



# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS NEWSLETTER

September, 2015



# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS

## Welcome Back to Campus!

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works is excited to welcome students, faculty, and staff, both new and returning, to campus for another extraordinary academic year here at High Point University. As a department, we work hard to keep students and faculty aware of opportunities and accomplishments in the realms of collaborative research or creative works. It is very important to us to celebrate the successes of all creative and scholarly work as well as encourage students and faculty to engage and participate in these works. We cannot emphasize enough the advantages to undergraduate research and creative works. These opportunities are excellent ways to enrich the academic career of all college students.

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Research Rookies is a program for freshman and first semester sophomores who desire to be incorporated into the research and creative work atmosphere of High Point University while still early in their undergraduate careers. Participants have two consecutive semesters to complete 15 activities from a menu of options and a mini-research experience. After completing the program, students will be elevated to the status of *Research Apprentice*.

This program teaches students the importance of research, research ethics, research methods and design, the creative process, understanding data and analyses, as well as how to write and present creative or scholarly work. Completing this program shows the student to be committed to research, which will give them an edge later in job interviews or application for graduate or professional schools.

Students from all majors are welcome to apply. Anyone interested should contact Dr. Joanne Altman, Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works, at [jaltman0@highpoint.edu](mailto:jaltman0@highpoint.edu).

## Mission Statement

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The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works program at High Point University is to engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual and unique scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new competencies and foster critical thinking, and provide students with privileged opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.

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## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS

### Congratulations to our Newest Research Apprentices!

We would like to congratulate our class of new Research Apprentices! Holly Gambrell, Helen Barker, Haleigh Mana'o, Molly Lowry, Melanie Maldonado, and Rebecca Ulrich have all successfully completed the Research Rookies program here at High Point University.

Holly Gambrell is a communication major with a concentration in journalism and an English writing minor. She hopes to create her own magazine in the future. Helen Barker and Haleigh Mana'o are biology majors. Helen plans on attending medical school and wants to become a pediatric oncologist. Molly Lowry is an accounting major with a minor in global commerce. Her career goals include becoming a CPA for a job in international accounting. Melanie Maldonado is a psychology major and pre-med with a women's and gender studies minor. She hopes to go to medical school as well and then enter into the field of psychiatry. Rebecca Ulrich is a bio-chemistry major with a psychology minor. She hopes to either go to medical school or enter into a MD/PhD program with a focus on pediatrics.



On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the Cottrell International Ballroom, High Point recognized these 6 students who have completed the Research Rookies program. These ladies were honored in a ceremony, and received a certificate and medallion as well as the title of *Research Apprentice*. Congratulations Ladies!

## Check Out What We Have Been Doing: Summer 2015

While we are very excited to jump into this new year of research and creative works, we want to recognize all the hard work that was done this summer in the two summer programs here at High Point University. These students lived on campus for free while completing their summer research.

### SuRI 2015

The Summer Research Institute (SuRI) is open to all High Point University undergraduate students in any discipline. The participating students sign up with a faculty mentor with whom they wish to work over the summer on a project of their choosing. This summer, 21 High Point students participated in the SuRI program with various faculty members from 10 disciplines.

### SuRPS 2015

The Summer Research Program in the Sciences (SuRPS) is a competitive research program in which students apply to work with faculty in the biology, chemistry, or physics departments on pre-determined projects. This summer, 24 of these students were selected from among 50 applicants.



### Summer Research Profiles: SuRI

This summer, junior **Liz Pruitt** worked with mentor Allison Walker to research and design a book based on her Year of the Arts Beehive Project. Liz's intent had been to finish this project over the summer months, however she decided to extend her research period to a full year so she was able to further observe and research Beekeeping into the winter months. She credits the SuRI program for helping her learn how to "convey the importance of [her] work in a simple and effective manner" as well as helping her connect with others with similar research mindedness and setting her apart from other students and peers.



SuRI 2015 Students take on the High Ropes course

Rising senior **Jamie Schnuck** worked in the area of molecular nutrition for her summer research.

Working in the Human Physiology and Biomechanics Lab, she worked with dietary supplements and mouse muscle cells to observe the effects of supplements on the cellular level. During her research, which she plans on continuing into the school year, Jamie coauthored a paper about the effects of Cinnamon Aldehyde supplementation which is under review for publication. She is also planning on submitting her Beta-Alanine research manuscript to the *Journal of Molecular Nutrition and Food Research*. Jamie's research experience is building her a solid foundation in research techniques of which she hopes to continue to use in medical school.

### Summer Research Profiles: SuRPS

Rising senior **Harris Coley** worked with Dr. Hughes this summer on a project which looked at the effects of red pigments on plant's light stress response. This project was a continuation of work Harris started last summer and he was very excited to work with Dr. Hughes, as a leader in her field. Harris is very thankful for the opportunities that SuRPS offered him as well as allowing him to expand his research even further this summer.

This summer, rising sophomore **Rebecca Ulrich** researched programmed cell death in *E. coli*. Her research this summer focused on "suicide conversation" in these bacteria. This project was a continuation of research began during the 2014-2015 school year. Rebecca really appreciated the opportunity that SuRPS afforded her and enjoyed working with and learning from her research mentor Dr. Blackledge. Rebecca is also one of our newest Research Apprentices!



SuRPS 2015 Students and Faculty in front of the Dream Big Chairs

## Student Travel Grants:

**Harris Coley** and his mentor Dr. Niky Hughes were allocated a grant to attend the International Workshop on Anthocyanins located in Montpellier, France on September 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Here he presented his work, “Xanthophyll De-epoxidation and Shade Acclimation in Leaf Tissues with Abaxial Versus Adaxial Anthocyanins.”

**Kelsey Brown** and **Hailey Parry**, along with their mentor Dr. Craig Curty, were allocated a grant to attend the College Reading and Learning Association conference on November 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> in Portland, Oregon. Together they will be presenting work on “Leading Expedition Climbs for Students Ascending their Academic Everests.”

**Reza Moghtaderi Esfahani** and mentor Dr. Craig Curty were allocated a grant to present at the South Carolina College Learning Center Association at Winthrop University on June 12<sup>th</sup>. They presented “Raising the Tutor Training Bar”.

Over the summer, **Emma Zuk** and **Katherine Van Wert**, and their mentor Dr. Nguyen, were allowed a grant to present at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Clinical Symposia and AT Expo in St. Louis on June 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. They presented research at this event on the “Influence of Hip Strength and Range of Motion on Landing Kinematics across Maturation Groups in Youth Athletes.”



Reza Moghtaderi Esfahani and Dr. Craig Curty presenting “Raising the Tutor Training Bar”



## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVITY SYMPOSIUM

This year, High Point University is hosting the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. The event will be held on November 14, 2015 from 9:00am to 4:30pm on High Point’s campus. Undergraduate Students from any and all disciplines are encouraged to submit abstracts based on original research or creative works. Last year, seven presentations came from High Point University. This year we would love to see even more representation!

Registration is now OPEN

Abstract Deadline: noon, **October 16, 2015**

For more information: [www.sncurcs.org](http://www.sncurcs.org)

## Why Participate in Undergraduate Research and Creative Works?

High Point University students are busy. Whether involved in sports, clubs, fraternities or sororities, or any multitude of other activities on campus, High Point Students always seem to be doing something. So why make undergraduate research or creative works a part of your college education?

Undergraduate research provides students with a number of benefits. Undergraduate research and creative works give students an edge. Upon graduating college, having undergraduate research or creative works on your resume` is something that will set you apart from all the other recent grads looking for the same jobs at the same companies that you are. Research also teaches students to think critically, problem solve, and communicate effectively. Students are learning through hands-on experience, learning lessons and research methods that can be carried on through their college career and beyond.

According to High Point News and Media, "Becoming a Scholar: Undergraduate Research Helps Students Tap Their Potential"



## Want to get involved in Research?

Interested in getting involved in research on campus? Not sure where to start? Check out ScholarBridge.com. This website is a new way for students to search for research opportunities with faculty on campus! All you have to do is go to ScholarBridge.com and create a profile. Once on the site you will be able to search through faculty on campus who are engaging in research and are interested in including students.



## We've Moved!

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Works office has moved! We are now located in a bright new office on the second floor of the beautiful new Cottrell Building (room 226). Stop by, say "Hi", and check out our new location!

## Contact Us and Like Us on Facebook!

Dr. Joanne Altman

**Email:** [jaltman0@highpoint.edu](mailto:jaltman0@highpoint.edu)

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

**Facebook:** High Point University Undergraduate Research & Creative Works

Newsletter brought to you by Rebecca Irons