



The [Office for Undergraduate Research](#) newsletter is published bi-weekly 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.

May 16, 2013

OUR News and Events

OUR Blog:

- Research Bingo Winner [Michele Bresler](#) talks about the 2013 Celebration of Undergraduate Research.
- Suzanne Gullidge discusses [one approach](#) to incorporating the Celebration into a course.

GRC Blog:

- Ellen Welch shares [undergraduate perspectives](#) from her FREN 330 French Civilization course.
- Read about [undergraduate research in social psychology](#); students examined attitude change and plagiarism narratives.

OUR News:

- Students in Dr. Sahar Amer's GRC-supported research-exposure course, ASIA 452: Muslim Women and Veiling, created an art exhibit. You can see pictures [here](#).

OUR People:

- Congratulations to Associate Director Donna Bickford, who will serve a [3-year term as a Councilor](#) for the Council on Undergraduate Research.
- Next Steps for OUR Ambassador [Miranda McNear](#) '13.
- Meet incoming OUR Ambassador [Layla Quran](#).

Other Events and News:

- Congratulations to GRC Faculty Jeanne Moskal, who has received a [mentoring award](#) from the Carolina Women's Leadership Council.
- The Collegiate Inventors Competition is accepting [entries for the 2013 Competition](#). The deadline for submitting entries is Friday, June 14, 2013. Information about the competition is available [here](#). For the

OUR Events

MORE Pictures from the April 15, 2013 [Celebration of Undergraduate Research](#)



last 23 years, the Collegiate Inventors Competition has recognized and honored student inventors whose inventions one day could make significant contributions to society. The competition is sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation, Abbott, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. This year, more than \$65,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the winning undergraduate and graduate students and their advisors. All finalists in the competition will receive an all-expense paid trip to the final judging round taking place in Washington, DC and the opportunity to have their work reviewed by inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Layla Quran
Major: Global Studies
Minor: Journalism

Layla became involved in undergraduate research her first-year through enrolling in a



BorderWork(s) course at Duke University and designing a [research project](#) around sectarianism in Iraq after the US Invasion. This research project gave her the opportunity to interview Iraqis living in Baghdad (through Skype) and Iraqi refugees living in the US. She was then awarded a SURF to begin a [documentary](#) and research the impact and role of the Arts in Palestine, and interviewed nearly 50

Palestinian artists (musicians, dancers, actors, poets, etc) in 10 major Palestinian cities. She will be traveling to Turkey in the Summer of 2013 in order to research how the Kurds distinguish themselves (as the largest stateless population in the world) amongst a majority Turkish population, and what nonviolent resistance practices they use to express their ethnicity. She hopes to complete an honors thesis in ethnic identity and nationalism, and is excited to give back to the Office of Undergraduate Research for

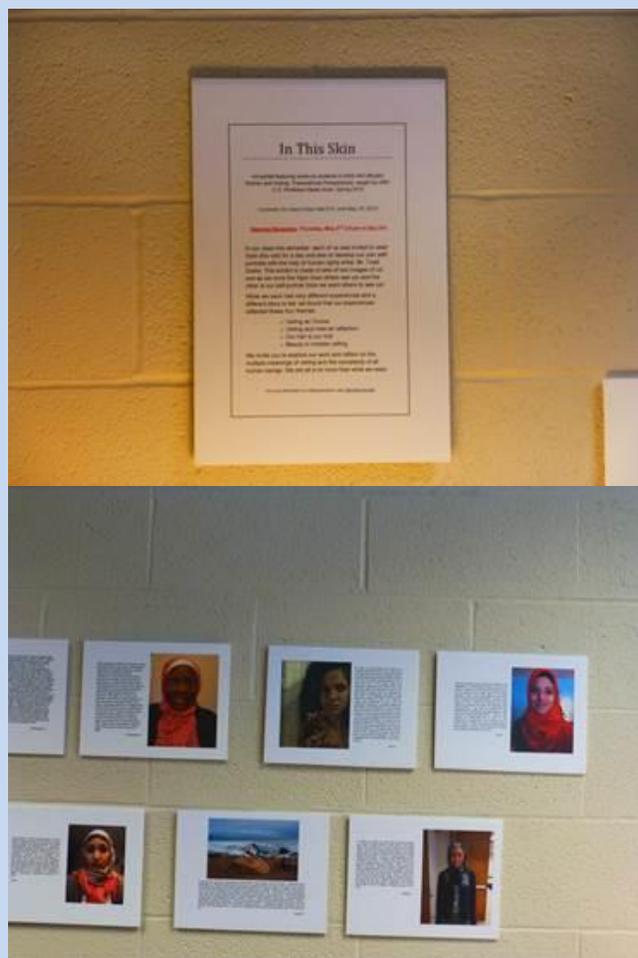


OUR Ambassador Miranda McNear 2013: I conducted my undergraduate research by participating in the [SMART](#) program summer of 2010; I really appreciate the chance to be exposed to undergraduate research. After completing the SMART program, I decided that research was not the field I wanted to spend the rest of my life in; however, I have gained valuable knowledge in cell biology, cell culturing, cell transport, chemical bonding, magnetic, microscopy, and pharmacology. This opportunity helped to prepare me for research in preventive health care by familiarizing me with general clinical techniques. Working



believing in her research and giving her the resources to question and explore.

Pictures from Dr. Sahar Amer's GRC course



to enhance the release of DNA into a cell through the assistance of magnets, I could easily visualize how my work could eventually be viable in therapy and help other individuals in clinical settings. Following the SMART Program, I began to volunteer as an [ambassador](#) for the Office of Undergraduate Research in the fall semester of 2012 in an effort to motivate students to explore health careers in research. After graduation, I will be applying to medical school and moving to Columbia, South Carolina to dedicate one year of service to the [City Year](#) program, tutoring and mentoring under-served students. After I finish the City Year program, I hope to begin medical school in the Fall of 2014.

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Where will your curiosity lead you?

The Office for Undergraduate Research
www.unc.edu/depts/our