Undergraduate Research

Annual Report

2020-2021

Empowering students to learn outside of the classroom
The 2020-2021 academic year presented everyone in higher education with challenges as we taught, attended classes, and conducted research remotely or in hybrid in-person / remote combinations due to the continued persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research (UGR) office adapted all its programming to accommodate virtual attendance. The change from in-person events held on the College Station campus to virtual events held through Zoom meetings and webinars had the benefit of allowing students from the Qatar, Galveston, McAllen, and Dental Hygiene campuses to attend and participate in events that normally would not have been available to them because of location. And, participate they did in great numbers because we were not restricted by venue size or geographic limitations! LAUNCH: UGR held virtual events that included a four-day Expo, URS Symposium, four Getting Started in Research Workshops, four Undergraduate Research Scholars Informationals, Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers Panel, REU/Summer Undergraduate Research Professional Development Seminar, Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session, the Undergraduate Research Scholars Orientation, and all related Undergraduate Research Scholars workshops and programming.

The Undergraduate Research Scholars program itself also underwent extensive transformation for the 2020-2021 cycle. To accommodate students who were not able to participate in regular in-person undergraduate research activities, because many labs were closed or had reduced capacity, LAUNCH: UGR created two new templates for students to pursue journal-style theses. For students who were worried about working in-person, unable to carry out experiments and other activities, or were attending virtual classes from home, the new templates offered flexibility. In addition to the new templates, LAUNCH: UGR revised and standardized all existing templates, updated the thesis manual and created a formatting guide to reflect changes, created new content and resources for the website, partnered with the University Writing Center to generate a new interactive lesson for writing journal-style articles, adapted the program timeline to allow students more time to work on installments and requested revisions given the extra stressors all were experiencing, and developed new virtual small group meetings in the fall led by thesis reviewers. The small group meetings were very popular and allowed students to connect with each other despite the isolating conditions imposed by the pandemic. We listened to our students’ feedback and will include both fall and spring small group meetings for the coming year.

However difficult the year was for students who had to cope with the unexpected pressures of the pandemic and the devastating winter storm in Texas in February 2021, they persevered and demonstrated admirable determination with a high percentage completing the program: 83%. We are incredibly proud of our undergraduate scholars.

Other notable improvements that grew out of circumstances imposed by the pandemic can be seen in our other two flagship programs and
of Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal met online weekly; twice a month in the evening and twice a month at the extended lunch hour to allow students to continue to participate after the academic calendar was adjusted just a few weeks before the start of the fall semester. Board members designed new social media campaigns for recruitment (board members and submissions) and journal release for the online version for the journal. A week-long social media campaign was used to introduce the online digital version of volume 12. While we had hoped to release volume 12 with a big Aggie celebration, we were forced to put off printing the journal and holding the in-person release party until fall 2021. However, the adaptations allowed board members to acquire new skills for virtual meetings and social media campaigns, and they continued to meet one-on-one with student authors to peer edit over Zoom. Similarly, the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors learned to adapt interviews to the online format, and they were tasked with designing a new virtual Getting Started in Research Workshop that would still be interactive while also reducing the timeframe to account for Zoom-fatigue. Finally, our URS students and summer REU/Summer Undergraduate Research Experience students learned to present their research virtually on the ForagerOne-Symposium platform through pre-recorded presentations and digital posters/slide decks/videos. We offered a curated collection of virtual presentation tutorials and resources, encouraged students to include best practices in accessibility through resources, feedback, and a professional development seminar by an expert in the field, and provided students with prepared templates for posters and slide decks. Summer 2021 also offered us the opportunity to implement the new TAMU 499 placeholder course for REU/SURE students to assist with tuition waivers and grant students access to services on campus.

It was a busy, challenging, and at times, a stressful year, but it was also an incredibly productive year.

We are proud of our students who demonstrated grit, resilience, empathy, and flexibility—they are the reason we do what we do.
### # OF STUDENTS USING THE ARTS/HUMANITIES & CREATIVE WORKS THESIS TEMPLATES

- **New Arts/Humanities Template Released**
- **New Creative Works Template Released**
- **Est. Partnership with the Texas A&M School of Law, Aggie Creative Collective, and Hagler Institute**
- **Urs Program Held Completely Virtually Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### # OF STUDENTS IN URS PARTNER PROGRAMS

- **Glasscock Scholars**
- **Aggie Creative Collective**
- **Hagler Scholars**
- **Law School**
- **LT Jordan Fellows**
- **Philosophy for Children**
- **International Studies Honors**

- **2012-2013**
- **2013-2014**
- **2014-2015**
- **2015-2016**
- **2016-2017**
- **2017-2018**
- **2018-2019**
- **2019-2020**
- **2020-2021**
**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](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.
Texas A&M University is an institutional member of CUR, a campus-wide resource renewed annually by LAUNCH: UGR.

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.

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

Our Involvement in CUR Professional Conferences

Presentation: Streamlining Campus Partnerships and Reducing Barriers for Student Participation: REU/Summer Undergraduate Research Activities Coordinated by the Texas A&M LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Office

Presenter: Sarah M. Misemer, Ph.D.

THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AT TEXAS A&M

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](http://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.

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**6TH MOST VIEWED PAGE ON LAUNCH WEBSITE**

- 11,448 total pageviews and 9,402 unique pageviews
- 3 minutes and 24 seconds average time on page
- 78.35% bounce rate
Launched: Undergraduate Research held its fourth Undergraduate Research Expo virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 UGR Expo took place over four days on September 29-October 2.

This Expo expanded on the two-hour resource fair held in years past with synchronous, asynchronous, and static content for undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff to highlight undergraduate research at Texas A&M despite limitations imposed by the pandemic. The event connected undergraduates to many university settings through research communities and experiences that are unique to the research enterprise at an R1 institution.

Day 1: The Basics of Undergraduate Research at Texas A&M

**Video Series:** Getting Started in Research with the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors

**Resource Download:** Getting Started in Research Action Plan

Day 2: Exploring Research Opportunities in the Creative Works, Humanities, Social Sciences, and STEM Fields

**Live Panel:** How to Set Up Undergraduate Research Projects in the Creative Fields and Humanities. Featured students and faculty in the Aggie Creative Collective, Glasscock Summer Scholars, and Philosophy for Children programs as well as faculty members from creative works initiatives in the departments of Architecture and Visualization.

**Virtual Showcase:** Aggie Research Program (ARP) Presentation Showcase

**Web Content & Networking Sessions:** Aggie Research Program (ARP) Networking and Open Positions

Day 3: Maximizing Undergraduate Research Experiences

**Live Panel:** Mentors and Mentees: Meaningful Research Collaborations. Featured undergraduate researchers, graduate student mentors, and faculty mentors

**Live Panel:** How to Publish Undergraduate Research with Explorations: Reflections from Student Authors & Editors. Featured student board members and authors from Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal.

**Resource Download:** The Mini Graduate Student Experience: Writing an Undergraduate Thesis with LAUNCH

Day 4: Spotlighted Opportunities

**Live Panel:** Studying Law: Both Before & During Law School. Featured faculty and staff from the TAMU School of Law.

**Live Panel:** Texas A&M System National Laboratories Office Panel. Featured the Texas A&M System National Laboratories Office and select national labs

**Overall, how would you rate the UGR Expo?**

- Excellent: 26.1%
- Very Good: 31.9%
- Good: 31.9%
- Fair: 7.2%
- Poor: 2.9%
### Unique Students Attended a Virtual Live Panel

- 394

### Live Panel Attendance by Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Attendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS/HUMANITIES/CREATIVE WORKS</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENTORS AND MENTEES</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORATIONS</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW SCHOOL</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL LABS</td>
<td>113</td>
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### Live Panel Attendance by College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Attendants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE &amp; LIFE SCIENCES</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>GALVESTON CAMPUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL STUDIES</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOSCIENCES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VETERINARY MED &amp; BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAW SCHOOL</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATIONAL LABS</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC HEALTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>QATAR CAMPUS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>62</td>
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</table>
| **Includes Postbaccalaureate Undergraduate, Graduate/PhD Students, and Faculty**

**N/A**: Not available.
On Wednesday, February 24, 2021, LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research held the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium virtually on the ForagerOne-Symposium platform. The Symposium showcases undergraduate researchers in the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program. The Undergraduate Research Scholars (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 virtual setting allowed students to expand their presentation skills to the virtual environment and consider video production, accessibility, and Universal Design components through our curated collection of resources.

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 four 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)
4. New: Effective presentation skills in a virtual space

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.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS PRESENTATIONS

STUDENTS PRESENTED AT THE URS SYMPOSIUM

205

PRESENTATIONS

167

STUDENTS FROM TAMU QATAR

23

STUDENTS FROM TAMU GALVESTON

4

STUDENTS FROM CARUTH SCHOOL OF DENTAL HYGIENE

4

STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN (AS PART OF AURATX)

3

BY RESEARCH DISCIPLINE

Technology (STEM) 9.8%

Social and Behavioral Sciences 10.2%

Science (STEM) 21.8%

Other 3.1%

Mathematics (STEM) 1.8%

Interdisciplinary Research 0.9%

Arts and Humanities 16.0%

Business 0.9%

Creative Works 7.6%

Education 0.4%

Engineering (STEM) 21.8%

Health and Medicine (STEM) 5.8%

NOTE: STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO SELECT MULTIPLE RESEARCH DISCIPLINES TO CLASSIFY THEIR PROJECTS.
CARUTH SCHOOL OF DENTAL HYGIENE

Caruth School of Dental Hygiene students collaborate with multiple advisors at the College of Dentistry through a structured course with Dr. Faizan Kabani.

2020-2021 Caruth School of Dental Hygiene Scholars

Thesis: Peptide-Based Biogenic Products: A Conservative Approach to Treat Dental Caries
Sereniti Gary
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Jane Cotter, RDH, MS, CTTS; and Leigh Ann Wyatt, BSDH, MA, MS

Thesis: Pancreatic Cancer and the Oral Microbiome
Joyce Atkens and Vianec Olvera
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Jane Cotter, RDH, MS, CTTS; and Leigh Ann Wyatt, BSDH, MA, MS

Thesis: An Alternative Approach to Conventional Regenerative Therapies: Cultivating Stem Cells from Deciduous Teeth
Keely Ehlers, Kali White, and Allyson Howerton
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Maureen Brown, RDH, BSDH; and Lisa Mallonee, BSDH, MPH, RD, LD

Thesis: Bromelain: A Natural Approach to Whitening Teeth Effectively
Madison Busch, Nancy Medina-Zamora, and Jordynn Palmer
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Kathleen Muzzin, RDH, MS; and Kayla Reed, RDH, MS

Eyra Salazar, Candace Earp, and Andrea Rader
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Lisa Mallonee, BSDH, MPH, RD, LD; and Mary Vu, BSDH, MS

Thesis: Enriching the Scope of Cultural Perceptions: Integrating Diversity and Inclusion in Dental Hygiene Education
Flor Eguia, Ashley Heim, and Shermy Thomas
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Eric Fox, RDH, MS

Katie Shea Smith, Sadie Nguyen, and Jennifer Lee Copeland
URS Advisors: Faizan Kabani, BSDH, MHA, MBA, Ph.D.; Maureen Brown, RDH, BSDH; and Eric Fox, RDH, MS
FIRST YEAR EATS AND THE HUNGER CONSORTIUM

The LAUNCH First Year Eats Living-Learning Program centers on food and community. First Year Eats emphasizes helping college students develop skills related to eating well in the new environment of residence hall living on a college campus: selecting, buying, preparing, storing, and even growing the items needed or wanted for nutritious meals while living in a residence hall. The Hunger Consortium connects faculty, staff, students, and local community members involved in research, food preparation, management, and education with each other and others who want to make a difference by addressing hunger and food insecurity. A partnership was formed between First Year Eats, The Hunger Consortium, and the Department of Statistics to research food insecurity on campus.

2020-2021 First Year Eats and the Hunger Consortium Scholars

Thesis: Investigating How the First Year Eats Program Affects Students Mentally and Academically
Michael Lee, Statistics
URS Advisors: Dr. Alan Dabney and Dr. Suma Datta

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES HONORS

International Studies Honors students may complete the Undergraduate Research Scholars thesis program to satisfy a portion of their Honors program requirements with Dr. Maddalena Cerrato.

INTS Honors 2021 Students

Thesis: Modern Marriage Landscape in Urban China
Rylie Evans, International Studies
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. Jun Lei

Thesis: Israel’s Influence on the Palestinian Protection Gap
Cheryl Thomas, International Studies
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. C. Silva Hamie

Thesis: The Physical and Symbolic Functions of the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall
Meredith Dickson, International Studies, Sociology
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. Robert Shandley

Thesis: Birth Outcomes as a Lens to Understanding the Hispanic Health Paradox
Isabella Nowland, International Studies
URS Advisor: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato

Thesis: The Relational Shift Between Global Governance and State Sovereignty in the Catalan Independence Movement Between 2017 and 2018
Kristin Morton, International Studies
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. Rob Carley

Thesis: Before and After Terrorism: Economic and Political Development in the Basque Country
Jake Shatzer, International Studies, Spanish, and Economics
URS Advisor: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato

Lucas Mendoza, International Studies
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. Arthur Sakamoto

Kathryn Morris, International Studies, Adv International Affairs Cert
URS Advisors: Dr. Maddalena Cerrato and Dr. Dinah Hannaford
The Aggie Creative Collective, supported by the University Writing Center, Department of English, and LAUNCH, is a summer program that links creative arts, undergraduate scholarly research, and performance. The program began in 2018-2019. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2021 Aggie Creative Collective was held online in a virtual format, and a cohort of students from the Department of Visualization joined two creative writing cohorts.

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 project (e.g., novel, creative non-fiction, short prose or poetry collection, screenplay, staged play, graphic novel, other visual narrative project) 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 project, 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.

### Summer 2021 Aggie Creative Collective Scholars

**Proposal:** Cinders Fall - A Web-Based Graphic Novel and a Study in Female Protagonists in Fantasy Novels  
Amelia McCarthy, Visualization  
URS Advisor: Dr. Samuel Woodfin

**Proposal:** “Controversial” Saints - A Study in How Popular Culture Can Radicalize Religious Icons  
Alexandria Babineaux, Visualization  
URS Advisor: Dr. Samuel Woodfin

**Proposal:** Queen of Dawn: An Exploration of Psychology and Mythology in a Fantasy Setting  
Sarah Tonniges, English  
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

**Proposal:** Manifest: Concept Art and Worldbuilding  
Katherine Karolczak, Visualization  
URS Advisor: Dr. Samuel Woodfin

**Proposal:** The Blood Threshold: An Examination of Eugenics and Genetic Discrimination in the Fantasy Genre  
Emily Curtis, Biology  
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

**Proposal:** A Study of the Mythology and Culture of Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Celtic Origins  
Amira Mazzawy, English  
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

**Proposal:** Examining the Lack of Autonomy in Christianity Through Fantasy Fiction  
Olivia Alexander, English  
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

**Proposal:** The Art of Saving What is Left - A creative thesis about the history of a disappearing Texas community and the young woman who was brave enough to save it.  
Breann McClanahan, University Studies, Global Arts, Planning, Design and Construction Concentration  
URS Advisor: Dr. Lowell White

**Proposal:** Weird New World: Reactionary Weirding and the Post-pandemic  
Rain Etheridge, English  
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris

**Proposal:** Of Monsters and Men: Deconstructing the Modern Creature Feature  
Amanda Roberts, English  
URS Advisor: Dr. Jason Harris
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, which began in 2012, 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. The 2020-2021 program was held online in a virtual format because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit [https://glasscock.tamu.edu/archives/undergraduate-summer-scholars-program-archives](https://glasscock.tamu.edu/archives/undergraduate-summer-scholars-program-archives) to learn more about the Glasscock Summer Scholars program

**Summer 2021 Glasscock Summer Scholars**

**Proposal:** Guatemalan Empowerment in the Context of Development Projects  
Jose Solis, University Studies, Society, Ethics and Law Concentration  
URS Advisor: Dinah Hannaford, Leslie Ruyle

**Proposal:** Employer Liability and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace  
Tanvi Deshpande, Psychology  
URS Advisor: Chaitanya Lakkimsetti

**Proposal:** Decolonizing the Family Unit  
Kate Girvin, Philosophy  
URS Advisor: Omar Rivera

**Proposal:** Faculty World Travelling in the University  
Maria Benavides, History  
URS Advisor: Omar Rivera

**Proposal:** "Eliminating All Rapists from the Streets of Texas": A Case Study on Constitutional Carry and Domestic Violence Education Policies During the 87th Texas Legislative Session  
Abigail Jablon, Political Science  
URS Advisor: Chaitanya Lakkimsetti

**Proposal:** Dichotomies in Tort Law: How Categories Simplify, and How to Create an Adichotmous System  
Sarah Kelly, Economics  
URS Advisor: Omar Rivera

**Proposal:** The Anti-Feminicide Movement of Ciudad Juarez and its New Articulations of Justice  
Marla Guerra, History  
URS Advisor: Omar Rivera

**Proposal:** The Coloniality of Cosmetics  
Valeri Cangelosi, University Studies, Society, Ethics and Law Concentration  
URS Advisor: Omar Rivera
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 https://texasseagrant.org/publications and https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/3367 to read undergraduate research theses by our Texas Sea Grant Scholars!

2020-2021 Texas Sea Grant Scholars

**Thesis:** Analysis of Fin Whale Lunge-Feeding in Southern California Using Multisensory Biotags  
Leah Bogan, Marine Biology  
URS Advisor: Dr. Ana Širovič

**Thesis:** Screening for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Sea Turtles Blood and Tissue Samples  
Santiago Canel Soria, Environmental Geoscience  
URS Advisor: Dr. Yina Liu

**Thesis:** Melanophore Response and Behavior of the Marine Isopod Sphaeroma quadridentatum in the Presence of A Common Estuarine Predator Species  
Edsel Santoni Delgado, Marine Biology  
URS Advisor: Dr. Anja Schulze

**Thesis:** Zooxanthellae Counts of Bleached Coral  
James Scolley, Marine Biology, Marine Fisheries  
URS Advisor: Dr. Maria Miglietta and Dr. Katie Clair

**Thesis:** Viral Activity and its Role on Prokaryotic Communities within Coastal Anoxic Sediments  
Madeleine Thompson, Marine Biology  
URS Advisor: Dr. Jessica Labonté

**Thesis:** Analysis and Quantification of Microplastics in Galveston Bay  
Brianne Wharton, University Studies  
URS Advisor: Dr. Karl Kaiser
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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Exchanges</th>
<th>Professional Seminars</th>
<th>Networking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium</td>
<td>Accessibility Basics</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decisions, Decisions: Applying to Graduate School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximizing Your Presence Online – Presentation and Social Media Skills for Researchers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Longhorn Research Poster Session</td>
<td>Life after Undergrad – Perspectives from Former Undergraduate Researchers</td>
<td>Regroup Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol is a biannual event where student participants and their faculty advisors 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 last Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol was held in April 2019 and the next event will be hosted in April 2021.

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!
2020-2021 Activities

1. **Professional Seminar:** Accessibility Basics – October 2020
2. **Professional Seminar:** Decisions, Decisions: Applying to Graduate School – November 2020
3. **Research Exchange:** Virtual Capitol of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference – January 2021
4. **Research Exchange:** Virtual Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium – College Station – February 2021
5. **Professional Seminar:** Maximizing Your Presence Online – Presentation and Social Media Skills for Researchers – February 2021
6. **Professional Seminar:** Life after Undergrad – Perspectives from Former Undergraduate Researchers – April 2021
7. **Research Exchange:** Virtual Longhorn Research Poster Session – Austin – April 2021

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

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**Texas A&M University Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cora Garcia</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences and Entomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faris Zaibaq</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrie Garlic</td>
<td>English and Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Lee</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunjay Letchuman</td>
<td>Business Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tory Martin</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**University of Texas at Austin Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arian Veyssi</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Yin</td>
<td>International Relations and Global Studies, Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Margaret Burniston</td>
<td>Government, Humanities Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negar Koupaei</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Milosek</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasmine Kayali</td>
<td>Health &amp; Society, Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

83.2% COMPLETION RATE
247 UNIQUE STUDENTS COMPLETED THE URS PROGRAM

3.68 AVERAGE GPR
OF THE 247 UNIQUE STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THE URS PROGRAM

KEY
AG: College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
AR: College of Architecture
BA: Mays Business School
ED: College of Education & Human Development
EN: College of Engineering
GB: Bush School
GE: College of Geosciences
GV: Texas A&M University at Galveston
LA: College of Liberal Arts
PH: College of Public Health
SC: College of Science
VM: College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
QT: Texas A&M University at Qatar
DN: Dental Hygiene

247 students
completed the 2020-2021 URS thesis program
URS THESIS TEMPLATE USAGE IN 2020-2021

118 STUDENTS USED THE STEM THESIS TEMPLATE
50 STUDENTS USED THE ARTS/HUMANITIES THESIS TEMPLATE
19 STUDENTS USED THE DENTAL HYGIENE TEMPLATE
2 STUDENTS USED THE JOURNAL STYLE CUSTOM TEMPLATE

25 STUDENTS USED THE CREATIVE WORKS THESIS TEMPLATE
29 STUDENTS USED THE LATEX THESIS TEMPLATE
5 STUDENTS USED THE JOURNAL STYLE IMRAD TEMPLATE

NOTE: ONE STUDENT COMPLETED TWO THESIS DOCUMENTS IN THE 2020-2021 URS THESIS PROGRAM.

HONORS AFFILIATION IN 2020-2021

OUT OF 247 UNIQUE STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THE PROGRAM

10.9% STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY-HONORS

40.1% STUDENTS IN COLLEGE AND/OR DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

55.1% STUDENTS NOT IN ANY HONORS PROGRAM

THESES 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

20 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE THESIS WRITING CLASS
**Optional UGST 405 Course in 2020-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
<th>Different Majors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the 247 students who completed the URS program, 20 students completed the course. The completion rate is 8.1%. From the 20 students who completed the course, 12 had different majors.

### # of Students Who Completed the Optional UGST 405 Class by Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Science</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Geoscience</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Natural Resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Kinesiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Natural Resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students with Double Major at Texas A&M University**

- 15 students that completed the URS program had a double major.
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.

**ACCEPTANCE RATE**

11 OUT OF 36 SUBMISSIONS PUBLISHED

**BOARD MEMBERS**

11 OUT OF 19 APPLICANTS JOINED 9 CONTINUING MEMBERS

**FACULTY/STAFF REVIEWERS**

18

1 article from a Galveston student
3 of the 16 students participated in URS
1 of the 16 participated in the University Honors Program
1 of the 16 participated in the Engineering Honors Program
1 of the 16 participated in the English Honors Program
1 of the 16 participated in the Architecture Honors Program
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.

2020-2021 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

- Addie Bishop ’21 Biology
- Nicole Deere ’21 Anthropology
- Oula Eldow ’21 Biomedical Science
- Cora Garcia ’21 Biomedical Science, Entomology
- Patrick Hall ’21 Biomedical Engineering
- Hannah Horcha ’21 Political Science
- David Lee ’21 Biomedical Science
- Jacquelyn McCullough ’21 Genetics
- Alex Peters ’21 Statistics
- Michael Pitonak ’22 Biology
- Nat Quintero ’20 Nutritional Science
- Tanner Ramirez ’21 Mechanical Engineering
- Emily Wilson ’21 International Studies

2021-2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

- Rithika Adawilkanu ’22 Biomedical Engineering
- Joseph Chen ’23 Biology
- Johnathan Ellard ’23 Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
- Emily Ha ’23 Biology
- Marissa Henley ’23 Public Health
- James Leaverton ’22 Mechanical Engineering
- Sangji Lee ’22 Biomedical Sciences
- Alex Peters ’21 Statistics
- Michael Pitonak ’22 Biology
- Sofia Quintero ’23 Psychology
- Ryan Rahman ’22 Biology
- Vinesh Ravuri ’23 Computer Science and Mathematics
- Noah Reed ’21 Psychology
- Sarah Rutherford ’22 University Studies - Religious Thought, Practices, and Cultures Concentration
- Jeremy Thomas ’23 Biomedical Engineering
- Meera Trilkar ’23 Materials Science & Engineering
- Kayla Wilhoit ’23 Biomedical Sciences

130.5 VOLUNTEER HOURS 13 STUDENT AMBASSADORS 5 COLLEGES REPRESENTED
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. The panel was adapted and held as a virtual live event due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 academic year. The virtual event allowed for participation by students from various campuses (Qatar, Galveston, McAllen, and Caruth School of Dental Hygiene).

- 4 workshops held
- 304 unique attendance at all workshops
- AG: 36 (11.8%), AR: 2 (0.7%), BA: 4 (1.3%), ED: 9 (3.0%), EN: 107 (35.2%), GE: 5 (1.6%), GS: 8 (2.6%), GV: 2 (0.7%), LA: 35 (11.5%), PH: 12 (3.9%), QT: 6 (2.0%), SC: 45 (14.8%), VM: 33 (10.9%), 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. The workshop was adapted and held as a virtual live event due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 academic year. The virtual event allowed for participation by students from various campuses (Qatar, Galveston, McAllen, and Caruth School of Dental Hygiene).

- 5 sessions held
- 198 unique attendance at all sessions
- AG: 21 (10.6%), AR: 1 (0.5%), BA: 5 (2.5%), ED: 5 (2.5%), EN: 61 (30.8%), GE: 1 (0.5%), GS: 4 (2.0%), GV: 4 (2.0%), LA: 34 (17.2%), PH: 6 (3.0%), SC: 20 (10.1%), VM: 12 (6.1%), 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. The workshop was adapted and held as a virtual live round table event due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 academic year.

- 1 workshop held
- 57 unique attendance at all workshops
HELD VIRTUALLY

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

TAMU 499 Course

The TAMU 499 placeholder course was created to centralize tracking of summer REU/SURE students, to automate the fee waiver process for students in program that are externally funded, and to activate student access to services on campus.

Title IX Training

This training is intended for undergraduates participating in REU and other summer undergraduate research experiences (SURE). Representatives from the Title IX Office discuss Title IX at Texas A&M University. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sexual harassment, sexual violence, and discrimination on the basis of sex.

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.

Radiological Safety Training

This training is intended for undergraduates participating in REU and other summer undergraduate research experiences (SURE). Representatives from Environmental Health & Safety present information about Radiological Safety Training.

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. The 2021 Summer Poster Session was held virtually on the ForagerOne-Symposium platform.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TAMU 499 COURSE
250

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE TITLE IX TRAINING
40

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
40

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY TRAINING
19

STUDENTS PRESENTED 144 POSTERS AT THE SUMMER POSTER SESSION
152

REU/SURE PROGRAMS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE SUMMER POSTER SESSION
30

UNIQUE PRESENTATION VIEWS
1162
THE ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION’S SCHOLARSHIP

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation’s mission is to aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in technology and innovation by supporting the very best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics while commemorating the legacy of America’s pioneering astronauts. Today, the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation awards more than fifty scholarships valued up to $15,000 to each selected scholar. The ASF scholarship award is just the beginning for our Astronaut Scholars, and their selection is the beginning of a life-long relationship with astronauts, alumni, and great leaders who span academia, technical research, and corporate leadership.

Awardees

- Cody Martin
- Jonathan Lo

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to serve as a living memorial to honor the lifetime work of Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate.

Awardees

- Brianna Bishop
- Ryan Rahman
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The NSF GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. The five-year fellowship includes three years of financial support including an annual stipend of $34,000 and a cost of education allowance of $12,000 to the institution.

Awardees

- Fatimah Amira Bouderdaben, Texas A&M University Social Sciences - Biological Anthropology
- Jordan Elizabeth Brito, Texas A&M University Materials Research - Polymers
- Robert Thomas Caraway, Texas A&M University Engineering - Mechanical Engineering
- Kenneth Devin Cooper, Texas A&M University Engineering - Nuclear Engineering
- Manuel Romeo Flores, Texas A&M University Life Sciences - Ecology
- Ningxuan Guo, Texas A&M University Engineering - Chemical Engineering
- Marina Elon Hutchins, Texas A&M University Life Sciences - Evolutionary Biology
- Johnathan Lo, Texas A&M University Life Sciences - Evolutionary Biology
- Andrew Marsh, Texas A&M University Engineering - Mechanical Engineering
- Cody Carl Martin, Texas A&M University Life Sciences - Microbial Biology
- Rachel Lea Porter, Texas A&M University Life Sciences - Systems and Molecular Biology
- Aastha Rajan, Texas A&M University Social Sciences - Economics
- Ramsay Allen Ramsey, Texas A&M University Engineering - Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering
- J. Jesus Rodriguez Cruz, Texas A&M University Materials Research - Biomaterials
- Jaye Anthonette Wilson, Texas A&M University Materials Research - Chemistry of Materials
- Alan Klutke Wortman, Texas A&M University Chemistry - Chemical Catalysis
- Aimee Arielle Cook McNab, Texas A&M University at Galveston Geosciences - Marine Biology

TEXAS A&M BECKMAN SCHOLARS

With support from The Beckman Foundation, Texas A&M Beckman Scholars are identified as the top undergraduate students majoring in specific science fields during their freshman year. Once selected, Beckman Scholars receive a generous stipend and begin their research careers with designated Beckman faculty mentors the summer prior to their sophomore year. Beckman Scholars continue their research projects through graduation and also participate in various activities:

- Leadership Development
- Networking opportunities
- Review and publication of scientific research
- Preparation for National Fellowship, graduate, or professional school applications.

Awardees

- Connor Bowerman
- Miriam Stein
STUDENT SUCCESS

ENGAGING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

- **8.1%** of students who completed URS were first-generation students.
- **12.4%** of students who attended the UGR Expo were first-generation students.
- **30.0%** of students in UGRA were first-generation students.
- **2.0%** of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499 were first-generation students.
- **10.0%** of students in EXPL (BOARD) were first-generation students.
- **21.6%** of students who attended the GSIR workshops were first-generation students.
- **6.3%** of students in EXPL (AUTHOR) were first-generation students.
- **13.1%** of students who attended the URS informationals were first-generation students.
TRANSFER STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- 12.6% of students who completed URS who were transfer students
- 6.1% of students who attended the UGR Expo were transfer students
- 10.0% of students in UGRA were transfer students
- 0.4% of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499 were transfer students
- 6.3% of students in EXPL (author) were transfer students
- 11.0% of students who attended the GSIR workshops were transfer students
- 10.1% of students who attended the URS informational were transfer students

VETERAN STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- 0.8% of students who completed URS were veteran students
- 0.5% of students who attended the UGR Expo were veteran students
- 1.5% of students who attended the URS informationals were veteran students
- 0.4% of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499 were veteran students
LAUNCH-AFFILIATED LEARNING COMMUNITY STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

11.3% of students who completed URS were a general member

75.1% of students who attended the UGR Expo were a general member

30.0% of students in UGRA were a general member

4.0% of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499 were a general member

35.0% of students in EXPL (board) were a general member

12.1% of students who attended the GSIR workshops were a general member

6.3% of students in EXPL (author) were a general member

15.2% of students who attended the URS informationals were a general member

INVolvEMENT BY GENDER

Male:
44.1% of students who completed URS
40.0% of students in UGRA
35.0% of students in EXPL (board)
18.8% of students in EXPL (author)
32.7% of students who attended the UGR Expo
39.9% of students who attended GSIR workshops
44.4% of students who attended URS informationals
46.8% of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499

Female:
55.9% of students who completed URS
60.0% of students in UGRA
65.0% students in EXPL (board)
81.3% of students in EXPL (author)
67.3% of students who attended the UGR Expo
60.1% of students who attended GSIR workshops
55.6% of students who attended the URS informationals
53.2% of students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499

NOTE: Some students elected to not report their gender to the university and are not included in these gender statistics.
INvolvement by ethnicity

- Black only + 2 or more/1 Black
- Hispanic or Latino of any Race
- American Indian Only
- 2 or more/excluding Black and Hispanic
- Asian Only
- International
- Unknown or Not Reported
- White Only

Students who completed URS

- Students who attended the UGR Expo

Students enrolled in REU/SURE TAMU 499

Students who attended GSIR Workshops

Students who attended URS Informationals