

Inaugural Thomas Undergraduate Research

Mentor Award

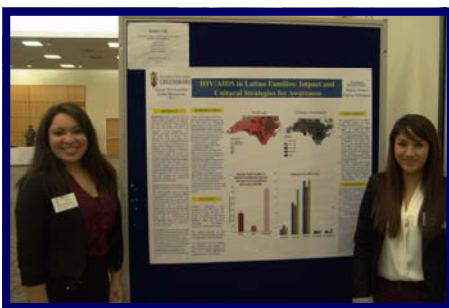
In 2014, the UNCG Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office (URSCO) established the Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award to recognize faculty members who engage students in projects that contribute to expansion of knowledge and understanding in their discipline. Dr. Terry Nile, recipient of the inaugural award, has been at UNCG for his entire career, starting in 1970 as an instructor. Realizing his love for students, he returned to university to earn the Ph.D., and then resumed his role at UNCG, this time as an Assistant Professor. He has had a very successful career, always keeping his focus on the success of his students. Because of this, he has received several teaching awards, including the prestigious University of North Carolina Board of Governors Teaching Excellence Award. He has been an outstanding research mentor for over 200 undergraduates and has been given the title "Dr. Awesomeness" by his students. On his approach to mentoring, Dr. Nile stated, "All students are different and for undergraduate research to be a life-changing experience, I try to design their work to fit their needs and abilities. I try to 'titrate' the student's work, giving them very easy routine tasks to begin with and then once they have demonstrated competence then constantly challenging them with more difficult work."

Now Professor Emeritus, he continues mentoring undergraduates in Organometallic Chemistry, as well as life lessons. It is because of Dr. Terry Nile's passion for undergraduate education and research along with his outstanding service to the UNCG community over his lifetime that the URSCO finds him fully deserving of the first annual Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

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2014 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo

Award Winners

Visual Arts**1st — Gabrielle Ocampo**

Faculty Mentor — Sheryl Oring (Art)

*"What it's Like to Sleep"***2nd — Michael Bannerman**

Faculty Mentor — Barbara Campbell Thomas (Art)

*"The Complete Astrologer & His Time Capsules"***3rd — Elizabeth Traub**

Faculty Mentor — Nikki Blair (Art)

*"Don't Listen"***Honorable Mention — Billy Hawkins**

Faculty Mentor — Barbara Campbell Thomas (Art)

*"Ako no. 1"*Life, Mathematical & Physical Sciences(M. Russell Harter Award)**1st — Daniel Nasrallah**

Faculty Mentor—Mitchell Croatt (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

*"Investigation into the Syntheses and Applications of Cyanocarbenes"***2nd — Jonathan Nelson & Shan Yu**

Faculty Mentor—Karen Katula (Biology)

*"Epigenetic Modulation of WNT5A Expression in the Human Colorectal Cell Line HCT-116"***3rd — Harry Rybacki**

Faculty Mentor—Andrew Jensen (Computer Science)

*"OSF SciNet: Crowd-Sourcing the Scientific Citation Network"***Honorable Mention—Jason Howard**

Faculty Mentor—Deepshikha Shukla (Physics & Astronomy)

*"Exploring Charge Independence of the Strong Force by Modeling Neutron-Proton Scattering"*Behavioral, Economic, Educational & Social Sciences**1st — Brent Nara, David Frank & Michaela Zavagnin**

Faculty Mentors— Dayna Touron & Michael Kane (Psychology)

*"The Influences of Mood and Mindfulness on Age-Related Differences in Mind Wandering in a Reading Task"***2nd — Jonathan Latta & Julie Campbell**

Faculty Mentor— George Michel (Psychology)

*"The Development of Hand Preference in Infants Between 8 to 14 Months"***3rd — Meg Smith**

Faculty Mentor—Nicole Dobbins & Vicki Jacobs (Education)

*"How Children Think About Math"***Honorable Mention—Joylyn Troyer & Catherine French**

Faculty Mentor—Travis Hicks (Interior Architecture)

*"Sustainable Glenwood"*Humanities**1st — Emily Gering**

Faculty Mentor—David Wharton (Classical Studies)

*"Development in Latin's Basic Color Terms"***2nd — Eliana Mundula**

Faculty Mentor—Heather Holian (Art History)

*"Learned, Mannered, and Titled: Baccio Bandinelli's Self-Referential Work in the Context of the Changing Status of the Artist"***3rd — Rachel Chaney**

Faculty Mentor — Hephzibah Roskelly (English)

"There are Worse Crimes than Burning Books: How the Graphic Novel Enhances the Rhetorical Aim of Bradbury's 'Fahrenheit 451'"

In the News

URCA recipient **Ashley Bryant** (Biology) and mentor **Robert Anemone** were featured in an article about their anthropological dig on the UNCG website.



<http://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/uncg-bryant-paleontology/>



The 8th Annual Carolyn and Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo featured 111 presentations by 158 students. These students were mentored by 84 faculty members from 39 academic departments.

Dipti Paudel was recognized as the first recipient of the Lilian Nile Undergraduate Research Assistantship, and **Dr. Rosemary Wander** was honored for her contributions to undergraduate research at UNCG.



URCA student **Dominick DeFelice** was profiled on the university's homepage regarding the UNCG Guarantee scholarship

that he received, and his future plans to become a doctor focusing on diabetes. Dominick's mentor is **Olav Rueppell** in Biology. Dominick is currently attending medical school at UNC Chapel Hill.

<http://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/dominick-defelice-doctor-uncg-guarantee/>



University Libraries

Undergraduate Research Award 2014

David Banks, was announced the winner of the 2014 Undergraduate Research Award for his paper, *"The Human Gut Microbiome: A Physiological System Approach."*

http://library.uncg.edu/info/undergraduate_research_award.aspx



"How to Create a Poster Presentation"

Workshop Dates:

Please register online at:

http://workshops.uncg.edu/workshops-by-category.jsp?cat_id=77000524

"Mentoring Undergraduates in Research"

Workshop Dates: Oct. 7&8

Please register online at:

http://workshops.uncg.edu/workshops.jsp?wks_id=44010212

Important Dates

Sept. 26th— Artists in Residents proposal deadline

Oct. 31st— SNCURCS abstract deadline

Nov. 18th— SNCURCS poster printing deadline

Nov. 22nd— SNCURCS

Dec. 2nd— URSCO Open House

Dec. 2nd— NCUR abstract deadline

Feb. 8th— Summer URCA proposal deadline

Feb. 20th— Expo abstract deadline

Apr. 7th— 9th Annual Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo

Student Interview: Joylyn Troyer



Major: Interior Architecture

Year: Senior

Mentor: Travis Hicks
(Interior Architecture)

Project Title: Sustainable
Glenwood: Applied
Preservation Principles for

Sustainable Community Development

Describe your research project:

First and foremost, our project is exploring community engaged design. At the very core of our research and work is the acknowledgement of the value of Glenwood's collective voice. With a partnership between the Interior Architecture Department, Preservation Greensboro, and the Glenwood Community, we hope to develop a grassroots collaborative approach to help move, restore and rejuvenate unoccupied homes in the Glenwood Neighborhood. We are exploring opportunities for net zero energy design and non-oppositional sustainable practices for both the built environment and the community. In addition we are assessing the neighborhood to apply LEED- ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design in Neighborhood Development) standards to the historic structures in an economically conservative way. We have targeted several homes along the outskirts of UNCG's expansion for research and design projects, and are currently engaged in a mural project for the neighborhood outside of the research to establish a quality relationship between our department and our Glenwood neighbors.

How did you come to work with your mentor?

I was actually approached by a graduate student who brought me into the team. I had yet to have Travis as a professor and so our working relationship started in

April discussing community engaged design and sustainability. He has been an incredible mentor and role model. His dedication to building relationships and making connections in addition to his vision for Glenwood has inspired me to consider Community Engaged design as a profession.

What was your greatest challenge in doing research?

Communication. Because so much of our research is qualitative and based on discussions, brainstorming meetings and presentations often times people feel as though their voice is not being heard or everyone is not always kept on the same page with current ideas and processes. I have learned the importance of being transparent with people, as well as organized for the sake of individuals who may or may not be as engaged in every conversation had.

How do you think participating in undergraduate research has been or will be beneficial to you?

I have learned so much about myself and my career goals. I love working with people and this project has amped up my skills for communicating, presenting, and working with a team. As far as my design work related to Glenwood - I feel especially proud of the work that I have created. My designs are more well rounded, my concepts far more concrete, and the finished products have heart. Which, honestly, is because I have been burdened by the needs of the Glenwood community. I have a better understanding of their personality and can address issues and needs with a more keen understanding of the problems.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

Scary question...I plan to work. This summer I am exploring opportunities to do an internship. I am applying to a diverse range of career paths - residential interior design, high end commercial design in a large firm, nonprofit work, and urban planning.

Student Interview: Emily Gering

Major: Classical Studies and English

Year: Graduated Spring 2014

Mentor: Dr. David Wharton (Classical Studies)

Project : Development in Latin's Basic Color Terms

Describe your research project:

This project's goal is to trace the development of synonymous color terms in the Latin language from about 200 BCE through about 200 CE and determine the direction of any changes in usage. The initial hypothesis is that "niger" is displacing "ater" (black) and that "candidus" is displacing "albus" (white), while other shifts are uncertain or nonexistent. Using the Library of Latin Texts database, I analyze the results of searches for color words and isolate the color usages from the non-color usages of words with multiple meanings. I then place the positive results into a wider context, looking primarily at the ratio between the number of occurrences of synonymous terms within the texts of each author.

How did you come to work with your mentor?

I first learned of Dr. Wharton's research of Latin color words when he gave a talk at UNCG for a Junior Classical League event that my high school's Latin class was attending. I remember it vividly, because when he asked the audience for the definition of "caeruleus," I was the geek with a pocket Latin dictionary in my

purse. Six years later, I was a senior Classics major at UNCG when Dr. Wharton asked if I was interested in working with him. I recalled his lecture and how interesting it was to me, and so I was eager to pursue this opportunity.

What was your greatest challenge in doing research?

That would definitely be determining whether any particular instance of "viridis" (green) was referring to an actual color, or something metaphorical. For instance, when we use the term "green energy," are we saying that the energy is green in color? Probably not.

How do you think participating in undergraduate research has been or will be beneficial to you?

Participating in this undergraduate research project has helped me develop the skills necessary to evaluate, categorize, and manage complex data sets effectively. I also learned how to craft search queries that will return the most relevant results. These are both skills that are essential to librarianship.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

After graduation, I intend to study library and information science and earn my masters degree in that discipline. My goal is to work as a librarian in a public library and possibly pursue an advanced degree in medieval literature.



2014-2015 Undergraduate Research Participants

Allie Puppo, Student
 Laura Cole, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Interior Architecture
 Travis Hicks, Faculty Mentor
 Department: IARC & Environmental
 Studies/ Sustainable Design

Aaron Calloway, Student
 Keith Debbage, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Geography

Alex Uberseder, Student
 Charles Egeland, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Anthropology

Alyssa Mielock, Student
 Thomas Kwapil, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Amber Borcyk, Student
 Blair Wisco, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Andrea Pretorian, Student
 David Wharton, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Classical Studies

Angela Dyson, Student
 Janet Boseovski, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Ashleigh Musso, Student
 Nadja Cech, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Biochemistry

Ashley Bryant, Student
 Robert Anemone, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Anthropology

Ashley Wrenn, Student
 Tyreasa Washington, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Social Work

Blake Corvin, Student
 William Markham, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Environmental Studies

Branda Mlo, Student
 Sharon Morrison, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Public Health Education

Chelsea Hughes, Student
 Spoma Jovanovic, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Communication Studies

Claudia Martinez, Student
 Heather Helms, Faculty Mentor
 Department: HDFS

Curran Fitzgerald, Student
 Charles Egeland, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Anthropology

Daniel Foil, Student
 Nadha Cech, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Chemistry & Biochemistry

Daniel Wolff, Student
 Christopher White, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Music Studies

David Suarez, Student
 Jan Rychtar, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Math & Statistics

David Sykes, Student
 Jan Rychtar, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Math & Statistics

Edem Tchegnon, Student
 Nicholas Huzefa & Oberlies Raja,
 Faculty Mentors
 Department: Biology

Gabriel McNair, Student
 Peter Delaney, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Gloria Mujinga-Mukeni, Student
 Laura Taylor, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Peace & Conflict Studies

Jalisa Horne, Student
 Sharon Morrison, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Public Health Education

Jessica King, Student
 Ruth DeHoog, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Political Science

Joseph Baker, Student
 Christopher White, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Musical Studies

Keith Watkins, Student
 Paul Knapp, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Geography

Kelly Clifton, Student
 Susan Keane, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Kelly Jarvis, Student
 Laura Taylor, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Peace & Conflict Studies

Laura Benson-Greer, Student
 Rosemary Nelson-Gray, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Laurel Everett, Student
 Jeni Pathman, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Leah Kouchel, Student
 Lili Sahakyan, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Markeela Lipscomb, Student
 Thomas Kwapil, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

MaryAnn Kozkowski, Student
 Melanie Carrico, Faculty Mentor
 Department: CARS

Piers Burkhart, Student
 Lili Sahakyan, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Psychology

Rupa Vummalan, Student
 Mitchell Croatt, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Chemistry & Biochemistry

Shelley Gates, Student
 Laura Cole, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Interior Architecture

Stephanie Paxton, Student
 Jennifer Erausquin, Faculty Mentor
 Department: Public Health Education



Save the Date!

The 9th Annual Carolyn & Norwood
 Thomas Undergraduate Research &
 Creativity Expo will be held on **Tuesday,**
April 7, 2015.