

Spring 2018

April 22, 2018



17th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Undergraduate Research Network (URN) Symposium is a multidisciplinary research symposium focused on fostering the involvement of UVa undergraduate students interested in research by providing an avenue to present their experimental design and data. The symposium creates an environment for students to interact with

faculty, peers, and the greater Charlottesville community, forming connections crucial for networking and advising. Disciplines of research include the social sciences, humanities, and the natural sciences with participants being judged by 3-4 University professors on the quality and accessibility of their research. Students awarded CUE (Center of Undergraduate Excellence) grants, such as the Harrison and DoubleHoo Grant Awards, are required to present. Other undergraduate researchers, however, are able and encouraged to apply for potential monetary awards. This year, the Symposium had an expanded participant pool of non-awardees and hopes to continue achieving this goal in future years. Additionally, the Symposium Committee aims to broaden awareness of the event to a greater number of student researchers in the humanities and perhaps include oral presentations at upcoming events.

The 17th annual URN Symposium took place at the Rotunda on Tuesday April 3, 2018. We are so pleased to have been able to have the honor to host the incredibly talented student researchers as well as the numerous professors and students who came out to see the work that goes on at UVa. Symposium is an event that celebrates excellence in research across all categories and we are so happy with the number of fields and areas of work that were represented.

Winners of the 2018 URN Symposium in the natural sciences category are Madeline Morales (1st place), Kyle Alexander (2nd place), and T. Parks Remcho (3rd place) and in the humanities/social sciences category are Bridgette Degnan (1st place), Daniel Ajootian (2nd place), and Ashley Mehra (3rd place). Congratulations to all of them, and thank you to the many, many people who made this event even possible!



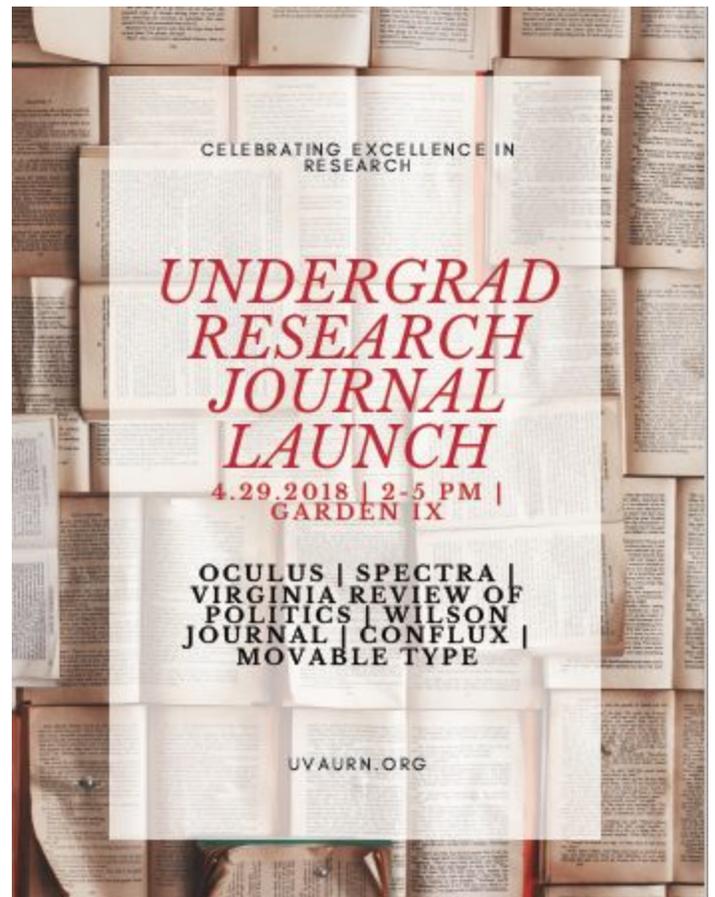
Oculus - Undergrad Research Journal Launch

By Vaishnavi Karimpuzha & Malvika Venkataraman

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 2-5 pm | Garden IX

This coming **Sunday, April 29th from 2-5pm**, several of UVA's renowned undergraduate research journals from all spectra of academia are co-sponsoring a Launch Event to distribute **free copies** of this year's issues. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend! The event will be held in **Lower Garden IX (near West Range)**, and you can stop by any time. There will also be **free food** for attendees to enjoy!

Participating journals include, *The Oculus* (interdisciplinary), *Spectra* (engineering), *Conflux* (public health), *Movable Type* (Media Studies), *Virginia Review of Politics* (politics), and *The Wilson Journal* (international affairs). These journals contain some of the best undergraduate research journals on Grounds. This can be incredibly an useful resource especially for students interested, and looking to get involved in research! Come support the amazing students here at UVA who have worked very hard to produce research to further the progress of their respective fields!



Additionally, if you want to be featured in next year's issue of *The Oculus*, we are currently accepting DMP papers, theses, and other research for the spring submission cycle until **May 6th**. Visit [this link](#) for guidelines or contact uva.oculus@gmail.com with any questions!

USOAR Symposium

By Gabriel Andrade

The 2018 Undergraduate Student Opportunities in Academic Research (USOAR) Symposium took place on April 13th from 3:00 to 5:00 on the Third Floor of Newcomb Hall. The current USOAR program was introduced five years ago and offers paid research opportunities to rising first-year, second-year and transfer students who have no previous experience in research and who look to work with faculty members in their areas of interest. Within the program, they assist on projects lasting 1 year or longer with faculty and graduate students to further enhance their knowledge in their fields of interest and be exposed to the amazing research culture at UVA. The symposium is the special celebration of USOAR students' work where students present either an oral presentation or a poster at the symposium based on their research project with their mentors throughout this year. In a total of 19 oral presentations and two poster sessions, 43 students all engaged within the academic research culture of UVA successfully presented their work in a truly enjoyable afternoon.



Remarks from the Outreach Committee

We are so happy with the amazing semester we have had, especially with the all of the of participants, students and faculty who participated and attended the 17th annual URN research symposium! Of course, we have more work to do and we are excited to continue our mission of enhancing UVA's research community. We are excited about the upcoming journal launch event with Oculus, UVA's multidisciplinary research journal. Some of the amazing and groundbreaking work done at UVA by student researchers will be showcased and will include other journals specific to areas such as politics, health sciences, media studies, engineering, and other fields. We hope to see student researchers as well as anyone else who is interested in research at the event. Lastly, we are looking forward to the new semester in the Fall and we will continue our goal of supporting the amazing work being done by student researchers and students who would like to pursue research in the future! Thank you to everyone who made this great semester possible at URN.

Sincerely,

Vaishnavi Madhavan

Outreach Committee Chair

