



Student Spotlight: Garrett Zills, Physics major and published author



Garrett Zills, shown far left, with mentors Dr. Malmi-Kakkada, far right, and Dr. Datta, second from left taken at the American Physical Society March Meeting conference in Chicago 2022.

Garrett Zillis

This month's CURS Spotlight is on *Garrett Zills, a Senior Physics major*. The research team recently [published a paper](#) in the Physical Review E Journal by the American Physical Society. We asked Garrett about the greatest thing he learned from his mentors, and he said he gained a higher appreciation for detail and a new way of approaching problems: *"Research offers a much more independent learning environment than a classroom and it allowed me to grow as a student under the guidance of both mentors along the way."*

Garrett has been an active member in the CURS community since the Summer of 2021, when he was a Summer Scholar under the mentorship from *Dr. Abdul Malmi-Kakkada (Assistant Professor of Physics)* and *Dr. Trinanjan Datta (Professor of Physics)*.

Dr. Datta is most proud of Garrett's progress as a researcher, growing from the initial stages to taking ownership of interpreting their model. Dr. Malmi-Kakkada is most proud of watching Garrett understand the research project and underlying technical concepts.

Click the title above to read more about their research and publication. Congrats Garrett, Dr. Malmi-Kakkada, and Dr. Datta!

CURS News



Introducing the new UR2 Grant

Underrepresented Faculty Mentoring Undergraduate Research

In support of the Strategic Plan's objectives of learning and discovery and aligned with Augusta University's values of excellence and inclusion, the Faculty Inclusive Excellence Initiative (FIEI) and CURS are pleased to announce the creation of a grant program that funds the high impact practice of undergraduate research under the mentorship of underrepresented faculty. Collaborative research with students enhances faculty research programs, while mentorship from diverse individuals helps prepare students for a professional work environment.

Deadline: March 1, 2023, or until funds are expended
Amount: Up to \$1500

More information can be found on the [UR2 Website](#) or by clicking the title above.



Undergraduate Researcher Fellowships

Accepting applications Now

CURS is offering financial support for students who engage in research that exemplifies the AU values of Compassion, Inclusivity, and Excellence. Students who excel in undergraduate research or scholarship are asked to write a competitive essay describing his/her work in one of the following areas. Faculty should encourage strong students to apply. Click the links below for more information.

Community Impact Fellowship: \$1000 for one student investigating issues of local or global concern that can improve our community.

Fellowship for Enhancing Equity and Diversity: \$1000 for one student investigating issues and solutions to end discrimination and inequity.

International Researcher Fellowship: \$2000 for up to 2 students conducting research abroad.

Deadline to apply is Jan 31, 2023 (or until awarded) for Spring Term

Time to plan for Summer!

Call for Student Applications for the Summer Scholars Program



Applications Open Feb 1 - Feb 14

We are excited to announce that student applications will open soon for our Summer Scholars Program (SSP) sponsored by the Provost and the Vice Provost for Instruction.

Students will apply to specific research projects working with a faculty mentor for a 9 or 5 week program. Students are paid a stipend for 20 hours of research time per week, are given professional development opportunities, bond with student colleagues in the program, and present at a formal research symposium at the end of summer.

See the [CURS SSP Website](#) for more information. Available projects will be posted at the end of January.

Good to Know

High Five My Faculty

Students, Nominate your Mentor!



If you have an amazing undergrad research mentor or colleague, let CURS help you celebrate them!

We will bring a Blue Ribbon High Five Award to your mentor to

surprise them with a great big Thank You!

Show your appreciation to a faculty member who has mentored you in research or scholarship, has been an inspiration and has helped you find your way. Nominations are accepted all year around and awards may be presented at any point throughout the academic year. Awards are presented by nominator and CURS usually during a class period or lab time.

[Learn More!](#)

Don't Cancel Class

Invite CURS to come talk with your students

Faculty, Want CURS come visit your class?

Students, Want CURS to come visit your organization?

We can visit your classroom/meeting with you, or without you, to provide a presentation in one of many topics.

Getting Started in Research –

CURS will describe opportunities in research across campus and how to get started.

Next Step in Research – CURS will share with students how to take their research to the next level, prep discussion of research for interviews.

Preparing a Poster or Oral

Presentation- CURS will tailor a workshop for students based upon discipline

Publication Opportunities - Where to look for undergraduate publication opportunities.

Ethics in Research - We'll have a fun discussion of how to think about tough decisions and the murkiness of right and wrong.

Mentoring - CURS will share what to look for in a mentor, how to find one, and how to be a good mentor
Suggest a topic!

Looking for funding of Research or Teaching ?

Search a new database of internal opportunities

CURS is excited to share a database of funding opportunities internal to AU. The pilot [Internal Funding and Support](#) database includes funding opportunities for faculty and students, for both teaching and research related activities. AU faculty and students can filter by type of recipient, resource, department and more. The database can also be accessed from the bottom of the [CURS Funding and Awards](#) web page.

Do you know of another resource for funding that we can include? Please share with CURS@augusta.edu.

Mark Your Calendar

- Jan 31 - CURS Spring Grant Proposals Due
- Feb 15 - URFA Conference Abstracts Due
- Feb 28 - SSP Student Application Due
- March 31 - UR2 Grant Proposals Due

Follow [CURS on Instagram](#) for more updates.



CURS is located in Allgood Hall, Third Floor Research Suite, E330.
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