

URSCO NEWSLETTER

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creativity Office at UNCG

Important Dates

October 16 is the deadline for Barthalmus Research Grant applications. It is also the deadline for abstracts for the State of NC Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium.

October 28 is the URSCO URCA/AiR student gathering. *RSVP 10/26*

November 4 is the Council on Undergraduate Research's Posters on the Hill abstract deadline.

December 1 is the URSCO Open House. Please drop in from 11-1!

December 2 is the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) abstract deadline.

March 29, 2016 is the 10th Annual Carolyn and Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo! Abstracts are accepted beginning **January 26**.



Research in the News

For three days in September, UNCG students represented our university in the 2015 International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR). ICUR is an annual multidisciplinary conference that connects students from seven countries around the world using videoconference technology. UNCG's student researchers presented on topics in a wide range of fields; some of the studies were made possible by URSCO's Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards. The conference provides students with the opportunity to present their research in front of an international audience of their peers, connecting them with each other and gaining questions and feedback that can drastically improve a project. The opportunity to present one's original work is paramount in a student researcher's career, and professors should encourage their students to apply for this and other conferences. URSCO has a Travel Award to support students as they travel to conferences in their field. Scholars from all disciplines are urged to apply.

Quotable

Research is
four things:
brains with
which to
think, eyes
with which
to see,
machines
with which
to measure
and, fourth,
money.

-Albert Szent-Gyorgyi
Hungarian physiologist who
won the Nobel Prize in 1937

Award Winners

The Lilian Nile Undergraduate Research Assistantship was awarded to **Tory Strider**, a Biochemistry major. Strider used the assistantship to attend the Summer International Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Bristol, working in the School of Chemistry with Dr. Duncan Wass. Generous donations from alumni, faculty, and Greensboro industry make this assistantship possible.



Angela Hairston was awarded a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Hairston is a Chemistry major with a concentration in Research. She used the scholarship to study abroad in the United Kingdom, and was a participant in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program.

The Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award was awarded to **Dr. Jan Rychtář** in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He has organized the annual UNCG Regional Mathematics and Statistics Conference since 2005, co-authored almost 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals with undergraduates, and supervised the research of over 40 undergraduate students.

Dr. Terry Nile was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to establish an international Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. The grant will allow students from UNCG and institutions nationwide to undertake research at the Universities of Bath, Bristol and Cardiff in the United Kingdom for up to eight weeks in each of the summers 2014-16.

Sara Yolanda Rubio Correa was the recipient of the 2015-16 Charlotte and W. Dabney White Research Award, which is awarded to students involved in pure or applied scientific research. Rubio Correa was recognized for her excellent record and her ongoing research with Dr. Olav Rueppell.

Student Researcher Interview: *Anna Cox*

How would you describe your project?

Many social justice movements seeks to find and overturn double standards which trap a certain group in a state of constantly being seen as inferior. Specifically, we are writing about the "purity myth"- the idea that while men are considered "good" or valuable for a variety of traits, women are often treated as moral only as much as they avoid anything sexual. This creates a world where a woman's worth is never permanently established, is defined by her body rather than her mind and personality, and can be (and often is) taken forcefully from her. In our paper we discuss some of the implications of the purity myth for society as a whole, focusing especially on the way that it impacts children, those in poverty, the LGBTQIA community, and people of color, regardless of gender.

How will your work contribute to your field?

Our field is English. I find English to be a beautiful language, but our main intention in learning and teaching English is not usually about the specifics of the language at all. Our goal is always to allow people to communicate their ideas and understand one another better. To me, that always starts with encouraging and enabling people to see our own society objectively. I hope that this project will help our readers better understand the culture we inhabit, and what we expect of the people around us. By understanding these influences and expectations, I hope that readers will be able to interact with different people more easily, respectfully, and efficiently. As I understand it, the study of English is meant to help people communicate and understand one another, and I have high work that our work will contribute to that endeavor.

How did you come to work with your mentor?

Near the end of last year I consulted one of my previous professors about working with him on this project. He was incredibly encouraging, but told me that it wasn't quite his topic, and pointed me in Dr. Applegarth's direction. The first time we sat down together to go over the idea, I found myself excited about her hopeful attitude, her crucial questions, and her constructive criticism. Those three things have made this project possible from day one, and working with her continues to be a pleasure. We've changed the topic slightly from its original form, and I know that what we are currently working on is a much stronger project than I could have come up with alone.

What have been some of your greatest challenges?

Right now it's still fairly early in the year, but one of my greatest challenges so far has been intentionally setting aside the time to work on this project. Like an online class, it can be easy to forget how important and exciting it is, just because I don't go to a classroom and turn in homework twice a week. Meeting regularly with Dr. Applegarth has helped with that, and it's something that seems to be getting easier as we solidify our approach and delve into the research.

How do you think participating in undergraduate research has been— or will be— beneficial to you?

This has been and will continue to be helpful to me in so many ways that I'm sure I'll forget some in this list. I've had some really incredible professors in my time at UNCG, but this is the first time that I've really gotten to work one-on-one with a professor. This allows me to get

feedback on everything from topic changes to tone, all from a professional in the field whom I've chosen to work with and highly respect. There is also a certain level of freedom in having the resources to pursue your own topic. Getting into conversations with my friends, acquaintances, and the occasional stranger on campus, I'm always startled by how many brilliant, useful, and potentially life-changing ideas they have. This program has allowed me to turn an idea which came to me out of the blue on my couch one day into something which might influence the way that people see our culture and treat groups which currently suffer significant oppression. Finally, if I decide to go to graduate school, this is a good step in learning to write and defend a thesis. I am learning collaboration, research, and writing skills which will help me in my classes this year

and in my job in the future, and which will be necessary if I do decide to attend graduate school at some point.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'm currently in the process of completing a licensure program to teach high school English. Teaching high school English has been my dream job for several years, and I hope to do it for a long time. At some point I may go back to school to get my Master's in order to further inform the way that I teach.

Are you a student researcher or faculty mentor with an amazing research story? Send it to us at URSCO@uncg.edu.

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2015 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo Winners

Visual Arts

1st- Valerie Mazo, Faculty Mentor- Nikki Blair, Art

"Toxic Consumerism"

2nd- Taylor Kane & Jackson Thomas, Artists in Residence Program

"Humans of Greensboro"

Humanities, Business, Education, and Social Sciences

1st- Shelley Gates, Faculty Mentor- Laura Cole, Interior Architecture

"Teaching Green School Buildings: An Analysis of Photovoice Data"

2nd- Deanne Rose Ewald & Sarah Howle, Faculty Mentor- Lauren Haldeman, Nutrition

"Hypertension in Low-Income, Immigrant, and Minority Adolescents"

3rd- MaryAnn Kozikowski, Faculty Mentors- Melanie Carrico, Consumer Apparel and Retail Studies

"Consumer Preferences in Plus Size Design"

Honorable Mention- Rachel Wilson, Faculty Mentor- Ann Ramsey, Consumer Apparel and Retail Studies

"Technology and the Future of the Apparel Industry"

Honorable Mention- Nicole Schachter, Faculty Mentor- Susanne Rinner, Languages, Literature and Culture

"Weltschmerz and Sehnsucht: Differences in Perceived Suffering in German and American Cultures"

Sciences

1st- Keith Watkins, Faculty Mentor- Paul Knapp, Geography

"UNCG's Old-Growth Trees"

2nd- Ashleigh Musso, Faculty Mentor- Nadja Cech, Chemistry & Biochemistry

"Simultaneous Analysis of Multiple Alkaloids in Endophyte-Infected Grasses"

3rd- Juliano Slivinski, Faculty Mentor- Nicholas Oberlies, Chemistry & Biochemistry

"Isolation and Purification of Compounds from *Silybum marianum*"

Honorable Mention- Edem Tchegnon, Faculty Mentors- Nicholas Oberlies & Huzefa Raja, Chemistry & Biochemistry

"A Survey of Fungal Endophytes from *Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal in North Carolina"

Honorable Mention- Babak Yousefi, Faculty Mentor- Olav Rueppell, Biology

"Behavioral and Mortality Changes in Response to Early Life Stress Treatment"

Psychology

1st- Anna Batista, Maria Ditcheva, Saboria Thomas, & Mia McDonald, Faculty Mentor- Suzanne Vrshek-Schallhorn, Psychology

"Transdiagnostic Anxiety Severity Associated with Blunted Cortisol Response to Lab-Induced Stress"

2nd- Karys Normansell, Faculty Mentor- Blair Wisco, Psychology

"Negative Interpretation Bias as a Mechanism of the Relationship between Rejection Sensitivity and Depression"

3rd- Sarah McClanahan, Faculty Mentors- Julie Campbell and George Michel, Psychology

"Unimanual Hand Preference"

Honorable Mention- Amber Borcyk, Faculty Mentor- Blair Wisco, Psychology

"Is Dampening of Positive Affect a Specific Risk Factor for Depressive Symptoms? Evidence from Three Longitudinal Studies"

Honorable Mention- Markeela Lipscomb, Faculty Mentor- Thomas Kwapil, Psychology

"Working Memory as a Moderator of Schizotypy and Creativity"

Honorable Mention- Alyssa Mielock, Faculty Mentor- Thomas Kwapil, Psychology

"Assessment of Psychotic-like Experiences in Daily Life"