I hope that you had a pleasant semester break. This issue of the Honors College newsletter focuses on undergraduate research. The “Student Feature” section for this issue focuses on the work of Devina Mohan, which provides just one example of how Honors College students are working on real-world solutions to everyday problems. The “Student Research Spotlights” section provides three more. The Honors College also provides several grants to support undergraduate research: essential equipment and supply grants, as well as grants for research projects and conference travel. More details are provided on the Honors College website: http://www.odu.edu/ao/honors/. Participating in undergraduate research opportunities is one of the ways honors students distinguish themselves in future job applications and for admission to graduate and professional schools. I want to call your attention to the upcoming Undergraduate Research Symposium. This year’s symposium features a wide variety of presentations, providing a snapshot of research opportunities that ODU students have taken advantage of.

Best Regards, David Metzger (Dean)

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SECTIONS AT A GLANCE: ODU UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

SPRING 2010 (FEB 6) - Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Building

8:30-9:00am: Registration

9:00am: Welcome and Opening Remarks from Provost Carol Simpson, Chandler Recital Hall

9:15-10:15 (Sessions A1-A4): “Undergraduate Research in the Engineering” (ODU 107); “Undergraduate Research in the Sciences and Social Sciences” (poster session, FPA Foyer--West); “Student Art Exhibition” (Diehn Foyer, East); “Securing Our Global Supply Chain” (Chandler Recital Hall)

10:30-11:30 (Sessions B1-B3): “Undergraduate Research in the Biological Sciences” (FPA 107); “GIS and Remote Sensing in Environmental Studies” (FPA 107); “Undergraduate Research in Art History” (FPA 136)

11:30am-1pm Lunch, North Cafeteria

1-2pm (Sessions C1-C3): “Contemporary Perspectives on Motherhood” (FPA 136); “Undergraduate Research in the Department of Psychology” (FPA 107); “Issues of Creativity, Interpretation and Organization in the Works of Student Composers” (Chandler Recital Hall)

2:15-3:15 (Sessions D1-D3): “Undergraduate Research in the Sciences & Nursing” (FPA 136); “From Website to Experience: Redesigning the English Department’s Digital Space” (FPA 142); “From-Heres & Come-Heres: Perceptions of the Immigrant Other and Transcultural Encounters in Virginia” (FPA 107)

3:30-4:30: Reception, Diehn Composers Room

“A shared vision is not an idea… it is rather, a force in people’s hearts… at its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question ‘What do we want to create?’” Peter Senge
Welcome back! I hope that each of you is getting back into the swing of things after being off for winter break. I cannot believe that we are already in the Spring semester. I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate many of you on your excellent work last semester. Many of you did extremely well academically, and that is to be commended. As I was contacting your professors about the contract classes, I was overwhelmed with all of the positive comments that I received about each of you. I heard consistently how many of you not only completed your requirements but also went beyond what was expected. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about your accomplishments, and I hope that you take a minute to congratulate yourselves on your hard work and dedication.

I also realize that some of you did not do as well as you may have wanted. Please do not become discouraged. This is a new semester and a chance to start fresh. You can correct the mistakes that you may have made last semester and the university offers you a lot of support to help you do this. Many of these resources are available free of charge for all Norfolk campus undergraduates. Please take advantage of them. If you would like more information, please set up an appointment to come and talk to me and we can figure out what would be best for you. It may be that you need some assistance with scheduling or time management, and I would be happy to assist you with this. Also please keep in mind it is never a good idea to wait until the end of the semester to ask for help. This puts you at a disadvantage and will bring added frustration. Asking for help simply means that you are taking responsibility for your learning.

I am looking forward to meeting again with all of the first year students this semester. Please set up an appointment to meet with me when you get a chance. It is my wish that each of you has a successful, productive and happy semester.

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UPCOMING DATES

**February 6** – Undergraduate Research Symposium, Diehn Fine Arts Center, starts at 9 am and will end approximately around 4 pm. Please join us for a fun-filled day of knowledge and sharing with fellow ODU students, faculty, and staff. All students, friends, and families are welcome to attend.

**3rd Week of March** – emails will be sent to all Honors College students with instructions on what they need to do to reserve a space in any honors course(s) for fall 2010. **We will not accept honors course reservation requests via email or phone call. You have to physically come to the Honors College Office and write your name and university identification number in our HNRS course reservation book under each HNRS course you want to take.**

**April 9** – At approximately 8 am on this day, Honors College students will be able to register for summer classes 2010 and for fall classes 2010 including the honors courses they reserved in the latter part of March 2010. The Honors College usually does not offer any honors courses for summer school sessions. **If you have not reserved your space in our “Honors Course Book” for the any honors course(s) you want to take, you will not be able to register for them on April 9. You will have to physically come to the Honors College Office, BAL 2000, to receive permission to register. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT EMAILS OR PHONE CALLS.**

**April 19 – May 7** – HC May graduates may pick up their HC graduation tassels, medallions, ribbons, and certificates beginning April 19 between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, in the Honors College, BAL 2000.

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The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams - **Eleanor Roosevelt**
STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTS

Electrical Engineering major, Tiara Jones, has gone where no woman has gone before in her summer research at NASA, Langley. She has had the unique privilege to research the ability of XM satellites to detect soil moisture. Her findings determined the level of future funding allocated to the Electromagnetic Department's project. Last summer she began a new area of research under the guidance of Dr. Lawrence. This project used an electromagnetic computer model to detect how lightning will affect graphite epoxy material on the surface of airplanes.

When Tiara is not busy in her undergraduate research, or participating in Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, or the Golden Key International Honor Society, she finds time to volunteer at her church. With Tiara’s significant research experience, she is sure to rocket into the fields of bioelectronics or biomedical research as she pursues a Masters in Biomedical Engineering.

Representing the Republic of Moldova, Mihail (Misha) Cutitaru is a unique asset to the University Computer Science Department. Misha found his niche at ODU through his experience in a contract Honors course, Digital System Design. As a result of that class, Misha began undergraduate research with the College of Engineering and Technology in Reversible Logic, which he describes as both rewarding and fulfilling. His experiences through the Honors College Research Program have inspired him to pursue a Master’s Degree.

Misha has nothing less than a full plate as Vice President of Tau Beta Pi, a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. One of the other ways he gives back to the University is through the Mace & Crown student paper. Misha is sure to succeed in all his endeavors.

Colin Courtney, computer science major, has interests in the fields of physics, history and graphical visualizations. Colin has focused on his hobby, game programming and development, by implementing a flash-based game for high school students. Through a program called iSTART, he has helped bolster high school students’ learning. He has developed mini-games alongside the lead developer for the program, Justin Brunelle. In his game, players earn points to purchase other mini-games or prizes. Through iSTART, Colin has been able to get his students to have fun while actively learning. He also got married his sophomore year at ODU. Congratulations to Colin for all of his accomplishments within the Computer Science Department and for a new baby on the way!
Scholarships Awarded Exclusively to Honors College Students

In addition to being eligible for a wide variety of other scholarships available to Old Dominion students, Honors College students can apply for scholarships in the spring semester of each academic year. Come see the extensive list on our website.

http://www.odu.edu/ao/honors/

Student Feature - Devina Mohan

Devina Mohan has methodically been able to apply what she has learned in Biology and Biochemistry classes at ODU to “real-life” projects. Under the instruction of Dr. Paula Mazzer, professor of Introductory Biochemistry, Devina has worked on two research projects for the University. One was based on researching a relationship between severe air pollution exposure and Alzheimer's-like diseases in the brains of dogs in Mexico. They focused their study on learning if brain cells exposed to diesel exhaust particles would exhibit signs of inflammation and neurodegeneration similar to what is present in Alzheimer’s disease patients.

The second project researched if severe exposure to diesel exhaust can result in respiratory health problems. They aimed to determine the mechanism through which the air pollutant particles can induce lung macrophage cell death. They found that cell inflammation and explosion, necrosis, was a common pathway along with programmed cell suicide called apoptosis. Devina was able to work with mass spectrometry to determine whether diesel exhaust particles induce necrosis or apoptosis in the lung macrophage cells.

The Honor’s College is pleased to highlight some of Devina’s achievements in research over the past two projects. She has represented well what it means to look past the pages of all those textbooks and find the purpose and life application in a research setting.

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Date: Saturday, February 6
Location: Diehn Fine Arts Center
Please join us for a fun-filled day of knowledge and sharing with fellow ODU students, faculty, and staff. All students, friends, and families are welcome to attend.

Check out the Study Abroad courses planned for Spring 2010...
Scholarships Available!!!

http://www.odu.edu/ao/oip/studyabroad/

The man who gives little with a smile gives more than the man who gives much with a frown.