

Undergraduate Research Annual Report

2017-2018

Empowering students to learn outside of the classroom



LAUNCH
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah M. Misemer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Sarah M. Misemer

*Assoc. Director for Undergraduate Research,
LAUNCH, and Full Professor, Hispanic Studies*

At LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research (UGR) we are dedicated to connecting students with research opportunities across campus, establishing new partnerships, and serving current, future, and past undergraduate researchers. The 2017-18 academic year was no different. Upholding our commitment to undergraduate research development, we expanded our horizons, unveiling a series of innovative programs and redesigning old ones.

NEW EVENTS

In order to expand our visibility and offer more opportunities for undergraduates, LAUNCH: UGR created two all-day signature events—one in the fall and one in the spring—to highlight undergraduate research on the Texas A&M main campus.

In October, we expanded the Undergraduate Research Expo, originally a two-hour resource fair, into an all-day event that included programming and opportunities in a variety of formats. In the morning, the Expo featured panels for faculty, graduates, and administrators. The afternoon, featured concurrent sessions for undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and administrators. Afternoon sessions were followed by a Faculty and Student Research Speed Networking Panel and Social. Over 800 undergraduate students attended the all-day event. One of the most popular aspects of the Expo was the Speed Networking Panel in which 44 faculty from across campus presented 60-second blurbs on their research opportunities for undergraduate students. The Expo will take place on October 3rd in the MSC for fall 2018.

In the spring, the new all-day Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium, created especially for students participating in the LAUNCH: UGR Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program, took place at the end of February. The LAUNCH URS Symposium featured both poster and oral presentations in multiple disciplines by undergraduate researchers and fulfills the public presentation requirement for the URS thesis program. Faculty, staff, post-docs, and graduate students attend both oral and poster presentations as active listeners and provide feedback to the students on their projects and presentation skills. In addition, LAUNCH: UGR coordinated with LAUNCH: Honors and LAUNCH: Learning Communities to invite first-year students to attend the event to help them begin to identify research opportunities and become familiar with research presentations.

The LAUNCH URS Symposium also served as the first meeting for the newly formed Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas (AURA Texas), a community of twelve elite student researchers from the state's two flagship universities, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. The academy aims to strengthen the visibility of undergraduate research in Texas by providing these exceptional students with networking opportunities, the chance to hone their professional skills, and a venue to discuss the importance, impact, and benefits of undergraduate research for students and the State of Texas.

CREATIVE WORKS

Additions to our Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program included a pilot program for the new Creative Works template. LAUNCH: UGR identified a need for a thesis template that would better align with research norms used by students undertaking research in the creative fields. After working with a focus group of administrators, faculty, and students in 2016-17, LAUNCH: UGR piloted a Creative Works template based on recommendations. The pilot program included five faculty and 10 students. The Creative Works template will be open to all students in fall 2018.

Two new 2018 summer research programs serve as gateways into the URS thesis program: The Aggie Creative Collective (ACC) and The Hagler-LAUNCH Scholars program. The ACC is supported by LAUNCH: UGR, the University Writing Center, the Department of English, and Undergraduate Studies. Two faculty mentors led eight students in a five-week intensive summer experience that combined research and creative writing for the ACC. The Hagler-LAUNCH Scholars summer research experience was led by visiting Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies Fellow, Dr. Jerry Tessendorf. His team of five interdisciplinary undergraduate researchers are creating a virtual simulation of the sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. This initiative is a collaboration among LAUNCH: UGR, the Departments of Visualization and Ocean Engineering, and the Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies. After completing their summer research, students from both summer programs will begin participating in the URS program using the Creative Works thesis template.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

LAUNCH: UGR also established new partnerships to strengthen URS thesis projects in the Humanities. This year we collaborated with Dr. Claire Katz's Philosophy for Children (P4C Texas) program (class, lab, and summer camp) to support a student doing research on philosophy and education for the URS thesis program. LAUNCH: UGR also created a tripartite partnership among LAUNCH: UGR, the Department of History (Dr. Katherine Unterman), and the TAMU School of Law (Dr. Randy Gordon) to co-advise and mentor a student working on a URS thesis that combined both legal and historical scholarship. Expanding upon this initial collaboration LAUNCH: UGR worked with the Department of Philosophy to include the Society, Ethics and Law degree for the 3/3 program with the TAMU School of Law and include the URS thesis program. In addition, LAUNCH: UGR strengthened ties with both the TAMU-Galveston and TAMU-Qatar campuses. Students from both campuses participated in the URS Symposium in College Station, and the TAMU-G campus graduated its largest

class of URS scholars to date (14 students). In summer 2018, LAUNCH: UGR began recruiting TAMUQ students participating in summer REU programs on the College Station campus for participation in the URS program. We anticipate an increase in the number of students from both campuses in the URS program, as well as the initiation of new Undergraduate Research Ambassadors programs for both campuses. Finally, LAUNCH: UGR, along with LAUNCH: Honors, and other key stakeholders on campus, supported the first Visiting Phi Beta Kappa Scholar, Dr. Ayana Thompson, for her lecture on the A&M campus. LAUNCH hosted a several events for both faculty and students to interact with Dr. Thompson.

EXPLORATIONS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The 10th anniversary volume of *Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal* (November 2018) will also mark the debut of the new interactive digital platform, developed in partnership with the Department of Visualization, by students under the mentorship of Anatol Bologan. LAUNCH: UGR is grateful for the generous support of donors Ralph and Barbara Cox as we work to improve and update the print and digital versions of *Explorations*.

STAFF NEWS

In July, I presented "Undergraduate Research in Creative Works Fields: Developing an Inclusive Model on a STEM Campus" at the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Biennial Conference in Arlington, VA. Program Coordinator, Annabelle Aymond, and Program Assistant, Caroline Sonnier, also attended the CUR Conference. LAUNCH staff participated in the High-Impact Practices in the States (HIPS) conference in Los Angeles, CA in February.

In 2018-19, we plan to build on the success of our existing programs, while we expand opportunities to collaborate with new programs. We will also be gearing up for the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol in Austin, TX in April, as we work closely with our colleagues in the TAMU Office of Government Relations to coordinate our visit. We cannot wait for another exciting year!

LAUNCH* EMPOWERS UNDERGRADATES TO LEARN OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

*Learning Communities, Academic Excellence, Undergraduate Research,
National Fellowships, Capstones, Honors

LAUNCH MISSION STATEMENT

The LAUNCH office is a collaboration of six teams that work together supporting students, faculty, and staff across the Texas A&M University System. Through community building and high-impact practices, personal and professional development opportunities, and the recognition of excellence, LAUNCH encourages all Aggies to expand their minds, take on challenges, dare to dream, and get involved.

OUR SERVICES

The LAUNCH office provides high-impact educational experiences and challenges motivated students in all academic disciplines to graduate from an enriched, demanding curriculum. The programs administered by our office bring together outstanding students and faculty to build a community of knowledge-producers, life-long learners, nationally-recognized scholars, and world citizens. Through the LAUNCH office, motivated students have access to Honors courses, co-curricular enrichment activities, and research experiences that can be customized to enhance each student's personal, professional, and intellectual development.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

LAUNCH is a unit of Undergraduate Studies in the Division of Academic Affairs. Many of our programs are supported through student fees and generous contributions from the Office of the Provost, the Texas A&M Foundation, The Association of Former Students, and our generous donors Ralph and Barbara Cox.

- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President
- Division of Academic Affairs
- Undergraduate Studies
- LAUNCH*
- Undergraduate Research

LAUNCH STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

► diversity.tamu.edu

The LAUNCH office joins the university community in making Texas A&M a welcoming environment for all individuals. We are committed to helping students understand the cultures which set us apart and appreciate the values that bring us together.



LAUNCH
UNIT OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH *at* Texas A&M



Texas A&M University is an institutional member of CUR, a campus-wide resource renewed annually by LAUNCH: UGR.

COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

► cur.org

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is an organization of members from around the world. CUR members share a focus on providing high-quality and collaborative undergraduate research, scholarly, and creative activity opportunities for faculty and students.

Benefits of Undergraduate Research

- Enhances student learning through mentoring relationships with faculty
- Increases retention and graduation in academic programs
- Increases enrollment in graduate education and provides effective career preparation
- Develops critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and intellectual independence
- Develops an understanding of research methodology
- Promotes an innovation-oriented culture

THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AT TEXAS A&M

► vpr.tamu.edu

Texas A&M's Division of Research delivers strategic support to further the University's research mission through, facilitating collaborations to grow federal funding, strengthening the research infrastructure, promoting the value of research, encouraging commercialization partnerships, and ensuring research compliance. The division is committed to a truly comprehensive university, where students, researchers, and inventors bring scholarship and innovation to bear for the benefit of the community, the state, and the nation.

Visit the VPR's website for more on research at Texas A&M, including research expenditures, fact sheets, and other statistics.

The definition of undergraduate research as defined by CUR.

An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.

Our Involvement in CUR Professional Conferences

Collaborative Undergraduate Humanities Research through Summer Seminars and Writing Communities

*By Dr. Duncan S. MacKenzie, Dr. Sarah M. Misemer, and Dr. Valerie Balester
CUR Biennial 2016*

Expanding Successful STEM Teams and Creating Similar Team-based, Partner-supported Humanities Scholars Programs

*By Dr. Sumana Datta and Dr. Sarah M. Misemer
Undergraduate Research Program
Directors Conference, 2017*

Undergraduate Research in Creative Works Fields: Developing an Inclusive Model on a STEM Campus

*By Dr. Sarah M. Misemer
CUR Biennial 2018*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CREDIT ENROLLMENT

Academic Year Totals in 2017-2018

1,345 [†]unique
students
*enrolled in 0-credit
hour research courses*

7,326 [†]unique
students
*enrolled in 1-6 credit
hour research courses*

16,439
credit hours
*earned from 1-6 credit hour
research courses in fall 2017,
spring 2018, and summer 2018*

Figure 1: Research Credit Enrollment Totals in AY 2017-2018

[†] Some students are enrolled in multiple semesters and/or in multiple eligible courses in the same semester. Unique student numbers have duplicates removed.

Note: Undergraduate research credits are defined as 285/485, 291/491, and 497 courses, from 0-6 hours.

Undergraduate Research Credit Enrollment Growth (AY 2013-2014 thru AY 2017-2018)

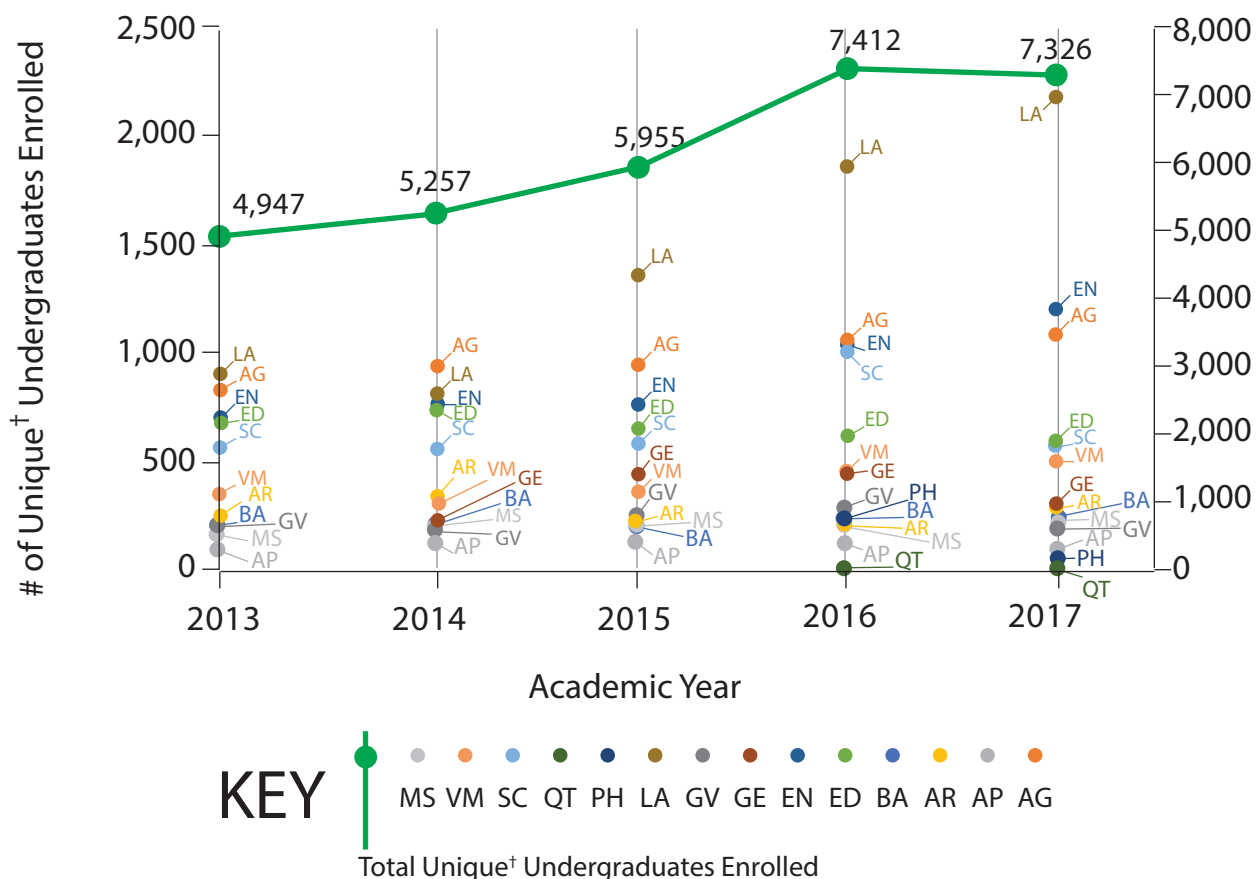


Figure 2: Undergraduate Research Credit Enrollment Growth from AY 2013-2014 through 2017-2018

[†] Some students are enrolled in multiple semesters and/or in multiple eligible courses in the same semester. Unique student numbers have duplicates removed.

Note: Undergraduate research credits are defined as 285/485, 291/491, and 497 courses, from 0-6 hours.

9.62% average growth  **24.6%** enrolled in 2+ semesters

Figure 3: Average Growth of Undergraduate Research Credit Enrollment from AY 2013-2014 through AY 2017-2018.

Note: Undergraduate Research credit enrollment grew on average 9.62%. 24.6% of the students included in this data were enrolled in 2 or more semesters of research credit hours.

RESEARCH CREDIT ENROLLMENT IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

Undergraduate Research Credit Enrollment Growth in the Arts & Humanities from AY 2013-2014 through AY 2017-2018

Selected* Research Credit Enrollment in the Arts & Humanities (AY 2017-2018)

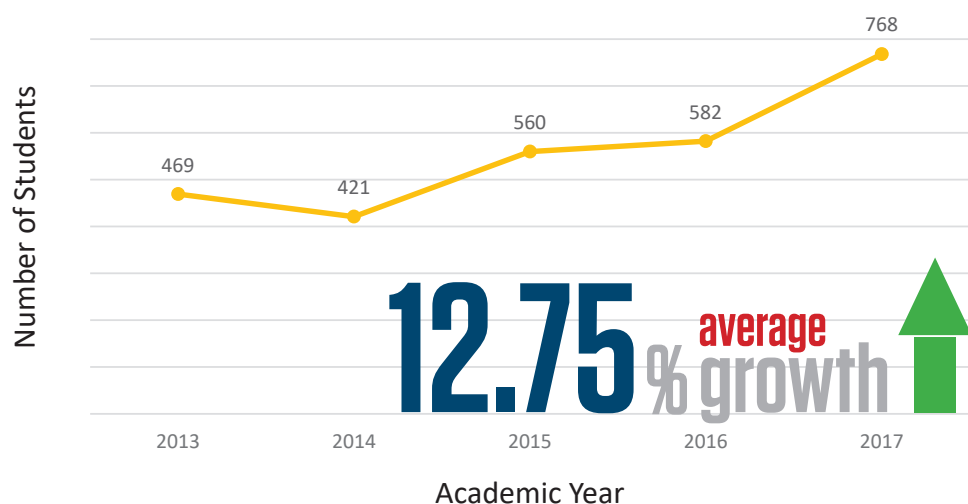


Figure 4: Research Credit Enrollment Growth in Selected* Arts & Humanities from AY 2013-2014 through AY 2017-2018

*Data shown only includes research credit enrollment in the selected departments and programs.

Note: Undergraduate research credits are defined as 285/485, 291/491, and 497 courses, from 0-6 hours.

Arts & Humanities Departments with Students Enrolled in Undergraduate Research Courses

Table 2: Selected* Arts & Humanities Departments with Students Enrolled in Research Credit from AY 2013-2014 through AY 2017-2018

Department	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Department Total
ENGL	24	20	22	34	50	127
ANTH	9	17	33	24	103	172
COMM	130	184	222	368	439	1287
HISP	37	11	17	12	23	95
HIST	26	19	17	22	15	89
INTS	222	167	239	114	131	770
PHUM	27	12	18	10	10	69
JOUR	4	-	-	-	-	4
Annual Total	469	421	560	582	768	2550

*Data shown only includes research credit enrollment in the selected departments and programs.

Note: Undergraduate research credits are defined as 285/485, 291/491, and 497 courses, from 0-6 hours.

SELECTED* DEPARTMENTS AND COURSES

Table 1: Selected* Arts & Humanities Departments and Programs

College	Course Code	Course Name	Department
College of Liberal Arts	WGST	Women's and Gender Studies	Women's and Gender Studies
	ANTH	Anthropology	Anthropology
	COMM	Communication	Communication
	JOUR	Journalism	Communication
	ENGL	English	English
	HISP	Hispanic Studies	Hispanic Studies
	SPAN	Spanish Language	Hispanic Studies
	HIST	History	History
	FREN	French Language	International Studies
	GERM	German Language	International Studies
	RUSS	Russian Language	International Studies
	INTS	International Studies	International Studies
	CLAS	Classics	International Studies
	ASIA	Asian Studies	International Studies
	EURO	European Studies	International Studies
	HBRW	Hebrew Language	International Studies
	AFST	Africana Studies	International Studies
	ARAB	Arabic Studies	International Studies
	MODL	Modern Languages	International Studies
	CHIN	Chinese Language	International Studies
	ITAL	Italian Language	International Studies
	JAPN	Japanese Language	International Studies
	RELS	Religious Studies	International Studies
	MUSC	Music	Performance Studies
	MUSI	Music	Performance Studies
	PERF	Performance Studies	Performance Studies
	THAR	Theatre Studies	Performance Studies
	FILM	Film Studies	Performance Studies
	PHIL	Philosophy	Philosophy and Humanities
	HUMA	Humanities	Philosophy and Humanities
	PHUM	Philosophy and Humanities	Philosophy and Humanities
	SEAL	Society, Ethics, and Law	Philosophy and Humanities
	UGST	Undergraduate Studies	Undergraduate Studies
College of Architecture	VIST	Visualization	Visualization
	ARTS	Art	Visualization
College of Education and Human Development	DCED	Dance Education	Health and Kinesiology

*Data shown only includes research credit enrollment in the selected departments and programs.

Note: Undergraduate research credits are defined as 285/485, 291/491, and 497 courses, from 0-6 hours.

CREATING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMARY GOALS

1. Offer more opportunities for undergraduates to become involved in research
2. Highlight undergraduate research on the Texas A&M campus
3. Expand the visibility of undergraduate research

ACTION ITEMS

1. Research Opportunities Database
2. Undergraduate Research Expo
3. Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE

Updated weekly! ► tx.ag/ROdatabase

To make the variety of undergraduate research opportunities more accessible to students at Texas A&M, LAUNCH: UGR designed a database that allows students to search and filter programs, presentation venues, as well as funding and publication applications. The database also lets the student explore both on- and off-campus positions during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

To post your research opportunity for undergraduate students, just complete a short form on our website! The LAUNCH: UGR office reviews all submissions before posting.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES | ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH | NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS | CAPSTONES | HONORS

ATM | LAUNCH Undergraduate Research

Home | About Us | Applications | Students | Faculty & Staff

Research Opportunities Database

To submit an undergraduate research opportunity to our database, fill out a [Research Opportunity Submission Form](#).

Quick Tips for Searching

1. Check the filters that are relevant to your search
2. If you still need the search to be more narrow, use the search box
3. Click on the name of the opportunity for more detailed information
4. Changes to the filters and the search box appear in real-time (when the deadline has passed, the opportunity will no longer appear)

Show 10 entries Search:

Name	Category	Deadline	Summary
2018-19 CUR Social Sciences Division Student Travel Awards	Funding	None	\$200 travel grant for students traveling to present social science research
2019 Costa Rica Research Experience for Undergraduates	Program	1/18/2019	10-week research program in ecophysiology
Academic Support Initiatives in Residence Life	Program, Research Position	None	Student interns will work with a Research Team and gain valuable experience directly tied to their field of interest.
After Combat: The Voices Project - Dr. Marian Eide	Research Position	TBA	Interactive webpage collecting narratives from veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
Aggie Creative Collective	Program	TBA	5-week summer program in creative research and writing that leads into participation in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program
Aggie Research Scholars Program	Program	None	Aggie Research Scholars perform research in teams led by an experienced graduate student or postdoctoral fellow.
Aggie Challenge	Program	None	A program that engages engineering undergrads with multidisciplinary team projects related to the engineering challenges facing society.
Aggie's Software Engineering Group	Research Position	None	Build a more secure google chrome browser
American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Virtual Poster Showcase	Conference, Symposium	10/2/2018	An online presentation competition for undergraduate research in Earth or space sciences
Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy, and Health (CARTEEH) Summer Internship Program	Program	2/28/2019	10-week summer internship conducting research related to transportation and health

Filters

By Category:

- ☐ Research Position
- ☐ Program
- ☐ Conference
- ☐ Symposium
- ☐ Funding
- ☐ Miscellaneous

By Other:

- ☐ On Campus
- ☐ Off Campus
- ☐ Summer Research
- ☐ GPR Requirement
- ☐ Individual Project
- ☐ Team Project (Curriculum)
- ☐ STEM
- ☐ Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- ☐ Interdisciplinary

[RESET FILTERS](#)

Figure 5: Image of the LAUNCH: UGR Research Opportunities Database on the LAUNCH: UGR Website.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPO

On 4 October 2017, LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research held its first ever all-day Undergraduate Research Expo in the Memorial Student Center on the campus of Texas A&M University.

This Expo expanded on the two-hour resource fair held in years past. The event showcased opportunities for faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students to find ways to get involved in undergraduate research. Morning panels targeted administrators, faculty, staff, and graduate students with discussions on “Research Cultures and Mentoring Models” and the topic “Successful Integration of Undergraduates into Your Research Community.”

In the afternoon, multiple spaces in the MSC were used to house concurrent events for undergraduate students that included: a two-hour Resource Fair, the Aggie Research Program’s Aggie Research Scholars’ research poster presentations, and three break-out sessions led by faculty, staff, and graduate students (LAUNCH: UGR’s Getting Started in Research, Team vs. Individual Research, and Research Opportunities and Resources).

Volunteers for the Expo included LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, Learning Communities’ Peer Mentors, and LAUNCH staff members. The day culminated with a Speed Networking Panel, in which 44 faculty from across campus presented 60-second blurbs on their research and opportunities for undergraduates, followed by a Networking Social that provided a time for students and faculty to visit informally about opportunities and involvement.

Based on our survey results, the revitalized Undergraduate Research Expo was well-received by students and recommended by faculty.

556 STUDENTS
ATTENDED
THE UGR EXPO

Figure 6: UGR Expo Attendance



Figure 7: UGR Expo poster with the event schedule

How would you rate the UGR Expo?

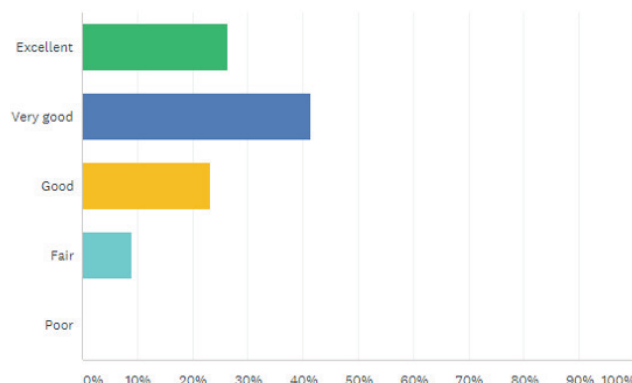


Figure 8: Student Response to “How would you rate the UGR Expo?”

How likely is it that you would recommend the UGR Expo to a student or colleague?

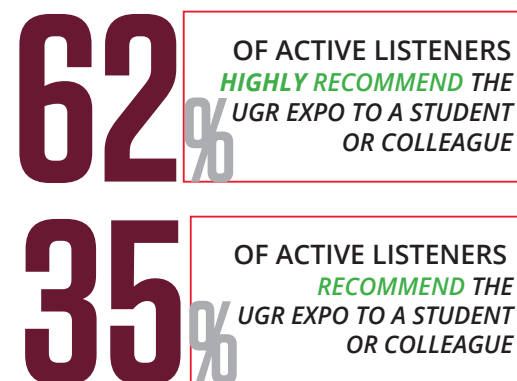


Figure 9: Faculty Response to “How likely is it that you would recommend the UGR Expo to a student or colleague?”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

On February 28, 2018, LAUNCH: UGR held its first ever Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium in the Memorial Student Center on the campus of Texas A&M University. The Symposium highlighted undergraduate researchers in the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program. The URS thesis program provides undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research, produce a professional document, and communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community.

The URS Symposium is not judged and no prizes are given. Students practice presentation skills, share their research, and receive comments on how to improve their projects. Active Listeners made up of faculty, staff, and administrators gave feedback to students on three areas:

1. Body language and delivery
2. Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
3. Effective use of visual aids (if used)

The Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium also served as the first meeting for the Academic of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas (AURA Texas), a new group of twelve elite student researchers from the state's two flagship universities, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin.

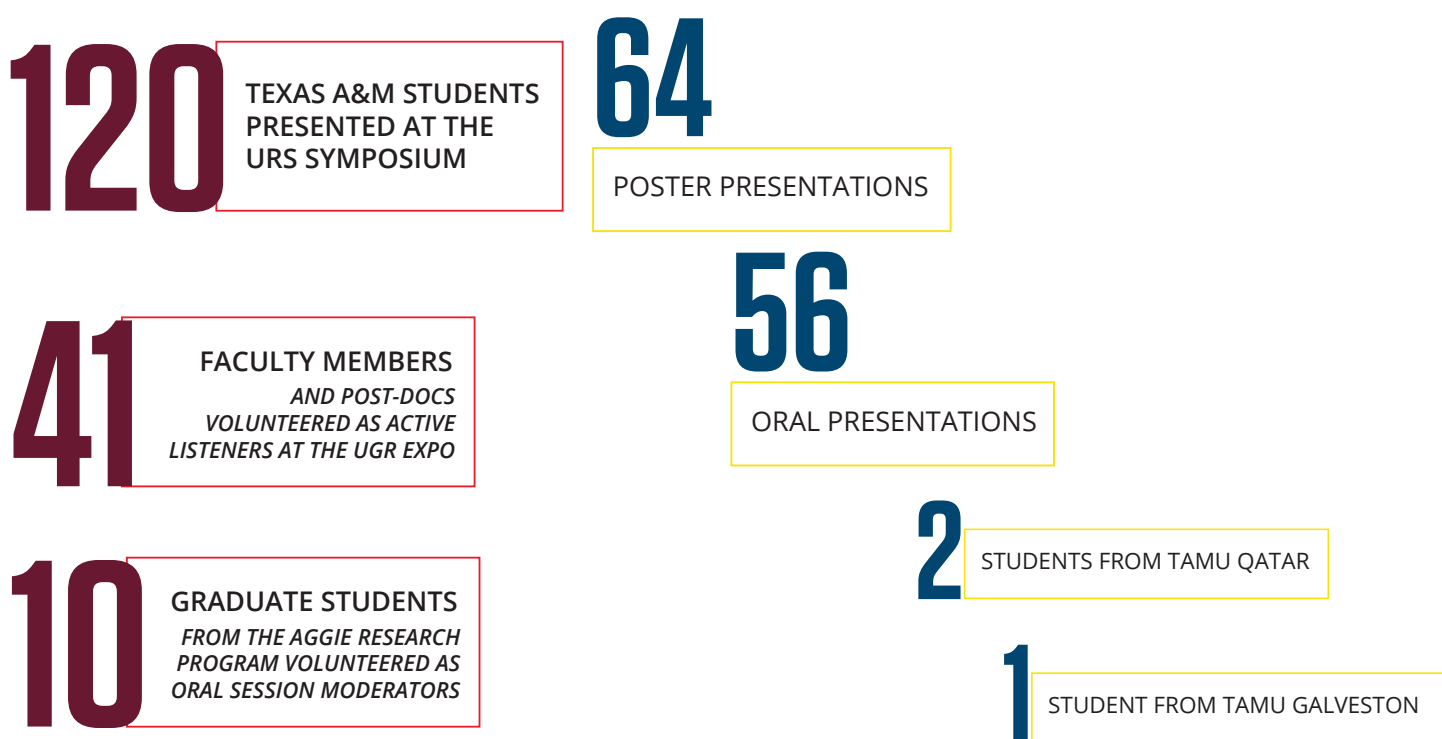


Figure 10: Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium Statistics

Note: (left) 120 Texas A&M students presented at the URS Symposium. (right) 2 student presenters traveled from Texas A&M - Qatar and 1 student from Texas A&M - Galveston. There were 64 poster presentations and 56 oral presentations. (bottom) 41 faculty members and post-docs volunteered as active listeners, and 10 graduate students from the Aggie Research Program volunteered as oral session moderators.

NEW INITIATIVES

Raising the Visibility of Arts & Humanities on a STEM Campus.

CREATIVE WORKS FOCUS GROUP

Meetings held fall 2016-spring 2017

Primary Goals

New Creative Works thesis template for LAUNCH: UGR's undergraduate thesis program.

Improved Creative Work submission process for *Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal*

Additional Goals

- How do we create/fund lifelong learning and transformative experiences for more students?
- New student platform for seeing and producing creative research.
- Benefits to faculty – this represents “best practices” in TEACHING, it is not just service work.

Analysis
+
Artifact
+
Reflection

Creative
Work
Research

FOCUS GROUP OUTCOMES

Development of an Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis template that reflects the definition and process of creative works research

- Definition: Analysis + Artifact + Reflection = Creative Work Research
- Research and creative works are not mutually exclusive. Not all creative works are research-based.

Development of a rubric for learning outcomes

Master depth of knowledge

- Work* is appropriate to genre and medium.
- Work is of the highest quality.
- Work creates new or adapts existing artifacts.

Demonstrate critical thinking

- Work uses practice to solve research question.
- Work makes connections between historical context, disciplinary paradigms, and aesthetic standards.
- Work offers new approach to problem-solving.

Communicate effectively

- Work* speaks to target audience.
- Work uses appropriate academic and artistic methods of communication.
- Work produces knowledge based on creative practice as well as academic research.

Prepare to engage in lifelong learning and curiosity

- Carry a project to completion with a self-reflection component.
- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity in the work.

*Analysis + Artifact + Reflection = Creative Work

Revision of submission questions for Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal

- Revised processes to align with rubrics and definition of creative works
- Developed new interactive digital platform with Visualization to publish future volumes
- Creative research submissions require faculty approval before publication

Revised Submission Questions

- What research question does your creative work address?
- How does your creative work engage with disciplinary paradigms, such as genre, school, style, or form?
- Briefly describe your methods, technique, and/or process, and explain how they are connected to your final product.
- What new knowledge did your creative work produce?

FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

Primary Faculty and Staff

- **Dr. Leonardo Cardoso** | Performance Studies
- **Amanda Dyer, M.A.** | University Art Galleries
- **Dr. Tim McLaughlin** | Visualization, Architecture
- **Alexandra Pooley, M.S.C.** | Dance, Kinesiology
- **Dr. Kirsten Pullen** | Performance Studies
- **Dr. Susan Stabile** | English

LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research Staff

- **Dr. Sarah M. Misemer** | Hispanic Studies, Associate Director for LAUNCH: UGR
- **Annabelle G. Aymond** | Program Coordinator for LAUNCH: UGR

Student Representative

- Isabelle Antes '18 Management, Mays Business School, Visual Arts Committee

Other Contributors

- **Dr. Sumana Datta** | Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Executive Director, LAUNCH
- **Dr. Jonathan Kotinek** | Associate Director, LAUNCH: Honors
- **Dr. Laura Wimberley** | Associate Director, LAUNCH: Learning Communities
- **Dustin Kemp** | Program Assistant, LAUNCH: Capstones

2017-2018 CREATIVE WORKS THESIS PILOT PROGRAM

- 10 students and 5 faculty
- Visualization, English/Creative Writing, English/Film, Dance
- \$500 faculty bursary to mentor students and give feedback to LAUNCH: UGR
- 2 final projects to be published in *Explorations*, Volume 10
- Based on feedback from faculty and students in the pilot program, LAUNCH: UGR added a Q&A requirement for students in the presentation/exhibition portion of the Creative Works thesis template
- New Creative Works thesis option opened to public in June 2018

2017-2018 Creative Works Thesis Pilot Program Participants

Dancing in Virtual Reality

By Sarah Behseresht, Dance Science, Hannah Juenke, Dance Science, Kali Taft, Dance Science
URS Advisor: Alexandra Pooley

Participatory Interactive Campaign Developed to Raise Awareness About Poverty in Our Community

By Courtney Michalsky, Visualization, Stephanie Sykora, Visualization, and Lauren Toler, Visualization
URS Advisor: Dr. Jinsil Hwaryoung Seo

Pilgrimage Sites in the American Southwest: A Narrative Exploration of Sacred Destinations

By Courtney Kiobassa, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Susan Stabile

Campus Carry Film

By Joshua Samuel, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Dare to be First

By Caroline Piazza, Visualization
URS Advisor: Anatol Bologan

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN

P4CTexas is a group of dedicated educators who wish to provide an engaged relationship between the Texas universities and the Texas K-12 schools by introducing philosophy into the pre-college classroom. Dr. Claire Katz directs the P4C program (a multi-tiered public humanities project that includes K-12 teacher and administrator training for educators as far away as Dallas, a teens and tweens Aggie Athens Summer Camp for students living in Texas, both locally and regionally, and service-learning experiences for graduate and undergraduate students at TAMU) at Texas A&M University.

Pre-College Philosophy: Its Implications for American Democracy in the 21st Century

Cora Drozd, Philosophy, 2017-18 Undergraduate Research Scholar

URS Advisor: Dr. Claire Katz

PARTNERSHIP WITH TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW

LAUNCH: UGR, History, and the TAMU Law School collaborated this year on a pilot program to advance undergraduate research through the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis hosted through LAUNCH: UGR.

Litigating Women: The Path to Intermediate Scrutiny in American Law

Claye Epperson, History, 2017-2018 Undergraduate Research Scholar, Awardee of LAUNCH: UGR's 2018

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis, Awardee of the 2018 Drs. Grace and Henry Jameson Prize for the Best Undergraduate Essay or Research Paper on Women, Awarded through Women's and Gender Studies at Texas A&M University

URS Advisors: Dr. Randy Gordon and Dr. Kate Unterman

HAGLER-LAUNCH UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

This new 10-week summer undergraduate research experience sponsored by LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research in partnership with the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study, and the Departments of Visualization and Ocean Engineering, provided a research-intensive, interdisciplinary summer experience to 5 students that served as a gateway into the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis. These high-achieving undergraduates had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Jerry Tessendorf, a 2017-18 Hagler Faculty Fellow in a mentored research environment.

The students are testing a new software capable of creating scientifically useful virtual environments using the mysterious story of the sunken Edmund Fitzgerald to uncover details about the ship's final journey.

Hagler-LAUNCH Undergraduate Fellows

Proposal: Re-Creating the Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald

By Jasmine Derry, Visualization, Lauren Hammond, Anthropology, Marisa Harris, Visualization, Yuan-Chi Lee, Visualization, and Kiara Stewart, Visualization

URS Advisor: Dr. Jerry Tessendorf

AGGIE CREATIVE COLLECTIVE

The Aggie Creative Collective, supported by the University Writing Center, Department of English, and LAUNCH, is a new summer program that links creative arts, undergraduate scholarly research, and performance.

Undergraduate students, under the guidance of TAMU creative writing faculty, will spend five weeks (one summer session) developing a research question tied to a long-term creative writing project (e.g., novel, creative non-fiction, short prose or poetry collection, screenplay, or staged play) that culminates in a public reading at the end of the summer session. After completing the Aggie Creative Collective, students will be required to apply to LAUNCH's Undergraduate Research Scholars Program. Once accepted, they will work with a faculty advisor to develop their undergraduate creative thesis project during the fall and spring semesters, adhering to LAUNCH's creative works thesis template.



Figure 11: Aggie Creative Collective Recruitment Image

During the five-week Collective meetings, participants will develop a proposal for a creative undergraduate thesis suitable for submittal to the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program and refine a sample of their creative writing. In workshops and through individual conferences, they will learn about the structure of a creative thesis proposal, develop their creative writing, and refine their performance skills. The Collective will culminate in a short performance of their creative works.

Aggie Creative Collective Members

Proposal: *Queen of a Sun-Drenched Land*
Eliza Thomas, Psychology
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *A Thousand Golden Yesterdays*
Lewis Edwards, Anthropology
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *Peas, Bees, and Birds*
Adalynn Brock, Horticulture
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Candles and Thorns*
Reagan Ashley, Political Science/History
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Michelle or Michael or Whatever*
Ashley Arabia, English/History
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Prophecy*
Allyson Bains Sanchez, English/Classic, Comm
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *Celtic Lore and Legend in Contemporary Storytelling*
Mackenzie McFadden, English/Psychology
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *The Weight of Memory*
Riley Womack, English/Film Studies
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS

REU/SURE PARTNERSHIPS

LAUNCH: UGR is a gateway for information related to summer undergraduate research experiences and provides information to help coordinate programs. However, LAUNCH: UGR does not run any specific REU or other summer undergraduate research experiences (SURE). To promote the success of summer undergraduate research programs at Texas A&M, LAUNCH works closely and collaboratively with many departments on campus, including but not limited to:

- Office of Admissions
- Residence Life
- Student Business Services
- AABS
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Student Health Services
- University Risk & Compliance
- Undergraduate Studies
- Aggie Honor Code Office
- Student Conduct Office
- University Police Department
- Title IX Office
- Research Compliance & Biosafety
- Environmental Health & Safety
- University Writing Center
- University Libraries
- McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship
- LAUNCH: National Fellowships
- MSC LT Jordan Institute
- Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
- Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research

LAUNCH: UGR coordinates activities for students, faculty, and staff throughout the year:

- Coordination Meeting in February for information on resources and policies
- Welcome BBQ
- Professional Development Seminar
- Safety Training
- Tours
- Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session

TEXAS SEA GRANT SCHOLARS

► texasseagrant.org

Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas coastal and marine resources. Texas Sea Grant is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas and universities across the state to create knowledge, tools, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of Texas.

Each year, Undergraduate Research Scholars projects related to the marine environment are selected by Texas Sea Grant to apply for a \$1,000 stipend for research expenses. Upon completion of the URS thesis program, Texas Sea Grant Scholars' theses are published in both the Texas Sea Grant Archives and the Texas A&M OAKTrust Repository.

Visit <http://texasseagrant.org/publications> and <https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/3367> to read undergraduate research theses by our Texas Sea Grant Scholars!

Texas Sea Grant Scholars

The Effects of Hurricane Harvey on the Biodiversity and Abundance of Hydromedusae in Galveston Bay
Taylor Strobe, Marine Biology
URS Advisor: Dr. Maria Miglietta

Deep Sea Corallium Sp. in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Basal Diameter-colony Height Curve and Colony Height-age Curve
Faith Kramer, Environmental Studies
URS Advisor: Dr. Brendan Roark

Pollutant Loads and Distributions Following a Major Flooding Event in Galveston Bay, Texas
Laura Leonard, Marine Biology
URS Advisor: Dr. Karl Kaiser

Removing the Vegetation Signature from Digital Elevation Models of Coastal Areas Surveyed by Unmanned Aerial System Photogrammetry
William Bordelon Prouse, Offshore & Coastal Systems Engineering
URS Advisor: Dr. Jens Figlus

GLASSCOCK SUMMER SCHOLARS

► glasscock.tamu.edu

The Glasscock Center is dedicated to fostering and celebrating the humanities and humanities research among the community of scholars at Texas A&M University and in the world beyond the academy. The Glasscock Center awards residential fellowships, research fellowships, course development grants, funding for working groups, publication support, and research matching awards for independent and cross-disciplinary research in the humanities.

The objective of the Summer Scholars program is to expand undergraduate research in the humanities by providing an intensive summer research experience in which students are introduced to important research questions, trained in methods of research and analysis, and guided in the development of critical thinking, independent learning, and communications skills. The students enroll in a two-week intensive seminar taught by a Faculty Director. In the seminar the students are immersed in a focused topic and develop a research question that they continue to investigate under the mentorship of the faculty member for the remaining eight weeks of the summer. Students attend writing workshops created especially for this program by the University Writing Center. This summer experience serves as a mandatory gateway program into the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program.

Visit <http://glasscock.tamu.edu/archives/undergraduate-summer-scholars-program-archives> to learn more about the Glasscock Summer Scholars program.

Glasscock Summer Scholars

The Guilt of the Symbol: Who Learns What in a Didactic Trial?

By Sarah Kilpatrick, Economics
URS Advisor: Dr. Richard J. Golsan

Choosing Forgiveness After Genocide

By Trey Dietz, Chemistry
URS Advisor: Dr. Richard J. Golsan

The People v. Simpson: A Made for Court TV Drama

By Matthew Kiihne, Computer Science
URS Advisor: Dr. Richard J. Golsan

Recreating Values: Morality in Adaptations of Beowulf for Children

By Meghan Collier, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Britt Mize

Fact from Fiction: The Evolution of the Cleopatra Legend

By Cody Ellis, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Britt Mize

LT JORDAN INSTITUTE

► ltjordan.tamu.edu

The L.T. Jordan Fellows Program provides highly qualified Texas A&M University undergraduate and graduate students with an opportunity for personal enrichment and education through an international research experience. This is achieved by the program participants designing an independent international research project in another country that will enhance their academic or career goals. The program annually selects up to ten qualified students to receive a grant of up to \$2,000 with which to assist trip expenses. As a part of the program, the Fellows must prepare their own travel itineraries, description of research activities, budget estimates, and an extensive report and public presentation describing the experience abroad.

Each year, one undergraduate Jordan Fellow will be selected to work in partnership with the Texas A&M Honors Undergraduate Research Program in a two-year research program called L.T. Jordan Undergraduate Research Fellows. The first year of the program consists of the completion of the L.T. Jordan Fellows program, including the international research and post-trip reflection, and the second year working with a faculty mentor to write an undergraduate thesis through the Undergraduate Research Program.

LT Jordan Fellows

Peace Within the Traumatic Narrative: The Cyclic Process to the Silence of Shell Shock

By Taylor Nutt, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Shawna Ross

RESLIFE RESEARCH GROUP

► reslife.tamu.edu/researchteam

The newly established team is co-led by Dr. Lori Moore and Dustin Grabsch. Dr. Lori Moore currently serves as the Division of Student Affairs Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications. Mr. Dustin Grabsch serves as Coordinator for Academic Support Initiatives and Assessment. Together Dr. Moore and Mr. Grabsch mentor and supervisor the research team on individual and group research projects.

Reslife Research Group Members

Predictive Analytics to Explain Resident Grade Point Average

By Corie Depue, Agricultural Communications & Journalism
URS Advisor: Dr. Lori Moore

CREATING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACROSS TEXAS

THE ACADEMY OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS ACROSS TEXAS

LAUNCH: UGR has been working to strengthen the visibility of undergraduate research in the State of Texas, and as part of that initiative we established a new community of undergraduate researchers with the University of Texas. This Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas (AURA Texas) is a new networking and professional development opportunity for an elite group of undergraduate researchers at the two flagship universities in Texas. AURA Texas provides these exceptional students with networking opportunities, the chance to hone their professional skills, a venue to discuss the importance of undergraduate research and the impact it has on their lives, and opportunities to present their research to state officials in Austin, Texas.



Figure 12: Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Inaugural Class



Inaugural Members of AURA Texas

Faculty and Staff

- Dr. Sarah M. Misemer, Associate Director, Undergraduate Research, LAUNCH, Texas A&M University
- Robert Reichle, Senior Research Program Coordinator, Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Texas at Austin
- Annabelle G. Aymond, Program Coordinator for Undergraduate Research, LAUNCH, Texas A&M University

TAMU Students

- Dillon Jones, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
- Cora Drozd, Philosophy
- Claye Epperson, History
- Anthony Gacasan, Biomedical Sciences
- Jay Garza, Biomedical Engineering
- Karissa Yamaguchi, Biochemistry and Genetics

UT Students

- Chris Apgar, Neuroscience
- Stephanie Jeanneret, Psychology
- Joy Youwakim, Mathematics
- Thomas Dougherty, Mechanical Engineering
- Tess Johnson, Psychology

AURA TEXAS PRESENTATIONS

- Presented research posters at the Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium, Texas A&M University, February 2018
- Presented research posters at the UT Research Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, April 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- National Fellowships Informational, presented by LAUNCH: National Fellowships, Texas A&M University, February 2018
- Managing Your Research Identity Online, presented by the Office of Scholarly Communications, University of Texas at Austin, April 2018

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

April 2019

Student participants and their faculty advisors will have the opportunity to tour the Capitol, attend committee hearings and observe the daily meeting of the Senate and/or House of Representatives. Student participants are encouraged to work with their institution in scheduling meetings with their respective legislators.

The goal of this event is to promote undergraduate research in the State of Texas. The Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC) partners with the Texas Association of Graduate Admission Professionals (TxGAP) in order to provide event participants with access to Texas graduate school information.

This event is coordinated by CPUPC, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc. (ICUT).

Visit <https://www.txstate.edu/continuinged/Events/Undergraduate-Research-Day> to learn more!

LAUNCH: UGR 2017-2018 PROGRAM SUMMARIES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS THESIS PROGRAM

► launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS

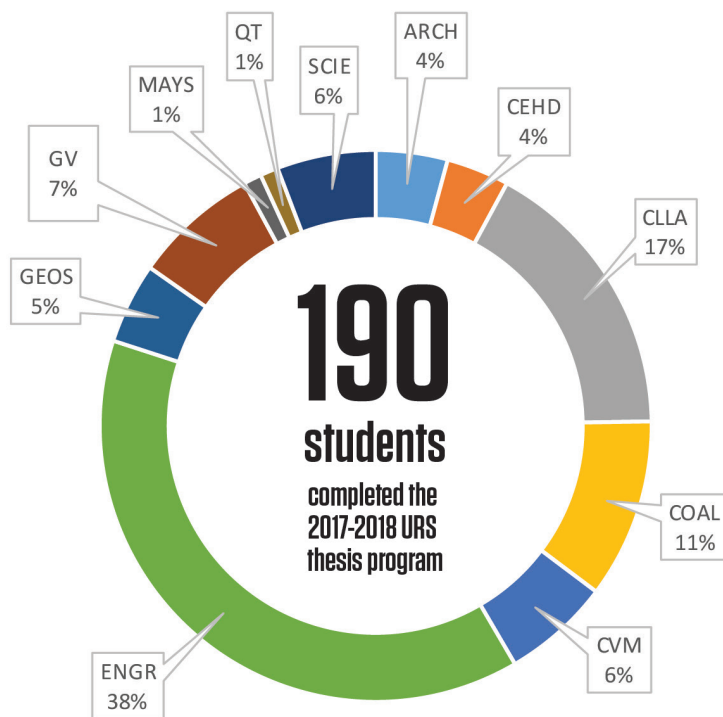
The Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) program seeks to provide eligible undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research and communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community.



Figure 13: Undergraduate Research Scholars Completion Rate



Figure 14: Undergraduate Research Scholars Average GPR



KEY

- ARCH: College of Architecture
- CEHD: College of Education & Human Development
- CLLA: College of Liberal Arts
- COAL: College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
- CVM: College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
- ENGR: College of Engineering
- GEOS: College of Geosciences
- GV: Texas A&M University at Galveston
- MAYS: Mays Business School
- QT: Texas A&M University at Qatar
- SCIE: College of Science

Figure 15: Number of Undergraduate Research Scholars by College

Thesis Template Usage

Table 3: Thesis Template Usage in the 2017-2018 URS thesis program

STEM Template	Pilot Creative Works Template	Humanities Template	LaTeX Template
135	8	30	17

Thesis Writing Course for Undergraduate Research Scholars



Figure 16: Thesis Writing Course Enrollment

Table 4: Spring 2018 Registration Numbers for the Thesis Writing Course (UGST 405-900) in College Station

Major Code	Students Enrolled
AGCJ	1
BICH	1
BIMS	3
BIOL	2
BMCB	1
CEEN	1
CHEM	1
CHEN	1
CPSC	2
ELEN	24
ENGL	1
ENST	3
FIVS	1
METR	1
PSYC	3
VIST	1
Grand Total	47

EXPLORATIONS: THE TEXAS A&M UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

► explorations.tamu.edu

Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal is an interdisciplinary publication dedicated to fostering undergraduate research and scholarly work in all fields. The journal welcomes research, scholarly and creative submissions of general interest from any discipline.

Publication in *Explorations* is a multi-stage process: First, a student submits a synopsis (an article pitch). The synopsis is reviewed in a double-blind process by both faculty and student board members. Reviewer decisions are ranked and the student editorial board discusses the submissions. If a synopsis is accepted after this first stage, the student is invited to submit a full manuscript. Full manuscripts go through another round of double-blind review before final selection.

Volume 10

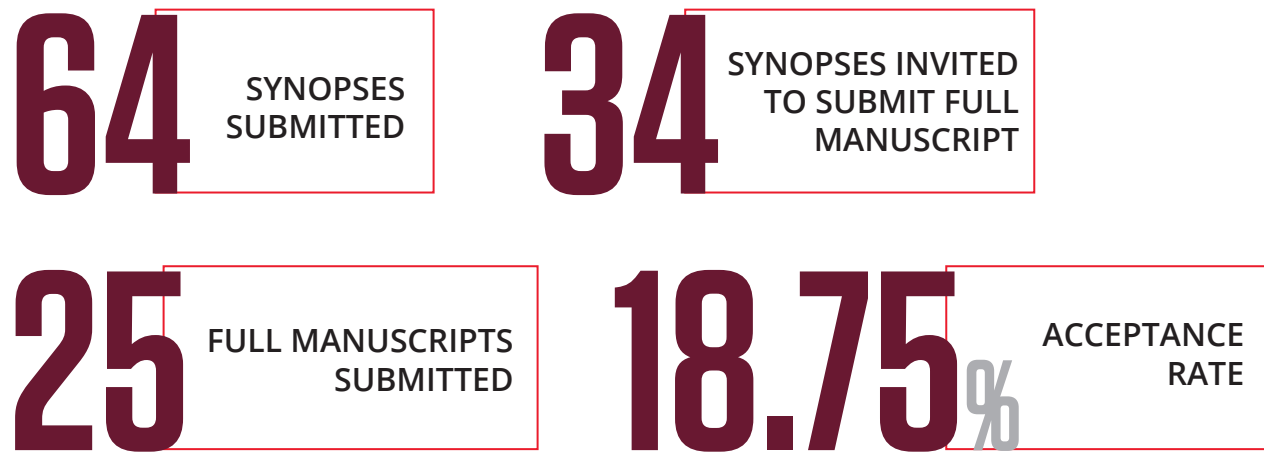


Figure 17: *Explorations*, Volume 10 Submission Statistics

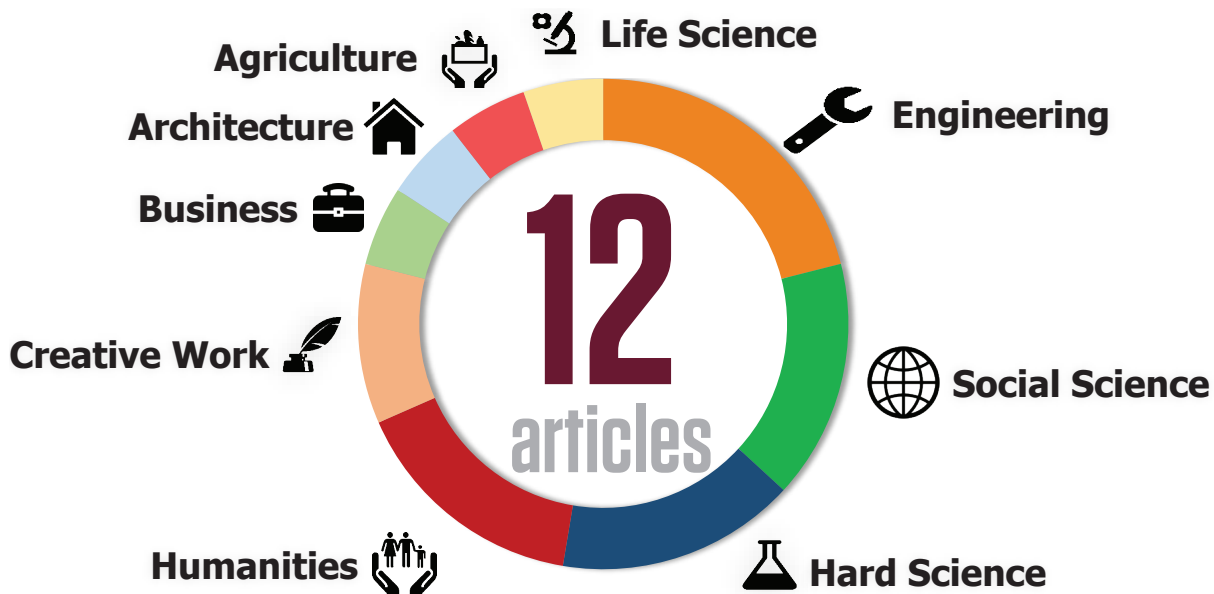


Figure 18: *Explorations*, Volume 10 Discipline Breakdown

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

► tx.ag/AskUsAboutUGR

The Undergraduate Research Ambassadors work to inspire broader engagement in undergraduate research by educating and serving the Texas A&M University community. The program began in 2013 with our inaugural class of 12 Ambassadors. New Ambassadors are chosen each spring.

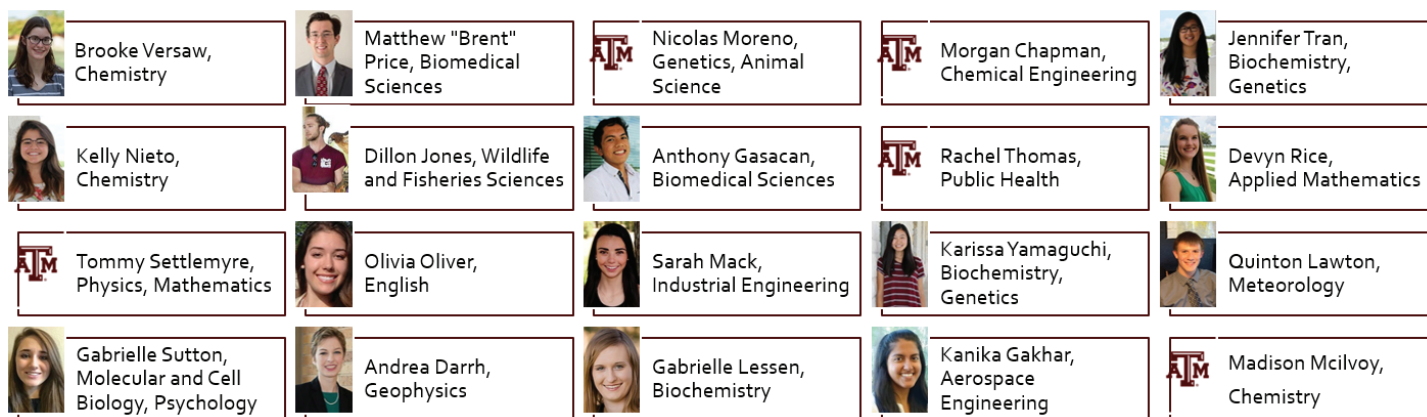


Figure 19: 2017-2018 Class of Undergraduate Research Ambassadors

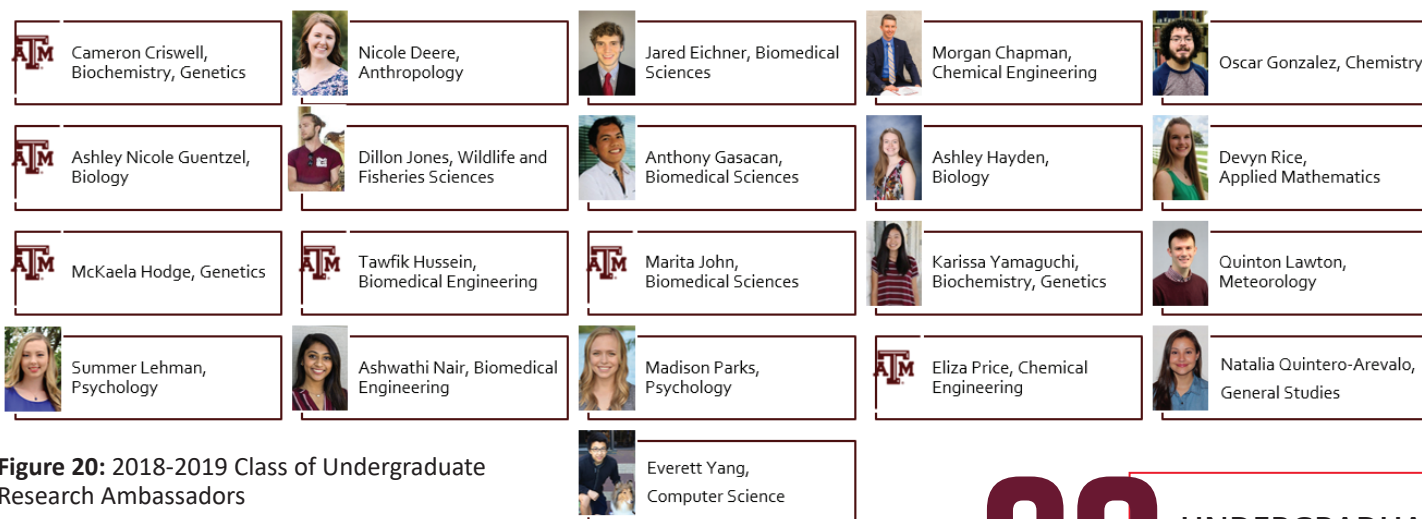


Figure 20: 2018-2019 Class of Undergraduate Research Ambassadors

Table 5: 2017-2018 Undergraduate Research Ambassador Representation by College

College	# of Ambassadors
College Liberal Arts	1
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	5
College of Engineering	3
College of Geosciences	2
College of Science	6
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	2
Health Science Center	1
Grand Total	20

20 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

11 CONTINUING AMBASSADORS FROM 2017-2018

Figure 21: Undergraduate Research Ambassador Program Numbers

Note: 20 students currently serve the LAUNCH: UGR office. 11 students from the 2017-2018 class continued into the 2018-2019 class, and 9 students were accepted as part of the 2017-2018 application process.

9 NEW AMBASSADORS SELECTED FOR 2018-2019

GETTING STARTED IN RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

This panel-style workshop features the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, a group of experienced undergraduate researchers, who will discuss misconceptions about research, how they got involved, and how their participation in research changed their undergraduate experience. Students will learn tips for seeking and effectively working with faculty advisors, as well as learn what to expect as a student researcher.



Figure 22: Getting Started in Research Workshop Attendance Statistics

Note: 56 students attended the first workshop in the fall; 33 students attended the second workshop in the fall; 37 students attended the only workshop in the spring. Typically 2-3 Getting Started in Research workshops are held each semester. Due to scheduling conflicts in spring 2018, only one workshop was held.

MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS WORKSHOPS

This interactive workshop focuses on successful strategies graduate students can use when mentoring an undergraduate researcher or group of undergraduates conducting research. It also provides the opportunity to network with other graduate mentors and offers practical wisdom for mentoring undergraduates.

We discuss mentoring styles and give examples of approaches to specific problems. Some of the topics will include:

- Fostering independence in undergraduate researcher
- Successful work and meeting schedules
- Keeping students motivated
- Responsibilities of graduate student mentors in passing on research ethics and conventions of the discipline
- Strategies for dealing with problems or issues



Figure 23: Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers Workshop Attendance Statistics

Note: 30 graduate students attended the fall workshop; 30 graduate students attended the spring workshop

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (NSF-REU) AND OTHER SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES (SURE)

Professional Development Seminar

This seminar is intended for undergraduates participating in REU and other summer undergraduate research experiences (SURE). Each year, LAUNCH: UGR holds a half-day seminar with speakers from around campus to introduce important information and skills for the aspiring undergraduate researcher. **Topics:** Welcome to Texas A&M, National Fellowships, Early Graduate Admissions Program, Copyright Basics, Scientific Writing, Writing Abstracts, Poster Presentations

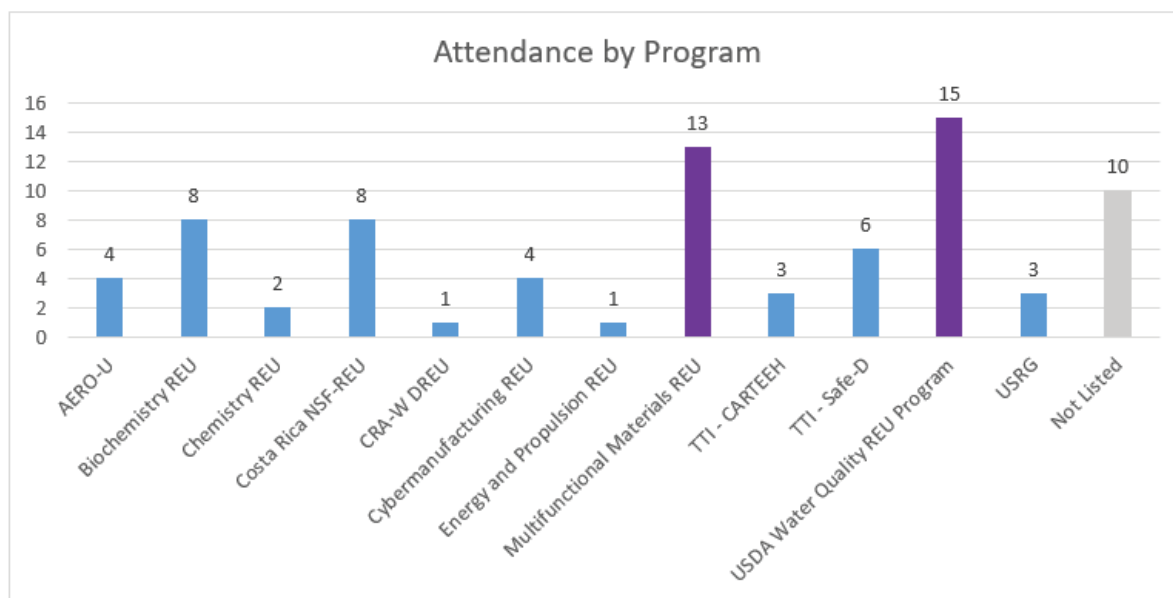


Figure 24: Professional Development Seminar Attendance by Summer Program; 77 total attendees

Safety Training

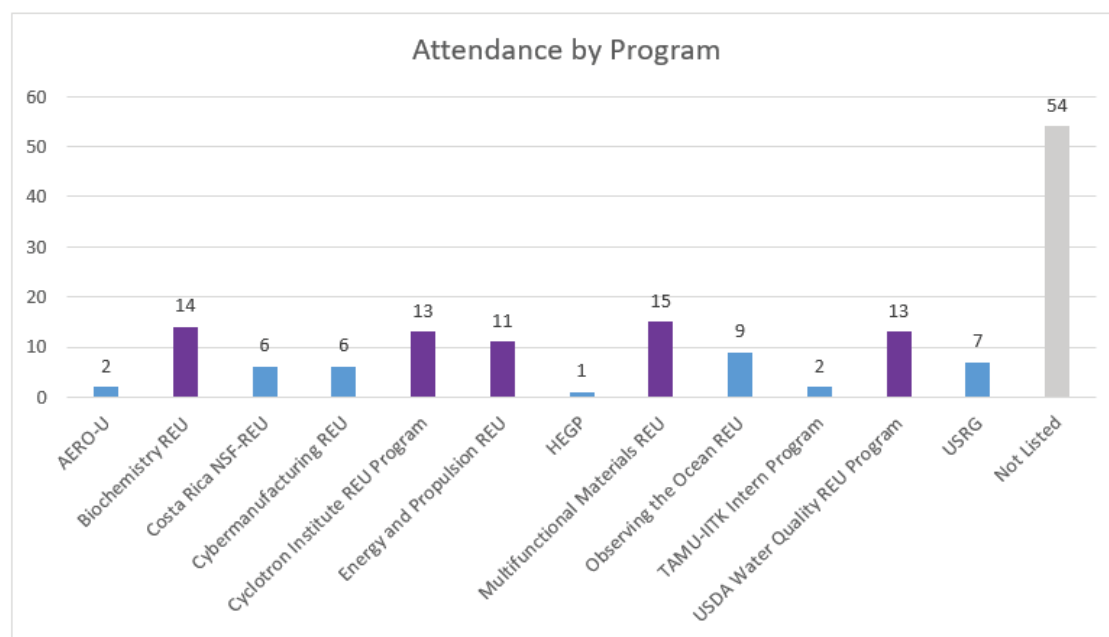


Figure 25: General Laboratory Safety Training Attendance by Summer Program; 153 total attendees

Welcome BBQ

Students, Directors, Coordinators, Mentors and Staff are invited to join LAUNCH: UGR each year to in welcoming REU, USRG, and other summer undergraduate researchers to Texas A&M University. Attendees enjoy barbeque and mingle with other student researchers and campus staff as we kick off TAMU summer research programs!

263 STUDENTS
ATTENDED
THE SUMMER
WELCOME BBQ

Figure 26: Summer Welcome BBQ Attendance; 263 total attendees

Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session

200 STUDENTS
PRESENTED
AT THE SUMMER
POSTER SESSION

173 POSTERS WERE
PRESENTED
(13 TEAMS)

77 INSTITUTIONS
AND COLLEGES
AROUND THE WORLD
REPRESENTED

22 SUMMER
PROGRAMS
REPRESENTED

Figure 27: Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session Statistics

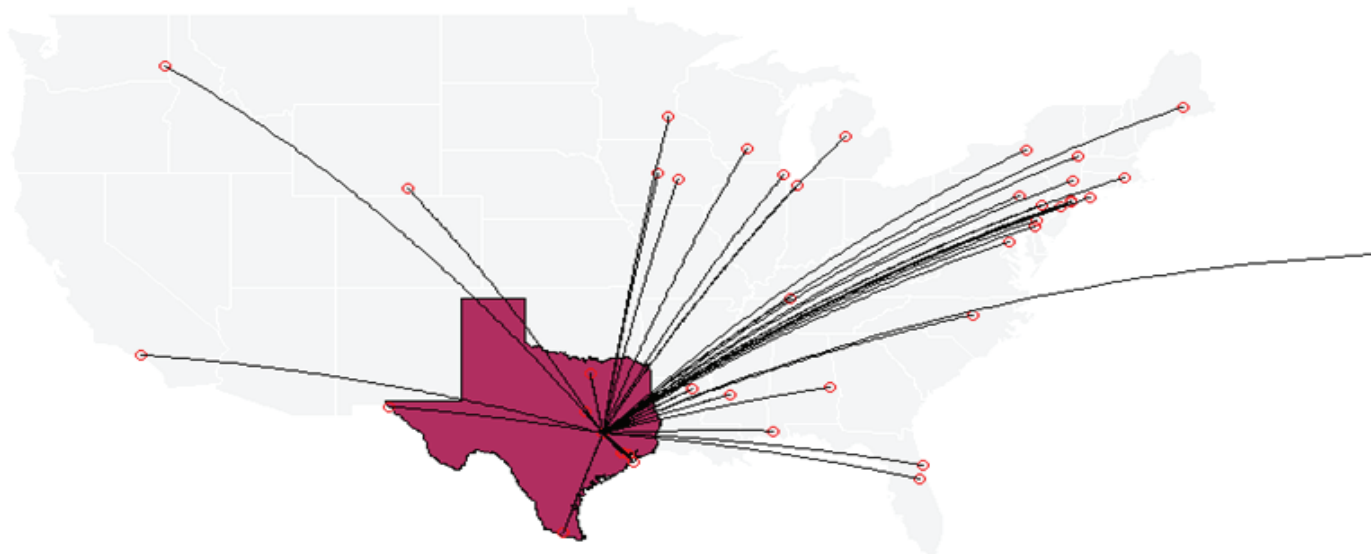


Figure 28: A map showing the origins (home institutions) of the undergraduate researchers who presented at the summer poster session.

STUDENT SUCCESS

FIRST GENERATION STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

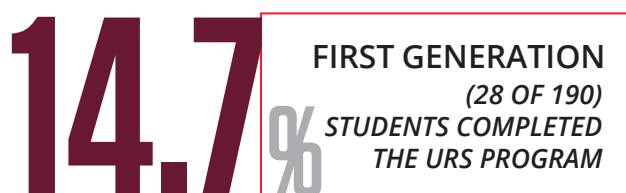


Figure 29: First Generation Student Involvement in the Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program.

Note: 14.7% (28 of the 190) of students who completed the 2017-2018 URS program were first generation students.

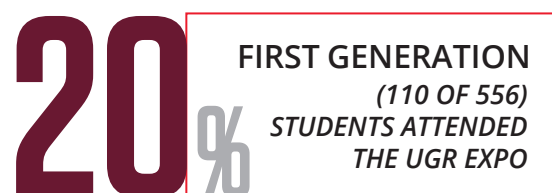


Figure 30: First Generation Student Involvement in the Undergraduate Research Expo

Note: 20% (110 of the 556) of students who attended the fall 2017 UGR Expo were first generation students.



Figure 31: First Generation Student Involvement in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium

Note: 14.1% of URS Symposium presenters were First Generation Students

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS: NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

Astronaut Scholarship

- 2017 Awardee: Brooke Versaw, Chemistry, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Undergraduate Research Ambassador
- 2017 Awardee: Kendal Ezell, Biomedical Engineering, Undergraduate Research Scholar
- 2018 Nominee: Oscar Gonzalez, Chemistry, Undergraduate Research Ambassador
- 2018 Nominee: Ashley Holt, Biomedical Engineering, Undergraduate Research Scholar
- 2018 Nominee: Ashley Hayden, Biology, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Undergraduate Research Ambassador
- 2018 Nominee: Quinton Lawton, Meteorology, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Undergraduate Research Ambassador

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

- Honorable Mention: Oscar Gonzalez, Chemistry, Undergraduate Research Ambassador
- Awardee: Ashley Holt, Biomedical Engineering, Undergraduate Research Scholar

Carnegie-Gaither Scholarship

- Nominee: Kanika Gakhar, Aerospace Engineering, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Undergraduate Research Ambassador

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

- Awardee: Stephanie Wilcox, Electrical Engineering, Undergraduate Research Scholar
- Nominee: Caralie Brewer, Bioenvironmental Sciences, Undergraduate Research Scholar

Rhodes Scholarship

- Nominee: Caralie Brewer, Bioenvironmental Sciences, Undergraduate Research Scholar
- Nominee: Cora Drozd, Philosophy, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Member of the Academic of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- Awardee: Jennifer Tran, Biochemistry and Genetics, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Undergraduate Research Ambassador

Beckman Scholars Program

- Brooke Versaw, Chemistry
- Jennifer Tran, Biochemistry and Genetics
- Rachel Porter, Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Luke Oaks, Biomedical Engineering
- Ashley Holt, Biomedical Engineering
- Cody Martin, Biochemistry and Genetics

STUDENT VOICES

Olivia Oliver

English

Explorations Board Member, Undergraduate Research Scholar, and Undergraduate Research Ambassador

Explorations has opened my mind to the idea pursuing a career in law that pertains to publishing works of various kinds. Explorations has also made me more of an attentive reader and writer. Explorations helped me gain and polish skills of communicating professionally, as well as how to advocate for opportunities that I find worthwhile, which I believe has translated into different jobs I've held and positions that I currently hold.

Claye Epperson

History

Explorations Author, Undergraduate Research Scholar, and Member of the Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas

The URS program has been immeasurable valuable in helping me achieve post-college goals. I firmly believe that my research made me a competitive applicant, and secured me a spot at a prestigious law school.

Nicolas Moreno

Genetics

Undergraduate Research Scholar and Undergraduate Research Ambassador

Absolutely, UGRA gave me a chance to make presentations that helped my public speaking skills. I also enjoyed being able to help connect students with research, and to introduce them to new opportunities. I don't think UGRA has modified my goals, but it has definitely helped develop my ability to reach them.

Michelle Jonika

Forensic & Investigative
Sciences

Undergraduate Research
Scholar

This program has given me a look into what I will be doing for the next 4+ years in my doctoral program and potentially even in a future research job. This has helped me to fully understand the obligations and responsibility that I will be taking on in this future endeavor.

Vinathi Polamraju

Biomedical Sciences

Explorations Board Member
and Undergraduate Research
Scholar

I truly believe that over my three years at Texas A&M Explorations has broaden my knowledge and understanding in a variety of fields. While it is often easy to focus and concentrate on our specific focus of study, I have learned how important it is to be aware and sensitive to topics and events in other fields. In the future, I hope to incorporate the editing skills and writing skills I learned in Explorations to a future career in research.

Jennifer Tran

Biochemistry and Genetics

Undergraduate Research
Scholar and Undergraduate
Research Ambassador

I was awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which funds 3 full years of graduate school. Part of that fellowship includes a "Broader Impact" section, where applicants have to show that have made (and plan to make) a bigger contribution to society. Many of my reviewers actually specifically mentioned my participation in UGRA as proof of broader impact in my undergraduate career.

Contact Us



LAUNCH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

[@TAMU UGR](#)

[/tamuugr](#)

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