



# UROOP Newsletter

Official Newsletter of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Office Information

- Location: Moore 107/108 (temporarily closed)
- Office hours: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, M-F
- To schedule a virtual appointment, please email us 24 hours in advance
- Phone: (808) 956-7492
- Email: urop@hawaii.edu

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## Rising Above

**Like much of the UHM community**, we at UROP spent the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic reeling from the shock of the situation, then working furiously to adapt to new and constantly revolving changes. By summertime we had executed a campus-wide, online student symposium for roughly 275 participants across 10 live, simultaneous Zoom rooms (p. 4). We celebrated the graduating class of 2020 and multiple student and faculty awards that were achieved despite the pandemic. It is now Fall 2020 and as a community we are no longer simply meeting the challenge of living in a pandemic world. We have proven our resiliency as a campus, and are rising above the challenge.

This Fall 2020 issue of UROP's newsletter focuses on projects that rose above the din of COVID-19 to make headlines. Both current UROP students and alumni have grown their UROP-funded projects into first-authored, peer-reviewed journal publications (p. 6-7), or seen their work on the big screen at the Hawai'i International Film Festival (p. 8)! Though the pandemic continues to be an ever-present topic of conversation, we hope this issue brings you more positive news of triumph and notable milestones.



**Left:** Student and faculty attendees throw a shaka during the 2020 SURE Symposium on July 31, 2020

**Photo credit:** Kristy Lam

## UROP'S DEBORAH YUAN WINS HI-PRIDE T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!

**Congratulations** to Deborah Yuan, UROP's Undergraduate Communications Assistant, whose T-shirt design won this year's HI Pride T-shirt contest with >400 votes. Her winning T-shirt is available at all UH bookstores. Regarding the design, Deborah says, "Hawai'i is a place where we truly feel the power of connection – the bond to people and nature. To me, HI Pride reflects pride in that connection." Deborah has design experience from her high school days where she played a role in designing newspaper layouts for her school's newswriting class. Working as a Communications Assistant for UROP now, she continues to put her design skills into practice. Her self-designed motifs and design skills can be seen in the 2020 SURE Symposium program, our Newsletters, and all of our social media posts on Facebook ([facebook.com/UROP.UHM](https://facebook.com/UROP.UHM)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/urop.uhm](https://instagram.com/urop.uhm)).



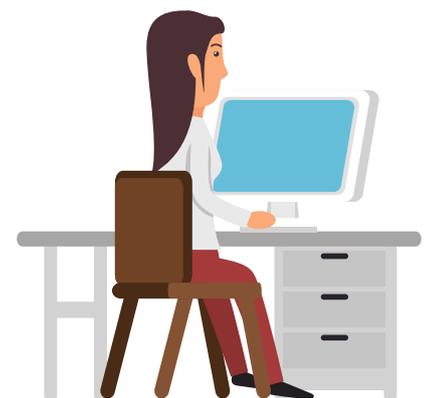
See Deborah's winning design here: [go.hawaii.edu/YY3](https://go.hawaii.edu/YY3)

## Coping with COVID-19: Updates from the UROP Office



Like many other units on campus, UROP scrambled to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 (see Volume 2, Issue 3 Newsletter at [go.hawaii.edu/AH7](https://go.hawaii.edu/AH7)). It is now Fall 2020 and though some aspects of our office have been modified (e.g., remote work), UROP continues to offer a robust suite of programmatic and financial support. See below for more information about current and upcoming UROP events and resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Project funding:** Up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for groups pursuing faculty-mentored, undergraduate student research and creative work projects. Learn more at: [go.hawaii.edu/Qm3](https://go.hawaii.edu/Qm3)
- **Presentation funding:** Up to \$2,000 for individuals, \$4,000 for pairs, and \$5,000 for groups (3 to 10 students) planning to present their faculty-mentored, undergraduate student research and creative work at virtual presentation venues. Learn more at: [go.hawaii.edu/AkD](https://go.hawaii.edu/AkD)
- **On-campus, campus-wide presentation venues:** The Undergraduate Showcase (Fall and Spring) and the SURE Symposium (Summer) are open to all undergraduate students from all disciplines who want to present their faculty-mentored research and creative work. See page 12 to learn about the upcoming 2020 Fall Undergraduate Showcase, hosted live and online via Zoom on December 11, 2020. See a list of these and other on-campus presentation venues at: [go.hawaii.edu/3YW](https://go.hawaii.edu/3YW)
- **Database of student opportunities:** The Student Opportunity Center (SOC) is FREE for all undergraduate students, faculty, and staff members on the Mānoa campus, courtesy of UROP. It contains thousands of on- and off-campus research and creative work opportunities, including virtual and remote opportunities (p. 5).
- **Contact UROP:** Staff members remain available to students via email at [urop@hawaii.edu](mailto:urop@hawaii.edu) or by phone at (808) 956-7492. Email or call to set up a face-to-face Zoom meeting if preferred. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @urop.uhm



# FACULTY, APPLY TO PILOT EVALUATEUR-CURE

For many UHM students, participating in a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) is their first time conducting research or creative work in their field of interest. What distinguishes CUREs from other courses is their ability to engage students directly in the process of investigating a research topic, collecting and analyzing data, and producing novel results that contribute to both the students' and the research community's knowledge. These crucial activities help prepare students for research and creative projects outside the classroom, both during and beyond their undergraduate careers.

A new National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded assessment tool, EvaluateUR-CURE, is currently being developed to assist educators in assessing the types of learning outcomes specific to CURE-style courses. EvaluateUR-CURE focuses on a dozen student outcome categories, each defined by more specific outcome components. The student researcher and faculty mentor score components using a five-point scale, and then discuss their respective scores and the reasons for giving them, which helps the team identify academic strengths and weaknesses. The tool includes a built-in statistical package with summary data for all course outcome components, providing faculty a quick way to analyze survey results.

EvaluateUR-CURE is seeking faculty to participate in a pilot, currently in development, for the 2021-2022 academic year. The application cycle is open now - December 8, 2020. Participants will receive a modest stipend. We encourage faculty to learn more and consider applying for the pilot program.

Learn more about EvaluateUR-CURE:  
[serc.carleton.edu/evaluateur/cure/index.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/evaluateur/cure/index.html)



## A Message from the UROP Director



Dr. Creighton M. Litton

Aloha mai kākou! The past eight months have been, in a nutshell, crazy for everyone that I know in our campus 'ohana. Students have had to adapt to online learning, and unprecedented reductions in important familial and social interactions. Faculty and staff have had to adapt by moving classes online and advising students from afar, and in general doing more with less as the state budget crisis results in fewer faculty and reduced resources. Administrators struggle daily with the herculean task of how to adapt and move the University forward in the face of these seemingly insurmountable challenges. None of this has been easy, at times it has not been pretty, and we are far from out of this with the pandemic raging across the country and planet. So I have to remind myself daily that there is hope, and plenty of it if you are willing to look for it. Nationally, we just completed a Presidential election with the highest voter turnout in >100 years that, despite your views on how it turned out, is a massive win for democracy. Hawai'i is slowly and carefully starting to reopen our economy, providing critical revenue for families and businesses. Most importantly, on our very campus there is hope all around us, and that hope is exemplified, perhaps more so than anywhere else, in our undergraduate student body. The Fall 2020 edition of the UROP Newsletter highlights how our undergraduate students are not just getting by, but excelling with record turnouts for presentations and proposal applications, publications in the peer-reviewed literature, and awards and recognition for their dedication and hard work. I hope that you enjoy reading about these highlights as much as I have. E mālama pono.

# 2020 SURE PROGRAM AND SYMPOSIUM MOVE ONLINE WITH GREAT SUCCESS

UROP hosted the third annual Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program from June 4 to July 31, 2020. The SURE is a free 9-week program that provides supplementary infrastructure to undergraduate students conducting research and creative work at UHM during the summer. SURE offers professional development modules once every ~2 weeks on topics like writing resumes and cover letters, exploring and applying to graduate school, and more. It also provides students with a cohort of peers with whom they can interact and confer as they navigate their projects. The program concludes with the SURE Symposium, where undergraduate students can showcase their work in a professional, yet relaxed environment and receive feedback from fellow students, faculty, and the community. In an unprecedented turn of events, staff members moved the entire program online to ensure the safety of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the program was a big success!

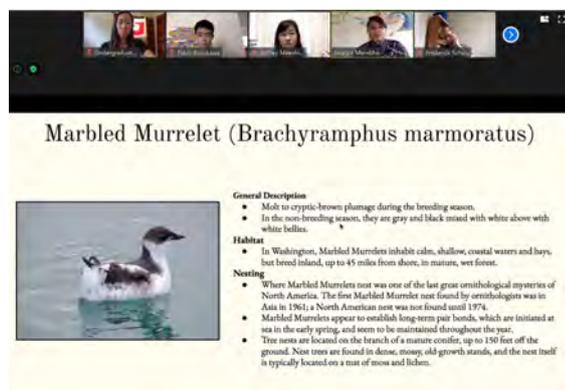
Both the professional development modules and the Symposium saw record high participation. In fact, the SURE cohort grew from 83 students in 2019 to 125 in 2020! The 2020 SURE Symposium was our largest and most diverse event to date. Combining 90 student presenters and 186 registered guests, we estimate that ~275 people attended the event! Students represented 37 different majors, and delivered 37 oral and 29 poster presentations spanning a wide variety of topics. These included documenting the influence of missionary-introduced Classic literature on the creation and installation of the Hawaiian education system, using models to understand and predict the spread of COVID-19 in Hawai'i, and investigating the effect of microplastics on coral reefs and zooxanthellae in Kāne'ōhe Bay. With 10 live rooms hosting presentations simultaneously, a few technical issues were inevitable, but event staff worked quickly to resolve them. One student attendee said, "I learned that, during these times, adaptation is a really important trait we must all possess. It was amazing to see how the SURE committee and so many other students, as well as participants, were so adaptive to the on-going changes."

Eager to continue growing the SURE, we were thrilled to see participation increase despite the circumstances. The virtual nature of the event, in fact, enabled students to present from across 5 different U.S. time zones, stretching from Hawai'i to the East Coast! The program has also continued to grow due to strong participation by NSF-REU programs on campus, and the Faculty Mentoring Grant for Summer Undergraduate Research and Creative Works. This is the second year UROP has provided \$75,000 in Faculty Mentoring Grants to boost participation in summer research and creative work activity by undergraduates. Fourteen faculty members received grant funds to support 19 UHM undergraduate students engaging in summer projects.

We are grateful to all those who continue to support undergraduate research and creative work activities, especially during a year when so much else has changed. We thank volunteers for their time and enthusiasm, staff for their tireless efforts, and motivated students and faculty mentors for sharing their knowledge and passion with the UHM community! The SURE program and SURE Symposium would not be possible without you!

Learn more about the SURE program here: [go.hawaii.edu/qY3](https://go.hawaii.edu/qY3)

Learn more about the Faculty Mentoring Grant here: [go.hawaii.edu/3YH](https://go.hawaii.edu/3YH)



**Top:** Students attend "Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds: Establishing Responsibility for Preservation" at the 2020 SURE Symposium on July 31, 2020

**Bottom:** Career Counselor Brent Fujinaka presents "Resume and Cover Letter: Market Yourself on Paper" at a SURE professional development module on July 2, 2020



# Student Opportunity Center

One year has passed since UROP launched the Student Opportunity Center (SOC), UHM's online database of undergraduate research and creative work opportunities. Since Fall 2019 users have conducted >12,000 searches and viewed opportunity listings >4,800 times. The SOC is a campus-specific subscription service available to the Mānoa campus courtesy of UROP. The SOC curates a national database of thousands of opportunity listings (66,000+ nationwide opportunities), including: undergraduate research and creative work opportunities, internships and co-ops, conferences, seminars, publication outlets, and more. Listings cover a diversity of fields, and cater to students at any stage of their research and creative work endeavors. The SOC also hosts a UHM-specific database where faculty can post their own opportunities. This is an ideal place to recruit undergraduate students to work in labs, creative spaces, or elsewhere.



*"In Spring 2020 I posted an opportunity for UG volunteers...after two excellent inquiries I took the posting down. They have been amazing volunteers!"*



## Benefits of using the SOC:

- It's **free** to use
- Listings are viewable by UHM undergraduates, staff and faculty only
- Keyword tags make it easy to search opportunities
- Listing an opportunity automatically generates a webpage for the listing
- You can list paid or unpaid positions
- You can edit listings any time



*"The Student Opportunity Center has been extremely helpful to me and has made me excited for my future as a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student."*

*"I'm able to find opportunities around the world that are specific to my degree when I graduate. Overall it's been a very positive experience for me!"*



**Left, above:** Quotes from UHM students about the SOC

The SOC is also perfect for students looking for opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, the platform has added thousands of virtual and remote research and creative work listings to the database, proving to be an adaptable and increasingly useful resource during this time of social distancing.

For students, learn more at: [go.hawaii.edu/GCg](http://go.hawaii.edu/GCg)

## Attention Faculty: Calling for Student Opportunities!

Faculty, do you have open positions in your lab or creative space? Are you looking for student help with field work or film production? Do you have any virtual opportunities for students? The Student Opportunity Center is the perfect place to advertise research and creative work opportunities to undergraduate students at UHM. The SOC allows you to customize listings and provide details such as compensation, position requirements, application deadlines, and more.

To learn how to post opportunities on the SOC, visit: [go.hawaii.edu/kD3](http://go.hawaii.edu/kD3)

**Top left:** Quote from UHM faculty about the SOC



# Making Waves: Kammie Tavares and Andrew Tokuda

UROP students from the past and present have been making waves within the scientific community. Kammie Tavares (Global Environmental Science, Class of 2018) and Andrew Tokuda (Global Environmental Science, current) are the proud authors of brand new peer-reviewed publications. Their work is based on projects they began as undergraduate students at UHM with the help of UROP funding. Here, they share their personal experiences and what it meant to them for their work to be shared and acknowledged in the scientific community.

## Kammie Tavares



Kammie Tavares received UROP project funding in 2017 to support her project “Potential for widespread coastal hardening and environmental destruction on O’ahu, Hawai’i,” completed under the mentorship of her mentor, Dr. Charles “Chip” Fletcher (SOEST). Kammie’s work focuses on O’ahu’s risk of shoreline hardening, sea level rise, and beach loss. She continued her studies and recently graduated from UHM’s Geology and Geophysics M.S. program. What started as undergraduate work became the foundation for her first-authored publication in *Scientific Reports*. Her work has even made headlines and been the focus of a *Honolulu Star Advertiser* news piece.

Officially being published and appearing in the news was a scary but worthwhile experience for Kammie. Her initial hope for publishing in a scientific journal was to provide policy makers and managers research to assist their beach conservation efforts. Needless to say, it was an exciting development when her team’s message was picked up by the media after a press release on the publication. Kammie’s research impacted a far larger audience than she thought it would—even reaching the Dutch science news website *Scientias*! To Kammie, the most rewarding part of this experience was seeing so many people engaged in the topic. “This issue affects us all, so it’s important for as many people to be involved in deciding the future of our coastline as possible.”

She credits her love for the beach, specifically her hānau (birth sands) in Wai’anae, for motivating her work through the years. She encourages all students on similar paths to seize their opportunity too.

Read about Kammie’s work in the Honolulu Star Advertiser: [go.hawaii.edu/CY3](http://go.hawaii.edu/CY3)

*“The process can be intimidating, and there will be many challenges, but it’s truly a rewarding experience. For example, I’m very shy with public speaking, but I knew that speaking to the news would help beach conservation efforts, so I went for it.”*



**Photo:** Kammie surveying the sand at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument





*"I firmly believe that the greatest asset an undergraduate could have is the willingness to network with people. It doesn't matter whether it is your classmates, upperclassmen, or professors. Reflecting back on my own research experience, I would have never landed such a great research experience if it wasn't for networking with upperclassmen who steered me towards the right direction."*

**Photo:** Andrew onboard the SOEST R/V Kilo Moana as a research assistant of the Deep-sea Fish Ecology Lab during an abyssal food webs cruise.

## Andrew Tokuda



Andrew Tokuda is a current undergraduate student at UHM majoring in Global Environmental Science. He received UROP funding in 2018 to support his project entitled "The trophic structure of food webs in the Mariana and Kermadec trenches inferred from isotopic analysis." It focused on understanding the trophic system of food webs in both the Mariana and Kermadec trenches, as humans are reliant on deep sea resources without knowing much about their effects on these important ecosystems. His UROP project has been serving as a guide for his undergraduate research journey.

A defining moment for Andrew in regards to his research project was when his undergraduate chair, Dr. Michael Guidry (Global Environmental Science), paired him with his current mentor, Dr. Jeffrey Drazen (Oceanography). They both shared a myriad of research interests pertaining to natural sciences. His frequent meetings with Dr. Drazen eventually turned into conversations about studying and analyzing samples from the hadal zone of the ocean. This ultimately resulted in a major accomplishment that has garnered the attention of both SOEST and UH news. After just three short years as an undergraduate student, Andrew published his first article in the journal *Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*.

The biggest obstacle for Andrew, prior to the acceptance of the paper, was analyzing, synthesizing, and applying scientific literature to research data. With the help of valuable input from his co-authors, however, the process of putting the paper together became much clearer. As a whole, this incredible experience has taught him the rigors associated with publishing in a peer-reviewed journal, but also the significance of communication within and outside of the scientific realm.

The most rewarding aspect of being published is that Andrew's research reaches out to a larger audience. So little is known about the hadal zone of the ocean that any knowledge about it is valuable, particularly as human reliance on the deep-sea has increased. Activities such as deep-sea mining are increasingly common, and this could have impacts on even the deepest regions of the planet. Along with his co-authors, Andrew sincerely hopes that such work will inspire more people to actively participate in uncovering the mysteries surrounding the deep-sea.

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Read more about Andrew in SOEST and UH news here: [go.hawaii.edu/3Yv](https://go.hawaii.edu/3Yv)

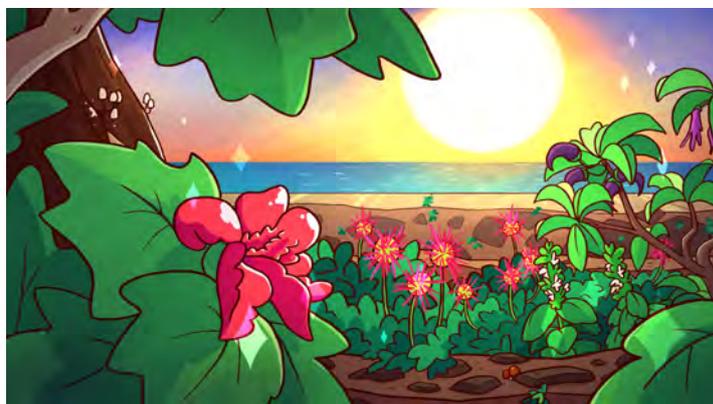


# FACULTY AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WITH PROFESSOR BRITTANY BIGGS AND STUDENTS GAVIN ARUCAN,  
CHANDELLE OLIVER, AND SOPHIA WHALEN



**Undergraduate students** Gavin Arucan, Chandelle Oliver, and Sophia Whalen received UROP project funding in Spring 2020 to support development of their animated short film *Pua Warriors*, mentored by Professor Brittany Biggs (Academy for Creative Media). The completed work premiered at the 2020 Hawai'i International Film Festival November 5-29, 2020. The film follows a team of magical, super-powered girls as they fight to save their hometown, Kailua-Kona, from a destructive Sludge Monster. The student group heavily researched their characters' flowers, the source of their magical power. The flowers are endangered and native specifically to Hawai'i island. The fight between flower-powered girls and the trash-fueled monster reflect the real-world issue of saving the environment from pollution. The film's art stays true to the look of Kailua-Kona, and even includes many other Hawaiian flora, almost all of which are endemic to Hawai'i island. As the film premiered, the crew hoped to empower girls and people of color by representing them with a cast of strong, funny, and culturally diverse characters. Good representation of Hawai'i in media is often lacking, and *Pua Warriors* aims to fill that void.



**Top:** A scene from the film *Pua Warriors* shows a culturally diverse cast of magical girls.

**Bottom:** Light from a Kailua-Kona sunset bathes extinct and endangered native Hawaiian flowers

*"Creating an animated film is a whole lot of work: research, scripts, animation, etc. That is why a committed, collaborative, and skilled team is so critical, and as the director, I am so grateful that the Pua Warriors team had all those traits and more." - Sophia Whalen*

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## Professor Brittany Biggs's thoughts on mentoring

*"The sharing of knowledge through mentorship is not a one-way track, and I believe the mentor gains as much out of the experience as the mentee. As a mentor and teacher, I continue to expand my own understanding and skills in my field of animation and filmmaking not only through my own creative research but also through the work my mentees pursue.*

*The best way to learn and succeed in animation is through hands-on work. I encourage mentorship opportunities where students create more ambitious films and/or research new applications for animation that are beyond the scope of the curriculum, which help students excel in their academic studies and prepare them for their careers.*

*Working with enthusiastic and motivated students like Gavin Arucan, Chandelle Oliver, and Sophia Whalen on their UROP animated film project Pua Warriors is a perfect example of how students can push their creativity and skills to the next level. The entire process from concept to completion elevates the preparedness and professionalism of these students. The experience is rewarding for me too as their enthusiasm, creativity, and accomplishments inspire and energize me, which charges my own creative research." - Brittany Biggs*

Professor Biggs has been recognized by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research as an outstanding mentor and received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work (p. 13) in 2020. Read more about her award on the UH Mānoa Awards website at: [go.hawaii.edu/3Yz](http://go.hawaii.edu/3Yz)

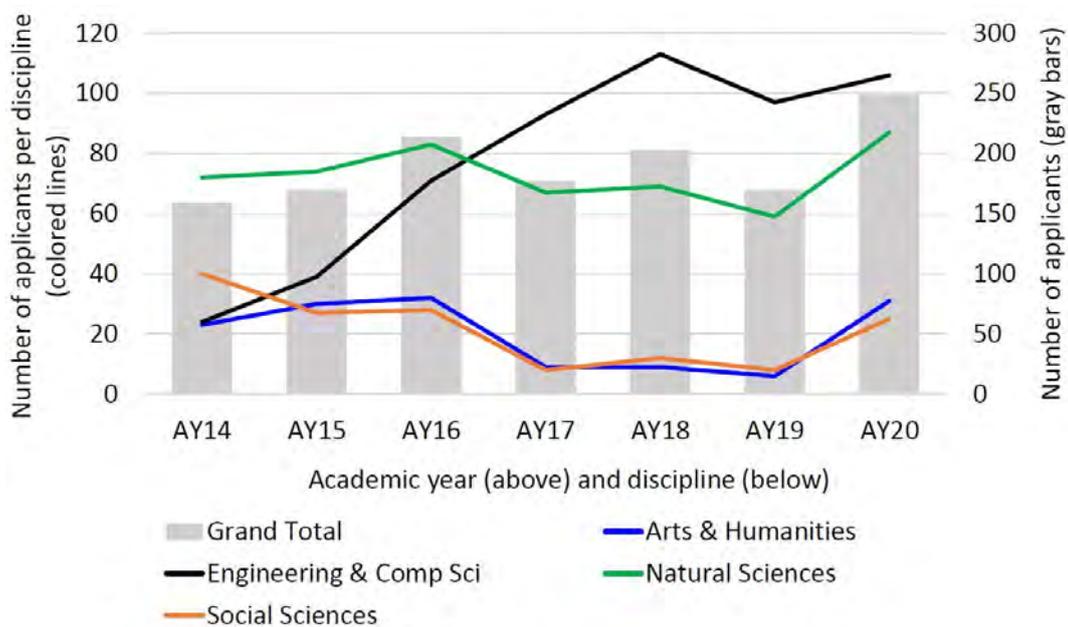


Photo: Professor Brittany Biggs



# DISCIPLINARY DIVERSITY IN UROP-FUNDED STUDENTS

Since its inception in 2011, UROP has provided almost \$3 million in direct funding to ~1,200 UHM undergraduate students from 80 unique majors to conduct research and creative work projects with >500 UHM faculty mentors (**Figure 1**). UROP’s mission is to coordinate and promote opportunities for undergraduate students across all disciplines at UHM to engage in faculty-mentored research and creative work, and we are honored to have served so many students and excited with the future of our program. However, as UROP looks back to assess our past and think of ways to improve our future, it is important to better understand how different disciplines are represented by the students that our office supports. It was our impression that certain disciplines were over- or underserved, so we dug into the data!

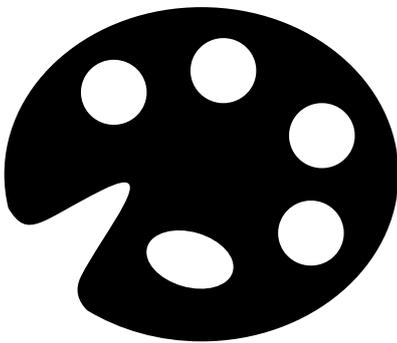
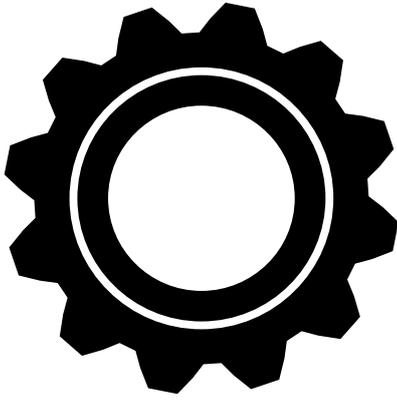


**Figure 1:** Number of UHM students applying for UROP funding per discipline category (lines, and L axis), and total number of student applicants per AY (bars, and R axis).

Overall, UROP is excited to report that the number of students applying for project funding (both individual and group projects) has been on an increasing trend in the past few AYS, including a record number of students in AY20 (**Figure 1**) and in Fall 2020 (see p. 12). In terms of disciplinary-specific proposal submission rates, all disciplines have increased in the number of students applying in the past year, and all disciplines except for Engineering & Computer Sciences recorded all-time or near all-time highs in AY20. While experiencing initial declines, the number of students from Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences has increased recently as well. The number of student applicants from Engineering & Computer Sciences has experienced rapid growth since AY14, likely due to the implementation of the Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) program, and has largely held steady in recent AYS. In turn, student applications from Natural Sciences have remained high over the entire period.

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The increase in the total number of applications received, as well as the uptick in applications from historically underserved disciplines is, we like to think, not an accident. It became clear to UROP several years ago that many undergraduate students and faculty on campus were not aware of UROP in general, or that UROP offers funded opportunities, or that UROP opportunities are open to all undergraduate students at UHM regardless of discipline. As a result, over the past three years (AY 2018 – AY 2020) UROP has worked to spread the message across campus about who we are, what we do, and who we serve. In total, UROP has promoted its programs by interacting directly with 1,742 students and faculty mentors via orientations, in-class information sessions, departmental faculty meetings, department chair meetings, campus events, etc. over just the past three years. In particular, UROP has proactively engaged non-STEM academic units on campus that have historically submitted a disproportionately lower number of proposals, including the College of Arts & Humanities, the College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature, and the College of Social Sciences. To date, this strategy appears to be working as evidenced above, but there is clearly more work to be done.

One very important caveat about the data presented here is that they only encapsulate those students that UROP has funded directly, and do not consider undergraduate students conducting research and creative work outside of UROP, which is common across campus in at least some disciplines. To this effect, be on the lookout for a campus-wide survey in the not too distant future that will allow us to better capture these numbers. At the same time, UROP is working to identify factors that may encourage or discourage a student from proposing a project, based on required surveys administered to students who have applied for funding since Spring 2019. Some initial findings from these surveys suggest that students are more likely to apply for UROP funding from certain disciplines as a result of faculty mentor support. For example, out of 274 total students surveyed to date, 86% of student respondents from the Natural Sciences and Engineering & Computer Science fields indicated that their project topic was suggested by a faculty mentor, or that they had no choice in their topic, or that they were asked to join a group proposal that was already in progress. In turn, only 44% of Art & Humanities and Social Science students reported the same. These are preliminary findings and UROP will continue to engage in strategic promotional activities and work with units to foster undergraduate research and creative work opportunities for all undergraduate students at UHM.

# FALL 2020 PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATION CYCLE UPDATE



**UROP** continues to break records thanks to ambitious undergraduate students and their faculty mentors at UHM! During the Fall 2020 project funding application cycle, UROP received a total of 103 project funding applications (80 individual and 23 group projects) from 148 students. This is the highest number of projects submitted since the previous high of 85 back in Fall 2013. This application cycle also had the second highest number of students applying (compared to 158 in Fall 2017). Combined, students requested just over \$500,000 in funding.

We reached this milestone due in part to increased interest from the Arts & Humanities (10 project applications) as well as the Social Sciences (21 project applications), both of which are underrepresented disciplines in UROP's application history (see prior article). We achieved another goal this semester, the complete overhaul of the funding application process. UROP staff moved the entire application to the online InfoReady platform, an application management software used by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. We hope this more streamlined software is simpler to use and will therefore encourage more students to seek funding. The software is also more secure, requiring login through the UH portal. Though it is too soon to determine if these factors will maintain the pattern of increasing applicant numbers, we believe Fall 2020 is the next sign of a positive trend of more interest by UHM undergraduate students in UROP.

## ATTEND THE 2020 FALL UNDERGRADUATE SHOWCASE

**We** are happy to announce that the 2020 Fall Undergraduate Showcase guest registration is now open! The Undergraduate Showcase is an opportunity for all undergraduate students in all disciplines across the UHM campus to present their faculty-mentored research and creative work. This event is held at the end of both Spring and Fall semesters and is sponsored by the Honors Program, Office of Undergraduate Education, and UROP via the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

This semester, the event has moved online due to COVID-19. Students will present their work during live oral presentations on Zoom. The event takes place on December 11, 2020, during which time viewers are encouraged to provide feedback to presenters via an online form.

### Event Information:

Date: Friday, December 11, 2020

Time: 9:15 am - 12:40 pm

Location: Zoom

Join us online and learn about fascinating undergraduate student work at UHM. Examples from past events like the Spring 2020 Virtual Showcase included topics like "Oddity Discrimination of Visual Categories by Honeybees" and "Devising Theatre in the Mountain Villages of Western China." You can look forward to other interesting projects like these at the Fall 2020 event.

To register as a guest for this event, visit: [go.hawaii.edu/3is](https://go.hawaii.edu/3is)

# Nominate Outstanding Faculty Mentors and Exceptional Student Researchers

**UHM** faculty members and students often work above and beyond their full time jobs/studies, taking on additional roles like that of faculty mentor or student researcher. Each year, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) at UHM recognizes deserving individuals that exemplify the best of what these roles entail. OVCR is now accepting student nominations for the Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work, and faculty nominations for the Student Award for Excellence in Research! Winners will receive a monetary prize and will be announced to the entire campus via email blast and the UH Mānoa Awards website. Whether they win or not, simply nominating is an excellent way to show appreciation to the outstanding faculty mentor or student researcher in your life. View the 2020 winners at: [go.hawaii.edu/3YZ](http://go.hawaii.edu/3YZ)

## Student Award for Excellence in Research

OVCR bestows the Student Award for Excellence in Research to students who demonstrate outstanding scholarly research endeavors at the doctoral, master's or bachelor's level. Full details are available at: [go.hawaii.edu/eY3](http://go.hawaii.edu/eY3)

- \$1000 per award, courtesy of OVCR (\$500) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) (\$500)
- Student must be nominated by faculty advisor
- Nomination cycle open January 4 - February 17, 2021

## Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work

OVCR provides the Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work to up to two faculty members (one from a STEM discipline, and one from a non-STEM discipline) that have shown dedicated and sustained excellence in faculty mentoring of undergraduate students in their research and creative work endeavors. Full details are available at: [go.hawaii.edu/3kA](http://go.hawaii.edu/3kA)

- \$500 per award, courtesy of OVCR (\$250) and RCUH (\$250)
- Faculty must be nominated by undergraduate student
- Nomination cycle open December 1, 2020 - February 1, 2021



## MHRT Program Accepting Student Applicants Now

The Minority Health Research Training (MHRT) Program in Health Disparities is now accepting student applications! The MHRT program, based out of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, trains students to conduct research relating to tropical medicine, infectious diseases, and other health topics with a focus on disparate health care access across minority groups. Students may have the option to work on location with out-of-state populations. Past project locations include Yaounde (Cameroon), Bangkok (Thailand), Koror (Palau), and many others. The MHRT Program begins in the spring when students take a directed reading course and prepare a summer research project with their UH and foreign mentor. Undergraduate students will earn \$1070/month for 3 months over the course of their summer research project. Round-trip airfare and living expenses will be provided for eligible participants. Apply by December 1, 2020 and learn more at: [go.hawaii.edu/tM3](http://go.hawaii.edu/tM3)

# Highlighted Opportunities

## HORIZONS JOURNAL CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS

[kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/](http://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/)

- Submit academic and creative works for publication in *Horizons*, UHM's undergraduate journal
- Have work reviewed by and receive feedback from Editorial Board
- Open to all UHM undergraduate students completing works between January 2020 - May 2021
- Deadline: January 29, 2021

## OIC'S INNOVATION IMPACT CHALLENGE INITIATIVE

[hawaii.edu/research/innovation-impact-challenge](http://hawaii.edu/research/innovation-impact-challenge)

- Partnership between UH Office of Innovation and Commercialization (OIC) and Hawaiian Telcom
- Seeking multi-disciplinary teams of UH researchers and students to solve among 3 challenges: Hands-free underground communications utility locator, Innovative ways to provide internet access, and Resolving obstructed communications conduit blockages
- Selected projects receive funding
- Contact Sandra Fujiyama at [sandra.fujiyama@hawaii.edu](mailto:sandra.fujiyama@hawaii.edu)

## MINORITY HEALTH RESEARCH TRAINING (MHRT) PROGRAM

[go.hawaii.edu/tM3](http://go.hawaii.edu/tM3)

- Conduct biomedical research focused on health disparities across minority groups
- Prepare with spring coursework and work with mentor to design summer project
- \$1070/month summer research stipend for 3 months; airfare and cost of living expenses covered if needed
- Open to UH students who are citizens or permanent residents; must be from under-represented minority group, socioeconomically disadvantaged background, or rural area
- Deadline: December 1, 2020

## FELLOWSHIPS IN AHUPUA'A MANAGEMENT

[go.hawaii.edu/xY3](http://go.hawaii.edu/xY3)

- Year-long fellowship studying and managing ahupua'a in Hawai'i
- Work with UH faculty, resource professionals, stewardship organizations, and community
- \$5000 stipend, \$1000 in project supplies, and \$500 in travel expenses
- Open to undergraduate students at any UH campus with 1-2 years of completed coursework
- Applications accepted on rolling basis
- Contact program coordinator Dr. Travis Idol at [idol@hawaii.edu](mailto:idol@hawaii.edu)

## 2020 FALL UNDERGRADUATE SHOWCASE

[go.hawaii.edu/3is](http://go.hawaii.edu/3is)

- Open to all undergraduate students at UHM who wish to present their faculty-mentored undergraduate research or creative work
- Professional yet relaxed presentation venue featuring UHM undergraduate student research and creative work project presentations
- Free to attend, registration required
- December 11, 2020 from 9:15 am - 12:40 pm on Zoom

## TO VIEW THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE:

[studentopportunitycenter.com](http://studentopportunitycenter.com)

1. Visit the Student Opportunity Center website
2. Create an account with your valid @hawaii.edu email address
3. Search for opportunities, or click the links in the previous listings to navigate directly to an opportunity page

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY CENTER

[go.hawaii.edu/GCg](http://go.hawaii.edu/GCg)