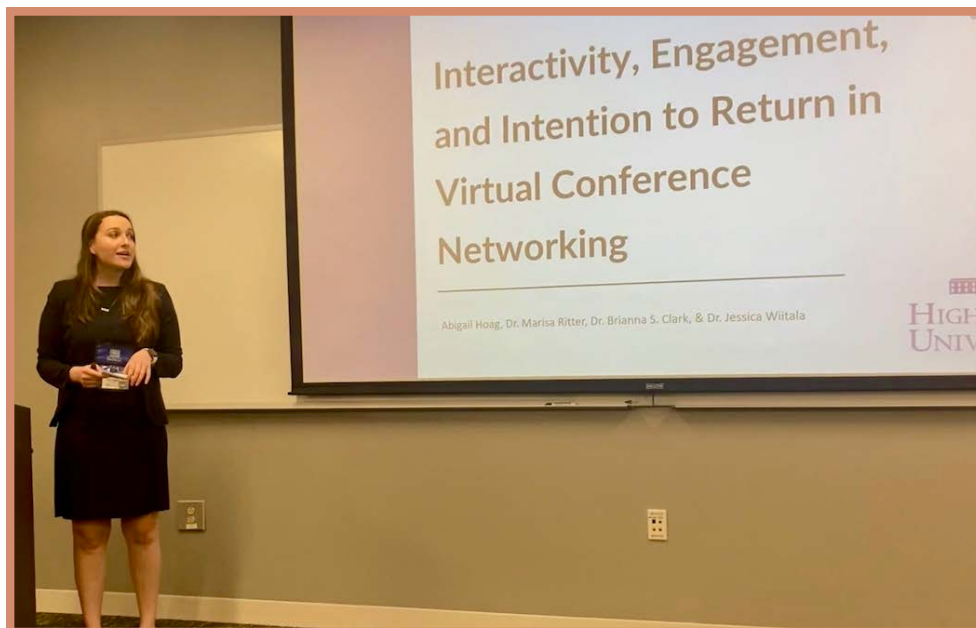


Student Spotlight



Abby Hoag is a senior event management major who has been closely mentored by Dr. Marisa Ritter with additional guidance from Dr. Clark, and Dr. Wiitala. Last summer, she worked with Dr. Ritter in our summer research program, SURI, and has been able to build upon her research this semester. Abby says her research has allowed her to gain insight into the events industry and improve upon the many skills she has obtained in the process. Her plan is to continue working on her project, "Interactivity, Engagement, and Intention to Return in Virtual Conference Networking" over the summer before venturing into the corporate world, coordinating and scheduling meetings, conferences etc.

Abby has also previously presented at High-PURCS and other conferences like the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) conference where she was able to practice her presentation skills and receive feedback on her work. Dr. Ritter describes, "Her presentation was well received and she got valuable feedback that has been incorporated into the research design." We are so proud of Abby's growth while participating in research with URCW, and can't wait to see how this project continues to develop!



Abby Hoag '24 presenting her work, "Interactivity, Engagement, and Intention to Return in Virtual Conference Networking"

April 2024

Students Participating in Summer Research

Congratulations to...

Michael Connelly, Jordan Destafino, Samantha Dunn,
Kamryn Eller, Abby Fort, Taylor Galavotti, Paris
Glover, Natalie Hinson, Yelizaveta Nikitsenka, Kai
O'Rourke, Mack Oakley, Meigs Roberts, Zora Stovall,
Erica Williams, Kayla Wylie, Nathaniel Zapata



Serene Alshalabi, Julia Crenshaw, Charity Franklin,
Mikalyn Freeman, Josh Honaker, Yaw Korankyi, Cassidy
Krieger, Caroline Langone, Kaley Neal, Chris Phillips,
Kayal Ragland, Gracie Ritchey, Jacob Saunders, Jillian
Schulz, Rachel Smith, Emmalie Spry, Mitchell Talton, Kip
Travis, Dante VanArman, Colby Vullo, Katie Whalen,
Niyah Williams

Morgan Abrams, Ryland Brady, Burton Brewer, Emilie
Brisco, Chloe Buffalino, BriAnna Doll, Macie Fox, Skyler
Gangestad, Margaret Garr, Webb Garrett, Miranda
Gough, Maggy Henkel, Madison Kline, Dominick Latta,
Carlee Logan, Holley Lowe, Owen Mader, Izzie Marshall,
Caitlin McCray, Jack Moreland, Jake Morgan, Helia
Osareh, Thomas Ownes, Caroline Paccione, Tyler Rogers,
Meredith Russell, Ava Salvant, Gracie Vickery, Lillie
Wilson, Alyssa Winegar, Caitlyn Wingart, Tyler Wood,
Tyler Wright, Michael Wright, Alina Zimavaya



Research Rookies Information



Rising sophomores can still join Research Rookies! Scan this QR code to stay up to date about future interest meetings.



ForagerOne

Find Your Mentor!

Don't wait to connect with faculty for the fall semester. If you're interested in research, make sure to sign up for ForagerOne to find your mentor and available research opportunities.



Farewell from the Editor



What a year! When I joined the URCW student staff in the Fall, I had no idea what to expect. I didn't know very much about our research program or how big of an impact it has on this campus. Since working for Dr. Altman, I have learned so much about the work that goes on behind the scenes of URCW like awarding grants for students to travel to conferences, helping Research Rookies develop fundamental skills to become great researchers, and most importantly, how crucial mentorship is for these students who are so eager to conduct their own research. There are amazing things happening within our research program, and I'm thankful to have been a small part of this team as the newsletter editor. Thank you to all those I had the pleasure of featuring in this newsletter, for being outstanding researchers that deserve to be recognized! Thank you to Dr. Altman for guiding me along the way, and educating me about our program. I now hope to take part in research next year, and I can thank my role as editor for leading me to that opportunity!

Sincerely,

E. Gilchrist