Hi,

Wow! It’s hard to believe that classes resume next week! I hope you had a restful and rejuvenating summer.

This is the first of our new monthly newsletters from the Office of Undergraduate Research, specially geared towards faculty, staff, and graduate students who mentor undergraduates in research. Here we will share information and resources to support your work. This newsletter will be archived on our website for future reference. Please feel free to share this with others who might benefit from the contents and invite them to join the listserv by signing up here.

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

1. Undergraduate Research Resources for Mentors
2. Federal work study
3. Call for Proposals: Undergraduate Research Faculty Grants
4. OUR is Seeking Student Ambassadors
5. Call for Abstracts: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Symposium 2021
6. Invitation for students to participate in Research Study on Undergraduate Research Mentoring
7. National Undergraduate Presentation and Paper Opportunities
8. National Undergraduate Internship and Research Opportunities

1. Undergraduate Research Resources for Mentors
The Office of Undergraduate Research has resumed normal in-person operations. You can find us in Burruss Hall, Suite 104. And we can always be reached via email at UGR@vt.edu.

All services of the OUR are free of charge and available to faculty and students from any disciplinary area at Virginia Tech. OUR website has a wealth of resources to support you and your students at any stage in their undergraduate research journey. Two pages of particular relevance:

Services for Faculty- advertising a research opportunity, reserving poster stands, programming for summer researchers, presentation request, planning a summer research program, proposal support, and information on our annual mentoring workshop;
Resources for Faculty- undergraduate research policies at VT, administering fellowships, training and compliance guidelines, and employing a federal work study student, etc.

We also have a number of services available for students, including research training, scholarship and fellowship opportunities, poster printing, conference travel support funds, the Undergraduate Research Excellence Program, and peer mentoring through OUR Ambassadors. OUR Ambassadors work directly with students in a mentoring and advising capacity. They offer regular drop-in office hours when classes are in session. The schedule for office hours is available on the Ambassador webpage. Ambassadors are also available to visit classes to provide information about undergraduate research at VT.
We are always looking for ways to better serve our faculty and students, so please reach out to Keri Swaby, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, with any questions, requests for support, or suggestions; email: kswaby@vt.edu.

2. Federal Workstudy
Did you know that you can hire eligible students to engage in undergraduate research activities through the federal work study (FWS) program? If a student qualifies for financial aid they are eligible and can be hired to be paid by you and the federal government, typically in a 25:75 ratio, respectively. Departments are encouraged to post their available FWS positions on Handshake.

For more information, please visit the webpage from Virginia Tech's Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid or contact them via email at finaid@vt.edu.

3. Call for Proposals: Undergraduate Research Faculty Grant Program
The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research is to foster an undergraduate research community that promotes, enhances, and expands undergraduate research opportunities for all students at Virginia Tech. Our vision is to provide undergraduate research opportunities for all students, in all fields of study, beginning their first year through a capstone experience.

The goals of the Undergraduate Research Faculty Grant Program are to:
1. Increase student access to genuine undergraduate research opportunities, and
2. To widen the breadth of opportunities and participation across majors.

This year, the Undergraduate Research Faculty Grant Program will provide a handful of grants of up to $10,000 to individual faculty, teams of faculty, or departments, to facilitate the development or support of novel programs that aim to scale and increase access to undergraduate research opportunities for VT students. Proposals are now being accepted through October 1 at 5pm, with awards being announced by November 1, to fund projects that must be completed within FY22 (by June 30, 2022). More information about the program and application is available online.

Apply HERE.

Please email Keri Swaby at kswaby@vt.edu with any questions.
4. OUR is Seeking Student Ambassadors
Do you have an exceptional and passionate undergraduate researcher working with you? The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is accepting rolling applications to the OUR student Ambassador Program. Students from ANY discipline are encouraged to apply. OUR Ambassadors are the “face” of the office, representing the office at-large, advising and guiding students interested in research, and disseminating information about undergraduate research, the OUR, and the services we offer. This is a voluntary position with no financial compensation. Applicants must have prior research experience (in ANY field) to be considered for this role. Please direct interested students to application information found HERE.

Questions about the Ambassador Program or application process? Contact Nicole Bottass (nicoleje@vt.edu).

5. Call for Abstracts: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Symposium 2021
Do you have a student who participated in an NSF funded summer research program (REU)? You are invited to submit an abstract to have your student present at the annual Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Symposium 2021, being held October 24-25, 2021 in Alexandria, VA.

This symposium features lightning talk presentations by students from Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs (REUs) in all disciplines funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), a practical skills workshop for students, and networking opportunities for students, REU administrators, and faculty, including opportunities to meet with representatives from NSF.

Submit Your Abstract
A mentor or PI should complete the submission for their student(s).

Students will have the opportunity to:
- Participate in a practical skills workshop
- Network with peers and faculty with similar research interests and professional goals
- Present their research via a lightning talk to program officers, faculty members, and each other

Faculty will have the opportunity to:
- Schedule meetings with NSF program officers
- Network with peers with similar research interests and professional goals
- Support student researchers from your institution and others as they present and attend the program

Learn more about the conference and review the tentative schedule HERE.
6. Invitation for students to participate in Research Study on Undergraduate Research Mentoring
Please consider sharing with relevant students....

We are inviting students to join the Mentoring in Undergraduate Research Study (MURS). **We are studying the quality of mentoring that undergraduate science researchers experience.** Students must be 18+ years old and **starting undergraduate research this fall for the first time.**

As a valued member of this group, we will ask students to respond to two surveys this fall: one now and one at the end of the fall. We anticipate that it will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the first survey and approximately 20 minutes to complete the second survey. In exchange for student’s time, we will give a $10 gift card for the first survey and $15 for the second survey, to the student’s choice of Amazon or Starbucks. To ensure that responses are useful, it is critical that students respond to **both surveys.**

Ultimately, our goal is to use the study results to improve the research mentoring experiences for future students. Although we don’t anticipate that students will benefit directly by participating in this study, participation could help improve the effectiveness of undergraduate research experiences for future students.

To participate, please click here: [https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHBmzapm9tw1pJQ](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHBmzapm9tw1pJQ) If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to email us at MURStudy@uga.edu and one of us will personally respond to you. Thanks for taking the time to share your experiences to improve mentorship of undergraduate researchers!

Erin Dolan, Professor (eldolan@uga.edu) Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Riley Hess, Graduate Researcher (riley.hess@uga.edu) Industrial-Organizational Psychology
On behalf of the Mentoring in Undergraduate Research Study Team (MURStudy@uga.edu)

7. National Undergraduate Presentation and Paper Opportunities

- **Call for Abstracts**, "Justice & Equity: The Future of Health Education," Virtual Annual Conference, North Carolina Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education | **Deadline August 20, 2021**
- **Call for Abstracts**, "Bridging the Gap: Research Networks for Positive Change in Appalachia," 2021 Virtual Health Summit, Appalachian Translational Research Network (student submissions encouraged) | **Deadline August 20, 2021**
- **Call for Abstracts**, Second Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Virtual Symposium, Iowa Water Center | **Deadline August 27, 2021**
Call for Abstracts, Virtual Pop-Up Conference on Popular Culture, Lone Star College–University Park | Deadline August 29, 2021

Call for Abstracts, "Home Economics: Soaring toward Sustainable Development," 2022 World Congress International Federation for Home Economics | Deadline August 31, 2021

Call for Poster Abstracts, Virtual Conference, Black Doctoral Network (open to undergrads from all disciplines and all ethnic/racial backgrounds) | Deadline August 31, 2021

Call for Poster Abstracts, 2021 Virtual Conference, International Center for Responsible Gaming | Deadline September 1, 2021

Call for Abstracts, Virtual 2021 Symposium on Substance Use Research, UNL Rural Drug Addiction Research Center/COBRE on Opioids and Overdose–WVCTSI/WV-INBRE | Deadline September 1, 2021

Call for Abstracts, “Medieval Global Encounters” and “Race and Medieval Studies,” 31st Annual Conference, Texas Medieval Assn | Deadline September 1, 2021

Call for Poster Abstracts, 2021 West Virginia Rural Health Conference, West Virginia Rural Health Assn | Deadline September 3, 2021

Call for Papers, "The Role of the Arctic in International Relations and International Cooperation," Global Affairs Review | Deadline September 3, 2021

Call for Posters, "Emerging Approaches to Omics Questions: Data Science for the 21st Century," Sixth Annual MidAtlantic Bioinformatics Virtual Conference | Deadline September 8, 2021

Call for Abstracts, Conference on Digital Experimentation, MIT | Deadline September 15, 2021

Call for Proposals, “Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place” Conference, University of Waterloo | Deadline September 30, 2021

Call for Proposals, International Academic Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals, Utah Valley University | Deadline November 1, 2021

Call for Abstracts, April 2022 Technical Meeting, Rubber Division, American Chemical Society | Deadline November 6, 2021

Call for Proposals; “Literary Geographies: Space, Place, and Environments”; Conference on Christianity and Literature, Biola University | Deadline November 15, 2021

8. National Undergraduate Internship and Research Opportunities

- Internship, Office of Equity and Human Rights, City of Iowa City | Deadline August 16, 2021
- Spring 2022 Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI), US Dept of Energy | Deadline October 6, 2021
- Various internships, US Environmental Protection Agency | Summer and fall deadlines
- Visiting Scientist Program, Counterterrorism, and Forensic Science Research Unit, FBI | Applications reviewed on a rolling basis
- Various Fall Internships, American Civil Liberties Union | Applications considered on a rolling basis

Thanks for your support of our undergraduate researchers! Please let us know if you would like us to provide information about specific topics or if you have items to add to a future newsletter.
Best,

Keri

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