The Scholars Week Scramble

**Scholars Week** (SW) is fast approaching, and we need all hands on deck for our 18th annual Research and Creative Activity (RCA) Exposition on **March 15th, 2024**.

The first half of this newsletter is dedicated to all things Scholars Week. Make sure to **mark you calendars** with all of the important dates coming up (**page 3**). **Students interested in presenting** can apply on **page 4**. We didn’t forget about you **faculty members** - sign up for **judging** and/or a **classroom pop-in** from a SW ambassador (**page 5**). We also encourage everyone to **vote for your favorite SW T-Shirt design** submitted by students (**page 6**)! Last up for SW, we are looking for students interested in mentoring high school students through our **READY 2 SOAR** program before the RCA exposition on March 15th. Student group leaders will receive lunch and be compensated for their time.

The latter half of this newsletter is mostly the same as other months, however, we are excited to announce a partnership with Dr. Karen Nourse and the James E. Walker Library to host a four-part **Library Research Workshop Series** (**page 8**). The next workshop, **Fantastic Faculty Mentors and Where to Find Them**, focuses on the early stages of undergrad and graduate level research on campus, so be sure to check it out (**page 9**).

Until next time,
Ross Sibley, Editor (rhs2x@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
FEBRUARY IS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We are honoring Black History Month by highlighting the historical and present-day disparities Black scholars face.

Accessibility to the practice of research holds various persisting hardships disproportionately faced by BIPOC students and professional researchers alike. While academia and research fields have progressed over the decades, there is certainly still improvement needed.

Systemic discrimination against Black students persists as a prominent issue today. Factors like the cost of higher education and responsibilities outside of school can limit Black students’ capacity to partake in the opportunities around them. Accumulated obstacles may prevent these students to know of, engage in, and excel in undergraduate research.

Countering these systemic disparities goes beyond its acknowledgement during Black History Month. It is necessary for all fields to recognize the injustices and infiltrate measures towards equity across scholarship.

At the URC, we value the importance of representation and intersectionality in undergraduate research. We would love to highlight our fantastic Black undergraduate researchers! Any and all Black undergraduate researchers interested in this are invited to submit their information at the link below.

Click HERE for your recognition!

Questions: Sophia Roberts, smr6v@mtmail.mtsu.edu
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!

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

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.

Ross Sibley

Major: Biochemistry
SOAR Involvement: President, Communications & Social Media Ambassador
Fun Fact: Ross was funded to present his research in the UK at the World Congress on Undergraduate Research.

Sophia Roberts

Major: Sociology
URC Involvement: Research Assistant
Fun Fact: Sophia graduated in December 2023 with the Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research.

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Phone: 615.494.7669

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MTSU’s 18th Annual
RESEARCH &
CREATIVE ACTIVITY
EXPOSITION

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 1
• Deadline for T-shirt Design Competition | Apply HERE

FEBRUARY 1-15
• Classroom Pop-Ins | Sign-up HERE

FEBRUARY 5-16
• T-shirt Design Voting | Vote HERE

FEBRUARY 25 by 11:59pm
• Presenter Application Deadline | Register HERE

FEBRUARY 26
• Acceptances sent out via email

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 8
• Poster printing available

More Information
www.mtsu.edu/scholarsweek
SCHOLARS WEEK
Research & Creative Activity Exposition

Call for Student Presenters

APPLY here!

Deadline: February 25th, 4:30pm
Call for Faculty Judges

We invite you to join us for the Research & Creative Activity Exposition on Friday, March 15th. Judges will be assigned 4-6 posters within their discipline and will use a rubric to score. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve as a judge!

APPLY here!

Classroom Pop-Ins

We are excited to announce the opportunity for peer Scholars Week promotion presentations. This is a great opportunity to have our current undergraduate research students visit your class and give a quick 5 minute presentation on "What is Scholars Week, and how can you get involved?"

Sign Up Here
VOTING TIME!

Submissions are in...go pick your favorite!

Voting is open to ALL STUDENTS

Voting deadline: February __

Competition winner receives a Scholars Week Medallion, t-shirt with your design, and recognition at Scholars Week 2024

SCAN HERE or VISIT bit.ly/SWtshirt TO VOTE
STUDENT ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH

GROUPE 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

For any questions, please contact READY to SOAR Internal Project Coordinator Mina Abdulkareem
mka3s@mtmail.mtsu.edu

Sign Up Here!
LIBRARY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

SPRING 2024 SERIES

FANTASTIC FACULTY MENTORS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

FEB 20
10:00-10:30am in LIB 264A

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLISHING YOUR THESIS OR DISSERTATION

MAR 19
11:00-11:30am in LIB 264A

ESTABLISHING YOUR RESEARCHER PRESENCE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

APR 17
12:00-1:00pm in LIB 264A - LUNCH PROVIDED!
FANTASTIC FACULTY MENTORS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

LIBRARY RESEARCH WORKSHOP SERIES

If you have the drive and ambition to pursue a research project but don’t know where to start - we’re here to help! Learn how to assess your research interests, uncover possible research topics, and find a prospective faculty advisor.

February 20th, 2024
10:00-10:30AM
LIB 264A

RSVP HERE
SOAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
EDEN ANDERSON & LINDSEY TRAN

Congratulations to Eden Anderson and Lindsey Tran for their Acceptances to Attend the Prestigious University of Florida Health Cancer Center Research Showcase!

On January 31st, Eden and Lindsey had the opportunity to tour some of the cancer research labs, listen to poster presentations and a keynote speaker, and participate in Q&A sessions!

SHOW SOME LOVE ON INSTAGRAM
@mt_soar
LEVELS OF RECOGNITION:
Distinction in Undergraduate Research
- Students must fulfill all requirements
  - Successful completion of an Assistant level URECA project - 50 hours of research or more.
  - Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC’s signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
  - Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
  - Confirmation of support from URECA faculty mentor.

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research
- Students must fulfill all requirements
  - Successful completion of a Scholar level URECA project - 100 hours of research or more.
  - Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC’s signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration.
  - Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
  - Poster or presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.
  - Confirmation of support from URECA faculty mentor.
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.
LOOKING TO START YOUR RESEARCH JOURNEY?

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!
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
ACRES: Advanced Computational Research Experience for Students - Michigan State

- ACRES is a 10-week summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in computational and data science hosted at Michigan State University. Research projects focus on applying computation to a variety of scientific disciplines, including computational chemistry, biology, astrophysics, mathematics, science education, and earth/climate sciences. Students will learn how to develop algorithms, models, and software for problems that require high-performance computing resources. **Apply by February 29th, 2024.**

Interdisciplinary Research Experiences for Undergraduates - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

- The participants will contribute to collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects relating to the Aerospace industry. Available research projects span a variety of methods and topics and aim to sustainably increase multidisciplinary research in aerospace engineering, chemistry, and applied space biology with the goal of improving future space materials science and human diagnostic technology. **Apply by March 8th, 2024.**

Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South (TENSOS) Scholarship:

- The TENSOS scholarship is available for all students (undergraduate, master’s, and PhD) who are studying within the Environmental field. The application process involves submitting an online application ([located here](#)) which includes a brief abstract of the research. Once the application process closes, a select number of students will be selected as finalist. Finalists are invited to attend TENSOS in Chattanooga, TN, from May 15-17, 2024 to present their research and have the opportunity to win a $1,500 scholarship. Finalists receive complimentary conference admission and lodging which will also allow them to take advantage of an unprecedented networking opportunity with environmental professionals from Tennessee and beyond. Many of our scholarship finalists have received job offers because of their participation in the conference. **The application deadline is March 31st, 2024.**

Interested in more opportunities? **Click here** to explore more internship/research opportunities!
**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 submission deadline is **Monday, February 12**.

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**Check out the links below to explore other helpful resources!**

- **Internships and Research Opportunities**
- **Student Journals**
- **Paper and Presentation Opportunities**
- **Student Resource Center**