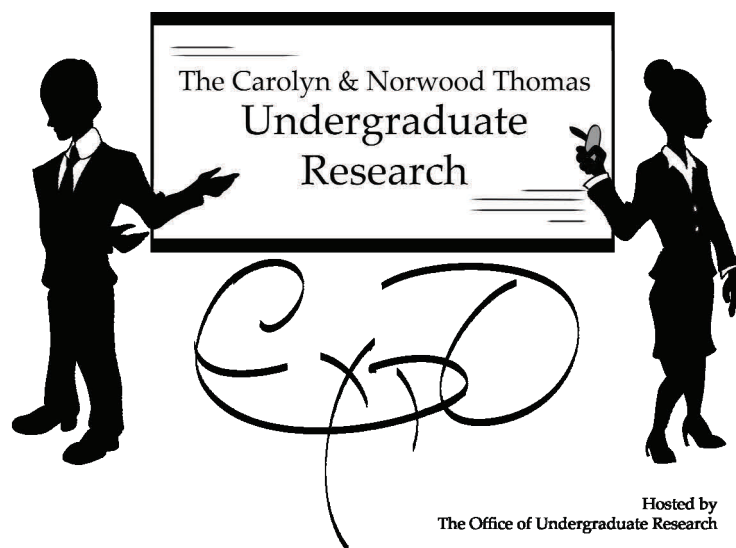


OUR Spring 2013

Spring 2013, Issue X

February 2013

OUR Expo is Getting a New Name!



Dr. Steve Roberson, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Jan Rychtář, the Interim Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, are proud to announce that the annual celebration of undergraduate scholarship and creative activities—formerly known as OUR Expo—is getting a new name. In recognition of Mrs. Carolyn Thomas '54, a long time, generous donor and a supporter of undergraduate research, the event will now be called "The Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research Expo."

The Expo will be held on March 21 in EUC from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. It will showcase the work of UNCG undergraduate students who will compete for a \$1,000 award. For more information, visit:

<http://our.uncg.edu/ugexpo/2013.php>

UNCG Undergraduates Excel at International Conferences

Anna Tuck, Tracy Spears, and Caitlin Ross received the Best Paper Award for Undergraduate Presenters at the International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics, October 5-7, 2012.

Thomas Parrish, Caitlin Ross, Tracy Spears, David Sykes, and Anna Tuck, presented their work at the International Conference on Statistics

and Informatics in Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India.

Anna and Tracy presented their work on optional unrelated-question randomized response models, supervised by Drs. Sat Gupta and Mary Crowe. Caitlin presented her work on the influences of life stages on the evolution of altruism, supervised by Drs. Jan Rychtář and Olav Rueppell.

David presented his work on Kleptoparasitism, supervised by Dr. Rychtář. Thomas presented his work on automatic video processing, supervised by Drs. Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell and Sebastian Pauli.

The students' work has been supported by the NSF grants 0850465 and 0926288.

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State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium SNCURCS



Duke University in Durham, NC hosted SNCURCS on Saturday, November 17, 2012.

UNCG was represented by the following students:

Student Name	Mentor Name	Department	Title of Project
Stephen Barnes	Norman Chiu	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Comparative Study of Ionization Techniques in Mass Spectrometry of Ribonucleoside
Luke Kaiser	Jeffrey Soles	Classical Archaeology & English w/ Minor in GIS	Understanding Hellenistic Fortifications Through Remote Sensing and GIS
Jessica MacNair	David Teachout	Music Education	Rehearsal of Music and Language in Working Memory
Daniel Nasrallah	Mitchell Croatt	Chemistry—Concentration Research	Exploration of the selective synthesis of cyclooctatetraenes by addition of dimethyl sulfoxide to metal catalysts
Mary Piepmeier	Heather Holian	Art History	The Medici Gardens: Microcosms of Divine Rule
David Sykes	Jan Rychtář	Mathematics	The Effect of Information on Kleptoparasitic Interactions
Jillian Troxler	Esther Leerkes	Psychology	Gender Differences in Infant Emotion Regulation

Save the Dates:

**The Carolyn & Norwood Thomas
Undergraduate Research Expo—Abstract
Deadline**

February 23, 2013

**National Council on Undergraduate Research
(NCUR)**

April 11-13, 2013
University of Wisconsin

**Big South Undergraduate Research
Symposium (BigSURS)**

April 5-6, 2013

“How to Create a Poster” Workshop Schedule for Spring 2013

- Wednesday, February 27, 4pm MHRA 3603
- Friday, March 1, 12pm MHRA 2603
- Tuesday, March 5, 12:30pm MHRA 2603
- Monday, March 18, 10am MHRA 1607

Register for one of these workshops at:

<http://workshops.uncg.edu/workshops.jsp>
[wks_id=44006012](#)

URA Student Interview: Joshua MacDonald

Project Title: Social Inequality and Stone Bead Production at Cerro Baúl and Cerro Mejía

Major: Anthropology

Mentor: Dr. Donna Nash

Department: Anthropology



1. Describe your research project.

The title of my research project is Social Inequality and Stone Bead Production at Cerro Baúl and Cerro Mejía. It is an ongoing project. I spent three months in Peru where I worked on an archaeology project with Dr. Nash. Part of that time was spent on excavation and the other was spent on analyzing stone beads found in three different locations. One [place] was at the palace in the Presidential Center, another was just outside of the palace and the third was in a village that was not a bead center. [We] compared how they were made and the materials they were made out of.

The goal of the project is to examine the beads that have prestige. A prestige good is something that elites and powerful people would use to mark their status and we also think that they are controlling the raw material used to make the beads. We are still piling the data in some spreadsheets and comparing the statistics to see if what we see happening is actually happening.

2. How did you come to work with your mentor?

I have had [three] classes with Dr. Donna Nash—one in the fall, World Pre-History, and two in the spring, Latin-American Archaeology and Methods in Archaeology. I met with her and I told her that I would be interested in doing research because I had some friends who took part in the Undergraduate Research programs, so I [already] knew about it. At that moment we wrote up the proposal and it was approved.

3. What were some of the most challenging aspects during your research?

Sitting in a lab all day looking at beads gets pretty old, so becoming mentally prepared to do that task when you know you are in Peru and could have been seeing the local cultures and people; that and the sheer amount of beads that we

have collected. I've had over 600 samples of beads and that amount of data has to be entered into Excel before statistics can be conducted.

4. How has your research project helped you towards your college experience?

I think that anytime you can obtain research experience, especially if you are applying for graduate school, it is a valuable tool to learn; even if you do not decide to go to graduate school after undergoing your research project. You do not want to get to graduate school and end up paying a ridiculous amount of money when you were not sure [in the first place]. Having that [knowledge] was useful and it is a good chance to see what is out there. It has allowed me to go to Peru for three months and it was pretty cool.

5. What do you plan to do after graduation?

I am just going to take some time off from school for a while. Afterwards, graduate school is certainly a possibility. Right now I'm burned out from school. After May 12th [when the semester let out], I traveled to Peru on May 14th, worked the entire summer and came back to the U.S. on August 7th. By the time I graduate in May [2013], I will have been in school for two and a half consecutive years with no breaks.

URA Travel Fund is now OUR Travel Fund

Are your students traveling to a professional conference or a meeting to present their research, scholarship or creative activity? They can receive up to \$500 in support from the OUR Travel Fund.

The funds are distributed as a reimbursement. Students must submit original receipts after the travel has been completed. Students may apply up to 6 months before the planned travel. Applications are considered on a first come, first serve basis. For details and more information, please go to this link:

<http://our.uncg.edu/funding/travel.php>



National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)



The 27th National Council on Undergraduate Research will be held **April 11-13, 2013** at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

The following students will represent UNCG:

- Francisco Jose-Zapatero Belinchon, Biology
- Mary Piepmeier, Art History
- Caitlin Ross, Mathematics
- David Sykes, Mathematics

For more information, please go to this link:

http://www.cur.org/ncur_2013/