Hi!

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

1. **The OUR is now on Hokie Mentorship Connect!**
   The Office of Undergraduate Research's discussion board group aims to connect students with VT alumni working in research fields. We believe it will benefit the current undergraduates' research career if they are given the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and engage with VT alums who are able to impart their wisdom. This is a great way to connect and network with alumni. Feel free to ask questions, post content, and respond to posts.

2. **VT's Virtual Majors Fair is happening THIS week**
   Are you interested in learning more about majors and special programs at Virginia Tech? Attend VT’s Virtual Majors Fair! The fair will take place on Zoom from today, September 28th, through Thursday, October 1st. To see a list of majors, view the schedule of events and to register, visit Majors Fair website. The OUR will be there so drop in to learn more about the Office and undergraduate research at VT and ask questions- Thursday, Oct 1, between 10:35 and 10:50 am.

3. **Present Your Research Virtually at the Sigma Xi 2020 Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference**
   You are invited to submit an abstract to present your research at the Virtual Sigma Xi 2020 Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference, November 5-8, 2020.

   This multi-track, dynamic, and engaging online event features:
   - presentations by world-renowned scientists, engineers, and artists about the integration of arts and humanities in science and engineering
   - sessions on professional development and research ethics,
   - multidisciplinary poster and oral presentations by high school, undergraduate, and graduate students from schools, colleges, and universities worldwide,
Networking events for students to engage with colleges and graduate schools and explore higher education and career options, and
- a virtual festival of STEM art and film

Poster Presentations Abstract Deadline: October 1, 2020
If you have any questions, please contact the event organizers at meetings@sigmaxi.org
For more information: www.sigmaxi.org/src
The registration for students is only $75, and this is an INTERNATIONAL conference—which looks great on a resume!

4. Participate in the national Undergraduate Research Exchange on Twitter
The Undergraduate Research (UR) Exchange will take place on Twitter on Thursday, November 12, 2020, from noon to 5 PM ET.

Fact #1: Not being able to celebrate your research successes in-person is disappointing!
Fact #2: The Council on Undergraduate Research’s (CUR’s) UR Exchange can’t solve everything, but it can provide an outlet to celebrate yourself, your mentors, connect with others, and more.

CUR is encouraging all students to showcase through short video clips, posters, posts, and more:
- Undergraduate research experiences
- Personal impact of COVID on their research
- Experience with virtual undergraduate research
- Results or hard work towards research goals accomplished this year
- Thoughts for newly elected officials to know about undergraduate research
- Thanks to your mentors, faculty, or institutions
- And much more

There is no limit on what and how you can share. Our purpose is to flood Twitter using the hashtag #URExchange with all things undergraduate research related.

Download the How to Participate: Which Role Will You Play? guide to see how you can join in on November 12 as we take over Twitter using #URExchange.

5. 2020 Virginia Academy of Science Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting (repeat listing)
The 2020 Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting is taking place virtually on Saturday, November 7, 2020, between ~9 am – ~5 pm. The deadline for electronic submission of 2020 Undergraduate Research Grant Applications is October 1, 2020.

The VAS Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting is a research grant proposal competition, which has been held annually since the Fall of 2001. In order to participate in this meeting, undergraduate students, in conjunction with their faculty mentors, are required to:

(1) Prepare and submit an Undergraduate Research Grant Application by the October 1 deadline.
(2) Develop posters outlining the proposed research (following the criteria of the Fall Meeting Poster Guidelines) and present their posters (online/virtually) at the Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting on November 7.

**NOTE:** Both the Research Grant Applications and the Poster Presentations will be evaluated to determine the recipients of the research grants.

Five Undergraduate Research Grant Awards of $500 each will be awarded to selected recipients at the end of this meeting. The grant award recipients will also be awarded student membership in the Virginia Academy of Science for 2021 and will be expected to present the results of their research at the 2021 VAS Annual Meeting in May at James Madison University.

Below is the link for the online Undergraduate Research Application for 2020. This link is also available on the VAS website (via Meetings > Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting > Fall Undergraduate Research Grant Application).

https://vacadsci.org/vas-meetings/fall-undergraduate-research-meeting/grant-application-forms/

**6. Apply to Present your Research- Virtual Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium (repeat listing)**

Rice University is hosting the Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium (GCURS) for the 12th year in a row and would like to invite interested students to apply at gcursapply.rice.edu. This year, the symposium will be on Saturday, Oct. 31 and will be held entirely virtually!

We’re not your usual poster session. In fact, no posters are allowed at GCURS! GCURS provides undergraduate researchers the opportunity to present original research discoveries to scholars from around the world. Participants give 10-to-15 minute individual presentations which include a question-and-answer period. Following the presentations, faculty mentors provide feedback to each student. Past participants have shared that GCURS helps to foster interdisciplinary, intercollegiate fellowship. Here is a video overview of the symposium - it’s high-energy, exciting and the students get a lot of value out of it.

The application is now open and the deadline is Oct. 5.
7. Webinar: How to Survive and Thrive in the Psychology Graduate Application Process
The University of Chicago Psychology department will hold a webinar entitled "Psychology @ UChicago: How to Survive and Thrive in the Psychology Graduate Application Process 2020 edition" on the process of applying to graduate programs on Thursday, October 22 at 4pm (Chicago time zone). We will provide information on how to write a good application generally and also specific info about the UChicago program. All students interested in applying to PhD programs in Psychology or related fields are welcome. You must register to attend, but there is no charge. Webinar link

8. Virtual workshops for undergraduate students interested in Graduate School
At the Van Andel Institute Graduate School, we recognize that everyone has been impacted by COVID-19 in some way. We also recognize that for students, this continues to present many different questions about what actions to take, especially when it comes to applying for graduate school. You are invited to attend these two upcoming virtual workshops:

What can you do with a biomedical PhD? on Wednesday, October 14 at 3:30pm EST
Learn more about the career options available to you if you get a biomedical PhD from those who have done it!
To register for this workshop, go to zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oxx37e1FQ1SKqR2fleyAA

Helpful tips for applying to a PhD program on Thursday, November 19 at 5:30pm EST
If you are working on your graduate school application for a PhD program and you have questions, this webinar is for you! Get advice on writing you personal statement, who to ask to write your letters of recommendation, and more!
To register for this workshop, go to zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0IkoXsSNSsepBiFDZQ9KcA

9. National Undergraduate Research Opportunities- Funding, Presentations, etc (by deadline)
- Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute | Deadline October 1
- 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference, Sigma Xi | Deadline [poster presentation abstract] October 1
- Grants in Aid of Research Program, Sigma Xi | Deadline October 1
- Virtual Transnational Literature and Writing Conference | Deadline October 14
- Grants (maximum $1,000 ea.) from the American Psychology-Law Society for undergraduate empirical research addressing psycholegal issues | Deadline October 15
- Photo Contest, ArcticNet | Deadline October 23
- Publication Grants, Textbook and Academic Authors Assn | Deadline October 31
• **Call for Submissions**, *Undergraduate Journal of Service Learning and Community-Based Research* for a special issue, Service Learning and Community-Based Research in a Time of Disruption | **Deadline November 24**

• “Pitch It to Win It,” Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Undergraduate Student Competition, American Assn of Textile Chemists and Colorists | **Deadline January 26, 2021**

• **2021 RASC-AL Competition**, National Institute of Aerospace | **Deadline March 4, 2021**

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

Have a good week. **Be Committed. Be well.**

Best,
Keri

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