

**Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS)
CURS Grant Funding Final Report**

Faculty Member:	Chris Bates
Amount of Award:	\$354.00
Student(s) Involved (if any):	Heather Svaghart, Katherine Brown, Samuel Whitten
Specific Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ordered necessary supplies to proceed with the projects. 2. Troubleshoot PCR to allow for identification of Bacteria from 16s RNA 3. Identified several E. coli isolates from Rae's Creek 4. Continued to monitor restaurants for the presence of E. coli in sweet tea.
Discussion and Comments:	<p>I. Progress on identifying gram positive bacteria from spiders was has progressed but not as far as I had hoped. The enzyme we used was contaminated with E. coli DNA allowing for false positives in our negative controls and potentially providing a high background during sequence reads. We believe after multiple trials that we are now ready to proceed. Student involved – Heather Svaghart.</p> <p>II. We monitored the levels of E. coli in Rae's Creek using the Petrifilms and verified that these were infact E. coli by performing some additional tests in the lab. We have decided that Petrifilms are a viable method for sampling the local watershed. Student involved – Katherine Brown.</p> <p>III. We continued to sample sweet tea from local area restaurants and focused mostly on those on Walton Way. While some restaurants had very high numbers of coliforms, no sample tested positive for E. coli.</p>