

## President's Undergraduate Research Award - Information



Dr. Karen Harwell

Director, Undergraduate Research

<http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu>

## What is PURA?

- Competitive funding for undergraduate research
- Opportunity for one-on-one work with faculty mentor and/or with research team
- 2 components:
  - Up to \$1,500 salary awards to student/faculty teams for student's hourly wages (approx. 150 hours)
  - Up to \$1,000 travel grants to present research work at national and international professional conferences
- Approximately 200 competitive awards per year, 3 periods (Fall, Spring, Summer semesters)

## Requirements

- Undergraduate Student in Good Standing (GPA > 2.0)
- Register for the free, audit 2698 or 4698 (Research Assistantship) in school of mentor
- Faculty mentor is required; or GTRI research scientist
- Course credit (for a grade) is not allowed for the same project funded by PURA
- One salary award per academic year (summer, fall, spring)
- Travel awards can be granted within the same academic year

## Step 1: CONNECT

- **Find a faculty mentor**
  - Talk to a professor whose class interested you
  - Visit the web sites of faculty – find 2-3 whose work interests you
  - Talk to your Undergraduate Coordinator or academic advisor – he or she may be able to steer you towards specific professors to speak with
- **Develop a project**
  - Typically, suitable for 1 semester of work  
*or*
  - Discuss a longer term project in which your PURA semester is one of several terms (some for credit some for pay)

## Step 2: WRITE

### SALARY AWARD

- Complete a proposal on what you want to research (minimum of one page)
- Meet in person with faculty mentor to discuss project and proposal
- Student writes proposal
- **QUALITY**

## Step 2: WRITE, cont'd

### SALARY AWARD, cont'd

- Things to include in proposal:
  - Overview of proposed work
  - Objective and goals for the semester
  - Related work and any background you know about project
  - Methods and techniques to be used, software to be used or developed, types of media or resources to be used
  - How any past research in the same area that you participated in relates to this work
  - Location of work if not at Georgia Tech
  - Name of any co-mentor who is a graduate student or post-doc
  - If the project is within an undergraduate team setting describe your individual role and how it relates to the project as a whole

## Step 2: WRITE, cont'd

### TRAVEL AWARD

- Complete an Abstract
- Things to include in proposal:
  - Overview of the work to be presented
  - Information on presentation – conference name, locations, dates
  - Format of presentation (oral or poster)
  - Cost estimates (registration fee, airfare, hotel, food, rental car (if needed), etc.)
  - Cost-sharing available or applied for

## Step 3: APPLY

- Submit an application online at:  
<http://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/funding.php>  
  
(Read instructions carefully!)
- Email from faculty mentor required (include info in application on any graduate student or post-doc mentoring)
- Criteria for evaluating applications
  - **PROPOSAL, PROPOSAL, PROPOSAL**
  - Participation in Research Option
  - Past research
  - GPA & class standing
  - Past PURA award status

## Step 3: APPLY, cont'd

- Applications for Spring 2008
  - Due October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Both application form and faculty email due same day
  - Awards announced week of November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Summer 2008 Applications (watch website)
  - Due March 3rd
- Fall 2008 Applications
  - Due May 19<sup>th</sup>

## Step 4: RESEARCH

- Work toward your research goals and objectives
- Meet often with your faculty mentor for direction
- Only stupid question is one that isn't asked!
- Get to know the graduate students and post-docs in your lab – they will be great resources, as will upper-level undergraduate students

## Step 4: RESEARCH, cont'd

- **Final report** due last day of finals of semester
  - Submit report online at PURA website
  - Report should be at a minimum 2 pages – longer reports are accepted and desired
  - Report should be written by student
  - Online survey evaluation the experience
- Reports for both travel and salary awards

## Contact Us!

**Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program**  
<http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu>

Dr. Karen Harwell  
Director, Undergraduate Research  
404-385-7325  
[Karen.harwell@carnegie.gatech.edu](mailto:Karen.harwell@carnegie.gatech.edu)