

April 2012

Volume 1, Issue 4

# Undergraduate Research & Creative Works



## The Mission

*The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works at High Point University is to engage students in scholarly,*

*inventive, and imaginative experiences that not only bring academics to life, but which also stimulate curiosity, promote the development of new competencies, foster*

*critical and creative thinking, and provide students with privileged opportunities to add to the sum of human knowledge.*

*Undergraduate research is a student-faculty collaboration to examine, create, and share new knowledge or work commensurate with practices in the discipline.*

### **In the News:**

- Students attended the regional Big South Undergraduate Research symposium (BigSURS)
- The upcoming First High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS)
- Students presenting at High-PURCS



Twenty students and eight faculty from 8 different departments attended the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS), at Winthrop University April 13-14, 2012, along with 18 other academic institutions. Fourteen students presented oral or poster presentations and one student was accepted into a juried art exhibit. These outstanding students presented their research ranging in topics from the physics of hoola hoops to sex in the media. Five students earned first place research awards for their presentations! HPU will host BigSURS next year April 5-6, 2013.

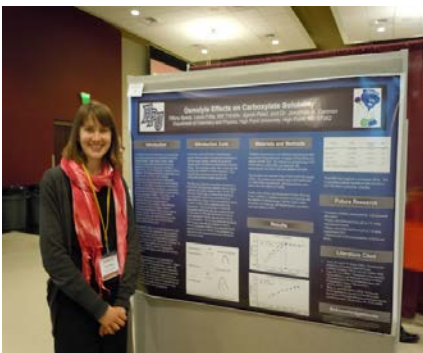
# BigSURS Highlights



Five students earned first place research awards for their presentations. They were: Nikki Sanford, Mary Funke, Martin Stern, Sterling Lund, and Taylor Zickefoose.



James Leister, Lindsay Sugarman, and Kelly Chege attended BigSURS. They are future officers of the student organization called SURE.



Tiffany Byerly presenting her poster at BigSURS



Amanda Holcomb with her sculpture of Dr. Goedeke



Taylor Zickefoose presenting her research in an oral presentation



Students and professors listening to a key note speaker



A classroom full of mentors and students listening to a presentation



The professors who attended BigSURS include David Cane, Aaron Titus, Shirley Dissler, Briana Fiser, Martin DeWitt, and Joanne Altman and Gray Bowman(not shown).

## The High-PURCS of High Point University



The Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) has been a flourishing aspect of High Point University throughout the past year, when Dr. Joanne Altman became the director and initiated a campus wide convergence of students involved in research on campus. The URCW Program on campus promotes learning outside of the classroom, and encourages partnerships with faculty members to produce works suitable for publication, exhibition, or presentation in the academic and professional setting.

I began working with Dr. Altman and the Department of URCW last fall when my professor and mentor, Dr. Anna Piperato, urged me to submit an abstract of my art history paper to an upcoming conference. I was hesitant to do so at first; I had no idea what a conference involved, and even more concerning, I wasn't as familiar with my art history paper as I was when I wrote it the previous semester. After my submission was turned in, I was accepted to present at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS), and had only a little over a month to perfect a presentation. I began reading my art history paper over and over again, familiarizing myself with the words, and created a multi-slide presentation to accompany it. I met with Dr. Altman to show her my progress. "That's wonderful that you can memorize your paper," she said. "But I'm going to teach you a technique that will make you remember the contents of your paper like the back of your hand, without memorizing." And that she did. By the time I presented at SNCURCS in November, I remembered my research with no hesitation, and no memorization. Because of that wonderful experience at SNCURCS, I now am enthusiastic to show off my undergraduate research at other conferences. The support that the Department of URCW displayed and the guidance that Dr. Altman provided allowed me to learn a completely innovative method of conducting research and more so, successfully remembering and presenting it with confidence. Working so closely with the Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works, I am excited and proud to say that High Point University is hosting their very own academic conference, the High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium, High-PURCS for short. Students from all schools, majors, and minors are invited to participate, and it is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research in a professional environment. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, from 10am till 12pm, students from a wide range of fields will gather together for this interdisciplinary conference and present their work in poster form, oral presentation, brief performance, or exhibit. The Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works has received many abstract submissions and is looking forward to the day of the conference, when more than simply the faculty can see just how driven and motivated the students of High Point University are. Students were required to complete their research outside of the classroom, inspiring themselves with the sole purpose of intellectual curiosity. The Department of URCW hopes that through the process of researching and formulating a presentation for the High-PURCS conference, students will have learned the art of good communication, acquired knowledge from not only the books and scholarly articles they implemented in their final papers but also their faculty mentor as well, and have begun a critical inquiry into the field they hope to contribute to after graduation.

My own professor and mentor, Dr. Piperato, advised me to take another conference under my belt, as I was already conducting undergraduate research in the field of art history. The High-PURCS conference, she said, would be the perfect opportunity to share my academic research and opinions with contemporaries in my field, as well as faculty and students in other disciplines. As a student whose research happens to be highly interdisciplinary, I jumped at the idea. Now, with the guidance of my mentor and the assistance from the Director of URCW, I have been expanding my knowledge past my usual course schedule and have learned the art of collaboration. Undergraduate research on the campus of High Point University allows me to work under the guidance of my mentor, but research like a professional in my field. I may still be a student, but I am progressing quickly to the status of academic. The Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works made it possible for me to get my foot in the door in my scholarly disciplines. The High-PURCS conference on April 25<sup>th</sup> will be the foundation for more opportunities to arise for students all over campus, as well as prove to the faculty and academic world that at High Point University, the research that students conduct and present is truly extraordinary.

*Lindsay Sugarman is a sophomore English literature major at High Point University and continues to work closely with the Department of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.*

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## Students Presenting at High-PURCS

Anthony Abbate	Robert Fain	Meghan McCloskey	Miah Saunders
Alek Adkins	Courtney Feiman	Kelsey McLaughlin	Rachel Sniff
Samantha Allen	Kelsey Fraser	Dylan McNiff	Ali Soicher
Courtney Bedgood	Ashley Galway	Amelia Morgan	Amanda Starring
Alicia Berry	Angela Gimenez	Willem Morin	Martin Stern
Anne Beuker	Jared Goldenberg	Jennifer M Pearson	Garrett Stewart
Ashlee Branch	Kelsey Hinchliffe	Briana Perkins	Lindsay Sugarman
Kayla Buechner	Sarah Hudak	Salvatore Pezzino	Bradley Taylor
Nicole Chrysson	DeAnna Hughes	John Purcell	Allison Thomson
Paige Coleman	Nolan Kendrick	Laura Reese	Kevin Trow
Ariana Dale	Ali Kihm	Lauren Reese	Elizabeth Walburg
Allie Dearie	Zak Kronquist	Natalie Reiersen	Taylor Zickefoose
Matt Domboski	Kayla Kucerik	Zoe Rogers	Lauren Zimmerman
Colleen Ehatt	Sterling Lund	Catherine Ruvolo	Miranda R Zupp
	Caitlin Margolien		

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## April Grant Recipients

### **Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference**

Anthony Abbate  
Chelsea Davis  
Ashley Galway  
Meghan Gawne  
Zakary Kronquist  
Ameilia Morgan  
Cursty Sexton  
Adara Starr  
Amanda Starring  
Jazmin Thrash

### **HackingHackRU: A Scarlet Knight of Hacking (Computer Science Competition)**

Thomas Langford  
Kevin Sanders  
Zachary Shore  
Christian Weigandt

### **American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse**

Nick Clark  
Cole Gibson  
Rachel Lister  
Monica Nissen  
Kevin Ruppel  
Miah Saunders  
Dave Whiteman