

Undergraduate Research Annual Report

2018-2019

Empowering students to learn outside of the classroom



LAUNCH
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Expanding opportunities for students across campuses and disciplines is an ongoing goal for the LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research (UGR) office. During the past three years, we have increased focus on integrating underserved areas on campus by developing partnerships with departments and colleges, providing funding, and creating new Undergraduate Research Scholars theses that reflect scholarship norms in the arts and humanities. While Texas A&M continues to support robust undergraduate research opportunities in the STEM fields, we are also fostering experiences for students in the liberal arts and creative works fields. To do this, we continue to partner with summer programs like the Glasscock Summer Scholars, as well as create new summer initiatives such as the Aggie Creative Collective, the LAUNCH-Department of Architecture Undergraduate Summer Scholars, and the Hagler-LAUNCH Undergraduate Scholars. We also collaborated with our partners on the Galveston, Qatar, Caruth School of Dental Hygiene, College of Dentistry, and the Texas A&M School of Law campuses to open gateways for students to produce undergraduate research theses and publish in *Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal*. Finally, the creation of new Liberal Arts and Creative Works thesis templates for the Undergraduate Research Scholars program means that students engaged in creative works and humanities-based research are now more able to participate in the Undergraduate Research Scholars program through formats that support the inquiry-based research they are producing and reflect the norms of their disciplines.



Dr. Sarah M. Misemer

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

ARTS/HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE WORKS RESEARCH IS GROWING

OF STUDENTS USING THE ARTS/HUMANITIES & CREATIVE WORKS THESIS TEMPLATES

2016-2017
32
STUDENTS

*NEW ARTS/HUMANITIES
TEMPLATE RELEASED*

2017-2018
38
STUDENTS

*NEW CREATIVE WORKS
TEMPLATE RELEASED*

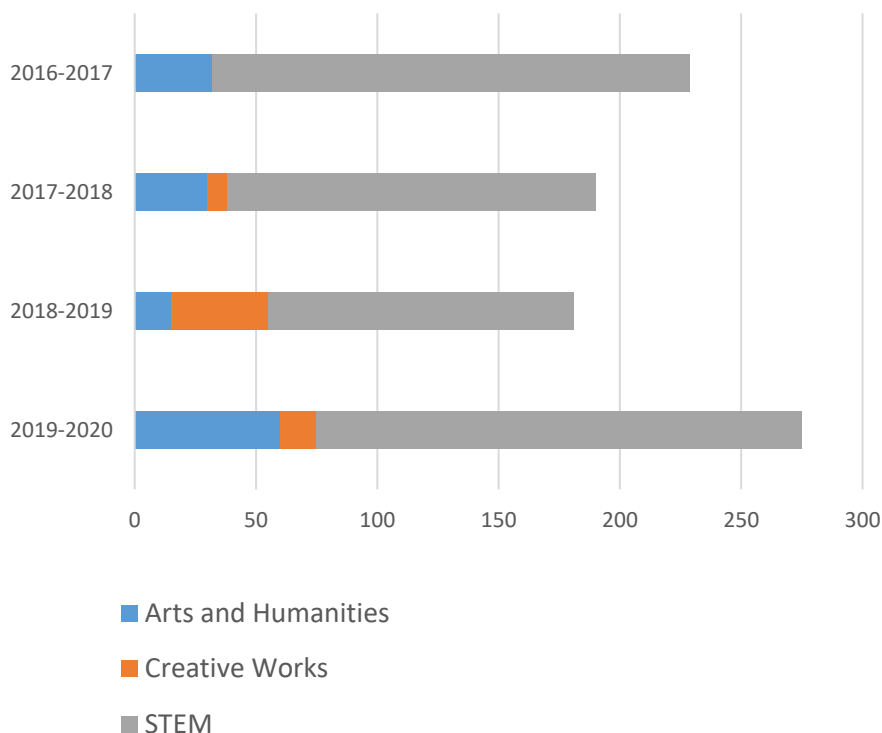
2018-2019
55
STUDENTS

*EST. PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE
TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF LAW,
AGGIE CREATIVE COLLECTIVE,
AND HAGLER INSTITUTE*

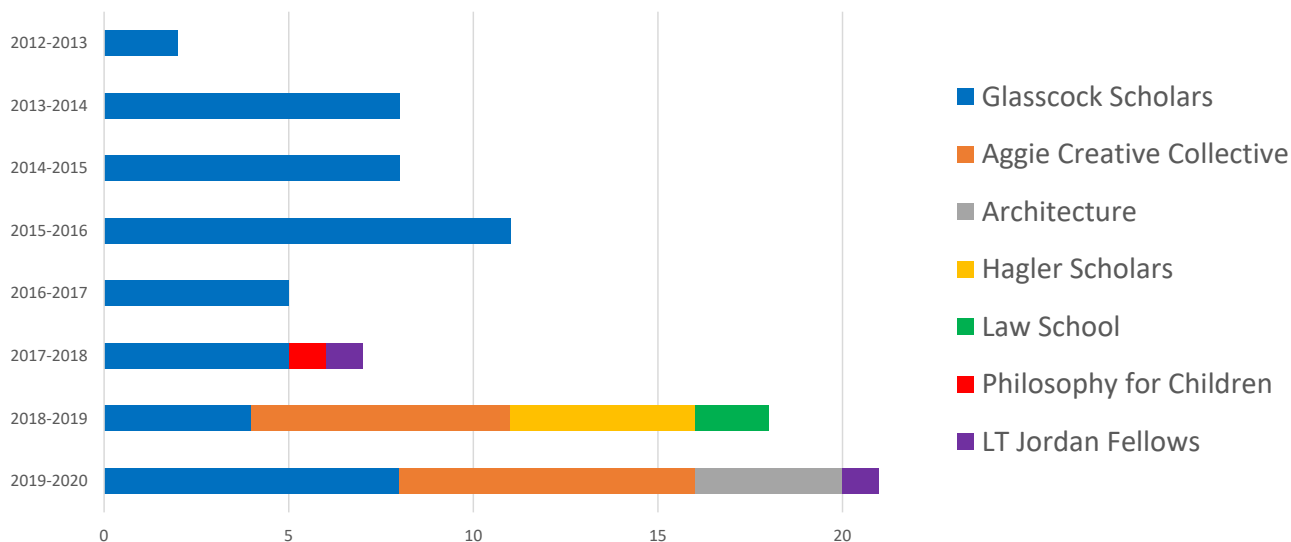
2019-2020
75
STUDENTS

*EST. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CARUTH SCHOOL OF DENTAL
HYGIENE AND DEPT. OF
ARCHITECTURE*

OF STUDENTS USING URS THESIS TEMPLATES



OF STUDENTS IN URS PARTNER PROGRAMS



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

LAUNCH provides high-impact educational experiences and challenges students in all academic disciplines to graduate from an enriched, demanding curriculum. The programs administered by the office bring together outstanding students and faculty to build a community of knowledge-producers, life-long learners, nationally-recognized scholars, and world citizens. Through LAUNCH, motivated students have access to Honors courses, co-curricular enrichment activities, scholarly engagement, and/or research programs 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

LAUNCH joins the university community in making Texas A&M a welcoming environment for all individuals. We are committed to helping our students understand the experiences that make each of us unique and appreciate the shared 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

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

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 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

Presentation: Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas Undergraduate Research Program Directors (URPD) 2019

Presenters: Dr. Sarah M. Misemer and Dr. Robert Reichle

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.

CREATING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMARY GOALS

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

ACTION ITEMS

- Research Opportunities Database
- Undergraduate Research Expo
- Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE

► 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](#)

[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 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| "Bold Women" Wilson College Humanities Conference | Conference | 1/10/2020 | This conference seeks to explore how the Humanities explore our relationships to boldness about women. |
| 2019-20 CUIR Social Sciences Division Student Travel Awards | Funding | None | \$200 travel grant for students traveling to present social science research |
| 2020 MSC I Wayne Stark Northeast Tour | Program | 9/27/2019 | Visit premier law and business schools across Northeastern US as a pre-law or pre-MBA student. |
| 28th Annual NAAAS & Wilkins National Conference | Conference | 11/9/2019 | NAAAS is looking for abstracts that relate to any aspect of African-American, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, or Asian studies. |
| Academic Support Initiatives in Residence List | Program, Research Position | None | Student interns will work with a Research Team and gain valuable experience directly tied to their field of interest. |
| Academy for the Visual & Performing Arts Grants | Funding | None | The Academy for Visual & Performing Arts is offering awards and grants based on research of performing and visual arts projects. |
| 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 Challenges | Program | None | A program that engages engineering undergrads with multidisciplinary team projects related to the engineering challenges facing society. |

By Category:

- ☐ Research Position
- ☐ Program
- ☐ Conference
- ☐ Symposium
- ☐ Funding
- ☐ Publication
- ☐ 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](#)

Showing 1 to 10 of 96 entries

[Previous](#)
[1](#)
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[4](#)
[5](#)
[...](#)
[10](#)
[Next](#)

193 OPPORTUNITIES POSTED

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPO

On 3 October 2018, LAUNCH: UGR held its second all-day Undergraduate Research Expo in the Memorial Student Center on the campus of Texas A&M University.

The Undergraduate Research Expo expands on the two-hour resource fair held in years past with panels, workshops, networking opportunities along with a Resource Fair to highlight undergraduate research at Texas A&M. The event showcases opportunities for faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students to find ways to get involved in undergraduate research.

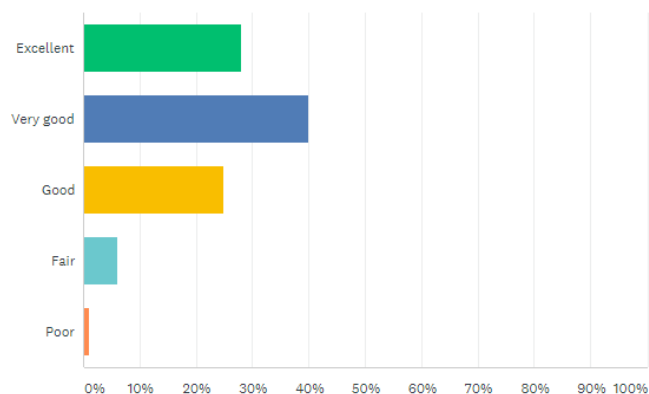
Morning round tables provided students, faculty, and administrators the opportunity to hear perspectives on the role of undergraduate research as a high-impact practice at a research-intensive university with discussions on “Undergraduate Research at an R1: What Defines Student and Faculty Success at Texas A&M?” and “Experiences in Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers.”

In the afternoon, multiple spaces in the MSC Bethancourt Ballroom housed concurrent events for undergraduate students that included: a two-hour Resource Fair, the Aggie Research Program’s poster presentations, and three break-out sessions led by faculty, staff, and graduate students (LAUNCH: UGR’s Getting Started in Research, Aggie Research Program Informational, and Research Opportunities and Resources Informational). The day culminated in a Speed Research Networking Panel, in which faculty and staff from across campus presented 60-second blurbs on their research and opportunities for undergraduates. A Networking Social followed in the Bethancourt Lobby and gave students and faculty the chance to visit informally about opportunities and involvement.

Volunteers for the Expo include LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, Learning Communities’ Peer Mentors, and LAUNCH staff members.

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

FACULTY/STAFF RATING OF THE EXPO



63 OPPORTUNITIES REPRESENTED

551 UNIQUE STUDENTS ATTENDED

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research held the second annual Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium in the Memorial Student Center. The URS Symposium showcases undergraduate researchers in the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program, a program that 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 LAUNCH URS Symposium also fulfills the URS thesis program requirement for students to do a public presentation and also offers them a chance to receive constructive feedback on their research projects and presentation skills. The LAUNCH URS Symposium features both poster and oral presentations by undergraduate researchers in a variety of disciplines.

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

134

TEXAS A&M STUDENTS
PRESENTED AT THE
URS SYMPOSIUM

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

76

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

58

STUDENTS FROM TAMU QATAR

7

STUDENTS FROM TAMU GALVESTON

2

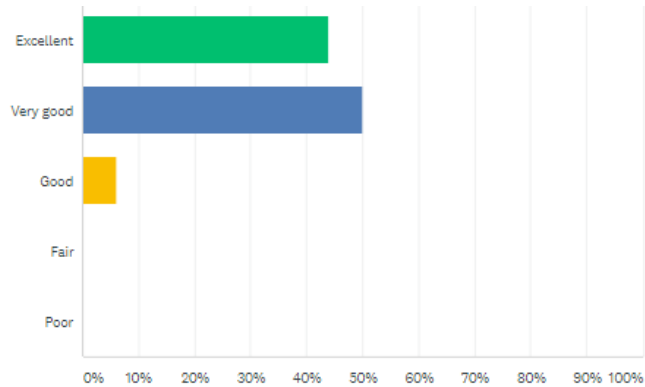
52

FACULTY MEMBERS
AND POST-DOCS
VOLUNTEERED AS ACTIVE
LISTENERS AT THE UGR EXPO

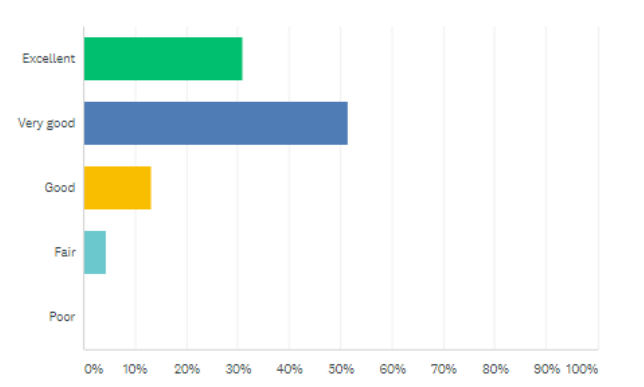
16

GRADUATE STUDENTS
FROM THE AGGIE RESEARCH
PROGRAM VOLUNTEERED AS
ORAL SESSION MODERATORS

FACULTY/STAFF RATING OF THE SYMPOSIUM



STUDENT RATING OF THE SYMPOSIUM



PARTNERSHIPS

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, 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. In workshops and through individual conferences, they learn about the structure of a creative thesis proposal, develop their creative writing, and refine their performance skills. After completing the Aggie Creative Collective, students are required to apply to LAUNCH's Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program. Once accepted, they 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.

AGGIE CREATIVE COLLECTIVE STUDENTS

Proposal: *Home Movies*

Anna Seguin, English

URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *Mother of Monster*

Hannah McNease, Human Resource Management

URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *The Empathy Collection: Yo te entiendo*

Amy Guzman, English

URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *daydreaMeD*

Katie Pattison, English

URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

Proposal: *The King of the Conchs*

John Heselton, English

URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Kmorch Nakry: A Ghost's Story*

Grace Hough, Visualization

URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Leaving Wisdom*

Zoe Sherman, English

URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

Proposal: *Still Infinity--a Contemporary Crossover Novel*

Examining Loss and Healing

Kyrie Garlic, English and Philosophy

URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

GLASSCOCK SUMMER SCHOLARS

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.

Summer 2019 Glasscock Summer Scholars

Proposal: *Justification for a Right to be Forgotten*
Jacob Alexander Espinoza-Stewart, Philosophy
URS Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik

Proposal: *Forgiveness and Punishment*
Tory Ann Martin, Philosophy
URS Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik

Proposal: *The Ethics of Pediatric Medical Decision-Making*
Ava Ryan Molecular and Cell Biology
URS Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik

Proposal: *A New Way to Cope: Social Media as Coping with Racial Discrimination*
Lincoln-Abdullah El-Amin, English
URS Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Carter-Sowell

Proposal: *Home Sweet Home? Neighborhood Cohesion Offers a Coping Mechanism for Gender Discrimination linked with Psychological Distress*
Chloe Harrison, Classics
URS Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Carter Sowell

Proposal: *The Philosophical and Legal Implications of Granting Natural Objects Legal Personhood*
Eric William Nash, University Studies, Society, Ethics and Law Concentration
URS Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik

Proposal: *Public Law 280, Tribal Sovereignty, and The Value of Sovereignty*
Jordan P. Dunlap, Philosophy
URS Advisor: Dr. Linda Radzik

Proposal: *Community Planning in Urban Gardens: Integrating Children as Participants in the Local Food System*
Grace Ann Lu, International Studies
URS Advisor: Dr. Sarah Gatson

TEXAS SEA GRANT SCHOLARS

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!

2018-2019 Texas Sea Grant Scholars

Thesis: *The Effects of Salinity and Pharmaceuticals on the Physiology of the Sheepshead Minnow (Cyprinodon variegatus)*

Taylor Cubbage, Marine Biology

URS Advisor: Dr. Lene Petersen

Thesis: *The Recent Expansion of Invasive Tubastraea Coccinea Throughout the Northern Gulf of Mexico*
Zakary Derouen and Miranda Peterson, Environmental Studies

URS Advisor: Dr. Hsiao-Hsuan Wang

Thesis: *Differences in Resource Allocation Between Post-Mating Male and Female Olive Ridley Sea Turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea)*

Ashley Nicole Guentzel, Biology

URS Advisor: Dr. Duncan MacKenzie

Thesis: *Maritime Cyber Security: A Comparative Analysis of U.S. and International Regulation on AIS Data Receptors*

Sarah Hamrock, Maritime Administration

URS Advisor: Dr. Joan Mileski

Thesis: *Transcriptome Assembly and Characterization of the Benthic Annelid Paramphipion jeffreysii*

Irene Martinez, Marine Biology

URS Advisor: Dr. Jessica Labonté

Thesis: *Microbial Communities and Ecosystem Recovery of Galveston Bay Post-Hurricane Harvey*

Jordan Walker, Marine Biology

URS Advisor: Dr. Jessica Labonté

LT JORDAN INSTITUTE

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 LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research in a two-year research program called L.T. Jordan Undergraduate Research Fellows for an additional grant up to \$2,000. 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.

Summer 2019 LT Jordan Fellows

Proposal: *Physiological differences in two shade tolerant species, Carapa guianensis & Otoba novogranatensis, adapted to different microclimatic conditions at two elevations in Costa Rica*

Manuel Flores, Ecological Restoration

URS Advisor: Dr. Georgianne Moore

REU/SURE PARTNERSHIPS

LAUNCH: UGR is a gateway for information related to summer undergraduate research experiences and provides resources 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 the Registrar
- 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 late-January/early-February for information on resources and policies
- Professional Development Seminar
- Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session
- Safety Training
- Other Activities

CREATING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACROSS TEXAS

ACADEMY OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS ACROSS TEXAS

This Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas (AURA Texas) is a 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.



Established 2017-2018

Visibility/Advocacy | Community | Professionalization

| Research Exchanges | Professional Seminars | Networking |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium | Getting Started in National Fellowships | Mix & Mingle with TAMU Administrators |
| | Managing Your Research Identity Online | |
| Longhorn Research Poster Session | Higher Education Issues and Advocacy | Reception with UT Administrators |
| | Innovation in Research | |



Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

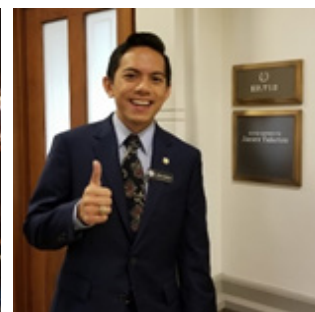
On April 1, 2019 AURA TX student members traveled to the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas to engage in support for undergraduate research and share their student perspectives with state officials. Student members attended the day's scheduled events, including poster presentations and tour of the capitol. TAMU-UT team visits to state officials were coordinated by our Offices of Government Relations, which provided students the opportunity to share their personal stories with their representatives. Some student members presented research posters in the Rotunda to state officials.

This event is coordinated biennially by the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC), and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc. (ICUT).

| Texas A&M University Members | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cora Drozd | Philosophy |
| Claye Epperson | History |
| Anthony Gacasan | Biomedical Sciences |
| Jay Garza | Biomedical Engineering |
| Dillon Jones | Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences |
| Karissa Yamaguchi | Biochemistry and Genetics |
| Oscar Gonzalez | Chemistry |
| Ryan Randle | English and History |
| Morgan Chapman | Microbiology and Genetics |
| Jasmine Derry | Visualization |

2 cohorts
12 students each year
6 from Texas A&M
6 from UT
Mix of STEM, and Arts & Humanities students

| University of Texas at Austin Members | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Apgar | Neuroscience |
| Stephanie Jeanneret | Psychology |
| Joy Youwakim | Economics |
| Thomas Dougherty | Mechanical Engineering |
| Tess Johnson | Speech-Language Pathology |
| Erin Choi | Biochemistry |
| Justin Mirazee | Biochemistry |
| Kelsey Mumford | Nursing and Biology |
| Zoe De Beurs | Physics and Astronomy |
| Becky Phung | Textiles and Apparel |



2018-2019 Activities

1. Reading on Funding in Higher Education – Individual Groups – November 2018
2. **Research Exchange:** Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium – College Station – February 2019
3. **Professional Seminar:** Briefing and Workshop on Higher Education Issues and Advocacy (Prep for Day at the Capitol) – College Station – February 2019
4. **Research Exchange:** Longhorn Research Poster Session – Austin – April 2019
5. **Professional Seminar:** Innovation in Research – Austin – April 2019
6. **Networking:** Mix & Mingle with Administrators on both campuses – February and April 2019
7. Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol – Austin – April 2019

Advisors

- Dr. Sarah M. Misemer, Associate Director, Undergraduate Research, LAUNCH, Texas A&M University
- Dr. 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

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS THESIS PROGRAM

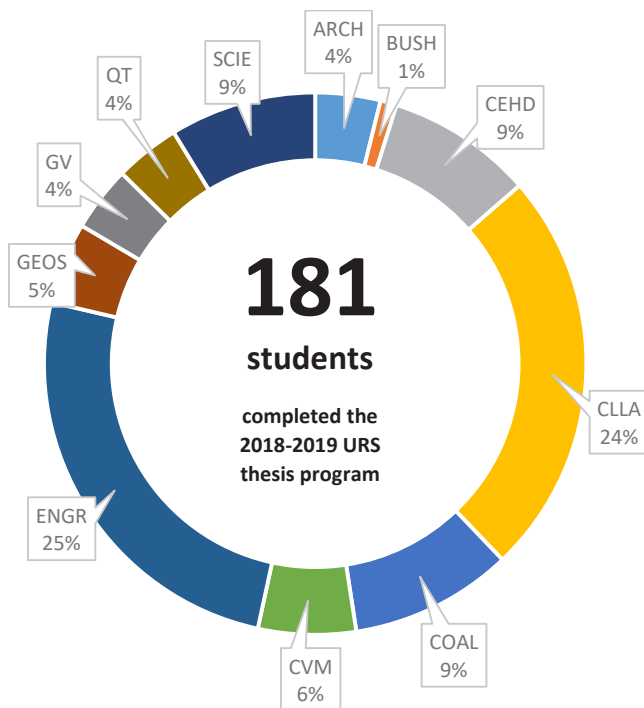
The Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program seeks to provide eligible undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research and communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community.

80.4%

COMPLETION RATE
181 STUDENTS
COMPLETED THE
PROGRAM

3.63

AVERAGE GPR
OF THE 181 STUDENTS
WHO COMPLETED THE
URS PROGRAM



KEY

ARCH: College of Architecture

BUSH: Bush School of Government & Public Service

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

QT: Texas A&M University at Qatar

SCIE: College of Science

URS THESIS TEMPLATE USAGE IN 2018-2019

61.3%

OF STUDENTS USED THE
STEM THESIS
TEMPLATE

22.0%

OF STUDENTS USED THE
CREATIVE WORKS
THESIS TEMPLATE

8.3%

OF STUDENTS USED THE
ARTS/HUMANITIES
THESIS TEMPLATE

8.3%

OF STUDENTS USED THE
LATEX THESIS
TEMPLATE

THESIS WRITING COURSE

Thesis Writing (UGST 405) is a 1-credit hour seminar course offered **only in the spring semester** exclusively for students participating in the Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) program. Enrollment in the class is **not required** for participation in the program, but is an opportunity for any Undergraduate Research Scholar who needs writing instruction or would like assistance with thesis preparation. The course also serves to satisfy one credit of writing-intensive (W) course requirements for graduation. **Note:** Enrollment priority will be given to seniors who need a writing-intensive (W) course to graduate. Limited seats are available in the course. This course is taught by Dr. Sarah M. Misemer, Associate Director for Undergraduate Research, and features topics such as:

- Thesis Writing
- Academic Publishing
- Copyright and Digital Citizenship
- Research Presentations

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STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN THE
THESIS WRITING
CLASS

HONORS AFFILIATION IN 2018-2019

OUT OF 181 STUDENTS WHO
COMPLETED THE PROGRAM

15%

OF STUDENTS IN
UNIVERSITY-
HONORS

34%

OF STUDENTS IN
COLLEGE- AND/OR
DEPARTMENTAL
HONORS

50%

OF STUDENTS
NOT IN ANY
HONORS PROGRAM

EXPLORATIONS: THE TEXAS A&M UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

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.

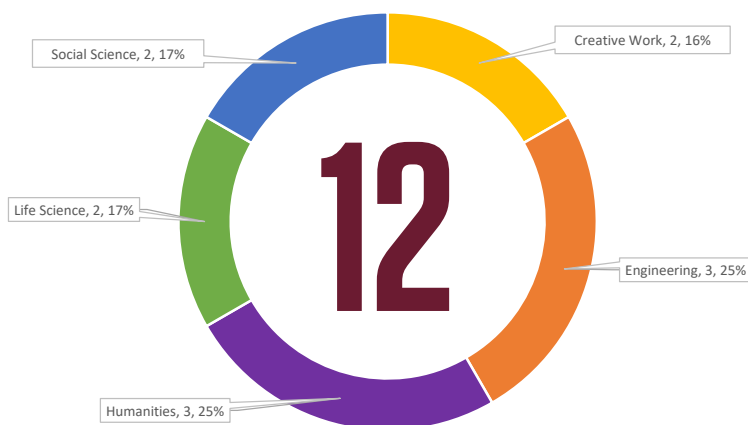


25% ACCEPTANCE RATE
12 OUT OF 47
SUBMISSIONS
PUBLISHED

10 BOARD MEMBERS
6 OUT OF 11
APPLICANTS JOINED 4
CONTINUING MEMBERS

33 FACULTY/STAFF
REVIEWERS

ARTICLES BY DISCIPLINE



1 article from a Galveston student

1 article from a Qatar student

1 article from a past HSC President

1 article from the 2019 Astronaut Scholarship Awardee

Cover artwork from the 2018 Astronaut Scholarship Awardee

7 of the 15 students participated in URS

4 of the 15 participated in the University Honors Program

4 of the 15 participated in the Engineering Honors Program

2 of the 15 participated in the Biology Honors Program

1 of the 15 participated in the University Scholars Program

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

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.

200+ VOLUNTEER HOURS **21** STUDENT AMBASSADORS **5** COLLEGES REPRESENTED

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
|  Cameron Criswell, Biochemistry, Genetics |  Nicole Deere, Anthropology |  Jared Eichner, Biomedical Sciences |  Morgan Chapman, Chemical Engineering |  Oscar Gonzalez, Chemistry |
|  Ashley Nicole Guentzel, Biology |  Dillon Jones, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences |  Anthony Gasacan, Biomedical Sciences |  Ashley Hayden, Biology |  Devyn Rice, Applied Mathematics |
|  McKaela Hodge, Genetics |  Tawfik Hussein, Biomedical Engineering |  Marita John, Biomedical Sciences |  Karissa Yamaguchi, Biochemistry, Genetics |  Quinton Lawton, Meteorology |
|  Summer Lehman, Psychology |  Ashwathi Nair, Biomedical Engineering |  Madison Parks, Psychology |  Eliza Price, Chemical Engineering |  Natalia Quintero- Arevalo, General Studies |
| | |  Everett Yang, Computer Science | | |
|  Alexandra Bishop, Biology |  Nicole Deere, Anthropology, Classics |  Danielle Yarbrough, Chemical Engineering |  Kyung Ho Jung, Biochemistry, Genetics |  Lois Wampler, Biomedical Engineering |
|  Madelyn Phillips, Political Science |  Tanner Ramirez, Mechanical Engineering |  Oscar Gonzalez, Chemistry |  Marita John, Biomedical Sciences |  Sasha George, Chemical Engineering |
|  Natalia Quintero- Arevalo, Nutritional Sciences |  Alex Strasser, Chemical Engineering |  Jacquelyn McCullough, Genetics |  Natalie Coleman, Civil Engineering |  Mona Fattahi, Chemistry |
|  Morgan Chapman, Microbiology, Genetics |  Summer Lehman, Psychology |  Rachel Tindall, Chemical Engineering |  Sandhiya Ravichandran, Biomedical Sciences |  Eliza Price, Chemical Engineering |
| | |  Everett Yang, Computer Science | | |

INFORMATIONAL SESSION AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Getting Started in Research Workshops

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

- 4 workshops held
- 157 unique attendance at all workshops
- AG (8%), AR (1%), BA (2%), ED (2%), EN (53%), GE (4%), GS (2%), LA (11%), PH (2%), SC (9%), VT (6%) student attendance by college

Undergraduate Research Scholars Informational Sessions

LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research staff explains the details, opportunities, and eligibility requirements for the Undergraduate Research Scholars program. As long as you are an undergraduate, this program is open to all majors. Faculty research advisors are encouraged to attend with undergraduates.

- 6 sessions held
- 276 unique attendance at all sessions
- AG (59%), AR (0%), BA (2%), EN (14%), GN (1%), GE (3%), LA (6%), QT (4%), SC (7%), VM (4%) student attendance by college

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 include fostering independence in undergraduate researchers, successful work and meeting schedules, keeping students motivated, responsibilities of graduate student mentors in passing on research ethics and conventions of the discipline, and strategies for dealing with problems or issues.

- 2 workshops held
- 48 unique attendance at all workshops
- AG (27%), AR (2%), BA (2%), EN (23%), GE (4%), GV (2%), LA (17%), MD (2%), SC (19%), VM (2%) student attendance by college

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

Welcome BBQ

Students, Directors, Coordinators, Mentors and Staff are invited to join LAUNCH: UGR each year 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!

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 to the aspiring undergraduate researcher. Topics, including: Welcome to Texas A&M, National Fellowships, Early Graduate Admissions Program, Copyright Basics, Scientific Writing, Writing Abstracts, and Poster Presentations.

121 STUDENTS
ATTENDED THE KICK-OFF
WELCOME BBQ

Poster Session

LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research organizes the Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session to showcase research, scholarly, and creative activity conducted at Texas A&M University by students from institutions worldwide. The event is held each year in late-July to early-August.

51 STUDENTS
ATTENDED THE PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

2018-2019 STATS

162 STUDENTS
PRESENTED 146 POSTERS
AT THE SUMMER POSTER
SESSION

143 STUDENTS
ATTENDED THE GENERAL
LAB SAFETY TRAINING

29 REU/SURE PROGRAMS
WERE REPRESENTED
AT THE SUMMER POSTER
SESSION

74 INSTITUTIONS
WERE REPRESENTED
AT THE SUMMER POSTER
SESSION

STUDENT SUCCESS

ENGAGING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

58.7%

OF URS SYMPOSIUM
ATTENDEES *WERE FIRST-
GENERATION STUDENTS*

51.3%

OF SUMMER POSTER
SESSION PRESENTERS *WERE
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS*

20.0%

OF UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH AMBASSADORS
*WERE FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENTS*

14.4%

OF URS STUDENTS
*WERE FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENTS*

13.6%

OF *EXPLORATIONS* BOARD
MEMBERS AND AUTHORS
*WERE FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENTS*



LAUNCH
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH