CURCE Newsletter

Get up-to-date with the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAKE AN IMPRINT - 2

HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR BREAK? Q&A ON A WINTER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE - 3-4

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - 5

BE STATEWIDE FAMOUS - 5

PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE!

MAY 3, 2019
HTTP://BIT.LY/UALBANY16UGCONF

APPLY FOR FUNDING!

SORRELL CHESIN RESEARCH AWARD SITUATION PRIZE FOR RESEARCH

HTTP://BIT.LY/CURCEFUNDING

ALL APPLICATIONS LIVE
February 1

Find us on social media!

@UAlbanyCurce

Proudly sponsored by
This semester with CURCE

CURCE SPRING 2019
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Undergraduate Conference
Application OPEN
Submit your abstract from 2/1-3/15 to present at the 16th Annual Conference on 5/3/19

Situation Prize for Research Application
OPEN
NINE students will receive $500! Applications accepted from 2/1-3/8

Sorrell Chesin Research Award
Application OPEN
NEW AWARD! Open to Juniors & Seniors in Life Sciences Research! Applications accepted from 2/1-3/8

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

2/21/19
Abstract Writing Workshop
Writing a clear abstract is important for conference and funding applications! Get help from the Writing Center to craft your abstract!

4/11/19
How to create a Research Poster
You've been accepted to present a poster at a conference...now what? Join us to learn how to create an effective poster!

4/16/19
Effective Oral Presentation Skills
Let us help you prepare to present at a conference or in class! We'll give you tips on how to effectively communicate your message!

MAKE YOUR IMPRINT

4/2/19
International Opportunities for Research Abroad
Interested in going abroad? Learn more about grants and opportunities!

4/12/19
CURCE Meet & Greet
Celebrate Undergraduate Research Week with the CURCE team! Stop by to enter for a giveaway and learn how you can get involved!

5/3/19
16th Annual Undergraduate Conference
Join us as we showcase the work of undergraduates from across UAlbany! All are welcome to attend & present!

For more information visit www.albany.edu/ugr

Connect with the CURCE team!

Email us questions, suggestions, and highlights from your research or creative project at ugr@albany.edu
Making the most of break: Q&A with Samantha Giuliano

Over winter recess, Sam completed a research internship that will help motivate her career goals. We asked her some questions about her experience.

Where are you interning?
I interned at the Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research, Division of Forensics.

How did you hear about this opportunity and what was the application/interview process like?
I started my search for intern opportunities using the internet and UAlbany services and faculty. I heard about this opportunity back during sophomore year, at the time I did not have all the course requirements yet but since I am the type of person that loves to plan, I added it to the list. In the meantime, I made sure to work on my resume, so I would be a top candidate for this highly competitive intern program. The application process was fairly simple they needed my resume, I needed to fill out some paperwork and answer some essay question. They mainly asked about what I am involved in and why I wanted the internship. If you fit their criteria, they conduct an interview. Since I wasn’t in the area it was a phone interview and lasted about 15–20 minutes, they asked about my scientific background what I was doing research and why I think I would be an asset in the laboratory.
Q&A with Samantha Giuliano

Doing an internship during the winter session is different than during the summer (or semester). What made this appealing to you?

It is a more compact curriculum since it is only a month...[and] if you apply for the winter there are fewer applicants. Therefore, you have the opportunity to have one to one time with analysts and be more hands on. What made the winter session appealing to me is I’m not as busy during the winter session...This internship made it possible to work full-time during summer and part-time during the winter while receiving amazing field experience.

What inspired you to pursue this area of research and chemistry?

Working in a crime lab is my dream job, what I decided to attend school for, and have continued to work for through my college years. In high school, I was very good at science and I really enjoyed it... Research can do amazing things for the medical field in addition to the forensics field. It can exonerate somebody or takes a dangerous person off the street. Working as a part of the judicial system makes me feel like I am making a difference and working toward making this world better.

You are involved with different aspects of the evidence process and analysis, do you have a favorite?

Initially, the police department would come to Evidence Receiving and submit any samples or evidence. For example, if it was fibers/hair it will be sent to the trace analysis department, any illicit substances will be sent to the chemistry, any samples that have suspected body fluids/DNA would be sent to the biology. All of the subdivision at the lab work together to build a case. Initially, I started out in forensic biology and I found it extremely fascinating from the smallest amount of DNA left they can build a profile. Next, I went to trace evidence which was very interesting because it was matching patterns and different substrates, they were looking for such small clues to make the most impact. But overall my favorite was the forensics chemistry department. They mainly study drug cases, gunshot residue, and arson cases. The methodology that they use is similar to what I’ve done throughout my years at UAlbany...Overall, all the different types of analysis were amazing and after this internship, I feel I am going to take some more biology course to broaden my knowledge of all the aspects of forensics.

What advice do you have for other students interested in getting involved in research and hands-on learning opportunities like internships?

Getting involved with research and internships are growing experiences and you can learn so much from them. If you would like to get more involved and be hands on with your education, research/interning is the way to go...The internet is your best friend. Look at what the campus offers— we are a top research institute and have hundreds of professors studying amazing things, reach out to them, an email could never hurt.

Internships are similar, start looking early to see what you might be interest in and what qualification they require. If you don’t have it yet that is okay, keep looking. In the meantime, work on what you need so you can be a great candidate in the future. Mostly, just put yourself out there and keep your chin up and if you need some help or direction CURCE is right on campus!
Share your work statewide at SURC!

April 26th

Present your work as a poster or oral presentation at SUNY’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC). This year, the conference will be hosted by SUNY Adirondack CC.

Abstract submission deadline is March 8th. For more information visit http://www.sunyacc.edu/surc-0

Student Spotlight: Matt Pascazi

Matt (Human Biology, class of 2020) is a research assistant in psychology and is enthusiastic about the opportunities he has had to explore new areas.

I am a research assistant in the Cognition and Language Lab at UAlbany. I schedule and run participants through experiments and input the data gathered from their sessions. Currently I am working on a project...which is looking at the effects emotion has on memory. Initially I did not have a particular topic or area I was looking to get involved in, I just wanted to start getting involved in research. I got the opportunity to apply... through an email from Dean Chang and was luckily enough to get the position.

Now that I am involved in research in Cognitive Psychology, however, I have become very interested in the field because I feel that the human mind and its inner workings are really complex and love learning about such and investigating how psychology affects our everyday lives. After graduation, I plan to attend grad school to become a Physician’s Assistant, but I am not sure which field of medicine I would like to specialize in yet. If I were speaking to another student who is interested in getting involved I would tell them to contact CURCE. They have tons of resources to help students get involved in research, get funding for research, make great connections on campus and elsewhere and there are also some great people at the center who are very willing and would love to help!