SCAMP Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 1 Fall 2015

About SCAMP Program

- South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP) is an academic four-year enrichment program for underrepresented minorities.

- The purpose of SCAMP is to increase recruitment, retention and graduation rate of underrepresented students in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields at the College of Charleston.

- SCAMP is an initiative of the National Science Foundation and is a subset of the Louis Stokes AMP national program.

- The SCAMP program has three major components: Summer Bridge Program, Undergraduate Research and Community Engagement.

- The Summer Bridge program is the program for entering freshman and is held in conjunction with SPECTRA during the Summer II Session. Eligible students selected to enroll in the SCAMP program will register for the college level Pre-Calculus class, accompanying Lab and a Chemistry workshop.

- Undergraduate Research is a highly valued component of the SCAMP program. Students are provided opportunities to conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a professor or a scientist. Among all of the activities available to minority students through SCAMP, undergraduate research programs serve most strongly by “connecting” students to their discipline of study and with faculty mentors as well as encourages them to consider graduate school as a viable future goal. During the summer, students participate in the research experiences at various colleges and research facilities.

- LS-SCAMP supports sustained and comprehensive community engagement with the aim of promoting scientific inquiry and recruiting talented minorities into science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) fields.

Requirements

- Major in the School of Sciences and Mathematics
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Plan to pursue graduate studies
- Willingness to participate in activities
- Funded by NSF, the grant supports underrepresented minorities (Native American, Hispanic, African American, and Pacific Islanders)

Activities and Benefits

- Earn college credits in Summer BRIDGE program
- Eligible for scholarship of $500
- Conduct research with faculty mentors throughout the nation
- Attend and participate in science conferences and workshops
- Help in preparing for graduate studies
- Tutoring and peer mentoring
- Engage in community service projects
- Leadership opportunities
The College of Charleston Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) hosted the 2015 Celebration of Scholars on August 24, 2015 to showcase the collaborative works of faculty and students. A number of SCAMP students received funding for summer research through the URCA Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) grant, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Undergraduate Science Education Grant, and the Summer Undergraduate Research Project (SURP) grant from the Medical University of South Carolina. The SCAMP students represented at the Celebration of Scholars included: Needhee Patel, James Solomon, Joyce Biaco, Sierra Small, Victoria Edmund, Neha Muppala, Ka’Dedra Creech.
From President McConnell’s Desk

Academic Excellence: One of the College’s Core Values

Posted on October 30, 2015

Each month I plan to highlight one of the College’s core values. This month, I want to talk about academic excellence, particularly in regards to the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP) program at the College.

SCAMP is an enrichment four-year program at the College for minorities who are majoring in science disciplines. The program provides mentoring and summer-research opportunities for students from underrepresented populations who want to pursue a degree in the STEM disciplines. The program is funded by the National Science Foundation.

The activities of SCAMP are consistent with the mission and strategic goals of the College. For roughly 20 years, the College has been involved with SCAMP, and hundreds of students have benefited from activities such as the summer bridge program, undergraduate research, science and leadership conferences, tutoring and graduate school preparation. In addition, many of these students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in STEM areas.

I had the privilege to attend the SCAMP Undergraduate Research Banquet on October 7, 2015. It was a wonderful event where students presented on the research they had conducted with their mentors. At many universities, that kind of experience wouldn’t be available to undergraduates. But at the College, our students are enabled and empowered to conduct remarkable research as undergrads. That boundless opportunity is central to our commitment to fostering a dynamic intellectual community and to providing a top-notch student experience.

We will continue facilitating meaningful faculty-student engagement. After all, the College of Charleston is a student-focused community, and our students are the reason why we’re all here.

Posted in October 2015 Tagged core values
Researchers and Mentors

**Bravada Hill**  
Understanding Functional Differences of the Brain in High and Low Risk Social Drinkers Using FMRI and MID Task  
Mentor: Dr. Jane Joseph, Medical University of South Carolina

**Needhee Patel**  
Central Nervous System Neuroanatomy of the Snapping Shrimp, Alpheus angulosus: Towards a Model of Adult Neurogenesis  
Mentors: Dr. Korey; Dr. Ruscio, College of Charleston

**Omorose Aighewi**  
The Cell Cycle and Survival Status of Erythroid Precursors in the Nan Mouse Model  
Mentors: Dr. Luanne, Peters Lab; Dr. Daniza Nebor, The Jackson Laboratory

**Jessica Mack**  
Web Development/Design for CIRDLES Lab  
Mentor: Dr. Jim Bowring, College of Charleston

**Neha Muppala**  
Photodegradation of Bupropion  
Mentor: Dr. Wendy Cory, College of Charleston

**Kola George**  
Have Short Stamens Lost Their Function in Selfing Plant?  
Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Conner, Michigan State University

**Sandy Pang**  
Sex-Related Differences in the Effects of Estrogen on Axon Regeneration Following Peripheral Nerve Injury  
Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Wilhelm, College of Charleston

**Aliya Dumas**  
Synthesis and Direct Conjugation of Thiolated Ligands and Gold Nanorods for Targeted Photothermal Therapy  
Mentors: Dr. Sivaramapanicker Sreejith, Dr. Yanli Zhao, Nanyang Technological University; Dr. Frank Alexis, Clemson University

**Joyce Biaco**  
Lewis Acid-Catalyzed Minisci Reactions  
Mentor: Dr. Barker, College of Charleston

**Sierra Small**  
The impact of Demographic Variables on the Acquisition of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Mentor: Dr. Michael Hemphill, College of Charleston

**Victoria Edmund**  
Combined Effects of Ibuprofen and its Degrand on Southern Toad Tadpoles  
Mentor: Dr. Allison Welch, College of Charleston

**James Solomon**  
Pharmaceutical Analysis  
Mentor: Dr. Wendy Cory, College of Charleston
Speakers

At each SCAMP meeting, there is a local speaker either from around the Charleston area or from the College who present their research. Speakers expose the students to the research opportunities around them. This Fall of 2015, we have had the following guest speakers:

**Dr. Jennifer Wilhelm**
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
**Research Interest:** Recovery of function after peripheral nerve injury and sex hormones’ contributions to regeneration process

**Dr. Cindy Hall**
Director, Lowcountry Hall of Science and Mathematics, Adjunct Faculty
**Research Interest:** Environmental, Earth System Science, and Climate Change education

**Dr. Wendy Cory**
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
**Research Interests:** LC-MS determination of pharmaceutical degradation products.

**Dr. Michael J. Auerbach**
Dean, School of Science and Mathematics
**Research Interests:** Population and Community Ecology, and worked to expand research opportunities for undergraduate students

**Dr. Martin Jones**
Professor, Department of Mathematics
**Research interests:** Statistical modeling, Bayesian statistics, and optimal stopping theory.

AALANA

SCAMP students volunteered at AALANA (African American, Latino, Asian, Native American) College of Charleston Preview Day in September 2015. During AALANA students of color and their families can spend the day with other diverse students interested in the college, as well as current students and staff.

Research Bound in STEM at Georgia Tech

The program included sessions on preparing a competitive application for admission to doctoral programs in STEM disciplines, scholarship and assistantship opportunities, lab tours and graduate student panels, opportunity to participate in a research poster session, discuss cutting-edge research, network, and learn about careers. **Aliya Dumas, Omorose Aighewi, Andrea Creech, Bravada Hill, Quinten Meadors** and **James Solomon** attended workshops and graduate school visit in October, 2015.

**Congratulation to Andrea Creech and Quinten Meadors** for winning 2nd place in the Poster Session!