



URSCO Newsletter

Spring 2020



UNCG Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and
Creativity Office

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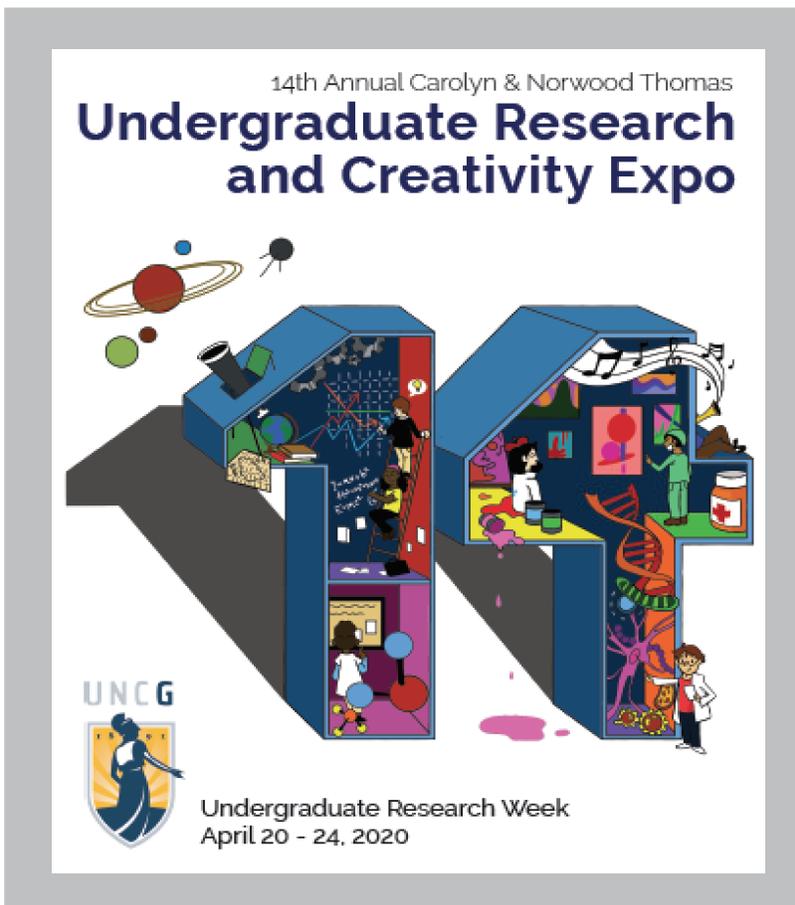
UNC GREENSBORO

Undergraduate
Research, Scholarship
and Creativity Office

14th Annual Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo

This year, the Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo looked a little different. Before we knew the impact COVID-19 would have on operations at UNCG during the Spring Semester, the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office accepted 266 presentations from over 355 students with 146 mentors across 38 academic departments/programs for the 2020 Expo. Upon learning that the remainder of the semester

at UNCG would take place online, the URSCO wanted to find a way for these hard-working undergraduate researchers to celebrate their projects. Working together, our office created the first-ever Virtual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo at UNCG. The virtual expo featured 185 presentations from 237 students with 106 mentors across 30 academic departments.





2020 Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

Dr. Tyreasa Washington is the recipient of the **2020** Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award for *tenured faculty*. Dr. Washington joined the Department of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as an Assistant Professor in 2011. She was promoted to Associate Professor and appointed Faculty Affiliate to the UNCG Gerontology Program in 2017.

Dr. Washington is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who has worked in child welfare and mental health settings. She is a distinguished scholar who examines the impact of family-level factors on African American children's social, academic, and behavioral outcomes, especially those who reside in kinship care (e.g., grandparents raising grandchildren).

Dr. Washington has received various research and teaching awards for her scholarship including a Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Alumna, a National Institute of Health (NIH) Loan Repayment Program recipient, as well as, a Teaching Excellence and Research Mentor Awards recipient. Currently, Dr. Washington is the Principal Investigator of an Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) funded study, entitled: "Development of African American Children in Kinship Care."

Shelton Young explained, "Dr. Washington is not only a colleague in the Social Work profession, but she once served as my professor and undergraduate research mentor during my undergraduate experience. She provided me and countless others with an understanding of the importance of using research to inform social work practice and practice to inform research."

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro established this award to recognize faculty who engage students in projects that contribute to the expansion of knowledge and understanding in their discipline, while demonstrating excellence and innovation. Dr. Tyreasa Washington demonstrates role modeling as a professional, with personal integrity, high ethical standards, and achievable standards for personal excellence. We are privileged to recognize her with the 2020 Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

(Contributed by AW Middlebrooks)



2020 Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award



Dr. Blair Wisco is the recipient of the 2020 Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award for *Early Career Faculty*. Dr. Wisco joined the faculty at UNCG in 2013 as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Clinical Psychology Program.

In her teaching and research statement, Dr. Wisco remarked, “I am passionate about undergraduate research mentoring” and that she has consistently involved undergraduates in her research since joining UNCG. Her students are exposed to all stages of the research process, from the original conception of an idea to eventual dissemination of findings. Dr. Wisco’s receipt of an R15 grant from the National Institutes of Health, an award that aims to increase opportunities for student participation in research, reflects the high quality of her work and the unique training oppor-

tunity that her lab provides. One student wrote of Dr. Wisco, “She considers the individual interests of research assistants in her lab and supports them. Time is taken to ask students what experiences they hope to gain from working in the lab, what they wish to learn. Dr. Wisco makes those opportunities available.”

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office at UNCG established this award to recognize faculty members who engage students in projects that contribute to the expansion of knowledge and understanding in their discipline, while demonstrating excellence and innovation in doing so. Dr. Blair Wisco has managed to do this in exemplary fashion, and we are honored to present her with the 2020 Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

(Contributed by TR Miller)

2020 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo Award Winners

Business, Education, Behavioral & Social Sciences

1st Place

Keichelle Joyce (Elementary Education,
Special Education, Senior)

Mentors: Jennifer Coffman
(Human Development & Family Studies)

Olivia Cook (Human Development &
Family Studies, Graduate Student)

*Relating Strategic Memory Skills to Math
Calculation Performance in Kindergarten*

2nd Place

**Katherine Tardif & Margarito
Martinez** (Interior Architecture, Seniors)

Mentor: Asha Kutty

*Utilizing Technologies to Examine the
Designed Environment and Perception of
Crime*

3rd Place

Robert Tate (Geography, Senior)

Mentor: Selima Sultana (Geography)

*African American Perspectives on United
States National Parks and Visitation*

Honorable Mention

Gabriel Parks (Communication Studies,
Senior)

Mentor: Jenni Simon (Communication
Studies)

*An Alternative Sense-making Collective: A
Rhetorical Analysis of the Intellectual
Dark Web*

Humanities

1st Place

Abigail Knight (Nursing, Junior)

Mentor: Erin Laerimore (University
Libraries)

*War on the Homefront: Responses to the
Influenza Pandemic of 1918 at Three
North Carolina Colleges*

2nd Place

Eliza Rosebrock (English & Art
History, Senior)

Mentor: Ben Clarke (English)

*The Damning World: The People's Side of
Irish History in Frank Delaney's
Fiction*

3rd Place

Irvin Maldonado (Art, Senior),

Victoria Landers (Art, Senior),

Filberto Hernandez (Business
Administration, Senior)

Mentors: Leah Sobsey & Adam Carlin
(Art)

The Lawn Sign Project

Honorable Mention

London Nance (Classical Studies,
Senior)

Mentor: Joanne Murphy (Classical Stud-
ies)

*The Archaic Temple of Apollo in
Karthaiia: A Case Study of the
Interaction Between the Cultures of
Mainland and Cycladic Greece*

2020 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo Award Winners

Mathematics, Life & Physical Sciences

1st Place

Deborah Killian (Biology, Senior)

Mentors: Ramji Bhandari & Xuegeng Wang (Biology)

Embryonic Development in Fish is Hindered by Exposure to Environmentally Relevant Concentrations of Glyphosate

2nd Place

Christopher Cotter (Biology, Post-Bac)

Mentors: Ayalew Oseno & Zhenquan Jia (Biology)

*Evaluating the Antioxidant Properties of Phytochemical Extracts from the Ancient Grain Teff (*Eragrostis tef*)*

3rd Place

Melika Osareh (Biology, Sophomore)

Mentors: John Z. Kiss & Tatsiana Shymanovich

*Analysis of Gravitational Stress-Resistance in *Arabidopsis thaliana* Plants*

Honorable Mentions

William Crandall (Chemistry, Senior)

Mentor: Nadja Cech (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

*Fungal Compounds from the Underground Railroad Tree Inhibit Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)*

Joseph Mangun (Chemistry, Post-Bac)

Mentor: Nadja Cech (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

*Applications of *Artemisia annua* for anti-malarial drugs*

Performing Arts

1st Place

Alex Stewart (Music, Junior)

Mentor: Mary Ashley Barret

The Bombarde Reed: Understanding the Design and Construction

2nd Place

Jacquelyn Whiteside (Theatre, Senior)

Mentor: Deborah Bell (Theatre)

Designing Costumes for Pippin, One of the School of Theatre's Mainstage Productions

3rd Place

Taylor Barlow (Music, Junior)

Mentor: Andrew Hudson (Music)

Artificial Emotional Intelligence: Perfectly Imperfect Performance in Pierce Gradone Automaton

2020 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo Award Winners

Emerging Scholars ~Residential College Students~

1st Place

Ethan McKellar (Art, Junior)

Mentors: John Sopper (Grogan College) & Patricia Wasserboehr (Art)

Impermanence: Collision

2nd Place

Bailey Thompson (Chemistry, Sophomore)

Mentor: Sara Littlejohn (Ashby College)

The “Mental Health Crisis”: The Adolescent Need for Accessible Treatment Plans

3rd Place

Diana Angeles (Pre-Health Studies, Sophomore)

Mentor: John Sopper (Grogan College)

Factors Driving Hispanics in the USA to Avoid Professional Medical Care

Honorable Mentions

Eric Yan (Computer Science, Sophomore)

Mentor: Sara Littlejohn (Ashby College)

The Effect of Historical Bias on the Portrayal of World War II Era Ground Vehicles in Pop Culture and Fiction

Asha Moore (Psychology, Sophomore) **Mentor:**

Sara Littlejohn (Ashby College)

Dependency, Dehumanization, and Insecurity: Analyzing Why Women Stay in Toxic Relationships

MARC U-STAR Program

UNCG’s Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC U-STAR) Fellowship program offers talented students underrepresented in the biomedical sciences an opportunity to prepare for graduate school.

UNCG’s MARC U-STAR Fellows work in research labs during their junior and senior year and receive:

- A yearly stipend and tuition is paid at the in-state level
- Undergraduate Research Experiences
- Paid summer research experiences
 - in a UNCG faculty mentor’s lab
 - with a research group at another institution
- Specialized courses and workshops
- Travel funds to attend scientific conferences
- Opportunities to present and publish their work

The following are the 2020– 2022 cohort of MARC fellows.

URSCO would like to congratulate these fellows as they participate in activities designed to enhance their confidence, academic skills, and technical abilities as they prepare to pursue graduate studies.

Student Name	Major	Faculty Mentor
Jade Lyons	Biology	Dr. Ayalew Ligba Osen
Caroline Nelson	Biology	Dr. Yashomati Patel
Jennifer Obike	Biochemistry	Dr. Nicholas Oberlies
Kala Youngblood	Chemistry	Dr. Kimberly Peterson



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Maximizing Access to Research Careers
Undergraduate Student Training in
Academic Research



Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards (URCA)

Summer 2020

Student	Faculty Mentor	Department	Project Title
Kianna Cuascut	Stephen Sills, Kelly Suttles	Center for Housing and Community Studies	<i>Mapping Community Engagement and Stormwater Quality in the Cottage Grove Neighborhood</i>
Mia Hoskins	Susan Andreatta	Anthropology	<i>Small Farming in the Piedmont Region</i>
William Cruse	Yu-Min Chung	Mathematics & Statistics	<i>A persistence Homology Approach to Music Theory and Analysis</i>
Charles Crawford	Mitchell Croatt	Chemistry & Biochemistry	<i>Development of New Reactions: Synthesis of 1-Indanone and Derivatives</i>
Reginald Glenn	Brittany Cassidy	Psychology	<i>Face Perception and Mental State Understanding</i>
Ali Ramirez-Garibay	Kimberly Peterson	Chemistry & Biochemistry	<i>Synthesis of Enantioenriched Benzofurans</i>
Sharon Lakodun, Caraline Malloy	Ayesha Boyce	Educational Research Methodology	<i>Measuring Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the NSF ATE Program</i>
Leighann Brooks, Tamarah Davis	Beverly Faircloth	Teacher Education & Higher Education	<i>Re-positioning for empowerment Among Recently-Arrived Refugee Youth</i>
Gordon Cathcart	Alexander Eger	History	<i>The Lost Bosnians of Ottoman Palestine</i>
Azaria Gadson	Duane Cyrus	School of Dance	<i>The Resistance Project: Creative Research Highlighting African Diasporic Women's Activism Through Dance</i>
Kesia Cedeno-Ballard, Jurne Smith	Duane Cyrus	School of Dance	<i>The Resistance Project: Creative Research Highlighting African Diasporic Women's Activism Through Dance</i>
Fred Swinney	Campbell McDermid	Specialized Education Services	<i>Cohesion in Spoken English Target Texts of Sign Language Interpreters</i>



Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards (URCA)

Summer 2020

Student	Faculty Mentor	Department	Project Title
Jordan Hunsucker, Fabiola Minerali	Stephen Skorski	Interior Architecture	<i>Ambient Sound documentation in historic Venice</i>
Katherine Nunez	Asha Kutty	Interior Architecture	<i>Investigating Art + Design Incubators as Places of Co-creation</i>
Brandon Pribe	Norman Chiu, Zhenquan Jia	Chemistry & Biochemistry	<i>Exploring the cellular uptake of carbon-based nanomaterials</i>
Katielyn Johnston	Sarah Koerner	Biology	<i>Impacts of an invasive grass on native plant biodiversity in Wyoming mixed grass prairie</i>
Robert Shepherd	Nicholas Oberlies, Huzefa Raja	Chemistry & Biochemistry	<i>Mycology vs. Malaria: The Use of Fungal Natural Products to Battle Malaria-Causing Plasmodium falciparum</i>
Madison Loudermilt	Steven Fordahl	Nutrition	<i>Effect of Dietary Fat on Immune Cell Activation in the Brain</i>
Davares Burnett	Aileen Reid	Educational Research Methodology	<i>Measuring Capacity and Innovation around Big Data and Data Science in the Midwest Big Data</i>
Taylor Barlow	Andy Hudson	School of Music	<i>Dialects from Digital to Deutschland: An Exploration of Communication through Five Solo Bass Clarinet Works</i>
Bethany Carswell	Olav Rueppell	Biology	<i>Dependency of Oxidative Stress Response on Body Size in Honey Bees (Apis mellifera)</i>
Eric Varin	Cassandra Workman	Anthropology	<i>Are video games bad for you?: An anthropological take on a 21st century question</i>
Isa Ramos-Castillo	Jigna Dharod	Nutrition	<i>Household food insecurity: how is it affecting infant feeding practices among Latinos.</i>



2020-2021 Charlotte and W. Dabney White Scholarships

College of Arts and Sciences

Student

Larry Joshua Crotts

Major

Computer Science

Research Mentor

Dr. Nancy L. Green

Project Title

*Automatic Detection
of Rhetorical Devices in Science
Policy Articles*

Bryan School of Business and Economics

Student

Karen Rodriguez

Major

Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality

Research Mentor

Dr. Erick T. Byrd

Project Title

*Understanding the Impact of
Community Events and Festivals*

School of Education

Student

Brianna Ferraro

Major

Education;

Dual—Elementary Education
and Special Education

Research Mentor

Dr. Debra G. Holzberg

Project Title

*Speak Up: Teaching Self-Advocacy
Skills at the Speaking Center to
Students with Disabilities*

School of Health and Human Sciences

Student

Melina Ksor

Major

Public Health Education

Research Mentors

Dr. Sharon Morrison
& Dr. Sudha Shreeniwas

Project Title

*Montagnard Refugee Elder Experiences
with U.S. Health and Social Systems*

URSCO is a unit within the
University Teaching and Learning Commons



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