

2008 University Scholars

The Honors Program is pleased to recognize 14 juniors who have been named 2008 University of Connecticut University Scholars. This highly-selective program offers motivated and academically-talented students the flexibility to craft individualized plans of study during their last three semesters. With guidance from a faculty advisory committee, University Scholars select courses from across the university to carry out their own programs of study and engage in intensive, focused research or project work, culminating in a high-level piece of scholarship or creative accomplishment. The names, majors and project titles of the new cohort of University Scholars are listed below.

Amanda Buckley -Physiology & Neurobiology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *The Effects of Acute Dehydration on the Cognitive Abilities and Mood of Women*

Faculty Advisors: Lawrence Armstrong - Kinesiology, Andrew Moiseff - Physiology & Neurobiology, Daniel Mulkey - Physiology & Neurobiology

Heeren Makanji -Molecular and Cell Biology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Characterization of the Biochemical Properties of the C-Terminus of Bacterial Virulence Regulator BipA*

Faculty Advisors: Victoria Robinson - Molecular & Cell Biology, Debra Kendall - Liberal Arts & Science, David Knecht - Molecular & Cell Biology

Charlayne McStay -Chemistry, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Mutagenesis of 8-OxoGuanine Adjacent to an Abasic Site in Human Embryonic Kidney Cells*

Faculty Advisors: Ashis Basu - Chemistry, Christian Bruckner - Chemistry, Bandana Purkayastha - Sociology

Shawn Miller – Chemistry, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Towards an Understanding of Carbohydrate Conformational and Structural Dynamics through Synthesis and Kinetics*

Faculty Advisors: Mark Peczuh - Chemistry, James Bobbitt - Chemistry, Ronald Wikholm - Chemistry

Thomas Murawski -Actuarial Science, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Attribution Analysis of the Capital of a Life Insurance Company under Fair Value Accounting*

Faculty Advisors: Louis Lombardi - Mathematics, Emiliano Valdez - Mathematics, James Bridgeman - Mathematics

Anu Nellissery -Physiology & Neurobiology and Molecular & Cell Biology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Genetic Optimization of Bacteriorhodopsin for Use in Photovoltaic Devices*

Faculty Advisors: Robert Birge - Chemistry, Arlene Albert - Molecular & Cell Biology, Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos - Chemistry

Amanda Ploch –Political Science and Individualized - Human Rights, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *NGOs and the Pursuit of Economic Rights in South Africa and the United States*

Faculty Advisors: Bandana Purkayastha - Sociology, David Yalof - Political Science, Alanson Minkler - Economics

Benjamin Plourde -Biological Sciences and Physics, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Life History and Wood Specific Gravity of Secondary Tropical Rainforest Trees*

Faculty Advisors: Robin Chazdon - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Janine Caira - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Susanne Yelin - Physics

Victoria Price -Psychology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *The Effectiveness of Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy in Treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in OEF/OIF Veterans*

Faculty Advisors: Peter Snyder - Psychology, Deana Aikins - Psychology, Julie Wargo Aikins - Psychology

Michael Sanders -Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Conservation Education Media Productions for the University Audience*

Faculty Advisors: David B. Miller - Psychology, Carolyn Lin - Communication Sciences, Kurt Schwenk - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Abena Sarfo-Mensah -Psychology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Coping Methods and Meaning-Making of Liberian Refugees in the Buduburam Refugee Camp of Ghana

Faculty Advisors: Michelle Williams - Psychology, Stephanie Milan - Psychology, Amii Omara-Otunnu - African Nat'l Congress

Robert Slattery -Economics and Structural Biology/Biophysics, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Atoms to Eve: The Rotational Agent in Scale-Free Network Emergence

Faculty Advisors: Richard Langlois - Economics, Johann Peter Gogarten - Molecular & Cell Biology, Vicki Knoblauch - Economics

Dongnhu Truong -Psychology, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Let's get ready to mutate: A knockout study of Dcdc2 in mice and its possible behavioral and neurological implications

Faculty Advisors: R. Helly Fitch - Psychology, David B. Miller - Psychology, Joseph Loturco - Physiology & Neurobiology

Alexander Williams -Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, Engineering

Project Title: A Safe Approach to Nanotechnology

Faculty Advisors: Ramamurthy Ramprasad - Chem Mat & Biomol Eng, Pamir Alpay - Chem Mat & Biomol Eng, Bryan Huey - Chem Mat & Biomol Eng