Hi!

Here's what's included in this week's newsletter:

1. Recognize your exceptional research mentor - deadline EXTENDED to March 5
2. Apply to be a summer peer mentor with the OUR- deadline this Friday
3. NASA-funded summer undergraduate research experience
4. Deadlines Approaching for Summer Research Programs
5. Research Recruitment for Exploring Sensory Properties of Berries
6. Announcing the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award
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1. Recognize your exceptional research mentor - deadline EXTENDED to March 5

The Office of Undergraduate Research acknowledges the hard work, time, dedication, and guidance research mentors provide to undergraduate students, which often goes unrecognized. Current undergraduate students are invited to nominate one Virginia Tech faculty or graduate student research mentor from any discipline for the award of Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor.

Learn more here or go directly to the nomination form. The deadline to submit a nomination has been EXTENDED to March 5, 2020 at 5:00pm.

2. Apply to be a summer peer mentor with the OUR- deadline this Friday

Have a passion for undergraduate research and helping other students? Want to share your love of Blacksburg and the NRV with visiting students from other universities? Apply to be a summer peer mentor with the Office of Undergraduate Research!

Position description and compensation- Student wage; Up to 20 hours/week; $12/hr; Appointment from May 18 through July 31, inclusive.

Job Description- Support services for summer undergraduate research programs at Virginia Tech. Duties include, but are not limited to, mentoring summer research students, facilitating social activities, setting up and running weekly group meetings, creating media and related content for OUR website and publications, and generally representing the Office of Undergraduate Research at large. Drive vans to transport students on field trips. Prepare and facilitate undergraduate research conference at the end of summer. Other office related support as assigned. Possibly deliver at least one information session/workshop on how to get involved in undergraduate research. Required to assist with the all-day summer conference (on 7/30/20) and weekly group meetings (W, 4-5pm).

Qualifications- Undergraduate student or recent graduate with experience conducting undergraduate research, particularly as part of an organized STEM program (eg SURF, Scieneering, any REU, etc). Excellent communication and writing skills. Outstanding organizational and people skills. Familiar with video and camera equipment. Current driver’s license and good driving record.
If you have any questions about the position or application process, please contact Nicole Easton (nicoleje@vt.edu).

Apply online by this Friday, March 6, 2020 at 5:00pm.

3. NASA-funded summer undergraduate research experience

The NASA University Leadership Initiative is now accepting applications for University of Tennessee (UT) and non-UT students interested in participating in summer research on the UT Knoxville campus! Students working on this project will contribute to the development of slotted, natural-laminar-flow airfoil technology through aerodynamics and/or structural analyses using industry-standard tools. Research activities will be assigned based on the students' interests as they align with the current needs of the overall project. In previous years, students worked on airfoil design optimization strategies and laminar-flow-compatible high-lift systems. Some of this research resulted in presentations at national AIAA Aviation and SciTech conferences! Learn more about the program here.

DATES: Sunday, May 31st – Saturday, July 25th

Selected participants will receive a $2,500 monthly stipend (June and July) and on-campus housing through the duration of the summer program.

Interested candidates may submit a cover letter and statement of interest by this Friday, March 6th to Sarah Segal, Program Manager of the NASA University Leadership Initiative, for further consideration at ssegal1@utk.edu.

4. Deadlines Approaching for Summer Research Programs

- **Dangremond Museum Studies Internship**, Connecticut Historical Society | **Deadline Mar 6**
- **REU, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technologies**, University of Pittsburgh | **Deadline Mar 13**
- **NSF REU Site: Inspire U2 Program**, Spelman College | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **Grants in Aid of Research Program**, Sigma Xi | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships**, American Society of Plant Biologists | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **Internship**, Louisa County Historical Society | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **Internship**, Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation Project, Jesuit Conference of Canada and US | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **REU, Mote Marine Laboratory** | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **REU in Renewable Energy Generation and Storage**, Binghamton University-SUNY | **Deadline Mar 15**
- **REU, Chemistry**, Northeastern University | **Deadline Mar 16**
- **Call for Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions**, 2020 Conference, American Art Therapy Assn | **Deadline Mar 20**
- **Internship**, Rhode Island Historical Society | **Deadline Mar 30**
5. Research Recruitment for Exploring Sensory Properties of Berries


WHEN: Starting March 2020 to October 2020. For this study, there will be several “session blocks” to participate in. One session block equates to 4 days total (1-2 hours/day commitment). You can participate in as many session blocks as you desire.

WHERE: HABB1 Building, Rm 205 (Corner of Duck Pond Drive and Washington Street. Parking passes are available upon request.)

WHAT WE GET: The purpose of this study is to evaluate sensory properties of berries from different growing regions. This is a Virginia Tech research study, and the results may be published.

WHAT YOU GET: You can enjoy snacks and refreshments after each day. When you complete a full session block, you will receive an Amazon gift card for your time and effort.

ELIGIBILITY: You must be 18 years or older, not allergic to berries, and be available for the full session block.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go here

CONTACT: For more information, contact Dr. Katherine Phetxumphou (foodsensory@vt.edu). This study is supervised by Dr. Jacob Lahne (lahne@vt.edu).

6. Announcing the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

We have an exciting new opportunity for graduating seniors. This year we are introducing the prestigious Undergraduate Research Excellence Award! Winning this award is a great way to showcase your talent in research and get recognized as one of VT’s exceptional undergraduate researchers. Only three (3) awards will be given!

In order to be considered for this award, students must

1. be graduating seniors;
2. complete all requirements of the Undergraduate Research Excellence Program (UREP) by April 1. Learn more about UREP and sign up to join today;
3. register and present their work at the annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference on April 24 (the deadline to apply is April 8; more information available here); and
4. complete the short award application form by April 1.

Award finalists will be selected from the UREP participants and then evaluated at the conference.
7. No OUR Ambassador Office Hours Next Week

OUR Ambassadors will be away on Spring Break next week so there will be no drop-in office hours. Regular office hours will resume on March 16.

Have a great week and enjoy Spring Break next week!

Best,
Keri

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