



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter for Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

February 2025



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The Month of Love

February is the month of love, but is also a great time to dive into research projects and our various programs. Be sure to check out all of our opportunities we provide such as summer research, High-PURCS, and so much more. We look forward to seeing the amazing work our undergraduates are accomplishing this month!

Our Mission

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works' 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!



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www.highpoint.edu/urcw/

URCW

Designed by Elsie Clinkenbeard 2026

Interdisciplinary Conferences

Fall 2024: SNCURCS

State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) was held online in December.

Andersen Tomes, Heather Duensing, Jalen Dixon,
Owen Hunter, Nickalus Smith, Nicolina Graves

Repurposing Artemisinins for the Treatment of Malignant
Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors

Anna Neeley, Caroline Ranneberger,
Hailey Edwards

Larval Color Plasticity in the Painted Lady Butterfly,
Vanessa cardui

Troy Kubanka & Eli Lemons

Adaptive Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy with
Biofeedback-A Dynamic Approach to Phobia Treatment

Emma Higgins & Dalia Widmer

Evaluating the Use of Triboelectric Nanogenerators and
Thermoelectric Generators for Energy Harvesting on the
Lunar Surface

Spring 2025: NCUR



Serene Alshalabi, Leah Quill, and Rachel Smith have been accepted to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April.

"Research was never a primary goal for me when I came into college, but it has become a pivotal part of my education this past year! Climate science and how people perceive data on it is so important in our ever-changing culture. I'm so excited to present my research at NCUR!"

-Leah Quill

Local Happenings

RESEARCH
ROOKIES February 2025
Research Rookie of the Month!



Isabella Frankovic

"The Research Rookies program has been a valuable resource in my undergraduate journey, providing opportunities to develop research skills even as a freshman. Through events, I've built individual skills, engaged in interdisciplinary thinking, and connected with a diverse group of students".

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

Coming Soon!



High-PURCS is coming up sooner
than you think!

If you want to participate in High-PURCS, please complete and submit your abstracts by March 14th!

High-PURCS will be held on April 15th, 2025, in the afternoon at the Nido and Mariana Qubein Conference Center.



www.highpoint.edu/urcw/

URCW

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Research Grants

Students & Mentors	Description/Purpose
Macey McGovern, Kip Travis, Kayla Ragland ; mentor Roger Vaughan	Provided reagents required for their project
Mikayln Freeman; mentor Kimmery Migel	Travel to present at APTA North Carolina Annual Conference in High Point, NC
Josh Honaker; mentor Alicia Emerson	Travel to present at APTA North Carolina Annual Conference in High Point, NC
Miranda Gough; mentor Roger Charvat	Travel to present at the 12th Annual Cellular Biology of Eukaryotic Pathogens (CBEP) Conference in Clemson, SC
Ashlinn Cororan, Alexa Dandrea, Ky Nguyen, Owen Kelley, Rebecca Boorse, Samuel Zito; mentor Roger Shore	Travel to present their works at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Mid-Southeast Fall Conference in Gatlinburg, TN
Shauna Skow; mentor Grace Hamilton	Provided reagents required for her project
Johnny Pohlman, Cate Stamper, Irene Dutescu, Haley Roberts, Hailey White, Jayda Powell, Sasha Yost, Ella Marron, Madeleine Rubino, Victoria Lavargna; mentors Jaclyn Surso, Ken Davis	Travel to compete in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC
Mary Gomez, Carolina Cubas, Jessamina Piazza, Kendall McDowell, Jessica Hagenbuch, Cierra Mahoney, Ja'Niyah Williams, Natalee Balestra; mentor Lindsey Howie	Travel to attend the Still Inspired-Future Artists Dance Concert in Chicago, IL
Meigs Roberts; mentor Marisa Ritter	Travel to present at the 30th Annual Graduate Education & Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality & Tourism in Houston, TX
Hailee Gosart, Rilee Bahner, Elizabeth Ruberia, Julian Rodriguez; mentor Jeremy Whitson	Travel to present at the American Aging Association (AGE) 53rd Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK
Jack O'Donnell, Everett Stephens, Kendall Goins, Quinn Rivers, Evan Brown; mentor Barry Thornburg	Provided props and costuming required for their short film
Kiley McTamney, Millie Tysinger, Julia Koshivos, Dante Van Arman; mentors Colin Carriker, Matt Kuennen, Kimberly Reich	Travel to present at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Annual National Meeting in Atlanta, GA



Students & Mentors	Description/Purpose
Yaw Korankyi, Jacob Saunders, Dante Van Arman; mentor Matt Kuennen	Travel to attend the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine: Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC
Skyler Gangestad, Caitlyn Wingcart, Claire Klein, Megan Mueller; mentor Briana Fiser	Travel to attend the Conference for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics (CU*iP) in Memphis, TN
Faith Bradley; mentor William Kochen	Travel to the Society for Sports Neuroscience Conference in Deerfield Beach, FL
Nick Sorenson, Tristan Collins; mentor Jason Keeler	Travel to the American Physiological Society Summit Conference in Baltimore, MD
Kiara Busby, Chloe Cox, Macie Fox, Maggy Henkel, Madison Hill, Imogen Irons, Nadia Khan, Owee Kirpekar, E. Renee Monge, Lauren Vossen, Lillie Wilson, Makenzie Wiseman, Lexie Young, Ryland Brady, Jalen Dixon, Webb Garrett, Owen Mader, Parker Nyboer, Erik Peterson, Gabriel Valenzano; mentor Kelsey Kean	Travel to the American Chemical Society Spring 2025 National Meeting & Expo in San Diego, CA
Roman Motecalvo; mentor Jason Keeler	Travel to the Southeast Chapter for the American College of Sports Medicine (SEACSM) in Greenville, SC
Elenor Moyer, Sania Aldridge, Domenica Paccione, Alexandria Pallander, Joseph Terry; mentor Barry Thornburg	Provided props and graphics required for their short film
Laird Bickford, Kara Bensel, Katie McDonald, Alex Contreras, Rebekah Olls, Serene Alshalabi, Dominick Latta, Cate Summerow, Holley Lowe, Michael Wright, Connor Spitler, Brian Ragoobir, Kara Vaartjes, Ellie Ratta, Jack Quintana, John Guglielmetti, Miranda Gough, Margaret Garr, Tyler Wright, Caroline Paccione, Tyler Galley; mentors Megan Bowman, Nicole Hughes, Dane Kuppinger, Dinene Crater, A. Daniel Grenne, Robert Charvat	Travel to Association of Southeastern Biologists conference (ASB) in Myrtle Beach, SC
Ariana Gabriel, Hailee Gosart, Muriel Gibson; mentors Daniel Krenzer, Kirsten Li-Barber	Travel to the Southeastern Psychological Association Conference in Atlanta, GA
Kayla Wylie; mentor Andrew Tzavaras	Travel to the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium in Baltimore, MD.
Malia Agostinelli, Maddie Molis; mentor Matthew Carlson	Travel to attend the National Undergraduate Literature Conference in Ogden, UT
Zora Stovall; mentor Brianna Clark	Travel to attend the 2025 TALS Research and Teaching Conference in Pittsburgh, PA



Student Profile



Gracie LeFever

Senior

Major: Behavioral Neuroscience
Minor: Special Education

“I have learned skills and gained experience that have prepared me for graduate school and beyond, and my resume reflects my dedication and commitment to conducting research that is beneficial for the local participant”.

Gracie LeFever is a senior at High Point University and majors in Behavioral Neuroscience and minors in Special Education. She is currently conducting research with her mentor, Dr. Wear Jones, in the Memory and Cognition Lab. Last year, they conducted a study on the elderly and their memory, seeing if playing board games could improve their memory. This year, Gracie and Dr. Wear Jones are running a study on the production effect. The production effect states that if you vocalize what you are trying to remember, your memory will be improved. They are going to compare the result of older adult to HPU undergraduate students and children.

Gracie met her mentor, Dr. Wear Jones, through taking her class Statistics for Psychology. Dr. Wear Jones has provided her with the assets she will need for the future, such as educating her on material she will need to know through her career, writing her letters of recommendation for graduate school applications, and guiding her through the process of attending and presenting at a conference. URCW has provided her the funds to attend the Psychonomics Conference in New York City in November 2024. She has also participated in High-PURCS in the past and will do so again this semester. We look forward to see her upcoming presentation in April.

In the future, she is going to become a speech pathologist and the skills gained through her time in undergraduate research will prepare her throughout her graduate years and beyond. She has learned various skills through her conduction of research such as communication, administering tests, collecting data, and working with others. Good luck, Gracie! We are so proud of you.



Students in Research

From the URCW Registry
Students who have connected with mentors

