



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS NEWSLETTER

February 2016



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORKS

Happy Leap Year!

From all of us here in the Undergraduate Research and Creative Works office, we hope you had a wonderful February and didn't freeze in all the cold weather we got! As a department, we work hard to keep students and faculty aware of opportunities and accomplishments in the realm of collaborative research and creative works. In this issue we are very excited to introduce Senior Profiles focusing on extraordinary seniors who have achieved great success through their undergraduate research here at High Point University.

With spring just around the corner, we can't wait to see what research and creativity blooms all over High Point's campus!



HPU's Already Extraordinary Students receive "Outstanding" Awards

Over Winter break, physics students **Hallie Stidham, Nick Kasle, Simeon Simeonides, and Matt Iczkowski**, attended the American Association of Physics Teachers winter meeting to present their Summer research involving NASA. Hallie and Matt received an "Outstanding Presentation" award from the Society of Physics Students for their oral presentation. Simeon also received an award for his "Outstanding Presentation", also from the Society of Physics Students for his poster presentation.

Congratulations and good work!



Left to Right: Matt, Hallie, Nick, Simeon

Mission Statement



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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Congratulations to Students awarded Travel Grants!

Hailey Parry and mentor Dr. Kyle Sunderland were allocated a grant to attend the Southeast Regional American College of Sports Medicine Conference in Greenville South Carolina on February 18-20th. While attending, Hailey presented her research “Osteocalcin does not induce regulator of insulin signaling or mitochondrial biogenesis in vitro.”

Christian Garber, Brailey Lisath, Jennifer Swiger, and mentors Ms. Kathy Sheilds and Dr. Leah Schweitzer were allocated a grant to attend the Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference, February 18-20th in Columbus, GA. These students will participate in a panel titles “Voices around the table: The writing studio as an inclusive space”. Christian, Brailey, and Jennifer will also present on peer-led writing studios.

Jamie Schnuck and mentor Dr. Roger Vaughan were allocated a grant to attend the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Conference on February 18-20th in Greenville, SC. While there, Jamie will present research on the “Leucine stimulates peroxisome proliferator activator receptors in skeletal muscle” which was a collaboration with Dr. Kyle Sunderland, Nicholas Gannon, Dr. Matthew Kuennen, and Dr. Vaughan.

Cara Kramer, Robert Kratz, Jacob Lavoie, Sarah Steele, Victoria Dixon, Alexandra Oliver, Jared Lindsay, Alexandra Mauch, Ginny Treu, Matt Szczygiel, and mentor Mr. Ryan Hemsoth were allocated a grant to attend the United States Institute for Theatre Technology Conference and Stage Expo on March 16-19th in Salt Lake City, Utah. These students will be exposed to professionals of all different experience levels as well as be able to share idea, check out new theatre products, create new and strengthen current network connections as well as learn about what it takes to succeed in theatre production.

Dillon O’Gorman, Justin Cummings, Madison Homan, and their mentor Dr. Paul Ringel were allocated a grant to attend the National Council of Public History Annual Meeting on March 16-19th in Baltimore, MD. While in attendance, Dillon, Justin, and Madison will present their work on “The William Penn Project”, a project focused on the progression of a local High Point school and how it has changed over time to accommodate students and the community around it. This project was also collaborated on by Quinn Hagen.

Paul O’Donaghue, Leah Yoch, Lucas Chirino, Sarah Poiani, Kyle Corcoran, and mentor Dr. Adam Graham-Squire were allocated a grant to attend the Mathematics Association of America Southeastern Conference on March 24-26th in Birmingham, AL. The students will be competing in a Math Jeopardy contest as well as attending talks and presentations by both faculty and other students in attendance. This exposure to undergraduate research will encourage our students to do research of their own.

Senior Profile: Reza Moghtaderi & Nick Zayatz

Google Called

What would you do if you got a phone call from Google recruiters actively seeking you for a potential position with their company? Seniors Reza and Nick could tell you the answer to that one. Maybe the real question is how do you become someone that a company like Google just might call? What makes these young men different? What helped with their success? Our answer: Undergraduate research.

Reza Moghtaderi

Reza, a computer science major here at High Point University, has completed two summers worth of Undergraduate research.

For his first summer of undergraduate research, completed between his sophomore and junior years at HPU, Reza worked with Dr. Hall and Dr. Crofton as well as fellow student Thomas Douglas to redesign an app called EconApps. By the end of the summer, EconApps was on the app store for iPad. During his second summer of undergraduate research, between his junior and senior years here at HPU, Reza once again updated EconApps, this time creating EconApps 2.0. This version of the app is designed for mobile devices and was actually just approved by Apple to be put on the app store on February 10th, 2016.



Nick Zayatz

Nick Zayatz is also a computer science major at High Point, and has completed two summers of undergraduate research as well.

Nick's first summer of undergraduate research was between his sophomore and junior year at High Point. Working with Dr. Graham-Squire as his mentor, along with fellow student David Naylor, Nick helped build a program to assist in Voting theory research. The program was built to run a simulated election and run tests to find problems with these elections. The summer between Nick's junior and senior year was spent working on undergraduate research with Reza creating the EconApps 2.0.

Senior Profile: Reza Moghtaderi & Nick Zayatz

Google Called

Transferring skills all the way to Google

While for these two students, the research lasted only two summers, the benefits of those summers are boundless and their dividends have been returning tenfold.

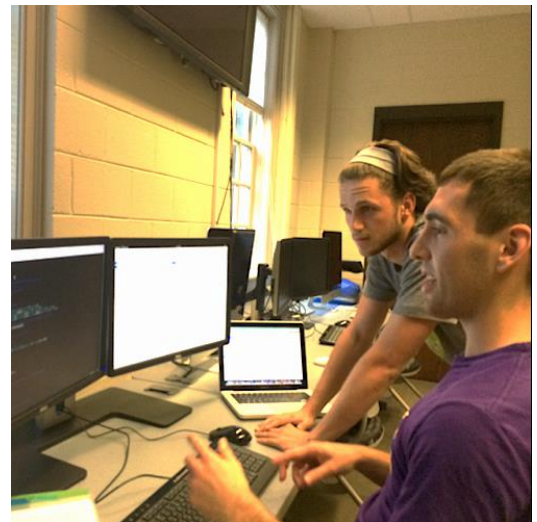
For Nick, his favorite parts of summer research were both the opportunities to stay on campus making friends and connecting with faculty. Reza loved the ability to create from scratch, taking a blank screen and ending up with a usable app. He also credits undergraduate research as being one of the aspects that “really made [his] college experience worthwhile.”



Both young men learned incredible amounts through their research and enjoyed being able to apply the knowledge they were gaining while mixing it with lessons they were learning in the classroom to gain real world experience.

These skills and lessons that Reza and Nick gained have been transferable into other aspects of their lives. Reza, Nick, and a few other HPU students have used skills learned in class and through undergraduate research to start up their own company, Cirtual. Reza says he really enjoys the ability to “amalgamate [his] skills,” both in computer science as well as the soft skills he gained through research conferences and other High Point experiences – All thanks to undergraduate research.

Both Reza and Nick credit Undergraduate research and conference attendance as a big reason for their success. The skills they’ve gained, as well as exposure in the computer science community has provided these students with the opportunity of a lifetime – interviews with Google. A personal call from a recruiter landed both of these talented HPU students on the path to a potential position with the tech giant. So far both young men have gone through three out of seven rounds of interviews with Google.



**Good Luck,
Reza and Nick!**

It's Never too early to think Ahead!

Are you interested in doing undergraduate research with professors here on campus? Do you know of a particular professor doing working on a project that you're interested in?



It's never too early to start thinking about Fall semester. With seniors graduating in May, many research positions will be left open to be filled by students who are still on campus. Asking professors and faculty now if they have or will have research opportunities will help you potentially earn a position in undergraduate research on campus in the fall. Also check out **ScholarBridge**. Its like LinkedIn for scholars. The newest way to find research opportunities on campus- all you have to do is create a profile and you'll be able to search through the faculty on campus who are engaging in research and are interested in including students.

Don't wait until August when you get back after summer break. By then it'll be too late, and positions will be full! Act Now. It's never too early to think ahead!

Important Numbers:

Research Program	Number of Students
Research Rookies	95
Mentored Research Projects	125
Students supported by Grants	88

CONTACT US AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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Newsletter brought to you by Rebecca Irons