

# Undergraduate Research & Creative Works



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:

- Undergraduate Research and Creative Works debuts
- Students present at research conference
- The Office of URCW offers workshops and other services to students and faculty
- Fall's student highlights

## The Mission

The mission of the Office of the 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.



Students and professors at a conference together

## “Why Do Independent Research or Creative Work?”

### What is after college?

- Graduate school?
- Start a career?
- Create a business??

### OK. But how?

Graduate schools and good jobs are competitive. Graduate schools often only take 3%-10% of their applicants. To get hired for a

great job one must stand out from the crowd. How do you become that student who stands out in a sea of educated young adults?

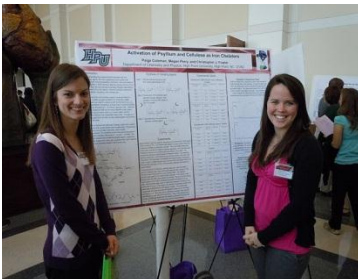
Conducting independent research, or producing an original creative work, as an undergraduate, under the mentorship of a faculty member, can give you that edge. The process of

producing something unique, not only furthers one's skills and knowledge in a specific field, but helps a student build skills such as leadership, problem solving, self-confidence, and independence, which are valuable in any field. In addition, one's mentor may become a lifelong friend and advocate.

*Students take their independent projects to research conferences and performance competitions to share their work with professional communities. On November 19, 2011 students attended the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium*



*“So why is my heart caught in my throat?”*



## **A Deep Breath and a Leap of Faith** by Amanda Mayes

One quick peek at my note cards. Take a deep breath. This is not a matter of life or death; this is a presentation. Not only have I done this presentation a few times before, I spent a semester compiling data and research into a thirty-five page senior thesis for my political science major. It is utterly irrational to be nervous. So why is my heart caught in my throat? Maybe one more quick peek at my note cards before I expose my mind and passion to critics.

In November I travelled to East Carolina University to present at the seventh annual State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. The abbreviation for this long-winded title is SNCURCS, pronounced “snickers.” And yes, there were bowls of fun-sized Snickers everywhere at ECU. The conference is an opportunity for undergraduates of all disciplines to present research and creative works to peers attending college in North Carolina. Participants can present their work in a variety of ways, including performances, posters, and oral presentations. I had never attended a conference before; my expectations were built from a wild imagination and

descriptions of conferences that my friends attended.

As a political science major, I have written countless papers that take approximately one to three forests to print. After some consideration, I selected my political science senior thesis to present orally with the aid of a PowerPoint. My senior thesis is entitled “The Future of Turkey: The Political Culture of Turkey and Support for Actual vs. Theoretical Democracy.” To make a long story short, I spent a semester researching Turkey [the country, not the bird] to determine whether or not it is capable of supporting and strengthening the democratic system of government it purports. After going through the online registration and submitting my abstract, I buckled down to work on the next step. The PowerPoint took some time to put together in a logical and visually aesthetic manner. Boiling down a thirty-five page paper into a twelve minute oral presentation is a challenge that is reminiscent of putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

With my presentation ready, I packed my suitcase and laptop and embarked on my journey to my first conference. This year SNCURCS involved an overnight stay in Greenville,

North Carolina in order to get to East Carolina University on time for the morning orientation. Because my presentation was in the afternoon, I enjoyed the opportunity of talking with my peers about their research. Performances, posters, and oral presentations are open for all; there is no excuse to leave SNCURCS without gaining an appreciation for the work involved in other disciplines. After a quick lunch and a cup of coffee, I reviewed my note cards and headed over to my presentation room to set up my PowerPoint. I had the chance to chat with the others in my presenting group which successfully removed some nerves.

A quick introduction and the first slide appears. And the butterflies disappear. There is a unique adrenaline rush and pride that comes from presenting my own research. The ability to teach peers and professors something that I have discovered about Turkey and poured my heart and soul into is exhilarating. A simple exchange of knowledge and reward for a job well done – one of many opportunities offered by attending a conference.

## Ways to get involved in research and creative work

- Check out the URCW website for opportunities and ([urcw.highpoint.edu](http://urcw.highpoint.edu))
- Enroll in courses that offer hands on experience in types of research such as ISD 2255
- Volunteer to help a professor in his or her research
- Attend all speaker presentations on campus
- Expand an exceptional class project into a student presentation or publication
- Join the student organization for undergraduate research and creative works to be formed in the Spring. If interested, contact HPU student Laura at [mayl10@highpoint.edu](mailto:mayl10@highpoint.edu)



## Undergraduate Student Fall Highlights

### Congratulations to....

<b>Paige Coleman &amp; Megan Perry</b>	<i>Activated Psyllium Fibers and Cellulose as Chelating Agents</i> Presented in a poster presentation at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS)
<b>Elizabeth Ellis</b>	<i>A Reluctant Confederacy: Randolph County During the Civil War</i> Presented at a public presentations at the Highpoint History Museum
<b>Amanda Mayes</b>	<i>The Future of Turkey: The political Culture of Turkey and Support for Actual vs Theoretical Democracy.</i> Presented in an oral presentation at SNCURCS.
<b>Jessica Stark</b>	<i>"Of All the Songs to get Stuck in my Head, Why This One?"</i> Presented in an oral presentation at SNCURCS and as co-author on a poster at Psychonomics
<b>Lindsay Sugarman</b>	<i>Artists' Best Friend.</i> Presented in an oral presentation at SNCURCS
<b>Bradley Taylor</b>	<i>Binding Studies of a Boronic acid-functionalized Anthracene-Based Dye (ANQW-BA1) with Proteins and Sugars</i> Presented in a poster SNCURCS
<b>Miah Saunders:</b>	Her multimodal piece <i>Ever After</i> was accepted to JUMP, a professionally reviewed online journal. You can view her piece at <a href="http://jump.dwrl.utexas.edu/content/v3.1">http://jump.dwrl.utexas.edu/content/v3.1</a>

## Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Conferences (2011-2012)

### State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium (SNCURS)

- Location: East Carolina University
- Date: was November 19, 2011
- Web: <http://sncurs.org>
- Call for abstracts was in early October

### National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

- Location: Weber State University, Ogden, Utah
- Date: March 29 - March 31, 2012
- Web: <http://www.weber.edu/ncur2012>
- Call for abstracts was through Nov 15
- Notification on acceptance of abstracts is Jan. 6, 2012
- NCUR will have faculty sessions as well!

### Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS)

- Location: Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- Date: April 13-14, 2012
- Web: <http://www.winthrop.edu/bigurs2012/>
- Abstracts for Juried Art due Dec 9
- Abstracts for presentations due Dec 12, 2011
- Notification of acceptances on Jan 27, 2012
- There will also be a workshop on faculty mentoring and promotion of student research
- BigSURS will be hosted by High Point University (tentatively) April 5-6, 2013

### Posters on the Hill (POH) sponsored by CUR

- Location: Washington DC, at the Capitol
- Date: Spring (likely March) 2012- date not set yet
- Web: <http://www.cur.org/pohcall.html>
- Call for abstracts: Was through Oct 18
- Very Competitive and restricted to projects that may be of interest to legislators
- HPU is an institutional member

### High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS)

- First annual showcase of undergraduate independent work sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works.
- Date: April 25 (Reading Day) 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Submissions will be due in spring

**REMINDER:** Presenters and faculty mentors can apply for travel grants through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works: <http://urcw.highpoint.edu>

Please inform the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works about anything special your student is doing.

---

## Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

Dr. Joanne Altman  
Director

High Point University  
833 Montlieu Av.  
High Point, NC, 27262

OFFICE:  
Phillips 115  
Drawer 40

PHONE:  
(336) 841-9613

E-MAIL:  
[urcw@highpoint.edu](mailto:urcw@highpoint.edu)  
[Jaltman0@highpoint.edu](mailto:Jaltman0@highpoint.edu)

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[urcw.highpoint.edu](http://urcw.highpoint.edu)

## Student Opportunities

### Workshops

Workshops (schedule TBA) on topics where students might need help.

#### Topics:

- Undergraduate Research and Creative Work: What & Why?
- How to Give Effective Presentations
- Using Wiki's to stay organized in your research

### Resource

- Invite URCW to talk to your student group
- Get individual help preparing for a presentation
- Join a community of student scholars to share experiences and common practices
- Stop in the office for casual conversation

## Faculty Opportunities

### Workshops

(11:30 am – 1:00pm)

- Fostering mentor communication and mentee understanding (Feb 3)
- Fostering Independence (March 2)
- Ethics (March 23)
- Diversity (April 19)

### Resources

- Centralized database of student work
- URCW can come talk to your class when you will be away
- CUR articles on library reserve under "Undergraduate Research"
- Confidential one-on-one conversations to help you be a more efficient mentor

## URCW Vocabulary ... for information found on our website

### REUs

*Research Experiences for Undergraduates.*

Competitive summer research programs (mostly in math and sciences). Applications tend to be due February and March.

### Grants

Funds can be awarded for students to conduct research or a creative work and/or to travel to conferences to present that work. HPU URCW Office awards grants and there are opportunities for grants from outside organizations as well.

### Posters, Oral Presentations, Publications.

Professionals disseminate information to their disciplines through a variety of formats. Posters are visual displays on big boards. Oral presenters stand and talk to sitting audience, Publications are journal articles.