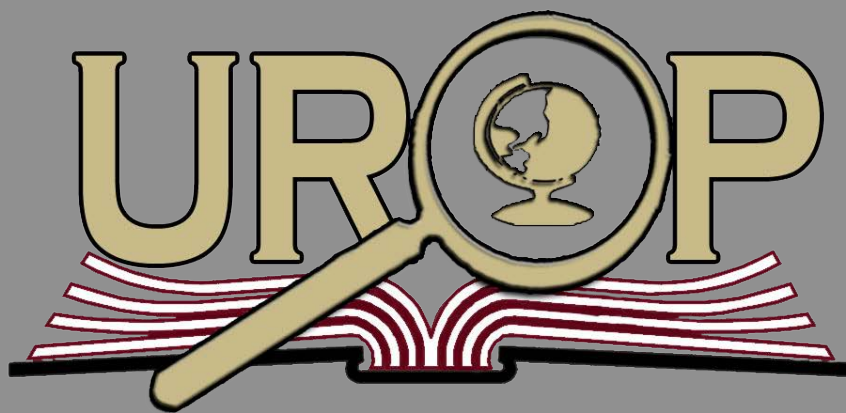




# UROP Leaders 2017-2018



Florida State University  
Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement  
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program



## 2017-2018 UROP Leaders

Michael Advent  
Luis Andrade  
Natali Andres  
David Balbuena  
Mackenzie Bell  
Olivia Bockler  
Alexandra Brockdorf  
Bailey Brogdon  
Lauren Brown  
Talise Burton  
Allison Cantrell  
Karla Cerritos  
Carolena  
Charalambous  
Kirsten Christensen  
Shannon Conley  
Fritz Cuaboy  
Carolyn Dang  
Ashley Dawdy  
Samantha Del Rey  
Taylor Foor  
Joselyn Foster

Grace Garratt  
Jacob Goldstein-  
Greenwood  
Collin Goldstein  
Julia Ylan Gorday  
Megan Grenville  
Marissa Guedes  
Megan Hoadley  
Shannon Hodgson  
Kaitlyn Huetteman  
Abigail Irwin  
Sarahane Joanem  
Caitlyn Kelly  
Reef Landrum  
Lauren McGarry  
Kimberlee McMillin  
Laura Miller  
Matthew Murray  
Brandon Osowski  
Allison Overholt  
Benjamin Pifer  
Shayshari Potter

Hannah Powell  
Claire Riley  
Fernando Ritzinger  
Allison Rodabaugh  
Edda Rodriguez  
Alyssa Rogers  
Sophie Rottenberg  
Scarlett Roy  
Shanava Saintolien  
Savannah Savadel  
Ian Schlender  
Federico Rey Simon  
Courtney Simoncelli  
Rachel Smith  
Jake Sukienik  
Gemma Sunnergren  
Taylor Tischhauser  
Edward Whitaker  
John Wilcox  
Christine Wright

Some responses have been edited for length and/or clarity.

## M. David Advent



**Class of 2019**

**Major:** English Literature and International Affairs

**Research Project:**

I'm currently conducting my Honors in the Major Thesis on a geocritical analysis of 19th Century British Literature, specifically focusing on analyzing Foucault's theory of "heterotopia" in Thomas Hardy's novels.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to inspire in my students the same passion and drive that I have for research, for research has a plurality of tangible benefits. Ultimately, I hope that my students not only gain a better understanding of their own academic interests through participating in UROP but also of themselves

## Luis Andrade



**Class of 2018**

**Major:** Creative Writing and Anthropology

**Research Project:**

I am currently conducting personal research on the Ojibwe, Caribbean, Persian, and Central Asian cultures to write a series of short stories set in a present day fantasy world. My goal with this research is to give ethnic minorities representation in a popular genre where they are typically either victimized or exoticized.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP leader I hope to guide my students and encourage a desire for knowledge. When I first came to FSU I wanted to do research but did not have the tools or the network to do so the way students of other majors do. I want to help shape the way these students think so that they may be successful in whatever they choose to do.

## Natali Andres



**Class of 2018**

**Major:** Creative Writing and Anthropology

**Research Project:**

I am currently conducting personal research into Ojibwe, Caribbean, Persian, and Central Asian cultures to write a series of short stories set in a present day fantasy world.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP leader I hope to guide my students and encourage a desire for knowledge. When I first came to FSU I wanted to do research but did not have the tools or the network to do so the way students of other majors do. Creative students need more encouragement and guidance to go into research as our methods are often very different from those in STEM or Social Sciences. I want to help shape the way these students think so that they may be successful in whatever they choose to do.

## David Balbuena



**Major:** Mechanical Engineering & Applied Math  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I have been working in the Scansorial and Terrestrial Robotics and Integrated Design Lab since 2014, and my research interests are in dynamical systems and controls.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to affect my students by supporting them through their first research experience.

## Mackenzie Bell



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I recently finished working on a psychology research project involving how marijuana affects the brain.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to help students to learn more about research in a university setting and to learn more about how research is conducted outside student coursework.

Undergraduate research was an important experience in my academic career and I hope to help other undergraduate students obtain and maintain a research position, in order to determine whether or not they wish to pursue more research in the future.

## Olivia Rose



**Major:** Psychology  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I research the neurobiological underpinnings of hyperkinetic disorders, with a primary focus on Tourette's syndrome, sensorimotor gating, and neuroimaging technology. My honors thesis aims to establish a neural correlate of Tourette's syndrome in mu-frequency neural oscillations in the sensorimotor cortex, as well as assess the P50 event-related potential in response to a paired-click task.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

I see the most incredible potential and curiosity in my fellow 'Noles. As a UROP leader, I hope to expose some of FSU's most inquisitive, creative minds to the exhilarating world of research, and help them unlock their potential as some of the world's future experts in a diverse range of fields.

## Alex Brockdorf



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Biology and Sociology  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

I am conducting research in the Psychology Department, primarily studying eating disorders. A major focus of our work is examining biological and individual risk factors that may contribute to the development of disordered eating. I also recently defended my honors thesis which investigated associations between approach motivation, shame, and disordered eating.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP allowed me to become involved in research during my first semester here at Florida State. UROP offered the tools and resources that helped me feel confident and prepared. This has opened the door for future research and campus opportunities that I would otherwise not have been exposed to, including Global Scholars and Honors in the Major.

## Bailey Brogdon



**Major:** Biochemistry  
**Minor:** Biology and Mathematics  
**Class of 2018**

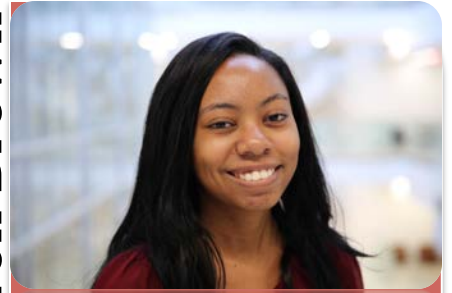
### **Research Project:**

I am currently researching under Dr. Brad Cox in the College of Education. Our research focuses on students with disabilities in higher education and how we can provide better services to help these students succeed. We are currently working on publishing our paper in the Journal of Higher Education.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP Leader I hope to engage my students and ignite their passion in research. Through the course they learn about all the facets of research, however I cannot teach a student how to be passionate. Therefore by understanding the basics, they will learn to love and appreciate research.

## Lauren Brown



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

My research is in Mental Health Literacy Among College-Aged Students. My study aims to explore students' ability to access credible online resources, recognize patterns of mental health disorders within themselves and peers, and identify appropriate help seeking alternatives.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP leader I hope to instill in my students the sense of pride and confidence that UROP instilled in me as a former UROP student. I hope to show my students that even though they are undergraduate students they can and will contribute great things through their research to the university. I hope to show them just how important they are not only as students of UROP, but as potential future researchers at Florida State.

## Talise Burton



**Major:** Creative Writing  
**Minor:** Entrepreneurship  
**Class of 2018**

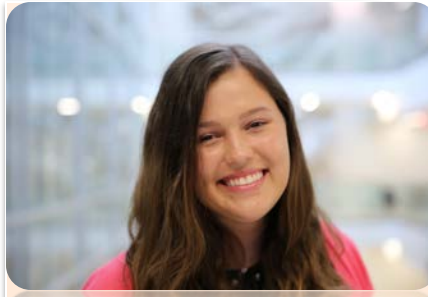
### **Research Project:**

I am developing a Creative Entrepreneurship course for FSU humanities and entrepreneurship students. This year I am creating a course description, course assignments, and designing a draft syllabus with the intention of having the course ready to enroll by Fall 2018.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to express to my students that participating in research is not as overwhelming or daunting as it may seem. I hope to prepare them with the skills and confidence to succeed as an undergraduate researcher and encourage them to continue with research in the future. I also want to provide a fun, creative and nurturing environment where my students will feel able to have open discussions with their fellow students.

## Allison Cantrell



**Major:** Economics and International Affairs  
**Minor:** Spanish  
**Class of 2019**

### **Research Project:**

Allison's current research is in international development focusing on Brexit. She is also a member of the Student Council for Undergraduate Research as a Undergraduate Research Ambassador and holds membership in Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

Being involved in UROP my freshman year gave me professional experience that I was able to transfer into the working world through internships. Because of UROP, I am passionate about research and how it is used to help make the world a better place, and I hope to inspire in my students the same passion and excitement that research inspires in me.

## Karla Cerritos



**Major:** IMS-Clinical Professions  
**Class of 2019**

### **Research Project:**

I was working in Dr. Ren's lab and her current research is to determine the role of myelin laden macrophages in spinal cord injuries and how it can be treated in the cellular level. Currently, I am not in a research lab but I plan join one by the spring semester.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has opened so many doors for me in a way that no other program has. I had the opportunity to work in a research lab, which is something an opportunity many students don't get. I have had the chance to work under extraordinary scientist that have pushed me and made me a better student. I hope my students have an amazing experience in their labs and fall in love with research the way I did.

## Carolena Charalombous



**Major:** Family and Child Science & Psychology  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I currently assist in research in the Sport Psychology Lab at FSU. My research focus is performance errors in different types of athletes.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has been one of the most influential parts of my college experience. UROP has allowed me the opportunity to take part in the discovery of new knowledge through research. I have been working in the Sport Psychology Lab at FSU for the past three years and I would have never started if it weren't for UROP. It has taught me to appreciate research and the process that goes along with it.

## Kirsten Christensen



**Major:** Psychology & Statistics  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

My research focuses on suicide prevention and mental health, including help-seeking for mental health concerns, suicide prevention gatekeeper training, sleep and mental health, and efficacy of interventions for help-seeking, suicidality, and stigma.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

My time in UROP introduced me to incredible and generous mentors who pulled me into research I love and gave me opportunities to learn and grow from my first semester at FSU. My first year of research has led to so many experiences I never dreamed of, and it has led me to new goals and career aspirations. My excitement, knowledge, and curiosity have continued to grow throughout my research experiences that all started as a freshman in UROP.

## Shannon Conley



**Major:** Political Science & Environmental Studies  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

My research focuses on suicidal thoughts and behavior as well as mental health treatment engagement and efficacy.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to encourage my students to engage in critical thinking. I hope to help them find their passion whether it be research, poetry, history, biology, and all things in between. I want to help them learn to value their time here at FSU by creating a world that they can both thrive in and enjoy. Lastly, I hope to prepare them for all the wonderful experiences and opportunities to come in their future.

## Fritz Cuaboy



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
I have participated in Dr. Yu's Yeast Genetics Lab.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP provided an opportunity for me to understand research from several points of view including lab work, presentations, and the ability to communicate your work. As a UROP leader, I hope to assist students in exploring research and finding ways for them to apply themselves towards a larger project.

## Carolyn Dang



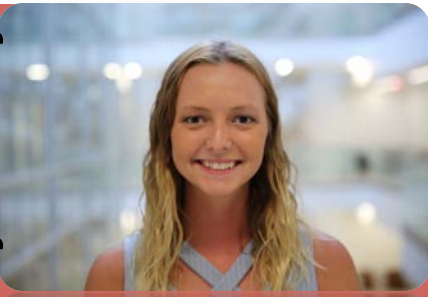
**Major:** Biological Science/Chemistry and Health Informatics  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My research was conducted under Dr. Wei Yang's lab in the Department of Chemistry. We observed the omega-loop of beta-lactamase and the beta-lactamase's role in catalysis and substrate recognition.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

My hopes are to enhance my students' academic experience through research and to help find meaningful activities that will inspire them to become future leaders on campus. My mission is to guide young students on finding their passions and to become a well-rounded applicant for professional/graduate schools.

## Ashley Dawdy



**Major:** Marine Biology  
**Minor:** Biology, & Chemistry  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**  
I currently assist with research at the FSU Coastal & Marine Lab, mostly during shark biodiversity surveys, which include tagging and taking genetic samples of various shark species in the Gulf of Mexico. I am also a scientific diver and serve as a volunteer diver on various marine biology projects with other FSU faculty members.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP opened many doors for me. Getting the opportunity to be a research assistant so early into my college career really pushed me to explore what I am most interested in and the various ways to pursue those topics. Research experience also helped me out later on when applying for internships and other opportunities.



## Samantha Del Rey



**Major:** Exercise Physiology  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

My research area is in Exercise Physiology. In the past year, I worked with the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences to research if improved nutrition and stretch exercises would help decrease HbA1c levels and improve wound healing of foot ulcers in diabetics.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP opened my eyes to the world and possibilities of research. As a freshman, I knew that I would like to conduct research at some point in my college years, however had no idea of where to start or what to do. When I heard about UROP I immediately signed up for the program, and it was a decision that truly enriched my undergraduate experience. UROP prepared me on what to expect when working in the lab. It also instilled in me the importance of research and the impact that it has on society.

## Taylor Foor



**Major:** Actuarial Science  
**Minor:** Applied Math/Meteorology  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I perform hurricane analyses on historical and current hurricanes with RMS HWind in Tallahassee. Currently, my biggest project is helping with operation hurricane analyses on storms such as Harvey, Irma, and any other storm systems that will happen in 2017. During an active hurricane we put out an analysis every 3 hours!

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP helped me get involved in research right off away as a freshman. My project was with an off campus company, HWind Scientific, and I have continued to intern and now work part time with them. Without UROP, this connection would not have been made!

## Josalyn Foster



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Child Development  
**Class of 2018**

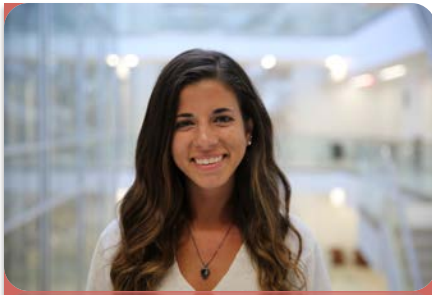
**Research Project:**

I am currently a RA in the Children's Learning Clinic (CLC) directed by Dr. Kofler whose research focuses on the neurocognitive effects of children with ADHD and developing a non-pharmacological treatment option.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP was the first community that I was introduced to after being accepted into FSU as a transfer student. Through this program, I have attained a wealth of knowledge, research experience and skills that are applicable to various facets of my life. As a UROP Leader to transfer students this year, I hope to not only be an example of what a successful transfer undergraduate researcher is, but also assist my students with networking opportunities through conferences and workshops, catered to their interest.

## Grace Garratt



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Child Development  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I am examining "Not Just Right Experiences" as a possible construct of Body Dysmorphic Disorder. An obsession that something is not "quite right" or that something is incomplete is a common construct of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to bring research to life for my students. I will have done my job as a UROP Leader if my students leave the classroom with the understanding that research is not all test tubes and formalized experiments. Instead, it is to be curious and to see the world with skeptical and wondrous eyes. It is not something we do, but a way of living our lives.

## Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Mathematics, Philosophy, & French  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

I study moral psychology: how people make judgments of good, bad, right, and wrong. Recently, I have been interested in how moral judgments of specific actions influence broader assessments of an agent's moral character.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

It was through UROP that I met my research mentor during my first year at FSU, and my relationship with him has been the most influential ingredient of my time at the university. Being able to participate in research from my first week on campus and to be treated as a contributing member of a research team was transformative. Now that I have the opportunity to guide other students during their first forays into research, I hope to share the excitement and joy of the process while simultaneously instilling in them a sense of rigor and commitment.

## Collin Goldstein



**Major:** Clinical Professions  
**Minor:** Biology and Chemistry  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

The Acquah Group is currently examining novel ways to incorporate nanomaterials into polymers used in 3D printing filaments.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to inspire creativity, critical thinking, and leadership that will guide their future endeavors. Not only will our UROP students succeed in academia, but they will have direct impacts on the community and inspire others to push the limits of what is possible.

Julia Ylan Gorday



**Major:** Psychology & Classical Civilizations  
**Minor:** Biology and Anthropology  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

My current research focus is on anxiety and suicide. I work in three different labs within the psychology department including the labs run by Dr. Joiner, Dr. Meyer, and Dr. Cogle.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has introduced me to a community of undergraduate research and opportunities that have helped me grown and develop as a researcher. The community of peers that UROP has welcomed me to has been inspirational and has been a great place for ideas and research interests to flourish. UROP has also provided me with an amazing mentor that has taught me all about research beyond UROP such as applying to present at conferences and for my own research grants. UROP has been an incredible way to allow me to join the world of research and fall head over heels for it.

Megan Grenville



**Major:** International Affairs & Political Science  
**Minor:** Economics  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

My current research is in nonprofit organizations.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope that all of my students learn something about themselves and their potential during their time in UROP.

Marissa Guedes



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Chemistry & Psychology  
**Class of 2018**

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP impacted my life in such a huge way. Through UROP, I continued my research through DIS, and I became a biology teaching assistant last year through UROP.

## Megan Hoadley



**Major:** Pre-Chemical Engineering  
**Class of 2019**

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope for my students to be confident and comfortable in basic research techniques as well as feel that they have the foundation to further network and pursue alternate research opportunities.

## Shannon Hodgson



**Major:** Communication Science Disorders  
**Minor:** Spanish and Business  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

I am currently doing research with Dr. MacPherson in the School of Communication Science and Disorders. The research is focused on the impact of motor speech disorders, such as Parkinson's, on speech.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP had such a positive impact on my first year at FSU. I was able to truly immerse myself in research as a freshman, and I am so grateful to UROP for that. Being a UROP Leader has also allowed me help other students have just as wonderful of an experience as I had.

## Kaitlyn Huetteman



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

My research is in centrosome which is the main microtubule-organizing center in animal cells.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

During my sophomore year, I joined the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program because I sought to bring classroom concepts to life, specifically in cellular biology and genetics. My participation in UROP was my first introduction into research. UROP provided me with a community of fellow student researchers and mentorship by faculty, graduate students and other undergraduate researchers. These experiences through UROP and the mentorship by my UROP leaders helped me identify my love of research and shaped my college career.

Sophia Irwin



**Major:** English and Humanities  
**Minor:** Psychology  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My research is on Rhetorical analysis of the megarethoric of Corporate Social Responsibility and how it complicated our idea of the individual agent.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has introduced me to a diverse community of like-minded peers that have become some of my closest friends! I hope to foster a sense of confidence in my students as they begin to navigate through the field of undergraduate research!

Sarahane Joanem



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I am researching in Dr.Li's lab. In one of our research projects, we are monitoring neural activity of veteran subjects. In addition, we provide stimulation in order to test long term affects on alpha waves which are brain waves that detect the state of relaxation. This particular research projects aims to find more information for the treatment of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

Being a UROP Leader is a great way to give back and make an impact on others. As a UROP Leader, I intend to provide my students with necessary tools and tips to help them throughout their research careers so they can become successful at FSU. I also hope to guide them and give them advice that I would have wanted to hear my first and second year of college.

Caitlyn Kelly



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** English  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

During my time as a UROP student, I examined a sample of police reports to uncover a preliminary pattern of recurring factors among individuals who committed suicide by cop. Currently, I am gaining experience in editing to potentially aid my former supervisor with his suicide by cop research manuscript in the future.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to provide a warm, welcoming environment that encourages students to talk about their academic experiences and ask questions. I want to make sure that my students feel free to ask any questions they may have about navigating the research process, operating in professional settings, and preparing for grad school and/or careers in Psychology.

## Reef Landrum



**Major:** Physics and Astrophysics & Political Science

**Minor:** Mathematics/Biology  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

I am studying the lithium 7 (d,p) reaction at the linear accelerator laboratory. This is related to one of the unsolved puzzles that still remain with the Big Bang Theory.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP introduced me to the idea of research early on, showing me that you don't have to be a grad student to contribute to your field. I am more informed about my area of study and have had experiences I never would have thought of trying otherwise. Through UROP I have learned how to learn about the world.

## Lauren McGarry



**Major:** Biochemistry

**Minor:** Biological Science and Mathematics

## Kimberlee McMillin



**Major:** Political Science & Sociology

**Minor:** Political Philosophy & Statistics  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

My research seeks to answer the question: What affects the percentage of a state's legislature that is female?

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

Participating in UROP as a freshman has led me to consider graduate school. Prior, I had never even thought of conducting my own research; after seeing the different types of research happening on our campus, I realized research is incredibly beneficial both for an undergraduate and a graduate degree. I hope to impart on students, specifically those in the social sciences, that research is not just a tool for traditional STEM majors, but a way to discover history, patterns, and interactions within our own social systems.

Laura Miller



**Major:** Studio Art and Editing, Writing, and Media  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My research explores strategies for and the benefits of incorporating writing courses in university-level fine arts programs.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
UROP has shown me how to more fully engage with learning and how to foster a spirit of inquiry in myself and my fellow students. I hope to inspire a spirit of curiosity and inquiry in my UROP students that will stay with them throughout their time at FSU and beyond.

Matthew Murray



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My current research focus is understanding the fundamental mechanism which relates a specific defect of the proteasome, a macromolecule with a role in regulation and quality control of proteins, that can exacerbate the destruction of insulin-making beta cells.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**  
In pursuit of a doctoral degree in molecular medicine, research has become an essential and giant part of my every-day routine. I root my passion for research from entering into the UROP program sophomore year. My goal is to pass on this passion of innovation through critical and complex thinking to future generations, especially those who don't see research as a viable route for their professional career.

Brandon Osowski



**Major:** Political Science  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**  
I have combined my passion for my two majors and researching economic policies that legislators push; and how those policies hinder economic growth.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**  
I want to use the platform that I have been given to inspire students to conduct research, just like my UROP leaders did for me. I want to guide students towards research that they are passionate about. Most importantly, I want my students to have a better understanding of what research is.

## Allison Overholt



**Major:**  
Economics/Religion  
**Minor:** International  
Affairs  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**  
My current research focus is on yoga and its spread to the west. I am looking into how depictions of female goddesses in Hinduism inform perceptions of female yogis.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
UROP gave me a low-pressure way to get involved with the research community at FSU. I was able to get involved in a project that led to further research opportunities. As a UROP leader, I hope to challenge the preconceived notions of what research looks like at the university level, especially in non-STEM disciplines.

## Benjamin Pifer



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My research involves studying the protein interactions of Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, or KSHV. KSHV is a very unique virus in that it causes cancer.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
There is a common notion among incoming freshman that research is some far-off goal, obtainable only by graduate students and above. This was a notion that I certainly carried when I first arrived. Thankfully, UROP shattered that belief to pieces by guiding me through the rigors of research and showing me that I have the skills and abilities to make meaning academic contributions as an undergraduate. This program positively affected my time at FSU by instilling in me a confidence to pursue challenges in academia without fear or doubt.

## Shayshari Poster



**Major:** Criminology  
**Minor:** Psychology  
**Class of 2018**

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
During UROP I participated in a research project on the International Court of Justice. The project examined court cases to determine the potential biases that may be present in the ICJ. This research not only informed me about a court system I wasn't previously aware of, but it taught me important skills. I learned how to read and summarize dense court cases. This has helped me in reading journal articles in many of my Criminology classes and in writing research papers. While my UROP Assistantship has helped me at FSU, the UROP experience itself was amazing. It gave me a mentor who I could turn to for questions about anything related to FSU and it helped guide me through my freshman year.



## Hannah Powell



**Major:** Biochemistry  
**Minor:** Biology  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

I am currently interested in plant stress responses on the molecular level to both biotic and abiotic stressors, such as metabolite pathways and specific cell responses.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has given me the opportunity to apply the general concepts I learn in class to a real life setting that pertains to my specific goals and interest; something that is not possible without being involved in undergraduate research.

## Claire Riley



**Major:** Nursing  
**Minor:** Psychology  
**Class of 2019**

### **Research Project:**

My research involves looking for early markers for Autism Spectrum Disorders in children between 9 and 24 months of age.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope that I can be a role model for my students, and to inspire them to be their best selves and achieve their goals. I hope that I can show them all of the amazing resources that Florida State has to offer, and that they will take advantage of those resources.

## Fernando Ritzinger



**Major:** Statistics  
**Minor:** Mathematics and Biology  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

My research focused primarily on associational effects among plant species.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP has had an incredible impact on my FSU experience as well as my career goals. It allowed to meet one of my greatest mentors who continuously provided me with all the resources and knowledge to succeed in the field of entomology. Furthermore it inspired to pursue an independent study and present it at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference. It also helped me realize my passion for Statistics which caused me to change my major so that I can continue to pursue a career in research.

## Allison Rodabaugh



**Major:** Family and Child Sciences  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I was involved in research my Sophomore year and loved it. I am no longer directly involved in research, but my main focus is to spread my experience with my peers and get more people interested in research and the possibilities that lie ahead.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP leader, I hope that I am able to change at least one student's experience. I want to assist them in finding a project they are passionate about while also working with them as they transition into every day college life.

## Edda Rodriguez



**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2017**

**Research Project:**

My research is primarily focused in the language development of infants between the ages of 18-36 months. My personal project is, Toddler's Vocabulary Knowledge Influences the Ability to Learn Novel Statistical Regularities. My project aims to understand the influence an infant's pre-existing vocabulary has on their ability to learn new words.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

My undergraduate career has been positively shaped by my research experience, especially by my research mentor. I hope to inspire and support my UROP students not only as they complete their UROP research project but also throughout their time at FSU. I hope to help guide them to find their research passion, that they will pursue not only during their time in UROP, but throughout their careers.

## Alyssa Rogers



**Major:** Biological Sciences  
**Minor:** Chemistry and Italian  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

My current research is under the direction of Liu Sicong, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems. My team and I work with EEG machinery to study the effect of thought suppression paradox on the Tallahassee's student athlete community.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I want my students to feel capable of venturing outside of the traditional classroom and delving into the world of research knowing that they're prepared to handle all sorts.

## Sophie Rottenberg



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** International Affairs  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My research involves characterizing the roles of signal transduction pathways during embryonic development.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**  
My goals as a UROP Leader is to be a role model of consistency for my students and to be their first choice for any questions or problems they have as they maneuver through their undergraduate career.

## Scarlett Roy



**Major:** Biology

## Shanava Saintolien



**Major:** Mathematics & Secondary Education  
**Minor:** Biology  
**Class of 2018**

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
UROP has given me the opportunity to discover the importance of research. Through this program I have gained valuable skills that I will carry with me through both my personal and academic journey.

## Savannah Savadel



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

I am currently working on mapping and analyzing open chromatin in maize earshoots.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

UROP shaped my time at FSU because it opened the door to research and once I stepped through, I never looked back. Research has given me the skills and confidence to try new things and tackle challenges I wouldn't have otherwise. I have been able to experience things like international conferences and university-wide presentations thanks to my research, and I have interacted with amazing people along the way. I decided to become a UROP leader so that I could share my knowledge with students who have the same aspirations that I had. I feel that everyone is capable of doing great things through research if they have the right tools and mentors to get them started.

## Ian Schlander



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

I am currently studying the roles of the signal transduction pathways during embryo development. Characterizing the functions of genes coding for ciliary proteins through microinjecting *Xenopus* embryos with oligomers and visualizing the effects with immunofluorescent tags.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to inspire my students to pursue research in their fields throughout their undergraduate careers at FSU. Guide them into the professional world and help them along the way to ensure their success.

## Federico Rey Simon



**Major:** Biomedical Engineering  
**Minor:** French  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

Using Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR), I have studied lipid membrane disruptions induced by peptide-based antibiotics. These interactions can be used to develop more effective antibiotics using natural antimicrobial peptides.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

As a UROP leader, I hope to introduce my students to the research field while developing their professional skills; I hope to instill a greater appreciation in research with my students and learn from their individual experiences as well.

Courtney Simoncelli



**Major:** Commercial Entrepreneurship  
**Minor:** Hospitality Management  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**  
I conducted my research regarding young Spanish-speaking English learners' interest and attitudes toward reading. I collected information by going to nearby elementary schools and administering reading attitude surveys and then analyzing this data to find connections between the literacy environments of bilingual students and their reading interest.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**  
I hope to affect my students by pushing them make the very most of this amazing opportunity that I was so lucky to have. I plan to be there for my students every step of the way through their research process. This experience can be overwhelming at first, but I will always lend an open ear and remind my students that it is more than worth it in the end!

Rachel Smith



**Major:** Industrial Engineering  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
I am currently doing research at the High Performance Materials Institute to produce a flexible LED using safer materials. I am working to switch the material to polymers, which are safer, while also making the process of producing the LEDs simpler. When successfully completed this project could be used in phototherapy to treat jaundice in new born's, eczema, and in many other applications.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**  
UROP has given me the opportunity to learn about research and become more involved in the vast research community here at Florida State. I have been able to work on many different types of projects and learn from them, while also forming lasting relationships with other student researchers and professors.

Jake Sukienik



**Major:** Management/Insurance  
**Minor:** International Affairs  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**  
My current research focus and research focus during my time in UROP is on the approaches used internationally to manage catastrophic risk. Along with five other students we spent time analyzing how countries and insurance agencies respond to catastrophes.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**  
I hope to have the affect on my students that UROP had on me. UROP helped me become an active member in my academic community, pursue options I would have otherwise seen as impossible, and inspired me to further delve into my field. I hope to help my students find their passion within their respective academic community and most importantly help them become as passionate for research as I am.

## Gemma Sunnergren



**Major:** Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science, and International Affairs  
**Class of 2019**

**Research Project:**

I am currently researching the visual and text representation of the partition of India and Pakistan in two issues of Life magazine. Along with my research mentor, I am analyzing the magazine's editorials and the photos taken by David Douglas Duncan in 1947 using the War and Peace Journalism framework.

**How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

Being a part of UROP as a freshman introduced me to a different side of FSU than I would have gotten from my classes alone. It helped me overcome some of the difficulties of getting involved in undergraduate research and gave me access to a well-connected research community. I was able to explore my academic interests outside of the classroom, and I am excited to remain a part of the UROP community today.

## Taylor Tischhauser



**Major:** Music  
**Minor:** Biology & Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

**Research Project:**

Over the past two years, I have worked under Dr. David Houle in a fruit fly research lab studying pleiotropy. As a laboratory assistant, I cook fly food, maintain stocks, image flies, take data, and participate in discussions regarding our research at weekly lab meetings.

**How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to inspire my students to continue with research outside of their UROP experience by helping them to successfully execute their projects and continue to be excited about enriching their minds and contributing to their fields through creative thinking engagement. Instilling the importance of research participation and the benefit it will have for their education and careers will hopefully act as motivation to make them excited about future research involvement.

## Alex E. Whitaker



**Major:** Exercise  
**Class of 2018**

## John Wilcox



**Major:** Biological Science  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

I perform type 1 diabetes research revolving around improving insulin pump technology for users who continuously take insulin dosages. My lab looks at optimizing injection methods and improving skin health for people who wear insulin pumps.

### **How do you hope to affect your students as a UROP Leader?**

I hope to change my student's perspective on how to engage with faculty members who are older and more experienced than them. I want to be sure that faculty are willing to engage with students, and to not be afraid of outreaching to professionals in research fields.

## Christine Wright



**Major:** Biology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Class of 2018**

### **Research Project:**

I work with eastern mosquitofish in biology research lab. The goal of the research is to learn if melanin pigmentation affects stress response (i.e. cortisol levels) and aggression, and how that ties in with the persistence of the melanic morph.

### **How has UROP impacted your time at FSU?**

I never really knew much about how to actually conduct research and I was never a huge fan of my lab classes, but I signed up for UROP because I thought it would be helpful to get experience in a lab setting. Through UROP I found a lab that I really enjoyed and now I couldn't imagine going a week without being in the lab. The work I do is interesting and has taught me helpful research techniques. I am now doing a DIS in the same lab, so I am very thankful that I found this lab.