

# Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

Volume 3, Issue 5

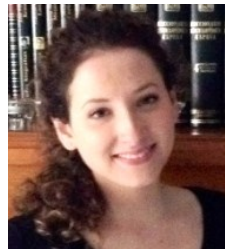
February, 2014

**Our mission: to engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual, unique, scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competencies, foster critical thinking, and provide students with opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.**

## Senior Wins Best Undergraduate Essay

Senior Tina Burchette, currently studying in Spain, was awarded the 2013 prize for Best Undergraduate Essay, by the Margaret Atwood Society. Her essay, titled *The Split Self in Atwood's 'Miss July Grows Older'* focuses primarily on the narrator of the poem by Margaret Atwood. The speaker is an old calendar girl who evaluates her life throughout the poem, and while Atwood's poem appears to be self-congratulatory on the

surface, Burchette argues Atwood writes Miss July as broken and scarred by the society who only praised her body and sexuality.



Burchette wrote this as a sophomore for Dr. Matthew Carlson and didn't think much about it

afterwards until she was asked if she would like to revisit the essay for editing and possible publication. Burchette said that she "was pretty excited about the idea because I had never really thought about publishing an academic paper before," so she worked with Dr. Carlson to reorganize and edit her essay.

She would like to thank Dr. Carlson for his help, saying "None of this would have happened without his help and support!"

## American College Theatre Festival

February 4-8, 17 theatre students, accompanied by Professors Jay Putnam and Matthew Emerson, travelled to Roanoke, VA to compete in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

These 17 students completed a very successful conference. Six pairs showcased their acting skills in the (cont. on page 3)



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## High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium

This year's annual symposium will take place on April 24, 2014 (Reading Day) with abstracts for presenters due on March 13, 2014—only 4 days after Spring Break! High-PURCS showcases student scholarship in a supportive environment that models a professional venue. Students may choose to present their works orally, as a poster presentation, as a brief performance, or as an exhibit. These works must exemplify originality and creativity and reflect high quality work.

Last year, at the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS), which incorporated this event, over one-hundred students participated in fields including Anthropology, Art History, Chemistry, Communications, Economics, Education, English, Health Sciences, History, Mathematics, Modern Language, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, and Theatre.

From the list of concentrations from last year, it is evident that any undergraduate from any discipline is encouraged to participate in the program.

The High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium began a tradition that will continue with the intent of granting students opportunity to receive an extraordinary education and be able to showcase themselves in a professional manner, which will carry on into the rest of their careers.

For guidelines and to apply, visit [www.highpoint.edu/urcw](http://www.highpoint.edu/urcw).

Talk to your mentor about getting involved.

**Abstracts are due March 13, 2014!- the Thursday after Break!**



**High-PURCS** CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

High Point University students from all schools, majors, and minors are invited to participate in HPU's second annual Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS). This event will showcase student scholarship in a supportive environment that models professional venue.

Students may choose to present their work as a poster, oral presentation, brief performance, or exhibit. Projects must be mentored, independent work that reflect originality and creativity and be quality products that went beyond a course assignment.

Abstracts due by March 13 (Thursday), 2014

4 . 24 . 2014

**URCW**  
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

## Theatre (*cont. from front*)

highly competitive Irene Ryan Initiative, with Courtney Feiman and her partner Josh Stein advancing to the semifinal round, placing them in the top 10% of all students.

Five students presented their own created work, *THE WHAT IFS WE CARRY*, in a non-competitive Devised Theatre Initiative and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from renowned respondents working in the profession.

One student advanced to the semifinals of the SDC Directing Initiative, placing in the top 4 directing scenes in the southeast region.

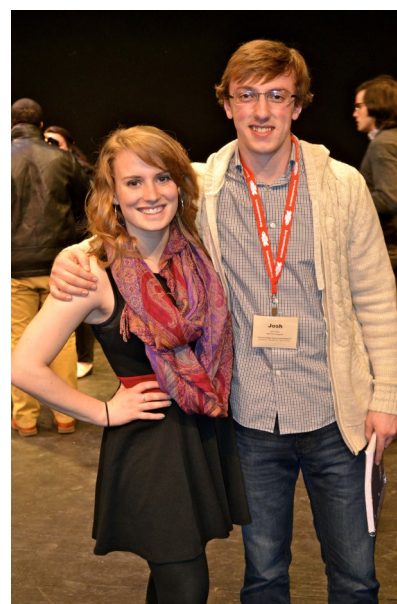
Finally, the 2 stage management students were rated the highest in their competition, with Rachel Garrett chosen as the best stage manager in the region, advancing to represent HPU at the national festival in April.

All students viewed outstanding productions, participated in challenging workshops, and networked with theatre professionals.

*By Jay Putnam*



Stage Managers Sarah Thompson and Rachel Garrett



Partners Courtney Feiman and Josh Stein

## NCURS 2014

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is the only *national* conference for undergraduate research. This year's meeting, in Lexington, KY, received more than 4,000 abstract submissions. High Point University's Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works is proud to send six students whose abstracts passed through the

elite acceptance process. These students and mentors include **Kylie Foster** in the field of Psychology and mentored by Dr. Altman (URCW), **Alyssa Springer** in Education and mentored by Dr. Cavendish, **Tayla Curran** in English with Dr. Walker as a mentor, **Jacob Brooks** in Physics and mentored by Dr. Fiser, **Monica Johnson** in the field of Psychology

mentored by Dr. Danzis, and **Kayla Dolan** also in Education mentored by Dr. Vess.

Congratulations to these six students participating in such a nationally renowned conference!

We look forward to having them represent High Point University.

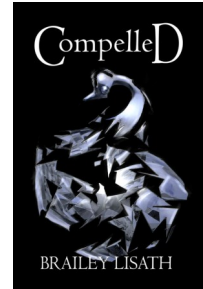
## Compelled

Sophomore Brailey Lisath published her first novel for Kindle this past October. *Compelled* is the story of teens who share a genetic mutation, granting them the ability to control people's minds. Lisath explains that the concept for her novel stems from a conversation with a friend, and her two pro-

tagonists are derived from some close friends from home. She began the novel in her senior year of high school and finished it within a month. Though Lisath had no original intentions of publishing the book, she was convinced by family and friends to do something with it. Finally, after the arduous work of writing query letters to

literary agencies, Lisath signed a contract with Saga Books for two books, which will include the sequel to *Compelled*.

*Compelled* is currently available for the Kindle with hopes of print copies being available soon.



## Are you reaching your full potential?

At scholarly conferences, such as the upcoming High-PURCS at HPU, there lies a trend in types of presentation formats. For instance, mathematics and science-based disciplines tend to present posters, while the humanities disciplines tend to present orally.

Dr. Altman, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research

and Creative Works, encourages students to step out of their comfort zones and present in a nontraditional format for one's discipline. This helps you learn other forms of communication. You could even present the research from one project two different ways at two different events.

Both forms of presentation help develop

different skill sets; thus, varying format means that you learn the most you possibly can from the project.

In addition to this, interdisciplinary work is also something to consider for research and creative works. For example, one student, Amy King, plans to combine Physics and Music for a project on the physical

properties of sound in a specific genre of music, in addition to possibly creating a song based on relationships between sound frequencies.

Whether you choose a different method of presentation or pursue interdisciplinary work, completing either will undoubtedly cause you to stand out.

## Register URCW Activity

The **Presentation** category is for works from class that have been refined for public presentation, performance, or exhibit. Currently, there are **27 students** registered for presentation!

The **Publication** category is for works that have been published. We are proud of the **4 students** registered for publication!

The **Competition** category includes any works in a discipline that leads to a competition. There are **27 students** registered for competition!

The **Research Rookies** program is specifically designed to aid lower classmen to get involved in research. There are now **50 research rookies!**

**Total**, there are **93 students** working in mentored relationships with faculty. Make sure you complete the mentee registration if you are doing research, so you can be counted!

## Contact Us!

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[www.highpoint.edu/urcw](http://www.highpoint.edu/urcw)

Newsletter brought to you  
by Amy King