The University just celebrated National Undergraduate Research Week last week with BEAR Day and Engineering Expo. With that in mind, this edition of the newsletter seeks to highlight a few of the inventive projects that our students are working on, and to give recognition to the faculty, staff, and friends of Mercer who help to mentor them!

**BEAR Day & Engineering Expo by the Numbers**

**Total Student Presentations**

- Students whose work involved implementing service and/or responses toward the problem: 50 (28%)
- Students using research and/or service to determine how to alleviate the issue/problem: 79 (44%)

**Award-Winning Students**

Kyla Semmendinger (faculty advisors Dr. Mike MacCarthy and Dr. Laura Lackey) recently received a **Goldwater Scholarship**. Kyla participated in a QEP-funded summer research project on improving household energy processes in summer 2016 and in a QEP-funded Mercer on Mission on water quality in summer 2015.

Aaron Scherf and Alayna Williams both received **Fulbright U.S. Student Awards**. They participated in the South Africa Internships Program in summer 2016, which is supported by the QEP office. Additionally, both Aaron and Alayna participated in the University’s first “Visionary
Student Panel” in fall 2015 and were among the top three performers, winning dedicated QEP funds to support their project ideas. Aaron’s advisor for his research projects in finance is Dr. Jeff Ngene, and both Aaron and Alayna’s South Africa projects have benefitted from mentoring from Dr. Eimad Houry and Mr. Anwar Parker (South Africa Internship Program).

As of this writing, 60 Mercer students have applied for national fellowships and scholarships and will be recognized later this week. Of those, 72% have had a Research that Reaches Out Explore/Express experience – in a class or in an independent project. What we are doing makes a difference!

This Is Research that Reaches Out: BEAR Day & Engineering Expo 2017

The following are just a sampling of projects that were presented at BEAR Day/Engineering Expo. What’s especially noteworthy? They all involved faculty trying something new to help their students reach Explore or Express involvement with Research that Reaches Out! Do you have an idea you want to discuss?

Contact us (qep@mercer.edu)!

### Archeology

Lawrence Elliott and Bryce Everett presented their work on assisting the St. Croix Archeological Society in the US Virgin Islands to record conditions of ten sites endangered by rising sea levels. They compiled data to send to the territorial archaeology team to aid in planning cultural resource management along the St. Croix coastline. Additionally, art students accompanying the research team produced a portfolio of photographs to document the work. (Faculty advisors: Dr. Eric Klingelhofer & Prof Craig Coleman)

### Technology

Bailey Garner, Elizabeth Tate, Cole Turner and Melissa Niedrauer have conducted a study to determine how those with low visual abilities view websites and how websites can be tested with specific low vision simulating goggles. With the rise of technology and design, it becomes increasingly important to ensure that those with low visual ability can interact with new tech developments. (Faculty advisor: Dr. Pam Brewer)

### Music

Eighteen music students across three courses conducted literature research on various aspects of vocal strain: effects of hormones, ADHD medication, young voices, aging voices, etc. They are in the process of sharing their research with the Georgia Music Educators Association so that current voice teachers can utilize the research in their own practice. (Faculty advisors: Dr. Rich Kosowski and Dr. Martha Malone)

Want to see more examples?

Watch the QEP website for videos of new projects that were carried out this year to integrate research and service! These videos are also typically shown on the video screen prior to graduation, so that Mercer visitors can know more about Research that Reaches Out!