MARCH IS HERE!

Each Spring semester, it is a sprint to the finish of the academic year. With the changes in the academic calendar for Spring 2021, we are all adapting as best we can.

Knowing that there are many unknowns, CURCE is maximizing each day by sharing as much information and resources with students and faculty alike! We've presented to many courses and have added Zoom Drop-In hours for students every Friday to answer questions about getting involved & applying for the $15,000 in funding CURCE has available this semester.

Join our Zoom Drop In's Every FRIDAY in March
3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26
2:00-4:00 PM
Meeting ID: 981 7814 5063
Passcode: 412409
Have Questions?
Join the CURCE ZOOM Drop-In hours EVERY Friday in MARCH from 2:00-4:00 PM
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What inspired you to get involved in research as an undergraduate?

As an undergraduate, I always found the material from classes very interesting, however, I struggled to find real-world application of the material in many cases. I saw that getting involved in research was one avenue for me to learn and apply more skills to solve real-world challenges. Ultimately, getting to use my skills I developed in class in useful ways was a huge driver for me to get involved in research as an undergraduate.

Some of the research you did was with UAlbany faculty researchers while others were with faculty researchers at other institutions. How did you find these different types of opportunities?

I found research opportunities at UAlbany through two main routes (1) if I was interested in the material from a specific class, I would approach the professor to learn if they had any research opportunities available within my realm of interest in that class and (2) if I came up with an interesting problem to solve, I would seek out professors who had skills in the problem area and were willing to guide me to help solve the problem. As for the research I did with faculty at other institutions, I connected with these individuals through conference networking and then presented them with interesting challenges and preliminary analysis showing how we may solve a bigger challenge in the hopes to hook them!

You received quite a few accolades (awards, funding, etc.) what advice do you have for students that are hesitant to apply for consideration?

Advice I have for students hesitant to apply for funding/awards is to be confident and just try to get the award! Many times, the chances are higher than you think they are and professors are usually willing to support your application. I remember I applied for the Situation Prizes at UAlbany and won it twice – this prize was monumental in my research endeavors because it funded my travel and conference fee to the International Symposium on Sustainable Systems and Technology 2017. At this conference is where I ended up meeting my honors thesis advisor who facilitated the snowballing of many more accolades including winning prestigious awards such as NSF GRFP and providing a letter of recommendation for my Ph.D. at MIT.

You are now pursuing your PhD in Mechanical Engineering at MIT, what at UAlbany prepared you for this next step in your education and career?

I would say that the biggest impact UAlbany had on preparing me for my Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at MIT is having been involved in numerous interdisciplinary research projects. Developing a strong skillset through many diverse and challenging research opportunities at UAlbany gave me a robust toolbox to utilize for conducting my own high-impact research for my dissertation.

If you could, what advice would you give yourself as a freshman in college?

As a freshman in college, the main advice I would give myself is to start research early and forge meaningful connections with professors – those two things will take you farther than you can ever realize!

Accolades & Accomplishments

Recipient: Situation Prize for Research (2018 & 2019); Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research (2019); David E. Lumley Young Scientist Scholarship (2018); Data Visualization and Storytelling Competition (2018)


Awarded: National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (2019); Department of Defense SMART Scholarships (2019)
George is a senior Physics Major & has been researching with Professor Szydagis on the Snowball Chamber Dark Matter Experiment. While the pandemic has impacted research opportunities, George has been able to continue to work virtually on the project with Dr. Szydagis by analyzing data collected over the past year.

However, virtual research is not without its challenges. The experience has prohibited George from being able to observe the experiment. It has also drastically reduced limited their ability to collaborate with each other, which is a cornerstone of engaging in research. The past year has meant that George and the other students, both undergraduate and graduate research assistants, are unable to interact with each other on a daily basis.

George began to explore research as an undergraduate student so that he could further develop his interest in the field of physics. A major benefit of being involved has been getting first-hand experience on how to apply what is learned in the classroom to a real-world problem. Being a research assistant, has driven George to decide to pursue a doctorate in Physics after graduation!

"The one piece of advice I would give myself is to get involved in research as soon as possible because it looks amazing for graduate applications. It also allows you to get motivated involved in continuing to pursue your major. And finally, it helps you prepare for giving presentations at conferences as well as writing research papers."

George is a CURCE Ambassador! Want to join our team? Email UGR@albany.edu to inquire about being a CURCE Ambassador in the 2021-2022 Academic Year!
CURCE has made adjustments to the annual Student Conference for Spring 2021 to ensure the health & safety of all involved, the conference will be fully virtual on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Conference presentation applications will be accepted until Friday, March 26th.

Need support? Use the Friday Zoom Drop-In times in March to get help on your abstract, research presentations & more!

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18th Annual Student Conference!

Virtual SURC
SUNY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
APRIL 16, 2021

The SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) is a multidisciplinary spring semester event that brings together undergraduate students and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system for a full day of activities, including sessions devoted to student presentations (oral, poster, and artistic displays), keynote speaker, a SUNY Graduate School Fair, and professional development workshops for students.

SUNY Old Westbury will host virtual SURC 2021 this April. By bringing together students and faculty from across the state, SURC helps realize the synergistic power of the SUNY system.

For more information, visit:
suny.edu/surc
Or email surc@suny.edu

LOOKING FOR SUMMER RESEARCH?

Check out the Summer Opportunities tab on our CURCE Blackboard Community Page

Enroll in the CURCE Community Blackboard Page
1. Log in to your UAlbany Blackboard account
2. In the upper right-hand corner, click “Community”
3. Find the Organization search function, and search “CURCE”
4. Hover over your “Organization ID” labeled “NS-2020-Undergrad-Ed-Curce” and click “Enroll”