Hello Hokies! The annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference is on the horizon! This conference is open to all majors. Please apply by April 10 through the portal here if you’d like to present and get recognized for your research. This week’s newsletter features research programs that welcome applications from any discipline, and students who are particularly interested in Weed Management, Agriculture, and related fields. These programs are open to all VT students.

This newsletter also features scholarship and funding opportunities for students interested in Coastal-Zone Studies, Southwest Virginia Watershed Conservation, and Cybersecurity.

This newsletter ends with professional development programs in many areas, topics include Farm Safety, Geology (a weekend field trip), Creativity, Arts, and Innovation (a Smithsonian exhibition), Cultural Heritage and Humanitarian, Student Engagement and Leadership, and Cybersecurity.

Let us know what you think about the newsletter by taking a quick survey at the end of the newsletter! (6.5 minutes read)

In today’s edition:

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1.1 **Office Hours & Survey**
Office hours will be held virtually at this point until further notice. You need to be logged into your VT Zoom account before opening the link. (Personal ID number: 540 231 3580)

The next three office hours will be:

Friday, April 1, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 14, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

We can always be reached at ugr@vt.edu if you need help with undergrad research experience.

2.1 F.I.R.E. Starters Program**

The mission of the F.I.R.E. Starters program is to forge interest, knowledge, and skill development in transdisciplinary research and engagement among underrepresented and underserved undergraduate students in the social sciences, humanities, and life sciences at Virginia Tech. The theme for the inaugural year of the F.I.R.E. Starters program is Environment and Society. Students in all disciplines – especially in the humanities and social sciences – are encouraged to think broadly about how their interests intersect with this theme and how they could advance a research project that builds on their interests.

Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 1, 2022.
2.2 Weed Science Department Seeking Undergraduate Research Assistant**

Assist in weed management field research program. Work will be mostly outside in the field or greenhouse with some lab work. Duties include plot maintenance, herbicide mixing, bottle cleaning, sample collection, sample processing, data entry, transplanting, and other related tasks. Some overnight travel is required (costs will be covered). Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 2, 2022 at 12:00 AM.

3.1 The Center for Coastal Studies Seed Grant Proposals

The program is designed to increase VT's institutional capacity in coastal-zone research, extension and engagement, and education. The goal of the seed grants is to form and foster interdisciplinary groups to address research, extension and engagement, and educational needs to better understand and find innovative solutions for complex contemporary and emerging environmental, societal, security, political, and economic issues in the coastal zone. Click here to learn more about the program.

3.2 New River Conservancy Symposium Scholarships
The New River Conservancy is pleased to announce a limited number of registration scholarships for students wishing to attend the upcoming New River Symposium, April 10 and 11, at the Summit Bechtel Preserve near Glen Jean, WV. Eligibility is limited to college level students who are doing or are planning to do work that would positively impact the West Virginia portion of the New River watershed. For more information contact Dave Bassage, New River Gorge Program Coordinator, New River Conservancy, at dave@newriverconservancy.org.

3.3 Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) Scalable Pilot Programs for Experiential Learning

CCI seeks proposals for experiential learning projects that build on the expertise of the higher education institutions that are members of CCI and extend experiential learning opportunities aligned with CCI to students across the commonwealth. The objective is to enhance students' essential skills to enter the cybersecurity workforce once they finish their current studies; we are particularly interested in projects that expose students to experiences in industry. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 1, 2022, 5p.m. ET.
4.1 Farm Safety Workshops From VT Environmental Health & Safety
The free two-hour training is suitable for anyone (including those external to Virginia Tech) that lives or works on a farm, or simply has an interest in farm safety. The program aims to reduce injuries and fatalities on the farms throughout the New River Valley and far beyond. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

4.2 Biogeochemistry x GeoAllies: Weekend Carbonate Field Trip
In this weekend field trip (April 22 - 24), you will learn how to log sections of sedimentary rocks and to collect invertebrate fossils in the Cambrian and Ordovician carbonates. No previous experience with geology or field work is required. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

4.3 ACCelerate: the ACC and Smithsonian Creativity and Innovation Festival
This event is a celebration of creative exploration and innovative research happening at the intersection of science, engineering, arts and design from across the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and Smithsonian Institution. Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with the leading innovators of creative exploration. Admission is free and open to the public. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.
4.4 Culture in Crisis: Heritage and Humanitarian Collaboration in Emergency Response

This webinar/roundtable event will discuss bridging the gap between the heritage and humanitarian sectors, exploring themes relating to communication, collaboration and the role of heritage in peacebuilding. We will address how the cultural and humanitarian sectors engage in emergency response activities, as well as the routes - and obstacles – to better integration between our fields. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 5, 2022, 02:00 PM in London, UK Time.

4.5 VT Engage Student Leader Application

During the program, leaders will be immersed in learning more about best practices for community engagement, leadership development, and trip coordination while taking a critical look at service and social issues. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 5, 2022.
4.6 Campus Compact Engaged Scholars Initiative

Campus Compact is seeking engaged faculty, staff, and administrators for their 2022-2023 Engaged Scholars initiative. They are accepting nominations for up to 20 participants for their next cohort. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 15, 2022.

4.7 Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Cyber Camp

During the camp you’ll hear from and network with top cybersecurity experts, enhance your cybersecurity skills, and meet students from across Virginia who are as passionate about cybersecurity as you are. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 1, 2022, 5p.m. ET.

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