URConnection

Thank you to everyone for supporting the URConnection! Issue 7 is here and we are happy to feature the research experiences of Dylan Wang! Check out the upcoming events, especially the registration deadline for the Undergraduate Research Conference! This is an opportunity for all of you to present or attend a conference right here at UC Davis. We encourage students of all disciplines and class levels to get involved with undergraduate research. We hope you take the opportunity to stop by so we can give you more information on what research is and how it can be a part of your college experience.

-Your Peer Advisors,
Erica Li & Chrislyn Lawrence

Upcoming Events

Spotlight on Research: Ask an Expert Featuring Tammy Hoyer
February 5—12:10-1:00pm
114 South Hall

How to Get Involved In Research
February 11—12:10-1:00pm
March 3—12:10-1:00pm
April 2—12:10-1:00pm
Meeting Room D,
Student Community Center

Registration/abstract deadline for Undergraduate Research Conference
February 17—4:00pm
urc.ucdavis.edu

How to Publish as an Undergraduate Polishing Your Article: Hands-on Editing
March 2—12:10-1:00pm
Meeting Room D,
Student Community Center

Research Highlights

James Hildreth trains new scientists to rein in HIV

[His] work involves understanding the biological mechanisms of AIDS, which has killed nearly 30 million people and made orphans of more than 17 million children around the world. AIDS disproportionately affects Africans and people of African descent. Of the 35 million people afflicted with the virus, more than two-thirds live in sub-Saharan Africa. In the United States, African Americans make up 13 percent of the population but nearly half of all AIDS patients. Addressing that disparity brings Hildreth back full circle to a promise he made to himself as a young boy.

To read more, click here

What’s Behind the Curtain of Child Psychology?

Ross Thompson is a distinguished professor of psychology at UC Davis and a member of the Center for Poverty Research executive committee. He has spent a career studying children and families but has also invested significantly into getting proven interventions into policy and practice. In his lab, Thompson studies children from as young as 18 months through age six. With his puppet theater he has found that children have an implicit sense of who they are as early as three years old. To read more, click here.

Did You Know?

- Over 500 students participated in the Undergraduate Research Conference last May! Submit your abstract to be in this year’s conference!
- A new workshop series: How to Publish as an Undergraduate. Find out more at urc.ucdavis.edu
What are the benefits of getting involved in undergraduate research?

There's a lot of personal growth that occurs. Because of research, I now know a field of computer science much more than if I had just taken classes. And when you're part of a lab, you learn how to interact with people in a work place. Also, research offers a different type of learning experience. School work involves learning, but it's much guided. With research, you have no idea what you will discover. And even if you don't discover anything, your work influences other people!

What did you look for in labs that helped you decide it was right for you?

I think it's important who your mentor is. Back at my previous lab in Berkeley, I had a mentor who always had their door open. Being able to talk to my mentor helped ensure that what I was working on was correct. At the time, there was another undergraduate who sat right next to where I worked. It was nice having someone my age to talk to, so overall the team and lab culture were very welcoming.

Do you have any advice for undergraduate trying to get involved in research?

Computer Science is nice because there are a lot of things you can teach yourself! Find something you're interested in and do self-created projects. Then you'll find that there are lots of papers written by people interested in the same ideas. When joining a lab, it really helped that I approached my current professor with a project he was interested in.

Do you have any hobbies you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy cycling, ping pong, and video games. I like playing DOTA 2 as well as another game called Football Manager 2015. It's about British football and involves a lot of logistical thinking!

Contact

If you're interested in scheduling a one-on-one appointment, or you have an interesting story or tip about research to share for our issues, please contact us:

Phone: (530) 752-3390
Email: urc@ucdavis.edu
Location: 2300 Student Community Center, 2nd Floor
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
Website: urc.ucdavis.edu

Meet Undergraduate Researcher: Dylan Wang

Dylan Wang is a third year Computer Science major conducting research in the lab of Professor Ghosal. Dylan studies networks inside of supercomputers and why some networks don't perform as well as others. He is preparing to present his research during this May’s Undergraduate Research Conference.

Your Peer Advisors

Erica is a fourth year Psychology major who would love to share what she has learned with her students. She has had experience in multiple labs and would be happy to talk about them. She is always ready to give advice about anything regarding research!

Chrislyn was a transfer student and now a fourth year Linguistics major aspiring to attend medical school. With her research experience in biology and psychology and linguistics background, she believes that her services can help students in any field here at UC Davis.