Transitions...

The Fall 2022 semester is now in full swing! We are super excited to share what we have been working on during the summer and what we have in store for undergraduate research and creative work in the coming academic year! This issue is all about “transitions” as the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) strives to: (1) establish a more competitive stipend rate for all UROP student funding opportunities (p. 5); (2) widen its programmatic focus by introducing research and creative work to undergraduate students early in their academic year through the brand new Entering Research & Creative Work funding opportunity (p. 5); and (3) pivot towards hybrid conduct of all UROP activities, beginning with the 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program and Symposium (p. 16).

This issue proudly announces the recipients of the Douglas S. Yamamura Scholarship (p. 7), the UROP ‘Ohana members who were recipients of multiple 2022 UHM Awards (p. 8), as well as the recipients of the 2022 Faculty Mentoring Grant (p. 9). We also share the success stories of UROP students and alumni (p. 10-14) who have, each in their own ways, made a mark either in their respective disciplines or by carving their own paths to success outside of the classrooms. We hope you join us in congratulating all the award recipients and the UROP students who continue to amaze us with their innovation and creativity!

The students’ success would not have been possible without the ceaseless time, effort, and dedication of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Council (UROC) members and faculty mentors. For this we continue to be grateful for their active participation in UROP! We also highlight a former UROC member for her nomination to a national board (p. 14) by no less than President Joe Biden himself!

Finally, we also like to thank the individuals who were instrumental to UROP’s success until recently, as they embark on new chapters in their professional lives. We say goodbye to them with a heavy heart but happy to also welcome four key additions to the UROP ‘Ohana. UROP hopes for your continued support as we carry out these vital transitions in support of undergraduate student research and creative works on our campus. Mahalo!
Aloha mai kākou! I love working at a University. I get to interact with motivated and inspiring students every single day (see more in this Fall 2022 newsletter for some of these inspiring stories!). I work elbow-to-elbow on a daily basis with dedicated staff and faculty who give so much of their time, energy, and selves to make our campus all that it can be. I have the opportunity to work with and learn from highly capable administrators, most of whom have sacrificed what they came to this campus to do initially (i.e., teach and do research) to engage in the higher level, often unseen work that makes a campus tick. Of this latter group, I have found no one that was more enjoyable, committed and competent than Dr. Velma Kameoka, former Interim Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship. Velma taught me, amongst other things, patience. She taught me when to push, and when to pull back. She showed me what excellence and persistence at the level of an administrator can accomplish for an entire campus. Velma never did any of this for praise or accolades, she simply did it because she knew it was right and good for our campus. She did it because she wanted to leave a University in better shape than she found it. When Velma retired, I lost not only a mentor and professional collaborator, but also a friend. Velma, mahalo nui loa for everything that you have done for me, and for UROP. We are all in a much better place thanks to you, even if we do miss you terribly!

**UROP Staff Updates**

**Dr. Velma Kameoka**, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship, retired on December 31, 2021. Velma has been instrumental to UROP’s success since 2017, when UROP was reorganized from the Office of Undergraduate Education to be housed under the then-Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Under Velma’s leadership and unwavering commitment to faculty-mentored undergraduate research and creative work at UHM, UROP has thrived. A few UROP highlights during her tenure include: (1) Adding program coordinator and undergraduate student assistant positions to the UROP team to better facilitate undergraduate research and creative work on campus, (2) Securing a ~$250,000 grant from the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation to launch the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program to scaffold summer research and creative work, (3) securing funding for and launching the Faculty Mentoring Grant Award opportunity, and (4) increasing the project/presentation funding pool for distribution to undergraduate students from across campus ($296k to $428k per AY) and the number of project funding proposals received by UROP (153 to 248 per AY). Overall, Velma’s steady leadership, support, and guidance helped faculty-mentored undergraduate research and creative work thrive at UHM. Mahalo nui loa Velma for all you have done to support and grow UROP! We will miss you!
UROP is excited to welcome Dr. Chris Sabine, the new Interim Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship (iVPRS), to the UROP ‘Ohana. Prior to serving as the iVPRS, Chris was the Associate Dean for Research at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. He maintains an active research program with undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers through the Oceanography Department. Chris also served as a UROP faculty mentor to two undergraduate students in Spring 2020, investigating Kāne’ohe Bay for levels of ocean acidification and micro-plastic in marine ecosystems. He even attended the UROP student orientation with his students! Ever since, Chris has continued to find the time to serve as a UROP faculty mentor. In Spring 2022, he mentored an undergraduate student on calcium carbonate export flux at Station ALOHA.

As the iVPRS, Chris hopes to enhance and raise awareness of the broad scope of world-class research being conducted at UHM, including that conducted by undergraduates on campus. He is a strong proponent of collaboration and inclusivity, which he hopes to continue promoting in this new position. With Chris at the helm of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship, UROP continues to promote undergraduate research and creative work as a high-impact practice that enriches academic experiences and builds a robust foundation for developing lifelong academic, professional, and personal skills, which ultimately prepares students to be engaged community members and leaders in their professions in Hawai’i and beyond.

We congratulate Seung Yang as he steps into his new role as UROP’s Assistant Director beginning this Fall semester! Seung has been UROP’s Program Coordinator since 2018 and has helped build UROP’s key programs and activities from the ground up. You can say Seung has been one of the pillars that help prop up UROP. To this day, he helps ensure that UROP continues to do what it does best: provide faculty-mentored research and creative work opportunities to as many UHM undergraduate students as possible! Seung’s interest in working with undergraduate students stems from his internship interviewing exchange/international students about their experience studying abroad at the College of William and Mary. This led him to value outside-the-classroom learning experiences in higher education. He earned his B.A. degree in History at the College of William and Mary and his M.A. degree in Asian Studies at UHM. He is also currently pursuing his Master’s in Public Administration at UHM. Congratulations for a well-deserved promotion, Seung!
We bid a sad but fond farewell to Jessie Chen as she moves on to the next chapter in her life! Jessie was a Program Coordinator at UROP from June 2018 to May 2022, during which time she worked tirelessly to support inspiring students and highly dedicated faculty and staff. She is tremendously grateful for the chance to have grown alongside UROP, spinning up new programs like the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience and the Faculty Mentoring Grant. The Program Coordinator position allowed her to hone diverse skills ranging from social media marketing to data management, with all of the above happening during a global pandemic - there has never been a dull day! She looks forward to a short trip to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park where she will surely get lost among the giant redwoods. Jessie plans to take some time off to catch up with family in California, including two toddling nephews whom she has yet to meet in person. She hopes to then return to Hawai‘i to continue working in an educational setting. A hui hou, Jessie!

Elinor Cruz joined UROP in March 2022 as its Program Coordinator. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Research and a Master’s degree in Sociology from the University of the Philippines, where she also worked for over ten years in a social science research center, whose core programs included building the capacity of students in academic research and publication. In joining UROP, Elinor helps sustain institutional culture and practice of encouraging students to explore where their research and creative work interests lie, as well as providing them with an enabling environment.

Olivia Cornejo joined UROP in January 2022 as its Graduate Program Assistant. She is a second-year graduate student pursuing her Masters in Social Work at UHM. Olivia has a great appreciation for experiential learning, which was further instilled in her while completing her honors thesis and during her time studying abroad. She has fit into the UROP team seamlessly, actively helping students navigate their research/creative work endeavors and helping the UROP office run efficiently.

Lauree Tam joined UROP in August 2022 as its Undergraduate Program Assistant. She is currently a freshman student at UHM in the Shidler Freshman Direct Admit Program. Lauree has a passion for the arts and is a very dedicated individual. She brings fresh perspectives to UROP in the design and creation of office promotion materials. She also helps manage UROP’s social media platforms to actively promote UROP’s student funding opportunities.

Welcome!
UROP Program Updates

New Funding Opportunity for Undergraduate Students in All Disciplines! Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC)

UROP is very excited to announce a new funding opportunity for undergraduate students from all disciplines at UHM! Dubbed “Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC)”, this opportunity is designed to introduce research and creative work to undergraduate students with little or no experience early in their academic careers through the guidance of a UHM faculty mentor. Starting in Fall 2022, UROP will provide $1,500 per semester (up to a total of $3,000 for two semesters) in scholarship funding as a stipend to students with more than 60 credits remaining in their degree program who successfully submit an application to explore outside-the-classroom, inquiry-based learning. Additionally, UROP plans to supplement the ERC and faculty mentorship with professional development modules for students during the regular AY to help set them up for success. Topics will include "Best Practices to Jump-Start Your Early-Career Research or Creative Work," "Responsible Conduct of Research," and more!

UROP’s vision with this new funding opportunity is to offer holistic support to undergraduate students at UHM to experience faculty-mentored research and creative work at various stages in their academic career. UROP’s Project and Presentation Funding opportunities have supported over a thousand students to conduct faculty-mentored research and creative work. On the other hand, the ERC Funding will provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to “try-on” research or creative work with financial support. UROP’s aim is to lower the barrier for students to engage in research and creative work and prepare them to conduct a faculty-mentored research or creative work project. Ultimately, UROP aims to increase undergraduate participation in faculty-mentored research and creative work to increase student satisfaction and enrich their academic experience.

Stipend Increase for UROP Students!

UROP is happy to announce a new stipend rate of $15/hour (an increase from $11.65/hour) for students engaged in all UROP-funded programs (i.e., Entering Research and Creative Work Funding, Project Funding, Presentation Funding, and Faculty Mentoring Grant). UROP’s aim is to enable and encourage more students to conduct faculty-mentored research and creative work by offering more competitive financial support relative to other competing jobs. This stipend increase is meant to be more closely aligned to the increasing wages and the cost of living expenses in Hawai’i. In addition, this new hourly stipend amount exceeds the recent increase in minimum wage rates for Hawai’i, and UROP plans to continue to increase this amount over the coming years to remain ahead of the planned increases in minimum wage rates for Hawai’i.

The $500,000 per year in scholarship funding for students conducting UROP projects and presentations is sponsored by the Office of Enrollment Management and the Mānoa Tuition Scholarship Fund. We appreciate their continued support of faculty-mentored undergraduate research and creative work at UHM, and their recognition of the importance of these high-impact practices.
Winds Down at the End of 2022

We regret to write that by December 2022, UROP will no longer offer the Student Opportunity Center (SOC) to the campus community as the SOC permanently winds down its service to universities across the country. UROP is currently seeking an alternative to the SOC to continue to offer a centralized repository of opportunities that would allow students to search for listings relevant to their interests and experience, and faculty to list opportunities for students to engage in their research or creative work programs.

UROP subscribed to the SOC in Fall 2019, the nation’s largest database of experiential learning opportunities for students, in response to students “looking for a place to explore” research and creative work and to lower the barrier to getting involved in research and creative work activities. This service provides all UHM undergraduate students with access to thousands of nationwide research and creative work positions, journals, conferences, funding sources, and more. The SOC has also allowed UROP to host an internal, campus-specific database where faculty and staff could post local student opportunities. Between September 2019 and August 2022, there were over 2,100 users of the SOC at UHM who conducted ~32,000 searches. Faculty posted 39 student opportunities and UROP staff posted an additional 42 listings.

New Rolling Application Deadline for Presentation Funding!

UROP Presentation Funding applications are now being accepted and reviewed on a rolling deadline throughout the year! Students planning to present at an off-campus venue, such as an in-person or virtual oral or poster presentation, performance, exhibit, competition, etc., no longer have to wait for the first day of each month to submit an application. However, students are strongly encouraged to apply for Presentation Funding three months prior to the event date. For more information on how to apply, visit our website.
Douglas S. Yamamura Scholars

UROP is honored to present the Douglas S. Yamamura Scholarship each semester to outstanding undergraduate students enrolled in any field of study who are engaged in UROP-funded research and creative work projects. This scholarship was established with a generous endowment from the estate of Paul T. Yamamura to support scholarly work at UHM. Each semester, UROP considers all undergraduate project funding applicants for the prestigious Douglas S. Yamamura Scholarship and selects the best STEM and the best non-STEM student or student group, in alternate fashion, to receive the scholarship. In an effort to support continued education of local students, preference is shown to undergraduate students who have graduated from high school in Hawai‘i.

For Fall 2021, the Douglas S. Yamamura Scholarship recipient for a STEM project was Lauryn Liao (Major in Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology). Her project, entitled "PEA-15 as a Therapeutic Target in Melanoma," aims to identify how a protein (phosphoprotein enriched in astrocytes or PEA-15) contributes to cancer cell survival and proliferation. Through her research, Lauryn has identified a new protein that is important in melanoma development and is determining if it can be useful in the development of new treatments or diagnostics to improve survival from the most aggressive forms of melanoma. Lauryn was mentored by Dr. Joe W. Ramos, Interim Director for at the UH Cancer Center.

For Spring 2022, the Douglas S. Yamamura Scholarship recipient for a non-STEM project was Mac Alasdair Uchimura (Major in Classics). Mac’s project, entitled “Pierian Fire: Ancient Epic, Modern Music”, is a concept for a musical interpretation of Statius' Thebaid, which is a Latin epic written around 80 to 90 AD. The musical will deal with interpersonal relationships, nefas (impiety), furor (rage), and fate. Modern music (mostly rock and pop) as well as costume and set sketches will help modern audiences engage with Statius' narrative. Mac was mentored by Dr. Daniel E. Harris-McCoy, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religions and Ancient Civilizations.

"Melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, has demonstrated significant dependence on PEA-15, but it is unclear why or how this occurs. We hope this research contributes to the development of more effective therapeutic treatments for melanoma and offers insight into the role of PEA-15 in other cancers." - Lauryn Liao

With his musical interpretation of Statius’ Thebaid titled “Pierian Fire: Ancient Epic, Modern Music,” Mac hopes “the script and lyrics will breathe new life into ancient words.” - Mac Alasdair Uchimura
UHM Awards Honor Members of the UROP ‘Ohana

Each year, UHM honors the leadership and service of its faculty, staff, and students committed to enhancing the university’s mission of excellence through the UHM Awards. This year, a number of awardees can be found among our own ranks of UROP-affiliated faculty mentors (UROC members and faculty mentors of UROP students) and students (UROP funding recipients). We are pleased to highlight these individuals and their well-deserved recognition.

UROP Faculty Mentors:

Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching
1. Daniel Harris-McCoy, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Religions and Ancient Civilizations, College of Arts, Languages, and Letters
2. Bridget Smith-Konter, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
3. Peiling Kao, Associate Professor, Department of Theater and Dance, College of Arts, Languages, and Letters
4. Wei Zhang, Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences

Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research
1. Rui Sun, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences
2. Brian N. Popp, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
1. Justin Walguarnery, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, College of Natural Sciences

UROP-funded Students:

Student Excellence in Research Award
1. Geetika Patwardhan, Senior Honors Student, John A. Burns School of Medicine

President Citation for Meritorious Teaching
1. Marguerite Butler, Professor, Department of Biology, School of Life Sciences
2. Scott Lozanoff, Professor, Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology, John A. Burns School of Medicine
3. Philip Williams, Professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences

Peter V. Garrod Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award
1. Henrietta Dulai, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences and Graduate Chair in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Graduate Program, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work
1. Tyler Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering (STEM)
2. Stephanie "Lani" Teves, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, College of Social Sciences (non-STEM)

Read more about the 2022 UHM Awards

Congratulations to the UHM awardees!
2022 Faculty Mentoring Grant Recipients

In January 2022, UROP opened the call for proposals for the Faculty Mentoring Grant, which provides faculty mentors with funds to support undergraduate research and creative work projects in the summer. This year, we received 19 proposals requesting a total of $148,351. Thanks to generous support from the Provost's Office and the Mānoa Tuition Scholarship Fund, we were able to provide $77,182 in funding to support 11 projects which, in turn, provided valuable mentorship opportunities to 18 undergraduate students.

1. **Nhu Nguyen**, Associate Professor, Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
2. **Mari Yoshihara**, Professor and Chair, Department of American Studies, College of Arts, Languages and Letters
3. **Sherilyn Kuʻualoha Hoomanawanui**, Professor, Department of English, College of Arts, Languages and Letters
4. **David Haymer**, Professor, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, John A. Burns School of Medicine
5. **Lorinda Riley**, Assistant Professor, Office of Public Health Studies, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health (Co-recipient: Jan Holtge, Postdoctoral Visiting Professor)
6. **Robert Thomson**, Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences, College of Natural Sciences
7. **Jean Thoulag**, Access Services Librarian (Associate Professor), Chair of Access Services Department, Library Services (Co-recipient: Sarah Nakashima, Humanities Librarian, Assistant Professor)
8. **Ty Tengan**, Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, College of Social Sciences (Co-recipient: Kealiʻi Kūkahiko, Lecturer)
9. **Jenee Odani**, Associate Specialist, Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
10. **Christopher Muir**, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, College of Natural Sciences
11. **Wei Wen Su**, Professor, Department of Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

The Request for Proposals for the 2023 Faculty Mentoring Grant will open in early 2023. For updates and more information, visit: go.hawaii.edu/VKs

Congratulations to the Faculty Mentoring Grant Recipients!
Jasmine Reighard.

Writing the UROP grant was fundamental in preparing me for writing for highly competitive fellowships like the NSF where around 13,000 people apply and only 2,000 get it. My advice? Start early. Have everyone you know and their mother read it; but know it's okay to take their feedback subjectively.

Jasmine graduated from UHM with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Spring of 2021. During her time at UHM, she and fellow undergraduate student Shelby Cerwonka received UROP Project funding to support their “green” roof design. Made from a native moss and repurposed marine debris, Jasmine states that the sustainable roof could cool homes, saving the average-sized Hawai’i home an estimated 1,087 kWh annually (in energy used to cool interiors), equivalent to about 1,000 pounds of CO2! The student pair presented their project at the UHM 2021 Spring Undergraduate Showcase, as well as at the 2021 National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Presenting in both a local and national platform helped Jasmine gain valuable scientific communication skills.

Jasmine’s passion for science continued after graduation. She spent Summer 2021 working for the Waiwai Ola Waterkeepers, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing land-based pollutants and improving water quality through the cultivation of Native Hawaiian oysters. She led her own study on the interactive effects of coastal acidification, temperature, and salinity on different growth stages of the native oyster, *Dendostrea sandvicens*, in Kāne’ohe Bay and the Ala Wai Harbor. Jasmine also worked as an assistant researcher at Dr. Jacob L. Johansen’s lab. By Fall 2022, Jasmine will continue with the Johansen Lab at the Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology, where she will begin her Ph.D. program. Jasmine plans to investigate the effects of suspended sediment on the retention and delivery of reef fish functions. Her graduate work will be supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which provides recipients with a 3-year annual stipend of $37,000 and $12,000 cost of education allowance. Jasmine strives to use her research to improve fisheries management and to sustain the livelihoods and identities of islanders, whether it be her family in the Philippines, Native Hawaiians, or the millions of others who depend on the health of their islands’ surrounding waters for economic security, food, and, importantly, joy.
Learn about the programs that helped Jasmine pursue a career in research:

UROP Project Funding: go.hawaii.edu/Qm3

UROP Presentation Funding: go.hawaii.edu/PFG

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program: nsfgrfp.org

Read about the Green Roof project here: go.hawaii.edu/PDm

Waiwai Ola Waterkeepers: waterkeepershi.org

UROC Members Appreciation

We give our thanks to UROC members who have renewed their support for UROP through their reappointment for another three years, beginning Fall 2022: Craig Nelson (Associate Researcher, Department of Oceanography); Scott Groeniger (Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History); Michelle Tallquist (Professor, Department of Medicine); Stuart Donachie (Professor, School of Life Sciences); and A Zachary Trimble (Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering).

We also bid farewell to Lorey Takahashi (Professor, Department of Psychology) and give thanks for serving as UROC member during his six-year term. Finally, we welcome Jonas Vibell (Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology) as he begins his term with UROC.

Mahalo for your service to undergraduate research and creative work!
UROP Student Highlights

We are proud to share success stories from UROP-funded students that have been highlighted in different platforms and venues for their innovation, dedication, and public service to the Hawaiian community and beyond. Congratulations and keep it up!

Discovering ‘Āina-Based Kuleana at UHM

UROP Alumnus Kahealani Acosta was one of four students featured in UHM’s “Finding Our Kuleana” campaign in December 2021. One of her big-picture goals was to produce Hawaiian foods with “organic and regenerative practices” to heal food systems, as reported in UH News. Kahealani found a personal connection with the Hawaiian breadfruit or ‘ulu in learning about its illnesses and finding solutions. As she pursues a Master’s degree in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UHM, she continues her studies of the ‘ulu. Kahealani’s UROP project “Diagnosing Nutrient Deficiencies in Hawaiian Breadfruit” examined and documented the ‘ulu’s nutritional deficiencies to create a visual guide for growers who do not have the time, money, or equipment to do their own nutrient testing.

UROP Alumnus Participates in Inaugural National Cohort as One of Emerging Indigenous Poets

UROP alumnus Kalilinoe Detwiler was selected, including three other UHM students Kristina Togafau, Arielle Lowe, and Ha'ani San Nicholas, to participate in a national event described in UH News as “part of an ongoing movement to mentor and nurture the growth of emerging poets of Indigenous descent.” Kalilinoe and the others participated in an inaugural Indigenous cohort for poetry in Washington D.C. last April. The five-day event organized several writing workshops led by Indigenous authors, including U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. Kalilinoe’s UROP project was “Folklore Across Borders,” whose final product included a 40-page novel, which reflected themes, events, and characters from Kamapua’a’s Mo’olelo (The Legend of Kamapua’a) in a contemporary world, and the first web comic episode as a pilot for the illustrated story.
UROP Yamamura Scholar Bags Society for Classics Studies’ Frank M. Snowden Undergraduate Scholarship

UROP alumnus and UROP Yamamura Scholar, Mac Uchimura, is one of two recipients in the country to receive the Society for Classic Studies' Frank M. Snowden Undergraduate scholarship. Mac, a Classics major, will be using the award to complete a Latin intensive course to better understand ancient text. He aims to be a Classics professor, confessing he first fell in love with classical Greek literature in high school. Mac's UROP project was composing a musical based on the Latin poem *Thebaid*, where he produced songs inspired by the 80's and designed set concepts and costumes.

UROP Alumnus Named 2022 Truman Scholar

UROP alumnus Jessica Lau was selected out of 705 candidates to be one of 58 Truman Scholars for 2022. She has a double major in psychology, human development, and family studies, with minors in peace studies and communicology. Her background in social sciences, passion for mental health, and awareness of cultural dissonance among the youth resulted in her career in education. Jessica's UROP project provided support to the state's Department of Education faculty and staff through a professional development course on increasing the educators' knowledge, confidence, and use of low-intensity strategies to prevent challenging behaviors in the classroom setting.

UROP Alumnus Holds a Show at the UHM Orvis Auditorium

UROP alumnus Tyler Ramos performed at the UHM Orvis Auditorium last May. He has won several top prizes at the Music Teachers National Association piano competition and first place at the Lois Trester piano competition. His UROP project “A Musical Journey - National Competition and Summer Festivals,” explored the difference between a “musician” and an “artist,” which culminated in a solo piano recital. Tyler began his musical journey at the Masaki School of Music in Honolulu and is now aiming for his Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in New York.
UROP alumnus **Krista Rados** was one of 107 college students chosen for the 2022 Dow Jones News Fund internship or what the Dow Jones News Fund refers to as “building the next generation of newsroom leaders.” The interns will participate in paid internships in 77 newsrooms across the country. Krista did her internship with Hawaii News Now, having penned several online articles for the local news agency after receiving her Bachelor’s degree in Journalism. Krista’s UROP project “How to Survive in a News Desert: Ways that Local News Gets Made and Spread with Mobile Technologies on Molokai” surfaced issues on Molokai’s infosphere and on news deserts in general.

**UROC Member Highlight**

Former UROC Member, **Miriam T. Stark** was named by President Joe Biden as one of three archeologists he intends to appoint to serve at the Cultural Property Advisory Committee in the U.S. Department of State. UH News reports on the committee's important role in advising the president on the "UNESCO Convention on illicit exports and transfer of ownership of cultural property," as well as suggesting solutions to prevent global artifacts from being illegally trafficked into the U.S. Congratulations Miriam!

**Congratulations! We’re all proud of you!**
UROP Program Recap & Promotion

Spring 2022 Project Funding Recipients

UROP completed another successful round of Project Funding applications in Spring 2022, with the second highest number of applicants ever for a Spring cycle. A total of 96 students proposed 54 projects. Of the 54 total projects, 34 were individual and 20 were group projects for a total funding request of ~$320k.

UROP funded 35 projects consisting of 65 students (26 individuals and 9 groups) at a total sum of $196,652.42. This put the funding acceptance rate at 63%, compared to 54%, 59%, and 81% in the previous 3 academic years. We look forward to seeing what our UROP-funded students discover and create, as we continue to fund undergraduate research and creative work throughout campus. Click here to learn more about UROP Project Funding!

Summary of applications:
- A total of 96 students proposed 54 projects (34 individual and 20 group projects)
- 96 total students applied
- ~$320k funding requested
- Students categorized their projects in the following disciplines:
  - Arts & Humanities - 6
  - Natural Sciences - 33
  - Engineering & Computer Sciences - 6
  - Social Sciences - 9

Undergraduate Showcase Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

The on-campus Undergraduate Showcase events are an opportunity for UHM undergraduate students to present the results of their faculty-mentored research and creative work projects to their peers, faculty, and the general public. UROP partners with the Honors Program to hold these events during each Fall and Spring semester to provide opportunities for undergraduates to practice their presentation skills and solicit feedback on their projects.

The Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Undergraduate Showcase were both virtual events, which began in Spring 2020 when the pandemic forced most, if not all, in-person events to go online. In Fall 2021, the event was held on December 10, with 20 student presenters, 17 of which were UROP-funded students. In Spring 2022, the event was held on April 29, with 97 student presenters, 64 of which were UROP-funded students. The Fall 2022 Undergraduate Showcase will continue to be online. Read more about the Undergraduate Showcase event.

Fall 2022 Student Funding Opportunities

UROP invites students conducting or planning to conduct faculty-mentored research or creative work to submit a proposal for UROP’s Project Funding, which provides funding to cover eligible materials, supplies, travel, stipend, and other associated costs. Individuals can apply for up to $5,000 in funding and up to $10,000 for groups (2-10 applicants)! UROP’s Fall 2022 Project Funding application cycle opens 9/9/22 and closes on 10/10/22 at 5pm.

UROP also invites early-career students to submit applications for UROP’s Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) Funding, which provides a stipend of $1,500 per semester or $3,000 for 2 consecutive semesters. UROP’s Fall 2022 ERC Funding application cycle opens 9/20/22 and closes on 10/20/22 at 5pm. Students from ALL DISCIPLINES are encouraged to apply!
2022 SURE Program and Symposium

After hosting the annual Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program online for the last two summers, **UROP held this year's SURE Program in a hybrid format (in person and via Zoom)** from June 2 to July 29, 2022. SURE, a free 9-week program that provides supplementary infrastructure to undergraduate students conducting faculty-mentored research and creative work at UHM during the summer, offers weekly professional development modules on topics such as responsible conduct of research, writing resumes and cover letters, exploring and applying to graduate school, etc. This year, UROP also introduced a new professional development module on how undergraduate students can take advantage of the free citation management software Zotero via a hands-on training session.

The 2022 SURE Program had 121 student participants and culminated with the SURE Symposium on July 29, where 88 undergraduate students showcased their works across 73 student presentations in a professional, yet relaxed environment and received feedback from fellow students, faculty, and the community. As a hybrid event, oral sessions were held both in person and via Zoom at the Kuykendall Hall classrooms while the poster session was held in person at the newly renovated Campus Center Ballroom (which was filled with students excited to showcase their works in person and cheering everyone on!). Students, faculty mentors, and guests joined from four different U.S. time zones stretching from Hawai‘i to the Midwest and the Southeast. **Combining 88 student presenters and ~121 registered guests, a total of ~209 people attended the SURE Symposium.** Students represented 33 different majors and delivered 54 poster and 19 oral presentations, spanning topics such as stimulus and learning in honeybees, the use of gelatin to understand magma intrusions and promote the geosciences, and the comparison of synchronous and asynchronous learning formats for educators, among others.

We are grateful to all those who continue to support undergraduate research and creative work activities on our campus. We thank volunteers for their generosity with their time and energy, staff for their tireless effort, 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 all of you! Learn more about SURE from the **UROP** and **UH News** websites.
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Research Internship Program

UROP is excited to announce a newly established relationship with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Graduate University. OIST is a graduate school in Japan offering research internship opportunities to bachelor’s and master’s students in STEM fields from all over the world. The OIST research internship program would like to receive applications from students who are in the final two years of their bachelor’s or master’s programs. Internships can start and end at any time of the year, with a duration of two to six months.

Interns will work under the supervision of a faculty mentor, where they can work in a laboratory setting or learn specific techniques. Highlights of what the internship offers include opportunities to network with OIST world-class scientists, access to OIST state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, attendance to talks by leading experts, a chance to explore what life is like as a research scientist, and more!

The deadline to apply is a month away (October 15, 2022) and applications from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged. Successful applicants will be provided with an internship allowance, commuting allowance, travel expenses, free housing, and more. Education at OIST is conducted entirely in English and OIST strongly encourages applicants from UHM to apply. Learn more about the OIST Research Internship Program.

Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE)

PACE is a resource center at UH that is dedicated to spurring entrepreneurial and innovative activities across the UH System. The Center’s 15+ menu of FREE programs are designed to inspire and empower students to be changemakers and innovative problem-solvers. Students are encouraged to pursue their passions to create meaningful impact by accessing a set of FREE and experiential program offerings that include mentorship, training and resources.

In Fall 2022, the Center will be hosting an array of activities, including the UH Breakthrough Innovation Challenge, PACE Day at Campus Center, and Entrepreneurship Live.

Learn more about PACE: Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship | Entrepreneurship Hawaii