

1116-VH-162 **James A. Vance*** (jav6e@uvawise.edu), One College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293. *Undergraduate Research in Mathematical Biology with limited Faculty, Students, and Resources.*

The University of Virginia's College at Wise is a small liberal arts college with just over 2000 students. The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has two tenure track professors of mathematics and graduates an average of 6 math majors per year. With such limited faculty, students, and resources, undergraduate research is a challenge. Over half of the math majors are seeking secondary teacher licensure which requires a semester of student teaching. This creates a conflict with the requirement that all math majors complete a semester long research paper and presentation since most students must complete the research before or while taking upper level courses. For mathematical biology, many of our students do not have enough of a biology background to do significant research. In some cases the challenges have been overcome and students have presented their research in mathematical biology at regional undergraduate research conferences and on occasion at conferences like the International Symposium on Biomathematics and Ecology Education and Research. Topics range from elk home range methods to sensitivity equations for omnivory models. A few projects have resulted in publication in peer reviewed journals. (Received August 10, 2015)