Hi!

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

1. Summer Research Opportunities
2. Become an Ambassador for the OUR
3. Undergraduate scholarship opportunity from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education related to autonomous vehicles and science communication
4. Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference

1. Summer Research Opportunities
There are LOTS of opportunities to engage in research during the summer at VT, other universities across the country or around the world, government agencies, and large corporations. Application deadlines vary from late fall to early spring so if you are considering research this summer now is the time to start looking! OUR website includes some helpful guidelines and links to get you started:
https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/ugr-opportunities.html

As always, you can get help from an ambassador throughout the semester at their drop-in office hours or via email:
https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/AboutUs/Ambassadors1.html

2. Become an Ambassador for the OUR
Do you have a passion for undergraduate research? Want to share your insights and experience with other students? The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is now accepting applications for its Ambassador program. This program will help to build student leadership skills and their resumes, while providing crucial service to the OUR. The OUR ambassadors are the "face" of the office, disseminating information about undergraduate research and facilitating key services offered by the office. Students will get a unique networking experience, interacting with faculty, administrators, and prospective research students.

Ideal candidates will have had undergraduate research experience in any discipline and must be reliable, organized, personable, respectful, and exhibit excellent communication skills. OUR Ambassadors will be required to host office hours, conduct information sessions or other presentations and help at OUR events, in addition to the annual spring research symposium. Anticipated time commitment is 2-5 hours per week. This is a voluntary program; there is no financial compensation. We will not consider seniors during this recruitment cycle. We are looking for ambassador representation from all colleges. Students from non-STEM fields are particularly encouraged to apply. Up to ten (10) ambassadors may be selected for the spring program.

If you are interested in applying to become an OUR ambassador, please complete the online application form:

The application deadline is November 13 at noon. Please direct any questions to Keri Swaby, Director for Undergraduate Research (kswaby@vt.edu).
3. Undergraduate scholarship opportunity from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education related to autonomous vehicles and science communication

The Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) invites undergraduate students to participate in the “Autonomous Driving: Education in Communication” competition. For the opportunity to earn a $5,000, $3,000, or $1,000 scholarship, undergraduates are asked to develop a chart or infographic to communicate the levels of autonomous driving and sensor packages required to the public.

For more information on this competition, please visit the ORISE website at https://orise.orau.gov/stem/internships-fellowships-research-opportunities/scholarships.html.

The competition deadline is Friday, December 6, 2019.

4. Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference

Are you involved research and looking for an opportunity to showcase your skills? Do you want to learn more from professionals in your discipline? Would you like the opportunity to meet students from across the United States in varying STEM fields? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you should apply to the Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference (MAURC) at Virginia Tech. This conference is a unique opportunity for undergraduates to come together with professionals from varying scientific fields and share their passion for research. Our team created this conference because we believe in encouraging the collaboration of knowledge in order to facilitate advancement within areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

MAURC is a two day event, March 28-29th, which will include panel sessions, student oral and poster presentations, and catered meals. You can also look forward to hearing from two phenomenal keynote speakers: Dr. Anthony Leggett is a physics professor at the University of Illinois, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2003, and Dr. Arnold Caplan is director of the Skeletal Research Center at Case Western Reserve University and is known as a pioneer in mesenchymal stem cell research.

The deadline to apply to participate is December 31st and can be found through the link: https://tinyurl.com/MAURC2020Application. For more information, please visit our facebook page “STEM Research Conference Commission” or email us at srcvirginiatech@gmail.com. Conference flyer is attached.

Have a great week!

Best,
Keri

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