Here’s what’s included in this week’s newsletter from the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR):

1. **Family Weekend Academic Showcase**
   Family Weekend is here, and you can access a full schedule of events with [this link](#).

   Tomorrow (Saturday, October 13), there will be an Academic Showcase from 10:00am – 12:30pm in the New Classroom Building. Feel free to come by; the OUR will have an information table, and it will be a great place to learn more about opportunities on campus and to introduce them to any family you may have visiting, too.

2. **VA-NC Alliance Undergraduate Research Symposium**
   This annual symposium is scheduled on the VT campus for Sunday, October 14 and Monday, October 15, and the focus this year is *Fostering Innovation and Excellence in STEM*. Students are invited to attend poster presentations between 9:45-10:30am and 11:30am-12:15pm, and oral presentations from 10:45-11:30am, in Squires. More information is available at [this link](#).

3. **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: pegrham@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. [More information here](#).

4. **Getting Started in Research**
   Are you interested in engaging in undergraduate research but don’t know how or where to start? We are here to help! Check out our website for helpful tips on [getting started](#) or stop by OUR drop-in office hours on Mondays 10-11 or Tuesday 5-6 in NCB 110A to speak with an Ambassador.