

URSCO NEWSLETTER

UNCG UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVITY OFFICE |
FALL 2023

18TH ANNUAL THOMAS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY EXPO

APRIL 10, 2024
ABSTRACTS WILL BE ACCEPTED
JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 22

The expo is the campus-wide celebration of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities. All undergrads engaged in scholarly inquiry are encouraged to participate. Those involved in course-based undergraduate research projects are also encouraged to present. Students are eligible to compete for program recognition, which includes monetary awards. Categories for consideration include:

- **Business, Education, Social and Behavioral Sciences**
- **Humanities**
- **Mathematics, Life and Physical Sciences**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Visual Arts Exhibition**

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Important Dates
- SURF 2023
- SNCURCS
- U-RISE
- ABRCMS
- URCA Recipients: Fall-Spring 2023/24
- URCA Recipients: Spring 2024



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Important Dates

~ Spring 2024 ~

- **January 08:** Classes begin
- **January 24 - February 28:** Submit abstracts for the 18th Annual Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo
- **January 15:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Classes Dismissed
- **March 2 - 11:** Spring Break
- **April 10:** 18th Annual Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo
- **March 29:** Spring holiday. Classes dismissed
- **April 21:** Deadline to request Excellence in Undergraduate Research/Creative Inquiry Spring Transcript Notation
- **April 24:** Last day of classes
- **April 26 - May 2:** Final exams



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SURF 2023

Seven students represented UNCG at the 7th annual Southern Conference Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) on October 13-14, 2023. SURF was hosted by Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and featured approximately 84 students from 7 Southern Conference institutions. Participating students presented their research, scholarship, and/or creative inquiry from a wide array of disciplines. UNCG students who participated in SURF were able to attend presentations from other undergraduate students in addition to presenting their own projects.



UNCG represents the University at the SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum. From left to right: Sydney Thompson, Ethan Divon, Ashley Jones, Emily Guin, Karla Mills, Corbin Mills, Selena Villa, and Dr. Lee Phillips



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SURF Presentations

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Ethan Divon	Aisha Dad	Classical Studies	Expanding Classics: Comparative World Mythology and its Reception in Gaming
Emily Guin	Mitchell Croatt	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Regioselectivity Study of meta-Substituted Allyloxybenzenes
Ashley Jones	Leah Sobsey	Art	Native North Carolina Flowers
Corbin Mills	Hayley Liebenow, Brittany Cassidy	Psychology	The look of racism: Examining Black and White Americans' implicit trait perceptions of racial prejudice
Karla Mills	Plaxedes Chitiyo	Geography, Environment, and Sustainability	Alleviating Food Insecurity through the Free Farmers Market in Greensboro
Sydney Thompson	Prashanti Manda	Computer Science	Comparison of RNA secondary-structure prediction programs based on accuracy
Selena Villa	Jigna Dharod	Nutrition	Examination of infant feeding practices among Latino families from a socio-cultural perspective



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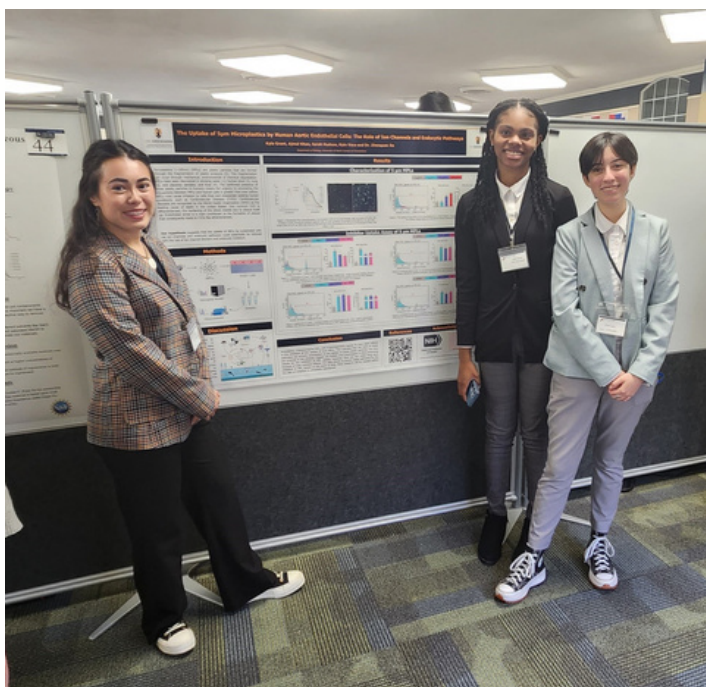


SNCURCS

The State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS), is an annual event that celebrates the outstanding research and creative inquiries of undergraduate students across the state. The symposium serves as a platform for students to present their research and creative projects, spanning a wide range of disciplines.



The 2023 edition of SNCURCS was hosted by Wingate University and South Piedmont Community College on November 11. The event featured a diverse range of presentations, discussions, and interactive sessions, allowing participants to learn about and share cutting-edge research and creative endeavors. In total, there were 401 presenters from 31 institutions who contributed to the success of the symposium, further enriching the collaborative and interdisciplinary atmosphere of the event.



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SNCURCS Presentations

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Salia Maas-York, Kennedy Davenport	Melina Sneesby	Psychology	The Relationship Between Neuroticism and Dissociative Identity Disorder Traits In Individuals Who Have Experienced Trauma
Ethan Divon	Aisha Dad	Classical Studies	Expanding Classics: Comparative World Mythology and its Reception in Gaming
Kyla Grant	Zhenquan Jia	Biology	The Uptake of 5 μ m Microplastics by Human Aortic Endothelial Cells is Independent of Ion Channels and Endocytic Pathways
Sarah Hudson	Zhenquan Jia	Biology	Exposure to Microplastics and Nanoplastics Triggers pro-inflammatory gene expression in Human Aortic Endothelial Cells
Jessica Jacob	Charles Egeland, Lydia Greene	Anthropology	Seasonal Foraging Strategies: The Foraging Response of Captive Coquerel's Sifakas When Food Availability Changes
Ashley Jones	Leah Sobsey	Art	Native North Carolina Flowers



SNCURCS Presentations

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Tiana Lillevig	Kimberly Petersen	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Utilization of Chiral Brønsted Acids to form Enantioenriched δ -Lactams.
Vaeda McGarr	Kari Eddington	Psychology	Social words predict social problems: Connecting idiographic measures of self discrepancy and interpersonal problems
Karla Mills	Plaxedes Chitiyo	Geography, Environment, and Sustainability	Alleviating Food Insecurity through the Free Farmers Market in Greensboro
Milan Toomer	Kimberly Komatsu	Biology	Understanding the role of mutualistic bacteria in driving coexistence among legume plants in mesic grasslands



Explore Opportunities and Celebrate Achievements with U-RISE!

Apply to U-RISE!

Do you know a second-year student pursuing a major in a biomedical field who aspires to pursue a doctoral degree? U-RISE is a 2-year, undergraduate scholarship and training program that will help prepare underrepresented students in the biomedical field for graduate school. Please recommend those students to be a U-RISE Fellow and to submit an application between **December 4, 2023 – January 26, 2024**. Please visit <https://urise.uncg.edu/> for more information.

ABRCMS



The UNCG U-RISE/MARC Fellows attended the 2023 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Students (ABRCMS) in Phoenix, AZ from November 15-18, 2023. ABRCMS is one of the largest communities of historically excluded students in STEM. Students attend this conference to present their research, enhance professional development skills, explore graduate schools, and network. During the conference, attendees participate in poster and oral presentations in twelve STEM disciplines. This year, 8 of the U-RISE/MARC Fellows presented their research at the ABRCMS.



ABRCMS Presentations

Student	Mentor	Presentation Topic
Daniel Araya	Ayalew Osená	Early Life Sleep Disruption and Behavioral Deficits in Shank3 Autism Model Mice
Victoria Song Farris	Nadja Cech	Metabolomic Profiling of Soil Fungi for the Discovery of Antimicrobials Against Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria
Stephanie Fisher-Huynh	Eric Josephs	Increasing CRISPR-based Gene Editing Specificity Through Extended CRISPR RNAs
Kyla Grant	Zhenquan Jia	The Uptake of 5 μ m Microplastics by Human Aortic Endothelial Cells: The Role of Ion Channels and Endocytic Pathways
Sarah Hudson*	Zhenquan Jia	Exposure to Microplastics and Nanoplastics Triggers Pro-Inflammatory Gene Expression in Human Aortic Endothelial Cells
Tiana Lillevig*	Kimberly Petersen	Utilization of Chiral Brønsted Acid Catalysts to Form δ -Lactams
Marcos Tapia*	Shabnam Hematian	Understanding the Solution Speciation of Biomimetic Copper(I) Complexes and Its Impact on the Electron Transfer Events
Sydney Thompson	Prashanti Manda	Comparison of Secondary- Structure Prediction Programs Based on Accuracy

* ABRCMS Awardees



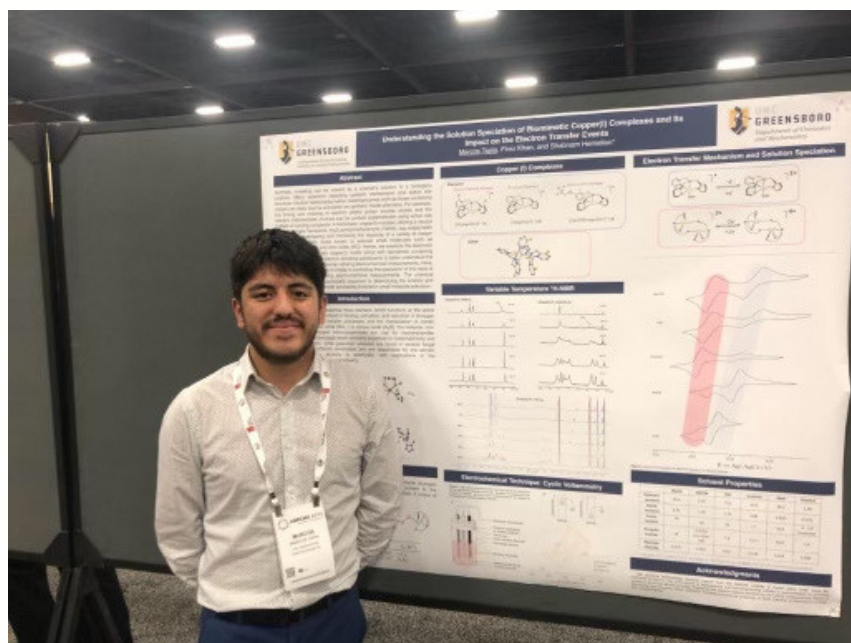
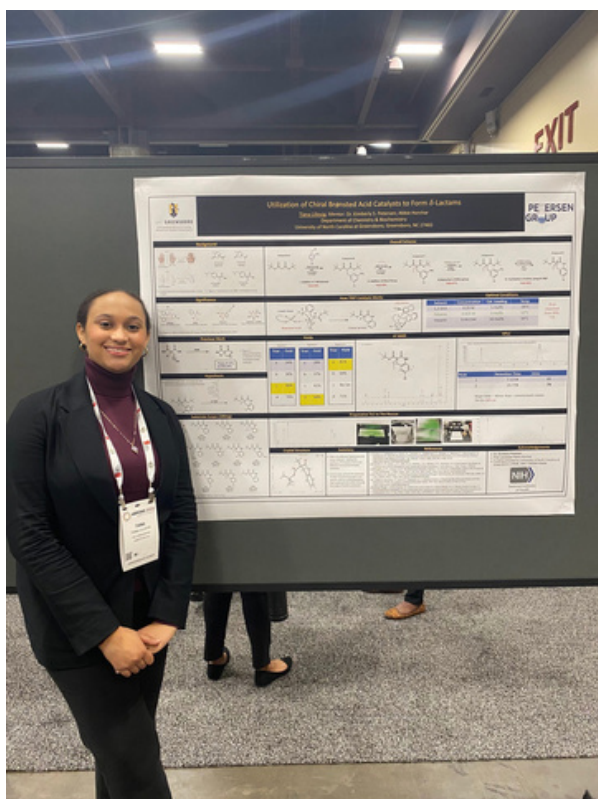
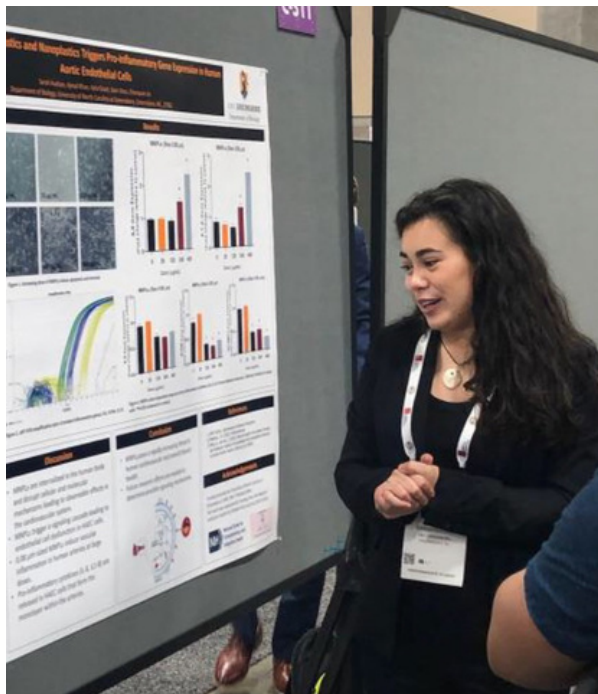
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ABRCMS 2023

*3 of the U-RISE Fellows won awards at ABRCMS for their outstanding poster presentations:

- Sarah Hudson - Physiology and Pharmacology Award (Top left photo)
- Tiana Lillevig - Chemistry Award (Bottom left photo)
- Marcos Tapia - Chemistry Award (Bottom right photo)



URCA Recipients

~Fall-Spring 2023/2024~

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Daniel Borger	Jonathan Zarecki	Classical Studies	The Evolution of Cicero's Rhetoric in the Exordia of Pro Quinctio, Pro Murena, Pro Balbo, and Pro Scauro
Melissa Cleary	Heather Coleman	Specialized Education Services	Enhancing Early Childhood Professionals' Infant and Toddler Mental Health Knowledge
Nathan Dang	Sharon Morrison	Public Health Education	Creating Community Needs Assessment Profiles for Hmong Communities in Western North Carolina
Gerson Fuentes	Joanne Murphy	Classical Studies	Seeing is Believing: An Exploration of the function of Hellenistic Towers in Northwestern Kea
Ashley Jones	Leah Sobsey	Art	CVPA Pollinator Garden Project Expansion
Sarah Korb	Kimberly Petersen	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Synthesis of Enantioenriched Lactones
Olivia Overton	Leah Sobsey	Art	CVPA Pollinator Garden Project Expansion



URCA Recipients

~Fall-Spring 2023/2024~

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Kaitlyn (Katie) Pelikan	Maya Chhetri	Mathematics and Statistics	Mathematical Analysis of Models Involving Nonlinear Boundary Conditions
Sebastian Rodriguez	Derek Monroe	Kinesiology	Brain Structure and Function after Concussion and Subconcussive Impacts
Tiffany Tan	Gabriela Stein	Psychology	The Cost of Academic Resilience: Family Socialization, Perfectionism, and John Henryism
Alexa Villarreal	Jaclyn Maher	Kinesiology	Examining social support as a moderator of physical activity intention-behavior coupling in adolescent girls
Kendal Walker	Dora Gicheva	Economics	STEM Enrollment Gaps by Race/Ethnicity and Gender before and after the COVID Pandemic: Evidence from North Carolina Public Colleges and Universities
Bayley Wellons	Christopher Wahlheim	Psychology	An Eye Tracking Study of News Headline Reading after Fake News Corrections



URCA Recipients

~Spring 2024~

Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Amanda Noelle Asillero	Robyn Le Blanc	Classical Studies	The Imitation Game: Using Nanotech and 3D printing to replicate artifacts for Academic Accessibility
Keagen Buckley	Robyn Le Blanc	Classical Studies	Reclaiming Medusa: Medusa as a Feminist Symbol
Holly Buroughs	Anatoly Miroshnichenko	Physics and Astronomy	Revealing the Nature of the Emission-Line Star HD 50138
Megan Byrd	Jin Su	Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies	Minimalism Trend in Apparel Consumption: A Perspective from Millennial Consumers
Krystajah Davis	Margaret Fields-Olivieri	Psychology	Contextualizing Communication: Effects of everyday activities on parental language input in naturalistic audio samples
Ethan Divon	Aisha Dad-Van Veldhuizen	Classical Studies	Expanding Classics: Comparative World Mythology and its Reception in Gaming



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Student	Mentor	Department	Project Title
Taylor Pougés	Jin Su	Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies	What to Do with Your Old Jeans? Investigating Gen Z College Students' Consumption and Disposal Behavior toward Jeans



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130 Shaw Residence Hall (on the quad)
1310 Walker Ave
Greensboro, NC

For more information about what UNCG's undergraduate scholars are up to, visit the URSCO blog!



NEWS & STORIES

Welcome to the URSCO blog, where UNCG's undergraduate scholars share their work and its impact with the world. This blog aims to highlight the amazing undergraduate research and scholarly activity that takes place on our campus.

Filter by:

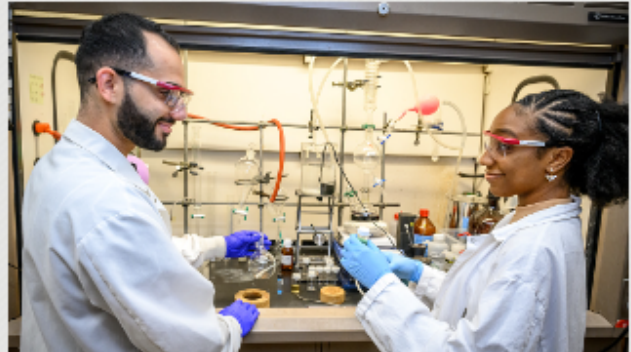
All News

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GREENSBORO PROJECT SPACE LAUNCHES STUDENT SUMMER RESIDENCY



RISE BRINGS NEW WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS TO UNCG FOR 2023-24

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