



July 26, 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:

- [OUR Staff Spotlight on Chelsey Bentley: OUR and Twitter](#)
- [Summer Research Spotlight on Erin Lewchuk](#)

GRC Blog:

- [GRC Program Assists Students Producing Digital Atlases in Geographic Research Course](#)

OUR People:

- [Meet Dr. Nalin Parikh, Director of the DEBS/SMART programs](#)
- Welcome to [Dr. Hollie Mann](#), our newest [Liaison for Undergraduate Research](#) from the [Department of Political Science](#). If you're interested in research in Political Science, make an appointment to speak with Dr. Mann.

OUR Programs:

- Are you a faculty member interested in teaching with a [Graduate Research Consultant](#)? The deadline to apply for Fall 2012 courses is August 15, 2012.
- There are only five seats left in our [IDST195: Modes of Inquiry](#) course. This course fills one of the requirements for the [Carolina Research Scholar Program](#). Don't miss a chance to hear from talented Carolina faculty researchers about their work and life.

OUR Events:

- [SMART closing ceremony](#)
- [HHMI closing ceremony](#)

OUR laptop stickers are here! Stop by the office and pick one up.

Announcements and OUR News:

[OUR Staff Spotlight on Chelsey Bentley: OUR and Twitter:](#)

Chesley Bentley talks about the strategies she employs to manage OUR's Twitter feed.

[Summer Research Spotlight on Erin Lewchuk:](#)

Erin Lewchuk discusses her research on thrombosis and cardiovascular disease.

[GRC Program Assists Students Producing Digital Atlases in Geographic Research Course:](#)

Dr. Scott Kirsch talks about the digital atlases his students produced during his Spring 2012 Technology and Democracy Workshop.

Meet [Dr. Nalin Parikh](#):

Dr. Nalin Parikh is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Director of the [DEBS](#) and [SMART](#) programs. Dr. Parikh's work with these programs began "by accident," he says, when Associate Dean Harold Woodard asked him to assume the directorship. Since he likes a challenge, Parikh agreed and has been with the programs more than 10 years. He finds it extremely satisfying to help students interested in doing research get into the lab and be exposed to experimental techniques and hands-on research. Initially many student participants have traditional career goals and plan to go

to medical or dental school. However, the opportunity to do research opens up additional career paths for students and getting a Ph.D. and embarking on a research career becomes visible as a new option.

Dr. Parikh notices major changes in student participants. They begin with anxiety about going into the lab but, as the summer progresses, they develop confidence in their own competence and in their ability to do research. They also become comfortable talking with the professor, postdocs and graduate students in the lab, which makes them more willing to approach professors in their classes.

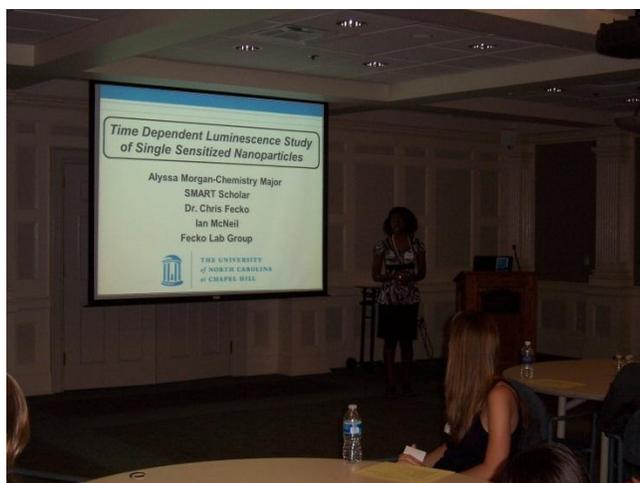
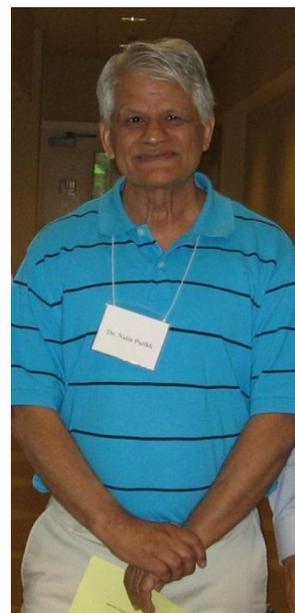
The program offers benefits to participating labs as well. Parikh says professors are excited to have student participants in their labs. Some work with DEBS/SMART students every summer and there are times when student participants are invited to continue working in their lab even when the program is over.

Dr. Parikh discussed two major challenges for the future: (1) continued funding and (2) leadership of the program when he retires.

Dr. Parikh shared that the most fulfilling part of his job is when students leave the university and later write to him to say that their experience with the program was a turning point in their life. It is, he says, more satisfying than he ever could have imagined.

On Friday, July 20, 2012, students in the [Science and Math Achievement and Resourcefulness Track](#) program presented their research projects and celebrated with a reception. The SMART program is sponsored by the [North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation](#) and is designed to increase the presence of under-represented minorities who graduate in STEM disciplines, attend graduate school, and become faculty and/or researchers in their chosen field. SMART students spent 8 weeks this summer conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Several of our current [OUR Ambassadors](#) are current or former SMART program participants.

Photos: At right, audience members at the SMART ceremony. Below, Alyssa Morgan presents her research.



HHMI Closing Ceremony:

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute provides funds our [HHMI Learning Communities initiatives](#). The HHMI Future Scientists and Clinicians program provides undergraduate researchers the opportunity to undertake original research under the supervision of research-active faculty with additional graduate students and postdoctoral fellows as mentors for two consecutive summers. Dr. Ginnie Hench coordinates this program. The HHMI-FSC students presented the results of their research at an End of Summer Symposium on Friday, July 20. HHMI-FSC participant Gabii Brown noted that one of the most important thing she learned was that “research is a community effort.”



Photos: At right, 2012 HHMI-FSC participants. Below, poster session.



LAPSTOP STICKERS

Esita Patel and Vivian Doan show off their new OUR laptop stickers!!!!!!



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