



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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HAPPY OCTOBER!

The semester is in full swing and with it plenty of incredible opportunities with URCW. We are so excited to be sharing the October issue of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Newsletter. We'll keep you up to date on all the recent URCW news happening on our campus.

In UCRW, our 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, and inspire students to add to the global sum of human knowledge. We'd love to connect with you through one of our numerous media outlets.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



URCW@HIGHPOINT.EDU



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HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR RESEARCH?

This is the official record of students by percentage who signed up on our URCW Activity Registry. It is clearly not a full account. Please help our students get counted by having them sign up on the URCW registry.



QUICK TIPS: GETTING INVOLVED!

"Research something you're truly interested in! The project won't be any fun unless you actually like what you're researching."
Leslie Bosse, '22

"Continue to be persistent, don't hesitate to ask questions, and read material outside of the laboratory to become more confident in your research."
Ryan Hesterman, '22



ATTEND SNCURCS

SNCURCS is one of the largest student research symposiums in the state of North Carolina and available to all North Carolina students. While normally held at North Carolina college institutions and previously hosted by HPU in 2015, this year the symposium will be co-hosted virtually by Elon University, Catawba College, and Livingston College starting November 12th.

Students and faculty are invited to attending beginning November 12 when recorded presentations will be available to view. There will also be live, virtual Q&S sessions on November 13 for presenters. No registration is required, and all information regarding attendance can be found at <http://www.sncurcs.org>.

CONGRATS TO OUR HPU SNCURCS PRESENTERS!

Works Presented at 2021 SNCURCS

Amalya K. Anthony - Using CRISPR-Cas9 to Delete *stk1* in MRSA

Paula A. Bender - Mathematical Model of Learning Disabilities

Vivian McAllister - Routine Work-Separation and Relationship Satisfaction

Ryan Mijumbi - The Relation of Extraversion Facets with Covid-related Loneliness, Covid-related Social Isolation, and Neuroticism

Clara Primus and Alex Zimmerman - Scientific societies fostering inclusivity in the life sciences through engagement of undergraduate scientists

Victoria Tumilty - What Should be Valued in College Admissions: How Political Identity Influences Views Within the Affirmative Action Debate

Brianna Viering - Suppression of Key Antibiotic Resistance Genes in MRSA with Small Molecule Adjuvants

Josiah Williams - Melancholy and Gender in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

TAKE A LOOK AT *INNOVATION*: THE URCW JOURNAL

Innovation, Journal of Creative and Scholarly Works is a referred publication composed of academic works by High Point University undergraduate students. Congratulations to our newest published authors on their recent publication.



Northrop Frye's Theory of Comedy and *The Secret Garden* | *Leslie Bosse*

The Relationship Between Preferred learning Method, Stress, and Social Isolation: How Do College Students Want to Learn During the COVID-19 Pandemic? | *Jordan Bramhall*

Dialogism, Truth, and the Victorian Justice System in *The Moonstone* | *Alex Carrillo*

Jail, Julian Assange, and the Future of Watchdog Journalism | *Joseph Maronski*

Let's Hip-Hop Our Way to the American Dream | *Avery Moon*

Parallelism Between Lyricism, American Values, and Socioeconomic Status | *Avery Moon*

Modes de langue et de culture françaises chez Anna Karénine | *Nicole Prince*

The Education and Misdiagnosis of English Language Learners | *Heather Simmons*

Cortical Abnormalities Observed in Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder | *Allison Tucker*

What Should be Valued in College Admissions: How Political Identity Influences Views within the Affirmative Action Debate | *Victoria Tumilty*

The Search for Acceptance and Happiness: Reactions to Russian Social and Gender Stereotypes in Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* | *Hailey Turner*

You can check out these works in the *Innovation* Journal found on the URCW website at highpoint.edu/urcw/hpu-journal/

RECIPIENTS OF THE URCW GRANT

URCW 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 to support works in progress. Visit our website, www.highpoint.edu/urcw, to request funds for a grant that best suits your work.

Grants are available in the following capacities:

1. Student and Faculty Travel Grants
2. Scholarly Interdisciplinary Research Grant (SIRG)
3. Small Project Support Grants

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the URCW Grant for their conferences, creative works, and research projects!

Josiah Williams, Ryan Hesterman, Blake Harrison, Max Kresock, Jenna Duncan, Leslie Bosse, Gianna Passarelli, Courtney Collar to present at the National Collegiate Honors Council-Annual Conference mentored by Dr. Stacy Lipowski and Dr. Nathan Headman.

Madison Kramer to aid her research on the Effect of insulin resistance on myotube BCAA transporter with Dr. Roger Vaughan

Caroline Rivera to aid her research on the Effect of insulin resistance on myotube BCAA transporter with Dr. Roger Vaughan

Sadie Flagg to attend the AVS 67th International Symposium and Exhibition presenting her research entitled Examining the Impact of BHT Inhibitor on the Microstructure of Spun-Cast Nanoporous Films of PMMA with Dr. Augustine

Johanna Seal for her Senior Capstone Experience Project mentored by Joe Michaels

Taylor Lynch, computer science major, to present her research at the 25th Colloquium Cisse Conference

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PROFILE

SITTING DOWN WITH BROOKE ALLEN '22



"Four months into college and I'm like-- what is going on?" This is how Brooke Allen, a senior graduating the spring of 2022, described her initial experience getting involved in research as a freshman. Brooke, who is getting a dual degree in Biology and English and is also a part of the honors program, began working with Dr. Nathan Headman on research in the first semester of her freshman year. It was in his class "The Beautiful and The Good" that Brooke began analyzing and critiquing a certain piece of art; Cranach the Elder's Venus. Brooke wrote "The Tug of War of Renaissance Bodies," and began researching and writing about the relationship Cranach the Elder had with Martin Luther. This work was published soon after her freshman year in the 2019 *Innovation* journal and presented at High-PURCS in the spring of 2019.

In her sophomore year, Brooke started doing research with her organic chemistry professor Dr. Megan Blackledge focusing on MRSA. "It's really motivating," Brooke said when asked to describe what this work is like. "Some of these experiences take a long time to set up, or you fail and fail and fail, but if you really do figure something out, it's helping real people." Brooke's research is specifically in potentiating antibiotics against ESKAPE pathogens, as her and the other chemistry-focused students in Dr. Blackledge's lab focus on adjuvant compounds added to antibiotics to make them more effective. "There's so much potential in it," Brooke said. Now as a senior, working in the lab for the last two years, Brooke has moved on to different projects within the same general idea. She was initially focused on MRSA research, and now is working on a new project focused on a different type of bacteria. According to Brooke, "we're seeing some good things."

Brooke Allen describes her relationship with Dr. Blackledge as "very close." Brooke has spent the last two years in the lab working with Dr. Blackledge, and describes it as a mentorship that's very important to her: "She's so encouraging, but she's not afraid to tell me to get it together. We can speak to each other so honestly. She's been so encouraging to me and seen the ups and downs of my college career." It's been mentorship relationships with professors like Dr. Blackledge and Dr. Headman that have made HPU special for Brooke. "There are so many places where you're gonna go and you're not going to have relationships with your professors. It's so incredible to know that those relationships could happen here at High Point because at other places, it's not always a possibility."

Ultimately, Brooke said her undergraduate research experiences have "taught me so much about how to be honest with people who care about me and let them help me and use that expertise to let me make my own path. If I hadn't been open and showed them what I wanted with my life, then I don't think they would have been as open to guiding me through it all."

Know a student who has gone above and beyond in their research or creative works? Email urcw@highpoint.edu with suggestions for our next Student Achievement Profile!