

June 12, 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](http://www.unc.edu/depts/our) or email us at [our@unc.edu](mailto:our@unc.edu).

### Announcements and OUR News

#### OUR Blog:

- [OUR Staff Spotlight: Associate Director Donna Bickford](#)

#### GRC Blog:

- [The Long Civil Rights Movement](#)

#### Our People:

- Meet three new [OUR Ambassadors](#)

#### OUR Programs:

- Read about the [Science and Math Achievement and Resourcefulness Track](#) Program.

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### Announcements and OUR News:

#### [OUR Staff Spotlight: Associate Director Donna Bickford](#)

Donna discusses undergraduate research and pedagogy.

#### [The Long Civil Rights Movement](#)

GRC Jessie Wilkerson reflects on undergraduate research and oral history.

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#### [OUR Ambassadors](#)

Emily Cerciello, sophomore Economics major:

As a first-year student, Emily conducted preclinical neuropharmacology research on the disease process of alcoholism, specifically focused on neuroimmune adaptation in the TLR4 pathway and cytokine response during relapse. As a Carolina Research Fellow, she looks forward to examining further aspects of addiction, including socioeconomic determinants of consumption, vulnerability to relapse, and the effectiveness of policy and program implementation as prevention efforts.

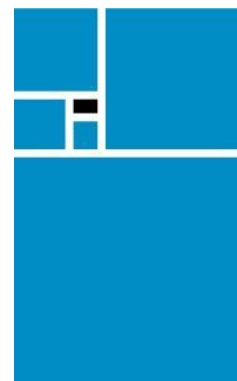


Daijha Copeland, junior Psychology major, Chemistry minor:

As a rising Sophomore I began my research in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Future Scientists and Clinicians (HHMI-FSC) program studying condition-dependent mate choice in Dr. Karin S. Pfennig's lab in the Biology Department here at UNC. Specifically, I investigated whether an individual's behavior is affected by diet and body condition during early development. I tracked the emergence of adult behavior from the early juvenile stage onward and found that different diets significantly affect the expression of behavior as individuals grow from juveniles to young adults. Such studies are important for understanding how adult behavior is affected by

environmental effects during critical periods of early development. I will continue my work in Dr. Pfennig's lab by further exploring the physiological mechanisms underlying this behavior in juveniles.

Mattis Hennings, senior Global Studies and Political Science major, Arabic minor: My research interests focus on International Migration and Development. For my senior honors thesis in Global Studies, I am investigating the intersection between these two areas, specifically how and if migration policy can be shaped to help achieve development objectives. I have spent considerable time in the Middle East and am an avid student of Arabic. For my research, I have received SURF funding and travelled to Jordan, which is the regional focus of my honors thesis.



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Congratulations to our 2012 [Science and Math Achievement and Resourcefulness Track Program \(SMART\)](#) Scholars: Cheryl AbuMoussa; Maria Edwards; Elizabeth Fisher; Ashley Jarvis; Timothy Kang; Alyssa Morgan; Dennise Osei-Bonsu; Nicole Seider; and Chelsea Tyler.

The SMART program provides an opportunity for rising sophomores to spend eight weeks during the summer doing 30 hours of research per week with a faculty mentor in physics, chemistry, math, computer science, biology, or geology. Students receive \$4000 for the summer and may enroll in one 3 hour course per summer session. Applications for the SMART program are accepted in mid-March each year and finalists are invited for an interview. At the end of the summer, each student presents their work during a closing ceremony. To view previous SMART projects, please visit the [Past SMART and DEBS Student Projects](#) page.

SMART students also work with a postdoctoral or graduate student mentor. Graduate students involved in mentoring SMART scholars are encouraged to apply for an associated [Graduate Mentor Award](#) (up to \$1,000).

SMART is funded by the [National Science Foundation](#) and is a part of its nationwide [Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation](#) initiative to increase the number of underrepresented minority students who earn degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program encourages SMART scholars to pursue graduate study, and become faculty and or researchers in their chosen field.



SMART is made possible at UNC through the collaboration of Dr. Nalin Parikh, Research Associate Professor and Assistant Dean in Physics and Astronomy, SMART Director, Dr. Pat Pukkila, Professor of Biology and Associate Dean, Office for Undergraduate Research, and Mr. Harold Woodard, Associate Dean and Director, Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling (pictured at right).

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