

FALL 2007 URI GRANT RECIPIENTS

John Cassara, History Major. Mentor: Peter Wallenstein, History. The Integration of College Football.

Mariah Clarke, Apparel, Housing & Resource Management Major. Mentor: Jihyun Kim Apparel, Housing & Resource Management. Presentation at the International Textile and Apparel Association Conference of garment titled “Victorian Rose”.

Jon Crain, International Studies Major. Mentor: Yannis Stivachtis, International Studies. Democratic Republic of Congo: An Analysis of US Policy and Initiative.

Shannon Porter, Human Development Major, **Kristen Duda**, Psychology Major, and **Shauna Horrell**, Communication Major. Mentor: Mark Benson, Human Development. Presentation at the Southeastern Psychological Association Conference entitled “Parent and Adolescent Perceptions of Family Conflict: A Qualitative Analysis”.

Marc Thomas, History and Political Science Major. Mentor: Peter Wallenstein, History. A History of Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County.

SPRING 2008 URI GRANT RECIPIENTS

Emma Archer, Communication Major. Mentor: Brandi Quesenberry, Communications. Extending Your Reach: Groups as Communication Center Clients, NACC Conference.

Morgan Cain, Interdisciplinary Studies Major. Mentor: Joan Watson, Interdisciplinary Studies. Across Cultures & Countries: An International Look at the Validity of Stereotypes. Presenting at the International Research in Germany, France, and Italy.

Hannah Carlson, English. Mentor: Katie Fallon, English. Presenting “Arnold” and “Laissez les bons temps rouler” at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference.

Margaret Clifford, English Major. Mentor: Peter Graham, English. Byron's Other Selves: A Voice for his Women. Presenting at conference in Greece.

Kathleen Cooperstein, English Major. Mentor: Jennifer Mooney, English. Study of the Significance of Celtic Religions on Modern-Day Appalachia.

Britney Pardue, Spanish Major. Mentor: Sophia Anong, Apparel, Housing, & Resource Management. Financial Literacy of Hispanics.

Mariah Clarke, AHRM Major. Mentor: Ji-Hyun Kim, Apparel, Housing, & Resource Management. The Influence of the Civil War on Women's Apparel in the U.S.

Marc Thomas, History Major. Mentor: Peter Wallenstein, History. Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County.

The CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute has made huge strides in getting students interested in Undergraduate Research and providing them with the resources and information needed to pursue these opportunities.

Benefits of Undergraduate Research are all highly tied to the mission of Virginia Tech and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences including: the increased ability to think, learn, and work independently, strengthening oral and written communication skills, sharpening critical thinking skills, contributing new knowledge, and providing an opportunity for faculty and students to connect and foster a positive learning experience.



Undergraduate Research Institute

College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences

2007-2008 Annual Report

Volume I, Issue I

Spring, 2008

Student Quote:

- “I am thankful for my multidisciplinary educational experiences that would not have been possible without the URI. I would never have been exposed to this type of research and I am excited about career paths involving research that I will now be qualified for.”

-Whitney Moore
Theatre Arts

URI STATS:

The URI website had over 17,000 hits since its creation.

59 students were matched with faculty mentors.

90 faculty members have signed up to mentor students with undergraduate research initiatives.

Over 40 undergraduate research conferences have been advertised on the URI website encouraging students to attend or present.

The Undergraduate Research Institute Nominated for Award

This spring, the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute was nominated for the university's prestigious Exemplary Department Award. Over 20 letters from current students, alums, faculty, and administration were submitted to support the nomination. These letters highlighted the importance of our services, how it has impacted students and faculty, and focused on the URI as a program that crosses depart-

ment boundaries to serve students and faculty from a variety of disciplines. According to Dylan Greenwood, a Political Science Major, “An investment in research at the undergraduate level is an investment in research at all levels. The URI is one of the only programs at Virginia Tech which provides this kind of support.”

This annual report both celebrates the accomplishments of this past year while also high-

lighting goals for the upcoming year.

Should the URI receive the Exemplary Department Award, it will mean increased funding for its programs and additional grants for students. We thank those who have supported us this past year and look forward to another successful year of undergraduate research in CLAHS.

The URI Conducts Assessment of Undergraduate Research

The URI designed and implemented an assessment this year of undergraduate research being conducted in CLAHS. The purpose of the assessment was to generate a better understanding of the impact of undergraduate research and how to serve more students.

Of the 281 respondents, 27% had been involved in undergraduate research. Of those, 76% reported being satisfied with their experience and reported significant experiential and learning gains in the following areas:

- Working with others
- Using primary literature sources
- Understanding the importance of ethical conduct
- Ability to analyze data
- Increased self confidence
- Preparation for graduate school
- Preparation for more demanding research.

Additionally, 76% reported being satisfied with their research experience.

Of those not participating in research, the top three reasons cited for not participating were not knowing where to start, being unaware

of opportunities, and research seeming too intimidating. The URI will use this data to create and refine effort to promote research in the College. We welcome questions or feedback.



Hannah Carlson, English major, presented at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference

- Understanding the research process



Shauna Horrell, Communications

URI Looks to the Future

Based on the URI's mission to expose students to and engage them in research activities, the URI Director, Diana Ridgwell is creating online class modules that students will start their first year. With the help of a grant from CEUT and the support of the CLAHS Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs under Dean Mary Ann Lewis, the program is being piloted this fall with first year students in CLAHS.

During the pilot, students will complete a series of activities and readings that will spark their interest in explor-

ing research further. Dr. Ridgwell hopes to have a full set of class modules that takes students from their first year to their last. She hopes the course will fill gaps for those who do not have methods courses in their departments and give additional experiences to those who do. The project is just another way that the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is enhancing undergraduate education at Virginia Tech.

Look for more news this summer and into next semester.

Where is he now?

- "My experience with the undergraduate research conference at Virginia Tech prepared me to speak publicly about my project. I was able to draw on that VT experience while doing the many interviews, which lessened some of the stress that came with all the attention. The film proposal that I submitted to the URI allowed me to connect with faculty in various departments and strengthen my resume. Ultimately, my project helped me land a job my first year out of VT, working for Ben Stiller in Hollywood, while he directed the film *Tropical Thunder*."

-Tim Leaton

2007 Dual Degree Graduate of Communications and Business Management

\$8000 Awarded to Support Undergraduate Research

The URI was extremely pleased to offer grants to students and faculty working on undergraduate research projects. The grants were distributed in two cycles, fall and spring, with many deserving applicants.

The URI awarded 14 grants for a total of close to \$8,000. The students are presenting their work at various conferences such as the International Textile and Apparel Associa-

tion Annual Conference, the National Undergraduate Literature Conference, the Messo-longhi Byron Research Conference in Greece, the Southeastern Psychological Association Conference, the National Association of Communication Centers 7th Annual Conference, the Virginia Tech English Undergraduate Conference, and the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research and Prospective Graduate Student Conference.

Several student researchers are currently preparing their work for possible publication.

A list of grant recipients, their projects, and their faculty mentors can be found on the back page of this newsletter and online at

www.uri.clahs.vt.edu. Congratulations to all of the 2007-2008 Grant Recipients!

URI Works with Students to Create New Research Journal



The URI took another step forward this year by assisting in the development of a new undergraduate journal for CLAHS. The journal, started by Dylan Greenwood (Political Science), is called *Philologia* and will begin operations over the summer.

Philologia is Latin for "scholarship, love of learning" and embodies the objectives of the journal. It will be annually published and will be a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. The primary goal of *Philologia* is to establish an open forum for the exchange of ideas discovered in undergraduate research and scholastic endeavors in CLAHS.

The secondary goal of *Philologia* is to provide undergraduates with an opportunity to learn the process of submitting to a peer-reviewed publication.



CLAHS Students and Projects Dominate VT Undergrad Conference

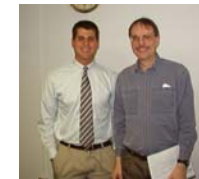
One of the goals of the Undergraduate Research Institute is to increase the number of students presenting at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference held each spring and sponsored by the Center for Academic Excellence and Enrichment. In 2005, CLAHS had only 8 participants. After the advertising

efforts of the URI, in 2006 and 2007, CLAHS student participation almost doubled to 15 students in 2006 and reached 37 students in 2007. This year, that number climbed to 51 CLAHS students with an additional 22 presenters in our disciplines making up more than 50% of the presenters at this conference. We continue to encourage student involvement and look forward to another great year of CLAHS research.



Diana Ridgwell, Angela Kasey (Interdisciplinary Studies), and Sophia Anong (Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management)

Other CLAHS Student Researchers



John Cassara, History Major

Mentor: Peter Wallenstein

John has worked on and presented two research projects. John's second project, "Lewis and Jackson: African American Pioneers in College Athletics," examines the lives of William H. Lewis and William T.S. Jackson who were the first African Americans to play college football. John presented this project at the 80th VSSA conference and the 6th Annual Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference. John also was awarded a URI grant for the Fall of 2007 for his outstanding research efforts.

Natasha Ward, English Major

Mentor: Jennifer Mooney

Natasha presented a poster at the English Undergraduate Conference March 28, 2008. The poster's title was "The Advancement of Women into the Coal Mines", focusing on the first time women began mining. It was created for my Appalachian Literature class with Jennifer Mooney.

Omar Maglalang, Communication Major

Omar is a past participant in LAHS 3914: Undergraduate Research Methods taught out of the URI. He recently received a research internship this summer for the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington D.C. He will be doing criminal justice research for the government, using SPSS and coding documents for analysis.

Third CLAHS Student Selected for Annual ACC Conference



The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) is pleased to announce the selection of Elizabeth Carraway as one of four students representing Virginia Tech at the Third Annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference at Florida State University.

Carraway, an English Major and Women's Studies Minor, was selected for her analysis: "Fitzgerald and Anderson on Lovers, Wives and Mothers." In the analysis, Carraway unearths the complexities and failures that F. Scott Fitzgerald in "Winter Dreams" and Sherwood Anderson in "Mother" found

in a new kind of female character. Fritz Oehlschlaeger serves as her Faculty Mentor.

The ACC Meeting of the Minds is an opportunity for students to present their research projects to faculty and administrators from across the ACC to share information about conducting undergraduate research.