



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.

March 21, 2013

OUR News and Events

Don't miss the [March 25 deadline](#) to submit your abstract to participate in the Celebration of Undergraduate Research

OUR Blog:

- Read about [undergraduate research-related events](#) on campus.

GRC Blog:

- Check out these [resources](#) for inquiry-based learning and teaching.

OUR News:

- Watch for the chance to vote in our new [Research Madness Bracket](#) contest.
- Are you teaching a Maymester or Summer Session class? The deadline to [apply for a GRC](#) is April 15.

OUR People:

- [Meet Graduating OUR Ambassador Sarbajeet Nagdas.](#)
- [Meet GRC alum Dr. Danielle Swick.](#)

Other Events and News:

- The [Southern Oral History Program](#) has extended the deadline for its Fall 2013 Undergraduate Internship to March 22nd.
- The Office of Distinguished Scholarships hosts a [Spring Information Session](#) on March 26.
- Apply to present your undergraduate research in English and/or Comparative Literature at the [April 12 SOULCON](#). Submissions are due by March 30.
- [BIGSURS](#), the regional undergraduate research symposium of the Big South Athletic Conference, is April 5-6, 2013.

OUR Events

- The [Celebration of Undergraduate Research](#) is April 15, 2013. NOTE: The deadline to submit your [abstract](#) to participate in the Celebration is March 25, 2013.

Pictures from previous Celebrations:



- Undergraduate researchers can submit their work for consideration for publication in [Explorations](#).
- During the 2014-15 academic year, UNC will host [A Year-Long Conversation: World War I - The Legacy](#). If you're planning a related course, consider incorporating a research component and applying for a GRC.

The [Southern Oral History Program](#) has extended the deadline for its Fall 2013 Undergraduate Internship to March 22nd at 11 p.m. The aim of the SOHP Internship Program is to provide experiential education in the intellectual, organizational, and practical work of oral history at one of the nation's most esteemed centers for oral history scholarship. This is a unique opportunity to engage in oral history research, assist in the operations of the SOHP and deepen your knowledge about oral history. For more information, or an application, contact Elizabeth McCain and Joey Fink at sohpinternship@gmail.com.

The [Office of Distinguished Scholarships](#) (ODS) invites high-achieving current and rising Seniors to attend our final spring information session.

When: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 5:15PM

Where: Graham Memorial 039 (in the basement)

This information session is focused toward students interested in applying to [nationally competitive scholarships for post-graduate study](#) such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Luce, Churchill, and Gates Cambridge Scholarships. We will review application deadlines, the application process, and best practices for preparing a competitive application.

CALLING ALL COMP. LIT & ENGLISH MAJORS!

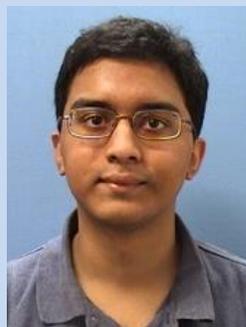
- Interested in presenting an essay or section of your honors thesis to an audience of your peers?
- Have a research idea or possible thesis topic you'd like to get feedback and guidance on developing?

Apply to present your work on Friday, April 12, at SOULCON, an Undergraduate Research Conference brought to you by S.O.U.L. (the Student Organization for Undergraduate Literature).



[OUR Ambassador](#) Sarbajeet Nagdas:

My research experiences started in the fall of my first year when I started working in Dr. Muhammad Yousaf's lab in the [Chemistry Department](#). There, I worked on a project studying the influence of haptotactic gradients on cell division orientation. I received a [SURF](#) for the summer of 2010 to complete this research project and was able to write a manuscript that is pending publication. As I learned more through didactic teaching and gained more lab experience, my research interest evolved from chemistry to a more biochemistry/molecular



Submissions are due by Saturday, March 30.

- Submit a 250-500 word abstract for a 15-minute conference paper [OR](#)
- Submit a 100-250 word summary of work in progress you'd like to get feedback on in an informal seminar session.

Email submissions to Dr. Hilary Lithgow: [lithgow@email.unc.edu]. More information will be available soon at: [facebook.com/uncsoul](https://www.facebook.com/uncsoul)
SOULCON CONFERENCE FAQ's:

Q: What topics are SOULCON papers expected to address?

A: Paper topics can cover any aspect of literature or film, or the humanities more broadly construed.

Q: What should I include in my 250-500 word proposal for a conference presentation?

A: Your proposal should clearly state your presentation's topic and thesis/main claim and briefly sketch out your argument. Ideally (but not necessarily) explain how your project responds to and/or builds on the existing scholarship on your topic.

Q: What should I include in my 100-250 word summary of work in progress for the informal seminar session?

A: Pretty much anything goes here—we're expecting these proposals to run the gamut from very preliminary "I'm trying to develop a project about x" proposals to students looking to fine tune projects before heading off for summer research.

Q: What will the informal seminar session look like?

A: It will consist of a group of undergraduates and at least one professor listening to and giving you feedback on your ideas—this session is imagined as an informal, friendly help session, not a super formal you-talk-while-others-stare format. All are welcome!

[EXPLORATIONS](#) is a hard copy undergraduate research and creativity journal open to students at North Carolina colleges and universities.

Submissions should be no more than 6000 words of text (not counting figures, tables, title, abstract and references). The deadline for submissions is June 1; see [submission instructions](#) for more details.

biology focus. After my sophomore year, I switched labs to research for [Dr. Richard Cheney](#) in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology and will complete my Honors thesis work with this group. For the past few years, I have been investigating a molecule called Myosin-X (Myo10). I have helped in the determination of fundamental questions regarding Myo 10, like what Myo10 interacts with; also, I aided in the characterization of another isoform of Myo10 with alternate functions, for which I was a co-author on a publication. Furthermore, I ventured beyond UNC to work in a cancer lab at IU School of Medicine looking at gene expression profiles in ovarian cancer spheroids.

My various research experiences honed my research interest in the field of cell motility and migration and contributed to my decision to pursue a Ph.D. investigating similar migratory topics as it pertains to cancer.

GRC Alum Profile: Danielle Swick

Dr. Danielle Swick earned her Ph.D. in Social Work in 2007. While at Carolina, she served as a [Graduate Research Consultant](#) in [Dr. Lawrence Rosenfeld's](#) Interpersonal Communication class. For Danielle, one of the most memorable aspects of working as a GRC was getting to interact with undergraduate students for the first time and watching them get excited about



research. She met with all the students in groups throughout the semester. She liked seeing the research process click for them and found it extremely rewarding to work with the students on their projects from beginning to end.

One of the challenges Danielle experienced was that as a graduate student,

she was "immersed in the technical aspects of research, and well versed in what research looks like in the academic world." She noted that most undergraduates haven't had that exposure yet. One strategy she found useful was to help students see

how what they were learning in the classroom can be applied in the real world.

Danielle's own scholarship is in school-based research and military research. She currently serves as a Research Assistant Professor in the [UNC School of Social Work](#). In August, she'll begin a tenure-track position at [UNC-Greensboro](#). At UNC-G, she'll be teaching both undergraduates and graduates; her future colleagues were excited about and interested in her experience as a GRC and facilitating undergraduate research.

Danielle's advice to current GRCs: Get excited. Be patient. Take the time to sit down with the undergraduate students. Practice being able to explain complex topics in a more accessible manner without using jargon. Have a lot of fun with the opportunity!

Like [OUR](#) on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Would you like to provide support for the Office for Undergraduate Research? You can make a gift [here](#).



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

Where will your curiosity lead you?

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