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URC TO OFFER NEW UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRADUATION DISTINCTION

As stated in the Quest for Student Success 2025, MTSU is committed to graduating students "who are prepared to thrive professionally, committed to critical inquiry and life-long learning, and engaged as civically, globally responsible citizens." In order to achieve this goal, the University seeks to provide each student with a distinctive learning experience that lays the foundation for his or her own student success, life-long learning, and civic engagement.

The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) aligns with this strategic path by providing students with opportunities to engage in mentored research during which faculty lead, guide, and engage students in intellectual pursuits. Our goal is to promote mentored research at the undergraduate level, and provide university support for students and faculty members who engage in critical inquiry and life-long learning.

We would like to recognize students who participate in undergraduate research and creative activity with a graduation distinction. To achieve this designation, students must meet the proposed criteria and submit an application to receive the designation. See page 3 for criteria and distinction requirements.

URC'S MISSION

The Undergraduate Research Center's (URC) mission is to be the central hub for communication about undergraduate research grant programs and other related opportunities on and off campus, to distribute university funds for undergraduate research and creative projects, and to promote dissemination of results through travel grants and by offering opportunities for students to present their research findings.

save the date

2ND ANNUAL URECA LUNCHEON

FEATURING
KETCH SECOR

OF OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW
- DISTINGUISHED LECTURE -
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK

20 APRIL 2021 • 11:30 AM
KUC THEATER



Sponsored by
MTSU's Distinguished Lecture Fund
and the
Student Organization for the
Advancement of Research

The URC is excited to welcome Ketch Secor to MTSU as the distinguished lecturer for our 2nd Annual URECA luncheon.

For the last twenty years, multi-instrumentalist **Ketch Secor** has been front man and fiddler for **Old Crow Medicine Show**. Described variously as alt-country, folk, and mountain music revivalists, Old Crow is an American roots string band with punk rock attitude and energy.

Born Jay Ketcham Miller Secor, Ketch attended New Hampshire's prestigious **Phillips Exeter Academy** on scholarship. There, he learned to play banjo and fell in love with Bob Dylan. One of the Dylan songs Ketch discovered was a snippet entitled "Rock Me Mama," an outtake from a 1973 Dylan recording session in Burbank, California. Homesick for Virginia, Ketch expanded upon the song, adding verses about long New England winters and hitchhiking south. That song, **later co-copyrighted with Dylan, became "Wagon Wheel" – Old Crow's signature song**, released in 2004, and a No. 1 country hit for Darius Rucker in 2013.

After Phillips Exeter, Ketch attended **Ithaca College** where he immersed himself in the local old-time music scene, officially forming Old Crow. In 1999, the band settled in a backwoods cabin near the college town of Boone, North Carolina. There, busking on a street corner, they were discovered by bluegrass-folk-country-blues legend Doc Watson, who invited them to participate in his annual MerleFest music festival. "That gig," Ketch would later say, "changed our lives." The group moved to Nashville and began recording with labels Nettwerk, ATO Records, and eventually Columbia Nashville.

Old Crow Medicine Show became members of the **Grand Ole Opry** on September 17, 2013. That same year, they received the Trailblazer Award from the Americana Music Association and, two years later, won the **2015 GRAMMY Award for Best Folk Album** with their LP, *Remedy*. Known for his interest in Appalachian history and musicology, Ketch recently wrote a **children's book, *Lorraine*** – his retelling of a Southern folktale, interwoven with the power of music.

Ketch is also heavily featured in **Ken Burns' documentary *Country Music***.

Tickets for this event will be limited to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Sign up information will be released on March 1. The event will also be live streamed to the MTSU Community.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRADUATION DISTINCTION



LEVELS OF RECOGNITION

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue, and white cord

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

- Students receive a dark blue, light blue and white cord
AND a medallion

DISTINCTION CRITERIA

Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of an Assistant level URECA project - 50 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Letter of support from URECA faculty mentor.

Scholar Distinction in Undergraduate Research

*Students must fulfill all requirements

- 1 Successful completion of a Scholar level URECA project - 100 hours of research or more.
- 2 Poster presentation or creative performance at one of the URC's signature events: Fall Open House, Scholars Week or Summer Research Celebration.
- 3 Active participation for at least one academic year in the Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).
- 4 Poster or presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 5 Letter of support from URECA faculty mentor.

Application for graduation distinction will be available on March 1.



SCHOLARS WEEK 2021

Scholars Week 2021 will take place from April 12-16 and will showcase a variety of in-person and virtual events at the college and university levels as we celebrate MTSU's commitment to research, creative activity, and scholarship. Events will be posted to our [website](#) as soon as they are confirmed so check back regularly.

Our annual **Research and Creative Activity Exposition** will include a live poster session on Friday, April 14, in the Student Union, Ballroom C. Presenter and attendee spaces will be limited to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions. Details regarding creative performances are still being finalized. We will also host a virtual poster session from April 12-23, 2021 via Symposium. Abstract submission details and deadlines will be posted very soon!

THANK YOU to the 2021 Scholars Week Committee

Eric Oslund, Chair, *Elementary and Special Education, College of Education*

Jamie Burriss, *Office of Research and Sponsored Programs*

Ashleigh McKenzie, *Sociology and Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts*

Chandra Story, *Health & Human Performance, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences*

Christina Cobb, *University Studies, University College*

Dan Smith, *Political Economy Research Institute*

David Butler, *Vice Provost of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies*

Dawn McCormack, *Graduate Studies, Graduate Studies*

Mary Ellen Sloane, *Library, James E. Walker Library*

Jette Halladay, *Theatre and Dance, College of Liberal Arts*

Joshua Aaron, *Wright Chair of Entrepreneurship, Jones College of Business*

Laura Clippard, *Honors College, Honors College*

Lu Xiong, *Mathematical Sciences, College of Basic and Applied Sciences*

Matthew Duncan, *University Studies, University College*

Meg Brooker, *Theatre and Dance, College of Liberal Arts*

Stephanie Barrette, *News and Media Relations, Marketing and Communications*

David Foster, *Marketing, Marketing and Communications*

Rebecca Seipelt, *Biology, College of Basic and Applied Sciences*

Saeed Foroundastan, *Engineering Technology, College of Basic and Applied Sciences*

Stacy Fields, *Elementary and Special Education, College of Education*

Will Langston, *Psychology, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences*

Alyson Lischka, *Mathematical Sciences, College of Basic and Applied Sciences*

Kevin Krahenbuhl, *Womack Educational Leadership, College of Education*

Misty Jones Simpson, *Recording Industry, College of Media and Entertainment*

Jeff Gibson, *Theatre and Dance, College of Liberal Arts*

Casey Pentson, *Office of Research and Sponsored Programs*

Jeff Porter, *Office of Research and Sponsored Programs*

FEATURED SOAR STUDENT JEWEL GALLOWAY

Major: Biology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Wright

Current Research Focus: Investigating the Plant Growth Promoting and Bio-control Activities of Bacillus Endophytes

Project Description: Endophytes are microbes that colonize the internal tissues of plants and have been increasingly recognized as contributing to safe, efficient alternatives to toxic fertilizers and pesticides in modern agriculture. During the fall 2019, I conducted a pilot greenhouse pot experiment evaluating the effects of Bacillus endophytes on plant growth. I now aim to discover the possible mechanisms used by these endophytes to promote plant growth. This includes nutrient acquisition enhancement as well as antagonism against widespread plant pathogens.

Why does this topic interest you?

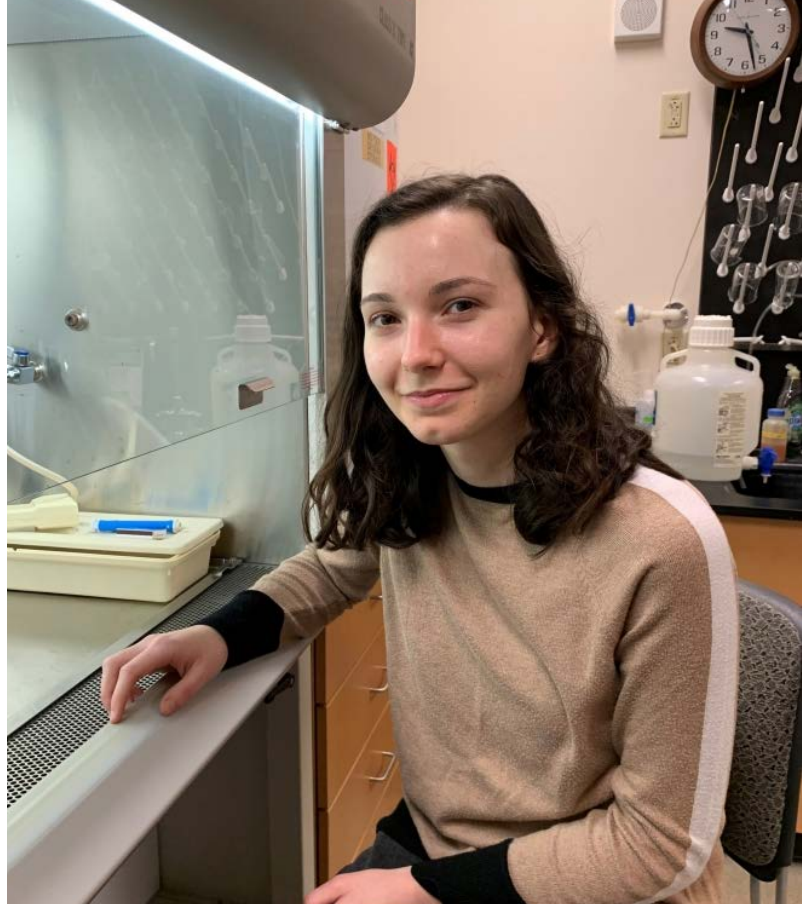
I am interested in the role of microbes in solving global environmental problems.

What are your professional aspirations?

I plan to get a PhD and pursue a career in environmental research with an emphasis on microbiology.

Do you have any advice for future researchers?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Realize that everything won't go according to plan and you will have to adjust. Become comfortable with reading literature surrounding your research interests early.



SOAR ABOVE

Students committed to developing and sustaining an active research environment at MTSU can now join the new Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR).

Why join?

- Workshops and training to increase collaboration and skill-building
- Assistance to prepare poster presentations and develop abstracts for national conferences
- Facilitation of travel to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research
- Peer mentoring for students new to undergraduate research

Showcase your scholarly work at annual events open to students:

- MTSU Summer Research Celebration
- Fall Undergraduate Research Open House
- Posters at the Capitol
- Scholars Week

TRUE HEIGHTS • mtsu.edu/soar

INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the following opportunities for summer research !

- **2021 Meharry Cancer Summer Undergraduate Research program (for undergrads in biomedicine) | Deadline February 5, 2021**
- **2021 Virtual Summer Internships, Poster House | Deadline February 5, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Chemistry, West Virginia University | Deadline February 5, 2021**
- **2021 Research Internships in Ocean Sciences, Rutgers University | Deadline February 7, 2021**
- **Arctic REU Greenland, Concord University | Deadline February 7, 2021**
- **Undergraduate Summer Research Internship, Center for Precision Medicine, Wake Forest School of Medicine | Deadline February 8, 2021**
- **2021 Robots in the Real World REU, Oregon State University | Deadline February 10, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Mathematics, CSU San Bernardino | Deadline February 11, 2021**
- **Native American Research Internship, University of Utah (for third- and fourth-year Native American undergraduates in biomedicine or health sciences) | Deadline February 12, 2021**
- **2021 REU in New Generation Resilient Infrastructure, Virginia Tech | Deadline February 12, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Agronomy, Rainfed Agricultural Innovation Network, Kansas State University | Deadline February 12, 2021**
- **NSF BIT SURE REU, North Carolina State University Biotechnology Program | Deadline February 14, 2021**
- **2021 REU, Shannon Point Marine Center, Western Washington University | Deadline February 14, 2021**
- **2021 Alcohol Research Training Summer School and Internship, University of Missouri | Deadline February 15, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Climate Change Science, UNC Asheville | Deadline February 15, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Astrophysics, West Virginia University | Deadline February 15, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Microbiology, University of Iowa | Deadline February 15, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Nuclear Physics, Old Dominion University/Jefferson Laboratory | Deadline February 19, 2021**
- **2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Molecular Visualization, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Virginia Tech | Deadline February 21, 2021**
- **2021 Undergraduate Summer Research Internship, Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program, Virginia Tech | Deadline February 22, 2021**
- **Summer 2021 National Security Undergraduate Intern—Computing and Analytics, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory | Deadline February 26, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Statistical Modeling with Applications to Geoscience, Florida Tech | Deadline March 1, 2021**
- **Mellon Scholars Program and Mellon Scholars Summer Workshop (for advanced undergraduates), Program in African American History, The Library Company of Philadelphia | Deadline March 1, 2021**
- **2021 REU in Robotics, West Virginia University | Deadline March 12, 2021**
- **Medical Student Research Program Internship, Van Andel Institute | Rolling reviews in March 2021**
- **2021 Summer Internships, Transportation Security Laboratory, US Dept. of Homeland Security | No application deadline listed.**



CBAS Graduate Research Showcase

Invited Research Talks by MTSU Graduate Students Highlighting
Research Success and Diversity Across CBAS

Friday, February 5th
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

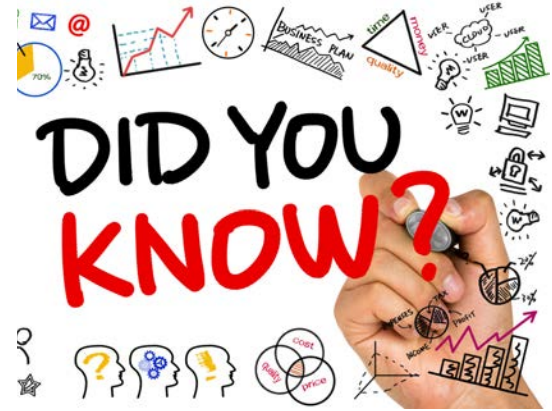
Free and Open to Students,
Faculty, and the Public.

Zoom Link: [Click Here to Join](#)
Passcode: 763164

M.S. Programs:
Actuarial and Financial
Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry,
Computer Science, Geoscience,
Horse Science, Mathematics

Ph.D Programs:
Computational Science,
Molecular Biosciences,
Mathematics and Science
Education

Organized by the CBAS Research Committee. Contact
Alyson.Lischka@mtsu.edu



STUDENTS! Are you presenting at a virtual conference this spring and would like assistance in paying for your registration fee? The URC can help!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Summer URECA Application
Deadline: March 25, 2021

The Undergraduate Research Center strives to support students in dissemination of their research. Undergraduates who are accepted to present their research at a regional, state, national, or international conference are eligible to receive financial assistance for registration fees.

Awarded travel funds are payable on a reimbursable basis only.

Please contact Wendi.Watts@mtsu.edu for more information.



questions or comments?
We welcome them!

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