



Thursday, June 19, 2003

Latest research scholars announced

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The Oakland University Research Advisory Committee named five OU students as the March and May 2003 recipients of the provost-sponsored University Student Research Scholar Awards. The research scholar program invites students to become exposed to the challenges and excitement gained by pursuing independent research projects. The most recent awardees bring the total number of recipients to 30.

"These competitive research awards provide encouragement and opportunities for our students to engage in serious, methodical and well-planned research projects in partnership with faculty mentors," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil. "The experience gained by this undertaking, available to all Oakland University students, places our graduates in a distinct advantageous position to generate new knowledge and succeed in a demanding work place."

The most recent research scholars to be named include March awardees Devon Andres, Melissa Noble and Jennifer Viviano and May awardees John Martin and Tobi Voight.

Devon Andres, a graduate student from Clio, is working with Professor Denis Callewaert from chemistry and the Center for Biomedical Research on a project titled "The Use of siRNA Technology to Determine the Role of Granzyme A and K in the Regulation of Natural Killer."

Melissa Noble, an undergraduate from Clinton Township, is working with Professor George Gamboa from biology on a project titled "The Source of Kin Recognition Pheromones in the Social Wasp, *Polistes Fuscatus*."

Jennifer Viviano, an undergraduate from Clinton Township, is working with Associate Professor Rasul Chaudhry from biology on a project titled "Differentiation of Human Embryonic Stem Cells into Embryoid Bodies."

John Martin, an undergraduate from Lake Orion, is working with Associate Professor Natalie Cole from English on a project titled "Photography and Literary Realism in 19th Century London."

Tobi Voight, an undergraduate from Troy, is working with Professor Carl Osthaus from history on a project titled "The Demise of Detroit's Electric Interurban Railways: A Study of Social, Economic and Political Causation."

Award recipients receive up to \$1,000 to support their research projects for a minimum of one semester and have the opportunity to apply for up to \$500 in travel support to present their research results at a professional conference. By accepting an award, student research scholars agree to work on the proposed project for at least one semester (15 weeks) and submit a final research report within one year. The final report deadlines for the March and May recipients are May 2004 and September 2004, respectively.

The Research Advisory Committee, comprised of faculty from a broad range of disciplines, reviews and evaluates each submitted proposal. Students are selected based on their academic strengths as well as the quality, significance and potential impact of their proposed research projects.

Applications for the program are accepted three times per year. The guidelines and application material may be accessed from the **Provost's Program for University Research Scholars** Web page. For additional information, contact Assistant Vice Provost Pat Beaver at (248) 370-3222 or beaver@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, June 19, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, June 19, 2003
Article Start Date: Friday, September 12, 2003

