Hi,

It is hard to believe that this is the last week of classes. We are extremely proud of your resiliency and fortitude to overcome and even excel in this unprecedented academic year. Finish strong!

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

1. OUR Ambassador Office Hours
2. Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference Awards
3. Multidisciplinary undergraduate engineering project supported by Virginia Space Grant Consortium
4. Call for Papers- 2022 ASSA Meeting
5. Call for Papers- Afkar: The Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies
6. Share your experience and thoughts on presenting research virtually
7. National Undergraduate Presentation and Paper Opportunities
8. National Undergraduate Internship and Research Opportunities

1. OUR Ambassador Office Hours

This is the final week for OUR Ambassador Office hours this academic year. If you have questions or need help with any undergraduate research related issues, feel free to drop in via zoom (virginiatech.zoom.us/my/research) to speak directly with one of OUR Ambassadors this Monday 6-7pm, Tuesday 11am-12pm, or Wednesday 8-9am. Ambassadors will resume regular office hours in the Fall.

2. Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference Awards

The quality of research and presentations shared at the Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference on Friday was truly impressive! All presenters should be extremely proud of everything that went into their presentations and their ability to communicate their work to a broad audience.

We had record breaking participation, with 250+ presenters, 120+ presentations, and 120+ attendees who engaged in more than 1700 discussion posts! Videos will remain available for the next couple of weeks, so if you haven't had a chance to explore the projects feel free to do so. In order to access the videos you will need to self-enroll in the conference Canvas site.

I am excited to announce the winners of several awards from the conference:

**Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards**
Sponsored jointly by the Office of Undergraduate Research and University Libraries, the prestigious Undergraduate Research Excellence Award recognizes students who holistically engage in research, as evidenced by completion of the Undergraduate Research Excellence Program (UREP), and are able to effectively communicate their results to a broad audience. This year's winners are:

- Austin Murray, Biochemistry, *Understanding the Roles of Amphipathic Alpha-Helices in Membrane Association and Viral Genomic Replication of Brome Mosaic Virus Protein 1a*
- Tanvi Haldankar, Computer Science, *A Walk Down Memory Lane: Analysis of Memory and Computer Systems From 1995 to Present-Day*
- Nicole Defoor, Experimental Neuroscience, *Under-expression of immune system genes in ovarian tumor samples with a rare mutation in FAM104A*

And we also recognize the following students for special mention:

- Danielle Alms, Biological Sciences, *The effect of Mycoplasma gallisepticum infection on feather quality and maintenance in house finches (Haemorhous mexicanus)*
- Elizabeth Duncan, Statistics, *Differential Expression Analysis and Modeling of T Cell Differentiation Pathways*

### Awards for Adaptive Brain and Behavior Destination Area

Sponsored by ICTAS, this award recognizes research projects dealing with topics relating to the adaptive brain and behavior destination area. This year’s winners are:

**First Place**: Mariam Hasan, Biomedical Engineering, *COVID-19 As Social Murder: An Investigation of Racialized Bodies in America* (Session: Liberal Arts and Human Sciences)

**Second Place**: Nicholas Dunn, Psychology, *ADHD Status and Biological Sex as Predictors or Change in Adolescent Executive Functioning* (Session: Psychology)

**Third Place (tie)**:
- Sarah Carter, International Relations, *America or America? A study of topic-based shifting in US expat in London* (Session: Liberal Arts and Human Sciences)
- Anvitha Metpally, Clinical Neuroscience, *Using a mindful lifestyle intervention to help improve maternal and infant outcomes in obese pregnant women* (Session: Agriculture and Life Sciences)

### Awards for Critical Technologies

Sponsored by ICTAS, this award recognizes research projects dealing with critical technologies. This year’s winners are:

**First Place**: Kathlynn Lewis, Environmental Science, *Carbon Storage in Northern Virginia Grasslands: Effects of Land Management and Plant Diversity* (Session: Agriculture and Life Sciences)

**Second Place**: Christine Faunce, Experimental Neuroscience, *Single Nucleotide P129T Mutation Shows Susceptibility to Problematic Substance Use in Mice* (Session: Science)

**Third Place**: Lauren Duma, Clinical Neuroscience, *Proposed Injury Threshold for Drone Blade Lacerations* (Session: Engineering)
Awards for High School Students

Sponsored by ICTAS, this award recognizes research projects from students who are in high school. This year’s winners are:

First Place: Katerina Leedy, Blacksburg High School, *Differential expression of genes associated with innate immunity in individuals with and without Alpha-gal Syndrome*

Second Place: Brock Duma, Blacksburg High School, *Whitewater Helmet STAR: Evaluating the Biomechanical Performance and Risk of Head Injury for Whitewater Helmets*

Third Place: (tie)
- Eric Xie, Blacksburg High School, *Classification of Neurons by Activation Stages using an Artificial Neural Network*
- Joey Zobel, Blacksburg High School, *Determining Perceptions of Appalachian English among Non-Speakers Living in Appalachian Virginia*

Policy Awardees will be announced in next week’s listserv message. Congratulations to all!

3. Multidisciplinary undergraduate engineering project supported by Virginia Space Grant Consortium

Are you interested in joining a multi-disciplinary systems engineering project that involves all of the following?
- Mechatronics
- Applied Electromagnetics
- Additive Manufacturing / 3D Printing
- Software Defined Radio
- Visual Computing
- Web Development

Example sub-projects include:
- Enhance remote accessibility of the antenna measurement system and visualization of two- and three-dimensional antenna patterns (these represent the antennas’ directional characteristics)
- Increase accuracy of the antenna pattern measurements using radio frequency absorber and digital signal processing techniques
- Improve design of an antenna positioner to enable 3-D antenna pattern measurements
- Reduce cost of antenna measurement system by modifying and testing code for use with low-cost software defined radio hardware
- Learn about antennas, antenna arrays, and direction-finding
- 3-D print simulated and measured antenna patterns
- Develop an interactive simulation of an antenna array design
Develop an interactive simulation that lets users devise and code an algorithm for locating a transmitter based on data from directional antennas and arrays.

If you would like to join the project team, please send a resume to Carl Dietrich at cdietric@vt.edu. Also please indicate which disciplines and sub-projects interest you most, and how you prefer to contribute (as a volunteer, for course credit, or as a paid researcher).

4. Call for Papers: 2022 ASSA Meeting

The American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), the Health Economics Research Organization (HERO), and the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) are soliciting papers for presentation at the 2022 Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) annual meeting to be held in Boston, MA from January 7-9, 2022 (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday).

ASHEcon seeks abstracts on topics related to US-focused health economics topics, HERO seeks abstracts on all issues of relevance to the health economics field, and iHEA seeks abstracts for sessions that will focus primarily on internationally relevant topics in health economics.

Please submit abstracts by May 3, 2021.

More information and submission instructions available HERE.

5. Call for Papers- Afkar: The Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies

Afkar is an international, peer-reviewed, and student-run academic journal focusing on the study of politics, history, culture, and society in the Middle East and North Africa. The journal offers undergraduate students an interdisciplinary platform to publish their academic work and welcomes manuscripts from a wide range of fields within the humanities and social sciences, including history, political science, anthropology, sociology, gender studies, literature, art history, religious studies, and geography.

Submissions are now being accepted for the journal's third edition. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2021.

More information available HERE.
6. Share your experience and thoughts on presenting research virtually

Have you or will you soon present results of your research, creative, or scholarly work at a student symposium? We are particularly interested in hearing from any student that presented at one of the many virtual conferences that are being organized and run during the Era of COVID-19.

Survey Link: survey.fgcu.edu/Learning-from-Presenting.aspx

This project started at the 2018 CUR Biennial when Linda Blockus from the University of Missouri brought together a group of people into a CUR Dialogical Working Group to explore what (if any) learning gains students experienced after presenting their research at a conference or student symposium. The dialogical was extremely fruitful. We first identified possible learning gains that students might be expected to gain from the experience (e.g., communicating with a general versus specialized audience; defending an idea, and processing criticism) as well as a survey instrument to assess what students may learn, which has received IRB approval (FGCU Protocol ID# 2019-60).

The survey takes approximately 5 - 15 minutes to complete.

7. National Undergraduate Presentation and Paper Opportunities

Please note that this list is constantly being updated as new opportunities become available and is presented by deadline and not in order of receipt.

NOTE: A "call" is academic-speak for an invitation to submit your work to be considered for presentation at a conference or in a journal or maybe for some kind of competition. So, a "call for papers" means that a professional organization or similar body is asking people to submit original, scholarly articles for review and consideration for a publication (www.quora.com). An "abstract" is a short summary of a research project so a "call for abstracts" usually implies that you will be submitting a short summary of your research project in order to be considered as a presenter at a conference.

- **Call for Abstracts**, The Wildlife Society’s 28TH Annual Conference | Deadline May 14, 2021
- **Call for Poster Abstracts**, Inaugural Scientific Meeting, Glut1 Deficiency Foundation | Deadline May 15, 2021
- **Call for Proposals**, Information+ Conference 2021: Interdisciplinary practices in information design & visualization | Deadline May 15, 2021
- **Call for Papers**, “Special Forum: Undergraduate Perspectives on Feminism”; Journal of Feminist Scholarship | Deadline May 15, 2021
- **Raymond J. Cunningham Prize**, American Historical Assn (for best article published in a journal written by an undergraduate student) | Deadline May 15, 2021
• **Call for Abstracts**, Student Poster Contest, American Center for Life Cycle Assessment 2021 Conference | **Deadline May 24, 2021**

• **Call for Papers**, Journal of Student Research | **Deadline May 31, 2021**

• **Call for Papers**, *Afkar: The Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies* | **Deadline June 1, 2021**

• **Twenty-First Annual Steel Design Student Competition**, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture | **Deadline June 2, 2021**

• **Call for Papers**, *Mystērion: The Theology Journal of Boston College* | **Deadline June 15, 2021**


• **Call for Papers**: *Cura Terra: Georgetown's Undergraduate Journal of the Environment* | **Submissions accepted on a rolling basis**

• **CUR's online catalog of undergraduate research journals** | Various deadlines

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**8. National Undergraduate Internship and Research Opportunities**

*Please note that this list is constantly being updated as new opportunities become available and is presented by deadline and not in order of receipt.*

Many of the programs listed are “REUs”. An REU is a Research Experience for Undergraduates, which is typically funded by the National Science Foundation and offered at a college or university, with research centered around a central theme or research area.

• **The Markey STRONG Scholars Program** | **Deadline May 3, 2021**

• **Remote Summer Internships for Underrepresented Undergraduates**, Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program, Vincent Price Art Museum | **Deadline May 7, 2021**

• **REU** in Advanced Secured Sensor Enabling Technologies, Florida International University | **Deadline May 10, 2021**

• **Fall 2021 Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) Program**, US Dept of Energy | **Deadline May 27, 2021**

• **Archives and Curatorial Internships, Phillips Collection** | No deadline listed

• Summer REU at University of Iowa: **Computing for Health and Well-being** | **Rolling review of applications**

• **Biomedical Research Internships**- catalog of 260 biomedical research internship opportunities offered nationwide, compiled by Fred Hutch | **Various deadlines**

• **Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities in the Arts and Humanities- sortable database** | Various deadlines
• **Pathways to Science Summer Research Programs** | Various deadlines

• **2021 Summer Internships**, Transportation Security Laboratory, US Dept of Homeland Security | No application deadline listed

• List of more than 300 [NSF REU sites](#) across the country with links | Various deadlines

Have a great week and good luck with finals! Be Committed. Be well.

Best,
Keri

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