



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.

January 10, 2013

OUR News and Events

OUR Blog:

- Jessica Kennedy shares real-time challenges and commitment to persevere during her [SURF project](#) on agriculture and hunger.

GRC Blog:

- Take a look at the [blog archives](#) and watch for new blog entries in our next newsletter.

OUR People:

- Meet SURF alumna [Alia Khan](#) and learn about her research on hydrology and water quality.
- OUR Ambassador and SURF recipient Mallory Melton is [profiled](#) by UNC Admissions.
- OUR Associate Director Donna Bickford's presentation at the Modern Language Association conference is highlighted in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#).

Other Events and News:

- Apply to present at the [Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) on April 5-6, 2013. The deadline to apply has been extended to January 28, 2013.
- [Becoming an Effective Mentor](#): A workshop for graduate students and postdocs in the natural or medical sciences who are interested in mentoring undergraduate students in scientific research.

Meet Alia Khan:

I often think about my first undergraduate research experience on rural drinking water quality in Cambodia sponsored by a [SURF](#) in [summer 2007](#). This experience largely shaped and inspired the last 6 years of my life, and most likely the rest of it! I am now a PhD student at [the University of Colorado–Boulder](#) in Environmental Engineering, after completing my MS in Environmental Studies, also at

OUR Events

SURF Information Session

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

5:30-7pm

Frank Porter Graham Student Union
Room 3408

Are you considering applying for a [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#) this summer? Join us at our next information session and learn more about the program. You'll hear from former SURF recipients about their experiences and we'll also tell you about the support that is available to help you with your proposal.

Also, if you're applying for a SURF and wish to work with a peer writing advisor, complete the [request form](#).

Research Methodologies in the Arts: A Roundtable for Undergraduates

Thursday, January 31, 2013

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Location: Graham Memorial 039

What does research look like in the Arts? How do scholars conduct research in these disciplines? Are you interested in Art, Music, or Dramatic Art but wondering how you would develop a research project in your area of interest? Join us for this roundtable and explore the answers to your questions.

[Adam Versényi](#) (Milly Barranger Distinguished Professor of Dramatic Art), [Anne MacNeil](#) (Associate Professor of Music) and [Beth Grabowski](#) (Zachary Smith Distinguished Term Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in Studio Art) will discuss the research methodologies and approaches in their fields, describe undergraduate research projects conducted by Carolina students, and provide advice and guidance for undertaking research in the Arts.

You'll also have an opportunity to ask your own questions and engage in conversation with the

CU. I have developed a love and passion for research and field work in hydrology and water quality, and I think a lot of this was inspired by positive research experiences during undergrad at UNC. After receiving an NSF- Graduate Research Fellowship in 2010, I deferred it for two years while I completed my MS thru research assistant



funding on a variety of projects, including ones that took me both to the Arctic and Antarctic. During this time I was able to develop my PhD research focus, for which I am now pursuing fieldwork in the three poles – the Norwegian Arctic, the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica, and the Nepalese Himalaya.

During my undergraduate research at UNC, I formed valuable professional relationships which I still maintain as we publish papers together on that research. Furthermore, my research adviser has been a great resource as I pursued post-graduate programs and further developed my research interests. Lastly, having the confidence that I developed by completing independent research and fieldwork in a developing country as an undergrad has allowed me to pursue graduate research projects I've always dreamed about.

Thus, my advice to students who are trying to do



decide whether or not to pursue undergraduate research is to go for it! I say gain as many academic and

panelists.

Please register by emailing Dr. Donna Bickford, Associate Director in the Office for Undergraduate Research, at dbickford@unc.edu.

Becoming an Effective Mentor

This workshop is intended for graduate students and postdocs in the natural or medical sciences who are interested in mentoring undergraduate students in scientific research.

Good mentoring can be learned! Effective mentoring in the lab can lead to greater research productivity, efficiency, and satisfaction. This mentoring skills workshop will offer a framework for developing a philosophy and style to guide decisions and actions in working with undergraduate students as well as a forum in which to discuss dilemmas that arise in working with those students. The six-week workshop curriculum was developed by the **Wisconsin Program for Scientific Teaching** and is supported by the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute**. Those who complete the workshop will earn a certificate in effective mentoring in the research laboratory.

During the workshop, we'll delve into the following questions:

- How do I design a (good) research project for an undergraduate student?
- Why are clear expectations so important?
- How do I establish effective communication with my student?
- How do I know when my student is ready to be more independent?
- My mentoring experience is going terribly, how can I fix it?
- What is my mentoring philosophy?

Other seminar goals:

- Discuss strategies for recruiting high quality undergraduates to assist with your research
- Write and revise your personal mentoring philosophy
- Network with other mentors from different disciplines
- Learn how to effectively manage your relationship with your own mentor

The workshop will meet for six weeks, at one hour per week, from Jan. 30- Mar. 6 2013. Participants will be expected to attend all six sessions. Snacks will be provided. Meeting times and locations are TBD.

Space is limited, so we cannot accept everyone

life experiences as possible during your young adult years. UNC offers so many opportunities; you should take advantage of them! My PhD research is building on relationships and networks I formed thru studying abroad in Norway and New Zealand, completing undergraduate research in a very well respected microbiology lab at UNC, as well as international experiences gained through funding sources such as the SURF and [Francis Phillips Travel Scholarship](#).

Note: You can learn more about Alia's work by reading her [blog posts](#) for the New York Times 'Scientists at Work' series.

Photo 1: Taking water samples from a supra-glacial lake in the Nepalese Himalaya.

Photo 2: At 'Happy Camper' survival school on the Ross Ice-Shelf in Antarctica



that registers. By registering at the link below, you will be entering an application process wherein the workshop administrators will select the participants. You will receive a follow-up email if accepted or waitlisted. If interested, please apply at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ace8tnj>

Questions? Please email Jenny Hayden at jenny_hayden@med.unc.edu

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