OUR SCOOP

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Funding Opportunities   **Event Calendar**   **OUR Updates**   **Student Spotlight**
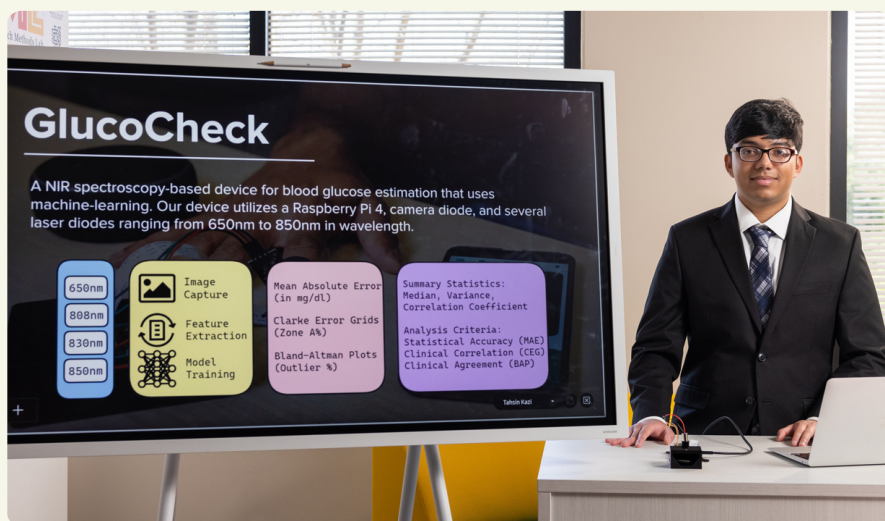
Ambition leads KSU freshman to early research success

While still a junior at Woodstock High School, **Tahsin Kazi** started emailing professors at Kennesaw State asking to join a research team. It was through that outreach that Kazi was connected to **Maria Valero**, an assistant professor of information technology in KSU's College of Computing and Software Engineering.

"This is the first time someone contacted me before their senior year and without requesting any school credit," she said. "This was the first time I've seen a student who was just trying to have this experience in research. I saw huge potential in him."

While in high school, Kazi worked alongside Valero's senior graduate students. The research team was focused on GlucoCheck, a device using light shown through a finger or an ear lobe to determine blood sugar level.

"My job was to improve the project and try different things to see what worked," said Kazi, who is currently a freshman at KSU and pursuing a degree in computer science. "I built different types of software for the device, and I tested them all, and I found some interesting conclusions."

[**Click here**](#) to read more!

Spring 2024 Symposium Schedule

Oral Presentations
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Prillaman Hall – Indoor Plaza
- 9 a.m. — Wellstar College of Health and Human Services
- 10 a.m. — College of Science and Mathematics
- 11 a.m. — College of Computing and Software Engineering
- 1 p.m. — Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- 2 p.m. — College of Architecture and Construction Management
- 3 p.m. — College of the Arts
- 4 p.m. — Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 5 p.m. — Coles College of Business
- 9 a.m. (April 18) — Bagwell College of Education

In Person Posters/Visual Displays
Thursday, April 18, 2024
Convocation Center, East & West Activity Wings
- 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Virtual Presentations
Friday, April 19th, 2024
Microsoft Teams
- 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Undergraduate Research Club

The **Undergraduate Research Club (URC)** is a Registered Student Organization dedicated to promoting undergraduate research and creative activity at KSU.

Here are just a few things you can do as a member of URC:
- Learn more about how to get started in undergraduate research, how to find a mentor, how to publish and present your results, and how to get funding for your project.
- Help sponsor the Symposium of Student Scholars each year.
- Conduct research as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Click below to view a recording of the most recent meeting, featuring faculty research mentors Dr. Evelina Sterling and Dr. Whitney Preisser.
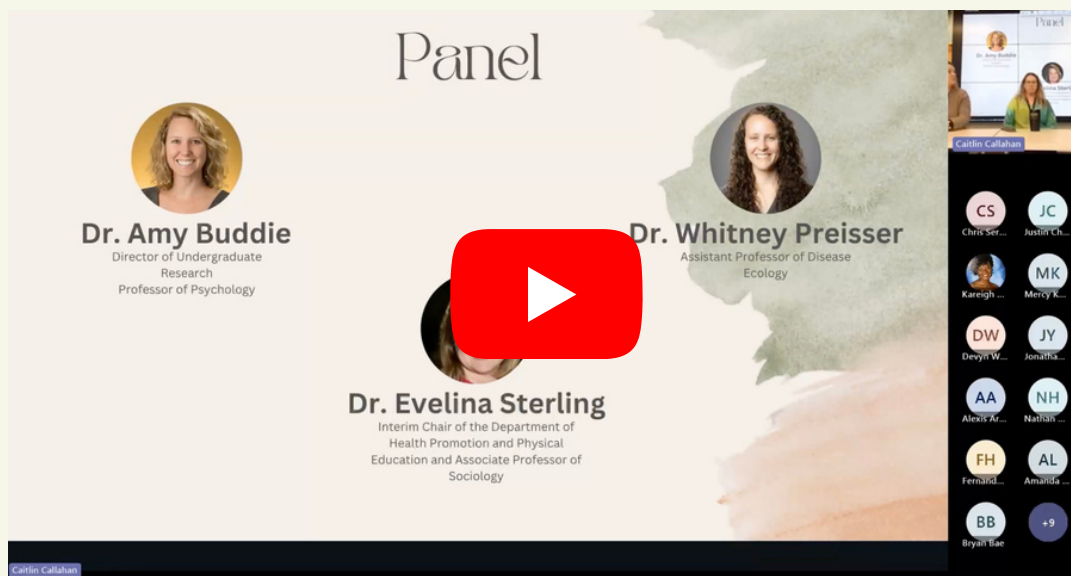
Graduation Cords

The Office of Undergraduate Research is excited to offer graduation cords to those who have demonstrated a commitment to research during their undergraduate years.

Apply here!

Get Involved

Here are some quick ways to get started through the Office of Undergraduate Research:

- **First-Year Scholars Program**: Designed to pair first-year students with faculty mentors who will guide them on research in their disciplines.
- **Undergraduate Research Club**: Any student can join and conduct research as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- **Current Research Projects**: Listing of projects to help undergraduates find faculty who are looking for assistance on their research activities.
- **Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program**: Any student can complete a student application to work on a large-scale research project with faculty and other students.

You do not need to have a specific idea in mind when approaching a faculty member to do research. Many students work with faculty members on their research, especially at first. Undergraduate research opportunities are often competitive, so be sure to engage in behaviors that make you stand out from the crowd.