

NEWS FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

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Internships and Publication Opportunities

Farewells and Fresh Starts

It's "Closing Time" in the Undergraduate Research Center as we celebrate and send off our graduating seniors! See the complete list of **Graduating URECA Scholars** (page 3). Still early on in your undergraduate research journey? Take a look at how you could earn a **Graduation Distinction in Undergraduate Research** (page 4). *Be on the lookout for our **Special Edition Newsletter** closer to graduation!* Also, make sure to check out our **Fall Open House** recap (page 6)!

For the rest of us, it is important to remember that "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." Are you looking for your new beginning? Well, the spring semester is filled with opportunities from **URECA Grants** (page 7), **NCUR (Dec 8 Deadline!)**, and **Scholars Week**.

Speaking of Scholars Week, meet our **Student Committee** (page 8)! You can also get involved by signing up to present, creating a design for our **T-Shirt Competition** (page 10), or serving as a volunteer for **READY to SOAR** (page 11). Lastly, check out two SOAR students leaving their mark on undergraduate research through **CUR STR** (page 12).

We also want to give a special shoutout to SOAR member Victoria Trevino who was featured on **Out of the Blue!**



Until next time,
Ross Sibley, Editor
(rhs2x@mtmail.mtsu.edu)



Undergraduate
Research Center

URC'S MISSION

The Undergraduate Research Center's (URC) mission is to be the central hub for communication about undergraduate research grant programs and other related opportunities on and off campus, to distribute university funds for undergraduate research and creative projects, and to promote dissemination of results through travel grants and by offering opportunities for students to present their research findings.

THE URC TEAM

YOU, our students and faculty, are our **#1 priority**. We are here to help however possible, whether it is getting you involved in undergraduate research, helping you find a faculty mentor, thinking through a research or creative activity project, hosting a workshop on a topic of need, or facilitating events. Meet our team!



Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu
Phone: 615.494.7669

DR. JAMIE BURRISS

Dr. Burriss oversees the URC, the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR), SOAR Ambassadors, the URECA grant program, communications, Scholars Week, Posters at the Capitol, and all other activities related to the URC.

Prior to returning to MTSU, Dr. Burriss served as the Curriculum Administrator for the SELECT MD Program at the University of South Florida while pursuing her doctorate. After USF, she accepted a position at Vanderbilt University as the Assessment Analyst for the College of Medicine. But, her heart has always been TRUE BLUE and she is happy to once again serve her undergraduate alma mater.



Channon.Fults@mtsu.edu

CHANNON FULTS

Program Assistant

Channon was born and raised in Murfreesboro, TN. She graduated MTSU in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design and a minor in Human Sciences. Between working part time with the URC program and being a Mom she continues to pursue her interior design career as well. She is excited to be joining the URC team and is eager to be a part of helping enhance student education at her alma mater.

URC Student Workers



ROSS SIBLEY

Major: Biochemistry
SOAR Involvement:
President, Communications
& Social Media Ambassador



BROOKE BUSBEE

Major: Psychology
SOAR Involvement:
Vice President, READY to
SOAR Ambassador



JACOB GRONES

Major: Biology
SOAR Involvement: Member

GRADUATING URECA SCHOLARS

SCHOLAR DISTINCTION IN UR

Janna Abou-Rahma
Lillian Bergman
Rachel Booher
Brooke Busbee
Sammi Hamdan
Javier Hernandez
Gracie Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Ben Matthews
Lacon Parton
Sophia Roberts
Sylvia Zakher

DISTINCTION IN UR

Madonna Aziz
Jacob Grones
Marina Khalil
Savannah Lawwell
Hailey Simmons

GRADUATING SOAR VETERANS

Steven Brown
Javier Hernandez

"Thank you for your service!"



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRADUATION DISTINCTIONS

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION:

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue, and white cord

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue and white cord AND a medallion (see image to the right)



DISTINCTION CRITERIA

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of an Assistant level URECA project - 50 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Confirmation of support from URECA faculty mentor.

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of a Scholar level URECA project - 100 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Poster or presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 5 Confirmation of support from URECA faculty mentor.

DEADLINE REMINDERS!

GRADUATION DISTINCTION
APPLICATION DEADLINE:

DEC 1ST!

NCUR ABSTRACT
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

DEC 8TH!



[APPLY HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

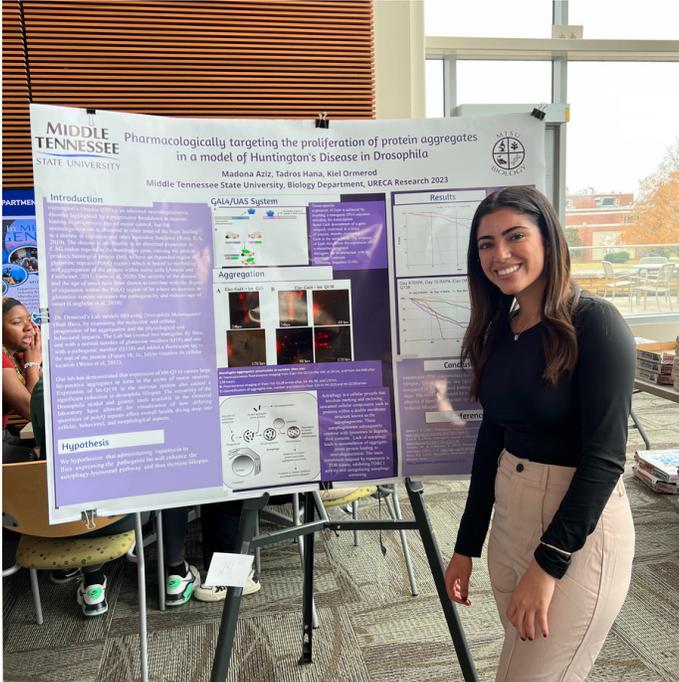


SHOW SOME
L♥VE ON
INSTAGRAM

[@mt_soar](#)



FALL RESEARCH & CREATIVITY OPEN HOUSE

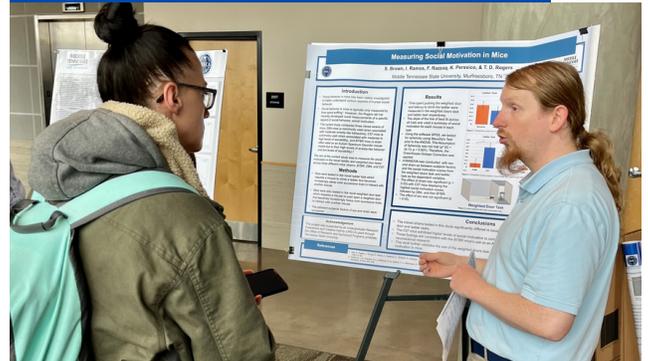


FALL OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, November 9th, the Undergraduate Research Center hosted its 6th annual Fall Open House. 47 undergraduate researchers presented their research projects to 116 students and 36 faculty and staff members in attendance. This was a huge accomplishment for the URC as the number of student attendees almost doubled since last year.

ACADEMIC DIVERSITY

Student presenters represented the colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Behavioral and Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Media and Entertainment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Check out the article featured on [MTSU News!](#)



SPRING URECA GRANTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 25TH, 2024 BY 4:30PM



Want to get paid to do research or work on a creative project?

THEN CHECK OUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS

To support our vision of nurturing a culture of research and creative activity at MTSU, the URC offers Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grants to students three times a year. Awards range from \$500 for beginners to \$3,500 for experienced researchers.

Team applications are now being offered during the fall, spring, and summer semester. More information about the team structure can be found [here](#).

To learn more about URECA grants and how to submit proposals, check out our [website](#).

NEW!! Need assistance finding a mentoring or figuring out which level grant is best for you? Contact our Peer Mentor Scholar, Emilie Conners, at emc5w@mtmail.mtsu.edu. Emilie can also help with proposal development, budget and justification, creating a timeline, and proposal review.



STUDENTS MAY APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:

Assistant - beginners, one semester project, \$500 stipend

Silver Scholar - experienced student researcher, one semester project, \$1000 stipend

Gold Level - experienced student researcher, 2 semester project (fall & spring), \$2,400 stipend

Team - All levels

MEET THE SCHOLARS WEEK COMMITTEE!



SCHOLARS
WEEK 2024

2023- 2024



EDEN ANDERSON



MEIROLA ENDRAWS



RAND HASAN



SARAH KAMARIDNOVA



HANNAH FERREIRA



MAVERICK HOUSTON

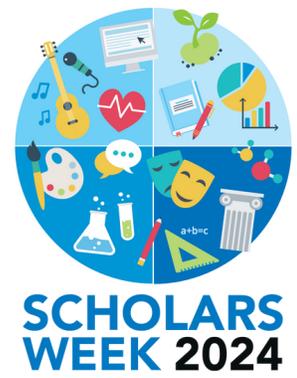


HANNAH ANTRICAN



MICHAELA HARRISON

SAVE THE DATES!



- ★ **February 1:** Deadline for t-shirt design submission ([Apply Here!](#))
- ★ **February 1-15:** Classroom Pop-Ins ([Sign up here!](#))
- ★ **February 5-16:** T-shirt design voting
- ★ **February 15:** Presenter Registration Deadline
- ★ **February 19:** Acceptances sent out via email
- ★ **February 20:** March 8: Poster printing
- ★ **March 15:** Research and Creative Activity Exposition

SCHOLARS WEEK 2024

T-shirt Competition

DO YOU WANT EVERYONE TO BE WEARING **YOUR** SHIRT? APPLY!

DETAILS:

-  **MUST BE A SOAR MEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN**
-  **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: FEBRUARY 1, 2024**
-  **DESIGN WILL BE VOTED ON BY THE ENTIRE MTSU COMMUNITY**
-  **PRIZE INCLUDES: RECEIVES A SCHOLARS WEEK MEDALLION, T-SHIRT WITH YOUR DESIGN, AND RECOGNITION AT SCHOLAS WEEK 2024**



**SCAN HERE
TO APPLY!**



EMAIL EDEN ANDERSON AT ELA3E@MTMAIL.MTSU.EDU WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

Event Details

- Friday March 15, 2024
- 10:30am-12:00pm
- During morning session at Scholars Week Expo
- Student Union Gallery Room

Lunch and Compensation are Provided!

READY to SOAR 2024

Join us for the annual **READY to SOAR** group discussion session, where we introduce local high school students to undergraduate research!

You will host a guided round-table discussion with HS juniors and seniors about your research journey, how you got started, and how it has impacted you.

The goal is to get students excited about research, clarify what research is, and guide them on how to get involved should they attend college.

Talking points will be provided, and involvement will count as active participation in SOAR



To volunteer or for any questions, please contact **READY to SOAR** Internal Project Coordinator Mina Abdulkareem

mka3s@mtmail.mtsu.edu

CUR STR

SOAR LEADERS TAKE ON CAPITOL HILL

On November 4th-6th, Brooke Busbee, Mina Abdulkareem, and their mentor Dr. Jamie Burriss traveled to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to speak to Tennessee state senators and representatives about the impacts of undergraduate research through the Council on Undergraduate Research's (CUR) Scholars Transforming Through Research (STR) program.

Meeting with the offices of Senator Marsha Blackburn, Senator Bill Hagerty, and representative Scott DesJarlais, they discussed their own research project at MTSU, the READY to SOAR program, how it impacts their community, and how the experience of undergraduate research benefits students as a whole. Other topics discussed included fighting cuts to funding for federal research and student aid programs.



What is the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research? AKA "SOAR"



SOAR is our awesome student organization comprised of undergraduate students who are committed to developing and sustaining an active and successful undergraduate research environment at MTSU.

SOAR's Mission

To enhance student's research capacity through increased awareness, collaboration and skill building.

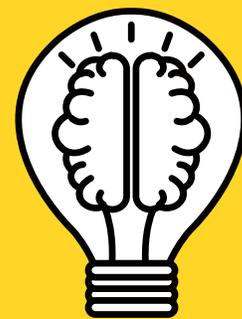
Why Join?

- SOAR will enhance a student's research capacity through increased awareness, collaboration and skill building by offering workshops and trainings to fulfill the needs of undergraduate researchers.
- SOAR will assist students in the preparation of poster presentations and development of abstracts to increase conference presence on a national level, encourage students to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, and facilitate travel preparations.
- SOAR will provide peer mentoring to students new to undergraduate research.



JOIN SOAR!

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH
PEER MENTOR



OFFICE HOURS

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU...

- GET INVOLVED IN UNDERGRAD RESEARCH
 - APPLY FOR A URECA GRANT
 - FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT IT!

EVERY MONDAY
3-4 PM



Reach out to me (Emilie Connors)
at emc5w@mtmail.mtsu.edu



LOOKING TO START YOUR RESEARCH JOURNEY?



Undergraduate
Research Center

The URC's guide for upcoming student researchers, *Research Guide: How to Start your Student Research Journey*, is a great resource for undergraduates seeking to enter the world of research! This guide covers when to start research, how to find a project, student experiences, helpful advice, URC resources, and SOAR resources at MTSU.

The next time you are asked how to get involved in research, direct that student to this resource!

This guide was initiated, compiled, and formatted by Dara Zwemer.

Stories were provided by SOAR students, including Cassandra Perrone, Leah Piccirillo, Javier Hernandez, Robert Conner, Charlotte Daigle, Madeline Aadnes, Maria Fernanda Clark, Kylie C. Moe, Miquellie Bonner, Merry Young, Kaitlyn Berry, Zachary Sanchez, Kap Paull, and Christopher Hall.

We hope you find it useful!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER AT MIDDLE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH GUIDE

HOW TO START YOUR STUDENT RESEARCH JOURNEY

Stories and Advice from Student Researchers

IN THIS GUIDE:

• When to Start.....	2
• Finding a Research Project.....	3
• Student Stories.....	4
• Helpful Advice.....	8
• URC: Here to Help	11
• SOAR Resources.....	12

Check Out Our STUDENT RESEARCH GUIDE

OUT NOW: THE URC RESEARCH GROUPS & LABS DIRECTORY

MTSU's outstanding Research Groups and State of the Art Laboratories, all in one place.

The URC is proud to announce our new directory. This resource will allow students to learn about excellent MTSU labs and research groups across several disciplines. Both new and experienced student researchers can utilize this document to find research positions, set up collaborations with other labs, or to establish a specific thesis mentor.

This directory is also a resource for faculty members seeking student researchers. Each lab or group's accomplishments, publications, and goals are detailed within the pages of this directory.

This directory contains descriptions, key skills necessary, and semester openings for several labs, divided by specific college. To access the directory, click the button on the right or scan the QR code.

PDF copies of the directory are also available to print.

**Please send any additions or updates to our URC Research Assistant, Gracie Johnson:
gpm2h@mtmail.mtsu.edu*



[CLICK HERE](#)





TECH

Vision

MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2024

Trust and Legitimacy in Emerging Technologies: Organizational & Societal Implications for People, Places and Power

WHY PARTICIPATE?

We aspire to elevate MTSU as a leader in student-centered, interdisciplinary, and technology-driven research. Engage with industry, community, and regional education partners and share your research to impact our world. We welcome research involving technology across all academic domains!

“ACM, the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, delivers resources that advance computing as a science and a profession.”



LOCATION

Jones College of Business
Middle Tennessee State University



PROCEEDINGS

Published in the
ACM Digital Library



CONTACT

sam.zaza@mtsu.edu



REGISTER AND SUBMIT

sigmis.org/cpr/submissions/

INTERSHIPS & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the following opportunities for spring & summer research!

Summer Undergraduate Research Program (PREP)- College of Graduate Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina

- The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is a signature program of the College of Graduate Studies. Undergraduate students, usually rising juniors and seniors, from all over the country come to MUSC for a PAID 10-week, research-intensive experience. A customized didactic program introduces students to foundational and cutting-edge concepts in biomedical science and either neuroscience, cancer biology, or cardiovascular biology. The keystone of the program, however, is an immersive research experience in an MUSC laboratory. In addition, a number of social events foster a sense of community, and students present their research in a celebratory symposium at the end of the program. Finally, SURP participants can receive up to 15 credits at their home institution. **Application due December 31st, 2023.**

Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF or the Foundation)

- The Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF or the Foundation) is a nonprofit philanthropic partner to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The Foundation is dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge and inspiring the next generation of science and technology leaders at LLNL through research and student STEM fellowship opportunities. These paid fellowships connect students to LLNL's premier innovation, technology and research capabilities, with a focus on those historically underrepresented in the field (women, minorities, low-income/financial need, and first-generation college students). LLF is actively recruiting fellows for Summer 2024. The LLF fellowship application window is now open, with details on the Foundation's website (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/stem/>). Applicants must submit a statement of interest, resume, and faculty letter of recommendation **no later than January 10, 2024**. Any questions can be directed to fellowships@livermorelabfoundation.org.

Undergraduate Clinical Scholars Program (UCSP)- University of Pennsylvania

- The UCSP is a 9-week rigorous summer research enrichment program starting in June and ending in July each year. The program is open to students from any accredited university in the United States and is designed specifically for undergraduate students with an interest in clinical/epidemiologic research, with an eventual goal of MD, PhD, or MD-PhD degrees. Preference will be given to non-graduating college students. At this time, we are not accepting graduate or post-baccalaureate students. **Application due January 12th, 2024**

Interested in more opportunities? **Click here** to explore more internship/research opportunities!

PAPER & PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the following opportunities for papers & presentations!

Scientia et Humanitas - MTSU Honors College

- Scientia et Humanitas, a journal of student research, is now accepting original, unpublished undergraduate and graduate research for its 2024 issue. We accept articles from every academic discipline offered by MTSU including the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Eligible contributors are **all MTSU students and recent graduates, either as independent authors or with a faculty member.**
- Articles should be 10 to 30 typed double-spaced pages and may include revisions of papers presented for classes, conferences, or Scholars Week. Articles adapted from Honors or M.A. theses are especially encouraged. Papers should include a brief abstract of no more than 250 words stating the purpose, methods, results, and conclusion.
- To submit an article, check out our submissions page and our author guidelines. Articles may also be submitted directly to the editor at scientia@mtsu.edu.
- The fall submission deadline is **Friday, December 15.**

Check out the links below to explore other helpful resources!

[Internships and Research Opportunities](#)

[Student Journals](#)

[Paper and Presentation Opportunities](#)

[Student Resource Center](#)