



March 14, 2012

The [Office for Undergraduate Research](#) newsletter is published two times per month to share news about undergraduate research at UNC, relevant events, accomplishments of our students and faculty, and more. For additional information, please visit our website at www.unc.edu/depts/our or email us at our@unc.edu.

Announcements and OUR News

OUR blog entries-

- Justin Shaffer and [What do you mean I have to do it again?](#)

GRC blog entries-

- Dr. Ellen Welch: [Teaching French 387 with a GRC: Frondeurs, Mazarin, and the Devil](#)
- Dr. Patrick Curran: [Quantitative Psychology, Undergraduates, & GRCs](#)

OUR Programs:

- Do you know about [IDST 195](#), our Modes of inquiry course? Learn more!
- Congratulations to our newest [Carolina Research Scholars!](#)

OUR People

- Meet our Director, [Dr. Pat Pukkila](#), and one of our undergraduate workers, [Kayla Wall](#)

Events

- Don't forget to put the [Celebration of Undergraduate Research](#) on your calendar!

Announcements and OUR News:

[What do you mean I have to do it again?](#)

UNC postdoctoral scholar Justin Shaffer talks about the research process with all its twists and turns.

[Teaching French 387 with a GRC: Frondeurs, Mazarin, and the Devil](#)

Dr. Ellen Welch discusses student experience in conducting archival research with the support of a GRC for FREN 387: Paris/Versailles: The Court and the City in the 17th Century.

[Quantitative Psychology, Undergraduates & GRCs](#)

Dr. Patrick Curran shares his process in creating an upper-level undergraduate introductory course in quantitative psychology, and the contributions of GRCs.

IDST195: Modes of Inquiry. Most seminar courses are focused around particular topics involving one or a small number of disciplines. [IDST195](#) is designed to engage you in many modes of inquiry. Renowned faculty will describe how they began to pursue their life's work, how they frame questions, seek answers, communicate their findings, and the rewards and difficulties they have experienced. You will have the opportunity to question them, and reflect more about the ways of knowing that seem most important to you. This course is a 1 credit, pass/fail course which also fulfills one of the requirements of the Carolina Research Scholar Program. **Course registration begins the last week of March.**

Here are a few comments from former IDST195 students:

- My eyes have been opened to the possibilities in research. If there are things out there that we do not know, there are ways to find out. This is true regardless of the topic or geographic area. The most important thing to expanding our knowledge is passion and intellectual curiosity played out in research.
- I think it has been inspiring, as well, to see that the paths taken by many individuals to get to where they are has not always been so linear as we like to imagine; rather, many of them didn't originally have any aspirations to do what they do now. As a student who has not always (and still isn't!) sure of what she wants to do, it has been an encouragement to see that sometimes life just works out. There are so many diverse opportunities out there, I just have to take advantage of them!
- I've definitely gotten to see a wider array of modes of inquiry than I previously really knew about; I didn't really understand how people would conduct research in areas such as geography or anthropology, per se, but now I see that research really is just expanding the available knowledge of a discipline.
- My ideas about various modes of inquiry have widened since I have been enrolled in this class. I never knew there were so many different routes one could take to do research.
- I am a lot more aware of the different fields of study and their concentrations. I have become more open-minded about different fields of study and have learned to appreciate the power of research.
- I learned that not all disciplines are mutually exclusive--some of the most interesting pieces of research integrates various disciplines.

Nine Carolina students earned the [Carolina Research Scholar](#) designation in Fall 2011. Congratulations to our newest CRSPS:

James Broughman
 Sebastian Cerdena
 Katherine Cullen
 Anirudh Gowd
 Jessica Little
 Steven Nutz
 Apruva Oza
 Terry Rodriguez
 Courtney Wolff
 Yinmeng Yang

Are you interested in becoming a Carolina Research Scholar? Get more information [here](#).

A special ceremony to recognize Carolina Research Scholars will be held immediately following the Celebration of Undergraduate Research, which will take place on **Monday, April 16, 2012 from 1:00 pm-3:45 pm** at Frank Porter Graham Student Union.



[Dr. Pat Pukkila](#), Professor of Biology, Director of OUR and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research As faculty, we can make wonderful choices concerning our research agendas and course topics, but it sometimes seems that there is a poor fit between our interests and the “service” activities we are asked to perform. Fortunately for me, that pattern was altered dramatically in 1999, when I became the founding director of the Office for Undergraduate Research. By then, I had mentored over 50 undergraduates in my own lab, which only reinforced my view of how important these opportunities can be for the Carolina experience. Two of these former undergrads are now my faculty colleagues at Duke and at Carolina, and research interests continue to overlap! I have often said that I have the best job on campus, since I get to interact with amazing faculty and students in all disciplines, and help to connect faculty and students with similar interests. I am also proud of the ways that together, we have tapped into the wonderful potential of a research university community, which includes undergraduates, graduates and faculty. In the curriculum, we have created research-exposure courses taught with Graduate Research Consultants to embrace unsolved problems and significant intellectual work collectively. We have expanded the number of research-intensive courses, and over 60% of Carolina’s 2011 degree recipients received course credit for these. Undergraduates can now receive a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, present their work at the campus Celebration of Undergraduate Research or at a professional conference, and earn the Carolina Research Scholar transcript designation. I am confident that undergraduates who have engaged in inquiry and discovery will be well-prepared to address future unsolved problems and to assume important roles as enlightened citizens and leaders in our rapidly changing world. It is exciting and deeply satisfying to have helped increasing numbers of undergraduates to engage in the research culture that surrounds them on our vibrant campus.

Read more of Dr. Pukkila’s [thoughts about undergraduate research](#) and [reflections on the GRC program](#).



Kayla Wall '12

I am a senior majoring in Public Relations and Sport Administration. In addition to working at the Office for Undergraduate Research, I also intern at a public relations firm in downtown Raleigh. One of my projects at OUR is the [new OUR Blog](#). My goal is to include as many different angles of undergraduate research as possible, in hopes of preparing future researchers with the best understanding and outlook as they prepare for their research experiences!

Meet three of the [OUR Ambassadors!](#)

Gwen Barlow, History Major and Southern Studies Minor.

My research interests focus around the modern South, both historically and culturally. My honors thesis in history is looking at



questions about Communism in North Carolina and the legal battles around Junius Scales during the 1950s and 1960s.



Kari Dahlgren, Anthropology Major and African Studies minor.

Kari has recently been researching the politics of representation in the museums of Zanzibar, Pemba, Dar es Salaam, and Bagamoyo. Her research looks into how negotiations between religion, ethnicity, politics, and tourism shape the representation of history in museums and historic sites along the Swahili coast, and how such representations affect political and ethnic relations.

Kevin Diao, Mathematics Major, Premedical Track.

I do clinical research on prostate cancer in the radiation oncology department of the NC Cancer Hospital. This involves survey creation, collection, data entry, database access and management, statistical analysis, interpretation, and abstract and paper writing. I've either completed or am in the process of researching: Comparing Efficacy of Different Radiation Therapy Techniques for Treatment of Prostate Cancer, Effect of Radiation Therapy Techniques on Short Term Quality of Life of Prostate Cancer Patients, and Effect of Distance to Cancer Center on Early Prognosis of Prostate Cancer.



Are you interested in serving as an OUR Ambassador? Keep your eyes open for more information about the application process!

Events:

- Join us at the [Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research](#) on Monday, April 16, from 1:00-3:45 in the Great Hall of the Frank Porter Graham Student Union. You can hear platform talks, visit poster sessions, and attend the recognition and award ceremony. Student hosts will be available to help you identify projects that match your interests. And, you'll have a chance to explore potential faculty advisors and learn more about what students like you have accomplished. Over 100 undergraduate student researchers will be presenting!



2011 Celebration

Would you like to provide support for the Office for Undergraduate Research? You can make a gift [here](#).

The Office for Undergraduate Research
www.unc.edu/depts/our
Where will your curiosity lead you?