The Frederick Douglass Project

The Frederick Douglass project, sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Institute and the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, seeks to digitize all of the Frederick Douglass materials held in the collections of the University of Rochester Library. The work will be undertaken by undergraduates, that they may have a greater understanding of Douglass by working with the letters and newspapers he composed.

Frederick Douglass spent 25 crucial years of abolitionist activism in Rochester. The University's collections hold over 100 letters that date from before the Civil War when Douglass was editor of North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper published in Rochester, to a few years prior to his death in 1895. In addition, the collection also includes photographs of Douglass and copies of his newspapers.

Each Frederick Douglass project participant is asked to transcribe letters, of their choice, written by Douglass and to use these letters in writing an essay on a topic of their choice. For more information, and previous transcriptions, essays and images of the actual letters, visit the Frederick Douglass Project website <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/rbk/douglass/home.htm> or contact Melissa Mead at mmead@library.rochester.edu.

Will Fassett:

"For my project, I examined the financial ledger of Frederick Douglass's newspaper, the North Star. I came upon this subject while reading through Douglass's correspondence in the Department's collection. A few of the letters concern the finances of the paper, and quite interestingly, there appeared to be a controversy regarding the paper's economics. In one letter, Douglass refers to a demand made by Amy Post, a close friend and fellow abolitionist, that he relinquish the financial control of the paper because of mismanagement. Wishing to investigate further what Post was referring to, I located the North Star's account book in the Library of Congress's collection of Douglass's papers. In this ledger, I found what I believed to be some irregularities in the accounting. For my essay, I described Douglass's accounting errors and discussed in detail the paper's financial failings.

"This was perhaps the best course I've taken at UR. Interacting one-on-one with Professor Jarvis and Melissa Mead was invaluable. They taught me how historians approach their subjects (namely, with questions, and more questions, and even more questions). Furthermore, I learned the joy of pursuing a subject in depth and making historical discoveries. This project has motivated me to continue my study of history at the graduate level.

"I would recommend that all students take the opportunity to work alongside a professor, as I did, and investigate a subject that they are passionate about. When you investigate something from start to finish that is entirely of your choosing, motivated by personal initiative, it is a wonderfully rewarding experience."

2002-2003 Project Interns:

Terry Allen
"Blacks in Britain"
Advisor: Dr. Larry Hudson

Katharine Beecher Brodock
"Antislavery, Abolitionism, and the Republican Party of the 1800s"
Advisor: Dr. Larry Hudson

Will Fassett
"The North Star, 1847-1849: Based on Evidence Found in the Paper's Ledger"
Advisor: Dr. Michael Jarvis

Eric Horan
"Commentary on Letter 83"
Advisor: Dr. Michael Jarvis

Jay Thompson
"Toward Douglassonian Abolitionism: The Rift Between Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison"
Advisor: Dr. Robert Westbrook

Undergraduate Research Programs at the University of Rochester

A selection of programs with comments by recent participants.

For complete program listings please visit our website at jur.rochester.edu.
The NSF Funded REU Program

The National Science Foundation (NSF) <www.nsf.org>, through its Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Sites program, funds a large number of summer research positions in a variety of scientific disciplines. A REU site typically includes a small number of undergraduates that join an ongoing research project and work closely with fellow researchers under faculty guidance. Students are granted stipends and most programs include housing and travel assistance. REU Sites are located in both the United States and abroad. Interested students should contact participating institutions for specific program information and application materials. NSF maintains an accessible web directory of REU Sites and links to program information at: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm>

The University of Rochester hosts NSF-funded REU programs for Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering and Optical Sciences, and Physics and Astronomy. Interested students should consult the following web sites for more information.

Biological Sciences:
<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/gebs/summer-reu.htm>
Contact: Ms. Linda Lipani; Linda_Lipani@urmc.rochester.edu

Chemistry:
<http://www.chem.rochester.edu/REU.html>
Contact: Mrs. Marguerite Weston; Weston@chem.rochester.edu

Engineering and Optical Sciences:
<http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~optics/OpticsMain.html>
Contact: Ms. Connie Jones; Connie@pas.rochester.edu

Physics and Astronomy:
<http://spider.pas.rochester.edu/mainFrame/education/special/specialREU.html>
Contact: Dr. Priscilla Auchincloss; psa@pas.rochester.edu

Ben Gilston:
“I worked in Dr. Pat Holland’s lab during the summer of 2004 on the synthesis and characterization of new nickel complexes using a \( \beta \)-dikiminate ligand

“Looking back on the REU research I did this summer I have nothing but positive things to say. The work I did this summer gave me the ability to learn the techniques I need for my senior research work, but at a slower and more manageable pace than what would have been possible during the academic year. Through the program, I was able to meet many new chemistry majors and graduate students who shared my interests. Getting to know the chemistry professors and graduate students on a more personal level was very helpful when I started the graduate school application process.

“Joining the REU program gave me the opportunity to focus a good portion of my summer on my own personal research project. Working in Dr. Holland’s lab increased my desire to do future laboratory work, and helped me develop responsibility and confidence. If you are even remotely interested in doing research someday, I would highly recommend applying to the REU program and pursuing your interests.”

Summer 2004 REU Chemistry Scholars:

Nianda S. Clouden
“CdSe/ZnS Quantum Dots encapsulated in Phospholipid Micelles: Applications of Quantum Dots in Biological Labeling”
Mentor: Megan Hahn
Advisor: Todd D. Krauss

Jessica M. Colbourne
“Total Synthesis of Roseophilin: A Work in Progress”
Mentor: Wei He
Advisor: Alison Frontier

Laura B. Fornarola
“Studies Towards the Synthesis of Camphor-Derived Lactam Auxiliaries”
Mentor: Joseph Pero
Advisor: Robert Boeckman

Benjamin A. Gilston
“Synthesis and Characterization of New Nickel (I) Complexes using a \( \beta \)-dikiminate Ligand”
Mentor: Nathan A. Eckert
Advisor: Patrick L. Holland

Olesya Haze
“Synthesis of Conjugated dendrimers for photovoltaic devices”
Mentor: Yong Zhang and Mbiya Kapiamba
Advisor: Man Kit Ng

Adam Rosenberg
“Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of Rochester”
Mentor: Todd Ryder
Advisor: Robert Boeckman

Michael J. Sweeney
“Synthesis and Characterization of Asymmetric Phenylacetylene Platinum Complexes with P,P and P,N Chelating Ligands”
Mentor: Ahmet Gunay
Advisor: William Jones

Susan L. Zultanski
“A Study of Polarized Nazarov Reactions and the Total Synthesis of Terpestacin”
Mentor: Patrick Caruana
Advisor: Alison J. Frontier