

Sahar Kanishka and Prof. James Gagnon



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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2020-21 AT-A-GLANCE STATISTICS

OUTREACH

435 students at **16** events
73 research opportunities posted

ADVISING

182 total advising appointments

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LEADERS

928 students reached

SMALL GRANTS & TRAVEL GRANTS

14 small grants awarded

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (UROP)

490 total UROP scholars
Fall 2020: 190 (211 applications)
Spring 2021: 217 (239 applications)
Summer 2021: 83 (89 applications)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION SERIES (URES)

1,166 total attendees at **27** events

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

105 student authors

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLAR DESIGNATION (URSD)

137 total URSD recipients

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR)

46 SPUR 2021 Scholars
69 students presented at the virtual 2020 Summer Symposium
82 raters completed **32** completed poster evaluation rubrics

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (URS)

495 total student presenters
397 total presentations
135 raters completed **626** poster evaluation rubrics

VIRTUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM

58 total student presenters
49 total presentations
53 raters completed **238** poster evaluation rubrics

UTAH CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (UCUR)

45 University of Utah presenters

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (NCUR)

63 University of Utah presenters

RESEARCH ON CAPITOL HILL (ROCH)

25 University of Utah presenters

WHY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

STUDENTS

When we involve our undergraduate students in research, we demonstrate that we view them as colleagues in our pursuit of knowledge. Involvement in research can give students a sense of belonging, with their work forming a physical and/or intellectual home within the University. This is especially important at large institutions, as students crave an experience that is personal and allows them to work closely with faculty and other members of the academic community. Undergraduate research opportunities thus leverage some of our greatest assets as a Research I institution to the benefit of the student experience. In addition, we know that the experience of undergraduate research with a faculty mentor is associated with student retention and persistence to graduation.

FACULTY & SCHOLARSHIP

The faculty experience is also enriched by research mentorship and collaboration with undergraduate students. Our undergraduate students bring new perspectives and enthusiasm for the work and they are the future of our fields. By investing in our students, we are investing in the next generation of scholars.

OUR COMMUNITY & SOCIETY

Through research, students learn to navigate the nuances inherent to serious scholarly investigation and to interpret data responsibly and within a context. By collaborating with our students, we welcome students “into the fold” of the scholarly community and a reflective and critical-thinking public contributes positively to the long-term health of our community



Jerry Howard and Prof. Krista Carlson

Overall, I think UROP is a wonderful program that can really enrich undergraduate students' research experiences by providing so many valuable opportunities to take part in research, learn from the mentor, and to present the research at a symposium.

- UROP Student

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Updated Mission

As part of our Office's Social Justice Action Plan, we revised our mission to reflect our commitment to serving all students equitably and to actively seek out ways to build stronger support for under-resourced students: The mission of the University of Utah Office of Undergraduate Research is to **facilitate and promote undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and creative works in all disciplines** throughout the University of Utah campus. In recognition that **excellence requires diversity**, we pursue this mission through **equitable programming that promotes diverse representation and social justice**.

Increased and Enhanced Outreach

In this past year, the shift to a virtual lifestyle meant finding new ways to connect with our students, faculty, and staff. We put greater effort into highlighting student accomplishments on social media, which led to more faculty and staff engagement. Celebrating our undergraduates, as well as promoting more research opportunities, helped OUR build better relationships with other campus departments and offices.

Develop and Launch Research Experience Course

Professor Anne Cook (Educational Psychology) was awarded the University Professorship to support the University of Utah's ability to prepare undergraduate students for research experiences. She has collaborated with the OUR to design coursework that trains undergraduate research mentees in essential skills required for successful research experiences in their individual disciplines and majors, and to develop programs for faculty and staff across campus who are interested in enhancing their mentoring of undergraduate researchers. In January 2021, four members of the OUR joined Professor Cook for CIMER's Entering Research Mentee Training. The first instantiation of the mentee course in Spring 2021 was a great success, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with Professor Cook in empowering mentees across our campus.

Response to COVID-19

- In Summer 2020, we partnered with the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Immunology, Inflammation and Infectious Diseases (3i) Initiative to develop a special program to support the involvement of undergraduate student researchers in crucial Summer 2020 research. The program built on the existing Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), providing undergraduate collaborators with a stipend for their remote research contributions: <https://our.utah.edu/covid-19-urop/>
- We offered guidance for research mentors to provide meaningful undergraduate research experiences remotely: <https://our.utah.edu/remote-undergraduate-research-mentoring/>
- In Fall 2020 we organized a special Virtual Fall Symposium in order to increase the opportunities available for undergraduate student researchers to engage with the U of U community and beyond about their work.
- During Summer and Fall 2020, Shiver and Rachel Hayes-Harb collaborated with UROP scholar Tiffany Farfan on a study entitled *The Disparate Impact of COVID-19 Remote and Online Work on Under-served Undergraduate Researchers*.

OUTREACH

We engage in many student outreach activities throughout the year with the goal of increasing participation in undergraduate research. Our student outreach activities include tabling, information sessions, in-class presentations, and presentations to student organizations. Through our outreach activities, we hope to make students more aware of the multitude of research opportunities available to them, the benefits of participating in undergraduate research, and help them get started finding a fulfilling research experience. We also maintain the online Research Opportunities Database, which informs students of ways in which they can get involved in undergraduate research at the U.

435 students reached at 16 events
73 undergraduate research opportunities posted at OUR.utah.edu/opportunities/

CAMPUS OUTREACH PARTNERS

Academic Advising Center | Anthropology | Applied Cognition Lab | Block U | Business Scholars | Center for Ethnic Student Affairs | Chemistry | Communication | Diversity Scholars | Entrepreneurship | Environmental & Sustainability Studies Pre-Med | Ethnic Studies | Health Science LEAP | Honors | Geography | International Student & Scholar Services | Learning Abroad | Physics | Mechanical Engineering | Orientation & Transition | Pre-PA | Psi Chi | Social & Behavioral Sciences | Social Work | Sociology | Solution Scholars | Student Success Advocates | Theatre | Office of Undergraduate Studies

This has been an incredible opportunity and especially during COVID times, it's hard to get involved in different campus activities. While there are understandable restrictions, I'm thankful for the opportunity to even be involved with research since such opportunities have become more limited this year. Thank you for keeping this program available this semester and next semester!

- UROP Student



Prof. Sharlene Kihara and Kayla Kelsey

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ADVISING

Our students have a vast range of knowledge about undergraduate research; no matter where someone is at in their journey, our office is well-equipped to advise all students. We meet one-on-one so that each student's unique interests and questions are met. Our advisors assist undergraduate students with the very first step of figuring out how to get involved and all the way up to graduation, where students are recognized as Undergraduate Research Scholars!

This research experience definitely opened my eyes to the researching world outside of the lab, from my classes I've only ever experience working with samples. From this research experience I was able to work with faculty and researchers who were doing independent research and not general school work. Participating in this research experience has opened my eyes to a larger world than just schoolwork and makes me excited to work with these individuals or people like them after I graduate.

- UROP Student

My first semester of UROP gave me a glimpse of what it is like to be a graduate student. While conducting research, I experienced a strong sense of freedom, and, as a result, I have decided to pursue a PhD in computer science. During the UROP semester, I was able to explore the space of potential research areas and narrow down my next potential research area.

- UROP Student

My undergraduate research experience has exposed me to so many aspects of research that many students don't get the opportunity to experience before graduate school. One of the most impactful experiences was submitting an application for my study to be IRB approved. Since I want to get my masters in higher education and continue to get my PhD, the research I have done thus far will be a catalyst to my future endeavors.

- UROP Student

182 total advising appointments

129 general information
2 SPUR appointments
3 peer advising

48 UROP proposal & decision

18 UROP proposal draft reviews

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LEADERS

Each year since 2015, we select a new group of experienced undergraduate researchers to serve as ambassadors for our office. The Undergraduate Research Leaders assist the office and promote undergraduate student research through a variety of activities:

- Office outreach and student recruitment
- Student engagement
- Peer advising
- Program development
- Small and Travel Grant reviews

928 students reached through advising, presentations, and emails

SOCIAL MEDIA

Part of the Undergraduate Research Leaders tasks were to promote the Office of Undergraduate Research on social media. They posted events, deadlines, reminders, student celebrations, and anything else undergraduate research related to the Office of Undergraduate Research's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn social media accounts. This type of engagement allowed for our Facebook community to include people from the United States, Asia, and United Kingdom; receive **over 30k impressions per month on Twitter**; reach **over 1k accounts per month on Instagram**; and over **300 views per LinkedIn post**.

This is a great program that has helped me develop professionally and hone my interpersonal skills. I like that we have still continued to have biweekly status meetings and communicate the goals of the office during the pandemic, I feel that the program has done very well remotely. I appreciate the help of Shiver especially as they have supported me with my academic and professional pursuits. I am excited to begin speaking with students in person again but this strange year has taught me that I can communicate with others online and still inform students about the value of undergraduate research.

- Undergraduate Research Leader

SMALL & TRAVEL GRANTS

SMALL GRANTS

Funding from the Small Grant program (maximum \$200) supports future purchases of research supplies, training fees, or other research costs related to the student's work.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Funding from the Travel Grant program (maximum \$500) might cover expenses for future airfare, lodging, conference registration, or gas/mileage for data collection or conference attendance. The Travel grant program was on hold during the 2020-2021 year due to COVID-19.



I just want to say a huge thank you for having small grants that allowed me to go ahead with surveys as my research. Without this funding, I would not have been able to do my research.

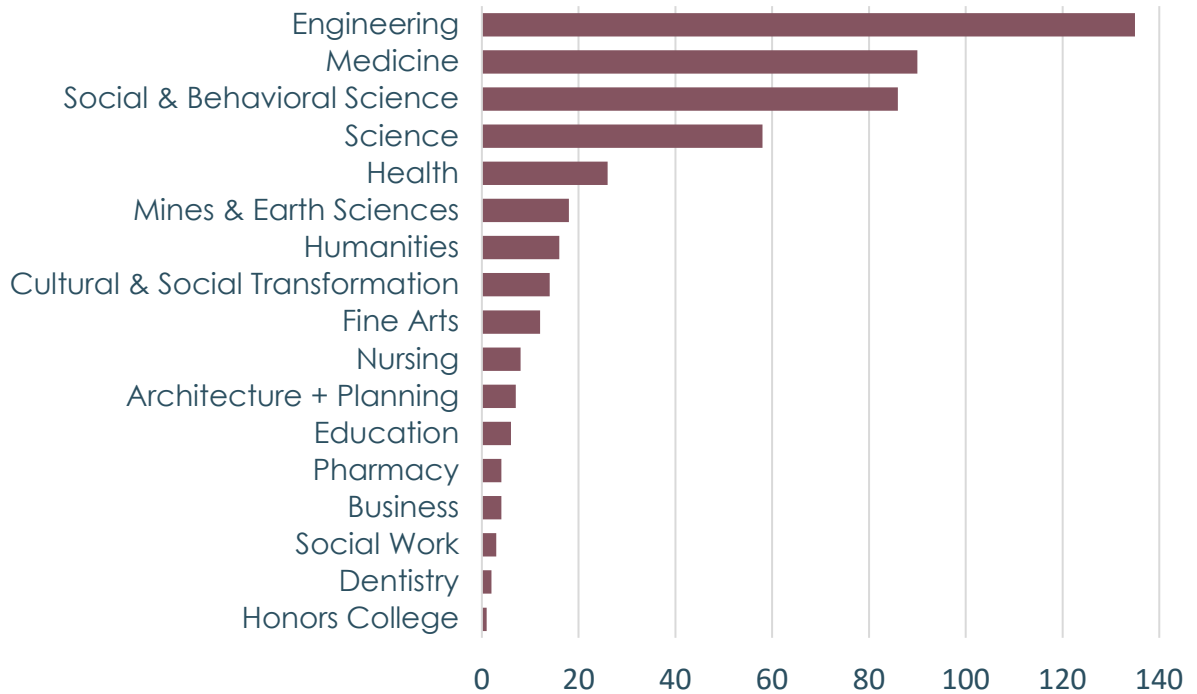
- Small Grant Awardee

Photo of scaled model of the Kabuli Hut, from Naren Anandh's project entitled *Kubuli Nomadic Camp in Khyber Paktunkhwa – looking at the architectural knowledge behind nomadic*

14 small grants awarded

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (UROP)

UROP provides undergraduate students and faculty members the opportunity to work together on research or creative projects. UROP recipients are hired by the Office of Undergraduate Research and are paid a \$1,200 stipend for 120 hours of research or creative work during the semester.



I think UROP is a valuable resource and it facilitates something that is absent in a lot of our university career: hands-on experience. The opportunity to apply knowledge and do something meaningful is an experience to be treasured, and I think it opens the door for a lot of aspiring undergraduate researchers.

- UROP Student

490 total UROP scholars

Fall 2020: 190 (211 applications)

Spring 2021: 217 (239 applications)

Summer 2021: 83 (89 applications)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

FRANCIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Francis Endowment Fund recognizes outstanding undergraduate researchers in the arts, social sciences, and the humanities.

Ayana Amaechi (Marco Bortolato) - Understanding Sex Differences in Pathological Aggression

Dallas Blackburn (Ella Myers) - Inequitable Participation in School Community Councils

Tania Cervantes-Hernandez (Akiko Kamimura) - Dating/ intimate partner violence and social media project

Mariah Erickson (Jack Silcox) - False Hearing and the N400 ERP Component

Grace Mason (Jessica Sanders) - The University of Utah Sexual and Reproductive Health Care and Education Needs Assessment

Olivia Mauchley (Akiko Kamimura) - Discrimination Against Asian Americans During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sophia Schuman (Conan Kinsey) - Identifying Resistance Mechanisms to Hydroxychloroquine/Trametinib in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Maia Southwick (Monisha Pasupathi) - Feeling Heard in Disagreements Across Relationships

PARENT FUND

The Parent Fund provides programs that both support and retain undergraduate students at the University of Utah.

Aidan Lethaby (Jacob George) - Functional Validation of a Low-Cost Control System for Dexterous Bionic Arms

Travis Seamons (Tara Deans) - Investigation of Mechanisms Behind the QUAS/QF System in Prokaryotes

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Since 2019, the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has partnered with the Office of Undergraduate Research to support women-identifying students and/or students who are veterans working on projects in STEM fields.

Julia Case (Shelley Minter) - Evaluating Bipolar and Mixed Redoxmers in Nonaqueous Organic Redox Flow Batteries

Juli Kim (Kristi Warren) - Sex differences in innate lymphoid cells during SARS-CoV-2 infection

Jocelyn Longaza (Andrew Anderson) - Establishing Baseline Kinematics in Division 1 Volleyball Players

Kylie Persson (Tara Deans) - In vitro biogenesis and characterization of platelet-like particles from MEG-01 cells using a microfluidic system

CHEVRON

Chevron's University Partnership Program (UPP) has partnered with the Office of Undergraduate Research to support woman-identifying students working on STEM-focused projects.

Brighton Alvey (Andrew Roberts) - Peptide Bicyclization with Chemoselective Reactivity of 1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-diones

Taylor Aucutt (Nicola Camp) - Tumor Genomics as a Route to Clarifying Inherited Genetics in Multiple Myeloma

Emily Cebrowski (Brian Coddington) - Weary Feet and Flaked Stone: Testing the predictive power of cost path analysis as a suitability measure for Ideal Free Distribution

Hannah DeShazer (Micah Drummond) - The Effects of MicroRNA 146a deficiency on Muscle Atrophy and Regrowth

Angelina Liu (Anastasiya Mankouski) - Development of Brain Vasculature and Volume in a Rat Model Combining IUGR and Maternal High-Fat Diet

Iris McCulloch (Andrea Brunelle) - Holocene Reconstruction of the North American Monsoon in Northern Baja California, Mexico

Anna Tidwell (Catherine Loc-Carrillo) - Phage and Antibiotic Combination Treatment for *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Polymicrobial Infections

Selena Wirthlin (Bryan Jones) - Comparative Anatomy and Connectivity of the Aii Amacrine Cell in Mouse and Rabbit Retina

DEE

The Lawrence T. Dee and Janet T. Dee Foundation promotes charitable activities in Northern Utah.

Rachel D'Agostini (Krista Carlson) - Destruction of Bacteria and Biofilms using an Electrocatalytic Ceramic Probe

Connor Davis (Shane Macfarlan) - Hidden Power: The Impact of Cosponsorship Networks on Legislative Success in the Utah State Legislature

Claire Dinehart (Akiko Kamimura) - Examining Free Clinic Patients Household Environmental Safety and the Resulting Impact on Their Perceived Stress Levels

Kallin Glauser (Elizabeth Clement) - Babies, Bibles, and Barricades: Birth Control in 60's and 70's Utah

Erica Hill (Stacy Manwaring) - Play and Language Development in Toddlers at Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Sonny Jones (Michael Paskett) - Using Physiological Factors to Study the Mental Workload of Neural Prostheses

Hannah Louise Landicho (Eric Garland) - Studying Efficacy of Mindfulness Therapy for Chronic Pain and Opioid Misuse

Hunter Mansfield (Kimberley Evason) - Investigation of the Serotonin System in Liver Regeneration and Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Kamala Poudyel (Akiko Kamimura) - Perceptions of mental health and stress related to social support and acculturation among Bhutanese refugee women in the United States

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR)

Generously funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research, SPUR provides undergraduate researchers with an intensive 10-week research experience under the mentorship of a University of Utah faculty member. Students also attend summer URES events, submit to the *Undergraduate Research Journal*, and present at the Summer Symposium.

SPUR reinforced that I enjoy and thrive in the academia and research environment, and reinforced my desire to pursue a graduate degree. This research experience allowed me to expand my research experience outside of my home institution and make valuable connections within the field I am hoping to pursue. I was able to learn about current research in the field as well as have discussions with grad students, post-docs, and faculty about my future plans and research interests. I feel that this person to person interaction that SPUR provided me was as valuable as the research experience gained in the field and the lab. I am very excited to continue my education and know that the people I have met this summer are here to support and encourage me.

- SPUR Student

SUMMER PROGRAM PARTNERS

Beckman Scholars Program |
Chemistry REU | Genomics
Summer Research for Minorities
(GSRM) Internship | Growing
RUUTES: Summer Undergraduate
Research Experience (SURE) |
HCI PathMakers | Native
American Summer Research
Internship (NARI) | Physics &
Astronomy REU | Research
Experience in Alpine
Meteorology (REALM) REU |
Research Experience in Utah for
Sustainable Materials Engineering
(ReUSE) REU | Summer
Undergraduate Research
Internship in Pharmaceuticals and
Drug Delivery | Summer
Undergraduate Research
Program in Pathology

46 SPUR 2021 Scholars

69 students presented at the virtual 2020 Summer Symposium

82 raters completed 432 completed poster evaluation rubrics

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION SERIES (URES)

We offer educational lectures, panels, and workshops on topics of interest to undergraduate student researchers and their faculty mentors. These events are open to all and are designed with undergraduate students in mind.

RESEARCH EDUCATION PARTNERS

Department of Anthropology |
Department of Biology |
Department of Chemistry |
Department of Communication
| Department of Materials
Science & Engineering |
Department of
Ophthalmology/Visual Sciences
| Department of Philosophy |
Department of Psychology |
Department of Writing &
Rhetoric Studies | Institutional
Review Board | Internal
Medicine | Marriott Library |
Office for Inclusive Excellence |
Office of Undergraduate Studies

1,166 total URES attendees
at 27 events

Summer 2020: 366, 11 live events
Fall 2020: 384, 9 live events
Spring 2021: 416, 7 live events

- Asking for Letters of Recommendation
- Chemistry in Everyday Life
- Citation Management
- Contextualizing Your Research
- Creating Effective Research Posters (video)
- Data Management
- Doing Library Research
- Doing Research Remotely
- Giving & Receiving Helpful Feedback
- Giving Virtual Presentations
- How to Read a Research Article
- Images in Scientific Images
- Increasing Diverse Representation in Research
- Introduction to the IRB
- Literature Reviews
- Microaggressions & Research
- Myths About Doing Disciplinary Research: The Value of Working Across Disciplines
- Reflection as a Part of the Research Process
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Strong Writing in STEM
- Writing Abstracts

MONSON ESSAY PRIZE

The Charles H. Monson Essay Prize honors Charles H. Monson Jr., who was a distinguished member of the University Philosophy Department from 1958 to 1974. Professor Monson earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Utah and received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. During his years at the University of Utah, he served as chair of the Philosophy Department and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1970. In his honor, an annual prize is awarded to an undergraduate student who writes an outstanding essay on a subject having to do with social change.



Cloe Butler (Prof. Ana Antunes)

"IDENTITY: BY KIDS, FOR KIDS" A STUDENT-CENTERED ZINE

My research tackles the inequities that immigrants and refugees face with accessing information about sexuality. I compiled personal definitions of sexuality topics and artwork from the kids at Sunnyvale Neighborhood Center into a Zine to be printed and distributed to the kids, SNC, and local libraries. Not only does the Zine include concepts explained by the kids themselves, but it prompts the youth to look further into sexuality topics. This project is a collaborative effort between the students and myself to produce a piece of work that will be shared with their peers. It will expand the knowledge around sexuality to kids that are not part of our program and incite social justice.



Jamie Goetz (Prof. Jeff Rose)

NATIONAL PARKS, A STORY OF COLONIZATION AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND

National Parks are commonly positioned as the peak of "wilderness" conservation. However, they fail to acknowledge their violent histories of colonialism and imperialism on Indigenous peoples. Consequently, western models of land management and conservation are based upon principles of colonialism, capitalism, imperialism, and patriarchy, rather than place-based frameworks that are characteristic of Indigenous worldviews. This research concludes by presenting National Parks as central in Indigenous efforts toward decolonizing the settler, capitalistic views of environmental conservation and contemporary land management through actionable decolonial measures.

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER AWARD (OURA)

In 2015, we introduced the Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award. We are delighted to recognize an outstanding undergraduate researcher from each college/school at the University of Utah. Faculty mentors are invited to nominate students and awardees are selected by committee. The criteria are:

- Record of sustained commitment to developing research skills and knowledge under the supervision of a faculty mentor
- Evidence of independent and critical thinking
- Active participation in research-related activities on campus
- Positive contributions to the research culture of the Department, College, and University

2021 OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

Joe Wassweiler

Prof. Cord Bowen
ARCHITECTURE +
PLANNING

Cloe Butler

Prof. Ana Carolina
Antunes
CULTURAL & SOCIAL
TRANSFORMATION

Matthew Hesterman

Prof. Melodie Weller
DENTISTRY

Kayla Kelsey

Prof. Sharlene Kihara
EDUCATION

Joseph Lyman

Prof. Sriram
Krishnamoorthy
ENGINEERING

Ben Stanford

Profs. Kimberly Jew &
Tim Slover
FINE ARTS

Jacob Razzouk

Prof. Jessica King
HEALTH

Lydia Fries

Prof. Matthew Sigman
HONORS

Selena Wirthlin

Prof. Bryan Jones
MEDICINE

Jerry Howard

Prof. Krista Carlson
MINES & EARTH
SCIENCES

Kylie Bethards

Prof. Lauri Linder
NURSING

Blair Armstrong

Prof. Hamid
Ghandehari
PHARMACY

Angela Pham

Profs. Anu Asnaani &
Brian Baucom
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCE

Sahar Kanishka

Prof. James Gagnon
SCIENCE

Kimberly Tobar

Profs. Jason Castillo
SOCIAL WORK

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (URS)

The Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) provides an opportunity for students to present their work in a scholarly setting to students, faculty, and other members of the University of Utah community. Undergraduate students from all disciplines are invited to present their research and creative work. *The 2021 Undergraduate Research Symposium was moved online to accommodate the need for remote participation. We additionally offered a Virtual Fall Symposium in 2020 to provide additional opportunities for students to present their work in this difficult year.*

UROP completely changed my undergraduate experience for the better. It allowed me to gain greater skills within my field, build stronger connections with smart and supportive faculty, and gave me the confidence to continue research in my field. I truly cannot imagine my college experience without UROP, and am deeply grateful for this opportunity.

- UROP Scholar

VIRTUAL URS 2021

495 total student presenters

397 total presentations

198 poster presentations

120 oral presentations

18 performances

61 visual art presentations

135 raters completed 626 poster evaluation rubrics

VIRTUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM 2020

58 total student presenters

49 total presentations

40 poster presentations

8 oral presentations

1 performance

53 raters completed 238 poster evaluation rubrics

This experience has been absolutely incredible. I have enjoyed learning from each and every opportunity offered through this program - from the workshops to the presentation opportunities and all of the ways that I build my own skills and confidence.

- UROP Scholar

UTAH CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (UCUR) & NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (NCUR)

Each year, the Office of Undergraduate Research facilitates attendance at UCUR and NCUR by organizing abstract submissions and supporting travel to the conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity for students to present their work to peers throughout the state and country. UCUR and NCUR 2021 were both virtual.

Virtual UCUR 2021

February 19, 2021

Brigham Young University

45 University of Utah presenters

Virtual NCUR 2021

April 12-14, 2021

63 University of Utah presenters

This experience taught me most about myself, and how I can continue to make an impact wherever I may be. I found the importance of a voice and knowing what I know now, I feel as if it has made me a stronger leader. There is so much I look forward to do, and I feel as if I am better prepared for meeting my educational goals, and ultimately reaching the goal to serve my community in the career and capacity I feel will make the most difference.

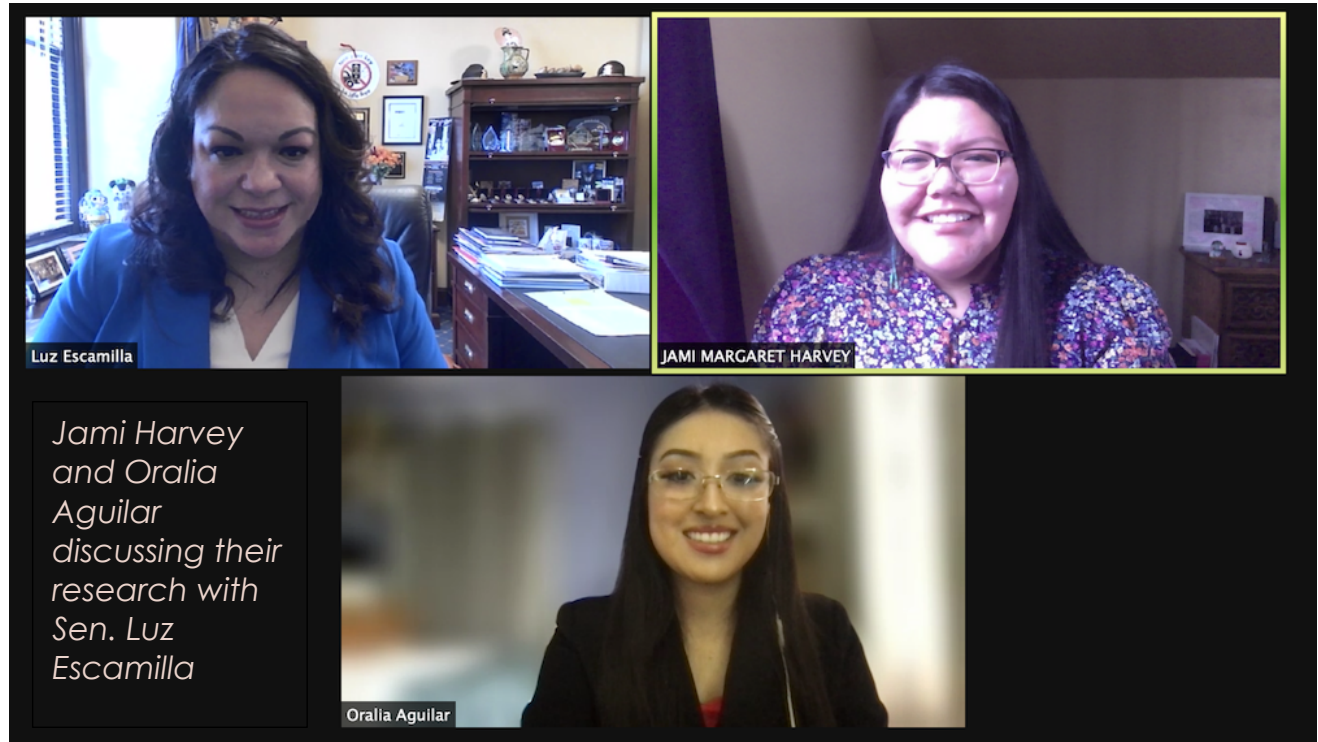
- UROP Scholar

I believe that this experience helped me hone my future career goals in a way that I had lacked before. This is because this was my first experience with - and exposure to - publishing a paper in a journal. The UROP program was therefore an incredibly valuable experience by way of giving me a taste for the nitty gritty (for lack of a better term) side of research publishing, and served to further encourage me to pursue a graduate degree following my undergraduate career.

- UROP Scholar

RESEARCH ON CAPITOL HILL (ROCH)

The Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of Government Relations, and the Office of Undergraduate Research select students each year to exhibit their work via posters to Utah state legislators. This event demonstrates the importance of undergraduate research and creative work from the top two research universities in the state: University of Utah and Utah State University. In 2021, this event was held remotely, and students met with Utah state legislators by Zoom.



Virtual ROCH
2021
February 16
25 University
of Utah
presenters

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

The *Undergraduate Research Journal's* primary mission is to make visible the rich and diverse student contributions to research and creative work at the University of Utah. All undergraduate students involved in research at the University of Utah are strongly encouraged to submit summaries of their work for publication in this journal. Beginning in 2015, the *Journal* is published online thanks to an initial partnership with the Marriott Library.

I would not be the same person/student if it wasn't for research. My first semester in research I was so unaware and sort of scared to get started because I wasn't sure what it would all entail. I published a reflective narrative in the 2020 URJ about how I went from being a first-generation student to research assistant, and in summary, I am very grateful and ecstatic to have gotten this opportunity. I have learned so many things in the world of neuroscience and many pragmatic lessons on how research applies to every scope of life. I am truly grateful for this experience and I am excited to continue to do so.

- UROP Student



Image from IN PLACE: A STUDY OF LONELINESS IN UTAH'S LANDSCAPES Nathan Francis (Professor Jaclyn Wright), Department of Art and Art History
Mirror Study #4, inkjet print, 2021

105 student authors
OUR.utah.edu/urj2021/

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLAR DESIGNATION (URSD)

The Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation (URSD) recognizes a student's commitment to their development as a researcher during their undergraduate career. The URSD appears in the awards section of the transcripts of graduating students. URSD recipients receive white research cords from the Office of Undergraduate Research to wear at convocation and commencement.

URSD recipient Audrey Rubart



The impact of engaging in undergraduate research cannot be overstated. I am very grateful that I had this opportunity, as it helped me develop a much clearer picture of what I hope to achieve both academically and professionally. I have developed several relationships with like-minded people, and have a deeper sense of community because of this experience.

- UROP Student

137 total URSD recipients

Summer 2020: 17
Fall 2020: 21
Spring 2021: 99



GOALS FOR 2021-2022

Welcome a new Director!

After six years as Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Rachel Hayes-Harb will leave the Office in Summer 2021 to return to teaching, research, and service in the Department of Linguistics. This means that the OUR will be welcoming a new Director, and we look forward to this exciting new chapter of our story!

Continue to interrogate our programs and policies in light of our updated mission and our commitment to justice and equity

We will continue to refine the Office's inclusion, equity, and diversity action plan, adding new goals and tasks as we tackle existing ones. We have learned so much over this past pandemic year, and instead of returning to "normal", we will continue to develop new ways of working with undergraduate students, and, importantly, more effective outreach and inclusion initiatives. Our goal is to offer programming that is accessible and brings value to ALL students.

Applying to this opportunity scared me. I told myself I was not good enough or smart enough. But that was not true. I have the capacity and ability the biggest stumbling block in my path is myself.

- UROP Student

While it was sad research was moved to an online format, I believe a lot of work was accomplished this summer. Through the UROP events I have learned some really great skills that I will take with me throughout the rest of my life. These include, how to write an effective abstract and the use of databases. I am very thankful for the opportunity the University of Utah has provided me.

- UROP Student

This has been an incredible opportunity and especially during COVID times, it's hard to get involved in different campus activities. While there are understandable restrictions, I'm thankful for the opportunity to even be involved with research since such opportunities have become more limited this year. Thank you for keeping this program available this semester and next semester!

- UROP Student

I have always been intrigued by the field of research, however, I found it to be extremely intimidating. UROP was the perfect opportunity to explore research while also having a network of people to support me.

- UROP Student

To the University of Utah Community:

Since 2015, the Office of Undergraduate Research team and I have had the privilege of partnering with you to develop and enhance student programming at the intersection of the University of Utah's education and research missions. Together we have increased the quality and quantity of mentored research experiences for undergraduate students across our campus, and I am deeply grateful for your good will, your trust, your labor, and most of all, your dedication to the University of Utah student experience.

Thank you to my colleagues in the Office of Undergraduate Research for showing up for students every day, for your patience as I stumbled and learned, and for holding me and our campus to the highest standards of equity and justice. Thank you to the campus leaders who have invested in and believed in us and our mission. And finally, thank you to the students and mentors for your commitment to education at the cutting edge of research. It has been an honor to collaborate with all of you in this important work.

Rachel

Rachel Hayes-Harb

