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# Undergraduate Research and Creative Works



To engage undergraduates in student-faculty collaborations that reflect individual and unique scholarly and imaginative experiences which promote the development of new

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



## Big Preparations and Expectations for BigSURS 2013

BigSURS 2013 is right around the corner and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works is happy to announce that 267 students from 18 institutions in the South will be presenting at BigSURS April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. High Point University has had a presence at past BigSURS conferences, but this year it is considerably larger. HPU is proud to be sponsoring 111 students for 92 oral and poster presentations, as well as 20 pieces of art. There will be 18 disciplines represented at the conference, representing the social and natural sciences, humanities and fine arts, business and health sciences.

Alongside the many oral and poster presentations, there will also be the Intercollegiate Juried Exhibition in the Sechrest Art Gallery in the Hayworth Fine Arts Center, running from March 13<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>, with awards given out on April 5<sup>th</sup>. This exhibition features 56 pieces by 18 students, including some of High Point University's very own. Three dimensional art will be included along with paintings and drawings.

Registration is open, and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works has been receiving an influx of paperwork from over 200 students who have received their acceptance letters to the conference. "We are excited to have so many students on campus presenting," Dr. Altman, Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works says. "If any High Point University student or faculty member is interested in attending the conference, they are certainly welcome!"



## Undergraduate Research

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

# Students Succeed: The Pride and Glory of Research and Scholarly Works



## High Point University Students Mean Business

**Cameron McGraw and Alexa Crawford** have made an impact in the entrepreneurial field here at High Point University.

McGraw, a senior entrepreneurship and management major, began conducting research on Scandinavian restaurants in the U.S. during his sophomore year. After realizing that the American South lacked this specific cuisine, McGraw created a business plan with the guidance from mentor Dr. Lou Anne Flanders-Stec. His

Restaurant concept, FIKA, is a modern café and bakery that showcases one of Sweden's favorite pastimes, to take a break to enjoy a snack and hot drink.

McGraw says that Dr. Flanders-Stec has aided his academic success. "I am confident that when I graduate, I will have an investor ready business plan, and I owe much of my success to my mentor."

Crawford, a junior business administration major with a concentration in entrepreneurship, created her

online website, The Ever After Lady, aka T.E.A.L. with guidance from mentor Dr. Flanders-Stec. T.E.A.L. is a site where cancer survivors can share stories and publish "hope journals", to offer support to other survivors. A survivor of cancer herself, this project holds a lot of importance to Crawford. "Even if you are in a hospital bed recovering, or sitting at home, you will have the ability to connect with women from all over the world with similar illnesses." Crawford says. She hopes her site continues to grow in members, and positively affect many lives.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ELIZABETH ELLIS



**Elizabeth Ellis**, a senior history and English double major here at HPU, credits her undergraduate research as the focal point of her academic success thus far. The project that Ellis has been working on during her time here at HPU is focused on public memory of the Civil War in Randolph County, North Carolina. This research involves the uncovering of a historical past during the Civil War that is different than the area's remembered past of that conflict. In March, Ellis will be presenting a portion of this project at a Conference in Washington, D.C. among a panel of respected scholars. Ellis acknowledges the mentorship of Dr. Paul Ringel, Dr. Judy Isaksen, Dr. Karen Dixon Vuic, and Dr. Jenn Brandt. "Because of my research and involvement with faculty mentors, I feel confident about pursuing a fulfilling career that will help me achieve my long term goals to change the world," Ellis says. "My pursuit of that career will allow me to best work towards generating positive social change through informing people about historical reality and historical memory."



## Senior Spotlight: Mary Funke

**Mary Funke**, a senior chemistry major and mathematics minor here at High Point University, has undergraduate research to thank for her successes in her academic life thus far.

Professor Eleanor Russell, a past faculty member at HPU, was Funke's first mentor, and aided her in receiving an internship at the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital, where Funke researched speech disorders in women. "Because of her I was able to volunteer in the otolaryngology lab the summer after my freshman year," Funke says.

Funke also credits Dr. Kelli Sapp and Dr. Eric Lewis for mentoring her throughout her academic career. "Whether it was with them writing letters of recommendation, reading over my essays, or helping me decide where to intern... they have guided me through my time here at HPU and have always supported my dream of becoming a doctor," Funke reflects. Funke has conducted clinical research with another mentor, Dr. Yvon Bryan and was able to present at the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), a national conference in Washington D.C., due to a grant received from the Undergraduate Research and Creative Works office. She has also presented at three BigSURS conferences during her undergraduate years.

Funke has applied to medical schools in hope of becoming a doctor post-graduation, and believes that her undergraduate research has given her the tools and experience that she will need in the medical field. "Conducting research requires thinking critically, developing hypotheses and pushing determinately forward," Funke says. "Every experiment is a venture into the unknown."



## HPU Student's Research Continues and Progresses

High Point University sophomore, **Haley Hegedus**, has progressed with her research, and is excited to finally look at some data. "We have officially started data collection for my research and picked up the first 12 sets of personality profiles and recovery assessments!" Hegedus says. "I am now in the process of coding the personality profiles to get the scores and we will continue collecting data at the clinic." Hegedus has been working with her mentor, Dr. Joanne Altman, and will be presenting at the 2013 BigSURS conference on April 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.



# Grants and Conferences



The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) awards grants to students to attend competitions and give conference talks. Here are the recent awards for the month of February.

## Mathematics Association of America Southeastern Regional Conference, March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Mentored by: Dr. Laurie Zach

- **Lucy Findley**: “Modifying the NFL’s Quarterback Passer Rating”
- **Christian Weigandt** and **Alex Palmer**: “Artificial Neural Networks: My Computer Can Do WHAT?”
- **Laura Reese** and **Ben May**, who are part of a four part jeopardy team with Findley and Weigandt, will participate in a competition against other schools.

## Popular Culture Association National Conference, March 27<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>

Mentored by: Dr. Stephan Hall

- **William Bloxom**: “The Game Player as Cyborg - Issues of Agency and Control - Mass Effect”
- **Miranda Brazell**: “Control and Interactivity in The Sims 3”
- **Kelley Yeager**: “The Game Player as Cyborg- Issues of Agency and Control”
- **Anthony Zirker**: “Sonic Synergy: Organic and Synthetic Symbolism in Sonic the Hedgehog”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Marco Undergraduate Research Conference, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Mentored by: Dr. Laura Linker

- **Shannon Curley**: “Isolation, Idealism, and Gender Roles in Marie de France’s “Lanval”

## Eastern States Communication Association Conference, April 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>

Mentored by: Dr. Virginia McDermott

- **Amanda Kostolansky**: “The Effects of Incentive Versus Non Incentive Marketing in Advertising Collegiate Athletic

## National Athletic Trainer’s Association Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia, June 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Mentored by: Dr. Yum Nguyen

- **Andrea Baellow**: “Comparison of Gluteus Medius Activation between Weight Bearing and Non-Weight Bearing Limbs during a Functional Assessment of Hip Abduction Strength”

Mentored by: Dr. Nicole Hughes

- **Timothy Keidel**: Awarded grant to conduct research on the role of anthocyanin pigments in prey capture of Venus Fly Traps.

Mentored by: Dr. Nicole Hughes

- **William Fravel**: Awarded grant to conduct research on anthocyanins and leaf temperature, and create a biophysical model.



### Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium (BigSURS) : April 5-6, 2013

The colleges in the Big South Athletic Conference host a regional undergraduate research symposium in any year in which attending the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) would require extensive travel. Like the NCUR, the BigSURS provides undergraduate scholars in all fields a forum to share the results of their work through posters, presentations, performances, and works of art.

High Point University is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The conference will start early Friday afternoon and end mid-Saturday afternoon.

In addition, High Point University will be hosting an **Intercollegiate Juried Art Exhibition**. The exhibition will run March 13 – April 5 and will culminate with a reception Friday evening at BigSURS. This exhibition will explore research and investigation as it relates to the visual arts. Students from a variety of disciplines will have an opportunity to display their work and achievements in the fields of art and design in an academic setting.

**DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 31!**



## Donate to URCW!

The High Point University Undergraduate Research and Creative Works (URCW) website now has a donation button! Donations to URCW help us provide undergraduate support and travel grants to students along with presenting and publishing opportunities. We deeply value the gifts of family and friends who help us provide excellent professional opportunities to High Point University Students. Should you wish to donate in recognition of a student's research or creative works success, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works would love to include in the next issue of the newsletter. Find out more information about donating on the website, [urcw.highpoint.edu](http://urcw.highpoint.edu) or contact URCW director, Dr. Joanne Altman, at [jaltman0@highpoint.edu](mailto:jaltman0@highpoint.edu)

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and Creative Works  
[urcw.highpoint.edu](http://urcw.highpoint.edu)

Dr. Joanne Altman  
Office in Phillips 115  
[urcw@highpoint.edu](mailto:urcw@highpoint.edu)



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