

## 2021-22 Undergraduate Research Faculty Grant Awardees

In Fall 2021, six projects were selected for funding as part of the Undergraduate Research Faculty grant program aimed at facilitating the development or support of novel programs to scale and increase access to undergraduate research for VT students. Grantees were selected based on the programs' anticipated impact to significantly scale or increase access to authentic research experiences and program sustainability:

1. **Benjamin Chambers, PhD (Engineering Education)**- \$9,607 to developing a program for early academic career research opportunities in engineering using Minecraft. Dr. Chambers received special mention during the last grant cycle.
2. **Natalie Ferand, PhD (School of Education)**- \$7,317 to provide foundational undergraduate research opportunities for students in Career and Technical Education in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education.
3. **Kevin Hamed, PhD (Fish and Wildlife Conservation) and Robert Bush, PhD (Sustainable Biomaterials)**- \$7,337 to engage more than 30 students majoring in Wildlife Conservation and Packaging Systems & Design in a collaborative research project to design bottle modifications that would allow shrews in the wild to escape safely.
4. **Najla Mouchrek, PhD (Honors College), Nathan Todd King & Emily Jean Vollmer (VT Office of Sustainability)**- \$5,570 to support the development of the Honors Culture of Sustainability Lab, a campus living laboratory and a space for Honors undergraduate students to engage in interdisciplinary research exploring cultural and social aspects of sustainability, which will be designed as a course-based undergraduate research experience.
5. **Frederick Paige, PhD (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Craig Arthur (University Libraries)**- \$10,000 for their project entitled "Engaged Scholar Training: Sustaining a Culture of Research in Service of Communities", to scale up research training materials to be accessible to a broader audience.
6. **Andy Schaudt, MBA (VTI; Management)**- \$10,000 to pilot a new program that will allow undergraduate students from the Pamplin College of Business to apply the skills learned in business management coursework to VTI research projects.

The operational period for the grants is November 2021 through June 2022.