



**PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Students Get Opportunity to Collaborate with Faculty as Student Research Assistants**

**Betsy L Musolf** to: Archive

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Here is a press release about Ferris State University students who have been awarded the opportunity to participate in the Student Research Assistant program offered by the Office of Academic Research. Questions can be addressed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager, (231) 591-2021 or [sandygholston@ferris.edu](mailto:sandygholston@ferris.edu).



Ferris Student Research Assistants.docx

View the release online here: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/march/sra.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 6, 2013

**Ferris Students Get Opportunity to Collaborate with Faculty as Student Research Assistants**

BIG RAPIDS – Some Ferris State University students will gain valuable experience through participation in the Student Research Assistant program offered by the Office of Academic Research.

The SRA program is intended to support collaborative research projects between Ferris faculty and students during the fall and spring semesters. It allows faculty to start or expand their own research by providing them support and gives full-time students research experience, said Karen Strasser, director of Academic Research and Grants.

“It was funded by Provost (Fritz) Erickson as one more tool to assist with the student debt reduction initiative,” Strasser said. “In general, students engaged with faculty in research develop stronger relationships with the faculty in their disciplines, perform well in their courses and complete their degrees.”

The SRA program began with the Fall 2012 semester, on the heels of the university’s Student Research Fellowship program offered during the summer semester.

“Many of our students must earn a paycheck while they are in school and over the summer months, and both programs allow the research experience to be more inclusive of students with financial need,” Strasser said. “In the past, this type of activity was limited to those students who could afford to donate their time, but a research experience is now open to any student who has the motivation to pursue it.”

Funded SRA projects for Spring 2013 are:

*The Synthesis and Purification of Novel PPAR gamma/delta dual agonists for Diabetes*

Faculty: **Tracey Boncher** (Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Student Research Assistants: **Jeremy Spencer**, a Biology/Pre-Pharmacy major from Cadillac, and **Michelle May**, a Biology/Pre-Nursing major from Lewiston

*Effects of High Intensity UVA on Melanocyte Stem Cells*

Faculty: **Jim Hoerter** (Biological Sciences)

Student Research Assistant: **Alec Hapman**, a Biology/Pre-Medicine major from Portage

*Media coverage of bullying and Implicit Power Structures*

Faculty: **Stephanie Thomson** and **Paul Zube** (Humanities)  
Student Research Assistant: Andrea Ayotte, a History major from Waterford

*Methodology Improvement for Analytical Testing in Fermentation Processes*  
Faculty: **Mark Thomson** (Physical Sciences)  
Student Research Assistant: **Spencer Crittendon**, a Biotechnology major from Rockford

*The effect of spinal cord injury on learning and memory*  
Faculty: **Mary Zimmer** (Biological Sciences)  
Student Research Assistant: **Illyas Fana**, a Biology/Pre-Medicine major from Kabul, Afghanistan

*Effect of upper body resistance training on short and long term memory*  
Faculty: **Mary Zimmer** (Biological Sciences)  
Student Research Assistant: **Aaron Jackowski**, a Biology/Pre-Physical Therapy major from Brighton

More information about the SRA program, including current projects and application information, is available here:  
[http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic\\_Research/intfund/SRA\\_prog\\_homepage.htm](http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic_Research/intfund/SRA_prog_homepage.htm).

Applications for the Summer 2013 Student Research Fellowship program are due Friday, March 8. Go here  
[http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic\\_Research/intfund/SRF\\_prog\\_homepage.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic_Research/intfund/SRF_prog_homepage.htm)

The two programs are among several internal grant opportunities offered by the university. For more information, visit  
[http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic\\_research/homepage.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/Academic_research/homepage.htm)

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