The OUR newsletter will be on hiatus over the Thanksgiving break next week. Sooo, in this week’s newsletter we summarize all of the recent opportunities with upcoming deadlines. If you are interested in participating in a summer research program (at VT or elsewhere), this is a good time to start looking around, as deadlines are in late Fall and early Spring. Enjoy the break!

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

1. OUR Opportunities Web Page
2. Recruiting OUR Ambassadors
3. Get Recognized for Your Engagement in Undergraduate Research
4. Recognize your Research Mentor
5. Presentation Opportunities for Students
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1. **OUR Opportunities Web Page**
   Please visit [this web page](https://example.com) for more information about undergraduate research opportunities, including summer research programs at VT. A great place to look for summer research programs in STEM fields across the country is [NSF REU site directory](https://nsf.gov/).  

2. **Recruiting OUR Ambassadors**
   The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is now accepting applications for its 2019 Ambassador program. 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 late Spring, for the 2019-20 academic year.

   If you’re interested in applying to start in the Spring 2019 semester, please complete the [online application form](https://example.com) by November 30 at noon.

   Questions about the Ambassador program or application process? Contact Keri Swaby, University Undergraduate Research Coordinator (kswaby@vt.edu).
3. **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. **Fall 18 graduates**, the deadline to complete program requirements is December 3 at 5pm.

4. **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!

5. **Presentation Opportunities for Students**

   **The National Collegiate Research Conference** is a large-scale, multidisciplinary forum held annually at Harvard University, where the most accomplished undergraduate students from across the United States and internationally convene each year to share their research in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The core vision behind our conference is to provide student researchers with the opportunity to hear from the world’s leading authorities in academia, policy, and industry, as well as to foster important exchanges and dialogue between students. The conference will take place January 24-26, 2019. Applications are due by 11:59pm on December 31.

   **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. Application deadline is December 31.

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. Apply by March 27!

6. Spring 2019 Tentative Diplomacy Lab Topics Unveiled
Diplomacy Lab research teams work on a semester-long “policy advice” group research project for a bureau or office at the U.S. Department of State, with their final project submitted to the corresponding DoS office at the end of the semester, as well as the possibility of an in-person or teleconference presentation for that office (depending on project requirements.)

Many projects are multidisciplinary in nature, so Diplomacy Lab is open to students from all majors, pertaining to requirements and needed skills for each independent research project.

For more information, contact Chris Price (chprice5@vt.edu) and/or check out the information attached to this e-mail.

7. ICTAS Seed Funding Opportunity
Roop and Kavita Mahajan Research Awards have been established to provide small grants to current students or current student organizations in good standing at Virginia Tech to undertake projects that aim to break cycles of poverty and negligence in under-resourced communities around the world.

Proposals may be submitted until December 3. Ideas are welcome from across a wide spectrum of areas including health, education and infrastructure. Preference will be given to proposals that show a transdisciplinary approach and are broadly aligned with the mission of ICTAS. We expect to award 2 proposals at a maximum of $2,500 each.

For more information, contact Chris Tysor (ctysor@vt.edu).

8. Global Change Center Undergraduate Science Policy Fellowship
Rising juniors and seniors majoring in science or engineering are encouraged to apply for $7,000 Global Change Center fellowships that cover in-state tuition, fees, housing, and a small stipend. Fellows attend a 6-credit Washington Semester summer program while interning 30 hours a week in D.C. with agencies such as USFWS, USAID, USEPA, and USDA. Apply by December 1.
9. **Global Change Center Undergraduate Research Grants**  
The Global Change Center (GCC) at Virginia Tech is accepting proposals from undergraduate students and their GCC-affiliated faculty mentor(s) to support undergraduate research that will advance the mission of the GCC. Award requests can range from $250 - $1,000 and may include itemized supply and analytical costs, as well as travel costs to research sites. [Apply by] December 15.

10. **Summer Funding Opportunities for Students at VT**  
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!

11. **Virginia Space Grant Consortium STEM Research Scholarships**  
The Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) provides undergraduate research scholarships of up to $8,500 to students majoring in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Scholarships require students to participate in a faculty-mentored research experience that aligns with NASA’s mission. Student scholarships and research support totaling $4,000 during the academic year and $4,500 during the summer semester are available. [Apply by] January 28, 2019.

12. **DOE Scholars Program Accepting Applications**  
Being selected as a DOE Scholar offers the following benefits:
   - Stipends starting at $600 per week during the internship period
   - Limited travel reimbursement to/from assigned location
   - Direct exposure to, participation in projects in DOE mission-relevant research areas
   - Identification of career goals and opportunities
   - Development of professional networks with leading scientists and subject matter experts

   [Apply by] December 17.

13. **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.