

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
THE PREMIER LIFE SKILLS UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter for Undergraduate Research & Creative Works



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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FALL SEMESTER IN
FULL SWING

While the leaves are beginning to fall and the weather is finally starting to reflect the changing season, URCW is still here and ready to continue the last half of the 2025 fall semester! If you missed our last edition of *Spotlight*, head to our website and read September’s issue to stay up to date on our office’s communications, including: last month’s Research Rookie of the Month, how to apply for grants, how to find your mentor, and more. This issue will keep you updated on all of URCW’s announcements and events for October!

RESEARCH APPRENTICES RECOGNITION CEREMONY

This month, students who completed the Research Rookies program last year were officially elevated to Research Apprentices at the Research Apprentice Ceremony! They celebrated their accomplishments with peers, faculty, and family, reflecting on how the program shaped their growth and future endeavors. Most of these students are also now connected with mentors in their respective fields. URCW is so proud of your achievements—congratulations!



HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR RESEARCH APPRENTICES BELOW!



TREASURE BROWN

Political Science Major/Legal Studies Minor

"The Research Rookies program has been instrumental in my integration into HPU's research culture. It has broadened my awareness and curiosity about various types of research, as well as the contexts in which they are conducted and presented. Through the program, I have also developed valuable skills, including effective database navigation and the ability to conduct research in an ethical and responsible manner."



ISABELLA FRANKOVIC

Neurobiology and Chemistry Major

"The Research Rookies program has provided me with numerous opportunities to thoughtfully engage with a variety of research-related skills prior to beginning my research with a professor. Not only was I able to build my individual skills, but through Research Rookies events I learned to engage in interdisciplinary thinking and build connections with a variety of different students."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

Justin Allan
Autumn Andreeff
Hayden Blevins
Treasure Brown
Lily Bruner
Sophie Butironi
Jacob Chandler
Kaitlin Dellegrippo
Josh Elbertson
Caitlin Enright
Alexis Evatt
Isabella Frankovic
Callie Maxine Freeman
Jordan Havert
Natalie Hinson
Jackson Clark Jones
Alexa Klein
Leland Sanders
Denzel Sowa
Hannah Stewart
Claire Taylor
Colby Vullo
Westyn Woodard



STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS FROM URCW



URCW is proud to award grants to students and faculty mentors who plan to present their research and creative works at disciplinary conferences, as well as to students who are continuing to develop their current projects alongside their mentor. Congratulations to all of the grant recipients listed below—we are excited to see your impact through these experiences within your fields and beyond!

- 1.) **Joseph Umina, Carly McKinney, Kelly Samz, Finn Gilbert, Kathryn Winters, Andrew Porter, Justin Sommerville, Marc Delgallo, Leah Mosier** to present at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana mentored by Louis Kolker and Alexandria Richard.
- 2.) **Chloe Buffalino, Cate Summerrow, Isabella Frankovic, Alexandra Shuttters, Gia Cicero, Allysa Winegar** to attend the Annual International Symposium of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, California mentored by Michael Grider.
- 3.) **Jordan Havert and Tyler Jannick** to present at the Fungal Genetics Conference in Pacific Grove, California mentored by Dr. Grace Hamilton.
- 4.) **Natalie Maloziec** to purchase the necessary materials for her research on her project “Testing the Anti-Cataract Properties of Flavonoids in Ex Vivo Lenses” mentored by Jeremy Whitson.
- 5.) **Skyler Gangestad** to present at the Division of Nuclear Physics Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois mentored by Adam Anthony.
- 6.) **Caitlyn Wingart, Claire Klein, Megan Mueller, Skyler Gangestad, Josh Elbertson, Thomas Owens, Tyler Rogers** to present at the Physics and Astronomy Congress (PhysCon) in Denver, Colorado accompanied by Eric Rokni and Jacob Brooks.
- 7.) **Catherine Gallagher and Mikayla Moxley** to present at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana mentored by Laura Nagy.
- 8.) **Colt Marion** to present his paper titled “‘Of Zeal and Fervor’: the Role of Franciscans in the Indigenous Population Decline of Mexico” at the Southeast World History Association’s 2025 Conference in Greenville, North Carolina.
- 9.) **Quinn Fergusson** to present at the Southeast World History Association’s 37th Annual Meeting at East Carolina University in Greenville, South Carolina mentored by Amanda Allen.
- 10.) **Kara Vaartjes, Brian Ragoobir, Rebekah Olls, Jack Schoultz** to attend the 71st Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Entomological Society mentored by Dr. A. Daniel Greene and Dr. Megan Bowman.
- 11.) **Shauna Skow and Lily Cristini** to aide their research for their project “Septin-Septin Interactions” mentored by Grace Hamilton.

HPU STUDENTS WIN BEST UNDERGRADUATE ORAL PRESENTATION AT ENTOMOLOGY CONFERENCE

Dr. A. Daniel Greene and Dr. Megan Bowman of the Biology Department traveled with five students to the 71st Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Entomological Society. Undergraduates Kara Vaartjes and Brian Ragoobir presented a poster titled "Assessing Ecosystem Services in Native vs. Ornamental Botanical Gardens at High Point University," while Rebekah Olls and Jack Schoultz presented a poster titled "Epigeal Arthropod Community Dynamics as a Function of Urbanization in Guilford County, NC." Rebekah Olls and Jack Schoultz also gave an oral presentation entitled "The Effect of Microclimate, Land Cover, and Trap Height on the Oviposition Activity of Container-Breeding Mosquitoes," which won the award for Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation.

Rebekah Olls, one of the winners of the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation Award, shared what she gained from attending the meeting. "Getting the chance to present my research at the SCES meeting was a wonderful experience. Not only did I get to learn about the research being conducted by other entomologists and their students, but I also had the chance to network with professionals in the field and discuss steps I could take to reach my academic goals. Over the course of the two days, Jack and I presented both a poster and an oral presentation on the research we conducted over the summer during the SuRPS program. Though we had presented this research at the SuRPS symposium, presenting to an audience made up of entomologists allowed us to delve further into the data and answer more in-depth questions. Even though I may not want to pursue a career in entomology, this conference helped to open my eyes to how vast and important this research is."

Brian Ragoobir also reflected on his experience, saying, "Attending the 71st Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Entomological Society was both a unique and insightful experience. Before beginning my current research with Dr. Bowman, I knew little about entomology, but my understanding grew as the project progressed. Although I was initially nervous about attending the conference, it quickly became clear that everyone there was eager to share their knowledge and learn from one another. Experiences like this conference remind me of the importance of stepping outside of my comfort zone and remaining open to continuous learning. Since attending the conference, both my understanding of entomology and my confidence in new academic settings have grown considerably."

URCW congratulates these students and looks forward to their continued success in their research!



FUND YOUR RESEARCH/CREATIVE WORKS PROJECTS

The High Point University Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Program is committed to encouraging and supporting high-quality undergraduate research and creative projects. To that end, the University has made funds available to support student and faculty mentor travel to present research or creative work, participate in competitions or performances, and support work in progress. If you're interested in applying for a URCW grant, scan the QR code to the right!



HPU STUDENTS TO PRESENT AT SNCURCS

URCW wishes the following students the best of luck as they head to present at SNCURCS next month! They'll be joined by 45 current Research Rookies who will be there to cheer them on—more details to come! Good luck to:

Jake Ankrum
Maximillian Chisholm
Kayla Castillo
Lily Cristini
Liam Dell Isola
Abby Fort
Braedyn Jacobson
Holley Lowe
Colton Marion
Ryan Nash
Ellie Ratta
Nick Sheridan
Shauna Skow
Kara Vaartjes

RESEARCH ROOKIE OF THE MONTH: EMREE SPIVEY



We're excited to announce our October Research Rookie, Emree Spivey! Emree is an International Business Major with a Double Minor in Spanish and Environmental Studies. When asked how Research Rookies has been meaningful to her, Emree said, "The

Research Rookies program has been an incredible opportunity, allowing me to explore beyond my discipline through interdisciplinary activities during my undergraduate journey. It has helped me develop critical thinking skills and practice data analysis, serving as a strong foundation for my academic career. As I pursue a career in International Business, I feel well-equipped to collaborate on projects, present strategic plans, and apply analytical insight to global business challenges." Congratulations, Emree!

SPRING RESEARCH ROOKIE RECRUITMENT STARTS SOON!



Missed the first-semester deadline for the Research Rookies program? No worries—there's still time to get involved this spring! If you think Research Rookies might be a good fit for you, or you're just curious to learn more, scan the QR code to the left to get updates about November interest meetings.

REGISTER FOR NCUR 2026

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research promotes undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity across all fields. It celebrates student achievement, showcases exemplary work, and supports career readiness. To participate, register with the QR code to the right and email Dr. Altman to get your registration costs covered!

When: April 13th-15th, 2026
Where: Richmond, VA
Abstracts Due: December 3rd



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



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highpoint.edu/urcw



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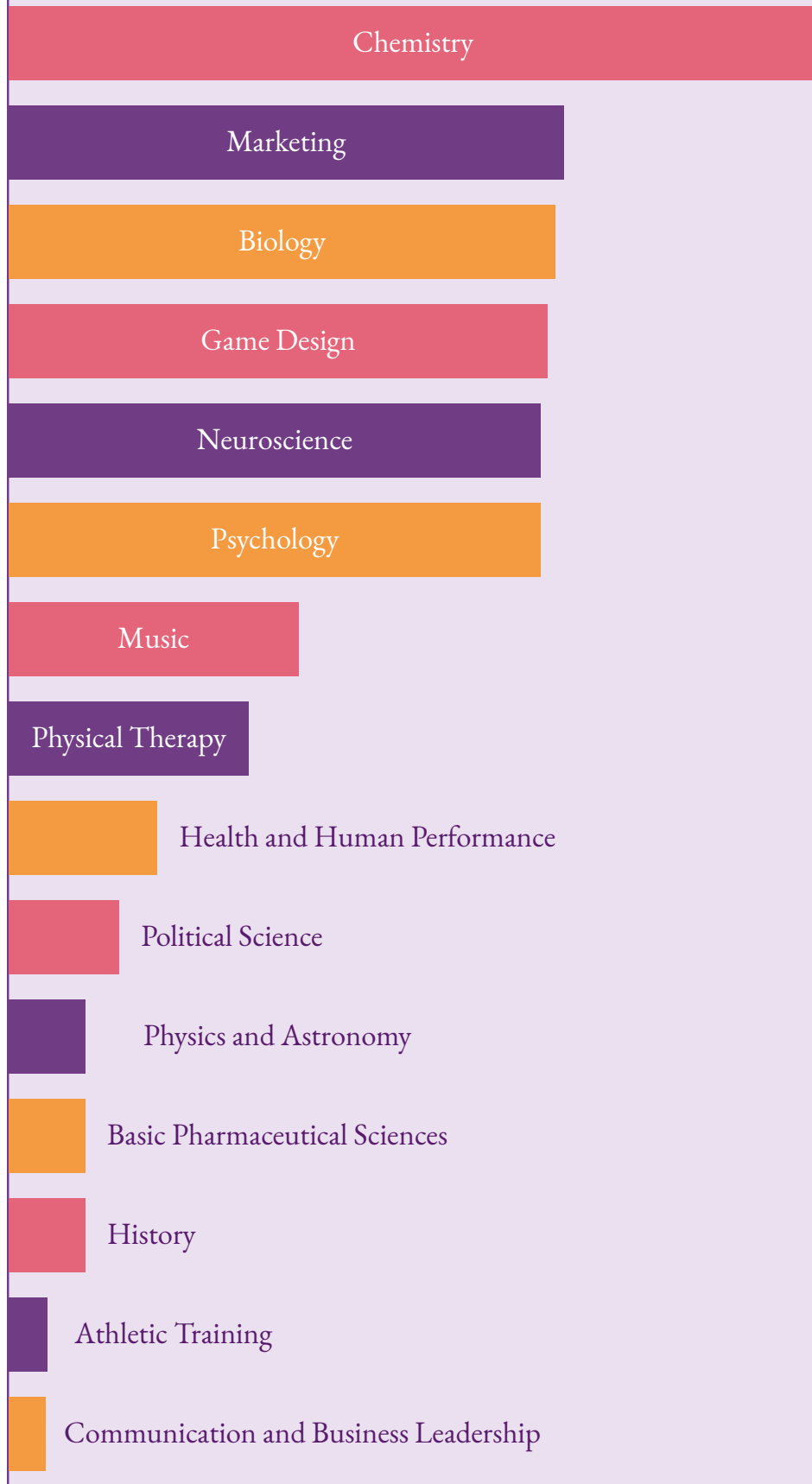


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STUDENTS IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS

From the URCW Registry



ARE YOU COUNTED?

URCW tracks the number of students who are undertaking new research and creative projects across all disciplines at High Point University. By registering your work with URCW, you not only contribute to highlighting the achievements of your department, but also help us record the diverse creative works happening on campus. This allows us to reach out with valuable resources relevant to your goals and endeavors! Sign up on the registry if you are:

1. Collaborating or assisting with faculty members' academic research or creative work
2. Pursuing your own independent projects that are mentored by a faculty member
3. Further developing research or creative work done in class into a presentation or exhibit for a broader audience

Scan the QR Code below to register your research and creative works!

