

# Announcing the UROP Summer Fellows for 2013-2014

Every summer, the Office of Research awards funding support to a cohort of VCU undergraduates to conduct research over a span of 10 weeks with a faculty mentor of their choice. This year we were able to award 25 students! 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 2013-2014 UROP Summer Fellows:

**Rhonda Chapman**, Clinical Lab Sciences major in the School of Allied Health, will work with **Dr. Lara Mabry**, on a project titled 'MPO to Determine Risk of Cardiovascular Disease'.

**Jerry Walters**, a Sculpture major in the School of Arts, will work with **Prof. Matt King** on a project entitled 'Powder, Candy Chrome: Research Into the Relationship Between Surface and Sculpture'.

**Michelle Florence**, a Craft and Material Studies major in the School of Arts, will work with **Prof. Andrea Connell** on a project entitled 'Application of Armatures in Large-Scale Figurative Ceramics'.

**London Perry**, a Cinema major, will work with **Prof. Beth Reed** of the School of Arts on their project "Music and Subjective Image".

**Elise Neuscheler**, a Communication Arts major, will work with **Prof. Ying-Fang Shen** on their project "Making It Happen: Establishing Prerequisites for Independent Animation".

**Torian Ugworji**, a Kinetic Imaging major in the School of Arts, will work with **Prof. Bob Paris** on a project entitled 'Aspect of the African American Male'.

**David Williams**, an Information Systems major in the School of Business, will team with **Dr. Manoj Thomas** on the project "An Ontological Approach for User-Centric Data Mining Model Management".

**Danielle Armstrong**, a Psychology major, will work with **Dr. Faye Belgrave** on a project titled "How to Mold Minds: The Factors Influencing HIV Testing Attitudes".

**Azhar Bashir**, a Chemistry major, will team with **Dr. Gail Christie** on a project called "Identification of superinfection exclusion genes in *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteriophage 80a".

**Rose Bono**, a Psychology major will work with **Dr. Scott Vrana** on their project entitled "Examining the Effect of Stimulus and Response Training on Semantic Structure in Personal Narratives: Applications of Latent Semantic Analysis"

**Joanne Chiao**, a History major will team with **Dr. Karen Rader** on their project "History of the Patient's History: Exploring Origins, Developments, and Debates of the Art of Clinical Case-Taking".

**Jenna Dodson**, an Environmental Studies major, will work with **Dr. Lesley Bulluck** on their project "Do egg size and parental care influence nestling personality in PROW"

**Donald Jessup**, a Forensic Science major, will team up with **Dr. Christopher Ehrhardt** on their project "Forensic Signatures for Illicitly-produced Bacterial Pathogens: High Resolution Assays for Detecting Chemical Additives Used to Weaponize Biothreat Agents".

**Ian McClenny**, a Chemistry major, will work with **Dr. Hani M. El-Kaderi** on their project, "Gas Separation by Porous Materials for Energy and Environmental Applications".

**Jay Patel**, a Biology major, will work with **Dr. Maryanne Collinson** on their project "Using Nanoporous Gold as a Potentiometric Sensor to Measure the Redox Potential in Blood".

**Joseph Bungard**, a Chemistry major, will team up with **Dr. Matthew Hartman** on their project entitled "Peptide Permeability".

**Karin Miller**, a Biology major will work with **Jacek Ghosh** and **Steven Heinetz** with VCU Sustainability on their project, "Environmental Intelligence: Signage Influence on Point of Use Choices".

**Nathalie Spita**, a Biology major, will work with **Dr. Andrew Ottens** on their project, "Diagnostics of Brain Injury Rehabilitation".

**Min Im**, a Mathematics major, will team up with **Dr. Norma Ortiz-Robinson** on their project titled "Application of Optimal Control methods to the determination of a "best" control scheme to suppress arrhythmia"

**Courtney Belmonte**, a Psychology major, will work with **Prof. Jennifer Wartella** on their project "Using The Life Story to Promote Identity Formation and Career Decision-Making in an Undergraduate Population".

**Vanessa Fuentes**, a Psychology major, will team up with **Dr. Rosalie Corona** on their project "How Does Culture Affect Latino College Students' Mental Health?".

**Stuart Jennings**, a Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering major, will partner with **Dr. James G. Miller** on their project entitled "Nuclear Power Plant Simulator".

**David Presnall**, a Chemical and Life Sciences Engineering major, will team up with **Dr. Xuejun Wen** on their project "Prevention of Healthcare - Associated infections (HAIs) with a Novel Albumin PLASTIC coating".

**Tiffany Wong**, a Biomedical Engineering major, will work with **Dr. Christopher A. Lemmon** on their project "Fibronectin Fragment Effects on Pluripotent Stem Cells using Microcontact Printing Arrays".

**Tenesha Bottoms**, a Nursing major, will work with **Dr. Mary Jo Grap** on their project "Effect of Stimulated Events on Level of Sedation in Mechanically Ventilated Patients".