



A Culture of Inquiry

The Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) promotes sustained, progressive, and faculty-mentored research opportunities for UGA's undergraduates. And the premier opportunity offered by CURO is the CURO Honors Scholarship. CURO Honors Scholars are a community of dynamic UGA students immersed in research from their first days on campus. The CURO Honors Scholarship seeks to enrich the academic experience of undergraduate students by engaging them in research in order to gain insight into fields and disciplines that interest them, in association with experienced faculty research mentors. CURO Honors Scholars can conduct research in any discipline at UGA, including (but not limited to) physical, biological, and social sciences, business, international affairs, engineering, humanities, and the arts.

Each year, a limited number of incoming first-year students from underrepresented groups are accepted, receiving a yearly stipend for up to four years, based on satisfactory performance, and access to one of the premiere academic programs in the nation.

The CURO Honors Scholarship emphasizes three foundational opportunities: research, mentoring, and community. Combined, these prepare students for the highest levels of success.



Joy Ellen Freeman, an English and English education double major, works with Dr. Barbara McCaskill. Joy Ellen researches and writes content for the Civil Rights Digital Archive, a website that focuses on Georgia's civil rights movement. At the 2011 CURO Symposium, she presented a project on the life and music of pianist prodigy Thomas "Blind Tom" Bethune, framed in the context of race relations in the 19th century. During the summer of 2011, Joy Ellen was one of 40 college students selected to participate in the 2011 Student Freedom Ride, a civil rights history bus tour sponsored by PBS's *American Experience* history series.

As an accounting major in the Terry College of Business, **Bryan Davis** conducted research on salary differentials between men and women with Professor Jeffrey Netter. After receiving a BBA and MAcc at UGA, Bryan interned with the Financial Accounting Standards Board in Connecticut. He now works at KPMG in New York city.



CURO Honors Scholars have earned the following national scholarships:

- Gates Cambridge Scholarship
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
- Merage American Dream Scholarship
 - Morris K. Udall Scholarship
 - NIH Cambridge Scholarship
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

CURO Honors Scholars: Prepared for Success



Marcus Hines '11:
BS Cellular Biology;
Now at MD/PhD New York University School of Medicine



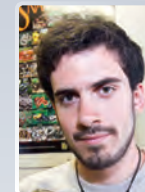
Sharon McCoy '10:
AB, International Affairs and Spanish; Now at School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UC-San Diego



Leilah Zahedi '10:
BS, Biology and Psychology; Now at Emory University School of Medicine



Vanessa Del Valle '09:
BS, Biology and Psychology; Now at Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University



Andrew Durso '09:
BS, Ecology; Now at University of Eastern Illinois



Jamarri Ivy '08:
AB, Political Science; JD, Harvard Law School



Courtney Thomas '08:
AB, English; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

UGA HONORS PROGRAM



CURO

HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

For online application and general contact information:

UGA HONORS PROGRAM

Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO)
203 Moore College
Athens, Georgia 30602
706/542-4053

www.honors.uga.edu

Research: Transforming the Way Undergraduates Learn

“Because of their positive effects on student learning and retention, special undergraduate opportunities such as ... **research with a faculty member**... are called high impact practices” (*National Survey of Student Engagement* 2010).

High-impact practices demand investment and effort, encourage learning outside of the traditional classroom setting, and require meaningful interactions between faculty and students.

Classroom courses focus on established knowledge, while research explores and creates knowledge. Research poses many challenges: deciding on a topic, establishing protocol and methodology, and analyzing data. However, this type of learning by doing can be life-changing. And it forms the foundation of the CURO Honors Scholarship.



“CURO Scholars at UGA are at the bench with their graduate and post-doctoral colleagues, doing cutting-edge research, from trying to validate a new cancer biomarker, to understanding the molecular mechanisms of various congenital diseases, to discovering economically feasible methods for the conversion of grass into biofuels.”

—Dr. Lance Wells, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Mentoring: The Core of CURO

Mentoring is a key concept underlying the CURO Honors Scholarship. The research provides a frame and setting for a faculty mentor and CURO Honors Scholar to develop a relationship that is personal and professional, and offers insights beyond the classroom.

In their first semester, CURO Honors Scholars self-identify, self-select and interview with faculty whose research seems compelling. Scholars select research mentors with whom they wish to work, and the relationship develops over time, especially as each Scholar grows in knowledge and experience.

Because of their respective expertise and experience, faculty mentors are uniquely positioned to determine how best to help, advise and encourage a CURO Honors Scholar, sharing experience and wisdom as well as technical expertise.

Through this relationship CURO Honors Scholars earn required credit hours, present at the annual CURO Symposium, and compete for funding and publishing opportunities, at UGA and beyond.

Given the historical success of the program, CURO Honors Scholars frequently work with distinguished researchers, faculty who strongly support the value of undergraduate research and mentoring.

Community: Young Scholars Learning Together

In addition to their individual work with a research mentor, CURO Honors Scholars also form a community of strong and diverse students committed to growing academically and personally. To this end, CURO Honors Scholars attend a weekly seminar for their first two years in the program.

Overseen by the Director of the Honors Program and CURO, the seminar features special lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and activities. CURO Honors Scholars develop professional writing and presentation skills, and enjoy the support of peer mentoring and teaching assistance.

The CURO Honors Scholarship also embraces the idea that where many voices are heard, the best understanding will arise. And this directly informs the seminar. There, Scholars connect to one another, so no one Scholar faces challenges—

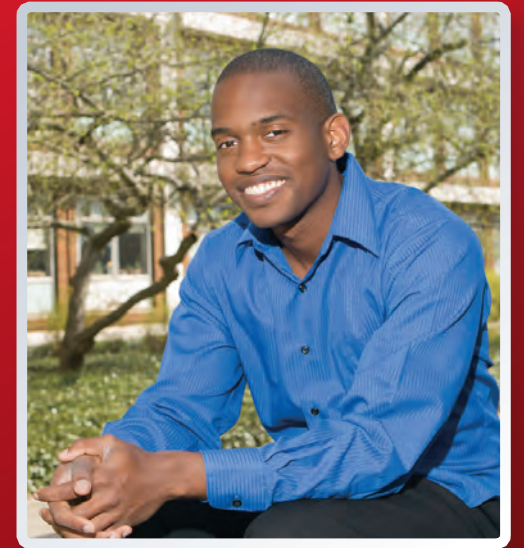
research, coursework, time management—alone. Moreover, they also come to understand the value of not only their research, but their peers' research as well.

All aspects of the seminar are crucial to the Scholars development, ensuring that they are not only prepared but confident in continuing their education at the professional and graduate levels.



Application Process

Each year, CURO accepts a limited number of incoming first-year students to the CURO Honors Scholarship. CURO specially invites applicants from underrepresented groups at UGA to apply, though all prospective students may apply. The highly competitive selection process considers academic achievement, motivation to make undergraduate research central to undergraduate career, and demonstrated work ethic.



“Being a CURO Scholar means being supported by people who love knowledge and are well versed in many different fields. Differences in perspective and discipline give you new outlooks on the world, challenge you, and provide a wonderful environment to learn and develop meaningful friendships with the future leaders of our society. It also means working with professors and peers that genuinely want you to succeed and learn. The community starts with the CURO Honors Scholarship and is only amplified by the Honors Program.”

*— Cleveland Piggott '10,
UNC Chapel Hill Medical School*