

# Undergraduate Research & Creative Works



## 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.*

*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:

- Coming Soon: High-PURCS



- Miah Saunders: Published Student Author

- Undergraduate Student Spring Highlights

- How To Get Involved in Research



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual High Point University Research and Creativity Symposium Schedule of Events

April 25, Phillips Hall

10:00 -10:10am	Opening Remarks	120
10:15 -10:30am	Performance	120
	Oral Presentations, Session I	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl.
10:35 -10:50am	Oral Presentations, Session II	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl
10:55 -11:10am	Oral Presentations, Session III	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl
11:15 -12:00pm	Posters	Lobby

\* This is an IDS Event

## Interview With a published student author: Miah Saunders, HPU Senior

**when you started college, did you ever expect that you would have the opportunity to present work at conferences and be published as an undergraduate?**

I do not know that I was all together aware of the process of presenting papers in an academic setting. Freshman year, everything was so new and I was just focused on getting my feet wet and excelling in my classes. By the spring semester of my freshman year, I knew that I wanted to do more with my papers and essays than receive a grade. I have always known that I wanted to have my fiction published, but this was about the time that I really pushed myself to get out there and *do it*. My professors were a tremendous help and actively encouraged me to revise my work and research appropriate venues for publication. Sophomore year I attended my first academic conference (the International Conference for the Fantastic Arts or ICFA) to receive an award and my experience, then and the year after, helped solidify my goal to contribute to such a community of scholars and authors.

**You had a multimedia piece published this year in *JUMP*. Tell us a little about it.**

*Ever After* is a multi-modal project I created in my Digital Storytelling class last spring. The project experiment's with alternate methods of narrative creation. In a digital story like *Ever After*, I had to be aware of all the elements beyond text that helped establish narrative—this includes music, transitions, images, coloring and lighting, voiceovers, etc. The story itself is about pretty abstract concepts (death and dying; how we conceive of existence after death) that I had to make concrete using dialogue, imagery, and music. So, it was a nice experiment that was thankfully successful in the class and beyond. I put a lot of work in revising the piece for publication—I think I recorded over 200 voice clips before I was satisfied. Working on *Ever After* took me out of my comfort zone, simply because I am not tech savvy and I am not used to this type of media creation, but I can honestly say that it was worth it. I am very happy with the results.

**You received a grant to speak at a conference, can you tell us about your experience? What were some of your feelings and expectations? Were they met?**

I presented an original fiction piece, "Daydreams of a One-eyed Monster," at the Sigma Tau Delta conference in New Orleans a few weeks ago. It was both exhilarating and terrifying. It was my first time presenting any paper in a conference setting. I get really nervous about presentations and speaking in front of my peers, so, the hours leading up to my panel were a bit stressful. To prepare for my presentation, I practiced speaking and projecting my voice. It certainly helped that a few of my chapter members and my writing professor were in the audience for support. Everything went well in the end and over all it was a great experience.



**Please share with us all of your creative accomplishments as a student at HPU.**

I have participated in High Point University's Phoenix Festival all four years of my college career. Freshman year, I was awarded an Honorable Mention in Fiction and Poetry. My sophomore year, I was awarded First Place in Fiction, Honorable Mention in Poetry, and was very honored to receive the High Point University Phoenix Award. My junior year, I was awarded First Place in Fiction and Honorable Mention in Poetry. And this year, my final year, I was awarded First Place and an Honorable Mention in Fiction.

In addition, both my original fiction and poetry have been published in HPU's *Apogee* since 2008.

Outside of High Point University, I have placed in the Dell Magazines Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing. This is an international writing competition that has been around for about twenty or so years. Rewards include waived registration and hotel fees in Orlando for ICFA. The winner is invited to present their story in a panel with other established authors, as well as receiving a cash prize. In 2010 I placed First Place Runner Up with my story, "Lilith," and in 2011 I was awarded an Honorable Mention for my story, "Death's Lady."

This past summer (summer 2011) I was fortunate enough to complete an editing internship with *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* in New York.

**Future projects? What are you working on now?**

Right now, I am working on my Senior Project in Creative Writing—a novella—and I currently have a story under review for publication in a paying market. As for my future projects, I've been gathering my completed term papers and essays and I am hoping to revise them and send them to undergrad publications. I've already been researching appropriate venues. In addition, I am going to continue sending my creative works to professional and semi-pro markets for publication.

**What are your goals after college and how do you think these experiences impact those goals.**

After college, I am going to take a gap year. I need a break to really research the MFA program that would work best for my writing and I need a break to write—*really* write, not just write for a class. I will be looking for work around my area; I will be writing, re-writing, and sending manuscripts (fiction and non-fiction) out for publication. I'll be saving for Grad school and I will probably enroll in an intensive writing workshop or two in the interim. After my gap year, I will apply to a Creative Writing MFA program.

*Students take their independent projects to research conferences and performance competitions to share their work with professional communities. On April 13, 2012, Winthrop University will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS). Students will be presenting their work in oral and poster sessions and an art exhibit. Sixteen students and 9 faculty will travel to BigSURS; where students will present their research on topics ranging from hula hoops to millennial students to sex in the media!*

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Title</b>
Nikki Sanford	Dr. Titus	An Analysis of the Rotation of a Hula Hoop
Sterling Lund	Dr. Isaksen	Analysis of American Beauty Using Visual Perspective And Marxist Theory
Ashlee Branch	Dr. Isaksen	Glamorization of Casual Sex In the Media: The Effects On Gender Roles And Sexual Behavior In Society
Mary Funke	Dr. Titus	Dynamic Control Of Ions By Programmable CMOS Pixels- The Critical Role of Ion Size
Lindsay Sugarman	Mr. Cane	A Holocaust Traumed: Trauma and Comedy In Roberto Benigni's Life Is Beautiful
Kelsey McLaughlin	Mr. Cane	Isolation, Irony and American influence: Towards A New Definition of Italian Neorealism
Amanda Holcomb	Ms. Wheless	Portrait-Dr. Allan Goedeki
Rachel Sniff	Dr. Disseler	The Transition From Elementary To Middle School: Understanding Achievement Loss Per Student Transitional Concerns
Ryan Nolan	Dr. Bowman	The Diffusion of Ammonia in A Thin Film of Cellulose Acetate Butyrate (with co-author Coty Mason)
Nathan Michalewicz	Dr. Bowman	An Experimental Determination of The Solubility Parameter of Rubber: If Like Dissolves Like, Does Like Also Swell Like?
Kelsey Fraser	Dr. Fisher	The Millennial Student: The Interaction Between Students and Technology In Higher Education
Martin Stern	Dr. Fisher	Circles of Control: Security As A Public Relations Tool At A Liberal Arts University
Andrey Makhanov	Dr. DeWitt	Color Magnitude Diagrams of Open Star Clusters
Taylor Zickefoose	Dr. Yanus	First in War, First In Peace, And First In the American Family: The Role And Influence Of First Ladies in modern American Politics
Tiffany Byerly	Dr. Cannon	Osmolyte Effects on Partitioning of Peptides into Lipid Bilayers
Amanda Tindall	Dr. Titus	Comparing the Effect of Alanine Substitutions, At M169 and T66 of E. Coli B. Stearothermophilus PFK, On The Nature And Magnitude of The Allosteric Effect of Phospho(enol)Pyruvate

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### Spring Grant Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Recipients

Student	Mentor	Title/Conference
Rebecca Irvine	Dr. Holder	"There's an App for that" <b>North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children</b>
Samantha Allen Zachary Shore	Dr. Zack	Real Data Fitting with Complex Analysis Real-Time Physics Simulation in a Cube-Based Game World <b>Math Association of American Regional Conference</b>
Kelsey Hinchliffe Benjamin McManus Sasha Slacum Taylor Zickefoose	Dr. Yanus	Social Media and Civic Engagement Our Daily Bread: Why View on Democracy is Changing in Venezuela Women in the Republican Party: Perceptions and Barriers to Success Hillary, Laura, and Michelle: First Ladies in Command <b>North Carolina Political Science Association</b>
Miah Saunders	Dr. Schweitzer	Original Fiction-Daydreams of a One-Eyed Monster <b>Sigma Tau Delta 2012 International Convention</b>
Samantha Allen Zachary Shore Megan Kurtzman Christian Weigandt	Dr. Zack	Competed in Math Jeopardy <b>Mathematic Association of America Regional Conference</b>

### Additional Presentations

Ashley Galway	Dr. Campbell	Comparison of two different Malaise traps in Forested Plots within the Green River Basin, North Carolina Parasitic Beechdrops ( <i>Epifagus virginiana</i> ): A possible Ant Pollinated Plant A Pollination Study of <i>Humenocallis coronaira</i> in the Catawba River, SC <b>Association of South Eastern Biologists</b>
Anthony Abbate Amanda Starring		

### Publication

Colleen Ehatt	Ahn-Redding, Heather, <b>Colleen Ehatt</b> , Ron Lamb, and Bonnie Caster. 2011. "Regional differences in sentencing practices." <i>The Original Law Review</i> 7(4): 138-154.
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## Ways to get involved in research and creative works NOW

- Visit our website ([urcw.highpoint.edu](http://urcw.highpoint.edu)) for: REU's, conferences, grants, and research assistant opportunities
- Enroll in courses that offer hands-on experience in types of research
  - Look for a methods course in your major
  - Sign up for Survey Research Center Practicum (IDS2255, PSC2055, COM2267)  

This course is as an interdisciplinary introduction to survey research methodology. Its goal is to provide students with hands-on experience conducting phone-based surveys as interviewers in High Point University's Survey Research Center. Students will receive training in research ethics, interviewing skills, research design, data collection and analysis. This course is open to all students.
- Attend High-PURCS, April 25 and see what your options and opportunities are
- Stop by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works to chat about research
- Expand an exceptional class project into a student presentation or publication
- Join the emerging student organization: Students for Undergraduate Research Experiences Contact HPU students Lindsay Sugarman [sugarl10@highpoint.edu](mailto:sugarl10@highpoint.edu) or Laura May at [mayl10@highpoint.edu](mailto:mayl10@highpoint.edu)

For more information about High Point University's Undergraduate research and creative works program contact:  
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