Here's what's included in this week's newsletter from the OUR:

1. Ambassador Office Hours
   OUR Ambassadors are available every week (while classes are in session) for drop-in office hours. Office hours take place Mondays 10-11am and Tuesdays 5-6pm in the New Classroom Building, room 110A. Stop by to ask questions or get help from an experienced undergraduate researcher.

2. Major's Fair
   The OUR will host a table at next week's Major's Fair on Wed Sept 26, 10am-3pm in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. Stop by and learn about undergraduate research at VT!

3. Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference (MAURC)
   At the start of the last spring semester, a group of students from Virginia Tech came together to create the first Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference at Virginia Tech. This event is a transdisciplinary STEM research conference at Virginia Tech that serves as an opportunity for undergraduates and professionals to share their passion for research. "We believe in encouraging the collaboration of knowledge in order to facilitate advancement within areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics." The Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference will be a two day event, March 23-24th, 2019, which will include three notable keynote speakers, panel sessions, student oral and poster presentations, and catered meals. For more information or to apply, go online to www.maurc.org.

4. NSF GRFP
   The National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported areas who are or will be pursuing full-time, research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. Undergraduate seniors are eligible to apply. The deadline is October 23, 2018.

GRFP is NSF’s oldest program, dating to the Foundation’s first fully funded year of 1952. Since then, GRFP has supported over 50,000 US citizens, nationals, and permanent residents to pursue advanced degrees in science and engineering. Among its alumni are over 40 Nobel laureates, over 450 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, thousands of science and engineering faculty, and many leaders in industry, government, and
the non-profit sector. Last year, GRFP awards were offered to 2,000 of the more than 12,000 applicants.

Benefits of the program to students:
- More freedom in choosing research topics;
- More time to conduct research;
- Greater choice of research advisors;
- Prestige of the fellowship, which can lead to future opportunities; and
- Guaranteed support for a period of time in a graduate student’s career.

Additional information on the program may be found at https://www.nsf.gov/grfp and http://www.nsfgfrp.org.

5. **External STEM Opportunities**
   Check out this website which lists programs and professional development resources for undergraduate STEM students -- research experiences for undergraduates (REU), scholarships, and travel and research opportunities: https://pathwaystoscience.org/Undergrads.aspx

6. **OUR travel grants**
   Did you know that the OUR has funding available to assist undergraduate students who have had their research or creative scholarship accepted for presentation at a regional, national or international conference?? Learn more about the program and apply to receive funding: https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/our-services/travel-support.html

7. **OUR poster printing**
   New! The OUR now offers undergraduates free poster printing when they are accepted to give a poster presentation of their research or creative scholarship at a regional or national conference. More information about the program and to apply for this service visit: https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/our-services/poster-printing.html