

To: All First-Years, Sophomores, and Juniors (including adult students)
From: Summer Research Committee

The Randolph College Summer Research Program allows you to collaborate with a faculty member on a research project in our intensive summer program. The 2012 program will be eight weeks in length, beginning on May 14, 2012 and ending on July 6, 2012. Students will receive stipends of \$2700 (before taxes) and, if they choose to live on-campus, will live in air conditioned single rooms for \$70/week, doubles for \$35/week each, and you can elect no A/C for a discount.

In addition to engaging in scholarship with a faculty member, the Summer Research Program allows you a variety of opportunities to interact with other participants and outside scholars and to share your work with different audiences. In particular, the program offers:

- Multidisciplinary seminars and visits from outside speakers. Lectures by scholars from different disciplines, graduate student panels, discussions of contemporary problems, and discussions of the research processes of different areas of study.
- Opportunities for social interaction and educational activities. Past activities have included volunteer service, field trips, Friday breakfasts with various campus departments, cook-outs, and trips to a beach or amusement park.
- A day-long public symposium of final student presentations.
- Encouragement for sharing the scholarship in the following academic year. The Program has money available to support students' presentation of their research at regional and national conferences.

All current undergraduates (including adult students) who are returning to the College (including study abroad) in fall 2012 are eligible for the program, and projects from all disciplines are encouraged. You must plan to be on campus for the eight weeks, with significant time away only for the research project.

You may also find it informative to talk to faculty and student participants from previous summers. More information, instructions on how to apply, and a list of past projects and participants can be found at: <http://www.randolphcollege.edu/summer/>.

It is up to you, the student, to find a faculty member with whom to do research. If you are interested, be sure to ask every faculty member within your major, and consider asking faculty in other majors, too. You do not have to do research in your major.

Proposals are usually written with the faculty member, and instructions are below. Proposals must be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment to Peter Sheldon, Director of SRP, no later than midnight on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. The Committee will review proposals, and decisions will be declared no later than Friday, March 2, 2012.

A workshop on how to write a grant proposal are required for students applying to the program, and are strongly suggested for faculty. There are three options, and anyone may attend:

- Tuesday, 1/31 4:30-5:00 pm, Alcove Conference Room (by dining hall)
- Tuesday, 1/31 7:00-7:30 pm, Alcove Conference Room (by dining hall)
- Wednesday, 2/1 1:00-1:30 pm, Alcove Conference Room (by dining hall)

Additional considerations for the student:

Grant recipients from any organization should expect to owe some service to that organization. To that end, students in the Summer Research Program must be committed to representing the program during at least one event in the academic year following the program: admissions days, alumnae events, family weekend, or some other function.

Due to the nature of continued research and dissemination contributing to the growth of the student, the faculty, and the college, the Summer Research Program is for returning students only. If you intend to transfer, you should not apply; and if you participate and do transfer before the following fall, you will be asked to return the stipend.

Questions? Contact Professor Peter Sheldon at psheldon@randolphcollege.edu or extension 8488.

APPLICATION/PROPOSAL DETAILS FOR THE 2012 RANDOLPH COLLEGE STUDENT/FACULTY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The proposal must include the following ten parts:

1. **Names of applicants** (faculty and students)
2. **Title** of project
3. **Abstract** (150 words or less)
4. Your **project description** is typically written by the faculty member, or faculty member and student, and should be no more than three pages (excluding bibliography), addressing each of the following as specifically as possible:
 - a. What are the ultimate goals of your project?
 - b. What is the significance of the project?
 - c. How will the project goals be achieved?
 - d. If your project can't be reasonably completed in eight weeks, which parts of the project goals do you expect to accomplish during the eight-week program? What plans do you have to continue the project beyond the Summer Research Program? If the project is meant to be ongoing, or is meant to be preliminary research to start another project, does the student have plans to continue working on the project (some projects, for example, are intended to lead into a student's senior capstone project)? Note: there is no need for projects to be able to be completed within the program dates (or with the same student) as long as there is a plan to complete the project.
 - e. If your project is a continuation of research already begun, explain what progress has already been made and how this summer's work will advance the study.
 - f. If you are applying for the course release option, please make that clear at the beginning of your description, address how you will use the extra time, and describe in what capacity you will work with the student during that semester.
5. **Dissemination goals:** If you have goals for sharing your work beyond campus, please briefly describe them. These would usually include publication, conference presentation, workshops, and exhibitions.
6. **External funding:** Have you or do you plan to apply for external funding for this project? Please elaborate where you can.
7. **Budgetary needs:** Each project can request up to \$1000 budget for equipment, supplies, travel, etc., necessary for carrying out the scholarship project. You must itemize needs as specifically as possible, but you may estimate costs. Please explain the budgetary needs. If your project requires more than \$1000, please provide a careful justification as to why it cannot be carried out with less. Unlike past years, you will need to stay within your project's budget request. This money is expected to be used between the date of acceptance of the proposal, and the end of the Summer Research Program (7/6/12), unless you specifically request an extension. This budget is for not for dissemination (such as conference travel,) but is for support that adds to the scholarship.
8. **Past Outcomes:** If the faculty member has been in the Randolph College Summer Research Program previously, they should discuss past outcomes and dissemination of the project, and/or discuss why the project did not go as planned.
9. **Statement about student researchers** written by faculty member. This statement should address the following questions:
 - a. What will be the responsibilities of the student? (Be specific.)
 - b. What will be the nature your interaction with the student?
 - c. What do you expect the student will gain from working on this project?
 - d. What qualifications does the student have for this project?
 - e. If you are asking for more than one student, please be sure to justify the need, and answer these questions for each student.
 - f. If the student's academic record has any significant weaknesses, please explain, and/or justify why you believe the student will be successful in the program.

10. Statement from each student. Each student should write a one page or less addressing:

- a. Why are you interested in this project?
- b. What do you believe you can add to the project?
- c. What do you hope to gain from the summer research experience?
- d. If you have participated in the SRP in the past, please describe what new things you will learn this summer.
- e. If you participated in the SRP in the past, please describe outcomes and dissemination that resulted from the project.

In addition, if your proposal is accepted, we will need a photo (for printing) of the applying faculty/student research group. Any setting is fine: it can be posed in a setting related to the project, or not. You are welcome to submit that photo with your application, or we will arrange to take one of you later.