How To Find Funded Summer Research

Elizabeth Colucci
Honors College
What do we mean by “undergraduate research”?

- Design, Create, Discover
  - Faculty supervision
  - Research in labs
  - Creative design activities
  - Scholarly studies
- Goes beyond the classroom
  - Active learning
  - Not just lab coats
Why Do Research

*Educational Benefits Include:*
- Working closely with a faculty mentor
- Learning about issues, methods, and leaders in students' chosen fields
- Applying concepts learned in coursework to "real life" situations
- Sharpening problem-solving skills
- Learn to read primary literature
Why Do Research

Professional Benefits Include:

- Exploring and preparing for future careers
- Developing marketable skills
- Enhancing professional communication skills
- Collaborating with others and working effectively as part of a team
Why Do Research

- **Personal Benefits Include:**
  - Growing as a critical, analytical, and independent thinker
  - Meeting challenges and demonstrating the ability to complete a project
  - Discovering personal interests
  - Developing internal standards of excellence
How Do You Find An On Campus Research Position?

- Talk to professors
- Honorable Mention
- Talk with other people in departments
- Explore the "Research opportunities" section of the Centre for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (CURCA) website
- Attend or participate in the Celebration of Academic Excellence – April 12th 12:00 CFA
- Apply for Honors College Research and Creativity Funding
- Register for a research-oriented course
UB Summer Research Opportunities

- ADHD Summer Treatment Program
  - Summit Educational

- Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute Summer Program
UB Summer Research Opportunities

- Roswell Park Cancer Institute Summer Program
- The CLIMB UP for Summer Research at UB
- Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies in Biomedical Sciences
- ERIE IGERT REU
UB Summer Programs

- [http://cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep.html](http://cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep.html)
  - Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
    - Shanna Crump-Owens, Director
      222 Norton Hall, 645–2002
    - sicrump@buffalo.edu
  - LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation)
    - Dr. Letitia Thomas
      255 Capen Hall, 645–7301
    - lthomas@buffalo.edu
  - McNair Scholars Program
    - Dr. Susan Ott, Director
      220 Norton Hall, 645–5478
    - sjott@buffalo.edu
Externally Funded Research Opportunities

- **National Science Foundation– Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)** - Institute for Broadening Participation
  - Astronomical Sciences
  - Atmospheric Sciences
  - Biological Sciences
  - Chemistry
  - Computer and Information Science and Engineering
  - Department of Defense (DoD)
  - Earth Sciences
  - Education and Human Resources
  - Engineering
  - Ethics and Values Studies
  - International Science and Engineering
  - Materials Research
  - Mathematical Sciences
  - Ocean Sciences
  - Physics
  - Polar Programs
  - Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
Federally Funded

- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- NASA
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Naval Research
- ORISE
Many NASA labs have openings, most are due January 31

http://intern.nasa.gov/
Department of Energy

- Look at the labs:
  - Sandia National Laboratory
  - Idaho National Laboratory
  - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
  - Los Alamos National Laboratory
  - Argonne National Laboratory

- [http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/application/default.htm](http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/application/default.htm)
How Can I Find an Experience?

- PIVOT
- http://fundingopps.cos.com
- www.science.gov/internships
- http://www.webguru.neu.edu/
Get organized!
Follow directions and pay attention to the guidelines (especially deadlines)
Demonstrate strong writing skills
Your application reflects care (attention to detail, editing, completeness) (For tips and assistance with writing, check out UB’s Writing Place http://tlc.buffalo.edu/lcwrite.htm)
Focus your personal statement (reveal your interest in and motivation for research)
Have strong letters of reference (be sure to contact references early and provide them with your information)
Your application reflects your interest in the field of research
Your professional goals are in line with program guidelines
What should be in statements of purpose?

- Why you want to do research in general
- Why these projects? What’s interesting in them to you?
- What’s your background (give context for why you are interested).
- Do NOT cut and paste from their website, or give generic platitudes about how wonderful they or you are.
Where to get help:

- Fellowship website
  [www.fellowships.buffalo.edu](http://www.fellowships.buffalo.edu)
Letters of Recommendation

- Faculty over TA’s
- Ask EARLY
- Provide a list of the programs, what you find interesting at the REU and a copy of your resume.
Time Line for Summer Research

- **November** – applications become available
- **Winter Break** – research, visit, prepare
- **February** – applications due
- **May – August** – 7–10 week experience
Pay/Stipend/Travel/$$$$$$$$$$$$

- Stipends $1,000–$6,000
- Room/board/travel
- Conference presentation

- Wonderful experience for graduate school admission
Questions?