



Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office

Issue XIV
Spring 2015 Newsletter



Happy New Year! Welcome back! The spring semester is upon us and URSCO is excited to share the opportunities that it has in the coming semester.

In this newsletter, there are important dates and announcements as well as an undergraduate researcher spotlight. We hope that you will mark you calendars and come out to show support of the undergraduate research and creative activities.

Student Researcher Spotlight: Jalisa Horne



Major: Nutrition

Expected Graduation

Date: December 2015

Mentor(s): Dr. Jigna Dharod, Dr. Sharon Morrison, Sudha Shreeniwas

Department: Nutrition, Public Health

Name of research project:

Household Food Insecurity and Hypertension Status Among Montagnard Young Adults in North Carolina

Describe your research project?

The aim of this project is to assess the impact of household food insecurity in hypertension status. Due to limited access to safe and nutritious foods, hypertension is a risk factor in the Montagnard Community in United States. Montagnard refugees (multi-tribal group from the highlands of South East region of Vietnam) are required to adjust their lifestyle arriving to United States from Vietnam. Nutritional food accessibility is an example of this change which may lead to high blood pressure.

What was your greatest challenge in doing research? The greatest challenge is balancing work, academics and research.

How do you think participating in undergraduate research has been or will be beneficial to you?

By participating in undergraduate research, I have learned how to use and manage softwares (such as Qualtrics) that are good for data collecting and surveying. I have established communication skills amongst those who are non-English speaking with different cultural backgrounds. Because of this communication skill, I am able to maneuver communication methods based upon people of diverse backgrounds, which may comfort the individual.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

After graduation, I will apply for a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research in Gaborone, Botswana. Later, I hope to go to graduate school for the following semester at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Staying in Greensboro for following time frame is an advantage since I am already engaged in the community and have builded a supportive network. I hope to later engaged in a community-based collaborative project that focuses on improving the health and nutrition for the minority population in Greensboro.



URSCO is excited to announce that the first annual Globally Engaged Scholars (GE-URCA) have been selected. The following students will be participating:

- Oyediya Akaronu
- Kimberly Najarro
- Jennifer Plouffe
- Emily Clark-Kramer
- Alison Lindley
- Anna Stewart
- Madeline Parrish
- Mariannis Payne

Check out their projects [here](#).

Important & Upcoming Deadlines:



Applications are being accepted for 2015 Summer Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards (URCAs).

The deadline to apply is **February 15, 2015**.

Find out more here:

<http://ursco.uncg.edu/funding/urca/>



The 9th annual Thomas Research and Creativity Expo will be accepting abstracts from **January 28, 2015** until **February 20, 2015**.

The Expo will feature presentations in four categories, to include: poster, oral, performance, and exhibit/display. Please check our [webpage](#) for more information.



Student Presenters can [register here](#) until **February 20, 2015**

Non-Presenters (*faculty, staff, administrators, community members*) can [register here](#) until **April 6, 2015**