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11th Annual
SUMMER
RESEARCH
CELEBRATION

This past summer, the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) program funded 23 remarkable and diverse student-faculty collaborative projects. The following schedule provides the times students will be presenting. Thank you for supporting these students with your presence; we hope you will be inspired to reach for new knowledge in your field of interest!

10:00 – 10:50am Poster Session I
Emily Brandow – mentored by Dr. Jason Davis
“Sick” of Stress? Social Stress and Its Effects on Neuroendocrine and Immune Response in Zebra Finches

Ashley Glover – mentored by Dr. Sekyung Jang
Black Professionals in Music Therapy: Perspective and Approaches when Working with Black Americans and Mental Health

Madison Rader – mentored by Dr. Sarah Foltz
Burial Practices Leading Us to Drinking the Dead

Austin Swallow – mentored by Dr. Jason Davis
Sex and Sociality and Their Influence on Neurocognition and Behavior in Australian Zebra Finches (Taeniopygia guttata castanotis)

Katie Wheeler – mentored by Dr. Sara O’Brien
Partnerships & Plastics: Using Wildlife Carcasses to Identify Microplastics

11:30 – 12:15pm Film Screening
Dorian Starr – mentored by Dr. West Bowers
Men of the Mountains

12:30 – 1:45pm Oral Presentations I
Tom Ausburne – mentored by Dr. Chet Bhatta
Antimicrobial Properties of Propolis in Southwestern Virginia

Brennan Hays Cox – mentored by Dr. Nathaniel Lahn
Transformation Invariant Pattern Recognition

Jamison Reddy – mentored by Dr. Steven McBride
The Effects of Manganese on Plastic Degradation

2:00 – 3:15pm Oral Presentations II
Cora Burt – mentored by Dr. Joe Wigau
Beyond the Classroom: Workforce Readiness through Undergraduate Research Experiences

Eni Szabadi – mentored by Dr. Sandra Liss
Gravitational Wave Analyses

Brittle Williams – mentored by Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier
Pluralistic Ignorance: Attitudes Toward Transgender Individuals

3:30 – 4:00pm Oral Presentation III
Nicholas Beach – mentored by Dr. Jason Davis and Dr. Paul Thomas
Nature and Mind: Exploring the Impact of Nature Based Interventions

4:00 – 4:50pm Poster Session II
Jenna Blanchette – mentored by Dr. Matthew Eckard
Using Endocannabinoid Therapies to Reduce Immediate Early Gene Activation in Rats During Cannabinoid Withdrawal

Lauren Craddock – mentored by Dr. Md Shamim Sarker
Optimizing the Prevalence of Multiple Infections Using Adaptive Pooled Testing

MegAnne Gilmore – mentored by Dr. Laura Gruss and Dr. Cassidy Urista
The Study of Valgus Angle and Its Effects on Human Biomechanics

Angelina Walters – mentored by Dr. Laura Gruss and Dr. Cassidy Urista
The Study of Valgus Angle and Its Effects on Human Biomechanics

Katerina Peters – mentored by Dr. Andrea Barrick
Domestic Violence Survivors, Protection Orders, and the Intermediate Appellate Courts

Jackson Hunter – mentored by Dr. Tay Keong Tan and Ms. Rachel Sharrett
Cryptoassets and the Next Great Recession

Luke Quesenberry – mentored by Dr. Tay Keong Tan and Ms. Rachel Sharrett
Killer Robots and the Coming AI Apocalypse

Sonya Sanie – mentored by Dr. Tay Keong Tan and Ms. Rachel Sharrett
Zoonotic Outbreaks and the Next Pandemic