

To: Members of the Faculty
From: The Summer Research Committee: Naomi Amos, Bill Bare, Mari Ishibashi, Randy Speer, Dennis Stevens, Peter Sheldon (Chair)
Re: 2010 Randolph College Student/Faculty Summer Research Program

The Summer Research Committee encourages faculty of all disciplines to apply to participate in the 2010 Randolph College Student/Faculty Summer Research Program (SRP). This program allows you to collaborate with a student or students on a scholarship activity relevant to your discipline. The 2010 program will be eight weeks in length, beginning on May 17, 2010 and ending on July 9, 2010. Faculty will receive stipends of \$1650. Students will receive stipends of \$2700 and may live in air conditioned single rooms at \$70/week (or share the room to reduce the cost). You are asked to supply a budget for your project of up to \$1000; in extraordinary circumstances, the committee is willing to consider larger budgets that have been well-justified. **Be sure to carefully follow proposal guidelines at the end of this announcement.** Examples of past projects can be found at the Summer Research Program website: <http://www.randolphcollege.edu/summer>.

In addition to engaging in scholarship in your discipline, the Summer Research Program allows you and your students(s) 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. Past activities have included lectures by scholars from different disciplines, graduate student panels, discussions of contemporary problems in the sciences and social sciences, 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 student presentations.
- Support for your collaborating student (or both of you) to share your scholarship at regional and national conferences the following academic year.

Proposals must be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment to Peter Sheldon, Director of SRP, no later than **Friday, February 12, 2010**. The Committee will review proposals, and decisions will be declared no later than **Friday, March 5, 2010**. *You will not have the opportunity to resubmit proposals after the 2/12 date. Instead, we encourage that if your proposal is not selected, you revise and resubmit it for next year.*

When applying, keep the following things in mind:

- Project ideas may originate from students, faculty, or both.
- Faculty participants can work with more than one student, on one or more than one project. The faculty stipend is not based upon the number of projects or the number of student participants and will remain at \$1650, but each individual project has its own budget of up to \$1000 (or more in exceptional circumstances), and each independent project is eligible for conference travel funds.
- If a research project is mostly or fully funded by an outside (non Randolph College) source, the SRP will augment that funding with an additional \$750 stipend to the faculty member.
- If the nature of the project requires it, multiple faculty members may work together on a project with students.
- Any returning undergraduate student is eligible for this program (typically first-years, sophomores, and juniors, including adult students).

- Faculty members are expected to participate in most of the seminars and to provide adequate supervision of the projects. Faculty supervision and professional example are essential to the learning experiences of SRP students and contribute to the success of the overall program.

We will call for proposals (similar to Professional Development funding) by the last day of the program, and then will award travel money to as many of those as possible. If money is left over, it will be awarded as proposals come in. Conference travel is meant for the student to exhibit/report, and for a faculty member to accompany, and is limited to \$2500 per project. The faculty member is encouraged to report research at the same time.

You are encouraged to talk to faculty participants from previous summers. Lists of past projects, and sample proposals from past years are included on the website at:

<http://www.randolphcollege.edu/summer>

Criteria for Considering Proposals

Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- The significance of the project, as demonstrated in the proposal.
- The plan to carry out the project, as demonstrated in the proposal.
- The benefit of the project to the student. What makes the SRP such a significant experience in a student's intellectual growth is the opportunity the program provides to learn about and conduct meaningful research/scholarship. It is important that student participation be focused on research and scholarship, and that proposals clearly describe this.
- The student's academic record. There is no minimum QPR, but the committee is looking for students who have demonstrated that they have the intellectual ability and independence to succeed in the program.

Additional notes:

- The Committee has a preference for spreading the projects throughout the faculty and throughout the disciplines.
- Since the Committee consists of faculty from several different disciplines, it is important that you keep your proposal as jargon-free as possible.
- The program is for full-time, continuing faculty.
- The SRP intends to foster a community of scholars; we expect that students will interact with their faculty mentors, and the entire group will come together each week on campus to share research and to participate in seminars. It is necessary that the students and faculty are on campus for these experiences during the eight weeks of the program, unless the time away is for research related to the campus-based project. Thus, a student will typically not be able to participate in both the SRP and one of the college-sponsored summer study tours. Faculty who will be absent for more than a week of the program should explain how they will structure their student researcher's time. All must be present for the final day of the program.

If you have further questions about the program or the application process, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee.

APPLICATION/PROPOSAL DETAILS FOR THE 2010 RANDOLPH COLLEGE STUDENT/FACULTY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The proposal must include:

1. **Names of applicants** (faculty and students)
2. **Title** of project
3. **Abstract** (150 words or less)
4. Your **project description** should be written by the faculty member, or faculty member and student, and should be no more than three pages, addressing each of the following as specifically as possible (and in any order):
 - 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.
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 explain.
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 (7/9/10), 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. **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.
9. **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.

Course Release Option for 2010

New in 2010, the summer research program is offering up to three faculty members one course release to enable a summer research project to be extended beyond the eight weeks of the program. You would use this additional time as training for a student, or simply as a time to lengthen the research period for a project (working with the student) which cannot reasonably be approached in the eight week period.

- If you are interested in this option, the course release can be taken in the spring or fall of 2010.
- Since spring 2010 is an option, **applications for course release in either semester are due November 16, 2009.**
- If you are interested in the fall course release, you are urged to apply by the 11/16 date, but you can also apply by the regular deadline 2/12/10. Applications that come in November will be given preference.
- If the committee does not approve a project for this special course release option, we hope that you will resubmit it for consideration for the regular eight week program with the rest of the applications in February.
- Course release means that the faculty member teaches one less course than what is normal for him/her, and an adjunct is hired to replace that course if necessary.
- You can work with the student during the semester in whatever capacity you choose: for example, as a regular research student not connected to any class, as an independent study, as senior capstone, as a research class, etc.

Application for Summer Research with course release will be the same as the above 9 application steps for regular Summer Research, but in step 4d, be sure to address how you will use the additional time.