

Announcing the UROP Summer Fellows for 2011-2012

Every summer, the Office of Research awards 15 undergrads a total of \$3000 to conduct research over a span of 10 weeks with a faculty mentor of their choice. The award is offered through the VCU Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to undergraduate students and their faculty mentor partners whose research proposals show the greatest potential for learning and discovery. The fellowship is open to all VCU undergrads from every academic discipline, and the funded projects represent a wide array of scholarly interests that exemplify the diversity of our academic community. On behalf of the Office of Research and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, please welcome our 2011-2012 UROP Summer Fellows:

Mary Reck, a Clinical Lab Sciences major in the School of Allied Health will work with her mentor, Emily Hill, on a project entitled "Improving the Gram Stain".

Ilijana Soldan, an Interior Design major in the School of Arts will partner with Prof. Roberto Ventura on her project, "Historic Socialist Architecture in Modern Interpretation: Nazi Architecture in 21st Cent. Germany".

Theresa Aileen Painter, an Arts student majoring in Painting and Printmaking, will work with Prof. Ron Johnson on a project that will combine art and engineering to provide a means to represent sound and music in a physical artistic display.

Tobias Wilbur, a Graphic Design major from the School of Arts, will work with two mentors, Meaghan Dee and Prof. Jamie Mahoney, on a project entitled, "Mark and Pattern: A visual reference of Maori Art and Technique".

Brendan Elliot, a History major in the College of Humanities and Sciences, will partner with Dr. Sarah Meacham on a research project, "British Loyalist Papers".

Aruna Anbazhagan, a Biochemical Engineering major, will work with Dr. Matthew Hartman on their project, "RNA Purification through use of Fluorous Affinity".

Mary Gallagher, a student in the department of Chemistry, will partner with Dr. Michael McVoy on a research project entitled, "Characterization of the human antibody response to cytomegalovirus endocytic entry mediators and comparison to Immunization with a live attenuated vaccine".

Jonathan Fletcher, a Biology major in the College of Humanities and Sciences, will work with Dr. John Ryan on their project, "Do Tumors Activate Mast Cells?".

Laura Peters, a student in the Department of Psychology, will work with Dr. Vivian Dzokoto on a project entitled, "Body Awareness and Emotion Facilitation: Revising the Facial Feedback Hypothesis".

Tim Fiore, a Biology major, will partner with Dr. Alex Meredith on a project entitled, "Laminar Distribution of Inputs to Rostral Posterior Parietal Cortex of the Ferret".

Jared Boyd, a Health and Human Performance/Exercise Science major in the School of Education will work with Dr. Lee Franco on a project to analyze obesity, type 2 diabetes, and insulin resistance as factors related to the metabolic syndrome.

Victoria Hribar, a School of Engineering undergraduate majoring in Biomedical Engineering will partner with Dr. Dianne Pawluk on their project, "Visualizing Art for the Blind".

Jason Phillips, an Electrical and Computer Engineering major, will work with Dr. David Chan on a project entitled, "Fractal Antenna Design".

Royena Tanaz, a Life Sciences undergraduate majoring in Bioinformatics will partner with Dr. Sarah Elsea on their project, "Investigating the Role of RAI1 in Childhood Onset Obesity".

Yeimarie Lopez, an undergraduate from the School of Social work will work together with Prof. Mary Shelden on their project, "The Needs of Non-English Speaking Cancer Patients".



The new awardees for the VCU UROP Summer Fellowship were presented during the Poster Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, part of VCU Research Week 2011. From far left: Jared Boyd, Yeimarie Lopez, Jason Phillips, Aruna Anbazhagan, Ilijana Soldan, Jonathan Fletcher, Herb Hill (UROP Coordinator), Brendan Elliot, and Tim Fiore. Not pictured: Mary Gallagher, Victoria Hribar, Theresa Painter, Laura Peters, Mary Reck, Royena Tanaz, Tobias Wilbur.