



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](http://www.unc.edu/depts/our) or email us at [our@unc.edu](mailto:our@unc.edu).

April 4, 2013

## OUR News and Events

### *OUR Blog:*

- Visit the [OUR Blog](#) and read the entries in our Research Madness Bracket Contest. We'll announce the winner on April 9.

### *GRC Blog:*

- Watch for new [GRC Blog](#) posts in our next newsletter.

### *OUR News:*

- Are you teaching a Maymester or Summer Session class? The deadline to [apply for a GRC](#) is April 15.

### *OUR People:*

- OUR Director Pat Pukkila is [profiled](#) in the current issue of the College of Arts & Sciences journal.
- Read about the wide range of research undertaken by graduating OUR Ambassador [Darrius Jones](#).
- OUR Ambassadors Keia Faison and Mattis Hennings presented the keynote address at this year's [PIT Journal conference](#).

### *Other Events and News:*

- The [NC Science Festival](#) offers science-related events all across the state during April. The OUR Celebration of Undergraduate Research is listed in the Festival events catalog.
- Are you doing research abroad this summer? Register for the April 13 [GO! Initiative pre-departure orientation](#) and learn to "evaluate expectations, anticipate potential cultural and ethical challenges, prepare for engagement in communities, and develop intercultural competencies."

## OUR Events

- The [Celebration of Undergraduate Research](#) is April 15, 2013 from 1-3:15 in the Frank Porter Graham Student Union. Check out [the Platform Schedule](#) and the [Poster Session Schedule](#) to get a glimpse of the wide range of research projects conducted by Carolina undergraduates. Please join us.

Here are some of the pictures from our Presymposium Preparation Workshop.



OUR Director Pat Pukkila speaks with attendees.

- Learn about 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.
- The [Carolina Center for Genome Sciences](#) is hosting their Spring Symposium “From Genome to Proteome: Proteomic Innovations and Technologies” on May 12. Lunch and Breakfast are provided for [registrants](#).
- Undergraduate researchers can submit their work for consideration for publication in [Explorations](#) or [the International Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities](#).
- The Office for Postdoctoral Affairs is accepting applications for [Postdoctoral Awards for Research Excellence](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

2013 PIT Journal conference:

This semester’s PIT Journal conference was held on Thursday, March 28. Two OUR Ambassadors, Mattis Hennings and Keia Faison, presented the conference keynote. Mattis and Keia provided a lot of information, strategies and advice. Here are just a few of their key points:

- Do research about things you care about and things that matter to you.
- Conducting research is a valuable experience, whether you do a small project or a large one.
- Research is organic and evolves. Your questions will change as your project moves along.



Students practice their “one minute WOW.”



Mary Wurzelmann demonstrates how to present a poster.

\*\*\*\*\*

Darrius Jones ’12 profile

As a senior psychology student, I’ve had various experiences in research throughout my undergraduate career. During the summer after my freshmen year, I worked in [Dr. Mark Wightman’s](#) chemistry lab as part of the [SMART-II](#) Program. While researching in this lab, I worked on a project that studied neurotransmitter pathways in the brains of rat specimens. During my sophomore year, I began a project in entirely different field: the classics. This research study focused on the portrayal of women in

- It's very satisfying to move to a mentor-mentee relationship with a faculty member instead of just professor-student.

Do you want to know more? Please feel free to contact any of the [OUR Ambassadors](#) directly. They are eager to help you have a successful undergraduate research journey.



\*\*\*\*\*

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is pleased to accept applications this spring for [Postdoctoral Awards for Research Excellence](#). The awards, open to postdocs in all disciplines, are designed to recognize research potential and to assist scholars with professional development needs, such as conference travel, written materials, skills workshops, or other activities that directly enhance the individual's professional development. The awards can fund up to \$1000 in professional endeavors and must be expended between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. The application deadline date is Friday, May 24, 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*

[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

Ancient Greek and Roman comedic plays, specifically looking how these plays depicted the transformation of women before and after marriage. After this project, I spent time working in a social neuroscience lab on Duke's

campus and had a summer internship with the American Psychological Association and George Mason University. Most recently, I



have been working in [Dr. Enrique Neblett's](#) psychology lab, which studies racism and discrimination and their effects on health outcomes in minority adolescents. Using this research experience as a guide in focusing my research interests, I have decided to pursue a Ph.D in psychology after I graduate and hopefully will have a research lab of my own one day.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](#).

**Where will your curiosity lead you?**

The Office for Undergraduate Research  
[www.unc.edu/depts/our](http://www.unc.edu/depts/our)

references). The deadline for submissions is June 1; see [submission instructions](#) for more details.

\*\*\*\*\*

