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

1. **Seeking Office of Undergraduate Research Ambassadors**
   The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is now accepting applications for its Ambassador program, particularly from students pursuing majors or research in the COB, CLAHS, and CNRE. Serving as an ambassador can help you build leadership skills and your resume, as you provide crucial service to the OUR. OUR ambassadors are the “face” of the office, disseminating information about undergraduate research and facilitating key services offered by the office. You 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. Anticipated time commitment is 2-5 hours per week. This is a voluntary program; there is no financial compensation. Only students continuing in Fall 2019 are eligible to apply to the Ambassador program at this time. The regular Ambassador recruitment period will be in mid to late Spring.

   If you’re interested in applying to start in the Spring 2019 semester, please complete the online application form by November 30 at noon.

   Questions about the Ambassador program or application process? Contact Keri Swaby, University Undergraduate Research Coordinator (kswaby@vt.edu).

2. **Get Recognized for Your Engagement in Undergraduate Research**
   Launched in spring 2018, the Undergraduate Research Excellence program (UREP) recognizes students for engagement in undergraduate research. The program is open to any student, from any major, at any time in their academic career. This multi-tiered program allows students to track their journey through undergraduate research and receive recognition at graduation with a specially designed cord! Students can join the program at any time: tinyurl.com/vturep. More information about the program is available at [http://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/urep](http://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/urep). **Fall 18 graduates**, the deadline to complete program requirements is December 3 at 5pm.

3. **Funding Opportunities**
   The Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is a 10-week training program designed to give motivated VT undergraduates the opportunity to engage in full-time 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. At least 15 students will be selected to participate in this training program, and each fellow will receive a $4,000 stipend. **Apply by** February 20!

The **ACC Creativity and Innovation Grant program** is a competitive grant program to support student-led research projects in any discipline each summer, with awards of up to $2,000 which can go towards travel, supplies, stipend, and the like. The application deadline is annually in February. This program directly connects undergraduate students to core ACC university missions of creativity and innovation. The ACCAC Fellows Program in Creativity and Innovation represents the conference’s excellence in, and commitment to, quality undergraduate education. **Apply by** February 20!

### 4. Presentation Opportunities

The **National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)**, established in 1987, is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students. Unlike meetings of academic professional organizations, this gathering of young scholars welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum. Through this annual conference, NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and promotion of undergraduate student achievement, provides models of exemplary research and scholarship, and helps to improve the state of undergraduate education. **Apply by** December 4!

**ACC Meeting of the Minds:** Each year, 5-10 outstanding undergraduate researchers (accompanied by a faculty/staff member) from each ACC university gather at a host university to present their research, either verbally or as a poster. At most universities the student delegates are chosen through a refereeing process. It is truly an honor to be invited to participate in this conference. **Apply by** January 25!

The inaugural **Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference (MAURC)** is a transdisciplinary STEM research conference being planned and hosted by Virginia Tech students 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." **MAURC 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](http://www.maurc.org).

The **Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference** is Virginia Tech’s annual undergraduate research showcase. It will take place on April 19, 2019 at the Moss Arts Center from 9am to 4pm. Students are invited to submit their work for presentation in poster format. More information, including link to the application form can be found online at [https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/present-publish/vt-conferences/DennisDeanURConference.html](https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/present-publish/vt-conferences/DennisDeanURConference.html). **Apply by** March 27!

### 5. Recognize your Research Mentor

The Office of Undergraduate Research would like to recognize the hard work, time, dedication, and guidance research mentors provide to undergraduate students. In April 2019, we will join
the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) to recognize excellence in teaching through undergraduate research mentorship.

Nominations will only be accepted from current undergraduate students, who are invited to nominate one Virginia Tech faculty or graduate student research mentor from any discipline.

Submit your nomination by March 1!

6. Undergraduate Research Opportunities at Caltech

The WAVE Fellows Program aims to foster diversity by increasing the participation of underrepresented students in science and engineering Ph.D. programs and making Caltech's programs more visible and accessible to students not traditionally exposed to Caltech. The program is extended, but not limited, to underrepresented minorities, women, first-generation college students, geographically underrepresented students, educationally or financially disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities.

The Amgen Scholars Program is a national program aimed at increasing research opportunities for students committed to pursuing careers in the sciences. Caltech provides students the opportunity to conduct research in biology, chemistry, and bio-technical related fields under the guidance of some of the world’s leading academic scientists. Research projects, along with scientific seminars, workshops, and networking events, prepare participants to pursue a Ph.D. or the joint M.D./Ph.D. degree and research careers in the sciences and biotechnology.

For more information on these programs, join a webinar on November 28 or 29 at 2:00pm.