



OUR

Office of
Undergraduate
Research

Expanding Your Academic Experience Through Research

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UCF Office of Undergraduate Research

- Mission:
 - Strengthen and enrich the undergraduate research climate at UCF
 - www.OUR.ucf.edu

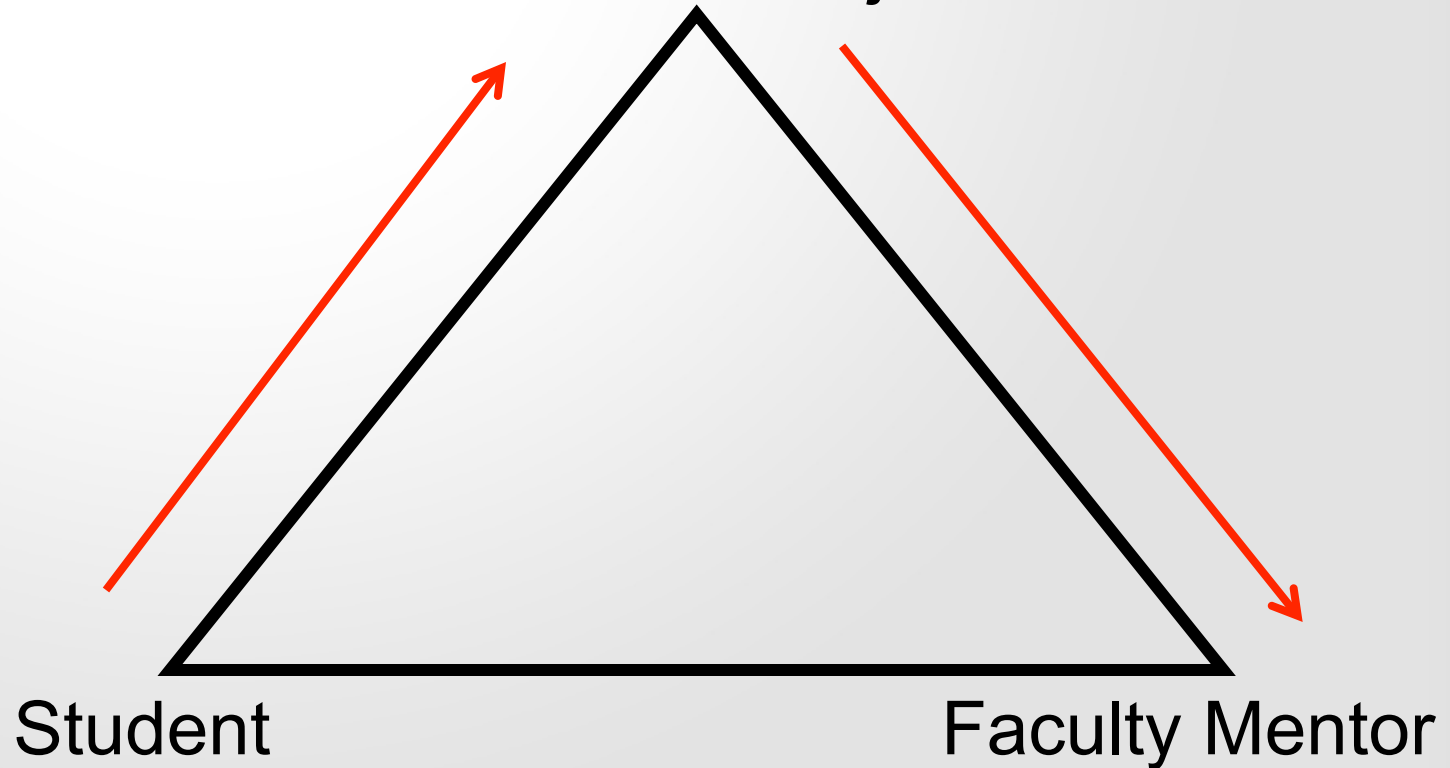


WHY?

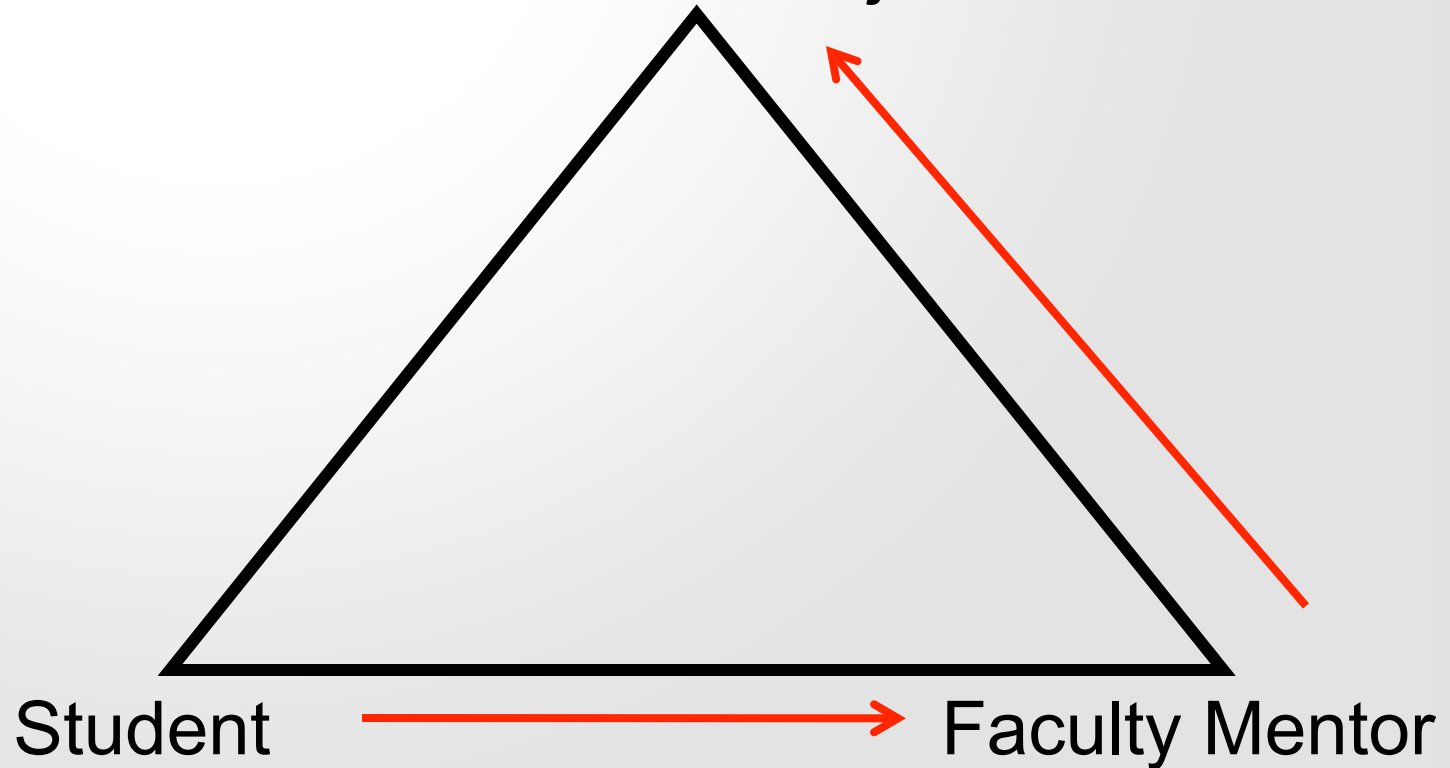
- Research shows:
 - Skills and confidence (Kardash 2000; 2004; Bauer and Bennett 2003; Seymour et al. 2004)
 - Career clarification (Lopatto 2003; Seymour et al. 2004)
 - Continuing education (Nagda et al 1998; Hathaway et al. 2002)
- Other reasons:
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Unique experience to discuss during interviews, essays, and applications
 - Opportunity to expand resume

- Spectral Analysis: Eradication Effectiveness and Growth Patterns of *Lygodium microphyllum* in South Florida Using Landsat Imagery
- Evolutionary History and Polymorphism of the Eyelash Palm Pit-Viper
An Apple Snail a Day Keeps the Plants Away: Effects of an Invasive Snail on Aquatic Ecosystems
- The Role of Cerationlin in the Natural History of *Schistocerca ceratiola*
- Using the Current Latitudinal Range in Plant Species as a Predictor for Theoretical Range Expansion Due to Global Climate Change
- Queen and Worker Dynamics of the Fire Ant During Egg Laying Events
- Equifinal Ecosystem Productivity Despite Biodiversity Variance in Replicate, Open Ecosystems
- Little Deer, Little Genetic Diversity: Investigating a Bottleneck in the Florida Key Deer
- Tracking the Geographic Origin of Stranded Dolphins Potentially Impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Near the Florida Panhandle

Research Project



Research Project



Where?

- On-Campus
- Off-Campus

On-Campus: Steps

- **Mentor**
 - Current/previous faculty
- **Project**
 - Can assist and/or develop independent project
- **Programs**
 - Thesis
 - Independent research credit

Expand

- Present (and network)
 - On-campus
 - Undergraduate Research Conference
 - Florida Undergraduate Research Conference
 - National Conference on Undergraduate Research
 - Biology specific conferences
 - Southern Ecology and Evolution Conference
- Publish
 - Undergraduate Research Journals (UCF)
 - Disciplines specific journals

Off-Campus

- 100s of opportunities for life science
- Typical requirements: Prefer sophomore and juniors (i.e., rising juniors and seniors)
 - 3.0/4.0 GPA
 - Some require 3.5
 - Interest in topic (shown through coursework, previous research)
 - Course requirements



What?

- Period: June through end of July/early August.
 - Usually full-time positions
 - Set program length or flexible time
- Length: 8-12 weeks
- NOTE:
 - Fall and Spring opportunities are available
 - Students can create their own opportunities

What?

- **Application Deadline:**
 - Available in November and December
 - Due between November and March, with a concentration of due dates in **February**
 - **Sometimes the accept before deadline**
 - Some have rolling through spring semester
- **Benefits**
 - Stipend or hourly (up to **\$6000**)
 - Housing, food, transportation

Programs

- <http://www.our.ucf.edu/opportunities/summer.php>

Steven Carrion: NSF REU, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

- "Examining the Long-term Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Infaunal Communities in Terrebonne Bay".
- Location: Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
- Stipend: \$5,000 plus travel, housing, meals, and research funds.
- "This opportunity allowed me to experience the day-to-day life of a marine biologist, and hence, I woke up each day to do exactly what I want to be doing in life, motivating me even more to achieve my dreams."



NSF REU: UNF Coastal Biology

- **WHEN**
 - Applications due March 17
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - First REU, 3.0 GPA
- **BENEFITS**
 - Stipend (\$5000), travel, meals, and housing.

NSF REU: Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science

- **WHEN**
 - Applications due May, program runs in Fall Semester
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - Two years of undergraduate study
- **BENEFITS**
 - Stipend (at end of program), travel, and housing.
- **WHAT**
 - Students will design and conduct independent projects under faculty supervision.

REU-China: Ecological and Environmental Research in an Urbanized Landscape

- **WHEN**
 - Applications due February 7
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - 3.0, good 'physical condition', passport, interested in graduate work
- **BENEFITS**
 - Stipend, travel, and housing.

Advice

- Be persistent.
- Be creative.
- Be proactive.
- Be open-minded.
- UCF students: Let us know if we can help
 - www.our.ucf.edu OR our@ucf.edu
 - TC II, 209
 - Peer Mentor Drop-in Hours: Mondays and Thursdays