

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS – SPRING 2025

| Department | Student | Faculty Sponsor | Project Title |
|------------|--|---|---|
| BIOL | Morgan Hicok, Kate Green | Abbie Tomba | <i>Observations of two populations of the freshwater snail Elimia virginica</i> |
| BIOL | Mikyas Telehun | Deborah O'Dell | <i>Activity of alpha 2 adrenergic receptor variants in microalga</i> |
| BIOL | Samantha Mitzel, Gracie Fugleberg | Deborah O'Dell | <i>Tau Phosphorylating Site Variant Interactions on HSPG Recognition</i> |
| BIOL | Allison Fletcher, Ashlynn Peszko, Calla Petz | Dianne Baker | <i>The Effects of PFOS Exposure on Zebrafish Dopaminergic Development</i> |
| BIOL | Josiah Arnold, Maci Landel, Ariel Goldberg | Dianne Baker | <i>Effect of Sodium Benzoate on Zebrafish Pancreatic Function</i> |
| BIOL | Ashlyn Rauch | Ginny Morriss | <i>Modulation of Activin beta as a potential modifier of myotonic dystrophy</i> |
| BIOL | Bonnie Butler, Jessica Bronski | Ginny Morriss | <i>Present Effects of PDGFRβ activation on vasculature in DM1</i> |
| BIOL | Delaney Humphrey, Carleigh Wood | Ginny Morriss | <i>Iditarod's effect on Myotonic Dystrophy Disease progression in a Drosophila Melanogaster model</i> |
| BIOL | Eleni Kepler | Ginny Morriss | <i>The Effects of Myoglianin Knockdown on Drosophila melanogaster with Myotonic Dystrophy Type One</i> |
| BIOL | Madison Bauserman | Ginny Morriss | <i>The comparative analysis of Drosophila melanogaster as an angiogenesis model</i> |
| BIOL | Brooke Martin, Sierra (Grace) Williams, Huzaifa Shaikh | Laura Sipe | <i>The regulation and timing of protein turnover in methionine restricted cancer cells</i> |
| BIOL | Loren Dellgadillo Llano, Ella Schmidt, Carolina Brooks | Laura Sipe | <i>Methionine restriction alters tumor suppressor gene expression by reducing DNA methylation</i> |
| BIOL | Mallory Thompson | Laura Sipe | <i>The Role of Methionine Restriction and Autophagy in Breast Cancer Immunogenic Cell Death</i> |
| BIOL | Sofia Szczepankiewicz, McKenzie Cheynet | Laura Sipe | <i>The Optimization of siRNA knockdown in murine breast cancer</i> |
| BIOL | Caroline Turner, Gabby Valle | Parrish Waters | <i>Endocrine correlates of a social stress choice paradigm in male CD1 mice</i> |
| BIOL | Lexi Miller, Christopher Anderson | Parrish Waters | <i>Neural effects of GLP-1 receptor modulation in CD1 mice</i> |
| BIOL | Sasha Murphy | Parrish Waters | <i>Effects of Phthalates on the BBB and cognition in CD1 mice</i> |
| BIOL | Marco Estrella, Natalie Fox | Swati Agrawal | <i>Investigating Synergistic Phage-Antibiotic Combination Therapies for the Treatment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacillus Pathogens</i> |
| BIOL | Tori Croley | Swati Agrawal | <i>Exploring the Role of Putative ER Protein in Membrane Contact Site Formation in Toxoplasma gondii</i> |
| BIOL | Tyler Downs | Swati Agrawal | <i>Investigating Cytotoxicity and Defense functions of bacteriophage Mercurio genes in host Mycobacterium smegmatis</i> |
| BIOL | Alegria Bautista | Theresa Grana | <i>Advances in Worm DNA Sequencing</i> |
| BIOL | Lucca Muta, Emily Wills | Theresa Grana | <i>Gene Function in Phage X</i> |
| BIOL | Stephanie Bailey | Theresa Grana | <i>From Worms to Wonders: Improving Phenotype Recognition in C. elegans for Genetics Students</i> |
| CHPH | Iaroslavna Kovalenko | Nicole Crowder | <i>Synthesis of Cyclen Derivatives</i> |
| CHPH | Caroline Sampson, Taylor Munger, Emma Goehner | Randall Reif, Sarah Smith, Nicole Crowder | <i>Presentation of Chemistry Research at National ACS Meeting</i> |
| CHPH | Emily Hart and Marina Klein | Sarah Smith | <i>Quantification of explosive material from sediments near Dahlgren</i> |

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| CMD5 | Bella Molseed | Elizabeth Johnson-Young | <i>Nonconformity and Romance: An Analysis of Pride and Prejudice on Film</i> |
| ECON | Ryan Meyer, Vanessa Wu | Amrita Dhar | <i>Present at the Eastern Economic Assoc.: Issues in Political Economy Undergraduate Research Conference</i> |
| EESC | David Nichols | Ben Kisila | <i>Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Northern Virginia Waterways in Relation to Urbanization</i> |
| EESC | Eric Torres | Ben Kisila | <i>Analysis of Sediment in Appalachian Mining Town</i> |
| EESC | Katie Burbridge | Ben Kisila | <i>Spatiotemporal and bioaccumulation analysis of trace metal concentrations within sediment and dagger blade grass shrimp in Chincoteague Bay, USA</i> |
| EESC | Audrey Turner, Lily Hoffman, Natalie Anderson | Melanie Szulczewski | <i>Analysis of Metal Concentration, Soil Health, and Socioeconomic Factors in Fredericksburg, Virginia Environmental Justice Soil Survey</i> |
| HISASOC | Colin Andrew Tuttle | Nora Kim | <i>Who is Ambitious? Exploring Factors Associated with Lawyers' Career Ambitions</i> |
| HISASOC | Zoe Hanrahan | Nora Kim | <i>My fiancée is very much a world citizen': Gendered Orientalist Habitus and White Women's Account of WWAM Relationships</i> |
| MATH | Belen Telahun and Aloysious Kabonge | Melody Denhere | <i>Comparative Analysis of Diversity between 2010 and 2020 in US</i> |
| MUSC | Matthew Fenton, Oleander Neleski, Nathaniel Harvey | Rebecca Callaway | <i>Attend the North American Conference on Video Game Music</i> |
| PSIA | Jordy Santana | Jared McDonald | <i>Messaging in a Crisis: How Mythic Frames Shape American Perceptions of Foreign Conflicts</i> |
| PSYC | Nyah Speicher, Kenna Westen, Lilith Mizoe, Alex Borg | Christine McBride | <i>Modeling and Food Selection" Are We Aware of the Influence of Others?</i> |
| PSYC | Rachel Mears | Hilary Stebbins | <i>Sleepiness, Dopamine and Food Impulsivity</i> |
| PSYC | Jordyn Anderson, Mars Dansie, Hannah Shipp, Kelly Simons, Isabella Wilson | Laura Wilson | <i>The indirect association between sexism and stalking survivor health through post-traumatic cognitions</i> |
| PSYC | Tobias Conner, Ace Cooper, Brianna Daly, Alex Delano, Julia Patrick | Marcus Leppanen | <i>Present at the Eastern Psychological Assoc. Conference</i> |
| PSYC | Dava Weisend, Hayley Dreyer, Danielle Johnson, Genevieve Lewis | Mindy Erchull | <i>Perceptions of Workplace Harassment</i> |
| PSYC | 23 Psychology students | Miriam Llss | <i>Student Presentations at the Virginia Association of Psychological Science</i> |
| PSYC | Kyleigh Friel, Vas Campbell, Nicole Fortner, Cierra Curran | W. David Stahlman | <i>How Variable Can Performance Be? An Investigation of Behavioral Momentum</i> |
| THDA | Kyleigh Friel, Ariana Adamek | Marc Williams | <i>Attend the Southeastern Theatre Conference 2025</i> |