

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS

WELCOME BACK

September 2014

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works would like to welcome back students and faculty, new and old, to another wonderful year at High Point University! Our department is working hard to inform students about opportunities to participate in collaborative research or creative works and we hope that we have more projects this year than ever before. We also wish to share the success stories of those students who are in the process of completing fascinating creative and scholarly work through our department. We cannot stress enough that undergraduate research is a fantastic way to enrich a student's college experience.



The Research Rookies program is a research-based program open to all freshmen and first-semester sophomores that is meant to bring students into the university's culture of research and creative work early on in their undergraduate career. This comprehensive program runs for two consecutive semesters, and involves 15 tasks to be completed, as well as one mini-research project. These activities focus on eight objectives: information literacy, the importance of research, research ethics, methods and design, data and analyses, writing research, presenting research, and exploring research opportunities. The 15 tasks all fall within these objectives, and the students have a plethora of activities to choose from based upon their chosen discipline of study. The students who successfully complete the program will receive a Certificate of Completion and will be elevated to the status of Research Apprentice. The Research Rookies program is a fabulous opportunity for students to broaden their educational

Mission Statement

To engage undergraduates in student-faculty led collaborations that reflect individual and unique scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competences, foster critical and creative thinking and provide students with privileged opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.



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Undergraduate research is a student-faculty collaboration to examine, create, and share new knowledge or work commensurate with practices and discipline.

horizons and stand out to potential employers. Students from all majors are welcome to apply; those interested should contact Dr. Joanne Altman, director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works, at jaltman0@highpoint.edu.

Summer Research Program 2014

Though we are ready to hit the ground running with research projects this academic year, we also wish to take time to congratulate and highlight our 14 students and 12 faculty members who worked hard over the summer on research or creative projects. The students who participated in this research either stayed on campus, or lived nearby to work on extended research without the distraction of other university courses and activities.



Summer Research students pose together in the Slane Student Center

Summer Profiles: Creative Works

Senior and English Literature major, **Sarah Patterson**, lived in Belk over the summer while she worked on her essay discussing Gothic Literature with her advisor Dr. Laura Linker. Sarah's work focused on the female heroine in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*. Her research examined the way in which her character created an autonomous identity by not conforming to the typical stereotypes of the passive heroine. Other Gothic literary sources in her essay included "The Snow Child," and "The Lady of the House of Love." Sarah is submitting her abstract to SNCURCS, and hopes to present at this conference.



Rebecca and her chair

Rebecca Rowan, an Interior Design major and senior, worked over the summer with her advisor Maxine Campbell to create an original textile design for a French Empire Style chair, with a modern twist. The project she completed was designed to not only showcase her talent, but also her understanding of the historic design. Rowan hand-painted her design onto the chair, which is now on display at HPU's Sechrest Art Gallery as part of the "Art of Seating" exhibit.

From now until December 4th, the university's School of Art & Design will be holding *High Point University Explores the Art of Seating*, an exhibit of student and faculty chair designs. The program that led up to this exhibit allowed design students to learn to combine artistic forms with emerging technologies to bring their ideas to life. Product designers consider limited resources, material life cycles, aesthetics, and product placement to attract a targeted customer. The display is held in conjunction with the Reynolda House Museum of American Art's exhibit, *The Art of Seating: Two Hundred Years of American Design*. This exhibit is a point of reference for the students and faculty of our own university.

Summer Profiles: Research

Senior **Rachel Thiets**, a Biology major on a pre-medical track, worked over the summer with Dr. Altman and another student to assess the cognitive abilities of prosimian primates. The project involves training a lemur to use a card game called the "Wisconsin Card-Sorting Task" to assess the decision-making capabilities of a lemur in comparison to more advanced primates and humans. Rachel also worked in tandem with summer research student Jerod Oakes, a Communications major, and his advisor Dr. Heagney, who are developing the card game into a Kindle App. They hope that the game will be distributed for wide use to any zoo who wishes to use it.

Andrea Baellow, a senior Athletic Training major, worked with her advisor, Dr. Kevin Ford, and others over the summer in the school's Human Biomechanics and Physiology Lab on a project that was funded by Adidas. The project involved data collection based upon the range of foot and toe motions in patients who participated in dynamic and performance tests in three different pairs of specialized Adidas cleats. Andrea was in charge of patient recruitment, the range of motion measurements, and directing the patients throughout the session. Andrea's future plans for this research include submitting an abstract to the American College of Sports Medicine.

High Point junior **Reza Moghtaderi Esfahani** lived in Blessing Hall this summer while he worked with Dr. Daniel Hall, Mr. Roger Shore, and fellow student Charles (Thomas) Douglas to create an Economics-related app for phones and other devices. The program is called "EconApps," and it involves a series of games that are designed to help students better understand specific economic concepts. Their goal was to create something that could be implemented in a variety of classroom environments and was internet-based. In the future, the app will be released on Apple's App Store at no charge to users. Reza and his research partners also plan to present on the challenges and obstacles of creating an application as computer science undergraduates.



Rachel Thiets working with a lemur



Reza Moghtaderi Esfahani working on his App.

Grants and Conferences



Simeon Simeonides with Nido Quebein at the TECHCON conference

Congratulations are in order for a number of our students and faculty who applied for grants to develop their research further, or to attend conferences in which they present their completed work.

Simeon Simeonides, a sophomore Physics major at High Point University, shared his research at Semiconductor Research Corporation's TECHCON conference, held September 7-9 in Austin, Texas. The conference showcased the forefront of semiconductor research by undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. students. Simeonides' paper, titled "ECG Sensor for Personalized Prediction of Heart Attack Risk," discusses a mathematical model that simulates the way electrical signals move through organs like the heart. The goal is to use the model to determine if a heart is healthy or unstable.

Sean Ireland and **Harold Coley** were allocated a grant to fly to the University of Minnesota to use the lab and equipment of Dr. Jeannine Cavendar Bares. Their faculty mentor is Dr. Nicole Hughes from the Biology Department, and their research involves the comparison of abaxial and adaxial anthocyanins in certain tropical plants. After completing their research, the two students plan to present their findings at High Point's own research conference: High-PURCS.

Sarah Patterson and her faculty mentor, Dr. Laura Linker, were allocated a grant to attend the 2014 Society for Comparative Literature and Arts on October 10th-12th in St. Petersburg, Florida at Eckerd College. Sarah Patterson will be presenting her paper, titled "The Murderous Libertines of Aphra Behn." This paper discusses how the female characters developed by Behn must create personal freedom from the pressures of their societies through the use of their own bodies, and wit.

Taylor Patzwahl and her faculty mentor, Dr. Josh Campbell, received a grant to attend the Entomology 2014 meeting, hosted by the Entomological Society of America, taking place on November 16th through the 19th in Portland, Oregon. The emphasis of Taylor Patzwahl's research was to determine how pollinating and beneficial insect communities are affected by various switchgrass and pine treatments.



Year of the Arts

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

At High Point University, a fantastic series of events, referred to as the Year of the Arts, will occur throughout the school year. The series focuses on the importance of creativity within research and its importance as we move into a “Conceptual Age.” The Year of the Arts will center around four big questions that speakers and students will address over the year, which are:

- How is art related to identity?
- What are the roles of “dangerous” art?
- How is art a form of commerce?
- Is *this* art?

One of the ways in which students can participate in this event is to, on December 1, submit a short abstract that discusses a creative project they want to complete during the spring semester. Ten of the proposals will be awarded a grant of \$250 for materials, and will be assigned a faculty mentor. At the end of the spring semester, all of the entries will be exhibited and juried for monetary prizes. The only requirement is that the final project be creative and unique. More information is available at www.highpoint.edu/yearofthearts. This contest is a wonderful way for students to discover the use of the arts in relation to research, and we hope to have many contestants!

Contact Us and Like Us on Facebook!

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State of North Carolina
 Undergraduate Research &
 Creativity Symposium



Call for Abstracts

SNCURCS 2014

Saturday, November 22nd

NC State University

Undergraduate students from all disciplines are encouraged to submit abstracts based on original research or creative projects

Registration is now OPEN

Abstract Deadline: noon, October 31, 2014

For more information: www.sncurcs.org



REGISTER

YOUR

If you are working on a project with a faculty mentor (more experienced guide or teacher) whether you are helping with a professor's work, or being helped by a professor with your work, you should complete the *Mentee Registry*.

RESEARCH



To register

www.highpoint.edu/urcw/registering-urcw-activity/

For more information

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