

## 8th Annual Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo



The 8th Annual Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo will be held on **Thursday, March 20, 2014, from 9:30am—3:00pm**, in the **Elliot University Center**.

This event will showcase the faculty-mentored research and creative scholarship of UNCG undergraduates. Students presenting are eligible to compete for awards, based on participation and nomination by their faculty mentor, in the following categories:

- ◇ Business, Economic, Education, Behavioral, and Social Sciences
- ◇ Humanities
- ◇ Mathematics, Life, and Physical Sciences
- ◇ Exhibit—Visual Arts
- ◇ Music, Theatre, and Dance

Please check our website for registration details and the most up to date information on the 2014 Expo:

<http://our.uncg.edu/ugexpo/2014.php>.

### Important Expo Deadlines:

**Friday, February 21**—Abstract Deadline

**Friday, March 14**—Poster Printing Deadline



### Connect with us!



/UndergradResearchAtUNCG



@UNCG\_OUR



<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/UNCG-Office-Undergraduate-Research-5110755/about>

### Inside this Issue...

Conference Information	2
In the News	2-3
Student Interviews	4-5
Travel Award Recipients	6

The Office of Undergraduate Research  
The University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro  
136 McIver Building  
Phone: (336) 334-4776  
[our@uncg.edu](mailto:our@uncg.edu)  
[our.uncg.edu](http://our.uncg.edu)

## Conferences

### NCUR

*Readiness for the Future: Maximizing Undergraduate Research*

Four UNCG Students will represent UNCG at the 28th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), held **April 3-5, 2014**, at the **University of Kentucky** in Lexington (The Horse Capital of the World): **Sarah Moore, Eliana Mundula, Holly Riley, and Mary Moussa**. For more information, please visit the NCUR website: [http://www.cur.org/ncur\\_2014/](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2014/). **The registration deadline is Friday, March 7.**

### SERMACS

*Tune into Chemistry in the Music City*

The 66<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held **October 16-19, 2014** in Nashville, TN. See the conference website for more information: <http://www.sermacs2014.org>.

### **"How to Create a Poster Presentation"** Workshop Dates:

- ⇒ Tuesday, February 18 at 3:30pm (MHRA 1607)
- ⇒ Thursday, February 27 at 12:30pm (MHRA 1607)
- ⇒ Tuesday, March 4 at 12:30pm (MHRA 2603)
- ⇒ Wednesday, March 5 at 11:00am (MHRA 1607)

Workshops last about 30 minutes.

Please register online at:

[http://workshops.uncg.edu/workshops-by-category.jsp?cat\\_id=77000524](http://workshops.uncg.edu/workshops-by-category.jsp?cat_id=77000524)



On Saturday, November 16, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) was held on the campus of UNC Charlotte. This year's SNCURCS combined with the NC Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (NC-LSAMP) Annual Research Conference to include 349 abstracts, twelve of which were from UNCG.

- The following students presented at SNCURCS:
- **Rawaa Fouad Al Rifaie**
  - **Naomi Rachel Bate**
  - **Brian Banks**
  - **Beth Howell**
  - **Jancey Irvin**
  - **David Allan Koppang**
  - **Pangdee Lee**
  - **Michael Maxwell**
  - **Trinh Nguyen**
  - **Harry Lewis Rybacki**
  - **Karen Shin**
  - **Emalee Zingher**

## In the News...



2012-2013 URCA recipient and 2013-2014 MathBio student **Dominick DeFelice** was featured on the Office of Research and Economic Development's Research Perspectives blog, where he discussed his research and working with the Office of Undergraduate Research. He and faculty mentor, **Dr. Olav Rueppell**, are studying the mating habits of honeybee queens. Dominick also received the 2012-13 Charlotte and W. Dabney White Scholarship for the Sciences <http://research.uncg.edu/researchperspectives/the-secret-life-of-honeybees-undergraduate-perspective/>

In the News... (continued)

URCA mentor **Dr. Spoma Jovanovic** (Communications Studies) was featured in an article entitled, "Shelter the Storm," in

the Fall 2013 issue of UNCG Magazine. You can read the article here: <http://ure.uncg.edu/>

Two Spartans were awarded the 2013 George T. Barthalmus Undergraduate Research Grant: **Camile Knudsen**, mentored by **Dr. Elizabeth Perrill** (Art History), for "The Cultural Identities of Korean Potters" and **Rupa Vummalaneni**, mentored by **Dr. Mitchell Croatt** (Chemistry), for "Mechanistic Investigation into a Novel Decarboxylation Reaction."

**Professor Duane Cyrus** (Dance), faculty mentor to 2013-2014 URCA recipient Devotne Wells, was mentioned on WFDD regarding his work on the *Dance Gala Greensboro, The Vital Grace Project*.

<http://wfdd.org/post/triad-arts-weekend-august-2-2013>



Current URCA student **Holly Riley** (School of Music, Theatre, and Dance) is featured on her department's website. Holly's mentor is **Dr. Rebecca Macleod** (Music Education).

<https://performingarts.uncg.edu/news/article?a=2013-08-19>



Two UNCG students published the results of their faculty-mentored undergraduate research in the 2013 edition of *Explorations - The Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities for the State of North Carolina*.

**Luke Kaiser**, mentored by **Dr. Jeffrey Soles** (Classical Studies), published "Observing and Analyzing Coastal Hellenistic Fortifications with Remote Sensing and GIS." Luke is pursuing a triple major in Classical Archaeology, Special Programs in Liberal Studies Archaeology, and English, as well as a minor in Geographic Information Science. He has been the recipient of three URCA's. Luke is currently the president of the University Archaeological Association.

**Michelle Lanteri**, mentored by **Dr. Elizabeth Perrill** (Art History), published an article titled "Earth Forms: The Boundless Art of Lonnie Vigil and Ansel Adams." Michelle has earned two degrees from UNCG including a B.A. in Media Studies with a minor in Spanish in 2002, and a BA in Art History and Museum Studies in May of 2013.

The deadline for next volume of *Explorations* is June 1, 2014. For more information, go to the *Explorations* website: <http://www.uncw.edu/csurl/explorations/explorations.html>

Several OUR students and mentors are featured in the current UNCG Research Magazine, including: **Daniel Nasrallah**, **Ayana Smith**, **Dr. Terry Nile**, **Kat Walston**, **Dr. Catherine Matthews**, **Yuliana Rodriguez**, **Dr. Heather Helms**, and **Dr. Esther Leerkes**. Read online at:

<http://research.uncg.edu/uncg-research-magazine/>

## Student Interview: Rachel Sanders



**Major:** History with Social Studies teacher licensure; minors in Classical Studies and Spanish

**Year:** Senior

**Mentors:** Mr. David Gwynn (Digital Projects Coordinator) &

Mr. Stephen Catlett (Digital Projects Manager)

**Department:** University Libraries

**Project Title:** Preserving Local History: A Field-Based Digitization Pilot Project

### **Describe your research project:**

Our project focuses on collecting data from local groups and churches regarding their archival items and preservation needs. We are assessing the desire of groups to participate in potential digitization projects and conducting field visits to see the material for ourselves. Eventually, a community history website will be developed - it will serve as a way for many people to access archival material using technology.

### **How did you come to work with your mentor?**

I worked for University Archives for several years, and during that time I wrote a blog post about a biographical paper I had written for a class during my junior year at UNCG (<http://uncghistory.blogspot.com/2013/03/pearl-eugenia-wyche-class-of-1903.html>). Stephen

Catlett saw that blog post and asked me if I would be interested in working with this project.

### **What was your greatest challenge in doing research?**

The amount of archival material that needs to be preserved and protected — There is an incredible amount of material, and many organizations are not able to preserve their materials or store their materials due to budget, labor, and time constraints.

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

This research has been great for my academic career — having experience with community outreach, data compilation and analysis, and working closely with other researchers and library professionals has been wonderful.

### **What do you plan to do after graduation?**

After graduation, I hope to attend graduate school to earn my Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences.

### Important Dates

**February 21** — Abstract deadline for Expo book; NCUR Conference Registration Deadline

**March 14** — Poster printing deadline for Expo

**March 20** — 2014 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo

**April 3-5** — NCUR

**April 4** — Fall 2014 — Spring 2015 URCA Deadline

**April 14-18** — Undergraduate Research Week



## Student Interview: Maylee Vazquez

**Major:** Psychology

**Year:** Senior

**Mentor:** Dr. Heather Helms

**Department:** Human Development & Family Studies

**Project Title:** Unidos

### **Describe your research project:**

The Unidos project is a study that examines the effects of sociocultural stressors on the marital wellbeing in Mexican-origin couples in the United States, more specifically in the North Carolina area. These stressors could be anything from the pressure of learning English, to economic hardship or job security issues, etc.. The project aims to understand how these couples adapted to the changes and sociocultural stressors that they may have encountered. I took part in helping to locate these families, in the hopes that they would be willing to participate in the project again.

### **How did you come to work with your mentor?**

Dr. Helms was my professor for my Families and Close Relationships class, HDF 212. During her introduction she mentioned she was working on a project with Mexican origin-couples in the North Carolina area. Yuliana Rodriquez, a friend and graduate student at the university had mentioned the project as well. She always spoke so passionately about her work and I always admired her dedication she had for the project. So after class I took a chance and asked Dr.Helms if there was an opportunity to work on her project, even if it meant volunteering. After a few months of working with Yuliana in locating families from previous interviews, I was offered an Undergraduate Assistantship position.

### **What was your greatest challenge in doing research?**

My greatest challenge in doing research were my own insecurities. I had never been involved in research before the Unidos project and was, for the most part,

just another student trying to make it to graduation. It would have been easy to shy away from research and, being a bit of an introvert, it's a little nerve-wrecking to show interest in

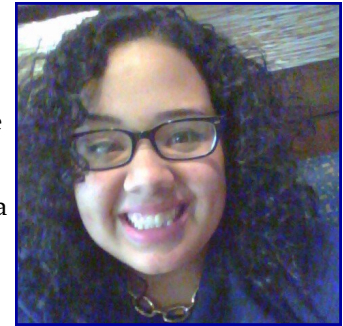
something that so many people are experts in. Once I became engrossed in research, I found a real passion for working with such amazing people and, more importantly, learning from them. I couldn't allow how shy I felt affect what I wanted to do with my future. If someone put me in this position that meant they saw something in me, and I just had to believe it as well.

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

Research has expanded my horizons. It has opened so many doors for me in the past year alone, and has really changed my perception of what it means to do research. I've seen experiments conducted, learned how to code, and witnessed the amount of dedication it takes to run a successful project. Research has not only taught me how to interact and work with a dynamic group of people, but I've also learned to become more professional in what I do. I carry myself differently because of research and I have the people from my project to thank for that.

### **What do you plan to do after graduation?**

After graduation, I would love to continue my education and someday enter into graduate school to pursue a career in counseling. As for now, though, I would love to gain experience in the field. I hope to work within my community and further explore opportunities to work with others Hispanic families. Being Hispanic myself, it would be fulfilling to be an asset in reaching out to my community and helping where I can.



2013 – 2014 Travel Award Recipients (as of January 31, 2014)

<u>Student</u>	<u>Faculty Mentor</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Presentation Title</u>
<b>Clint Alfaro,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	<b>Terry Nile,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	Southeastern Meeting of the American Chemical Society (Atlanta, GA)	“Synthesis of Zirconocene Amino Alcohol Frustrated Lewis Pairs”
<b>Feiyu Chen,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	<b>Terry Nile,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	Southeastern Meeting of the American Chemical Society (Atlanta, GA)	“The Synthesis of New Phosphine Ligands for Use in Asymmetric Catalysis”
<b>Stephanie Davis,</b> Dance Education	<b>Mila Parrish,</b> Dance	National Dance Education Organization Conference (Miami, FL)	“Community Engagement Redefined with Dancers Connect”
<b>Dominick DeFelice,</b> Biology	<b>Olav Rueppell,</b> Biology	Entomological Society of America’s 2013 Annual Meeting (Austin, TX)	“Comparative Studies of Mating and Virus Loads in Multiple Populations of the Eastern Honey Bee”
<b>Emily Gering,</b> English & Classical Studies	<b>Gary Lim,</b> English	Southeastern Medieval Association 2013 Conference (Boone, NC)	“The Dullahan and Anglo-Irish Politics in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
<b>Shelbi Guions,</b> Dance	<b>Mila Parrish,</b> Dance	National Dance Education Organization Conference (Miami, FL)	“Community Engagement Redefined with Dancers Connect”
<b>Trevor Helms,</b> Dance	<b>Mila Parrish,</b> Dance	National Dance Education Organization Conference (Miami, FL)	“Community Engagement Redefined with Dancers Connect”
<b>Luke Kaiser,</b> Classical Studies & Archeology	<b>Jeffrey Soles,</b> Classical Studies	115th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (Chicago, IL)	“Remodeling Minoan Defensive Structures”
<b>Jonathan Latta,</b> Psychology	<b>George Michel,</b> Psychology	46th Annual Meeting for the International Society of Developmental Psychology (San Diego, CA)	“The Development of Hand Preference in Infants Between 8 and 14 Months”
<b>Elizabeth Launt,</b> Anthropology	<b>Susan Andreatta,</b> Anthropology	74th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (Albuquerque, NM)	“Petroleum, Ecotourism, and Women: Local Action and Policy in the Face of Change”
<b>Curtis McKenney,</b> Psychology	<b>George Michel,</b> Psychology	46th Annual Meeting for the International Society of Developmental Psychology (San Diego, CA)	“Simple and Difficult Role-Differentiated Bimanual Manipulation Skills Might Provide Different Insights into the Development of Infant Handedness”
<b>Dipti Paudel,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	<b>Terry Nile,</b> Chemistry & Biochemistry	Southeastern Meeting of the American Chemical Society (Atlanta, GA)	“Diatoms and their Silican Transporters”
<b>David Sykes,</b> Mathematics & Statistics	<b>Jan Rychtář,</b> Mathematics & Statistics	NIMBioS Undergraduate Research Conference (Knoxville, TN)	“Kleptoparasitic Interactions and Internal States”
<b>Anthony Taylor-Davis,</b> Dance	<b>Mila Parrish,</b> Dance	National Dance Education Organization Conference (Miami, FL)	“Community Engagement Redefined with Dancers Connect”