Hi!

Happy New Year from the Office of Undergraduate Research! We hope you are enjoying your break and wish you a positive and exciting research-filled 2020! Here’s what’s included in our newsletter this week:

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1. OUR Ambassador Office Hours

OUR Ambassador office hours will resume in January when classes are in session. The schedule will be soon be posted on the Ambassador webpage. In the meantime, you can always find resources and answers to most questions on our website.

2. Apply today: Summer Research Programs

a) Columbia Business School Summer Research Internship Program
Columbia Business School seeks applicants for the 2020 Summer Research Internship Program. This highly selective program provides interns an opportunity to work with Columbia Business School’s faculty on a research project in finance, economics, marketing, management, decision sciences, operations, accounting, or data analytics.

Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, most interns generally work on one research project. The work may include literature reviews, data collection and cleaning, web scraping, statistical analysis, and in some cases, contribution to a final publication. Behavioral interns may be staffed on multiple projects: conducting literature reviews, coding data, performing statistical analyses, and running experiments with the Behavioral Research lab. All interns will present their final results to faculty at the end of the project.

The program will run from June 1, 2020 through August 1, 2020 (final dates TBD). On-campus housing and a stipend will be provided.
This is a multi-disciplinary program and candidates from all backgrounds, including business, statistics, mathematics, engineering, computer science, the physical sciences, and the social and behavioral sciences, are encouraged to apply. We are especially interested in applicants who are underrepresented minorities.

Prospective interns should demonstrate an enthusiasm for research and intellectual curiosity. They are expected to have excellent communication skills, basic knowledge of statistics and/or econometrics, and familiarity with statistical and computational software packages (e.g., Matlab, R, STATA, SPSS) and scripting languages such as Python or R. Candidates interested in working with behavioral researchers should have experience conducting experiments and coding data.

For more information about the Summer Internship Program and to apply, please fill out the application form at the following website: https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/programs/pre-doctoral-research/summer-research-internship.

**The Application Deadline is 11:59pm EST on March 1, 2020.** We encourage you to apply early as applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The application process is highly competitive, only qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview. For further information or questions, please email summerintern@gsb.columbia.edu.

b) Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) Summer Research Internship

The 2020 Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) Summer Research Internship is seeking participants for its program, which will take place May 24-July 31, 2020 on the campus of Virginia Tech.

There are a variety of research areas provided in which undergraduates can participate. Interns will be provided with a stipend of $3000, GRE classes each week, on-campus housing, a meal plan, workshops on graduate education and research, an off-campus retreat, and luncheons.

The program is open to ALL U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents, who will continue their undergraduate studies in the Fall of 2020.

To learn more and apply, go to http://maop.vt.edu/Undergraduate_programs/summer_research.html.

**Deadline: February 21, 2020.**

c) Summer 2020 Undergraduate REU Research on Chesapeake Bay

Are you looking for a summer research internship studying ocean, coastal or environmental science? Check out the Maryland Sea Grant Summer REU program! They bring upper-level undergraduate students to the Chesapeake Bay to conduct individual research projects with a scientist-mentor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. They select undergrads in many disciplines, including engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, ecology and marine and environmental science.
Each REU fellow will receive:
$6,000 stipend
Free housing at your research lab
Round-trip travel expenses

In particular, they encourage students to apply from colleges and universities where access to marine science and to research opportunities is limited and who are from groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math. They believe bringing together students from many disciplines, backgrounds and parts of the country makes for a more interesting and educational summer experience.

Join them for the **12-week program from May 17 to August 9, 2020**. Applications are being accepted through **February 14**. Please visit the program website to find out more ([www.mdsg.umd.edu/reu](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/reu)) or send an email to reu@mdsg.umd.edu.

d) Summer Research Opportunity at National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s [National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)](http://www.nist.gov) is seeking enthusiastic undergraduate students to apply to the agency’s premier Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program at the Boulder, CO and Gaithersburg, MD locations. Since 1993, SURF students from across the country have had the opportunity to gain valuable, hands-on experience, working with cutting edge technology in one of the world’s leading research organizations and home to three Nobel Prize winners.

The mission of the SURF Program is to inspire undergraduate students to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) through a unique research experience that supports the NIST mission.

As SURF participant, you can expect to train under the mentorship of international known NIST scientists and engineers, acquire lifelong leadership and analytical skills, build professional networks, and learn about a career in public service. During the 11-week appointment, you will receive a stipend and may be eligible for housing and travel allowances. You will also gain insight on how NIST improves our quality of life through the advancement of measurement science, standards, and technology.

Prospective applicants must apply for acceptance into the SURF Program on USAJobs.Gov ([Search SURF Boulder](https://www.usajobs.gov/00001/search? terms=SURF Boulder) or [SURF Gaithersburg](https://www.usajobs.gov/00001/search? terms=SURF Gaithersburg)). The announcement will close on February 3, 2020 at 11:59 PM (Eastern time) or when we have received the application limit which may be sooner than the closing date. Thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the on-line application and supporting documents ahead of the announcement closing date.

To learn more about the program, visit [https://www.nist.gov/surf](https://www.nist.gov/surf). Questions should be directed to Brandi Toliver, Ph.D., Senior Academic Program Manager at [brandi.toliver@nist.gov](mailto:brandi.toliver@nist.gov).

e) Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program
The Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF) is a 10-week training program designed to give motivated Virginia Tech undergraduates the opportunity to engage in full-time (~40 hrs/week) research and related professional development activities that mirror graduate training.

The goal is to offer students experiences that will help them determine if they want to pursue a career in research while they develop skills for graduate school. The program includes weekly research and professional development seminars, periodic social events, and a final symposium during which students will present their research. 15 students will be selected to participate in the training program during summer 2020 and receive a $4000 stipend. **Only open to Virginia Tech students. Learn more and apply here.** Please note that you must secure a VT faculty research mentor before you apply. Application deadline: February 24, 2020 at noon.

**f) BIT SURE Research Experience for Undergraduates at North Carolina State University**

Applications are now being accepted to the NSF BIT SURE Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Summer 2020. Hosted by North Carolina State University, this 10-week program focuses on advanced sequencing tools that are transforming the way biologists conduct research and inclusive science. Participants learn about sequencing techniques, prepare samples in the lab, and participate in professional development opportunities and site visits. A series of workshops and service-learning opportunities promote diversity in science and learning.

Program alumni prepared this short video describing the program: [youtu.be/Gi1IW_bRqS4](https://youtu.be/Gi1IW_bRqS4)

BIT SURE participants receive a stipend, housing, and a food allowance.

The application is available online at: [go.ncsu.edu/BITSURE](https://go.ncsu.edu/BITSURE)

The deadline to apply is **February 14th, 2020.**

**g) Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research Scholars Program at VT**

The Translational Obesity Undergraduate Research Scholars (TOUR-Scholars) Program, a research-intensive summer experience, prepares students for graduate and medical education in translational obesity research.

TOUR-Scholars are matched with a faculty mentor working across the obesity translational spectrum. Ten undergraduate students from departments across Virginia Tech, including at least one student from an accredited institution outside of the university, will be chosen to participate. Each student receives a $5250 stipend.

TOUR-Scholars are funded by an NIH R25 Research Education Grant and are under the umbrella of the [Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors](https://ctrhb.org/).

Learn more and apply on the [program website](https://www.vt.edu/research/obesity-research-center/undergraduate-research-scholars.html). Application deadline: **January 20.**
h) Confluence of Water and Society summer USDA-REEU program

Applications are now being accepted to the third year of the “Confluence of Water and Society” summer USDA-REEU program! This is an opportunity to engage in truly interdisciplinary team research focused on water resource sustainability guided by a team of faculty mentors representing disciplines ranging from engineering to biology to education to sociology. Compensation for this nine-week program includes room, board, and a $500/week stipend. Details, pictures, past program participant projects, requirements, application form, etc are available here: https://vtconfluence-reeu.weebly.com/

Applications due February 15th!

3. Present Your Research and Creative Scholarship

a) Communicating Science Conference VT 2020

ComSciCon at Virginia Tech is a science communication conference put on by graduate students, for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. We are a franchise of the National ComSciCon, which has been held annually at Harvard University since 2013. This year the Communicating Science 2020-Virginia Tech Conference, or ComSciCon at Virginia Tech, will be held on February 27-28, 2020.

Our goal with this conference is to help students in the Virginia Tech community with the writing and communication skills they need for their careers. When researchers cannot communicate their scientific findings to wider audiences, important research is confined to scientific communities and unable to affect important areas such as public opinion and policy change. Learn more about the conference and how to get involved here.

b) ACC Meeting of the Minds

The 15th annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference will be held on March 20-22, 2020 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This conference, funded in-part by football championship dollars, focuses on excellence in undergraduate research and creative scholarship at the 15 ACC member schools and represents the power and synergy that can exist between athletics and academics.

This year, each ACC school will select five exceptional representatives from diverse research areas to attend the ACC MOM conference. Successful applicants receive full support for travel and accommodations. Interested? Learn more about the application process and apply to present here. The application deadline is January 29, 2020 at noon. Please note that this conference only allows one student presenter per project.

If you have questions, please contact Keri Swaby (email: kswaby@vt.edu).

c) VT's Annual Research Conference

The annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship conference will take place throughout the day on Friday, April 24 in the Newman Library. This free conference is designed to be an
accessible and open opportunity for students to present and share their work with peers and the VT Community at large. Presentation formats will include printed posters, interactive digital posters (primary geared towards digital humanities), orals, performances, and installations. More information about the conference, including a student registration link is available online. The registration deadline is April 8, 2020 at noon.

4. Associate Editor Applications Open for UReCA: the NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

UReCA: the NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, is growing quickly and they are now looking to hire new honors students from across the country to help with the management and publication of the journal.

For those students who wish to be a part of the publication process, UReCA offers yearly student editorship positions. Each year, the journal seeks to recruit a number of Associate Editors with diverse academic backgrounds from universities across the United States. Associate Editors are responsible for the review of creative work submissions and research submissions that the journal receives. Associate Editors provide feedback and revision suggestions to authors of the selected pieces while working with the Editor-in-chief and Production Team to develop and maintain the journal throughout the academic year, a process which culminates with the publication of the journal each November. Associate Editors also hold positions on committees that contribute to the success of the journal in various ways. In the past, students have enjoyed the unique work and experience that UReCA offers them.

"Working with UReCA has been incredible. I am amazed at the ways students are making interventions in their respective disciplines. My only regret is that I didn't join sooner." - Jhédienne Adams

"UReCA gave me new perspectives on not only undergraduate research, including my own, but on what it means to be on a team of like-minded individuals all promoting the ideals of a liberal arts education." - Meagan Carmack

In order to apply, students must be pursuing their undergraduate degrees and be enrolled in an honors program or college that is a member of NCHC. The strongest of applicants will have relevant research or editorial experience and will demonstrate sufficient knowledge relevant to their field of study. Those students who are selected will serve for the duration of one academic year with the opportunity to return upon invitation.

Please see the application for Student Editorships at https://ureca.submittable.com/submit for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Wiegand, the Editor-in-Chief, at editor@nchc-ureca.com.

5. Recognize your outstanding research mentor
The Office of Undergraduate Research acknowledges the hard work, time, dedication, and guidance research mentors provide to undergraduate students, which often goes unrecognized. Current undergraduate students are asked to nominate one Virginia Tech faculty or graduate student research mentor from any discipline for the award of Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor. Nominations will be accepted through an online form until March 2, 2020 at 5:00pm. Nominations may be made anonymously. More information about the program and nomination requirements are available online.

Have a great week!

Best,
Keri

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