Hi!

Welcome back! We hope you had a good summer despite the continued uncertainties related to the pandemic. The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is committed to helping you engage in undergraduate research safely and responsibly. Through our newsletter we will continue to share opportunities for training, research, funding, presenting, and anything else relevant to your undergraduate research journey.

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

1. Undergraduate Research at VT this Fall
2. OUR Operations
3. Ambassador Office Hours
4. Visual Arts Fellowship 2021-22
5. Undergraduate Research Excellence Program
6. Submit your work to Undergraduate Research Journal
7. Mark your calendars - Majors Fair on Sept 28-Oct 1

1. Undergraduate Research at VT this Fall
Individual and community health and safety remain the highest priority as the university prepares for fall instruction. Among possible face-to-face learning opportunities, undergraduate research has the potential for students to participate in hands-on learning in environments that have always required compliance with state, federal, and institutional safety regulations. This plan establishes the conditions under which undergraduates can return to conduct research during the fall 2020 semester. Central to this plan is the new mandatory Student and Supervisor 2020-2021 UR Agreement (link to the form will be posted on the OUR homepage ASAP). Students are required to initiate and sign the form, which will then forward to the research supervisor for signature. This form will be in addition to any college level forms required for students wishing to register for undergraduate research credit hours. These requirements apply to ALL Virginia Tech undergraduate students who will be conducting face-to-face research, whether for credit, for pay, or as volunteers and align with the existing requirements that were approved for Fall teaching labs as well as the research requirements established by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI). Failure to complete the UR Agreement will prohibit students from engaging in in-person research activities and can result in students being dropped from research courses.

2. OUR Operations
The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) will be operating virtually throughout the Fall. But just because we aren’t available in person doesn’t mean that we aren’t available to help you. We can be reached by email at undergraduateresearch@vt.edu.

Answers to many questions can be found on our website. Some helpful pages to get you started include:
- Welcome to the OUR
- Getting Started
- Research Opportunities
3. OUR Ambassador Office Hours
OUR Ambassadors are available to work with you one-on-one but have moved their daily office hours online. Meet the ambassadors and learn about their drop-in office hours or how to connect with them directly via email on their webpage. Beginning August 31, office hours will be held via zoom (zoom link to be posted soon):
   - Mondays 6-7pm
   - Tuesdays 4-5pm
   - Wednesdays 9-10am
   - Thursdays 3-4pm
   - Fridays 10-11am

4. Visual Arts Fellowship 2021-22
The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship Program is a vital source of funding for the visual arts and art history in Virginia. VMFA is committed to supporting professional artists as well as art and art history students who demonstrate exceptional creative ability in their chosen discipline and, as such, has awarded nearly $5.8 million in Fellowships to Virginians.

Fellowship Application Deadline: November 6, 2020

Learn more and review the eligibility requirements and application details HERE.

5. Undergraduate Research Excellence Program
It's never too early to join the Undergraduate Research Excellence Program (UREP) and get recognized for your engagement in undergraduate research. The program is open to any student, from any major, at any time in their academic career. This multi-tiered program allows students to track their journey through undergraduate research, from training and engaging to disseminating and reflecting, and receive recognition at graduation with a specially designed cord! Learn more and sign up to join the program online.

6. Submit your work to Undergraduate Research Journal
Undergraduate Research journal invites students to submit their undergraduate work TODAY!

PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 1st, 2020
Main Website: http://undergraduateresearch.org

Papers will be published in Undergraduate Research, Vol. 1(1), Winter 2020-2021. Undergraduate Research is a national double-blind, educator-reviewed print and electronic journal published annually in the Winter. The journal is a forum for multidisciplinary undergraduate research and creative endeavors within higher education. The journal follows the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) strategic pillars for undergraduate research and creative endeavors.
Debuting in Winter 2020, *Undergraduate Research* publishes research and creative endeavors from undergraduate students enrolled in institutions of higher education from across the United States. This journal highlights the best of mentored undergraduate scholarly products across all disciplines from all types of higher education institutions.

Submission Guidelines: [https://undergraduateresearch.org/submission-guidelines](https://undergraduateresearch.org/submission-guidelines)

Please submit your papers here: [https://undergraduateresearch.scholasticahq.com/](https://undergraduateresearch.scholasticahq.com/)

7. Mark your calendars- Majors Fair on Sept 28-Oct 1
The offices of SGA and Academic Advising Initiatives are gearing up for Virtual Majors Fair being held September 28-October 1. Majors Fair is a great opportunity for you to learn about the various majors and minors available at Virginia Tech, as well as introduce you to some co-curricular opportunities. Each day will have time allotted for majors/programs within the various colleges. Virtual Majors Fair will be live so you can attend sessions that interest you, as well as recorded for future accessibility.

The final day, October 1 from 10:00-11:40, is reserved for special programs – Pre-Education Advising, Career and Professional Development, Global Education, Student Success Center, *Undergraduate Research*, and SGA. Each office will have approximately 15 minutes to share information and answer questions. **Drop in to speak with the Office of Undergraduate Research and ask questions between 10:35 and 10:50.**

Get more information about the Majors Fair and register to attend at [www.advising.vt.edu/majors-fair](http://www.advising.vt.edu/majors-fair).

Enjoy your first week back! And remember... **Be Committed. Be well.**

Best,
Keri

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