

# Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal

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## Honors Corner

Inquiry Editors

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## *Honors Corner*

Just before publication this semester, we learned of the Fall 2022 SURF results! The Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) is awarded by the state of Arkansas, and our students compete against others from universities across the state. 32 students won SURF grants this year, including 31 honors students. Winners represent all six colleges and 22 departments. Their research spans a diverse array of topics, including the gentrification of secondary cities in the US, southern stereotypes in young adult literature, and harmful algal blooms. In addition to the 32 SURF awards, the Honors College awarded the Honors College Research Grant to 95 honors students.

Julianna Kantner, a senior studying International Studies, was awarded a SURF grant for her project on expanding volunteer effectiveness in refugee resettlement. Julianna also received an Honors College Research Grant last year for her research.



*Julianna Kantner, front, helping furnish an apartment for a refugee family who will soon arrive in Northwest Arkansas. Julianna's research focuses on Canopy NWA, a local refugee resettlement nonprofit.*

Stephen Pierson, a senior in Mechanical Engineering, received an Honors College Research Team Grant last year for his work on alternative solar-powered 3D printing for space

mission use. Stephen just received a SURF for his honors research project, “Characterizing the Effects of Geometry and Manufacturing Technique on the Cooling Efficiency of Microchannel Heat Sinks.”



*Stephen Pierson working in Dr. Han Hu’s mechanical engineering lab. Here Stephen is testing the light source collimator prototype for the solar simulator.*

Honors research is one of the most important academic experiences students have at the university. Research prepares students for what comes after college, whether that’s a graduate or professional school or a career. By pursuing such a unique experience, students build important skills for their resumes that are transferable to any post-graduation goal. Research provides additional opportunities for students, including conference presentations, grants, and nationally competitive awards. Through their research endeavors, students are able to form meaningful relationships with faculty, an invaluable boost to their academic pursuits.

### **Interested in starting your honors research?**

- Find out what is required for research by your college. Go to the honors website for your academic college and read the information there regarding the honors thesis. These links are also available at [honorshub.uark.edu](http://honorshub.uark.edu), under the Research tab.
- Collect information and examples of research in your major. Visit [honorsstories.uark.edu](http://honorsstories.uark.edu) to read dozens of blogs written by students about their research. Talk to your professors or graduate assistants about what research typically looks like in your discipline.
- Consider what topics in your field interest you. Remember, you don't need a specific research question at this point! Just start narrowing down your interests.
- Look into what faculty are researching. You will ask a faculty member to be your mentor whose research expertise aligns with your interests. Visit the departmental website for your major and/or closely related fields. Google the name of your department and "UARK" to find the departmental website. Then go to the faculty directory and click on their names to see their profiles.
- Seek out additional help! The Research tab on [honorshub.uark.edu](http://honorshub.uark.edu) has more information on finding a research topic and a mentor. Keep an eye out for workshops on these topics and more! You can also schedule a 1:1 meeting with the Director of Grants and Research Innovation, Chelsea Hodge, on [UASuccess](mailto:UASuccess) for additional guidance.