



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Center for Undergraduate  
Research and Scholarship

**CURS CONNECTION**

**March 2023**

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Undergraduates are representing AU research this spring at meetings of the American Physical Society in Las Vegas, NV, the Georgia Academy of Sciences in Milledgeville, GA, the American Physiology Summit in Long Beach CA, the American Holistic Nurses Association in Orlando, FL, the American Chemical Society in Indianapolis, IN, and the Association for Women in Psychology in Atlanta, GA.

**Go Jags!**



## Recognizing Student Presenters at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Sciences

Congratulations to three CURS students for acceptance and presentation at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Sciences! **Makayla Preston** (Mathematics, 2023) presented her research *Matemathical Modeling of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis of SARS-COV-2* (Mentor: Dr. Eric Numfor, Department of Mathematics) and **Melvin Hilson** (Psychology, 2023) presented his research *Mentor Science Identities and Their Influence on Student Relationships with Science: A*

*Qualitative Exploration of the iBEARS Program* with co-author **Jerin Jamil** (Health, Society, and Policy, 2023) (Mentor: Dr. Alex St. Louis, CURS).

Melvin was awarded the Most Outstanding Paper in Section VII (Science Education) at the conference. We are incredibly proud of all of our students and thankful for their faculty mentors!

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## UR Week is coming!

### Undergraduate Research Week

*Celebrating Scholars Across the Disciplines*

Monday March 27

**Student Researcher Appreciation Day:**

Tuesday, March 28

**Mentor Appreciation Day:**

Wednesday, March 29

**Undergraduate Research and Fine Arts (URFA) Conference:**

Thursday, March 30

**Mentor Appreciation Reception:**

Friday, March 31

**Swag for Selfies:**

Students scholars can stop by the CURS office to pick up a little gift.

Students are invited to bring their mentor a thank you gift from CURS.

Students present visual arts, posters and oral presentations. [Read more](#). 12-6, JSAC on the Summerville campus.

Undergraduate Research Mentors, join us for enjoy jazz, drinks, and conversation and Mentor Excellence Award Announcement (invitations have been emailed. If we accidentally missed you, please give us a call). All day: Social Media **Post your Pics** from the conference to win CURS swag.

Tag us on your social media with selfies of you doing research, with your mentor, on campus, etc to win swag.

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### 2023 Undergraduate Research and Fine Arts Conference

The Undergraduate Research and Fine Arts (URFA) Conference is less than three weeks away! Join us as we celebrate over 50 students' original research and creative activities. This year's conference will host four sessions: poster, oral, visual arts, performance arts, and the 4x4 showdown. The 4x4 is modelled after the 3-Minute Thesis competition where presenters have 4 minutes and 4 slides to present their research. Don't miss The Showdown!



The conference is on **Wednesday, March 29, 2023** in the JSAC from 12-6PM. This is open to the public. Most sessions will be judged and overall winners receive cash prizes of \$200 or more.

More information about the conference, including the schedule, can be found on the [URFA Conference Website](#).

## URFA Keynote Speaker: Dr. Warren "Bill" Karp

2023 Undergraduate Research and Fine Arts Conference

CURS is excited to welcome this year's keynote speaker, Warren "Bill" Karp, MD and Professor Emeritus of MCG and jazz Musician is the 2023 URFA Keynote speaker. Dr. Karp holds a PhD in Physiological Chemistry and held appointments in Augusta University's departments of Pediatrics, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Oral Biology and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services and the Graduate School. He

is author of several hundred book chapters and peer reviewed articles in journals such as the American Journal of Medical Science, Journal of Pediatrics, Environmental Research, Biology of the Neonate and Clinical Dentistry. Dr. Karp is additionally a well known and beloved Jazz Musician in Augusta, who is passionate about the integration and importance of both the arts and sciences.



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## Announcing UR2 Recipients

*Underrepresented Faculty Receive Grants for Mentoring Students in Research*

CURS recently partnered with the Faculty Inclusive Excellence Initiative of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to create the UR2 grant program. UR2 was created to fund underrepresented faculty *or* faculty whose work focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion and who are also mentoring undergraduate students in research.

Congratulations to the inaugural recipients of this award:

**Dr. Stacy Bennetts**, Department of Biological Sciences, *Towering Spartina: Analyzing Growth, Density, and Richness of Vegetation in the Satilla River Estuary*

**Dr. Jia He**, Department of Mathematics, *Using Constructive Mathematics Pathways to Advance Preservice Elementary Teachers' Learning*

**Dr. Vivian Lui**, Department of Medicine and Georgia Cancer Center, *Computer Analyses of Head and Neck Cancer Patient-derived Cultures (HNC-PDCs) Genomics and Protein Drug Target Characterization of African American Head and Neck Cancer Patient-derived Tumor Cultures (AA-HNC-PDCs)*

**Dr. Eric Numfor**, Department of Mathematics, *Mathematical Modeling of Post-exposure Prophylaxis of SARS-CoV-2*

**Prof. Raoul Pacheco**, Department of Art & Design, *Education of the Ceramic Arts*

**Dr. Jessica Reichmuth**, Department of Biological Sciences, *Marine Ecology Studies of Coastal Georgia and South Carolina*

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## Deadline Ends Soon: Calling All May 2023 Graduates

*Apply for a Research Distinction*

CURS offers two academic research distinctions to eligible undergraduate students of all majors: [Distinction in Research](#) and [Distinction of Excellence in Research](#). Students must be in good academic standing, completed a minimum of 60 hours at AU, and have a minimum overall GPA of a 3.0 (Distinction) or 3.4 (Distinction in Research).



The deadline to apply for May 2023 graduates is April 15th. [Apply today!](#)

## 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](#)

### 2023 Summer Scholars Program

Acceptances for the 2023 Summer Scholars Program have been sent out!

Congratulations to the over 35 students selected to participate in this year's program.



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We are beyond excited to work with these students to cultivate their research skills. We hope that this program provides them with a meaningful experience that not only strengthens their research, but forms new bonds and friendships that they will remember years from now.

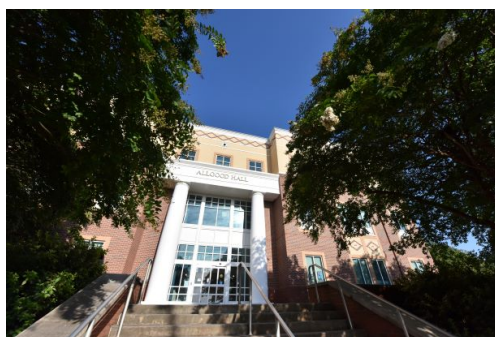
[Learn More](#)

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

Please stop by or make an appointment through [Navigate](#).

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