



# Undergraduate Research Institute

## College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

[www.uri.clahs.vt.edu](http://www.uri.clahs.vt.edu)

August 2009



### 2008-2009 Highlights

- In only its second year of operation, the URI was awarded the prestigious **Virginia Tech Exemplary Department Award** for its work in collaborating across departmental boundaries.
- The first fall **URI Kickoff Event** welcomed over 100 faculty and students on a rainy day!
- The **first year research seminar**, LAHS 2984, Intro to Research, had 32 students complete the year-long class.
- **CLAHS remained highly visible at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference in 2009** with great representation at both the poster presentations and oral presentations.
- The URI received a grant from the Institute for Society, Culture, and the Environment (ISCE) for an **Interdisciplinary Summer Research program** between the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the College of Science.
- The URI produced its first issue of the Liberal Arts and Human Sciences undergraduate research journal, **Philologia**.
- CLAHS sent two students to the ACC Meeting of the Minds this year.

### 2009 Upcoming Events

#### Fall 2009 URI Kickoff

Wed., August 26, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Major Williams Atrium

Learn more about URI resources.

#### “Getting Started” workshops:

Wed., September 16 3:30-4:30 p.m. 406 Wallace

Wed., October 14, Noon-1:00 p.m. in 406 Wallace

#### Philologia journal submission deadline:

Fri., September 18, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

### 2008-2009 URI Stats

- 85 faculty and administrators attended the Philologia journal unveiling event.
- 100+ students and faculty attended the Fall 2008 URI Kick Off.
- 66 students served through URI workshops and classes.
- 43 students individually advised.
- 36 faculty mentor student matches made.
- 22 faculty research opportunities advertised.
- \$9000 in research grant funding awarded to students.



### Look to the future:

- The Institute will develop a **graduate student/undergraduate mentoring program** where undergraduates gain experience by helping graduate students with their projects.
- The Institute will apply for an **NSF-REU grant** to launch an interdisciplinary research experience for undergraduates.
- The **second issue of Philologia** is already underway and submissions are now being accepted! Visit the Philologia website for more information: [www.philologia.clahs.vt.edu](http://www.philologia.clahs.vt.edu)
- With the help of a grant from the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE), the URI will explore opportunities for **international undergraduate research experiences** in Morocco.

## Fall 2008 Grants Awarded:

**Emily Barry**, International Studies / Spanish  
Faculty Advisor: Michael Blackwell, University Honors  
Community Interactions Between Developed and Developing  
Countries Shown Through El Porvenir Honduras  
Research to be conducted in El Porvenir, Honduras

**Kara Batt**, English  
Faculty Advisor: Eva Brumberger / Ed Weathers, English  
Sidelines: The starting of a magazine

**Rana Fayez**, Communication  
Faculty Advisor: Ed Sewell, Commu-  
nication  
Ethnic Identity in Punk Rock Culture

**Alexandra Ford**, English / History  
Faculty Advisor: Katie Fallon, English  
Normandie Suites, Knightsbridge,  
London: A Memoir  
Presenting at Susquehanna Univer-  
sity Undergraduate Literature and  
Creative Writing Conference

**Tiffany Henry**, AHRM - Apparel De-  
sign / Business Management  
Faculty Advisor: Ji-Hyun Kim, Apparel, Housing, and Resource  
Management  
The Next-Generation Online Shopping Experience for Designer  
Jewelry Customers

**Caitlin Laverdiere**, English / Economics  
Faculty Advisor: Nancy Metz, English  
The Roles of Student Leaders in an ePortfolio Pilot /  
ePortfolio Showcase: Experimental Models for Learning and  
Reflection  
Presented at the Virginia Tech Regional Sakai Conference

**Nancy Metz**, English  
English Undergraduate Research Conference

**Michelle Rivera**, English / Biology  
Faculty Advisor: Nancy Metz, English  
Lemon Flavored Lollipops  
Presented at Susquehanna University Undergraduate Literature  
and Creative Writing Conference

**Alex Tardiff**, History / Classical Studies  
Faculty Advisor: Trudy Becker, Interdisciplinary Studies  
The Historiography of Marcus Atilius Regulus



*“Undergraduate research gave me  
the confidence to talk to others about my  
ideas. I started my own project and am  
presenting at a national conference in the fall.*

*Without the URI, I would not have  
known how to get started.”*

- CLAHS student

## Spring 2009 Grants Awarded:

**Alex Chapple, Jeremy Baker, Joanna Crowder, Rachel Edelstein,  
Heather Fine, Alexandra Ford, Grat Iwan, Drew Jackson, Emily  
Khan, Allen Pittard, Amber Zoe Smith, Joselyn Takacs**, English  
Faculty Advisor: Aileen Murphy, English  
Sweetbriar College Creative Writing Conference Participant

**Naomi Dam**, International Studies, John Langley, Biological Sciences,  
Scott Moran, University Studies  
Faculty Advisor: Serena Frost, English  
The Value of Tradition: Where Do Today's Youth Fit In?  
2009 Appalachian Studies Association Conference Presenter

**Katy Grant**, Communication  
Faculty Advisor: Brandi Quesenberry, Communication  
8th Annual National Association of Communication Centers Confer-  
ence Participant

**Bridgette Kim**, Political Science / Communication  
Faculty Advisor: Yvonne Chen, Communication)  
A Beauty Queen Industry: A Content Analysis of Public Relations  
Practitioners Depicted in Electronic Media from 2002-2008

**Karen Kirk**, English  
Faculty Advisor: Steven Salaita, English  
Two Case Studies of Small Towns Impacted by Wal-Mart

**Michael Matthews**, Music Technology / Computer Science  
Faculty Advisor: Ivica Ico Bukvic, Music  
The iPod Touch Ensemble: A Musical Interface for Human Interaction

**Patrick McCarthy**, English  
Faculty Advisor: Carl Bean, English  
Edgar Allan Poe: The Death of Beauty

**Nicole Santangelo**, Communication  
Faculty Advisor: Yvonne Chen, Communication  
An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Relay for Life Campaign

**Samantha Wood**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management  
Faculty Advisor: Jihyun Kim, Apparel, Housing, and Resource  
Management  
Bridging the gap between couture design and ready-to-wear design: A  
creative scholarship developing one of a kind design pieces

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**For more information about the  
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