

NEWS FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

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Out Now: Student Research Guide

The URC's latest guide for upcoming student researchers, *Research Guide: How to Start your Student Research Journey*, is now accessible to students! This guide is meant to offer stories and advice from current SOAR members to students looking for undergraduate research projects at MTSU and elsewhere.

This guide covers when to start research, how to find a project, student experiences, helpful advice, URC resources, and SOAR resources at MTSU.

The next time you are asked how to get involved in research, direct that student to this resource.

[Click Here to View the Student Research Guide](#)

This guide was initiated, compiled, and formatted by current SOAR Secretary and URC Communications and Social Media Ambassador, Dara Zwemer.

Stories were provided by current SOAR students, including Cassandra Perrone, Leah Piccirillo, Javier Hernandez, Robert Conner, Charlotte Daigle, Madeline Aadnes, Maria Fernanda Clark, Kylie C. Moe, Miquellie Bonner, Merry Young, Kaitlyn Berry, Zachary Sanchez, Kap Paull, and Christopher Hall.

URC'S MISSION

The Undergraduate Research Center's (URC) mission is to be the central hub for communication about undergraduate research grant programs and other related opportunities on and off campus, to distribute university funds for undergraduate research and creative projects, and to promote dissemination of results through travel grants and by offering opportunities for students to present their research findings.



UPCOMING DEADLINES TO NOTE

Week of November 15, 2021 | Early-Bird Abstract Submission Decision Notifications

Week of November 15, 2021 | Registration Opens

November 19, 2021 | Regular Abstract Submission Deadline
(Not eligible for competition aspect)

December 13, 2021 | Posters on the Hill Submission Deadline

December 20, 2021 | Discounted Registration Deadline #1

Week of January 10, 2022 | Regular Abstract Submission Notifications Sent

January 31, 2022 | Discounted Registration Deadline for Accepted Abstracts Submitted During Regular Submission Round

February 14-18 | Virtual CUR Dialogues

March 21, 2022 | Registration Closes

April 1, 2022 | NCUR 2022 @home Orientation

April 4-8, 2022 | Main NCUR 2022 @home event

April 11, 2022 | Celebratory Reflection and Award Ceremony



REMEMBER: If you intend to graduate with Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research, a presentation at NCUR is one of the requirements. Please see next page for more specifics.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

 Research


Biofuel Development from Biomass Modification and Characterization via Rama Spectroscopy Techniques

Jeff Mann, a summer URECA Gold grant recipient and a Chemistry major, focused his research on modified, plant-based biomass as a potential renewable energy source. He used microwave and sonication methods to produce biofuels and to analyze the chemical transformations that took place. He is a transfer student continuing his biomass valorization research here at MTSU. This research is vital to the study of renewable energy as a whole.

Faculty Mentor:
Ngee Chong, Chemistry

 Creative Activity

An Evaluation of Perspective, Persona, and Point of View In Short Stories

Charlotte Daigle, a summer URECA Assistant grant recipient and an English major, focused her creative work studying perspective, persona, and point of view in fictional short stories. She studied the narrative voice of authors to build a framework for writing a future collection of short stories as an undergraduate Honors Thesis. She hopes to apply this research as a future writer and editor for the United Nations.

Faculty Mentor:
Rhonda McDaniel, English



JOIN US!!

Fall Research Open House

November 4, 2021

Science Building Atrium | 11-1pm

The Undergraduate Research Center presents our 4th Annual Open House on November 4 from 11-1pm in the Science Building atrium, 2nd floor. This event is an informal poster session that showcases a sampling of current undergraduate research and creative projects at MTSU. All students, particularly new students and transfer students, are invited to attend.

This event presents the following opportunities for students:

- Introduction to undergraduate research and the importance of dissemination;
- Experience a variety of academic poster presentations representing an array of majors and disciplines;
- Present questions to current researchers about how they became involved in undergraduate research, how they balance coursework and research, and how they selected a faculty mentor;
- Find out more about our spring & summer URECA grants; and
- Learn about SOAR from current members.

FACULTY: We invite you to feature this event as an extra credit opportunity for your students. Attendees will be required to talk with a minimum of 5 student presenters, which will be verified by the presenter initialing their program. I will sign off on the program once all requirements are met. Students can then submit the program to you for extra credit.

HEALTH SCIENCE MAJORS

We need your
help!

Do you have 20 minutes to spare for a fellow undergraduate researcher? Zachary Sanchez, a MTSU Nursing student, is studying beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions of health science undergraduate students related to working with older adults. His research team is in the process of testing and validating a new scale that they have created (Beliefs and Attitudes Toward Working with Older Adults; Sanchez, Moore, and Flagg). There are approximately 40 scale questions and some demographic questions. We would so appreciate your participation. To access the survey, please click [HERE](#).

THANK YOU!!



DID YOU KNOW?

The URC has a facebook page!

Follow us :

Undergraduate Research Center
at MTSU or click the facebook icon
for updates and stories.

What is the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research? AKA "SOAR"



A new student organization comprised of undergraduate students who are committed to developing and sustaining an active and successful undergraduate research environment at MTSU.

SOAR's Mission

To enhance student's research capacity through increased awareness, collaboration and skill building.

Why Join?

- SOAR will enhance a student's research capacity through increased awareness, collaboration and skill building by offering workshops and trainings to fulfill the needs of undergraduate researchers.
- SOAR will assist students in the preparation of poster presentations and development of abstracts to increase conference presence on a national level, encourage students to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, and facilitate travel preparations.
- SOAR will provide peer mentoring to students new to undergraduate research.



FEATURED SOAR STUDENT

MERRY YOUNG



Major: Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Oldham

Current Research Focus: The Relationship between Religion and Guilt after Sexual Encounters

Project Description: I studied how religion affects sex guilt via sexual attitudes, such as the importance of abstinence, communal attitudes about sex, and sociosexuality. I found that intended abstinence was the strongest mediator, those who intended to wait until marriage to have sex experienced the most guilt after having premarital sex.

Why does this topic interest you?

This topic interests me because of the influence of religion. Coming from a religious background, I find it interesting to see how the scripts within Christianity affect the lives of individuals and the relationships they have.

What are your professional aspirations?

After finishing undergrad, I intend to go straight into graduate school to become an LPC for Military members and their families.



Do you have any advice for future researchers?

My advice to future researchers is to find a topic that you are wholeheartedly interested in. When you're interested in the topic it makes research fun! I have loved my research experience because I was so intrigued by my topic!

Join us!

**WANT TO
LEARN
MORE
ABOUT
SOAR?**

Check out our [website](#) and [current SOAR student profiles!](#)

Distinguished Lecture: We Want YOUR Input!



Who would you like to see featured our Spring URECA Luncheon?

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out a survey!

Alternatively, email Dr. Jamie Burriss at jamie.burriss@mtsu.edu

Lecture Mission

The Distinguished Lecture Committee seeks to promote appearances by nationally and internationally known speakers who focus on the timely discussion of regional, national, and global issues in a variety of fields. The programs sponsored will represent a balance of topics pertinent to the student population of MTSU, and should be designed to elevate the campus dialogue on important current events. Speakers may include authors, lecturers, politicians, and other relevant individuals.

Prior Guests:

Robert "Hoot" Gibson, NASA Astronaut, 2018

Ketch Secor, Musician and Author, 2020

Tell Us About Your Publication!

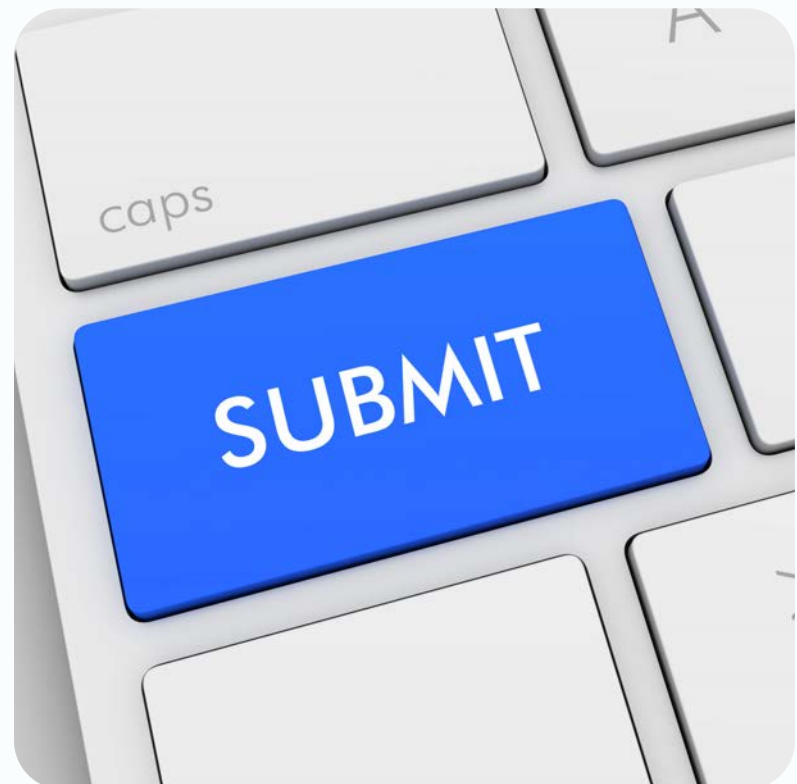
Have you recently published your research?

Get the recognition you deserve!

[CLICK HERE](#)

To Submit Your Work!

Publications will be featured on the Undergraduate Research Center's website! View our students' prior publications by [clicking here](#).





UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRADUATION DISTINCTION

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue, and white cord

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue and white cord
AND a medallion (see image in the upper right corner)

DISTINCTION CRITERIA

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of an Assistant level URECA project - 50 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Endorsement by URECA faculty mentor.

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of a Scholar level URECA project - 100 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Poster or presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 5 Endorsement by URECA faculty mentor.

Graduating in December?

Deadline to apply: 12/1/2021

Access the application [HERE](#).

It will take you about 5 mins to complete!

INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the following opportunities for fall research !

- **Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program | Deadline November 1, 2021**
- **Various internships, US Environmental Protection Agency | Summer and fall deadlines**
- **Visiting Scientist Program, Counterterrorism, and Forensic Science Research Unit, FBI | Applications reviewed on a rolling basis**

Virtual UR Presentation & Paper Opps

- **Call for Proposals, International Academic Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals, Utah Valley University | Deadline November 1, 2021**
- **Call for Papers, 12th National Conference on Earthquake Engineering | Deadline November 5, 2021**
- **Call for Abstracts, April 2022 Technical Meeting, Rubber Division, American Chemical Society | Deadline November 6, 2021**
- **Call for Abstracts, 2022 Indigenous Borderlands in North America Symposium, University of New Mexico | Deadline November 10, 2021**
- **Call for Proposals; "Literary Geographies: Space, Place, and Environments," Conference on Christianity and Literature, Biola University | Deadline November 15, 2021**
- **Call for Submissions, Second Railroads in Native America Gathering and Symposium | Deadline December 15, 2021**
- **Call for Papers, *The Reed Undergraduate Journal of Existentialism*, St. Olaf College | Deadline January 31, 2022**
- **Call for Papers, 2022 Virtual International Conference on Social Media and Society | Deadline January 31, 2022**
- **Call for Submissions, JOSHUA: Journal of Science and Health, University of Alabama | Deadline February 28, 2022**
- **Call for Papers, Young Journal of European Affairs, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich | Submissions accepted on a rolling basis**



National Science Foundation Opportunities

- **Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP)** | Deadline November 12, 2021
- **Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases** | Deadline November 24, 2021
- **Archaeology and Archaeometry** | Deadline December 1, 2021
- **Cyberinfrastructure for Sustained Scientific Innovation (CSSI)** | Deadline December 8, 2021
- **Biological Oceanography** | Deadline December 31, 2021
- **Partnerships for Research and Education in Physics (for minority-serving institutions)** | Deadline January 21, 2022
- **Community Facility Support: Synchrotron-Based Analytical Capabilities Advancing Earth and Environmental Sciences Research and Training** | Deadline March 4, 2022
- **Dear Colleague Letter, Opportunities for Collaboration between CISE and SBE Researchers**
- **Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering** | Various fall deadlines
- **Tribal Colleges and Universities Program** | Various deadlines
- **Dear Colleague Letter, Advancing Discovery with AI-Powered Tools (ADAPT) in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences**
- **Dear Colleague Letter, Envisioning the Future of NSF EBSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research)**



National Institutes of Health Opportunities

- **Listening sessions cohosted by NIH and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health that will seek to speed health research. Search Upcoming Dates and Times.**

STUDENTS! Are you presenting at a virtual conference this fall and would like assistance in paying for your travel? The URC can help!



The Undergraduate Research Center strives to support students in dissemination of their research. Undergraduates who are accepted to present their research at a regional, state, national, or international conference are eligible to receive financial assistance for registration fees.

Awarded travel funds are payable on a reimbursable basis only.

Please contact Casey.Penston@mtsu.edu for more information.