It was good to meet many of you at the Major’s Fair this week. Thanks for stopping by our table.

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

1. **Study Abroad in the Galapagos Islands: Spring Semester 2019**
   Dr. Ignacio Moore (BIOL; email: itmoore@vt.edu), Dr. William Hopkins (FWC; email: hopkinsw@vt.edu), and Dr. Peter Graham (ENGL; email: pegraham@vt.edu) will offer an exciting new course, “Darwin’s Galapagos: Evolution in the Anthropocene” BIOL/FiW 3954 (4 credits) in the Spring 2019 semester. The Spring course will be taught on campus, with a 10-day trip to the Galapagos Islands occurring over Spring Break.

   Voyage in Charles Darwin’s wake in the Galapagos Islands and see firsthand what inspired the unifying concept of life on earth: evolution by natural selection. Gain historical and on-the spot perspectives on how Darwin’s big idea took shape, and learn how current evolutionary processes are influenced by rapid environmental changes caused by human pressures such as introduced species, over-fishing, pollution, climate change, and ecotourism.

   The course is open to all majors and is reading-, writing-, and discussion-intensive. Students will have extensive readings each week followed by in class discussion and reflective essays. 0-day trip to the Galapagos will occur over spring break. Students enrolling in the course should be good swimmers and not be prone to sea sickness. To apply, contact one of the professors.

2. **Sciences Career Fair**
   The OUR will be at the Sciences Career Fair on Wednesday, October 10 at Cassel Coliseum-booth #22. Stop by and chat with us to learn about paid research opportunities this summer.

3. **Ambassador Office Hours**
   Just a reminder that 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.

4. **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

Have a great week!
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.